

Roll No. EE TS 20161A

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt an 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).

Remarks

Name Suman Gourav Deshpande

Mobile No. _____

Date 9/11/2016

Signature [Signature]

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. What happens to a man is less significant than what happens within him.
2. Expect the best. Prepare for the worst. Capitalize on what comes.
3. Many a times our weakness are extension of our strength.
4. Endurance is the crowning quality.

SECTION - B

1. Winning at any cost is what matters in sports
2. Challenges before Indian Television
3. Should there be liquor prohibition?
4. Euthanasia - can death be a therapy!

Remarks

Many a times our weaknesses
are extensions of our strength

1

Gandhiji said strength does not come from physical capacity, rather it comes from an indomitable will. The same will power with which he managed to channelise the energy of Indians to drive the Britisher's out with power of satyagraha, ahimsa and self austerities he managed to silence the most hostile Britishers. What is strength and weaknesses? Are they mental constructs validated by empirical proof, or are they based on societal consensus? How do we define strength's & weaknesses on the basis of an external locus of control or internal locus of control? Are these qualities universal & absolute or are they contextual & relative? If they are relative how do we translate them to be applicable across time, social & national differences? How to convert weaknesses to strengths and ensure strengths are strengthened? These questions need answers for us to have prosperity, growth and development for all time to come.

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2 Strength and weaknesses: The inter relationship.

Strength in simple terminology means the quality or capacity of being strong. It means inner mental and outer physical strengths. Weakness also are internal weaknesses and external & are defined as the condition of being weak. They are relative, contextual, based on both external & internal locus of control. They are relative because they vary from person to person. Speaking the truth could be a strength for someone, and based on the result or the reaction weakness for others. It is contextual as it is contingent upon, society, country and cultural parameters. For example oriental societies believe in showing emotion as a strength, whereas western societies view it as a weakness. Finally, it depends on the particular person's locus of control i.e. whether he is influenced by the external factors such as society, friends, colleagues or he has confidence about himself. For example if a person posts on

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facebook and it is disappeared he would take it off. Such a person would always project his strengths and hide his weaknesses. That is an example of external locus of control. A person with an internal locus of control would verify his strengths and weakness and try to strengthen his strengths and remove his weakness. Again it is subjective and relative. So how do we discern between our strengths and weaknesses; or how do we convert our strengths & weaknesses into strength. The answer lies in the Bhagavad Gita. It says "Man is made by his belief. As he believes so he is". So strengths and weaknesses must be driven or modified by ethics & morals. As ethics and morals are universal and absolute and follow the principle of utilitarianism i.e. greatest good for greatest number, we must use ethics and morals to strengthen our strengths & modify our weaknesses. Then they would be universally valid.

Remarks

41 How weaknesses can be our strengths

As illustrated previously ethics and morals can be ^{& should} the guiding factors for transforming our weaknesses to strengths. Let us consider our population. With over a billion people we are the second biggest country in terms of population; we might overtake China in 2022. Malthusian fears about such a huge population ending with famine, poverty, lack of education, healthcare may seem as our weakness. But ~~there~~ therein lies our strength. We have the maximum number of young people in the world. While the world is ageing we are getting younger. This massive pool of young people if properly skilled & trained would become the back office of the world; thereby converting our weakness to our strength.

Women & girl child have often been considered as weaknesses in Indian

Remarks

society. That is the reason we have highly skewed sex ratio unfavourable to girls. Gender gap in amenities, education, healthcare employment, is prevalent across the country. But suppose we consider this weakness as our strength. McKinsey estimates we may add ~~to~~ 12 trillion dollars by 2025 to global gdp if we end women inequality. India could add 0.7 percent of its GDP every year by eliminating gender inequality. Definitely it is converting our ^{so called} weakness to strength.

Our older age population consisting of 100 Mn people are perceived as a weakness. More than 50% of them are below poverty line. With growing burden of diseases, reducing ability to earn, they are mostly left to old age homes or ducts of geriatric nuclearisation of families, forced to live a life of loneliness. Let us channelise ^{their} ~~their~~ age old experience of virtues, wisdom a let us

arrange to convert their age into longevity dividend as done in Vietnam through old people association. With rising mental stress, depression, inculcating values and transpiring ethics and morals in intergenerational manner the aged can definitely become our strength.

We have 21 million specially abled people in India. While society discriminates against them by not providing rights and infrastructure (which is their due), they themselves also feel dejected and perceive their special abilities as weaknesses. As rightly pointed out by PM, these people are - *dinayang* (divine body). Let us provide them recognition, respect & give them facilities to compete with empowerment. We can definitely have them as our strength's as shown by - Isha Singhal (UPSC topper), Deevendra Thajharua (Paralympian) & Sudha Chandran (acclaimed ~~singer~~ performer of classical dance).

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7 Our democracy is perceived as our weakness. Winston Churchill said it is the worst form of government except for all those other forms which have been tried from time to time. As a result of democracy we feel our development has stalled, we are not able to usher in reforms, our growth rates have come down. But a little look at authoritarian & dictatorial regimes in ~~the~~ the world such as Iraq, Syria, North Korea & we feel this is our biggest strength. After 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment has truly been noticed among the people. Social audits, RTI, citizen charters, participatory budgeting, right to public service are deepening the ethos of democracy. Aided by a vigilant judiciary, & civil society it is our biggest strength.

Religion is perceived as an weakness. It creates divides, and generates hostility sometimes. Indeed most of riots, sectarian violence & religious chauvinism are done in name of religion. However, it is

Q a hidden strength as well. All of our religious doctrines preach, non violence, equality, truth, virtues, morals and ethics. From Kabir to Jesus, from Nanak to Mira Bai, From Nizamuddin Ruliya to Ramananda, all have codified ethical practices, & preached virtues & way to a wholesome & good life. It is the parochial & subjective interpretation of man, otherwise religion is the most powerful factor behind our ethical existence. Let us consider it as a strength, not a weakness.

