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FAISAL KHAN

RANK - 546

GS MAINS ESSAY

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Test - 4

Roll No._____

ESSAY MOCK TEST

Time Allowed: 3 hrs. *Max. Marks: 250*

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).

Remarks

Name Faisal Khan

*Mobile No.*_____

Date _____

Signature _____

1. *Invigilator Signature* _____

2. *Invigilator Signature* _____

SECTION - A

1. Robotics is both the biggest challenge and opportunity for world.
2. Female participation in Indian agriculture: Empowerment or Marginalization.
3. Market is efficient, but prone to failures if irrationality or cronyism permeates the system.
4. Development will lead to peace and prosperity, only if it is humane, just and sustainable.

SECTION - B

1. A country neither belongs to its political class nor fortune 500 companies; it belongs to people.
2. A civilized society must recognize that a woman is a mother, a daughter, a life partner, but above all she is an individual.
3. It is not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen.
4. Chanakya may have been from India, but its Indians who never followed his advice.

Section-A

"Robotics is both the biggest challenge and opportunity for the world"

Sanskar is a 30 year old IT engineer of robotics company Tech Ventura. After working for the company for 7 years, he is benefitting from the new company policy of providing compensation to the employees who have been replaced by robots. The entrance of robotics in the tech space has created opportunities for people like Sanskar to pursue their hobbies which they often sacrifice due to the compulsions of work. However, Sanskar often finds the new change uncomfortable. He misses the office chatter and those parties which gave him life long friends and added beauty to life.

Robotics – use of robots to perform various tasks either mechanical or having some cognitive aspect – have gained ground in

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recent times due to advancements in artificial intelligence. They have touched all aspects of human life, ranging from health to economics, which have in a way improved the quality of life for many.

~~Ro~~ Human body is a magnificent creation which has been made with military precision by the forces of nature. Every part has a role which is indespensable. However, the human body is fragile and is prone to dangers like disability due to accidents or diseases. Unlike other creatures like lizards who have abundance of their tails which they amputate on the drop of a hat, humans are devoid of such superhuman capabilities. Robotics through bionic arms, legs or artificially pumping hearts are trying to address this deficiency. The Jaipur foot is now

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being replaced with more advanced versions which don't merely act as appendages but are being controlled through the nerve endings or the severed limbs. A complete body makes a person independent and gives sense of dignity boosting self-esteem and the happiness of the person. Robotics is playing a key role in this area and will continue to do so until stem cells technology develops fully making humans no less than those lizards.

Apart from meeting basic human needs, robotics provides opportunities for enhancing the human capabilities. 21st century life is resource driven however the Earth's capacity to sustain the same is limited. To meet their unquenched thirst for resources, humans are exploring hitherto unexplored arenas, be it space or deep ocean-bed full of resources like poly metallic nodules.

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However, these far ends of the universe are difficult to conquer due to extreme climates — hot or cold, poisonous atmosphere, devoid of oxygen or physical contraints like distance or high pressure. Robotics sees no such obstacles, the machine is a cold blooded animal ready to go wherever the master commands.

NASA, ISRO, CERN, etc. have prepared many missions to reach places like mars or other explanets ~~for~~ of the Universe. Their rovers, orbiters and landers are all driven by sophisticated robotics. Advancements in robotics would further increase efficiency of such missions and would meet growing resource needs of humans. Rare earth metals like indium which are used to make touchscreens of electronic gadgets have their days numbered on Earth. Space exploratory missions

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can play a major role in addressing such challenges.

Such complex robotic missions also create spinoffs like international cooperation which build trust amongst the nations and make Earth a more peaceful place to live in. The exomars mission was jointly launched by European Space Agency (ESA) and Russian Space Agency (RUSCOSMOS) dispite the sanctions of EU on Russia. Such endeavours keep the lifeline of peace always open by Track 2 diplomacy and better people to people contact.

These resource ~~optimisation~~ utilisation efforts made possible by robotics are also useful in resource optimisation on Earth. The growing population has made management of various resources, people a nightmare for government. The 21st century lifestyle is being governed by 20th century technology. One major area of this

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governance challenge has been transportation. There has been rapid proliferation of private vehicles flooding the streets leading to chaos, global warming, pollution, road rages, etc. Robotics through automated cars provides a good way of dealing with this challenge.

