

TEST CODE : 5 1 5 3 2

FIAS | MGP 2022 (C-11) | Essay Test #2

ForumIAS

ESSAY

Name Of Candidate	SMRITI MISHRA		
Roll No.	191 00 59516	Date:	13.08.22

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 & Hindi. You have to write on top part of 1 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><i>Write in 2 sittings of 90 mins each</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>				
Q.1							
Q.2							
Total:	250						
Evaluator's Discretion:			For Student Only				
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Start Time	End Time						
Mode Of Examination:	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>						
Evaluator's Discretion: 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.			For Office Use Only				
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ECN CODE:	EG:	Evaluation Date:					

MARKING SCHEME

Parameter/Criteria	Aspects Considered	Total Marks	Essay 1	Essay 2
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		

Parameters	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

Very Good	Good	Average
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।

REALITY IS ULTIMATELY A SELECTIVE ACT OF PERCEPTION AND INTERPRETATION

The human mind is an oddity in the evolution of life on earth. Our skulls are disproportionately bigger to accommodate the enlarged brain. This has not only twisted the vertebrae to include curves, but has made childbirth a task so difficult that mothers perish in the process.

If we consider one of our nearest relatives — the majestic beast Gorilla — they are powerful enough to uproot trees and rip apart their

opponents with bare hands. Interestingly, the meek, fragile Homo sapiens today sits at the apex — deciding who gets to live on the planet they dominate.

All this has been possible because humans had what other animals did not — awareness. Humans can shape their realities, despite being aware of their numerous limitations, despite being weak, slow and powerless. This implies, ~~reality's~~ reality is a subjective truth.

What then is 'reality'? One may ask whether reality can be equated with "~~truth~~ ^{facts}" about present circumstances? The human evolution clearly negates this. Facts are objective truth.

In essence, reality is the ϕ manifestation of choices we make as individuals, and the choices we make directly flow from what we think and perceive.

Consider this for example: the colour of this

ink is blue — is that ^{an} objective fact?

A colorblind person may not view the ink as blue. The colour we perceive is itself a complex phenomenon — blue waves are reflected from this paper. Special cells in our eyes can look at these waves and get excited (literally), telling the brain they saw a colour. The brain identifies which.

Reality thus becomes a complex interplay of what we know (or our perception) and how we use it to evaluate something (our interpretation).

This phenomenon has long been recognised in schools of Indian philosophy, for example Anekantvada of Jainism. It says that multiple realities can coexist and all are but a part of truth.

The famous fable of the blind men and the elephant illustrates this. ~~It~~ They were asked

What does an elephant look like? And made to touch different parts of the animal. One said it looked like a snake (touching his tail), the other said it looked like a pillar (touching his legs) and so on.

The point is, multiple realities can coexist. This has been acknowledged by sages and rishis and wise men of since thousands of years. Reality is, what we make of it. It is not necessarily an objective appraisal of facts.

For instance, who would have thought that bows and arrows, bayonets and swords could defeat a modern regiment based, trained army European army? ~~The~~ It happened, still. In Ethiopia.

Menelik II lead an army of indigenous people against Italians equipped with tools of modern warfare, and defeated them. They decided to fight to for their land, for their gods lands, for glory. The tribes chose their reality.

In a similar ~~conter~~ fashion, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar did not have enough money or resources during his childhood. He studied under a street lamp — lack of resources did not deter him from picking up his books. He went on to become one of the greatest educationists this land has ever seen.

Reality, when applied to examined in context of systems like nations often tend to be disruptive and non conformist. Every country wants the world order to be shaped by ~~her~~ its ~~a~~ version of reality. Naturally, the stronger ones can easily do that.

And yet, when the world hegemony decided no more nuclear weapons for anybody else — we simply could not accept it. Our reality was that we ~~are~~ were sandwiched between two hostile countries, and had experienced wars with both of them. The status quo had to change.

And so we tested nuclear weapons at Pokhran. More recently, we decided to buy cheap oil from Russia at a time when it is engaged in a war at its western border. The west's version of ~~of~~ does not fit our geopolitical calculations.

Thus while realities can be multifaceted, varied and have different narratives — they do carry some semblance of truth, a part truth. It is important to remember that part truths may easily be distorted.

For example, unconfirmed news stories published on internet portals create alternate visions of realities. The story of Saravjit Singh, vilified, arrested for harrass allegedly harrassing a young woman — broadcast day in and out distorted our sense of realities. He, however, was acquitted later.

In the age of infodemic, fake news travels around the world while the truth is still

putting on his shoes. Echo chambers, filter bubbles distort a person's sense of understanding. He then becomes susceptible to whatever is fed to him — the injustices that may have never happened, the violence ~~that trust~~ — tools are used to "manufacture consent" ~~as~~ as explained by Naomi Chomsky.