Kunjar Myrdal said India is a soft state. Our inability to take hard decisions, democratic, consensus oriented behaviour, Non aligned movement has given character to the statement. But now this soft character ^{or weakness} is proving to be our biggest strength. Be it WTO, UNFCC, G20, G77, BRICS, UN, IMF, WB. our so called "soft character" is proving to be our biggest strength. Our tilt towards poor

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countries & non exploitative nature make us a hot favourite for the developing countries. Against an hegemonic USA, & opportunistic China our "soft character or weakness" make us an automatic leader for championing cause of equality & sustainable development in the multilateral sphere.

Our rural population is approximately 800 Mn or 68% of total population. It's lack of infrastructure, electricity, education, healthcare, food & job security make it as a perceived weakness. However community orientation, family bonding, consensus based decision making traditional values, norms & culture are its biggest strength. From disaster management to sustainable development goals, from ayush healthcare system to grassroot or jugad innovation, the entire focus is on the rural population. It is the best antidote to our developmental worries.

Think Local, act global is the mantra against all effects of globalisation

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As pointed by our PM, gram rajya is the key to Ram Rajya.

Agriculture is perceived as our weakness. With growing population dependent on agriculture (60%), stagnation in rates of growth, 45% of area irrigated, 35% only mechanised, it is perceived as an area of weakness. However we must realise its strengths. It is said India's food ^{aid} _{from US} resides in its farmers. From PL480 ⁿ the largest paddy producer, from green revolution to white revolution, from subsistence farming to organic farming, we ~~no~~ have shown the strength of agriculture. We must channelise it further by providing it with finance, technology & inputs to make our biggest strength.

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~~Weaknesses~~ Weaknesses to strength the way forward

1) Finally we come to the problem of converting ^{weaknesses to strength} or ^{health} our weaknesses to strengths. It needs a combination of structural and non structural measures. Structural measures include quality education, healthcare, rule of law, participative administration, ^{health}empowerment, peace, security, growing inclusive & equitable society, maximum prosperity for maximum number. These structural features would ensure conditions for development of an individual & his weakness being converted to his strength & reinforcement of his strengths. Non structural measures include ~~his~~ developing our ethics, morals, ~~to~~ values. If they are strong & in absence of ego we would definitely identify our weakness without shame & develop our strengths. Selfless work (Nishkam Karma & handhiji's talisman of keeping the ^{benefit} poorest person before our ~~at~~ actions would ~~be~~ seem as a guiding ~~to~~ star.

Remarks

Q2. Then India can truly become developed and a great nation of self actualised individuals.

Remarks

Should there be liquor prohibition?

The human mind since evolution has desired consciousness. The fact of being conscious leads to his mind being active & his capability to reason, be rational and chart out his course for survival. Early man so petrified of vagaries of nature, took turns guarding himself & his tribesman 24x7. Then slowly he settled down; took to a city life & witnessed increase in trade, commerce & emergence of a stable society. As a result he could stop worrying about survival and think about pleasures of life. After satisfying his pleasures through legal means such as family, games, sports, music, dance, literature, then turned towards ~~hedonistic~~ ^{illegal} pleasures such as gambling, prostitution & alcohol. Thereby alcohol became a source of pleasure, satisfaction and tool for drifting into subconsciousness.

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It is not as if there was no societal consensus on alcohol. The vedic rituals considered soma as an object of vedic ritual drink. The same holds true for Zoroastrianism also. The drinking of wine was considered as a way to achieve gods & immortality. Christianity taught us alcohol is a gift from god that makes life more joyous but overindulgence is sinful. Along with religious sanctions, the alcohol was considered a means to liberate oneself from the drudgeries of life. Man always wants to hide behind his weaknesses & the alcohol provided him an escape route from facing his problems & thereby putting an effort to end them. Thus alcohol got transformed from a slave to a master who is threatening societal existence.

Remarks

Why should there be no alcohol prohibition.

Alcohol is a good which is not a public common. It means unlike air, water, roads, playgrounds, it is personal property. So regulation over ~~public~~ public common is accepted as it equally benefits or harms everyone. Secondly alcohol harms the individual, ~~or~~ if taken in moderation ~~harms the~~ is so relevant & provides pleasure. Third excise duties from alcohol ^{are} considered the king among taxes in India. After petroleum it is the second largest revenue generating commodity for almost all states. Kerala where recently alcohol was prohibited, the revenue was assumed to be Rs 8000 crore. This can be used for financing schools, colleges, health care old age homes. Fourth, any prohibition only ~~harms~~ drives the trade underground & promotes illicit liquor ^{trade} which would harm even more, finally it only results in

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deeming the ~~the~~ ~~consumption~~ consumption from hotels to the drawing rooms. These facts point to the fact that there is more harm than good in alcohol prohibition.

why

Should alcohol be prohibited?

First, our rights are a result or sourced from the constitution. These rights are supplemented by directive principles, which strive to ensure social democracy, ~~for~~ economic justice for everyone. Gandhi ji was strictly against alcohol consumption & the ~~state~~ ~~the~~ constitution founders ~~for~~ have inserted article 47 which says the state shall take necessary steps so as to prevent the consumption of alcohol & other intoxicants as a mark of respect for him.

Second; it is a pressing health issue. The National crime records bureau data

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lets in India 15 people die everyday or one person every 96 minutes. from effects of drinking alcohol. The per capita consumption of alcohol increased 32 percent from 1.6 litres in 2003-05 to 2.2 litre in 2010-11. The number of persons killed per lakh of population in India is to approximately 11, due to alcohol. India records highest per capita consumption of alcohol in ~~India~~ south east asia. More than 70% of deaths due to road accidents are due to alcohol. Third non communicable diseases are rising at an alarming rate. India has the highest incidence of ischaemic heart disease and it has a direct correlation with alcohol. Fourth, it forces many a poor family to further go into poverty. It ruins peoples lives, jobs, friends, families & social relationships. Fifth

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there is a high correlation between alcohol and ~~the~~ crime. The loss of control forces a person to commit the most heinous of acts. Fifth, the drinking age is also coming down by the day. More than 30% of new drinkers every year belongs to under 18 group. ~~And~~ The loss to our youth dividend due to alcohol is a big demographic deficit. Finally alcohol suffers from social contagion effective drinking is most likely to be emulated by others as a learning habit or forced. These reasons are among myriad of others which makes us feel alcohol prohibition is good.