Automated cars governed by sensors, mechatronics can be a reliable way of public transportation. they can be managed easily through computer softwares and would ply on the roads not missing bus-stops and making people late. Apart from the climate benefits, it would also lead to social benefits like development of social capital. when people travel together, they start conversations — spreading their joys and sorrows amongst each other. Such a social setting develops

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solidarity amongst people and help shed the dullness of the mundane life where their lifestyle has been robotised work to home, home to work and sleep.

However, all that glitters is not gold. The promises brought by robotics are also accompanied with their own share of challenges.

The workforce, especially the low skilled ones face threat to their jobs from the epidemic of robotics. Oxford study predicts that 75% Indian jobs are replacable by automation. This can be a threat to the dreams of developing countries like India to remove poverty and become a high income country.

The ageing workforce of Japan, Germany which was being anticipated to be replaced by humans from developing world would now be replaced by the

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machines. An opportunity of income redistribution is being challenged by the rise of automation.

Apart from perpetuating inter-country inequalities, robotics creates conditions for increasing inter-human inequalities. The highly skilled workforce would benefit from concentration of means of production through robotics. Robots don't require fair wages or employee benefits. All they want is electricity and occassional repairs. The low skilled workforce employed in various companies is bound to lose due to robotics if not adequately re-skilled.

Robotics also increase the entry costs for the smaller firms as they are capital intensive. The small and medium enterprises would find it

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difficult to transition to this technology shift which would affect their profitability and efficiency in the long run. The Davids are unlikely to defeat the Goliaths in manufacturing sector.

Apart from the economic impacts, robotics can create a precarious future for humans. By adopting automation, humans surrender their thinking function and activity to an external agency. The mind exercises which used to take place early can be slowly vanished by the dominance of machines. This would slowly make the human mind lethargic having no apetite for cognitive activities. It is such conditions the machines can exploit when their intelligence is growing but their masters are becoming the new robots. The prophecies of the likes of Stephen Hawkings and Bill Gates of machines ruling the world may become true in such cases. There

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may be existential threat to human civilisation by an uncontrolled robotisation. Technologies like social media have already achieved control over humans to some extent; The user wakes up in the morning, is commanded by Facebook to open it and check its status. It then calls the user every now and then as if the master calls the slave for water, food or leisure.

Robotics also create ethical challenges like on what ethical theory should it base its decision. When a road accident is about to happen, should the automated car save the driver or the other person? When it has two choices — death of few or death of more in a road accident, should it follow Kantian ethics or Utilitarianism?

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Such challenges need to be addressed by taking measures like having an ethics committee in every tech company just like we have the sexual harassment committees in the corporates. The workforce requires re-skilling to catch up with automation or else it would perish soon. Taxation on robotics can also be mulled as an option. The area requires thorough discussion to come up with a fine balance of welfare and profit.

The big bang of robotics shouldn't make people forget why it was created at the first place. The objective of any technology is ~~to~~ global welfare in every sphere of life. If it only increases the problems of the world, then it is no better than that nuclear bomb which fell on Nagasaki and Hiroshima which made the nations vie for it only to realise the ticking bomb on which they now live and which threatens the

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very human existence which its creators claimed to preserve.

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Section-B

"It is not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen."

The political idea of state has been there since the ancient times but it has become more rigid in the recent times. In the bygone time, man was free to roam like a bird even though he came back to his nest regularly. Human civilisation had the concept of visa free travel which lead to free flow of ideas across the states. But modern times have seen the emergence of nation-states and strong state capacity to enforce laws. Despite democracy, the political entities have seen various situations when the loyalty to state was in direct conflict with loyalty to human values. It has led to the peculiar situation where a good man failed to be a good citizen and vice-versa.

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A good citizen is the one who obeys laws of the land in letter and spirit, and also helps the state to enforce it on others. whereas a good man is the one who is supposed to uphold human values — equality, justice, liberty, fraternity. Though not always but there have been ample examples in human history which depict the conflict between the state laws and human values.

India's freedom struggle saw an uprising of the Indians against the unjust British laws which served the colonial power than the people. Every legitimate act of goodness was annihilated and illegalised by passing laws through a namesake legislative council hardly having any real power. The exploitation of the British of Indians by its economic policies like high

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land revenue, tariff on Indian exports to British market, home charges and costly household goods, etc. was a trigger which made Mahatma Gandhi launch the civil disobedience movement.

