

TEST CODE : 5 1 5 3 2

FIAS | MGP 2022 (C-9Alt) | Essay Test #2

ForumIAS

## ESSAY

Name Of Candidate PRANITA DASH

Roll No. 1910092061

Date: 5-08-2022

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English &amp; 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> <p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>	
Q.1				
Q.2				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>250</b>			
<b>Evaluator's Discretion:</b>				
<b>Total Marks:</b>			<b>For Student Only</b>	
			Start Time   10:15 am	End Time   1:15 pm
			Mode Of Examination:	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Evaluator's Discretion:</b> This is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.			<b>For Office Use Only</b>	
			ECN CODE:	EG:
			Evaluation Date:	

**MARKING SCHEME**

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

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

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



**SECTION - A**

1. Our moral, religious, and political traditions are united in their respect for the dignity of human life.  
हमारी नैतिक, धार्मिक और राजनीतिक परंपराएं मानव जीवन की गरिमा के सम्मान में एकजुट हैं।
2. Neither a life of self-indulgence nor one of self-mortification can bring happiness.  
न तो आत्म-भोग का जीवन और न ही आत्म-यातना का जीवन प्रसन्नता ला सकता है।
3. Reality is ultimately a selective act of perception and interpretation.  
वास्तविकता अंततः धारणा और व्याख्या का एक चयनात्मक कार्य है।
4. Conversation enriches the understanding but solitude is the school of genius.  
संवाद समझ को विकसित करती है लेकिन एकांत प्रतिभावान की पाठशाला है।

CONVERSATION ENRICHES THE UNDERSTANDING BUT  
SOLITUDE IS THE SCHOOL OF GENIUS

Scenario-1

Robert Kanigale in his book 'The Man who knew

Infinity' outlines the extraordinary life story of one of India's greatest mathematicians, Srinivas Ramanujan.

When Ramanujan invented the magic number '1729', he considered it to be Lord Murugan's blessing. He did not know how to prove its mathematical formulation. In a quest to

know more and enhance ~~his~~ his understanding, he wrote heaps of letters to Prof. Hardy, the blue-eyed Cambridge scholar. It was Ramanujan's enriched conversations with Prof. Hardy that he could come up with ways to prove a mathematical formula and not just ideate it. It led him to become the only Indian to be a member of the Royal Fellow of the Cambridge Society.

### Scenario-2:

Buddha, on seeing the 4 most distressing and devastating conditions of human life (dead man, diseased man, ageing man) embarked on the difficult journey to find the answers to human sorrows. On his journey, he met several Brahmanas and intellectuals but none could enhance his understanding of grief, truth and enlightenment. He then decided to go on an undisturbed meditation in solitude. After 40-days of meditating, he finally achieved the fruit of

'enlightenment' and turned the wheel of 'Dharmachakra pravartana'. It was Buddha's times spent in solitude that he could finally find answers to his difficult questions on human life and miseries.

From the above examples, it is pertinent that while in some cases, conversations lead the way to improved analysing and reasoning, in other cases, it is solitude that helps a person connect to his soul and recognise his voice of conscience and awareness. In this essay, we will talk about how understanding can be or has been enhanced by conversations, how conversations are not always enough and are plagued by challenges, how solitude is an ultimate genius but comes with its own sets of limitations, which one of the way should be the ultimate goal and how to reach to that balance.

Since times immemorial, conversations have paved the way for evolution of human universe. In ancient times, 'sabhas and samitis' constituted by the most intellectual and experienced people of the Vedic era provided a platform for discussions and deliberations. It is in these sabhas that Vedas, Upanishads and Brahmanas were articulated. The debates and conversations between Gargi and Yajñavalkya as mentioned in Chandogya Upanishad about human rationality stands as a testament to the above argument.

When Nagasena enriched Menander's thinking about Buddhism and its true essence, the world saw enlightenment in a different light, as outlined in Mihinda-Panho. The Buddhist Councils patronised by Ashoka and Kanishka and Sangam Councils portray the essentiality of conversations in furthering human's fundamental intellect.

