

TEST CODE : 5 2 0 2 1

FIAS - MGP 2022 (C-5) - Essay Test #1

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate

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Roll No.

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Date:

01st December  
2021

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

## INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
Q.1		
Q.2		
<b>Total Marks:</b>		

Remarks:

## INSTRUCTION

1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English & Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part
3. One question in each part is compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
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.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.

*Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.*

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## For Student Only

Start Time | 4:15 pm

End Time | 7:15 pm

Mode Of Examination:

Online Offline 

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MARKING SCHEME



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

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

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

## SECTION - A

1. Feminism is for everybody.

सभी के लिए नारीवाद

2. India's missing women.

भारत की ग़ुमशुदा महिलाएँ

## SECTION A : FEMINISM IS FOR EVERYBODY

On 5th October 1789, a crowd of raucous people stormed into the Bastille, and eventually the Palace of Versailles. Louis XVI, the French Bourbon Monarch was brought to his knees and made to accept his defeat at the hands of the people. This particular moment of the French Revolution was immortalised in history. But, little do people know that the people who stormed in were "WOMEN" mostly.

Mad and Mad and Crazy women shouted "Death to the King!  
Bread to the People!"

There is a tendency to erase women and their experiences from history. The story of human beings is called 'HIS STORY' and not 'HER STORY'. Men and women have seldom been treated as equal. It is here, that



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Feminism becomes important. In the words of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.  
"A Feminist is a person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes." This essay will ponder upon the contours of feminism and why it is for everybody and not just women.

The story of inequality of the female sex begins with their role as food gatherers and child bearers in early human society. This led to increased domestication of their roles. Because of their ability to conceive and bear children, it was felt by the earliest of power wielders that biological reproduction must be accompanied by control over social spaces. Thus began, the story of patriarchy where, educated, politically participating SABHAVATI of the Early Vedic Age met a socially repressed woman of the later Vedic Age where her role was confined to the household as the DAMPATNI (house wife)



It was so difficult to see women wield any form of power, that those who actually gained it, for instance Razia Sultan, were deemed crazy, suspicious, enchantress by the men who felt threatened to see women in power. Similarly, those who defied social norms of beauty, modesty and domesticity, like Karalkhal Ammayan were ostracised by the society. Thus, the experiences of women turned into the 'other sex'; 'the fairer sex', the 'weaker sex'.

In this context, Simon de Beauvoir, remarked, "ONE IS NOT BORN A WOMAN, BUT RATHER BECOMES A WOMAN"

~~For~~ Feminism is needed, because it dares to question the foundation and basis of patriarchy.

Patriarchy in our society has manifested into multiple evils that has harmed not just women, but also, men.

It is based on gendered expression of social roles and the more vibrant

these expressions are, the more masculine or feminine one could be

The ~~most~~ most apparent example of this is Toxic masculinity where

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unnecessary display of agility, expression, violence is associated with strength and manhood. This has perpetuated numerous problems for women: in the form of domestic violence, sexual violence and gendered access to spaces

Toxic Masculinity hinders men from exposing their vulnerability and one needs to constantly 'MAN UP' to face any challenges in life. This has brought numerous mental health issues in men. Three times as many men as women, die by suicide. Men are also far more likely to resort to drugs and alcohol to deal with stress. Men are expected to be strong, dominant, in control which makes it harder for them to reach out and cope up. Seeing a woman perform equivalently or even better is seen as 'effeminising' of the ego and masculinity.

Many people think, that with the advent of the modern age and Industrial Revolution 4.0, we no



longer need feminism but equality and humanity. But this is far from the truth. The ground has never been equal to start with. For many women, home does not represent a safe and protective unit rather of gender discrimination that legitimises use of violence for controlling and subjugating women. According to the National Commission for women, there was a spike by 53% in crime against women after the imposition of lockdown amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN termed Domestic violence as "SHADOW PANDEMIC".

Many women in societies across the world lack bodily agency i.e. (that is) the right to take decision about the body. These have manifested in various forms such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among Bahra communities, forced pregnancies and sex selective abortion. Women suffer the most when it comes to reproductive health. Almost 24% of women (aged 15-49) are anemic in India.

Discrimination has manifested in the form of unreal beauty standards for women. The capitalist society



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has turned every body part into a commodity that can be altered, turned or replaced to appear more "appealing" or "symmetric". Women have borne the maximum burden of this because of social media sites like Instagram, Facebook that show surgery - women as more charming making others insecure about their natural features. "The world is living in Instagram and Snapchat filters and no one really knows what they look like anymore."

