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### FIAS-MGP 2023 - Essay test - FLT - #2

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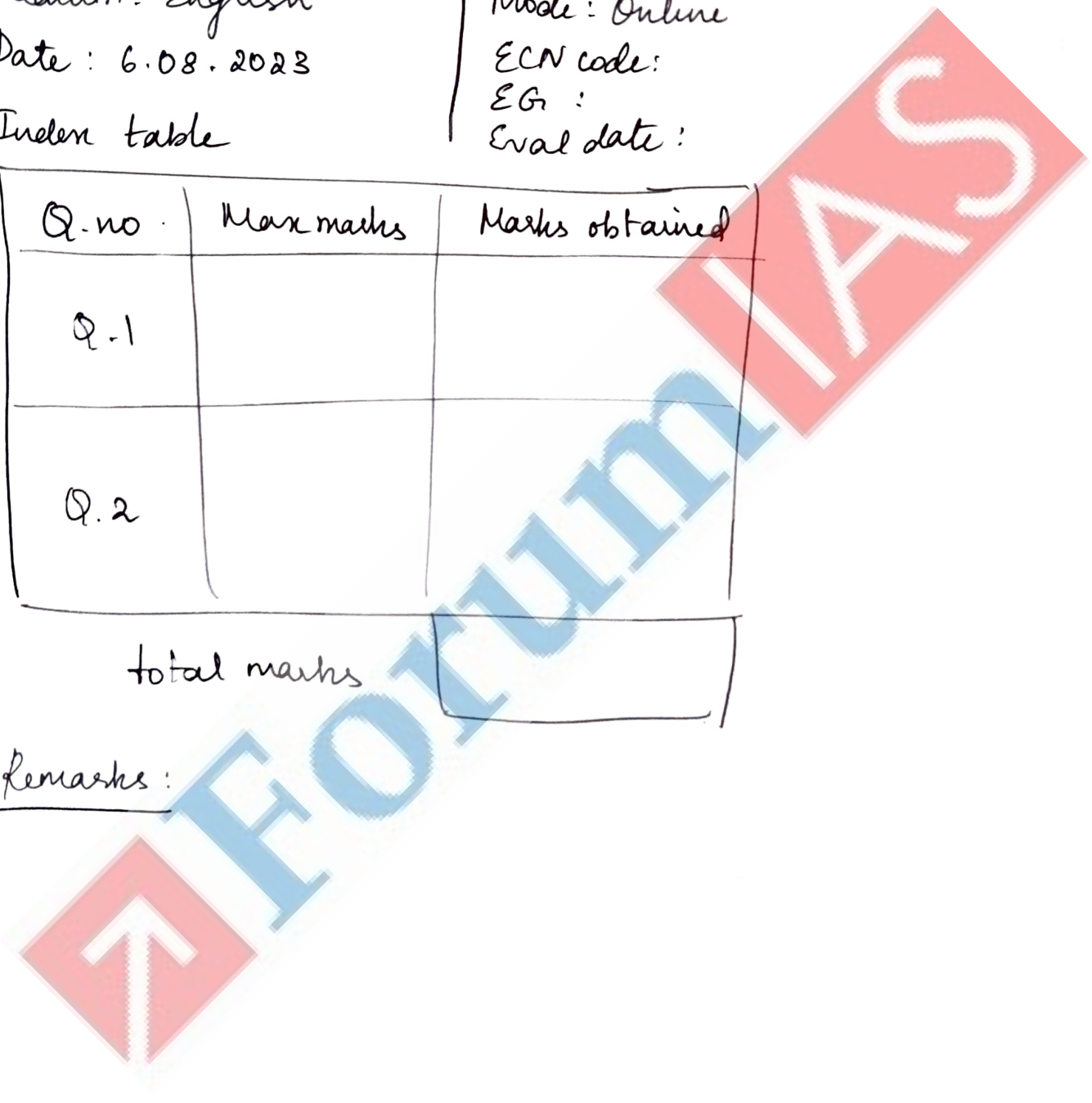
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## MARKING SCHEME

<b>Parameter/Criteria</b>	<b>Aspects Considered</b>	<b>Total Marks</b>	<b>Essay 1</b>	<b>Essay 2</b>
<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		

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

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

Section A

④ - Less is more & small is beautiful : the new mantra for world peace & internal peace. ethical perspective.

Places where less is more.



how leads to peace.

