Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt one essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

Name: Ankur

Mobile No.____________________________

Date______________________________

Signature_____________________

1. Invigilator Signature

2. Invigilator Signature
SECTION - A

1. A free woman is one who does not live in the shadow of others’ judgment, but one who makes her own choices based on her own wisdom.


3. We are good architects of future, if our coming generations are not victim.

4. The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war.

SECTION - B

1. Patriotism is to support your country, not your government.

2. In a healthy politics, the leaders do not serve any ideology or political party, but people.

3. The difference between insanity and genius is success.

4. Intelligence is not IQ, but capacity of imagination.
A free woman is one who does not live in shadow
of other's judgment, but one who makes her own
choices based on her own wisdom.

In a sleepy town of Kolkata, a girl of
14 was forced to marry someone twice her age.
Deprived of her basic rights to education,
freedom, right to a dignified life. Whatever
followed her marriage was torture—domestic
abuse, sexual assaults became daily rituals
for her. But one day she decided—she had
'had it enough', selling the only piece of
jewellery she had on her. The girl Ran.
She fled to her freedom.

The place is new, means are less,
with no resources at hand. She had one
arm she never had—A free will. With
her new found freedom, she began from
washing dishes, doing household chores. Meanwhile,
educating herself, getting basic skills and
investing. Over time the girl falling and rising 'but choosing her own path'.
The girl now a woman, is the head of a million dollar company - 'Pocon'.
She has helped plethora of women and is a living inspiration for many. The
woman is CHANDA ZAVERI - A woman who set herself free (BBC, Telegraph).

The above excerpt details how a woman faces imposed decisions in her
life, be it marriage, education or job. Every step of hers is guided,
donated, Chanda Zaveri’s ordeal and success indicate/imply one basic
truth → A woman is and can be much more than a father's daughter, a son's
mother, a wife. She can be 'herself'.
This essay delves into issues that women face in making simple or life-changing decisions. And how society, politics, economics have restrained their choice-making abilities. This also provides examples of women who broke their cages and set out on independent journeys to be leaders in their respective fields.

The Iron Cage: Imposed Judgements

Since time immemorial, history showcases how women have been subdued to decisions of others. From practices of Sati, where even life, right to life was on whims and fantasies of society. Child marriage where women were married at tender ages of 6-7 and politics was a man's game. Women had been at receiving ends of wisdom.
8 others. The impositions imposed historically persisted even to modern day societies.

In present day societies which are ailed with cancer of patriarchy. A woman is considered 'a property of men'.

With only 37% women completing their education as per ASER survey, women are deprived of their basic right to education (Article 21A) that sets 88 a chain domino effect in their loss of freedoms.

A woman in modern day society is seen as one who cares for the family, raises and nurtures children. The onus of family is befallen upon shoulders of women. A woman is deemed responsible for taking care of elderly, catering to needs of her husband and
providing a "Mother" to her children. Her right to work, job is restricted because of the responsibilities not taken but given to her.

Women have a share of 27% in Indian labor force, world over women head less than 2% of organisations. Not only jobs, they face discrimination in pay (gender wage gap is 29%) and moreover, even in organisations while crucial decision making is handled by men. The tasks of hospitality, HR management are given to "Women". The economic disparity in gender was Robert Frost remarked "Being the boss anywhere is lonely, but being a female boss is pure fiction". The restriction of freedoms
not only is pervasive in economy but deeply corrodes politics as well.

Women form only 11.7% of parliamentarians in India. Most of the decisions on women issues are decided mostly by the men, who though are apparently "feminist" and try to strengthen women but miss one important fact that women are already strong. All about our perceptions that need to change about them. Even when women were granted political representation under 73\textsuperscript{rd} amendment act, reserving seats to one of every 3\textsuperscript{rd} for women, PRIS survey found out that most of the Gram Sabha women representatives suffered from "Beta, Baap, Pati Syndrome".
Decisions were taken by men and others for on behalf of women. They were chosen as representatives but represented not democracy but the entangled restrictions, patriarchal they faced.

