ASO-Paper-I(E)

वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद्

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

एल.डी.सी.ई.-2025 / LDCE-2025

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका क्रमांक :
Question cum Answer Booklet No. : 100087

पद कोड/Post Code: 6

पेपर-I/Paper-I : Language Comprehension and Précis Writing

समय/Time: 2:00 Hours

अधिकतम अंक/Maximum Marks : 100

अभ्यर्थी द्वारा नीली/काली स्याही के बॉल प्वाइंट पेन से भरा जाना है / To be filled in by the candidate with blue/ black ink ball point pen

अभ्यर्थी का विवरण / PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATE

(बड़े अक्षरो में लिखें / Write in Block Letters)

अनुक्रमांक (अंको में) / Roll Number (in figures) _____

अनुक्रमांक (शब्दों में) / Roll Number (in words) _____

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/ Name of the candidate _____

अभ्यर्थी के हस्ताक्षर/ Signature of the Candidate _____

SEAL

अनुदेश / INSTRUCTIONS

1. इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में सार लेखन पृष्ठ एवं रफ़ कार्य हेतु पृष्ठ सहित कुल 20 पृष्ठ हैं। प्रत्येक प्रश्न के सामने अंक दिए गए है। प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने के लिए, प्रत्येक प्रश्न के साथ ही रिक्त स्थान दिया गया है। प्रत्येक प्रश्न का उत्तर उसमें प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में दिये गए स्थान पर देना होगा। कोई अतिरिक्त पृष्ठ उपलब्ध नहीं कराया जाएगा। आपको प्रत्येक प्रश्न के सामने दिए गए स्थान को छोड़कर किसी भी स्थान पर नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
   This Question cum Answer Booklet contains 20 pages including précis writing sheet and pages for rough work. Marks are indicated against each question. To answer the questions, blank space has been provided against each question. Each question must be answered in the space provided in Question cum Answer Sheet. No additional sheet will be provided. You should not write anything except on space provided against each question.
2. **उत्तर लिखने के लिए नीली या काली/स्याही वाले बॉल पॉइंट पेन का ही उपयोग किया जाए।**
   For Writing Answers, use Blue/Black ink Ball Point Pen.
3. इससे पहले कि आप अपना विवरण भरना शुरू करें, कृपया सुनिश्चित कर लें कि प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में अपेक्षित संख्या में प्रश्न और पृष्ठ हैं और ये कटे-फटे नहीं हैं। यदि आवश्यक हो तो, किसी भी उत्तर को लिखने से पहले,आप पुस्तिका को बदलने के लिए अन्वीक्षक से अनुरोध कर सकते हैं ।
   Before you start filling up your Roll Number and other details, etc. on the cover page, please ensure that the Booklet contains requisite number of questions and pages, and these are not torn or mutilated. You may request invigilator to change the Booklet, if required, before attempting any answers.
4. अपना रोल नंबर अंकों और शब्दों दोनों में एवं अन्य आवश्यक विवरणों को दिए गए उपयुक्त स्थान पर सही और स्पष्ट रूप से लिखें ।
   Write your Roll Number in figures and words and other requisite particulars correctly and clearly in the appropriate space provided.
5. रफ़ कार्य के लिए पृष्ठ प्रश्न सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में ही दिए गए हैं । रफ़ कार्य केवल इसके लिए दिए गए पृष्ठों पर ही करें|
   Pages for rough work have been provided in Question cum Answer Booklet. Rough work may be done only on the pages provided for the purpose.
6. परीक्षा पूर्ण होने पर परीक्षा हॉल छोड़ने से पहले, इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका को अन्वीक्षक को सौंप दें।
   After the Test is over, you must hand over this Question cum Answer Booklet to the Invigilator before leaving the examination Hall.
7. यदि आप नकल या अनुचित साधनों का उपयोग करते हुए पाए जाते हैं तो इसे कदाचार माना जाएगा तथा नियमानुसार कार्रवाई की जाएगी।
   If you are found copying or resorting to any unfair means, it shall be treated as misconduct and liable to action as per rules.

