



## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Information is the currency of  
democracy

“ Knowledge is power ”

— Sir Francis Bacon

The year is 2022, one nation  
has invaded another. The citizens of  
the invading nation are told: peace  
was never an option; there nation is  
winning spectacularly; there armies  
are not killing innocent citizens, and  
the supreme leader is always  
right. This is Russia under Vladimir  
Putin.

On the other hand the citizens  
of the invaded nation are told,  
the reality of the war situation.  
Their President addresses them through



various social media channels, highlights the casualties, emphasises the need for unity. This is Ukraine under ~~Volodymyr~~ Zelensky.

Now which nation can be called democratic, and which nation is autocratic?

To answer this question let us analyse the relation between information and democracy

Information and democracy: the basic Relation

Democracy is defined as the government by the people, for the people and of the people by Abraham Lincoln.

Information is the free flow of ideas, opinion and

knowledge. Information is closely connected with awareness, that is, an informed individual or society has access to verified facts about what is happening in their surrounding.

In modern democracies media and communication channels provide information to <sup>the</sup> public. To gauge the relation between information and democracy, knowledge about some basic features of democracy is required. Further one can juxtapose performance of nations, ~~based on~~ with free flow of information, and with restricted information based on these six features.



Six features of democracy: A comparison among nations

The first essential feature of democracy is the presence of rights and written constitution. Democracy presupposes a citizenry which holds the government in check. On this feature contrast Nazi Germany with India of today. In Nazi Germany, Gockels controlled all information, slowly and gradually the citizens of Germany became slaves of Hitler, shorn of any rights or constitution.

On the other hand, freedom of information in India empowered a citizens collective, Mazdoor Kisan shakti sangathan (MKS) to launch a public movement for

Right to Information. Thus using information, Indian citizen added another right to their list of political rights.

The second essential feature<sup>of democracy</sup> is election and accountability. Contrast the one party election in information starved China with the festival of democracy celebrated every five years in India. Unlike Mao Zedong, there has been no supreme leader above democracy in India.

The third essential feature is consent of people. It is essential fact of democratic governance. In information starved nation of North Korea the supreme leader can order



people to have only one kind of haircut; in such nations disastrous policy like One Child Policy and Great Leap forward can destroy lives of millions of people.

On the other hand, in India family planning has witnessed 70 years of constant building since National Family Planning programme of 1952.

The <sup>fourth</sup> ~~five~~ essential feature of democracy is debate and deliberation. The Indian ~~pa~~ Parliament is the defender of democracy since it has unbridled access to information whereas the Chinese legislative council is a rubber stamp, used to legitimise policies of Xi Jinping.



The fifth essential feature of democracy is dissent. Dissent is based on access of information. In western democracies the 'me too' movement highlighted how information about sexual harassment can build a democratic movement.

Contrast this with China, where a victim of abuse, a Chinese tennis player was censored out of all information channels after she alleged that a senior government official harassed her.

The sixth essential feature of democracy is citizen centricity. As Aristotle said: "The state exist for the good of people". Can nations

that manipulate information and misguide their citizen, work for their good.

It is for the reader to decide whether nations that restrict information perform well on any of the six features of democracy.

How information is lifeblood of democracy

Access to information is primary difference between a citizen and a subject. Only an informed individual can participate in governance and hold his government accountable.

Further, denial of information breeds corruption in polity; it leads to emergence of oligarchies and decay in government. It is no



coincidence that the exploitative  
and aristocratic British Raj  
promulgated the Official Secrets  
Act and heavily censored the  
press. Whereas free India has  
promulgated Right to Information  
Act, 2005.

In addition to that, free  
flow of information breeds transparency  
and openness in governance. Effective  
channels for ventilation of citizens  
grievances are there in the form of  
media.

furthermore; elections become  
meaningful only when there is  
information about different parties,  
their manifestos and programmes.



But is the flow of information free?

Obstruction in free flow of information;  
debasing the currency of democracy

In contemporary period there has emerged various challenges such as : state sponsored suppression of information; control of capital over information channels such as media, fake news, echo chambers in social media and biased dissemination of information

One can analyse how the Chinese media readily accepted COVID-19 death figures and the lie of zero casualty at Galwan encounter.

Undeniably it is the duty of citizens and nations to protect information's free flow.

Safeguarding the citadel of democracy

First of all the State should become model information provider. The fact check initiative of Press Information Bureau highlights how this can be achieved.

Second, there should be citizens and civil society organisations oversight mechanisms over media and social media.

Third, citizen journalism should be promoted. These regional and local area based journalists have truly democratised information.

fourth, the right to  
information should be made a  
legal right across the world. It  
should be mandatorily taught  
in school curriculum.

