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FIAS – 2019 – E03*

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ACADEMY**GENERAL STUDIES**

Name Of Candidate	<i>Gutanjali Sharma</i>		
Email Id.		Roll No.	1910032948
Mobile No.		Date:	23/8/19.

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 FOUR 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				
Total Marks:				
Remarks:				
Start Time 1200		End Time 1557		
Mode Of Examination :		Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
ECN CODE:		Evaluation Date:		

2nd Floor, IAPL House, #19, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi – 110005

MARKING SCHEME

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

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

Very Good	Good	Average
120 and above	100-120	Below 100



SECTION - A

1. Administrative reforms: Key to Good Governance.
2. The separation of religion and state is a necessary but not a sufficient ingredient of a secular state.
3. The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth.
4. Social Media in a post-truth world.

THE EARTH DOES NOT BELONG TO US ;
WE BELONG TO THE EARTH.

first came the big bang and then came hot balls of gas and rocks. The Earth was one of these big rocks which the microbes made their home. Then came oxygen which brought plants, reptiles and dinosaurs. Eventually there were apes and then came man.

With humans came mining, industries and pollution. They also brought death and destruction. Climate change and global warming as their newest inventions, it won't be very long before Earth is back to being a

hot ball of gas and rocks.

Whereas for all other species the Earth represents a life sustenance entity of which they are a part, for man the Earth is a tool to be used for its comforts and over which we claim ownership. Man essentially believes that the Earth belongs to him.

For centuries we have utilized the resources of the planet in order to survive and in order to evolve. Archaic humans needed meat and fruits whereas the modern human needs much more. We need fossil fuels to run our cars and industries. We need the land to produce crops and water for ~~our~~ survival. We have also made animals a resource - for meat, for hide, for milk and also for entertainment in zoos. Thus for mankind the entire Planet is a goldmine with every single element to be extracted or harnessed for its extravagant

needs.

Mankind has also refused to adhere to natural laws, which is another manifestation of its belief that ~~we are~~ it owns the world.

The boon of technology has provided us with the ability to edit and redesign the most fundamental units - genes. While our initial endeavours have been in the context of

improving productivity of crops by modifying the underlying genetic code, today CRISPR Cas 9 gene technology is also being used to edit human embryos to ostensibly cure diseases.

The next logical step that experts fear, will be gene editing in order to have customised designer babies.

Ethicists have called this as 'playing God' and interfering with the Earth's process of natural selection and is a step with unknown ramifications on future generations. However, the impact will not be limited

to humans alone. The widespread opposition to genetically modified crops is also because they pose a grave threat to the natural biodiversity of the planet. Yet these acts continue with ~~the~~ bare minimum regulation.

Moreover, through our alteration of natural laws as well as the global scale of our activities, we threaten the very balance of Earth's systems. Incessant fossil fuel use has heated up the planet by more than 1.2° in just 250 years since the Industrial revolution began. The resultant global warming is bringing about shifts in pressure belts, oceanic water levels, oceanic circulations as well as ecosystems. The Earth's species are facing the 6th mass extinction at a rate 1000 - 100 times greater than the past.

Furthermore, our patterns of food

production and consumption has essentially altered food chains and webs. Humans being apex predators have diversified and intensified the appropriation of food from nature, resulting in a situation where animals face a reduced prey base coupled with loss of habitat. The balance thus has been altered in favour of satisfying human palate preferences.

The irony is that as a result of all our actions and the Earth becoming more and more inhospitable, we have turned our gaze to other planets as a potential second home. Efforts to colonize Mars are being led by our finest minds and is funded generously by Governments world wide. These are the very funds that 'developed' nations have refused to invest in saving our own planet through the Paris Climate Change agreement. Mars, just like Earth is seen to belong to us.

In having our behaviours and actions governed by the thought that the Earth belongs to us, we have forgotten that the humans belong to Earth as well.