Intern relations

Power - separation of powers  
federalism

society - exploitation

technology - Elon Musk letter

why it is hard to achieve

But less is not more in some situations - "realism"

justice - security - tolerance

fairness "full potential"

commitment

Way forward

"give thans continuously"

gratitfulness

contentment

simplicity

humility

why less is more?

example. (+)

not seeing it (-)

Section A

4. Less is more and small is beautiful : the new mantra for world peace.

There was once a member of Parliament who visited a tribal village. He saw a young man sitting leisurely below a tree. When inquired, he didn't have a job or much wealth. The MP offered to buy him some goats for a livelihood. The man asked "why?" The MP said "so that you could become rich". The man nonchalantly again asked "why should I become rich?". The MP said "so that you can expand your business further". The man again asked "why should I do that?". The MP, now flustered, said "so that you can have a lot of wealth and a carefree, leisurely life". The man smiled "Isn't that what I already have?"

The above story brings out the beauty of little. And how easily we are lured by the concept of 'more' that we forget that 'less' is more. "Less" leads to internal peace, which in turn leads to world peace.

In today's fast paced world, where machines replacing humans and humans achieving immortality is not far fetched dreams anymore, our radar is confused for direction

We are carried away very easily — like a child being lured by candy — to any and everything we see. The influence is so strong that most of have no clue where the finish line is. In the endless pursuit for 'more', we lose sight of the beauty in the little things.

In this essay, let's explore how several global problems can be cured by this one mantra — less is more and small is beautiful. We will dive deep into various aspects of it and understand why such a simple solution has been elusive for centuries. And concludes by some meaningful solutions.

To begin with, an interesting perspective from the book Sapiens — We believe agriculture was the greatest reason behind evolutionary success of the human species. It generated surplus food — allowing man to develop culture and society. But the author believes it created more problems than it solved.

Surplus food did feed many. But it made society much stratified. The elite gained, while the labourers were exploited. Therefore the egalitarian life was more beautiful, than surplus, society was more peaceful too

Starting from when we discovered agriculture, till this date, we have several examples to substantiate the idea.

Firstly, the economic aspect. 'Greed' has become the no.1 enemy of our economic sustainability today. Profit orientation obsession and unethical capitalism is the root cause of suffering of the poor. Recent example is 'greedflation' - companies unwilling to reduce price of goods even if input costs decline. This pokes a hole in the poor man's pocket.

As Gandiji said 'there is enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed.' Therefore only when the rich and wealthy are ethical and content, there will be distributive justice. This will enable sharing of wealth, rise of a healthy middle class, hence overall peace & harmony in the society.

Moving on to the political aspect. 'Power corrupts, but absolute power corrupts absolutely'. Hence always a separation or balance of power is desirable.

We see this in the Indian constitution where the 3 organs of the state check each other. This has been *sin-quo-non* for peace in society. Eg. The violent situation during emergency period ~~was~~ led to limiting powers of executive by 44<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment.

Such. On the other hand, concentration of power and greed for more control has always destroyed peace. Examples like Sri Lanka civil war, Hitler's dictatorship, restriction of women's rights in Afghanistan, endless coups in Africa elucidate this message.

Coming to the defense aspect. If more weapons meant more security, it should only be the small nations fighting today. Ironically, the countries with maximum weapons are on the warfront. When countries decided, lesser weapons are better for global peace - they signed treaties for disarmament, banned use of certain weapons (eg. cluster bombs, parrot mines), tried to use the tech for civilian purposes.

But lack of such consensus in recent times is leading to a second arms race after the cold war. Such proliferation

endangers the whole world and not just one country.

Next aspect is international governance. Countries deciding to forego some of their greed, make some compromise, has led to establishment of peace in the past. Examples are the Indus water ~~law~~ treaty of India-Pakistan, Geneva convention, control of terrorism, Nuclear non proliferation treaty, Wassenaar agreement, etc.

However, the greed to dominate by some western nations as seen in WTO, UN security council, IPEF, etc is factionalising the world. Genuine food security needs are being compromised to ensure profits of rich nations. This has led to breakdown of multilateral dispute resolution mechanisms, endangering world peace.

Moving onto the social aspect. Post colonial nations are multicultural. Hence each section has sacrificed some of their needs to ensure harmony and coexistence. We see how various states, princely provinces, religions, cultures, unanimously adopted the constitutions based on principle of "less is more". Their basic



rights have been ensured, but they gave up practices like child marriage, untouchability, shifting cultivation, etc.

However, recently, each section is aspiring for more and more. The Gyanwapi mosque controversy has potential to open a can of worms. Hijab ban, loudspeaker ban, Sabarimala verdict, etc are expressions of mutual intolerance brewing due to 'race for more'.