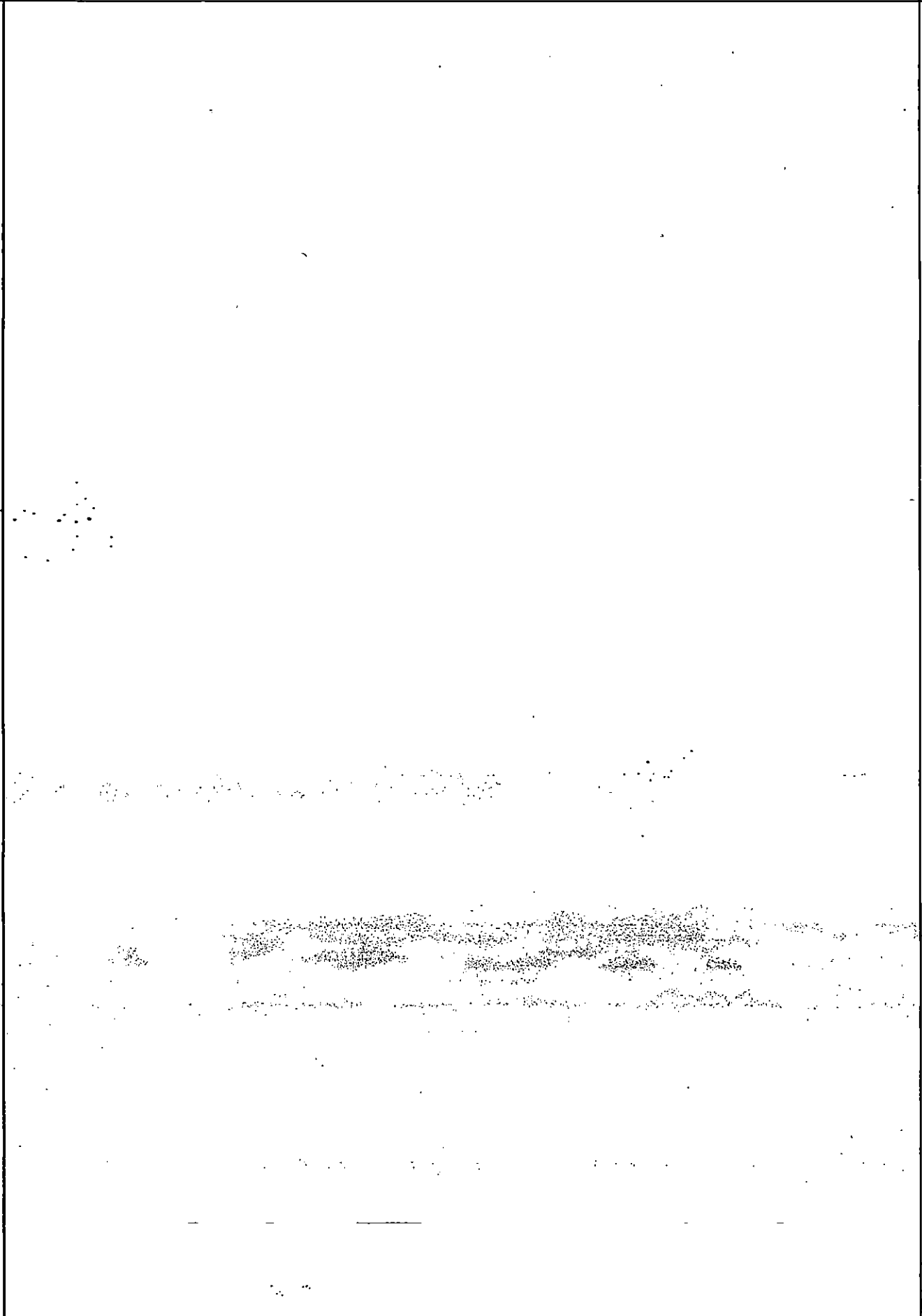
The way out →

The meeting point between alcohol consumption & non consumption has to be found. otherwise it would be hellish for everyone. First of all we

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need strong information communication & exchange mechanism to percolate the ill effects of alcohol - to the grassroot level. Second we need to ensure that the bureaucracy, law and order officials are equipped to prevent any spurious or illegal supply of alcohol. Third we must involve NHO's, civil society & NGOs in the awareness against ill effects of alcohol. Fourth we must invest in alcohol deaddiction & rehabilitation centres with trained personnel. Fifth we must introduce moral science lessons about vices of alcohol & from childhood & introduce yoga & holistic health measures in villages. These steps can definitely help to end this menace & vice of alcoholism rampant in the society. Together we can & we must try.