अन्वीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर / Signature of the Invigilator _____

1. Read the following Passage and answer the questions based on the passage (15 Marks)

In the annals of human history, few eras have witnessed as profound and rapid transformation as the modern age. Scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and expanding economic opportunities have reshaped the way people live, work, and interact. However, this tremendous progress has also birthed a paradox: even as societies grow more connected and affluent, individuals often report feeling more isolated, stressed, and disillusioned. This apparent contradiction-between material progress and emotional well-being-has intrigued psychologists, economists, and social theorists alike.

Historically, progress was synonymous with prosperity and happiness. The Enlightenment thinkers of the 18th century believed that reason and science could unlock humanity's full potential. They envisioned a world where poverty, ignorance, and disease would be eradicated. In many ways, their dreams have materialized. Modern medicine has significantly extended life expectancy. Education is more accessible than ever. Technological tools have democratized information, empowered individuals, and made everyday life more convenient. Yet, amid these advancements, the modern individual often experiences a peculiar sense of dissatisfaction.

One possible explanation lies in the relentless pace of modern life. Technology, while a facilitator of comfort, has also led to constant connectivity. The boundaries between work and personal life have eroded, with smartphones and laptops keeping people tethered to their jobs around the clock. The rise of the gig economy and remote work, though providing flexibility, have blurred these boundaries even further. While we are more connected than ever, the quality of our connections has arguably diminished. Virtual interactions often replace meaningful face-to-face conversations, leading to a sense of emotional emptiness.

Another contributing factor is the phenomenon of social comparison, amplified by social media. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn present curated versions of people's lives-highlight reels that seldom reflect reality. As users scroll through seemingly perfect images and success stories, they may feel inadequate or left behind. This perpetual comparison fosters anxiety, self-doubt, and a constant pressure to perform or present a polished version of oneself. In essence, the quest for likes and approval becomes a substitute for genuine self-worth and contentment.

Moreover, the modern age has shifted the focus of success. Where once community, relationships, and values formed the cornerstone of a fulfilling life, today's culture often prioritizes achievement, productivity, and material gain. People are celebrated for their professional accomplishments and net worth more than for their empathy, kindness, or integrity. Such a shift can lead individuals to measure their worth based on external metrics rather than intrinsic values, deepening the chasm between outward success and inner satisfaction.

Environmental degradation and the climate crisis also loom large over the notion of progress. Our industrial and technological pursuits, while enriching human life, have come at a significant ecological cost. The knowledge that our progress contributes to global warming, species extinction, and resource depletion induces a sense of guilt and helplessness. Thus, the benefits of modern civilization are often tinged with anxiety about the future of the planet and the legacy we leave behind.

Mental health statistics offer sobering evidence of this paradox. Depression and anxiety disorders have risen globally, especially among young adults. Despite living in times of relative peace and abundance compared to previous generations, many people grapple with feelings of purposelessness. The pandemic further exposed and intensified these vulnerabilities, revealing cracks in our support systems, healthcare infrastructures, and social resilience.

Yet, the story of progress is not entirely bleak. Many scholars argue that the dissatisfaction associated with modernity is not a sign of regression, but of growing awareness. As societies evolve, so do expectations. People today demand not just survival, but fulfilment. This shift from basic needs to psychological and existential ones indicates a maturation of human consciousness. It suggests that our metrics for progress must also evolve-encompassing emotional intelligence, community well-being, ecological harmony, and spiritual growth.

One promising response to this challenge is the rise of mindfulness and wellness movements. Increasingly, individuals and organizations are recognizing the need to prioritize mental well-being, work-life balance, and purposeful living. Educational institutions are incorporating emotional education; companies are investing in employee wellness; and more people are exploring practices like meditation, yoga, and digital detox. These trends reflect a collective yearning for equilibrium-a desire to harmonize technological advancement with human flourishing.

