

TEST CODE : 3 2 0 3 7

FIAS – 2020 – EGP Test #7

**ForumIAS**

ACADEMY

**GENERAL STUDIES**

|                   |                 |          |             |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| Name Of Candidate | SUCHITER SHARMA | Roll No. | 191007404   |
| Email Id.         |                 | Date:    | 19 Dec 2020 |
| Mobile No.        |                 |          |             |

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

| INDEX TABLE         |            |                | INSTRUCTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q. No.              | Max. Marks | Marks Obtained | <p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile).</p> <p>2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has TWO topics printed in English and Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part.</p> <p>3. One question in each part is compulsory.</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p> |
| Q.1                 |            |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Q.2                 |            |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Total Marks:</b> |            |                | <p><b>Start Time </b></p> <p><b>End Time </b></p> <p><b>Mode Of Examination :</b> Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>ECN CODE:</b></p> <p><b>Evaluation Date:</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Remarks:</b>     |            |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                     |            |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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## MARKING SCHEME

| <i>Parameter/Criteria</i>        | <i>Aspects Considered</i>                             | <i>Total Marks</i> | <i>Essay 1</i> | <i>Essay 2</i> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Basic Format</b>              | Introduction + Conclusion                             | 10                 |                |                |
|                                  | Body                                                  | 15                 |                |                |
| <b>Content</b>                   | Data/Facts/Interpretation/<br>Analysis                | 25                 |                |                |
| <b>Organisation</b>              | Flow of ideas/ Absence of<br>Deviation from the topic | 25                 |                |                |
| <b>Language Skills</b>           | Punctuation/Grammar/<br>Sentence Formation/Spellings  | 25                 |                |                |
| <b>Examiner's<br/>Discretion</b> | Perception/ Innovation/<br>Engaging                   | 25                 |                |                |

| <i>Parameters</i>  | <i>Very Good</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Average</i> | <i>Poor</i> |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Coherence</b>   |                  |             |                |             |
| <b>Language</b>    |                  |             |                |             |
| <b>Handwriting</b> |                  |             |                |             |
| <b>Pre-writing</b> |                  |             |                |             |

| <i>Very Good</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Average</i> |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 120 and above    | 100-120     | Below 100      |



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## SECTION - A

1. Are social media platforms a threat to democracy?
2. The foundation of democracy rests on a free and unbiased media.

"Whoever controls the Media, controls the mind"

Jim Morrison.

U.S.A Presidential election 2016 saw involvement of state actor Russia which with the use of social media platform tried to influence elections. Fake news generated by bots was common which spread like wildfire. Fake news of "FBI agent who leaked Clinton's emails have been killed" and "Pope has endorsed the candidature of Donald Trump" were very common fake news. Moreover data of itPrens from facebook was taken and tools like Bq data analytcs were used to influence elections.

This showed how social Media



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Platforms promoted interference in the elections of world oldest democracy.

This was negative side of these platforms but during the pandemic various Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO) used social media platforms like whatsapp to deliver food at doorsteps.

Technology is always a double edged sword, its use is determined by wisdom of individual who is using.

Social Media platforms, like whatsapp, Facebook, LinkedIn etc, are those platforms which allow users to create, share, and search content.

Social Media provides individuals, societies, etc with "right to freedom of speech and expression" which is our fundamental right. "United Nations Declaration of Human Rights" and "International Covenant on Civil and



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Political rights defines right to freedom and expression as basic human right and media helps us to achieve the same.

Media was established as fourth pillar of democracy during the French revolution and helped alot in the establishment of democracy. Therefore Media and democracy has linkage since inception. But in present times, with the advent of Internet, media has taken giant leaps in the form of social media.

Cheap Internet rates, advent of 4G, Internet penetration etc has increased the use of social media. More and more people are becoming digitally literate which helps to further the cause of democracy by holding government responsible for it's actions. It has given voice to the unvoiced.



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sections of the society like LGBTQ which led to decriminalisation of Section 377 of IPC. "MeToo movement" related to sexual harassment soon became global movement due to social media. "Black Lives matter" movement gained all because of social media.

Social media has given disseminating voice to individuals. In many countries social media has been used as a tool against repressive authoritarian regimes. This was seen in case of Arab Spring which shook west Asia and there were demands for democracy.

It has helped in furthering the cause of Good Governance i.e. following principle of samudaya (last man standing in last row to be served). Social media is used for taking opinion from public on policy matters, making citizens aware about particular policy and doing much more. During Chennai



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floods, employees of "PWD department" formed whatsapp group which helped people a lot.