For a such a radicalised person, the imagination becomes the truth. ~~He~~ The dreaded terrorist Kasab, for example, refused an Indian lawyer for his defence. He asked for a "Pakistani lawyer", living under the false impression that his country will protect him for ~~his~~ the "noble deeds" he did for this country. He could not process that Pakistan ~~refused~~ disowned him. Reality is often disappointing for deluded minds.

In fact, most of the infamous terrorists responsible for deaths of millions happen to be the most educated lot. Bin Laden was an engineer, Al Zawahiri, a surgeon. They made up a contorted, false sense of truth and wanted ~~it~~ to impose it on the world.

At this juncture, one may ask, why? Why did a surgeon whose job is to save lives end up butchering helpless women & children? Why did an engineer whose job is to build ^{create} end up causing the greatest destruction?

It is simply because reality is ultimately a selective act of perception and interpretation. We ~~are~~ looked at the opening argument — the human mind is an addition in the evolution of life.

The scientific name for man is Homo sapiens — sapiens — one who is aware that he is aware. The same mind that can build up wonders of the world, nurture families and build communities can also cause the greatest destruction, kill millions, and worse — take pleasure in it.

The difference lies in what choices people make. The different lies in how people

choose to react." The difference lies in what people think. The difference lies in everybody's each individual's independent realities and what he makes of it.

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 को प्रतिभा, क्षमताओं और कौशल का विकास और प्रयोग करता है।

BIG TECH - ALGORITHM WITHOUT HUMANITY IS
MENTAL HOLOCAUST

"Nothing ~~is~~ vast enters the life of mortals
without a curse" — Sophocles

If we look at the problems humanity faces
today, and go back to trace their roots —
we can find a common underlying theme.
These problems are a by-product of something
that was once considered revolutionary.

Consider for example — polymers of ethene : they
made carrying goods easier, waterproof waterproof

and were durable — they now choke our marine life. Air conditioners could enable man to control the temperatures to his liking — and now melt the polar ice caps. Industries replaced a fragile worker who gets tired and demands rights — these ended up ~~the~~ raising the sea level.

The point is, it is impossible ^{for man} to create something that is flawless, impeccable, in time and space.

In the 20th century, man set out to create a parallel world: — one without borders, without an identity, without racism and violence — the virtual world of internet, run on algorithms and codes. The aim was firstly, to communicate ~~and~~ but later morphed into a tool of the 21st century man — just like how a Neanderthal would carry a spear.

Simply put, algorithms are a series of steps, not entirely limited to internet. Anything that happens step wise can be turned into an algorithm — making a tea, cooking food, the steps involved in abhishekam of the presiding deity in a temple. — algorithms are tools.

But this tool is most efficiently deployed by the Big Tech — a network of giant technology companies that permeate every sphere of existence today. Tech algorithms are every where — in Google searches, on ~~your~~ the shopping app we use, on social media platforms.

On the face of it, there is nothing really wrong. Algorithms prioritise things we want to see, and make lives easier for us. They help us make decisions by passing on information that is "relevant" to our tastes. The Big Tech says it is "just a tool".

However, a tool lies there, waiting to be picked up. It does not demand anything from one who uses it. Why is it then a child cannot be separated from a mobile phone today? Or, why do we see people glued to their phones practically everywhere — even in the toilets?!

The answer is complex and yet so simple. The Big Tech have designed algorithms to serve us, yes, but also for a greater purpose — money. One may argue that the best of their products — Youtube, ~~Google~~^{Facebook}, Instagram — are free. And they indeed are.

This is because "when something is offered for free, we are the product" (The Social Dilemma). These services are a part of a "attention economy" and cater to what we "like to see", not "what we need" to see. And this is precisely where the problem begins.

If we search for, say, a bucket — Google will filter information based on the data collected in the past. If you happen to not buy the bucket — you'll end up finding it everywhere — on a news item you are reading, on a random history blog, anytime you open the internet you will be reminded of your unfortunate ability to let go of a bucket. This is because Google ~~its~~ deploys another software — AdSense to ~~track~~ see what you are up to.

Youtube recommendations, posts and "suggested groups" on Facebook, reels on Instagram - everything is based on how many seconds we stopped at a post, what do we "like" and "comment" and what grasps our attention the longest.

The consequences of this ~~are~~ phenomenon are manifold. To begin with, it deprives an individual of mental agency, introducing and reinforcing his thought process - good and bad. It decreases his mental ability to focus. Research suggests that an average human ~~now~~ now has an attention span shorter than that of a gold fish, which is 9 seconds.