Ultimately, democracy  
stands on the shoulders of citizens.  
Unless citizens have knowledge,  
they cannot have power. So each  
citizen must make it his duty  
to be educated and informed.  
Knowledge is power, do not let it  
fall in evil hands. The defence  
of democracy requires a vigil  
until the end of time.



A self that goes on changing  
is a self that goes on living

“Change alone is eternal,  
perpetual and immortal”

- Arthur Schopenhauer

Twelve thousand years

ago, the world was warming, The  
Ice Age was coming to an end.

With the end of the ice age  
many species collapsed such as  
mammoths, <sup>and</sup> saber-tooth, they failed  
to change their self. In contrast, the  
species of homo-sapiens sapiens  
analysed the climatic changes  
carefully.

Homo sapiens sapiens used  
the warmer climate to launch a

as neolithic revolution', shifting ~~themselves~~ <sup>themselves</sup> from hunting gathering to food production. This species changed its self and became the master of the world.

To resist change; to be stagnant  
- is to die. To embrace change is to live.

In this essay we will analyse:  
the nature of self and life; how  
change is essential for life across  
various dimensions of space. Ultimately  
we will discuss why people resist  
change and how they can embrace  
change. Let us begin.

## The Nature of Self and Life

The self is the fundamental  
essence of <sup>a</sup> thing. It is commonly

believed that every living thing has a self, an underlying reality that unites an individual. The self is known by many names such as: atman of hinduism, soul of christianity and the rooh of Sufi Islam. Almost everything in this world is endowed with self.

Life, defined narrowly is a biological <sup>and chemical</sup> process. An organism that can breathe, move, feel etc is a living organism. One thing is undeniable life means change. To be living is to change - either one's

appearance or position. For instance the trees are living because they grow and they respond (change themselves) to an external stimuli.



A changing self is essential for a living self. Let us see how.

The necessity of change: Across time and space

First, at the individual level change is essential to prosper. The life of Gautam Buddha is a shining example, this Sakya prince transformed his self through meditation into the enlightened one (Buddha). The self of Sakyamuni Buddha is existent even now, his Dhamma is a living testament of his existence.

The self of Hitler, a rigid ~~dictator~~ dictator can collapse under weight of a bullet but self of Buddha and Gandhi lives for eons.

Second, at the level of species, Darwin has amply proved by his

Theory of evolution, that species that evolve would survive

Thirdly at the level of societies, stagnant societies <sup>averse</sup> ~~averse~~ to change would be conquered by dynamic societies. Time after time, this pattern would repeat. Take the example of stagnant Indian society of 18<sup>th</sup> century easily conquered by the East India company.

Fourth, at the level of religion, Religion too <sup>has</sup> ~~have~~ a self, it is their core identity. The ideas of atman (soul), Brahman (supreme consciousness) and karma (fruits of actions) and moksha are self of hinduism. While many ancient religions like Manichaeism, Ajivika etc collapsed, Hinduism



survived. Why?

The self of Hinduism survived because it is changing. Hinduism could make ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> different tribal deity, its own god. The flexibility of Hinduism, explains its longevity.

Fifth, at the level of states.

History shows that when empires lose their dynamism they collapse.

Take any example - Mauryan empire, Mughal empire etc. They collapsed when they lost their vitality to change and became conservative.

Time after time, the flexible Akbars would build empires and change resistant Aurangzeb would bring down empires.



Sixth, at the global level, some scientists have defined Earth as a living entity called Gaia. Under this perspective the Earth is one living being with its own self. How has Earth survived for 4.5 billion years? Through change. On our mother Earth ocean emerged and continents rose. Similarly mountains like Himalayas emerged from beneath the Tethys sea.

Mother Earth and nature show how change builds beauty. The readiness to change has endowed mother Earth with life.

Seventh, at the cosmic level, this universe is living it too has a self. The scientist Hubble has proved

that the universe is expanding. In this universe at present millions of galaxies are being formed and <sup>are</sup> being destroyed at the same moment.

What would happen if the universe does not change? Physicist assert that if dark matter exceeds dark energy, then there would be no expansion of universe, rather there would be contraction. If change ends this glorious universe would be again restricted to a tiny ball of infinite density.

To change the self is to live  
to resist change is to die.

Why does the self resist change?

Primarily because of  
identification. One individual and



groups become attached to their identities, change becomes painful.

In addition to that the illusion of permanence is very strong. The Nazis thought it was their permanent destiny to conquer the world for Aryan race. This fixation brought about their downfall.

In the modern age, technology such as social media <sup>are</sup> increasing attachment to a fixed self. People want to surmount time and forever remain young; people want their nation or religion to be permanently powerful.

