



# ESSAY MOCK TEST - 1

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

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).*

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w/ty*

Name SHIREEN PRAKASH

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature *Shireen*

1. Invigilator Signature *[Signature]*

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Remarks

## SECTION - A

1. ✓ *When we cannot make life better on earth, what is the guarantee that dreaming about flying cars, humanoid robots and populated cities on Mars would make it any better*
3. *Man's emotions are the slaves to his thoughts, and he is the slave to his emotions*
2. *The greatest dishonesty is when our insides don't match up with our outsides*
4. *Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing*

## SECTION - B

1. *Privatization is not always the best economic policy*
2. ✓ *Urbanization is not only simply expanding the area of cities*
3. *Inequality is a poison that is destroying livelihoods, dignity, peace, and amity*
4. *No matter where you stand politically, it is important that you should participate in the process of politics*

SECTION B : URBANISATION IS NOT SIMPLY EXPANDING THE AREA OF CITIES

'Urbanisation is not simply about increasing the number of urban residents or expanding the area of cities. It is about a complete change from rural to urban style in terms of industry, structure, employment, living environment and social security.'

- Li Keqiang.

The world is witnessing rapid urbanisation. According to the United Nations estimates, about 86% of the population in the developed world and 64% in the developing world will live in urban areas by 2050. This unprecedented pace of urbanisation throws up numerous challenges for residents and policy makers alike. It will have profound economic, political, environmental and social consequences.

Put simply, urbanisation is an increase in the size of cities or its

Good use of quote

In the intro try to indicate briefly the arguments to be made in the essay

Avoid long paragraphs  
Divide the argument into separate paragraphs

Population and a shift in the nature of employment from low value added sectors like agriculture to higher value addition jobs in manufacturing and services. However, the survival of urban centres depends upon reliable food supply and this links rural-urban linkages. Urban areas provide a larger number of employment opportunities and ~~thus~~ attract swarms of migrants. The phenomenon of industrialisation and urbanisation are closely interlinked and one reinforces the other. In the past, period of Industrial Revolution in Britain, this pattern was observed closely for the first time. Cities like Lancashire and Manchester became the powerhouses of the economy. Even today, cities contribute about 80% of global GDP and are poised to become the engines of the world economy in future. However, urbanisation brings with it profound social consequences too.

Remarks

Whether it was the feudal set up of villages in Britain and France <sup>in the middle ages</sup> or the rigid social structure in the Indian villages which exists till today, social stratification based on birth was the norm in rural life.

In urban areas, the mode of living consistently dilutes the possibilities of practice of discrimination on the basis of birth. This gives rise to egalitarianism, a feature of modernisation. However, this is not to say that urban areas have no social differentiation, but the defining criteria for social exclusion here is economic power - class differentiation.

Urbanisation in the urban life also leads to changes in the family structure with rise of individualism. The consequent isolation and impersonal relations are a contrast from rural areas where 'everyone knows everyone'. This may give rise to mental health issues particularly for the rural migrants.

• Merit and talent are the

\* In section (a) & (b) - good coverage of consequences - can add more dimensions like live-in nuclear families, changing status of women.

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the main guiding factors for availing economic opportunities in the urban areas. Jobs in industry do not, under normal circumstances, depend on religion or ethnicity. Thus, the public space gets secularised where religion recedes from view; it moreover residents also begin to acquire scientific temper by analysing ~~the~~ customs and superstitions in the context of their urban life. All impractical ideals or notions may be discarded as they retard the fast pace of life in urban areas. Thus, we see that urbanisation and modernisation are interrelated.

(b)

Having discussed the consequences of urbanisation, let us now discuss the challenges that uncontrolled and unplanned urbanisation has given rise to.

The first and foremost challenge is the lack of quality living spaces. Inadequacies in spatial planning, especially in developing countries like

(1)

Remarks

India have given rise to the proliferation of slums and squatter settlements. According to UN Habitat, around 1000 million people live in slums globally. The outcome is the creation of islands of prosperity ~~are~~ amidst oceans of poverty.

Consequently, most people in urban areas like lack basic amenities like access to safe drinking water and sanitation - an infringement of their basic rights as human beings. Deprived of safe drinking water, they are not only susceptible to diseases but also the victims of heavy monetary extraction by private agencies for providing water. Improper sanitation makes people vulnerable to debilitating diseases and also affects women disproportionately. This is further augmented by poor solid waste management practices. landfills and dumping sites are hotbeds of diseases

and also cause land and water pollution adversely affecting quality of living.

Climate change is an ever increasing threat to our urban areas. As cities grow in size and concentration, takes place at an unprecedented space, the phenomenon of urban heat island takes hold. Urban areas are significantly warmer than our surrounding rural areas due to low albedo of roads and building material, <sup>and</sup> higher greenhouse gas emissions from transport. Consequently, cities are being engulfed by urban floods - higher in intensity and volume than those in rural areas. Example: floods in Chennai (2015), Bengaluru (2017), etc. in India, etc.