Lastly, technological aspect. Human curiosity has always asked for more! faster computation, easier life, more knowledge, etc, etc. But acknowledging that 'less is more' was very advantageous. For example the nuclear test ban treaty, strict regulation on cloning, stem cell research, GMO, etc. Europe's regulation of cryptocurrency, and Elon Musk led letter to AI creators to stop developing more than ChatGPT till we fully understand existing technology.

But in some places we did not place brakes. Rushed usage of antibiotics has created to global epidemic of Anti microbial Resistance. Poor regulation in COVAXIN

trials reduced trust on vaccination. Hury in Metaverse led to online abuse and rape on the platform.

We have seen several aspects where 'less is more' and 'small is beautiful'. But to attain world peace, this might not be true in all circumstances.

When it comes to justice → the more just the better. The more egalitarian, the better. Here, we cannot just do the bare minimum, but go above and beyond to secure justice. Greed for justice is not wrong.

We can see this in proactive effort of India in championing for rights of the global south. We see this in advocacy by civil society for excess care to protect data privacy.

In society, reservations alone is not enough. Proactive training, guidance, handholding is needed for true affirmative action.

In environmental justice

Another place where less is not more is in the individual's capacity. Every person has to push their own limits. It is our fundamental duty (51-A) to strive towards excellence in all aspects of our life. So there, no compromise is allowed.

When it comes to new-age governance, the mania is "more governance and less governance". But that doesn't mean apathy. It means a "committed bureaucracy" that goes above and beyond to protect public interest rather than "minimal ethics".

But how do we decide when is more good and when is less good? The answer becomes simple if we understand the true goal clearly. We advocate for less, so that everyone gets their due share. We advocate for more to fight for the same. Therefore, the goal is one → justice to all.

Immanuel Kant said that the "long term stability of any society depends

on how justly the citizens think that they are treated". Therefore all our efforts for peace should begin from justice.

The way forward can be traced based on the above observation. Economically, neo-liberalism is needed. While basic needs are met, economic growth becomes sustainable. Efforts like Gati Shakti, PM Jan Dhan, E-shram portal, etc - aim to control more accumulation by rich, while promote more rights for poor.

Politically, several nations are moving towards authoritarian regime - creating a "democide". Spirit of tolerance and cooperation need to be rekindled to promote democracy and peace as per the UN charter.

Technologically, responsible growth is better than reckless destruction. Slower and surer adoption needs to be the norm. Building the cage after creating the beast is not safe for the world.

But such solutions are evasive because the true solution starts from the individual. "Be the change you want to see in the world"—Gandhiji. None of the issues can be solved until we win over our greed.

One needs to feel content with his possessions. The age of social media has trapped us in a web of manipulation. We do not know what we really need. Hence intellectual introspection is the right place to begin. This will lead to peace in the mind. Then peace in the nation. And then ~~is~~ peace in the world.

"The only alternative to coexistence is co-destruction" — Nehru. Coexistence comes with compromise. Compromise comes with ability to be content with less. Hence believing that "less is more and small is beautiful" is *sin-qua-non* for coexistence and global peace.

2. Men survive on Adversity and perish in ease and comfort.

- useless thoughts - "idle mind is devil's workshop"
- individualism, ego
- complacence.
- loss of skills, strength, vigil
- inside comfort zone → missing out opportunity to grow.
- out of tune

"Ship is safe on shore - not built for that."

① Historical → Independance movt - unity now - perishing

adversity → we help each other  
 → we form community  
 → we are compelled to cooperate  
 → pushes to discover hidden talents  
 → makes one stronger - fighting spirit.

Admin → don't just announce scheme  
 ↓  
 maintain its quality

② Biological → Sugar, cholesterol - killing us  
 → sedentary life. [zoo animals die]  
 → low vaccine rate, taking ~~medic~~ exercise only when disease

③ Economic → Byju - failing  
 → Economic slowdown only in developed nations

Defense → ~~lack of~~ blind to enemy growth

④ Political → too much liberalism without check - wokeism

→ lack of vigil on govt as long as we get food

⑤ Social → Reason for not destroying caste → after climbing up, they stop fighting

Controlled adversity needed  
 misusing our independance. - "ship is safe quote"  
 constant self examine - Aristotle. Set goals, challenge urself  
"Not about winning, but staying on top"

France was the beacon of revolution in Europe when the continent was slave to adversity. The dominance of the Church, the feudal society and ignorance among people had made life miserable. Out of that misery was born the holy trident of "liberty, equality, fraternity". But the same nation today, centuries later, is struggling from politically motivated riots, racial discrimination and communal disharmony. Somewhere down ~~this~~ line, they lost their vigil, let their guard down and maybe got little too comfortable.