The actions we take which have altered planetary systems ~~and~~ do not solely affect only other species. Humans are not a detached entity living on the planet, they are an integral part of it. And thus, while species grapple with extinction, we grapple with pollution, shortened life spans, respiratory and life-style diseases, toxic water and barren land.

What we have today is a situation wherein we are waging a war with the planet and it seems that the planet is fighting back with her floods and droughts, heatwaves and cyclones, and other disasters.

It is pertinent to remember that there are

no victors in a war, only survivors. The planet being the source of our existence, it is obvious that in this war there may ~~be~~ not even be survivors.

Furthermore, while overlooking the planet we have also overlooked our future generations. Each generation of the human species has been more interested on maximizing for itself at the cost of the subsequent descendants. Worldover we find that it is the children who have begun demanding action from world leaders. Greta Thunberg's simple step of skipping school to protest against inaction has captured the imagination of younger generation in ~~many~~ numerous other nations and has created a grass roots movement to save the planet.

Despite all the ethical and moral arguments in favour of reforms in our behaviour, the utilitarian argument may well be the most

logical and acceptable. Historically, the rise of industries and evolution of technology has benefitted the have's more than the have nots.

While mass production and consumerism was seen as a panacea for curing evils of poverty and malnutrition, what we have observed is a rise in inequality and an increasing gap between the rich and poor.

A more measured and planet-sensitive approach to development has the potential to uplift millions out of poverty and hunger. Various studies by the World Bank and United Nations have pointed out the interdependence of forests with indigenous societies - where societies benefit from access to minor forest produce and the planet benefits from healthy forests. The utilitarian argument thus lies in the fact that acknowledging ~~out~~ our

belonging to the planet has potential to benefit the entire humankind as a whole.

Therefore having seen the destruction caused by our world view of the Earth belonging to us, it is only sensible to rethink and reassess our relationship with the planet.

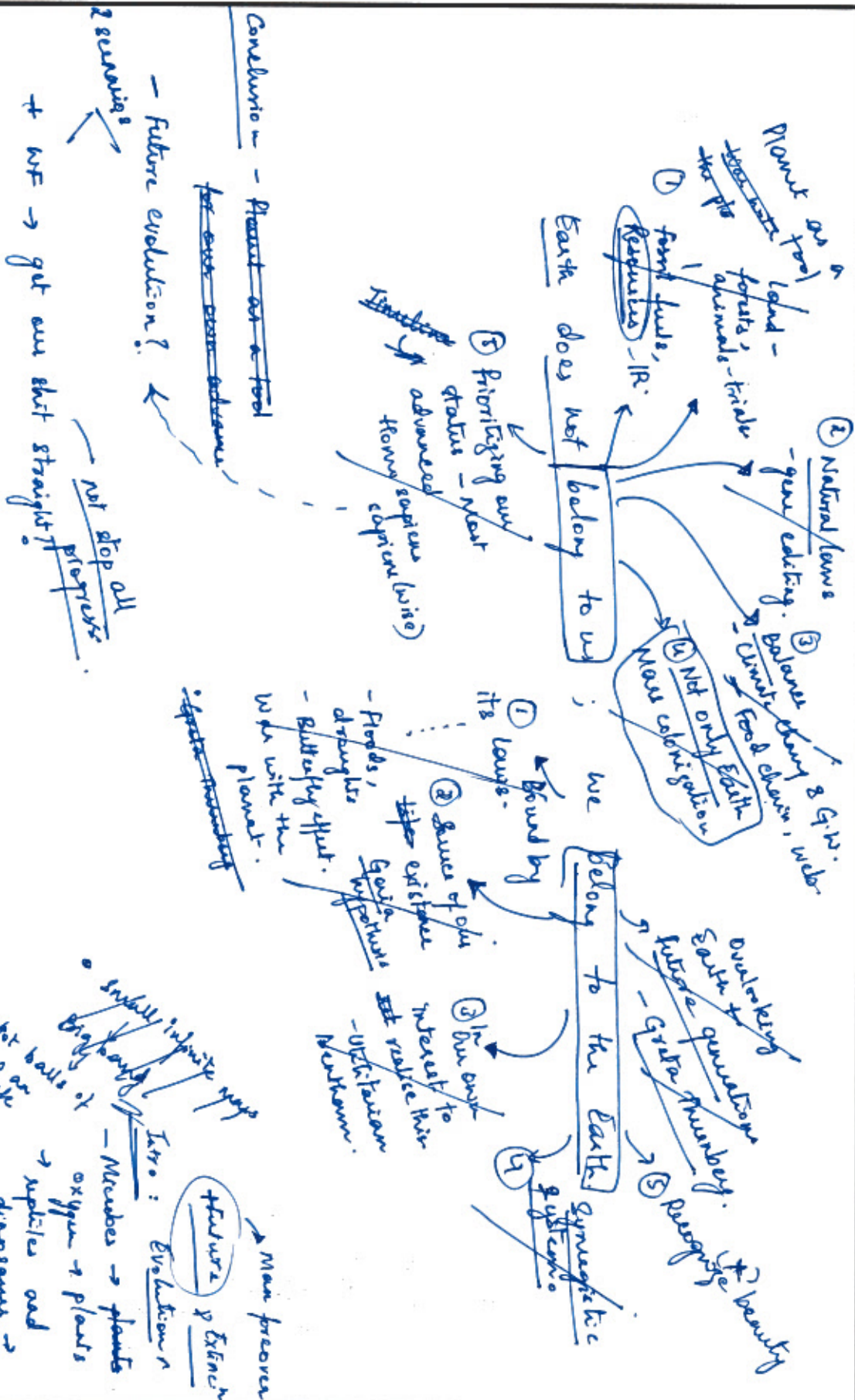
We have called ourselves the 'Homo sapiens sapiens' which translates to 'wise man'. But as the age old adage goes - a wise man does not cut off the very branch of a tree he is sitting on.