Consequently, we find that most individuals today are restless and anxious - their minds are ~~so~~ used to overstimulation they find mundane things boring. They need immediate gratification in the form of likes and comments - and Big Tech happily provides them. According to a recent study, around 4% of people in India suffer from some form of mental health disorder.

When this spills over to real life — the consequences are even more disastrous. By creating echo chambers, they distort a person's sense of reality — often leading to radicalisation. That ISIS can influence youth sitting in a some middle-eastern desert is a testimony to this. It leads to violence, destruction and death — the Delhi riots, Udaipur killing, Palghar lynching are tip of this iceberg.

Sometimes, the events are beyond what may be termed usual. The inhumanity of algorithms were laid bare when a twitter news link of about sexual assault was accompanied by a condom advertisement. This is just how algorithms work.

Similarly, a game of chess was flagged by Youtube's algorithm for using words like "black", "white", "kill", "checkmate". Again, no surprises here — algorithms do what they are programmed to do.

So what exactly ^{causes} leads some series of alphabets in a code to cause a level of despair and agony not routinely seen in the course of history? How does a computer program designed to ease living ~~do~~ ends up doing the exact opposite?

The answer is simply that algorithms are not objective. They are not the tools ~~the~~ the BigTech makes it out to be — they are profit generating machines designed to maximise revenue. They are algorithms without humanity, a mental holocaust of sorts.

Having elaborated on what, why and how these engines are responsible for chaos that we face today, it is worth reflecting on what can be done.

The first step towards getting back a life in control is awareness. Awareness about how they work, why a notification pops up, why an ad appears on our walls.

The next step is actively countering it — not clicking on Youtube recommendations, not "liking" everything that appears on our wall despite liking it, and educating near and dear ones — especially kids.

A long term measure would be sensitising the developers and coders about different consequences that can flow — a former Google & Facebook employee confirms that a like button was created to "spread love and positivity" and nobody ever imagined that it could end up distorting and influencing national elections (Cambridge Analytica).

Lastly, an important measure is to bring inclusiveness at all levels — at the level of Big Tech's compa board rooms, at societal levels, in neighbourhood. Promotion of cross cutting identities, Prof. Maynard argues, can help develop long term

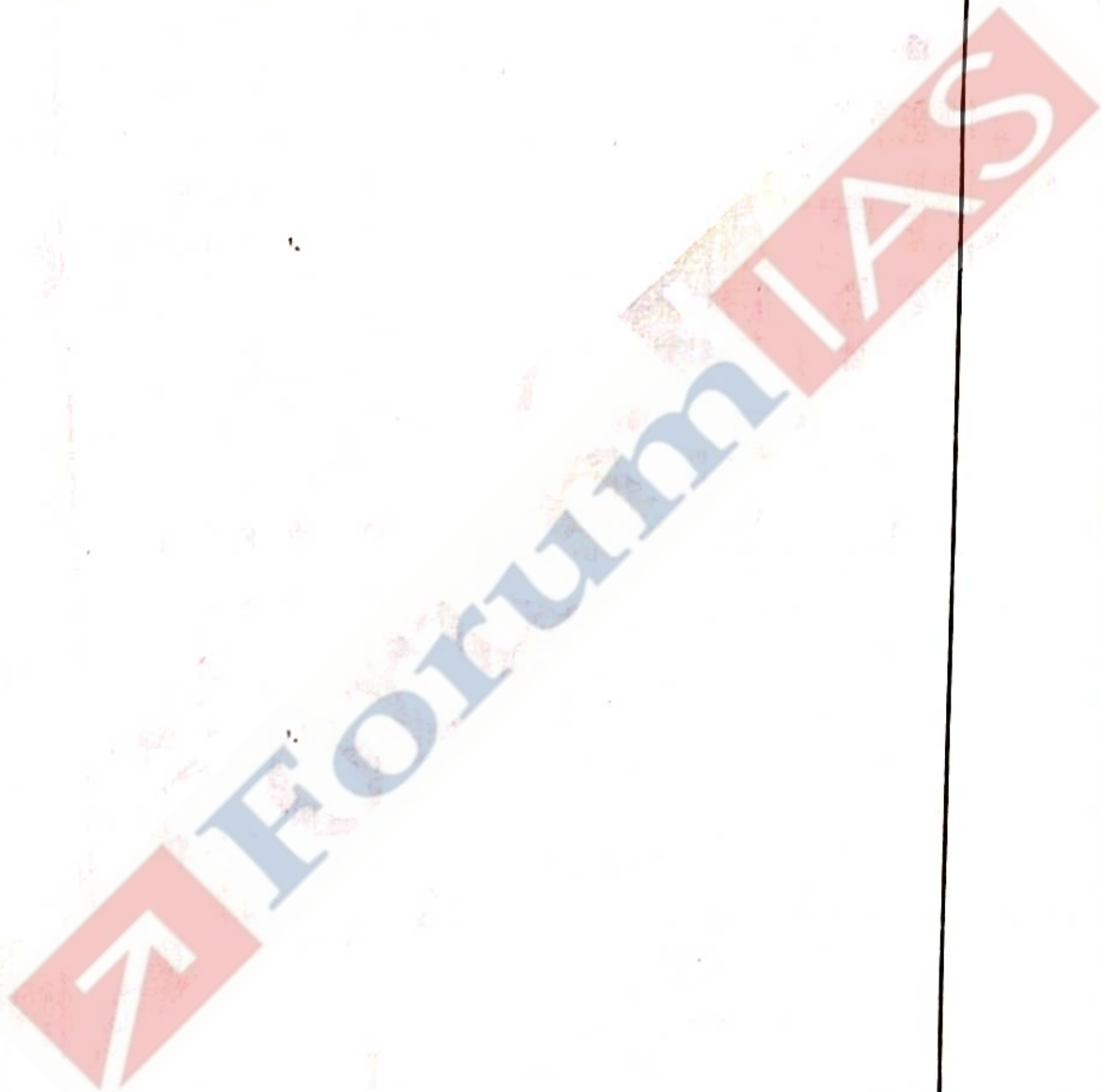
tolerance and peace — which is necessary both online and offline.