Gendered discrimination is even rampant in the world of language. Why is it that great works of the world are described as "SEMINAL" (arising from most used semen, associated to men and their virility) while "HYSTERIA" is a word used to describe a woman because of its Greek roots in uterus of a woman? Indo-Aryan languages are based completely on the masculinity and femininity of things.

Sociologists have termed 'PEMICIDE' as an act of killing women because of their gender alone. It is motivated

by misogyny and prejudice against women. The most pertinent example of this is witch hunting where women who are presumed to be having supernatural powers to control people are beaten to death. It is most rampant in Chhatisgarh and Jharkhand.

So, what would Feminism do to solve the various forms of discrimination mentioned above? Many men argue that "FEM"INISM does not truly represent Gender Equality. But Feminists on the other hand argue that Feminism and Gender Equality ~~is~~ are one and the same. It is a matter of terminology as women were the first to demand such equal rights. Just like Harappan civilisation continues to be named so, because Harappa was the first site discovered in 1921. So disassociate the two would be to erase the history of subjugation of women.

Feminism entails Social Equality: Why should Prince Charming save the damsel in distress? Our old-age fairy tales would convince us to think so. Feminism in turn challenges the social norms of



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modesty, shyness, youth, vibrance youth that is stereotypically associated with women. Not only can women break free from this social pressure, but men can do so too. Men are equally allowed to wear skirt, saree or paint their nails if they wish so. Feminism entails that clothing has no gender.

This idea of feminism has been very crucial in the recognition of Transrights and rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Social roles and sexuality are not static or binary but span across a spectrum. And this spectrum is one's choice and of free will. Marsha P. Johnson, one of the pioneer gay rights and Transgender rights activist famously remarked here:

"NO PRIDE FOR SOME OF US,  
WITHOUT LIBERATION FOR ALL OF US"

Feminism also entails Economic equality of the sexes. The socially discriminated access to spaces has resulted into absence of women in the economic spaces. There is still a



significant disparity in the payment of wages and even composition of workforce. That, men and women are equally capable of working on the fields, factories or serving as soldiers together. It attempts to challenge the conventional stereotype of men being the breadwinners.

Women, through their grit and perseverance have excelled in multiple spaces. Be it Sudha Murty of INFOSYS or Nandini Harinath and Ritu Kauridhal who carefully managed the operations of Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM). The USA had recently had, its first female vice president, through Kamala Harris. Similarly, women athletic contingent of India, especially the hockey team turned heads in awe of their performance at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Women are slowly leading ground as champions of Political Equality as well. Be it Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who were praised for their exceptional management of COVID-19. Young Swedish Activist,

Greta Thunberg challenged the male dominated political space to think about the "tragedy of common" through her fridays for future climate strike. Similarly, Bernie Taylor became the face of racial justice in America along with George Floyd in the #Blacklivesmatter protest.

In India too, although women are allowed to vote and get elected, a lot is still left to be done when it comes to political equality. There are only 14% of women in the Lok Sabha out of 543 seats, even if this may be the highest number ever. Women are still seen as dummy rulers who are put to power on behalf of their husbands. The progress of women thus becomes critical for their very recognition as human beings with rights and agency of own. As BR Ambedkar said, "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress women have achieved"



Feminism thus, really is for everybody. It touches each and every section of our society. It has brought about the need to bring robust legislations to address violence against women. It has brought about the need to further the cause of gender-friendly governance. Gender Budgeting is an accounting tool to ensure that benefits of governance and schemes are not skewed in favour of men.

That is not to say, that the movement should not introspect a little and weed out Misandrists who misuse the movement towards egocentric self serving goals, thus bleeding its own opposition in the form of meninists and incels (involuntary celibate ~~per~~ misogynists). Similarly, there is a need to check Trickle-down feminism that is exacerbating inequalities with urban, elite, upper class women grabbing space and resources from the marginalised ones.

No, the woman in power are not crazy. They are human beings. The corporate entrepreneurs <sup>are</sup> not a seductresses. They are human beings.



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Women do not belong in the kitchen  
 They belong exactly where men belong  
 Right next to them  
 wherever they may be  
 Women are not creatures  
 They are not servants  
 They are strong  
 They are brave  
 They feel  
 They hurt

Have you noticed that men are all these things too?

We are equals.

Feminism is a (Alex Hedley)  
 need for the society to cure itself  
 of its ailments and inequalities.  
 Feminism is for everybody.