In conclusion, the paradox of progress reminds us that development must be holistic. Material gains, while vital, cannot substitute for emotional, social, and environmental well-being. As we forge ahead in an age of unprecedented innovation, the challenge will be to ensure that our progress uplifts not just our standard of living, but our quality of life. To achieve this, we must redefine success—not merely as advancement, but as alignment with values that sustain both people and the planet.

1.1 **Based on the above article answer the following questions in 15-20 words each.** ($6 \times 2 = 12$ marks)

(i) What is the central paradox discussed in the passage?

Answer :

(ii) What role does social media play in the emotional challenges of modern life?

Answer :

(iii) What shift in value systems is highlighted in the modern age?

Answer :

(iv) How does the author view the increased awareness of emotional well-being?

Answer :

(v) What does the author suggest as a response to the paradox of progress?

Answer :

(vi) How do you summarize the author's conclusion?

Answer :

1.2 Fill in the Blanks (3 × 1 = 3 marks)

(i) The passage suggests that while we are living in an Information Age, we are often starved for _____.

(ii) The term "_____" refers to the overwhelming amount of information that makes it difficult to focus or distinguish fact from fiction.

(iii) According to the passage, technological progress has often occurred at the cost of the _____, leading to issues like climate change and pollution.

2. Write a paragraph in about 200 words on any one of the topics given below (10 marks)

(a) The Role of Technology in Shaping Human Relationships

(b) Importance of Mental Health in Modern Society

(c) The Influence of Media on Public Opinion

Answer:

Topic: _____

3. Make meaningful sentences of the following Idioms and Phrases : (10 Marks)

(i) A blessing in disguise

Sentence:

(ii) Throw in the towel

Sentence:

(iii) Beat around the bush

Sentence:

(iv) In hot water

Sentence:

(v) Actions speak louder than words

Sentence:

4. Give One Word Substitution for each of the following phrases. (5 Marks)

(i) A person who loves and helps humanity, especially by donating to charitable causes.

_____

(ii) One who is present every where at the same time.

_____

(iii) A person who can use both hands with equal skill.

_____

(iv) Words written on a tombstone in memory of the deceased.

_____

(v) A home for children whose parents are dead or unable to care for them.

_____

5. Give two Synonyms for each of the words given below (5 Marks)

(i) Abate :

Synonyms (a)

(b)

(ii) Elusive :

Synonyms (a)

(b)

(iii) Benevolent :

Synonyms (a)

(b)

(iv) Obsolete

Synonyms (a)

(b)

(v) Vindicate :

Synonyms (a)

(b)

6. Fill in the blanks with a suitable word from common areas of English grammar. (10 Marks)

(i) Neither the manager nor the association of employees _____ willing to compromise.

(ii) If I _____ more time, I would have completed the assignment.

(iii) The book, along with the notes, _____ on the table.

(iv) She objected _____ the decision made by the committee.

(v) No sooner had he arrived _____ it started raining.

(vi) He has been working here _____ 2015.

(vii) This is the scientist _____ theory changed modern physics.

(viii) Each of the players _____ responsible for his conduct.

(ix) She speaks French better than _____ in the class.

(x) By the time we reached the station, the train _____.

7. Give two antonyms for each of the words given below. (5 Marks)

(i) Benevolent

Antonyms (a)

(b)

(ii) Lucid

Antonyms (a)

(b)

(iii) Prolific

Antonyms (a)

(b)

(iv) Pragmatic

Antonyms (a)

(b)

(v) Ubiquitous

Antonyms (a)

(b)

8. Write a précis in about 270 words based on the paragraph given below. Also give your précis a suitable title. (20 + 5 marks)

In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative and debated technological advancements of the 21st century. It is revolutionizing industries ranging from healthcare and education to transportation and finance. AI algorithms now drive cars, assist doctors in diagnosing diseases, personalize learning for students, and even predict stock market trends. The potential of AI to simplify human life and enhance efficiency is enormous. However, as we become increasingly reliant on intelligent systems, we must also confront a complex set of ethical challenges that threaten to overshadow these advancements.