There are potentially two ~~two~~ scenarios of the future that may occur. One is a continuation of the sequence of evolution as brought out before - from ape to man, and from men to advanced and evolved wise humans. The other scenario is bleak. It

is one of a lone large hot ball of gas and rocks drifting in space, with no one on its barren land to remember the beautiful and colourful life that once existed.

The choice is in what we think -

Do we belong to Earth? Or does the Earth belong to us? .



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. No nation is great or good because parliament enacts this or that, but that its men are great and good.
2. Morality is simply the attitude we adopt towards people we personally dislike.
3. If youth knew, if age could.
4. Is there modernity without westernisation?

No Nation is great or good because Parliament enacts this or that, but that its men are great and good.

20th century Germany and the 21st century Germany presents a stark picture of stark contrast. While under Hitler, Nazi Germany was responsible for the death and extermination of 6 million Jews, under leaders like Angela Merkel Germany is a developed and leading nation, which is often presented as an example for other nation's aspirations.

What is it that brings about such drastic change? While other nations like

the United Kingdom only lost stature in world politics despite being the victors of World War II, Germany may easily be called a great nation. The determinant factor, thus, has been its people. A nation is only good or great because of its women and men, not the laws.

Laws are essentially broad guidelines that are enacted by the Parliament. The source of these laws is often the customs and traditions of the society itself. For instance, USA has the right to bear arms as a fundamental right. Similarly India's laws have differential treatment of men and women regarding the minimum age of marriage. These laws are based on the particular histories and cultures of the nation. Thus if the source of laws comes from the society

itself, it will be the greatness of people that will define what laws a Parliament enacts.

An example comes from Scandinavian nations where despite having significantly high rates of taxation, the people defend and uphold those laws. This has led to the high human development indicators and efficient public service delivery.

There may also be certain laws that do not conform to societal customs, but instead seek to amend them. A case in point is the newly enacted Triple Talak Act which attempts to prevent and punish gender discriminatory practice of instant divorce. Despite there being a stringent law in place, we find daily reports of the ~~for~~ practice continuing. The issue here again lies in the fact that no matter what intent a law is passed with, it will be meaningless if

the citizens themselves do not rise above their own prejudices and flaws.