The same is advocated by the Nobel-Prize awardee economist Amartya Sen in his book 'The Augmentative Indian' where he hails India's universities since the ancient times as a means and theatre for collaborations and deliberations. He mentions how universities of Takshashila, Nalanda and Vikramshila reaped the knowledge society of the ancient times and gave birth to great scholars like Kautilya.

Even in medieval era, 'conversations' were not undervalued. 'Ibadat Khana' of Akbar culminated in him introducing 'Din-i-Ilahi' as a secular sect thereby transcending the barriers of religion, economic condition and poverty.

The tradition was continued in the later times like in the 'Age of Renaissance' where conventions and meetings among the French intellectuals led to the dawn of 'liberty, equality and fraternity'. The famous Jefferson debate and his role in compiling the 'American Constitution' and 'Massachusetts' meeting's importance in American Revolution speak volumes about how conversations have been monumental in enhancing understandings.

Conversations, help therefore help a person in analysis different perspectives of an issue or topic from different individuals and eventually decide on a sustainable solution. After the world war-II ravaged the world economy, huge debates and discussions between Milton Friedman and John Maynard Keynes led to the conclusion that neither the economy could function efficiently as a free market nor with excessive government intervention. This led to the very famous 'Washington Consensus'.

Even in the world of today, where polarisation on the basis of religion, caste and economic situations have taken the centre-stage, discussions have been consistently relied upon. The Rio Summit of 1992 brought the focus back on environmental degradation and climate change. Even today, COPs of UNFCCC are taken with great seriousness due to their potential of coming up with a solution for greater good.



Even if we look back at how Indian Constitution was drafted, the role of conversations and debates among our founding fathers take the centre stage. The Parliamentarians being ~~account~~ holding the executive accountable, increasing role of pressure groups and meritable importance of opposition stand as glaring examples of how a well-functioning democracy needs to have 'conversations' in the limelight.

As Benjamin Franklin remarked, 'Democracy will not bear fruit as long as those unaffected by issues are as enraged as those who are'.

Even in the public administration arena, knowing of people's problems is central to good governance which can only be facilitated by conversations. Armstrong Pame's discussions with villagers led him to construct a bridge with help of villagers without any government aid.

Conversations, deliberations and debates are therefore ineluctable organs of human understanding. Starting from family conversations that instill customs and

tradition values to educational institutions that instill values of shared prosperity, leadership and chasing dreams, the role of discussions is invaluable.

Sometimes, however, conversations can have negative ripple effects. The glaring examples can be seen in terrorists radicalising Muslim youth through brainwashing and wrong interpretations of Quran. Even, social media interactions have resulted in proliferation of fake news, bullying and trolling. Take the cases of Bully Bai and an American website 'IAU', their methods of interactions happened to destroy many lives.

Coming down to individuals, conversations with relatives who constantly pull you down can have debilitating impact on a child's mind. Sometimes, even large religious gatherings are conducted to practice derogatory rituals. Khap Panchayats are another testaments to show how conversations can deteriorate understanding.

IS SOLITUDE THE WAY FORWARD?

Solitude pertains to spending time with one's own self, thereby enabling him to listen to her own voice of conscience and develop a strong sense of awareness.

As the extraordinary scientist Stephen Hawking remarked 'Quiet minds make the loudest noises', he stressed on the importance of solitude as a means to attain genius. Stephen Hawking spent years in his Cambridge dorm room before making a breath break through in his improvement upon 'General Theory of Relativity'. Taking his inspiration, Elon Musk in an interview once said that of the 24 hours in a day, he spent 22 hours in solitude which helped him come up with the pathbreaking idea of 'Tesla'.

Even if go back to the corridors of world history, we witness that Napoleon's solitude in the cave

where he saw a spider trying innumerable times to build her web inspired him to not stop until his goal is achieved.

Taking cue from mythology, Ekalavya never had a 'Guru' nor aides to teach him the art of arrow-shooting. It was his observation of Guru Dronacharya's skills in solitude that he is still revered to as one of the greatest 'Dhanurdhar' today.