The growing fixation with



permanence and aversion to change is causing major issues. Individuals are suffering with anxiety and depression; nations are going to war to permanently increase their territories, for instance the Russia-Ukraine war.

further, the aversion to change is most visible in environmental sphere. Economies continue to use coal even though it leads to climate change and threatens humanity.

If humanity has to prosper it must learn to embrace change.

Learn to embrace change

firstly, education must change,

the philosophical lessons from lives of great men must be core aspect of education. As essential is the knowledge of computer, is the knowledge of self.

Secondly, mindfulness and heedfulness should be taught, such that change is not seen as an extraordinary event but as a constant companion.

Thirdly love of nature should be inculcated in society. Nature is a permanent mirror, looking in which humanity can learn to embrace change.

As Soren Kierkegaard said:  
"Life is not a problem to

be solved but a reality to  
be experienced". So accept  
change as the permanent reality,  
lose the illusion of permanence  
and gain the entire universe.









## Essay 1

### Analysis:

Information ; currency - democracy

flow of knowledge, ideas,  
opinion; knowledge of what is  
happening around; majority through  
media

lifeblood  
necessity

a form of government, shaped for and  
by people  
democracy would exist without  
information  
- how would people choose question  
accountability, transparency  
openness.

without info

disposition

with info

how information enriches

problem in flow of information: the wound is healed

safeguarding the citadel of democracy

### Brainstorming

knowledge & power (Francis Bacon)  
democracy essential factors  
Rights & constitution  
elections & accountability  
consent of people  
debates and deliberations  
desire the safety valve

nothing direct

Xi Jinping  
pickups

judicial action

Rights

- Nazi Germany
- communist Russia
- consent of people: common  
of Great Britain
- debate and deliberation  
one child policy
- Xi Jinping

India's freedom

India

Reforms of 1991

family planning programme of India  
M. for normal order

why is info necessary

- empowers people
- stops corruption - RTI Act in India, regulatory
- adds transparency and openness bridges gap between people and pol. process
- An informed citizen is the defender of constitution

Problems in flow of information

- social; capitalism: fake news, echo chambers. Increased all this is  
making democracy suffer. eg. Russian media; Chinese media and closer  
have Indian media

safeguarding citadel of democracy

- social media - new intermediary rules, GDPR, GDPR among

other things



Watergate scandal

Information juxtapose juxtapose

people elect the same candidate

# VISION IAS™

Don't write anything this margin  
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- citizen journalism and new media come.
- political education is a necessity
- and society must come with innovative solution

## Introduction

Information provides the country's access to a foreign power  
The nations address are dying military exercises

## Conclusion

To be ever ready to sacrifice to implement things you want  
play role of informed citizenry  
nature, species, mammals, what, individual, nation, caste, Religions

## Essay II

Self that goes on changing is a self that goes on living

self goes on changing is a self that goes

Thesis

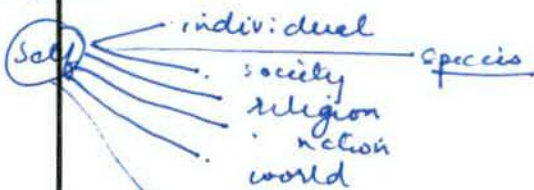
- change is life, to be alive is to change continuously, stagnation is death, permanence is an illusion

Self - inner nature, the mind body, everything how self what is called the underlying reality

Changing

Information, modification adaptation

change alone is eternal, perpetual and immortal



individual changes - Sudhakar liberation of self, astral system, adaptation in a modern IT world among others there

process of adaptation the material is no more, no more is head and tail, for change

society - the state, the North sentiment, the Kakehans, caste and stagnation

Religion - Nirika, Allah day and Mechanism etc. a religion is an and Christianity etc. them but hinduism self of hinduism is really a whole relation India conquered and defeated by british border.

World - change perpetual mother earth, continents keep shifting, no class obdolo, events like outgassing what not. The God's self is ever changing.

Universe is expanding to new dimension beyond everything - if the expansion stops the dark matter would suck up the universe and again that tiny ball.

## Problems of Stagnation

The very fundamental definition of living is to change to not be fixed in time and space.

Self the fundamental essence of thing, atom, the human world, brahman and jagat too has a self. A self is inherent in all these things.

Problems with change - comfort and secondary self preservation

identification and achievement with oneself  
modern technologies

## Embrace change

- study value education and philosophy
- mindfulness and heartfulness
- It is only a thought
- Soren Kierkegaard, change is an experience to embrace not a problem to be solved.

## Introduction

To be is to do. To be living is to be active.  
To be is to do. Existence is activity.

- Schopenhauer quote - self is the fundamental  
essence of things

The world was becoming