The UN predicts that even if countries abide by their Paris agreement goals; a tall order, the global temperature would still rise by  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  - drowning coastal cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Jakarta (Indonesia). Survival of urban areas is at risk from climate change.

Try to avoid dragging a - point stay to the point.



Urbanisation has also given rise to social conflicts: Inequalities in access to basic amenities and opportunities accentuates the feeling of deprivation. Although urban areas hold significant employment avenues their access is still mediated by factors like education and skills. Thus, the large number of migrants from rural areas, who are deprived of these, often fail to find quality employment. Disoriented youth may be pushed to take up a life of crime or drug addiction in such scenarios. Lack of adequate support systems worsen their situation.

By its very nature, the ~~phenomenon~~ life in urban areas imposes psychological costs on individuals. Weak interpersonal relations gives rise to loneliness and fatigue. Another consequence is the rise in self centered behaviour - which breeds

Narcissism. People care less and less about others <sup>caught up</sup> in the frantic pace of living.

(b) In India, urbanisation has <sup>also</sup> given rise to issues outlined above. Urbanisation has largely been hidden and messy in India. Thus, the official statistics may not indicate the adequate actual extent of population now living in areas with urban like features. Census definition of urban areas fails to capture the dynamic patterns of urbanisation. This hinders holistic urban planning. Moreover, unlike the London and New York, our urban local bodies are in shambles. Stripped of fiscal and political powers, they are unable to provide basic services to the residents. Lack of quality human resources in these bodies has also prevented scientific management and

robust urban planning. The outcome is haphazard and uncontrolled urban growth - our cities are crumbling under the weight of population explosion.

As around 370 million people will reside in ~~the~~ urban areas by 2050, a paradigm shift in policy approach is required to ensure sustainable urbanisation.

The innumerable challenges posed by urbanisation should not lead one to think that urbanisation has only negative consequences, and hence should be curtailed. Urbanisation is the sine qua non for economic growth - modern economies are based on a robust manufacturing and services base. Urbanisation and industrialisation provide a higher quality of employment opportunities which will help in increasing per capita income and fuelling savings and investment. ~~It~~ caveat here is that

#### Remarks

- \* From section (b) you have covered the challenges of urbanisation in detail. ~~Go~~ But try to keep your arguments short & crisp otherwise the point begins to look repetitive

(b) The rural areas are also being affected by these processes of industrialisation. But this phenomenon is also a manifestation of the seeping of 'urbanness' into rural areas. The extent to which it occurs depends on the strength of rural urban linkages - which has sadly been a failure of urban policy in countries like India.

Urbanisation also reinforces the doctrines of universalism, humanism and reason. The mobility that urban areas provide unshackle ~~are~~ social exclusionary norms. Exposure to a different world view also imparts to people a scientific and rational temperament - that aids moral progress as they are no longer restricted by irrational customs and practices. This process is far from complete. <sup>in</sup> India. But we are nevertheless slowly transitioning from group morality

#### Remarks

\* In section (a) to (c) you have touched upon the positive changes of urbanisation. But these points had been touched upon earlier too. You can either club the arguments together or give more space to way forward.

(c) to personal morality - a sign of rising individualism. Urbanisation also reinforces the doctrines of liberty, equality and fraternity - the ideals of modern life. Urban areas give opportunities for the development of individuals and delegate a social order based on birth to the background. Moreover, people also forge new relationships which are not dictated by caste, religion or ethnicity. This in turn exposes them to different world views - ~~strengthening their~~ widening their outlook.

Hence, urbanisation includes in its ambit much more than area or population expansion. However, its opportunities have been curtailed by lack of spatial urban planning and a paucity of resources, both human and financial for urban development. Tackling the multi dimensional issues

Expelition  
- the stratification point has been discussed earlier too

①

Remarks

\* make sure you remain within the word limit of 1000 - 1200 words.

# In ① & ② good conclusion - summarises the essay  
• Try to enrich the way forward with suggestions and govt schemes like AMRUT, Smart City!

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of urbanisation requires innovative approaches and application of technological solutions in a time bound manner.

It is time to strengthen the social contract that the citizens of the city have with their local government.

② The ~~etc~~ residents also have to participate in and consciously strive to make the city a better place for living by adhering to civic practices. This will turn cities into areas of creativity, innovation, peace and development. and consequently fulfill sustainable development goal 9 - creation of sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities.

# You have touched upon the dimensions of urbanisation other than rise in number of cities

- social - egalitarianism; economical, secularisation etc

\* but this was the essence of the essay and should have been given more focus than

Remarks

Challenges of urbanisation

54  
125

SECTION A. WHEN WE CAN'T MAKE LIFE BETTER IN EARTH, WHAT IS THE GUARANTEED THAT DREAMING ABOUT FLYING CARS, HUMANOID ROBOTS AND POPULATED CITIES ON MARS WILL MAKE IT ANY BETTER.

"Engineering or technology is all about the power of using science for to make life better for people, to reduce costs, improve comfort, productivity, etc." -  
N. R. Narayana Murthy.

good opening

The human attributes of curiosity, inquisitiveness and the urge for exploration have been one of the main guiding forces behind the evolution of human civilization. The development of science and technology and its immense contribution to human life in every sphere has been the direct outcome. Today, we can't imagine our lives without the myriad comforts, devices and benefits that science and technology.