Solitude is therefore, often considered the school of genius. If we look at the voraciously competitive world of today, students are having to spend days and months in solitude of their rooms to prepare for competitive exams of today. Working professionals are having to spend hours in front of their computer screens to finish works by deadlines. Elderly ~~have become extremely~~ while many a times, all

Such attributes lead to amazing results in tests or professional careers, such isolation and solitude can be obnoxious too, to a great extent.

Spending hours in solitude can lead to mental health menace of depression and which can further translate into suicides. Minimal interaction with outside world can have negative impacts on productivity in both studies and work. This could be observed during the isolation forced by COVID-19 pandemic. Suicide rates grew up by 21%, according to a NIMHANS study. Also, the elderly have been completely isolated and their solitude results in their increasing unhappiness. Evergreen App, in its study shows that a skyrocketing 82% of the elderly are in misery.

Solitude life can increase dependency on phones and technology thereby decreasing human interactions and therefore growing animosity within families.

Even after going back to Buddha's journey of solitude, it was in the end that Buddha realised that such a rigorous isolation could have led to his death and thus propounded the theory of 'Madhyam Marg'.

Hence, balancing deliberations with ~~at~~ some time for solitude & should become the order of the order of the day. To achieve this is tough but not impossible. Every learning starts from home. Parents can set amazing examples for their kids by giving enough time for conversations at home as well as time for solitude to concentrate on their professional front. Educational institutions should have well-balanced curriculum with equal importance to extra-curriculars as well as library study.

Leaders, on the other hand, need to stop glorifying 'solitude' and in fact, advocated for

a 'balanced way of life'. The founder of Nearby App, Akshay Warikoo tries to instill this in the minds of the youth through his 'youtube channel'. He says how working overtime in solitude made him miserable and therefore has now opted to interact with fellow dreamers ~~to share~~ with a goal of 'balanced life'.

Social media proliferation has to be kept in check to decrease excessive times spent on it by students and instead they should be encouraged to follow interactive learning techniques etc. Also, self-mortification ways of torturing oneself mentally to perform well should be discouraged. Mental health awareness camps by Governments as well as NGOs should be the way forward.

Solitude, has immense potential in carving out a genius like it did in case of Newton and Edison but it needs to be ~~careless~~ complemented with constructive

debates and discussions to garner a all-way perspective approach to a certain issue. Life is no race, no pit to see yourself drowning out. It needs to be empowered, beautified and enriched.

As Einstein remarked,

'What is life without talk? ~~the~~ World will be full of 'a bunch of idiots'

**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. Digital minimalism - the path towards solving social media paradox.  
डिजिटल न्यूनतावाद - सोशल मीडिया विरोधाभास को हल करने का मार्ग।
2. Big tech - Algorithm without humanity is mental holocaust.  
बड़ी तकनीक - मानवता के बिना एल्गोरिदम मानसिक प्रलय है।
3. Agricultural Revolution: Road to progress and prosperity OR to perdition  
कृषि क्रांति : प्रगति और समृद्धि की राह या विनाश की ओर
4. Work is meaningful when it develops and exercises the talents, capabilities and skills of workers.  
कार्य तब सार्थक होता है जब वह श्रमिकों की प्रतिभा, क्षमताओं और कौशल का विकास और प्रयोग करता है।

**BIG TECH - ALGORITHM WITHOUT HUMANITY  
IS MENTAL HOLOCAUST**

On a summer afternoon, while binge-watching on Netflix after a long month full of exams, I came across a series named 'The most hated man on Internet'. Inquisitive to know why in a women-hating world, a man could be despised, I started to watch it. What I saw there was shocking. A man has created a

very digitally and technologically advanced website called 'IAU'. Using disruptive and obnoxious ways of hacking, juice jacking and spyware, he went into inroads of women's email accounts and gallery from where he was able to access their private pictures. Not stopping there, such images have been posted into the website with a platform for viewers to comment, troll and bully. When victims stood up against it, a FBI investigation termed him a 'psychopath'. Excessive reliance on digital world had made him unempathetic to the issues faced by women due to his actions.