It is important to acknowledge the fact that never before in the history of mankind, the thought process of societies is controlled by a bunch of young men, in their ~~tw~~ twenties, sitting in the same room in the Silicon Valley.

Everytime a fiery post radicalises a youth to stab a knife through someone's heart, or to burn down a bus on road, every time a disagreement leads to cancelling a person, an uncritical acceptance of whatever technology offers is to be blamed.

We noted earlier that it is impossible for man to create a something that is impeccable ^{across} ~~in~~ time and space — ~~there~~ this needs to be realised by the humanity as a whole and everything, including technology; must pass the test of a rational mind.

The goal must be to create systems and algorithms for humanity, with a humane touch.



Big Tech - Algorithm

Algorithm without humanity is mental holocaust

Quote: nothing vast enters human life the life of mortals without a curse - Sophocles.

Gandhi - knowledge without character

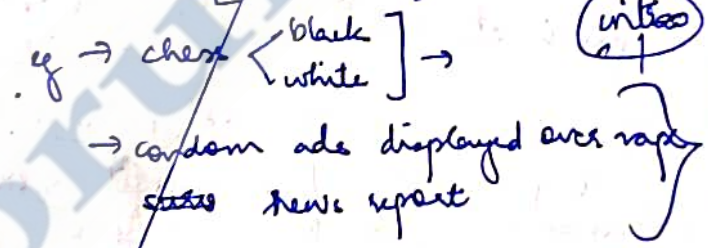
What to address

- Algorithm - what is it?
 - how it helps
 - Tool concept

Algorithm without humanity

- Learn what's the big deal
- examples mechanism of why wrong
 - not objective
 - data itself is biased

- Think of a product & ads



writes a +

- When something free, you see the product

- social media manipulation
- Person of interest: ↓

Social Dilemma → like button

- as sense of understanding distorted
- crimes - Pulgar lynchings } all this just to earn the spoils
- radicalisation
- news reinforced
- targeted data

Introduction

Use in intro + conclusion

Never before in the history of mankind the morality of a generation is controlled by 10 men sitting in Silicon valley in an air conditioned room in a continent thousands of miles away.

Whenever see everytime a city burns, everytime a knife stabs an innocent human, everytime a girl is stalked

Sequence

- ① Big Tech - (never before)
- ① Quote; + explanation
- ② Algorithms what are they - who designs, for what purpose

algorithms are processes that enable a work to be done

For example - making tea: there are many variants of doing it but it --

It is considered a "tool".

The big tech designs the algorithm for another purpose - money

A very ~~same~~ and money

Similarly, we created a parallel world - no borders, without identity, without

② Algorithms - example what they do - mechanics (tool)

③ Why problem: Lego reinforces even a -ve thought

④ consequences - sometimes online - rape/corruption with L categorized - somethings spill over

⑤ How to Tackle Gandhi ji - knowledge without character

Quote - explain

if we look at the problems existing today - they are created by something considered revolutionary when introduced - polybags

polybags, industries control the temperatures to our liking (ACs), and around humans controlled

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developers, employees, correct/for raises; laws in place

we had the most sophisticated only to be reminded of that what man created is never without

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their external environment - never without