It has also broadened the scope of e-learning with free initiatives available online like Khan Academy etc ensuring Right to education. Therefore Democracy has been upheld by social media. It has helped immensely in creating awareness whether social, economical, political, cultural or environmental and making government efforts reach every nook and corner.

But at the same time individuals with compromised wisdom had transformed Media into first pillar of democracy instead of being fourth pillar of democracy. There are several instances of platforms being used by Government for surveillance. This thing was unearthed in WikiLeaks case led by Edward Snowden, where he exposed how USA is keeping a



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hawkish eye on its own citizens, and infringing upon their right to privacy. Fake news is one of the most common threat from social media. Whether in 2016 U.S.A presidential election or 2020 Indian election, fake news was very much prominent on social media platforms. Fake news further promotes incidences like mob lynching, cow vigilance and communal riots which are threat to the idea of democracy. Whether it is mass exodus of north-eastern students from Kannalake or flight of migrants during COVID-19 pandemic, fake news made its presence felt.

These platforms can easily be used for manipulation of public opinion which can then be used for purpose like terrorism. Best example is Islamic state (ISIS), it used social media platform to promote extremism and radicalised views. Because of



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use of technology Islamic state has made its presence felt for longer time than any other terror organisations.

Similarly, use of social media platforms by terror organisations in India has posed internal security threat. These platforms are used to raise funding, for communication and even for radicalisations of individuals. Lone wolf attacks in countries like Britain, New Zealand etc were due to radicalisation by means of social media.

Cybercrimes like cyber stalking, cyber bullying etc have emerged, which have compromised privacy and security of citizens. There are many instances of Twitter account of famous personalities being hacked in order to manipulate economic situation of country (in case of Donald Trump). Recently whatsapp account of journalists and of many



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other important personalities were found hacked by Israeli virus Pegasus. This shows onslaught on Right to privacy of citizens.

In present scenario, political parties are using social media for fake campaign. Fake fan pages have been created and are there to manipulate public opinion. Most of country political parties have their IT cells which are being used to spread fake political propaganda.

These instances not only effect citizens but the very basic idea of democracy. There is need to control these platforms and prevent the challenges from causing harm to democracy. While Government bringing legislation to bring these platforms under regulation, there is a need to apply "test of proportionality" in order to balance right to freedom of speech and expression.



with restrictions mentioned in Art 19(2).

Information and Technology Act 2000, needs amendment in order to ensure pace with changing time. Clear definition, of what social media platforms are, need to be presented. Draft Data Protection Bill which has been drafted upon the recommendations of B N Srikrishna committee, need to be brought as law as soon as possible.

At Global level, there is need for comprehensive regulation which will prevent the misuse of social media by state as well as non-state actors.

General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) has been passed by European Union to ensure privacy, this step is required to be replicated at national levels.

Indian government should think to implement data localization rules as proposed by RBI as soon



as possible.

Further there is need to bring the idea of value education in our schools so to reap positive fruits. Role of family should be increased in order to address such crises. Empowering every citizen with Internet and privacy should be the goal of every nation in order to make Democracy more broad based.

Government should take every step which will ensure clean, transparent and efficient functioning of social media. Gandhi ji in his seven sins have rightly said that -

"Knowledge without character  
Science without humanity."

Therefore, in order to make democracy sustainable and Inclusive we need to reap fruits full of wisdom who



can use social media for the cause of  
the country and upliftment of all.

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Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility  
(5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading





## SECTION - B

- ✓ 1. The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society.
2. We need naturalised humans not humanised nature.

"No power on this Earth can stop the  
Pdea whose time has come"

Islamic States (ISIS) has posed serious challenges to regimes in West Asia. It wanted to establish patriarchal society by means of extremism and radicalisation. This society will be based on patriarchy, elimination of minorities and women freedom. ISIS is most successful among other technologies because of its ability to use Internet. Internet has been used for radicalisation, getting extortion money, buying and selling of arms and ammunitions etc. Because of this ISIS still have stronghold in West Asia and recently it has shown its presence in Afghanistan.



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Technology offers countless benefits to humans and at the same time have number of cons but it solely depends upon the mind using technology. Technology is a double edged sword.

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom"  
- Isaac Asimov

The quote holds true in its entirety. From past ages till now there are plenty of instances which validate above quote. It is human nature to extract as much as benefit from anything and this proves lack of wisdom.

"Greed robs learned man of his wisdom"  
- Bhagavad Gita

It is the greed of an individual, leader, or nation which destroys wisdom which otherwise would have positive application of the knowledge.