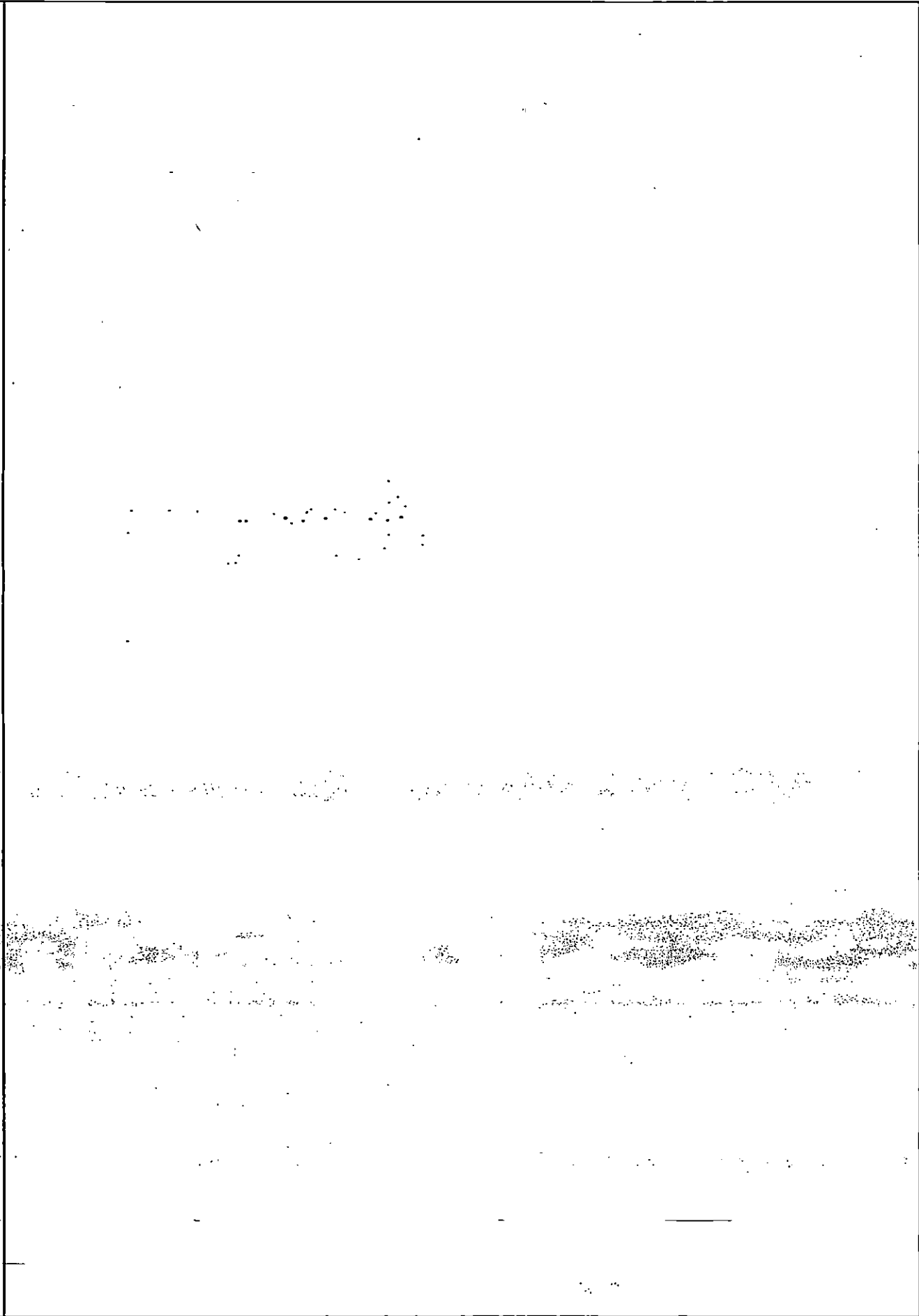
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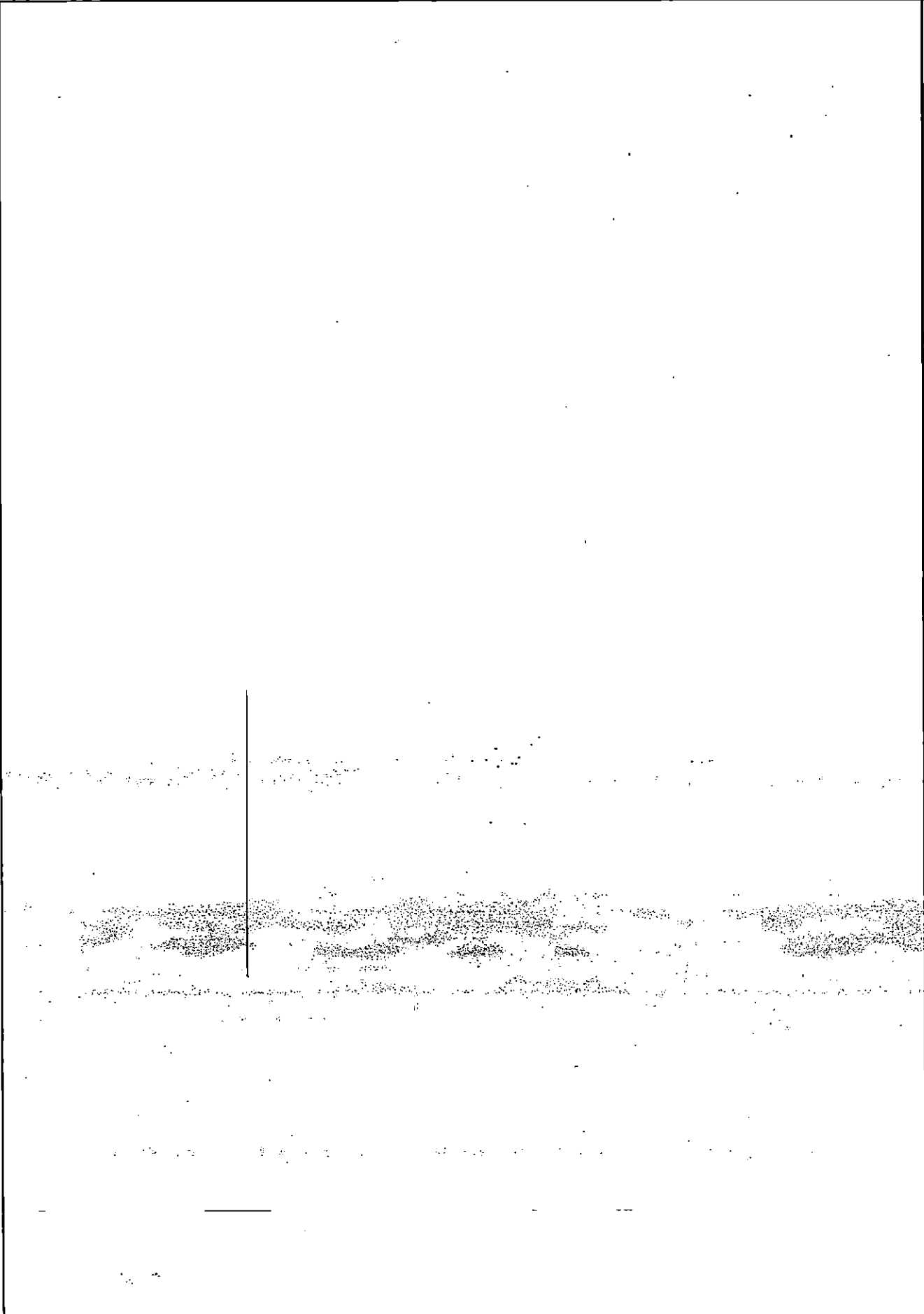
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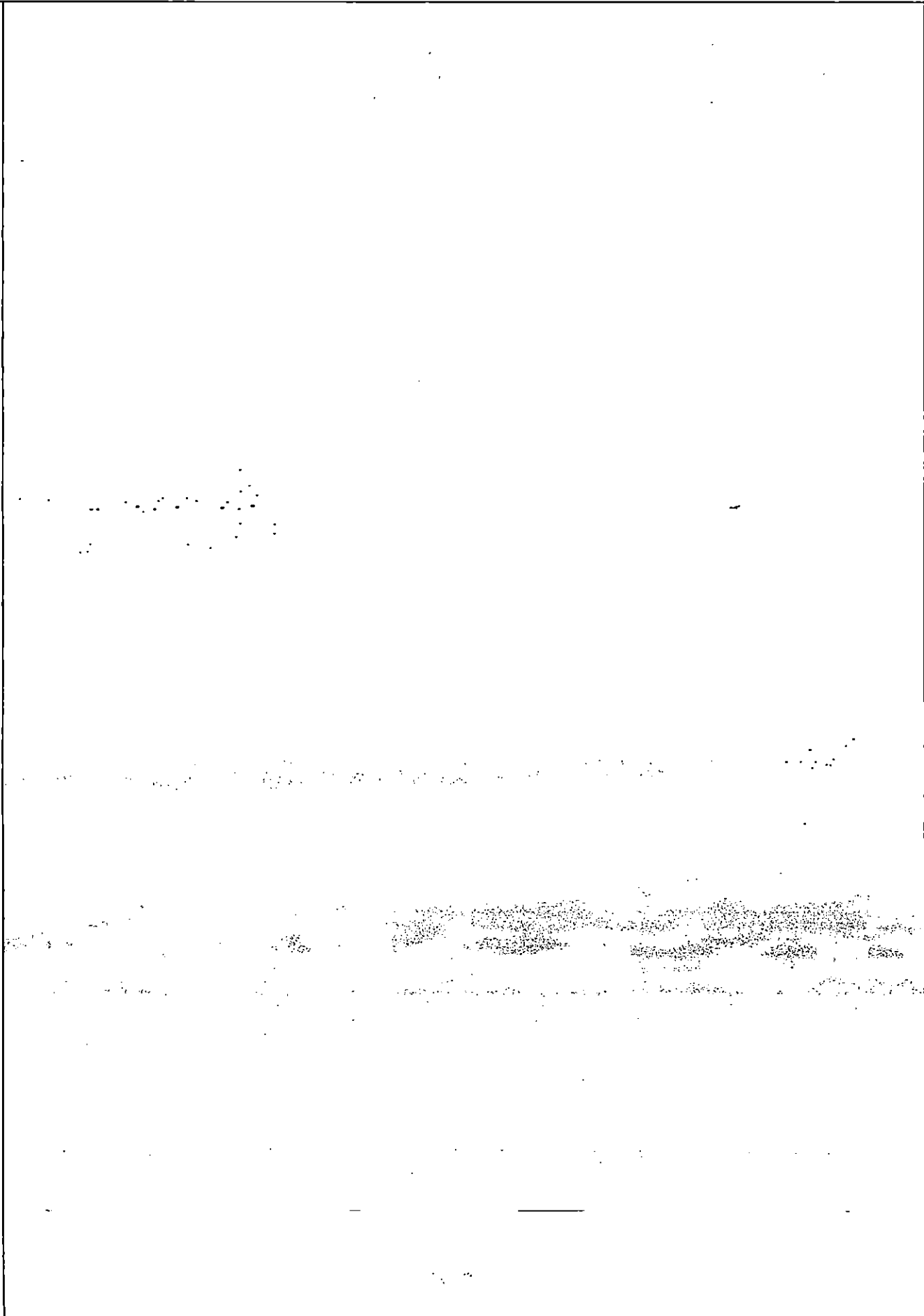
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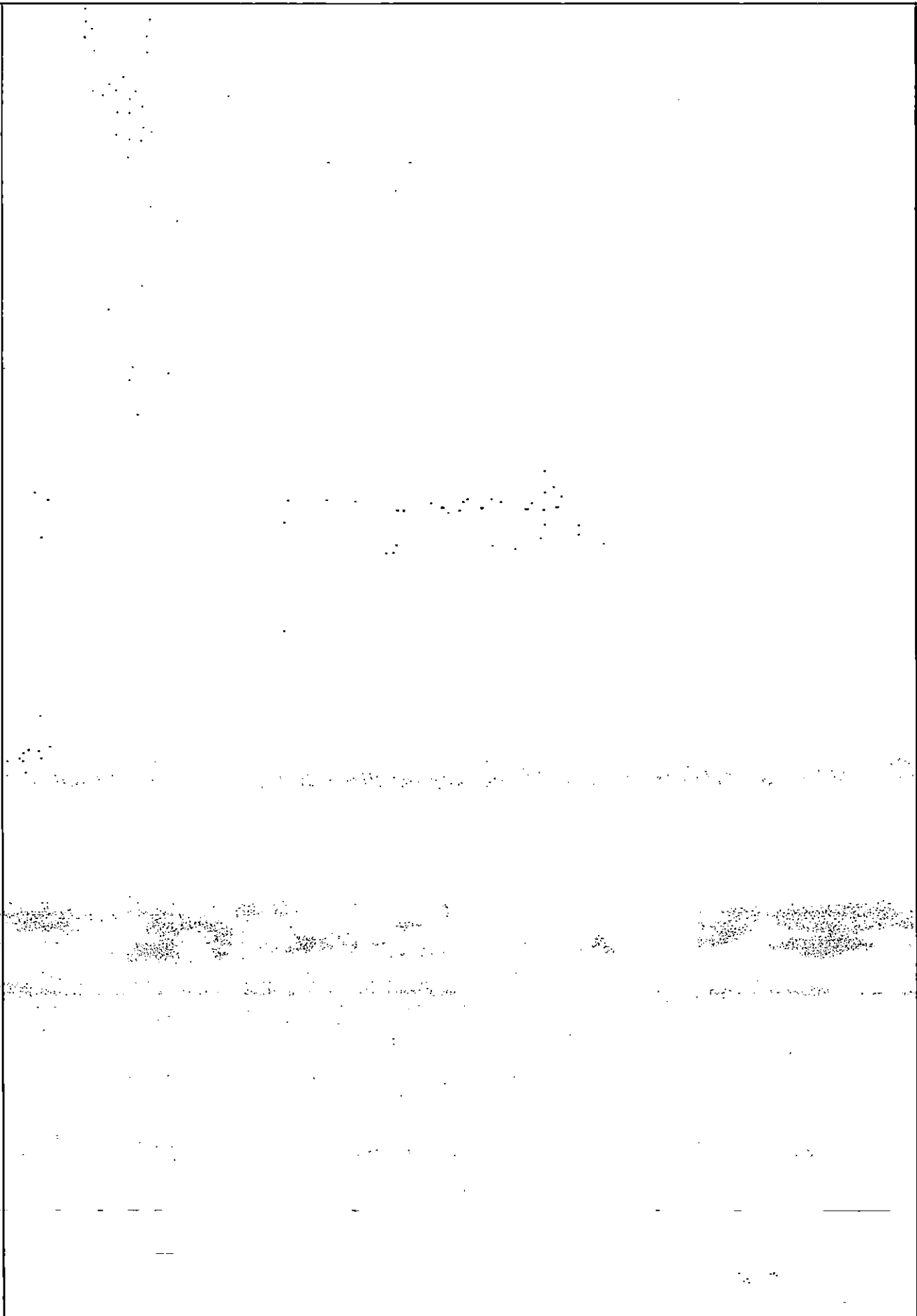