Gandhi advised the peasants in Champaran to not pay taxes to the British after evaluating the laws. He openly gave a call for defying law of the land for the sake of justice — fair treatment of peasants being forced to grow indigo. Similarly, the Dandi march in 1930 to break the salt law which made salt manufacturing a British monopoly, was also perceived as unjust. Gandhi was being a good man by upholding the value of fairness and equity to alleviate poverty of the masses. But the British saw him as an anarchist who made the mighty colonial power bow before the Indians.

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Modern India is also sometimes perceived to be an extension of the exploitative colonialists. Many people justify breaking laws arguing that ways in which this would help them contribute in a better way to the society. People evade taxes assuming that the money goes into the hands of the corrupt officials. So, it is better to give charity on or fund someone's education from the owed tax. They try to be good people but bad citizens with such actions. They think that they are better trained to identify the beneficiaries than the Aadhar authentication!

A good man is governed by the moral compass to take his decisions but not the good citizen always. Apartheid laws in South Africa were passed through the South

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African legislature. The laws violated the basic human value of equality and promoted racial discrimination. The colonial settlers had monopolised the political system in South Africa which excluded the Blacks there. The disgust created by such inhuman laws made the good men and women of South Africa use the African National Congress to fight aparthied in South Africa despite knowing that they would be breaking law of the land and become enemy of the states. Such laws are driven by racial arrogance and a myth of superiority of few chosen races on Earth.

Sometimes, the arrogance breed by superiority complex is also manifested through the cloak of nationalism. Hyper-nationalism of 19th century and 20th century Europe was driven by

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ideologies like fascism, Nazism, Communism. In the pursuit of creating the 'great nation' many ungreat acts of human rights violation — killing dissenters, racial minorities like Jews, were committed by them. Contrary to the act of a good citizen who would have helped in this endevour, the good man here showed courage. They lied, ~~as~~ hiding Jews in their houses, to the Gustapo to save human life and uphold the value of courage. The acts of illtreating the ethnic minorities were opposed through literary criticism, aiding the Allies powers like Britain which all qualified as serious seditious acts having no less than a death sentence.

The good citizens in such cases swelled the army numbers, clapped and were enthralled at the speeches of the evil dictators. They were always

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loyal to the laws never giving it a thought who were they serving. Ultimately, those laws became their nemesis.

Being a good citizen and a good man is not impossible at the same time. It can be possible when the unethical laws are demonetised by repealing them. laws worth following can make good citizenship and good human conduct two faces of the same coin.

laws which promote transparency create trust between the state and citizens. Citizen rather than justifying law breaking, start adhering to it due to the sense of trust created. Edward Snowden became a whistleblower when the NSA's prism program was violating citizen privacy by collecting information through their

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TV, smartphones, transistors, etc. It was the lack of trust which USA had created with its citizens which didn't evoke sharp reactions from the people against Snowden's act. They became good people even though they were supporting a seditious act. Indian laws like official secrets Act should be repealed and more transparency through proactive disclosure under section-4 of RTI Act can create an identity where citizenship duties are not against human duty of speaking and acting against injustice even if going against state.

Apart from the state centric solution of promoting transparency there is also need from the citizen's side to make it work. Democracy ~~was brings the spring, but~~

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- lights the lamp but it is the people who have to keep pouring oil in it to make it burning. They do so by citizen involvement in law making, law enforcement and reviewing. Values cherished by the state are manifested in its laws and policies. When the citizens involve in the process, they ensure that national values are worth cherishing and perpetuating.

Citizens should participate more in election process — both as voters and candidates. The voter turnout of only 43% in Mumbai in 2014 Lok Sabha election tells about public apathy towards elections. Also, the participation of middle class is low in fighting elections as if it is a war which would end in death. The participation can increase through inculcating service

value among the citizens by teaching ethics to the students in schools and colleges, by reminding them that "service to mankind is service to God" through awareness about politics among the priestly class also. The Sermons should not forget to include the duty to vote and contest, as it is a great way of doing good deeds in life and achieve salvation.

Every society constructs concepts like political state for human benefit. If it is the state serves the interests of select few then the injustice created anywhere would soon affect the justice everywhere. Laws are made for men men are not made for laws, should be the guiding premise of a political system. The colonial bureaucratic mindset of blind adherence to law should be replaced by modern democratic approach of citizen

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Centric governance – inclusion, sensitivity, openness, transparency. Else, the tremors caused by unethical laws can ~~weaken~~ flatten the foundations of the democratic state taking us back to the dark ages of autocratic rule.

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