On the same level is a working professional named Chetan who spends hours and hours in front of a laptop screen trying to finish his daily targets.

All his calculations are now done digitally, a code is able to get all results and no mental research is

gone into analysis of the desired results since all of it is done by a simple algorithm. Today, the genius Chetan who could solve mathematical problems mentally in seconds is not even able to solve a simple multiplication.

The above 2 situations portray how the fuel of Industrial Revolution 4.0 - BIG-TECH can be extremely disruptive, not only on human minds but also on the social stability and national security as a whole. It is not just important to create an algorithm to make human lives easier, therefore, what is essential is a touch of humanity in such technologies and algorithms so that they empowers them and not mentally paralyze them. In the essay, we outline what Big-Tech is, the potential it holds for a digitally-fueled economy, the challenges associated and how such issues can be countered through humanism of technology.

## WHAT IS BIG-TECH?

Industrial Revolution 4.0 corroborates the extensive of disruptive ~~big~~ big-tech like Internet of Things, Robotics, Quantum Computers, Artificial Intelligence, Nanotechnology as well as space-based technologies. Such technologies, that are still evolving hold unsurmountable potential to transform the otherwise traditional world into a 'Web World'.

As Tim Berners lee, the inventor of world wide web remarked "The future as I envisaged it, the world has not seen it yet."

Big Tech is progressing. The archaic data-book registers are now into a single website like the 'World Bank Data Portal' and so much more.

## BIG TECH & ITS BENEFITS :

With an increasingly competitive world where everyone is inspired to outcompete one another, Big-Tech has become the order of the day. India currently has

32% of its population with already an access to smartphones. India is looking to make its whole economy digital by 2050 with already initiatives in place like Digital India Mission, National Supercomputing Mission, Centres of Excellence in AI & Blockchain etc. Why is India investing in these? The answer to this is their immense potential.

Artificial Intelligence, for example is being used by all major hi-tech industries for efficient data management like Transparency International's 'Corruption data framework' which it uses to bring out CPI. Their glaring examples can be seen in Sniggybot, Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa that have made everything starting from lodging complaints to even switching off lights a matter of only machine activity.

Blockchain has resulted in smooth supply-chain management like the IBM's Food Trust chain and efficient governance like NITI Aayog's 'India chain'. The

cryptocurrency has resulted in booming of world economy by 38%, as per IMF records. Even NFTs are making ownership issues simplified like music, speeches etc.

Speaking about robotics, 'Sofia' robot on board the 'Gaganyaan' to 'nanobots' making precision farming a reality, there is ~~immense~~ nothing that robotics can possibly fail that. Even with nanotechnology's

proliferation, health care systems have witnessed a revolution. Nanoflakes are doing the difficult task of detecting cancer cells while nano carriers are making the tasks of drug delivery easier with chemotherapy.

The space based technologies are monumental in weather forecasts, disaster management, traffic management. They have ~~impct~~ also enhanced navigation through GPS and NAVIC and communication through INSAT satellites.

Big Tech has in no way revolutionised the world. There is everything you want on your fingertip.

Be it booking a cab or reserving a table at a restaurant to making health appointments to having groceries being delivered at your doorstep.

However, any disruptive innovation comes with its set of challenges. Do you know the data you input into various apps cannot be safe out there and are very much prone to misuse? This is what we will deal in the next section.

### CHALLENGES OF BIG-TECH & WHY HUMANITY OF ALGORITHMS REQUIRED?

Stephen Hawking, when gifted an assistive speech technology by his wife had remarked

'AI will replace humanity in the years to come and it will be dreadful'

Big-Tech could be obnoxious if unchecked. Starting from the malware Stuxnet's role in originating Iran Nuclear Attacks to Bullseye's algorithm in chaffing

out troll comments on Muslim women, the world is replete with instances of debilitating social order created by Big-Tech.