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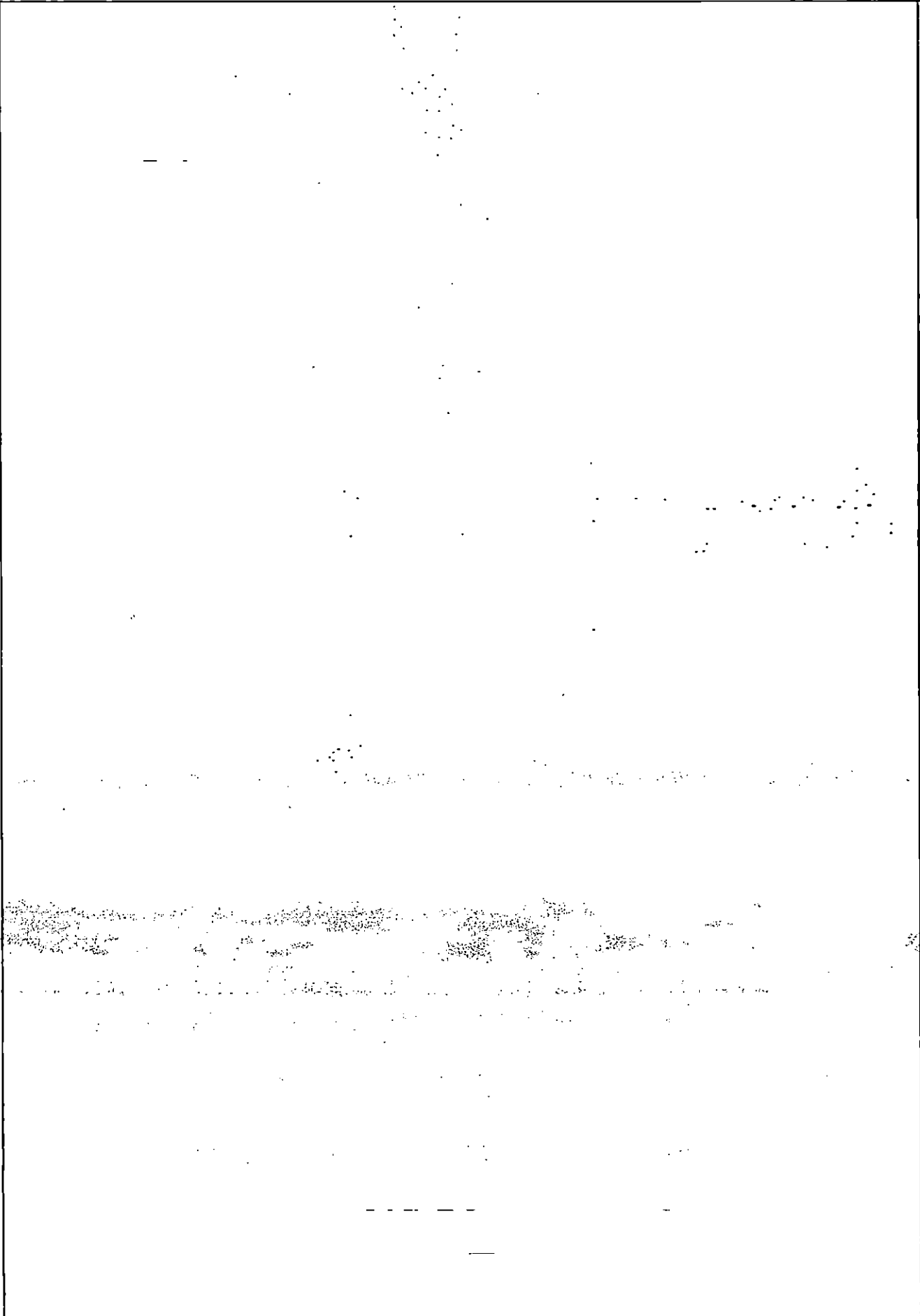
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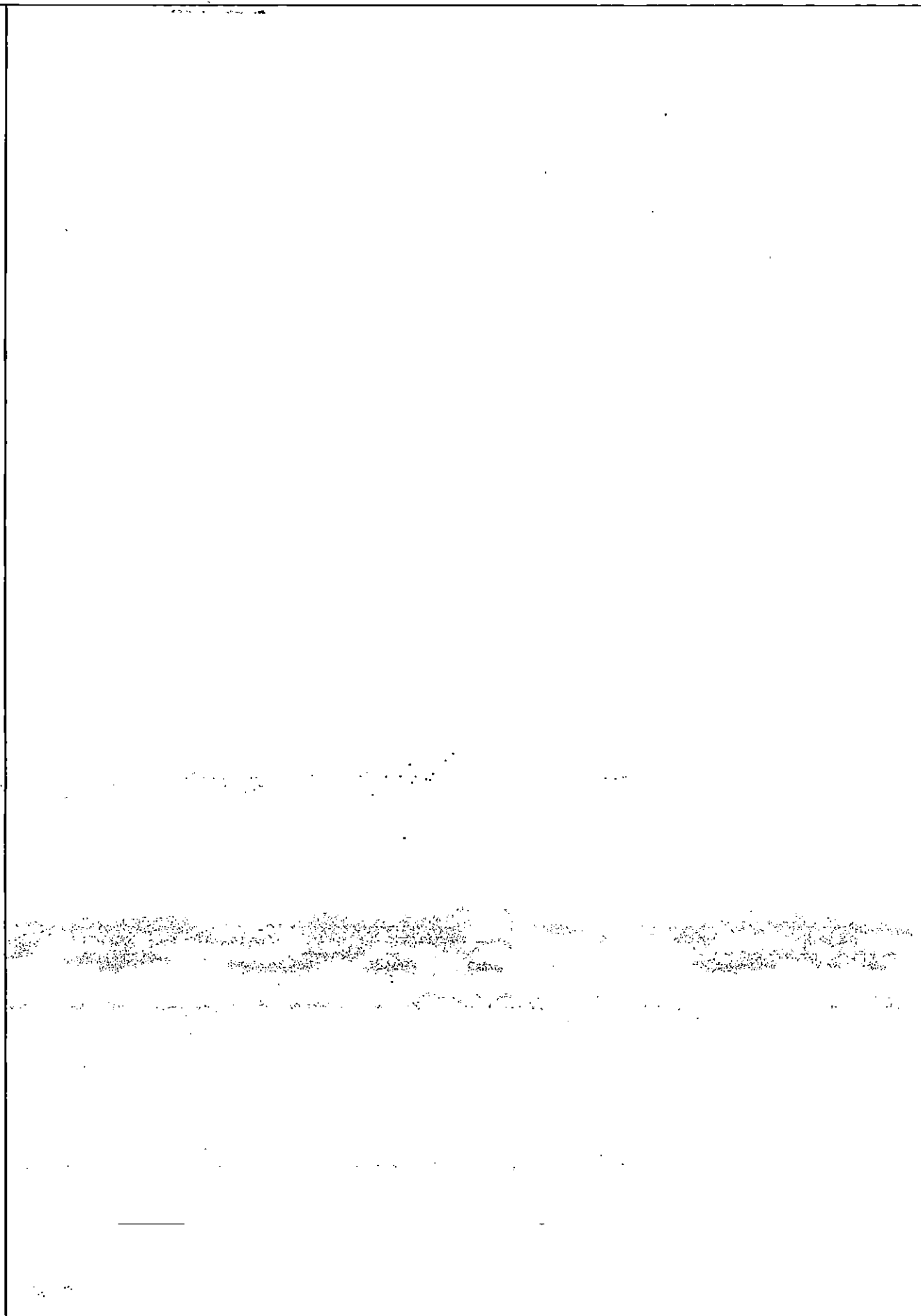
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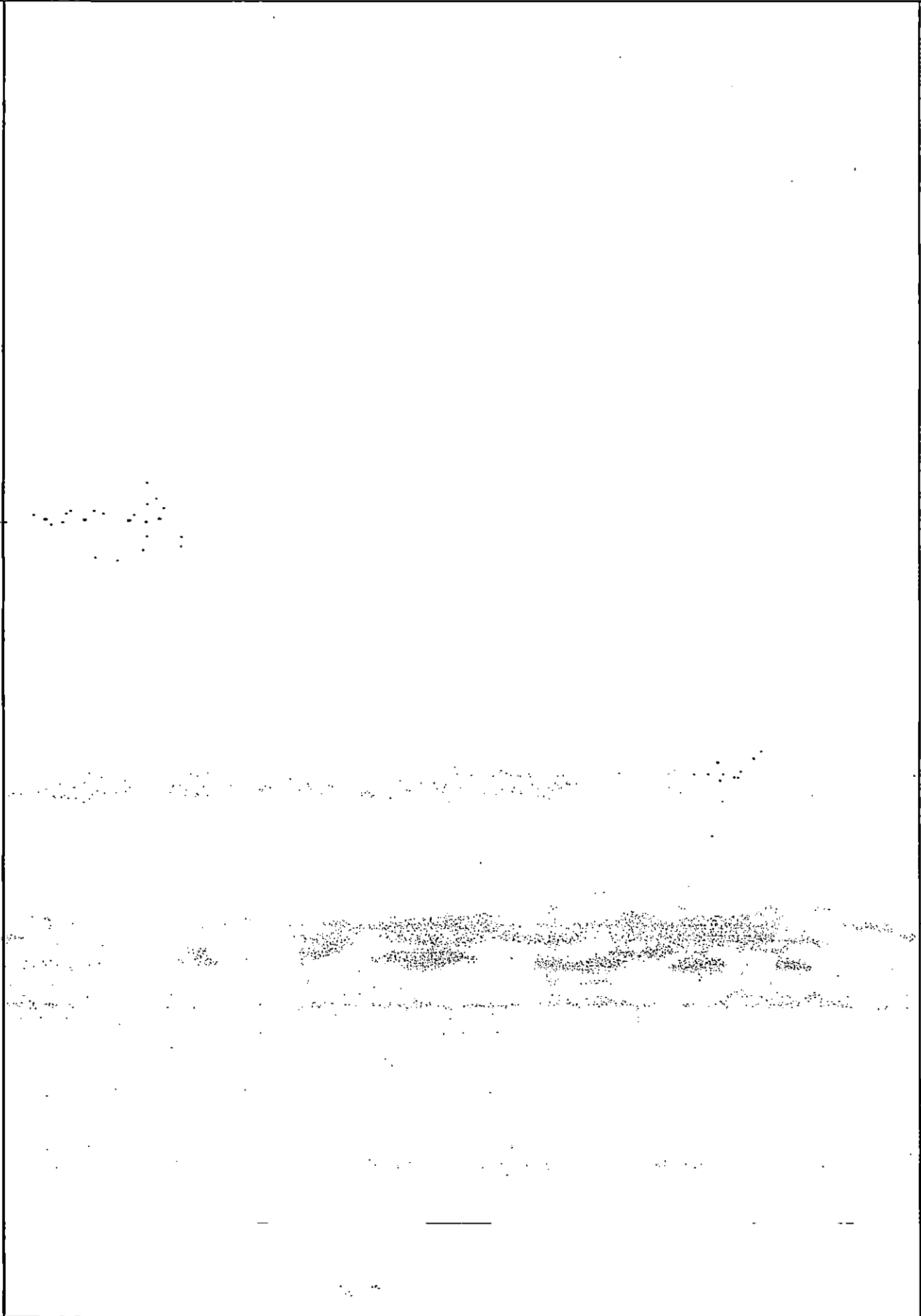
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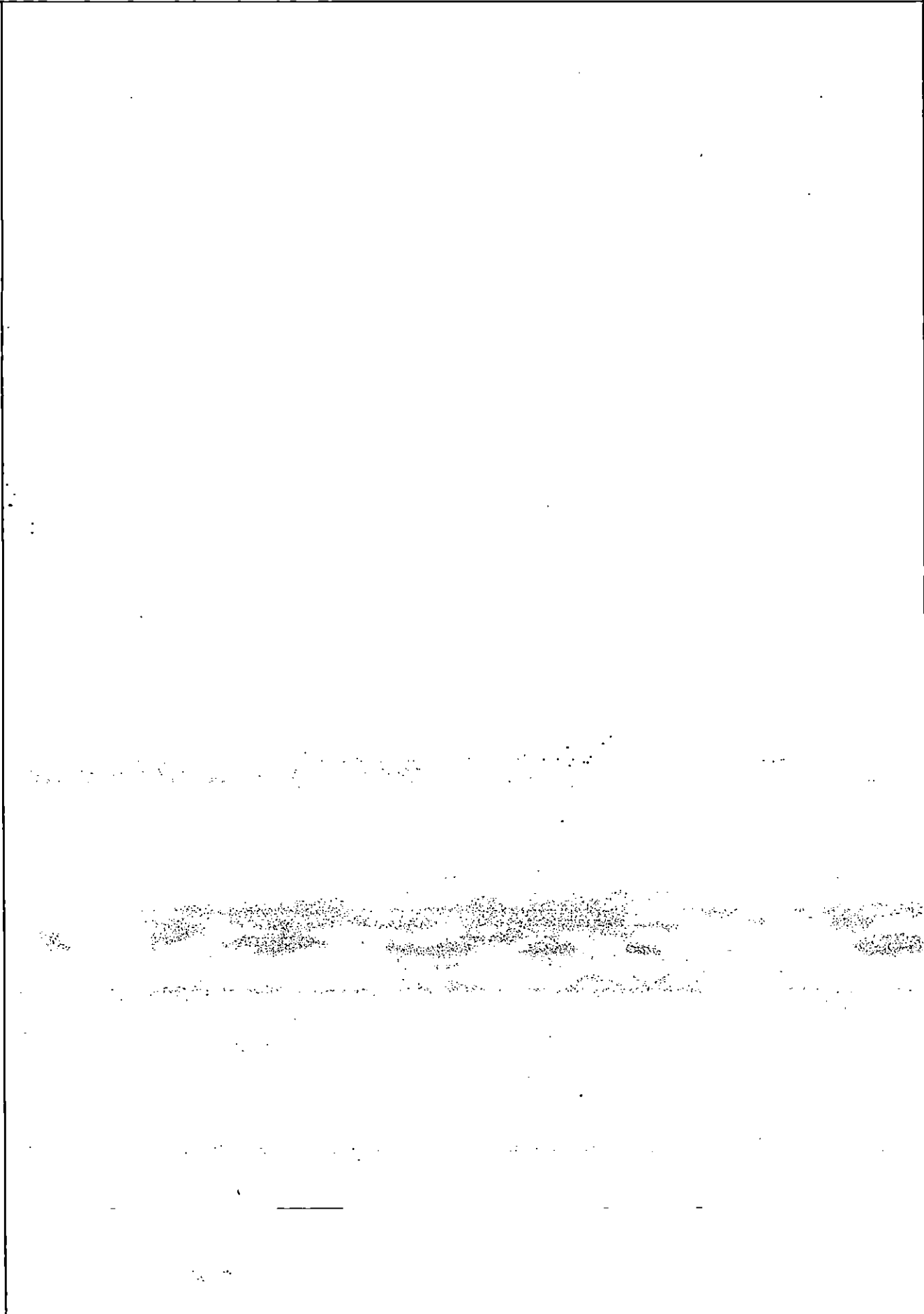


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Remarks

Should there be alcohol prohibition

Alcohol need → society

alcohol → consumption:

consciousness + unconscious

evolution of society

social tension surplus cash

breakdown ~~and~~ traditl values

culture →

political-reasons

eco - "

social - "

why should there be not abay

" " " " a "

lay out

Many a times our weaknesses are our strength
 → what is strength - what is weakness
 why do we consider weaknesses.

- ↳ shyness ↳ social consciousness
- ↳ ego ↳ external locus of control

strengths →
 ↳ pride ego

contingent → situation

How to take advantage → ~~moral~~
 ethics morals, values

- ↳ population → demography
- ↳ women → strength
- ↳ children →
- ↳ democracy → strength
- ↳ constitution →
- ↳ culture + traditional values
- ↳ families →
- ↳ old persons → poor states
- ↳ religion → sports
- ↳ health → poverty
- ↳ edu →
- ↳ brotherhood →

community
 agriculture
 IP →
 Science & tech
 removal
 disaster mgmt
 space
 external security
 way forward

Remarks