The above excerpt demonstrates how women have been considered as "Recipients" or "Passive benefactors" of decision-making by society, politics alike. Their independence is restricted, free will choked by juxtaposition of a number of factors viz. Patriarchy, lack of education, skills, and insubordinate political representation. The urgent need to remove these shackles is imminent and recognizing that a nation sustains itself only when it is inclusive.
and caging half of population (women ~ 50%)
makes development, democracy, growth
not just but a farce.

BREAKING THE CAGE: FLYING FREE

The basic idea for 'free women'
emerges from one basic principle i.e.
'Women decide, what's best for them'

Any reform, change that is brought
by women, unless includes them is
a farcical encumbrance. Every policy,
measure must involve participation
of women and from all sectors as
well. Only then can we stand true
to Roel's idea of a Utopian society

"In this era of men caging and
shackling them, let's remember the best
society is what — let's them be"
The cage can be set free when change is brought by them in all fields of social environment, education, health, economy and importantly politics! Political domain.

The change begins if freedom begins primarily with idea of right to life. A woman unbridled by other's judgment should be free to decide her life's journey. Starting with delivering the 'con-ference'. Society must give be opposed to give a girl equal right to be born as a boy.

After the girl is born, and raised she should choose her field of education and every field be it
engineering, technology or humanities must be her independent choice. At present, women are restricted to fields of humanities, teaching, care, nursing. They must be free and empowered to choose any field they desire. Kalpana Chawala [underline] if would have been restricted, would have defined the world & a top-notch inspirational Astronaut. Hence, let them be.

Education unless supplemented with right to health renders one inefficient, unhealthy and malnourished. As economic survey states "girls/women" are 53% anaemic as are deprived of nutritious food. The must be accorded a Right to health, a right to grow healthily, and hence army

Remarks
their right to a dignified, healthy living. With schemes like SABLA, Matri Vandana Yojana, women are entitled to a healthy living. With choices in health and education, the real choice and real freeing of woman begins with political representation, and real political freedom (unlike Beta Pati tyranny).

Bihar raised reservation for women to 50% and saw a rapid increase in sex ratio, educational reach to women, reduced dropouts rate and a safe reproductive healthcare, showing that once women are adequately represented they can choose their own paths.

The idea of a free woman must...
be emboldened just by increasing their representation to 33%. In parliament, which would ensure gender policies are woman-centric and women-oriented. India can produce its own Angela Merkel’s and Indira Gandhi’s – women who marked their presence in political arenas globally. Gender-Budgeting is a good start but needs effective implementation.

However, a comprehensive overhaul that permeates even to rural areas where women have faced most oppression is the foundation stone for harnessing the potential of free-women. Choices must be theirs, support ours to choose them.
to be a proud woman in this man's world. Following lines by Rupi Kaur summate the essence of this essay:

"Any time when a woman is not free - it's a powerful thing. Be it reading a book in school, applying for a job she desires, or taking decisions putting herself as priority. Every time she has freedom to choose - Magic happens".

Let the magic happen in a world that is equal and free for all.
A Free woman who doesn't
live in shadow of others but
makes her own choices based
on her own wisdom.

In a sleepy town of Kolkata, a girl of 14
was forced to marry someone 10 years
twice her age. Deprived of her basic
right to education, a free will.

What followed was no less than a
torture. Sexual abuse, domestic violence
became daily rituals for her. Till
the day she decide "she had it
enough." Selly, the only piece of gold
earrings on her. She took a flight
to be abroad.

Though means were less, Selly was
much, fear was great but choices were
hers. From domesticity to household she
made her own choices. She educated
herself, got an higher education and
with little failures, a bit more money her decision made her one of a million-dollar company 'Auricton'. The girl is now an MBA to may. The girl is Chade Zamir - A Free woman in a world that sought to chain her.

Above story reflects chairs to

What is a Free Woman

free will
choices - educate, self, etc...

NOT AN EASY PATH: The Shakes

Historical
Social, Political, Economical

Malala Yousafzai, Chanda, Indira Gandhi, Angela

*Remarks

Economic

Indira Gandhi
Conclusion

I face many battles, fight many battles
Every step directed, every choice minuted
What I got, the (yet)

[Signature]