(0.1)

(b) have given us. They have thrown up a plethora of possibilities and widened our horizons of knowledge. Today, we are actively pursuing space research - looking for planets that show signs of life. Recent discoveries in space have been beyond the limits of our intellect and mind (discovery of gravitational waves, images of black holes and Earth sized planets are few examples). We are now creating robots that can perform tasks more efficiently than a human and may even think like humans in the future - the advent of deep learning.

While all these inventions and innovations are remarkable, their utility for humankind has to remain the main criteria.

Science has thus been fundamental to humanity's way of understanding the universe. It allows

#### Remarks

≠ from section (a) to (b) - it is getting difficult to separate the introduction from the body. Make sure you have a clear intro discussing briefly what the essay is about.



us to predict the consequences of our actions and ultimately enhance the quality of our lives. As the human population crosses 8 billion which is far beyond the carrying capacity of the Earth, science and technology perhaps offer the only solutions to us for sustainable living.

The ultimate objectives of any progress in science and technology have to be in sync with human welfare and sustainable development. 'Science is a gift to humanity, we must not distort it' said Dr. Kalam. A human-centric approach has to be pivotal in all our future explorations and endeavours in the scientific arena.

The contributions of technology in our lives have been endless. Science and technology have permeated every sphere of our lives - we are now able to enjoy a better

quality of life than our previous generations while <sup>also</sup> living longer. The discovery of antibiotics, vaccines and high quality diagnostic tools has meant that diseases are no longer deadly as before. Inventions in <sup>the field of</sup> medicine and biology are continuously increasing the limits of our knowledge about the human body.

② However, this biological knowledge may also be used to prepare ~~new~~ ~~new~~ ~~agents~~ biological agents like nerve gases for biological attacks. There have been incidences of their use from world war II. - This is the distortion that is the outcome of the intention of those harnessing technology for their own purposes of destruction.

Similarly, nuclear energy has immense applications in the field of medicine, clean power and water desalination. But the world has also seen the destruction and it can cause as happened in the case of

Fukushima and Nagasaki.

We have transcended the barriers of our capability and understanding and are pushing the limits of research. Today, the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution has begun with artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and the like. Robots are now increasingly being used to perform human tasks not only in the manufacturing sector but also in national security, health care and our homes. All these developments have the potential to further socio economic development.

However, there is a flip side to it as well. Science does not guarantee that its inventions will be used only for the greater good. Take Artificial Intelligence, for instance. While it can be a boon for health care especially in surgeries and diagnostics, it can also be used to prepare lethal autonomous weapon systems - essentially soldiers

good  
- terms  
of the  
topic  
have  
been  
included

Remarks

without the faculty of human conscience. It may also trigger an arms race destabilising the world.

It must also be remembered that science and technology can only provide possibilities - it is for human beings to act on them. Many of the social problems like hunger, malnutrition, poverty, etc. have potential solutions in science. But everything depends on human intentions. Take world hunger, for instance. We have delineated the causes of hunger - insufficient food production and distribution and losses along the food chain. The world has been able to produce more food using technologies of higher production. However, science does not have any solution to the amount of food we wilfully waste. Similarly, medical science may have shown that exercise reduces the risk of heart disease but has many of us actually follow that advice? It all depends on our will power - something that no amount of technology can increase.

Good point

But try to keep the argument crisp

Remarks

\* In section ① to ④ good coverage of the role of science in human welfare and the negative consequence of the same. Can also discuss how science can't solve all problems like caste etc.

Thus, technology is ~~not~~ only an ~~end~~ that is it is the means to an end.

How do we ensure that science and technology is used for the benefit of mankind? By creating an ethical manpower is geared towards solving society's problems using their research in multi faceted areas. Human development envisages social innovation that progressively enhances the quality of life of the poorest of the poor. This must be the priority in our research agenda ~~taking~~ an interdisciplinary education will expose the students to various challenges that the world faces where they can use their technological prowess to ameliorate poverty and underdevelopment.

Technology therefore should not be just a means of commercialisation and conquering nature rather it should

Remarks

Good conclusion  
 - discuss how science needs to... in humans  
 - summarize the essay!

make life better for us by solving our prominent problems.

As the world witnesses disruptive changes and uncertain times in terms of climate change ahead, science and technology are indispensable for coping with these effects. Humans have to consider the long term ramifications of all technological innovations and ensure that humanity remains central to our inventions.

"We must address individually and collectively, moral and ethical issues raised by cutting edge research in AI and biotechnologies." - Klaus Schwab

# you have discussed

- role of scientific development in human welfare
- challenges associated with science
- way forward

# you can add

- the limits of science as a panacea for all social ills

~~4/4~~  
~~12/15~~  
~~7/5~~  
~~12/15~~

Remarks

- can't solve issues like costs
- under bureaucratic control - does not solve day to day issues