There are numerous instances to substantiate this further, as can be seen with the ~~outlawing~~ striking down of criminalization of homosexuality and the outlawing of commercial surrogacy. Further, despite amending various laws to make them more stringent in order to deter rapes against women and children, NCRB reports suggest that there is only an increase in such crimes.

Moreover, flowing from the idea that laws can only be broad guidelines, there is an inherent limitation that the Parliament cannot make laws and rules for everything. Thus we cannot have laws that regulate our daily life lives and provide us with a moral compass to make the right decisions.

The ethical and moral dimensions of our actions need to be based in the ability of men and women themselves. A society that fosters and nurtures virtues instead of vices will beget a Government and administration that is effective and inclusive. The development of a Nation into a great nation will depend on the adherence of its people to its own principles of morality.

Thus, while the Parliament may not criminalise marital rape in India, it is upto the people to essentially remove the requirement of having a prohibitory law itself. What this needs is that the people uphold the right principles within their individual lives. Benjamin Franklin had thus said that when men are corrupt, laws are useless and when men are good, laws are not required.

There may also be times when the state introduces laws and policies that are inherently inimical to the idea of justice. Colonial South Africa had apartheid as a state policy and until very recently the USA had a legal system of racial segregation. Such laws are essentially made with the intent of serving only a small, elite and ruling section of the society.

Historically, the fight against these acts has not been from within. It took great men and women like Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King to stand up and question the laws. India too has seen its fair share of great men and women who sacrificed their own lives for the dream of an independent and great nation. The principle role thus is played by great men and women, rather than great laws.

in achieving a truly inclusive country.

Another contemporary instance comes from New Zealand, ~~which~~ whose Prime Minister brought in swift and stringent norms in the country's gun laws in the aftermath of the horrific Christchurch attack. In contrast to this, USA faces an endemic issue of gun violence which only seems to be aggravating due to the patronage that its leaders provide to ~~a~~ weak gun laws.

However, having considered various instances that prove that the people chart out a ~~of~~ country's path to greatness, one may look at those examples wherein it has been the laws rather than the people ~~that~~ that have brought in greatness.

An example of this comes from China which has historically been and continues to

be under a single party rule. Numerous experts have pointed to the stringent and coercive laws of China as a reason for its rise ~~to~~ in the global world order. China is now the 2nd largest economy in the world, a significant player in world politics and international relations as well as an ascendant technology and space power. The credit here lies in the laws that govern the Country rather than the people itself.

A similar instance comes from our neighbour Singapore which is known to have stringent fines and penalties that deter littering, jaywalking, pollution etc. It is often said that Indians transform into upstanding citizens when visiting Singapore, a trait that is promptly lost upon coming back home.

However, it is important to remember that the Parliament that enacts such laws

is itself a body of people's representatives. The idea behind an institution such as the Parliament is that the laws it makes will be reflective of what the people desire. Even in a nation such as China, it has been the efforts of leaders ~~such~~ right from Mao to Xi Jinping today, that have helped the nation grow into the powerhouse it is today.

Therefore, laws of the Parliament may be many and varied - some are reflective of our customs, while some seek to amend them. Certain laws may inherently be unjust, while others may fail to be true guidelines of morality. There may be situations where the law remains silent. In all such scenarios, it is the people who provide the momentum and direction that may either lead to greatness or destruction.

A Nation is not the administrative structure of the Government. A nation refers to the sovereignty of the people itself. The ~~de~~ destiny of a Nation thus lies in the hands of ordinary men and women, who define the future.

India's ambitions seek to bring inclusive development and prosperity for all sections of the society. We seek to be a superpower that has the ability to change not just the present world order but also the future of this planet and be a guiding light to humanity itself.

In order to achieve this, we need to strive to be great, as individual citizens with a ~~set~~ relentless pursuit of our goals as a nation.

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

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