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(Don't Write anything in this Area)

## ROUGH WORK PATRIARCHY

Issues → Marital Rape, Genital Mutilation  
 Bodily Agency, child marriage, beauty standards.  
 Women's health, gendered access to spaces  
 Women in politics, language (hysteria) → hysteria.

Why men need → Toxic Masculinity, INCEL  
 Gendered expression of roles → strength  
 Social Equality → Roles, fairy tales & women  
 Economic Equality → pay gap, glass ceiling  
 ability to work  
 Political Equality → FoE, Article 14.  
 Representation in Parl

(Greek)  
 ↓  
 suffocation  
 out of  
 breath.  
 ↓  
 mad behavior  
 often associated  
 with women

second sex, othered sex, weak sex,  
 fairer sex.

historical Inequality → domestication of spaces.  
 (Early Vedic to late Vedic), Razia Sultan  
 example, Powerful woman seen as crazy

Simone de Beauvoir → One is not born,  
 but rather becomes a woman  
 (Second sex)

Trans inclusionary Feminism  
 concerns of Radicalism and Misandry  
 Problem of Missing Women.

**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. Leaders become great not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others.

नेता अपनी शक्ति के कारण नहीं, बल्कि दूसरों को सशक्त बनाने की अपनी क्षमता के कारण महान बनते हैं।

2. Fools multiply when wise men are silent.

बुद्धिमान के नए रहने पर मूर्खों की संख्या बढ़ जाती है।

SECTION-B FOOLS MULTIPLY WHEN WISE MEN ARE SILENT

Two swindlers arrive at the capital city where an Emperor who lives in absolute luxury and vanity spent lavishly on clothing at the expense of administration. They offer to supply him magnificent clothes that were invisible to the fools and incompetent they dress him and the Emperor sets off in a procession in the capital.

The whole town was uncomfortable, but out of pretense of not wanting to appear stupid, they kept mum. Until, a innocent child blurted out that the Emperor is not wearing anything at all. The people then realise that everyone had been fooled.

This social satirical piece called, 'The Emperor's New clothes' by

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Hans Christian Andersen has acquired global iconic status of impairing young children of having the courage to challenge authority and speak truth to power. Because if they do not, and stay silent, fools will continue to flourish. The essay will discuss the same below.

Do you know why the medieval age across the world were referred to as the "DARK AGES"? That is because they were centuries marked by ignorance and courage of a very few. The church and other religious institutions controlled all aspects of people's lives with little to ~~know~~ no free will. The medieval world was marked by a cult of ignorance that was broken free by the new spirit of the Renaissance and Enlightenment Age Thinkers.

The Enlightenment was an intellectual and philosophical movement that dominated Europe and other parts of the world in the 18th century. It argued for reason as the primary source of authority and legitimacy.



It came to advance ideas of liberty, progress, tolerance, fraternity, constitutional government and separation of church from the state.

This movement was led by the likes of wise men like Voltaire who argued against arbitrary power grabbing by autocratic monarchs that resulted in unnecessary wars, greater devastation than even natural disasters. Similarly, Montesquieu (in spirit of the laws) argued for separation of powers as the means to prevent autocratic rule. The two thinkers not only influenced Benjamin Franklin, James Madison and Thomas Jefferson in American Revolution, but also the French Revolution.

An important aspect of Reasoning is also skepticism especially of the non-material, metaphysical and supernatural. This has helped people tackle on discriminatory and humiliating superstitions that continue to be rampant in the society. Examples of these could be

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violence against black cats as they are considered as bad omen, saying 'bless you' after sneezing, not cutting nails on certain days of the week. These superstitions, though of cultural value have no place in a ~~new~~ rational-modern society.

Without the wise questioning of things going on, society would plunge into mob rule which is not witty enough to know the nuances. Instances of mob lynching on communal and casteist issues in India ~~has~~ have resulted in loss of lives of thousands of innocent people. The mob mind is even vulnerable to social manipulation and engineering, thus falling victims to malevolent fake news.

Practices such as honour killing of women by male elders to protect 'dignity' of the community in the face of intercaste - inter religion marriage need of absolute ignorance and occurs when the wise refuse to highlight that community rights and dichotomies are not above individual



rights.  
 even Populism has emerged out of ignorance of the people. Political scientists have shown that, populism is in fact antithetical to democracy. Populist politicians and demagogues are easily able to fool the people into thinking that they are working for them, but rather maliciously undermine the democratic institutions of the country. Hitler's speeches were so charming for the German public that they did not realise that their approval and foolishness had paved the way for Jewish genocide and the Holocaust. The intellectuals and critics of the time had been shunned and arrested.