Big-Tech has resulted in less human-human interface due to increased digitisation requirements (Faceless Assessment of Income Tax returns filings) and thereby has also resulted in loss of jobs (Mental holocaust)

It is therefore essential to instill values of humanity into algorithms to make the growth facilitated by Big Tech sustainable and equitable.

In a Netflix series called 'The Social Dilemma', it is outlined how a single post on social media can create ripples in the negative direction. A fake news on twitter had the potential to incite the Capitol-Hills Riots in USA. It also showed how excessive reliance on social media has made children extremely lethargic and less focussed on studies. A recent study finds



out that more children in USA have become obese during the years 2011-2020 which is apparently the years of skyrocketing growth of USA. Mental holocaust can also be witnessed in terms of youth resorting to technology that make cyber-bullying easier like the Rajasthan Youth's creation of 'Bully Bait' App. Children have also become addicted to video-games, some of which have even cost their lives like the 'Bluewhale Video Game'.

Human values like empathy, reasoning, rationality & willingness to serve must be the ideas behind big-tech. A scene in the movie 'Robot' shows how a chip of humanity inserted into 'Chitti' made him empathetic of human life and accordingly take decisions. Other values like reasoning can go a long way. Algorithms should be designed in a manner

such that it chaffe out proliferation of ~~for~~ <sup>child</sup> pornography, hate comments and trolling on internet.

Development of AI has to be complemented with human values of leadership where AI can only complement human hardwork but can never replace it. As Bill Gates said 'Technology is only a means. We should keep it that way'.

Big-Tech's challenges of privacy is of utmost concern. In 2016, there was an incident of SBI's customers credit card accounts published on internet which created a haywire. The same was repeated in 2020 when Zomato's customers' account details were hacked. Although Web 3.0 trails to solve issues of privacy, it is still a long road ahead.

Also, issues of spyware like the Mumbai

electrīc grid attacks by a Chinese company to US presidential poll results hacked by Russian agents, the world is not safe anymore. Adding on to that the increasing cases of mental holocaust like decreasing productivity, AI replacing human jobs and excessive reliance on digital technologies making the youth addicted.

Therefore, advancing of technology is not going to bear fruits if the world of web is not human.

### WHAT CAN BE THE WAY FORWARD?

BN Srikrishna while drafting the 'Personal Data Protection Bill' remarked the privacy issue is appalling and must should assume most centrality while developing Big-Tech.

The Christchurch call to action where online and cyber threats were condemned showed the world the way forward to discard such obnoxious ways. Big Fe. The Multilateral Convention on BEPS, increased importance of FATF are monumental in checking of terrorist financing that have now been facilitated by blockchain & cryptocurrency.

India has taken many initiatives like National Cyber Security Policy, Cyber Swachhata Kendras in Mumbai & National Cyber Coordination Centre to envisage a controlled social media. Even IT Act, POCSO penalise child pornography propagated over internet as well as cyber bullying and trolling. However, these initiatives must be complemented with enhanced capacity building of employees and robust financing to enable them to function efficiently.

The world has taken notice of the menace that Big-Tech can create and therefore, technology assumes centre-stage in almost all bilateral as well as multilateral trading treaties like QUAD and RCEP.

Also, IPR mechanisms need to be instituted well to prevent monopolies as well as misuse. Humans need to be sensitised about how internet can pose as the biggest challenge and threat to humanity if we leave it unregulated. This can be done through courses in schools, government as well as Civil society organisations campaigns.

World is becoming increasingly integrated as well as polarised at the same time. There should be in place algorithms that can distinguish between the good and bad, right and wrong, ethical

and unethical for us to be able to reap the true benefits of Big-Tech and Industrial Revolution 4.0.

• Technology is only technology, it is not human after all,

Make it regulated, humanised and checked  
It will benefit overall'.

**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

**Mentor Feedback Questions**

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

**Test Goal**

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

**Outcomes**

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**Marking Scheme**

Mark	Good	Average	Below average
10 Marker	3.75 – 5.0	3.0 – 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 – 7.0	4.0 – 5.5	< 4.0
✓	Key / Relevant Point		
✗	Vague / Irrelevant		

\* Subject to change without prior notice.

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