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Colonisation started by Western powers like Spain, Portugal, England and France was due to advancement in ship building, medicine and ammunition. Ships which would have been used for cultural exchange and transforming world into global family, were used by these powers for subjugation of other nations and started darkest period in the history of the mankind.

Medicines were used to treat diseases which were of tropical nature, so that control over colonies can be effectively maintained. Similarly World War II was not fight of justice with injustice but mere clash of ego between colonial powers with the use of Aeroplane, submarine and other advance technologies.

Nuclear Physics advancement helped in studying properties of atoms at subatomic levels, their fission and fusion. This science which would have been



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used for energy generation, was used for designing nuclear weapons which were used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These weapons are enough to eliminate human race.

Similarly advances in Artificial Intelligence has made it prone to misuse. There are chances that in near future AI will be weaponised. AI tools have been used for surveillance by repressive regimes over ~~them~~ <sup>their</sup> citizens which deny them basic human right of privacy.

Use of Internet by organisations like ISIS, Jash-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba etc for the purpose of radicalisation and extremism poses another challenge to democracy. This shows how wisdom develops late in society.

Agricultural technology like Genetically modified crops have improved yield but has increased the use of



chemical fertilizers which pose damage to environment. Biomagnification, Bio-accumulation, Eutrophication etc challenges have been emerged which is reducing biodiversity.

Industrial revolution has achieved success at the cost of environment. The recent phenomenon of ozone layer depletion, climate change, sea level rise, fluctuation in monsoon pattern, Pollution etc are due to industrialization. This has posed threat to the existence of vulnerable section, marine environment etc.

Deep sea missions involving drilling, mining etc have pose threat to deep sea biodiversity. Use of trawlers by China in south china sea have posed threat to the existence of marine biodiversity. coral reefs, known as rain-forest of sea, have accounted large



scale damage and if same continues they will become extinct in near future.

Mechanization of Industries, has led to job loss for low skilled individuals, whereas new jobs have not been created. This has largely effected rural migrants who are migrating back to villages which will reduce household income and increase pressure on agriculture. Oxfam report says that top 1% own 42% of country's wealth in India and automation will help to further the cause of inequality.

Use of social media has promoted isolation from natural environment. Rise of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, obesity etc are due to lifestyle changes and in this social media used has played equally important role. Rise in cases of depression can



also be attributed to the use of social media.

The progress in field of space, which would have led to collaboration in exploring outer space, has led to weaponisation of space. Satellites are used for surveillance over other states. Space is emerging as next place of warfare.

This points towards the fact that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom. Despite above challenges technology has also been used for the progress of human race. Advancement in field of medicine due to technology has made remote surgeries, use of cognitive hearing aids, advent of nano medicines etc possible. India is implementing National Digital Health Blueprint which will change the face of medicine and



will help everyone to reap benefits of medicine.

Use of drones have made the process of urban planning easy and effective. Use of drones in border management will help in reducing infiltrations and casualties along the fence.

Blockchain technology has the potential to make Indian Banking more transparent. It will further the cause of e-governance, where West Bengal Government issued Birth certificates using this technology.

Robots have immense use in education sector. They can be used to replace the work of manual scavengers. It can help in solid waste management as well as nuclear waste disposal. Robots can perform surgeries with pin point accuracy.

Quantum computers can help make the process of weather forecasting



accurate, will ensure proper early warning systems etc. Apart from disaster management it can also be used to make communication more secure, as being done by China, by launching MQPUS satellites and using quantum key distribution method.

Technology has the potential to revolutionise the way of human living. But it is a double edged sword. To ensure effective, efficient and sustainable development and use of technology, we need to address the challenges associated with it, both at national and international level.

India needs proper policy related to emerging technologies so to contain the negatives. Information Technology Act 2008 is needed to be reformed to suit the present condition. Policy at global level too is required to prevent nation states



from improving emerging technologies. There is a need to bring all stakeholders on the board to discuss these issues.

There is need to bring value based education into our education system so that powerful mind with positive motivation can be created. There is also need to inculcate the values like honesty, compassion, empathy, scientific temper, objectivity, rationality etc in children.

Role of family becomes more important due to increased interaction of children with social media. Mother, being first teacher, and home, being first school, must play their roles in order to inculcate wisdom in young minds.

It is wisdom which will help humans in accumulating knowledge faster than science. As mentioned



by Gandhiji in his seven Ps -  
 "Science without humanity" and  
 "Knowledge without character" is a  
 sin.

This shows what power wisdom holds  
 in order to change society. Therefore  
 our wisdom must guide our action  
 towards Science which will promote  
 equity, sustainability and peace in  
 society.

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