Thus, dissent and the courage to stand up against injustices is critical for the very breathing of democracy. Throughout our struggle for independence, freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Mahatma Gandhi used the 'courage of conviction' to fight for the cause of independence. Gandhi in fact said "whatever you do, will be insignificant, but it is very important for you to do it".

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and further went on to say,  
 "You can chain me, you can torture me,  
 you can even destroy this body,  
 but you will never imprison my  
 mind."

This very statement keeps dissent, protests and the demand for democratic reform very relevant. From environmental movements like Appiko movement, Chipko Movement to Narmada Bachao Movement. It is the protest leaders, intellectuals and Activists who have helped people open their eyes and channel their grievances into popular democratic movements. Albert Einstein also suitably has remarked, "If I were to remain silent, I'd be guilty of complicity."

But, is feeling and foolishness kind enough for wisdom to exist? The answer is no. World over, authoritarian regimes suppress any and all forms of criticism by jailing activists, curbing free speech and even assassinating them for the truth they know and the



truth they share. For instance, Edward Snowden and Julian Assange are being as asylum seekers in Europe for the leaks on CIA and Wikileaks respectively. These two major scandals wrecked the trust the world had in the USA as it was accused of snooping on multiple countries of the world.

Similarly, in India, dissent has been curbed often unfairly using archaic colonial era laws of sedition (section 124A) and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967.

These draconian laws offer no legal solace to those affected and the activists spend years in jail without getting justice for themselves and the people they were seeking for. Instead, the public is manipulated into villainising the above on vague grounds of state interests that really serves a very few.

Critique is also critical for being aware and being informed. Social critique would entail knowing about the prejudices and various forms of discrimination.

existing in the society. Jyotiba Phule questioned caste inequalities in his Gulamgiri. Similarly, Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar argued for ~~the~~ women's education and widow remarriage. Their discourse were much against the prevailing norms of the society.

It was the economic critique of Capitalism and excesses during the time of Industrial Revolution that gave rise to the socialism movement and demand for betterment of conditions and wages of workers in factories and mines. There were demands to restrict working hours for women and children. Trade Unions came to emerge to protect the collective bargaining rights of the working class.

Political critique and criticism at the Parliament through debate, discussion and Parliamentary Committees keep the governments in power at check. It has also facilitated a better-responsible and Timely Administration.



that acts on its citizen grievances in real time. Examples of these are Administration on wheels, PRAGATI (Pro-active Governance and Timely Implementation).

The role of Judiciary in keeping the government of the day as well as human rights of the citizens in check becomes very important here.

Especially, during COVID-19 pandemic, when the Supreme Court took cognisance of the loss of lives due to lack of oxygen cylinders and forced the government to gear up on war footing to aid those suffering. Similarly, through PILs and writs, the judiciary and its well read judges have protected the rights of citizens (eg - Bhegwalpuri Blinding case)

Critique and Reasoning are crucial attributes in the development of scientific temper as well. Scientific temper is a cherished idea in our Fundamental Duty (Article 51A) of the Constitution and that has

helped India to reach great heights in its scientific endeavours, be it Mangalyaan, or the various feats of HAL, ISRO etc.

Living is easy, when eyes are closed.  
It truly takes an informed and national mind to see what is going on, to be aware and make others aware too.

• When the mind is without fear and the head is held high . . . . where words come out from the depth of truth . . . . when the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into dreary dead habit ; where the mind is led forward by thee into ever widening thought and action .  
Into that heaven of freedom , my Father , let my country awake .

Rabindra Nath Tagore  
(Gitangali, 1910)

x



## ROUGH WORK

- Emperor's New clothes ( Hans Christian Anderson )
- Sophists, Chanakya, Socrates → unexamined life not worth living
- Another Nagaraj, Champat Raja, Rages.
- Critique and criticism ( importance )
  - ① social ② economic ③ political
- Revolutions ( historical - present ) and protests → Gandhiji
- Freedom of speech & expression curbs on dissent — National interest as a vague ground ( section - sec 24A )
- Dissent and Democracy
- Reason vs Ignorance → superstition, mob lynching, social ostracism.
- Populism and need to check it.
- Rabindranath Tagore → where the mind is without fear.
- Importance of courage
- Scientific literacy,

Rabindranath

**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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