One major ethical dilemma lies in the autonomy of machines. As machines learn and make decisions independently, questions arise about accountability. If an autonomous vehicle causes an accident, who is responsible-the manufacturer, the programmer, or the algorithm itself? Legal systems around the world are still grappling with how to assign liability in such cases. Furthermore, AI systems trained on biased data can reproduce or even amplify discrimination. For instance, facial recognition technology has been shown to have higher error rates for people of color due to skewed training data, raising serious concerns about racial bias and civil liberties.

Another ethical concern involves privacy. AI systems thrive on data-often personal and sensitive. From voice assistants in our homes to social media algorithms that analyze our behavior, AI constantly collects, stores, and processes information. This raises serious questions about consent, data security, and surveillance. Governments and corporations have access to vast amounts of personal information, sometimes without the informed consent of users. The potential for misuse is significant, especially in authoritarian regimes where AI could be used to monitor dissent and suppress freedom.

Additionally, there is a growing fear of job displacement. As AI becomes more capable of performing tasks that were traditionally carried out by humans, millions of jobs could become obsolete. While automation can improve productivity, it also risks widening the gap between skilled and unskilled labor, leading to economic and social instability. The need for reskilling and education reform is urgent, but many countries are unprepared for such a transition.

Ethical challenges are also seen in the use of AI for military and surveillance purposes. Autonomous drones and lethal weapons that can operate without human intervention raise disturbing moral questions. Should machines be allowed to make life-and-death decisions? The prospect of AI-driven warfare could lower the threshold for conflict and reduce human accountability in military operations. International regulations on this front are still evolving and often lack enforceability.

Moreover, as AI continues to advance, the distinction between human and machine intelligence becomes increasingly blurred. Concepts such as consciousness, creativity, and emotion-once considered uniquely human-are now being simulated by machines. This blurring raises philosophical and ethical questions: Can a machine possess rights? Should AI systems be treated as moral agents? These are no longer purely speculative issues, as developments in neural networks and generative AI push the boundaries of machine capabilities.

The urgency to address these ethical challenges cannot be overstated. Policymakers, technologists, ethicists, and civil society must work collaboratively to establish robust frameworks that govern AI development and deployment. Ethics cannot be an afterthought; it must be embedded in the design, coding, and implementation of AI systems. Transparent algorithms, responsible data use, inclusive training sets, and regulatory oversight are essential for aligning AI with human values.

Ultimately, the goal should not merely be to make machines intelligent but to make intelligent choices about how we use them. Artificial intelligence is not inherently good or bad—it is a tool. Whether it leads to human advancement or societal harm depends entirely on how we manage its power. The ethical dilemma of AI is not just a technological challenge; it is a human one.

Title: _____

Précis sheet: Write only one word in each box.

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9. Rewrite the following sentences changing from active to passive voice (10 Marks)

(i) The committee will announce the results tomorrow.

Passive: _____

(ii) She has written a compelling research paper.

Passive: _____

(iii) Someone stole my laptop during the seminar.

Passive: _____

(iv) Shakespeare wrote many famous plays.

Passive: _____

(v) They had finished the project before the meeting started.

Passive: _____

10. Fill in the Blanks with Appropriate Prepositions (5 Marks)

(i) The professor insisted _____ a detailed explanation before accepting the thesis.

(ii) He is proficient _____ both written and spoken French.

(iii) The speaker concluded her presentation _____ a thought-provoking question

(iv) This research focuses _____ the impact of social media on political awareness.

(v) She is deeply committed _____ environmental sustainability.

_____

रफ कार्य के लिये जगह / SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

रफ कार्य के लिये जगह / SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका क्रमांक / Question cum Answer Booklet No:

मूल्यांकन तालिका (केवल कार्यालय उपयोग के लिए) /
EVALUATION TABLE (ONLY FOR OFFICE USE)

प्र.स. / Q.No.	अधिकतम अंक / Maximum Marks	प्राप्तांक / Marks Obtained	मूल्यांकनकर्ता के हस्ताक्षर / Signature of Evaluator
1			
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कुल / Total			

SEAL