Such a scenario is not isolated. This has been the universal law — "survival of the fittest" — you become complacent, you are on track to your own decline. Let's examine why this is the case, in this essay, by visiting various aspects of our life.

The idea seems quite ironic, right? It should be easier to survive in comfort. But comfort breeds the below

problems. Comfort leads to complacense. It makes one less active, less vigilant. Hence there is no effort to improve strength, skills, bonds, etc. Individual comfort and egoism becomes the norm. Comfort makes us forget that we are helpless as individuals.

Comfort leads to mismatched energy.

"An idle mind is a devil's workshop". Complacense leads to focusing our energies on anti social or frivolous issues. Comfort makes us bask in the warmth of our comfort zone, killing our courage to challenge ourselves. It leads to moral and intellectual stagnation, or even regression.

On the contrary, adversity keeps us awake. It ~~all~~ alerts every cell in the body. We huddle as a group, seeking all the help we can get. Community bonds strengthen. We ~~are~~ compelled to cooperate. We push our boundaries. We stay humble and constantly try to improve.

Therefore, humans have typically survived and even thrived in adversity, while they wilted away in comfort.



Let's start with our own historic example.  
 India as a society was morally degraded just before the British entered. Rabindranath Tagore said "colonialism is the political symptom of our social disease". Years of exploitation of lower castes and women was existing.

the "adversity" here was when the British arrived. It served as a much needed wake-up call for the nation. Every nook of the society from Hindus, to Muslims, to women, to students, to peasants came together. They took up several moral reforms like abolishing Sati, legalising widow remarriage, increasing age of marriage, abolishing untouchability and adopting democracy. The society thrived!

Moving on to the literal aspect of biological survival. Humans lived in a life of scarcity. Therefore, the brain adapted to produce happy hormones whenever sugars and fats were available and the body learned to store them for future use.

this greatly helped survival during adversity. But scientist Neel's thrifty gene hypothesis explains that getting surplus food now, has caused the same adaptation to become a curse. Millions are dying of Diabetes and cholesterol. The 'comfort' is leading to peril.

Same goes with why lot of animals that survived in the wilderness, perish in the comfortable zoo. During the pandemic, our vaccination rate was very high, but as case count reduced, booster dose uptake was abissmal. Most of us hit the gym only when a serious health issue crops up. Hence comfort is literally killing many people.

Let's dive into some economic examples. Byju's was one of India's most prized unicorns. It showed promising growth in initial hard stages - even through the pandemic. However, once economic headwinds eased, the founder jumped for more investment rounds instead of consolidating revenue. Now the company's valuation tanked and employees left high and dry.

Similar trends can be seen in nations' economies too. After the pandemic shock, developing countries are growing fast. IMF forecasts 6% growth for India. The global slowdown is constricted only to "developed" nations that have become too comfortable in their wealth.

Moving on to the political aspect. Several new political ideologies were a result of struggles and adversities — liberalism, communism, socialism, etc. The American civil war, French revolution, the Indian National movement are all testament to it. But recently the world is facing a decline in democratic spirit.

EIU says there are only 22 true democracies in the world today. Even India is categorised as a "flawed democracy".

People are becoming comfortable with their own lives and losing vigil on the government. Countries like USA have got too comfortable with liberalism — this destructive trend of wokeism is ~~an~~ a case in point. The nation has stopped checking itself due to lack of any adversity.

Next lets examine a social example. India is known for its caste system. For decades we have been trying to weed it out. But it keeps proliferating out of control. The main reason is complacency after getting comfortable.

The lower castes fight against the system to get benefits and move up the caste ladder. But it is those very castes that stop fighting the system once they go on top. Their life is now comfortable - so they strengthen the system by further discriminating other lower castes. They thrived in adversity, but morally degraded in comfort. Examples can be seen in Thakurs, Volkhaligas, Pattidhars, etc.

Finally looking at security aspect. The main reason why Babur defeated Prithviraj Chauhan was the latter's comfort with his own army might. The overconfidence led to destruction. Similar instances have been seen in Napoleon's Russian expedition, Russia's poor progress in Ukraine, etc. India needs to keep constant vigil on salami slicing tactics of China on LAC.

Lastly, coming to governance and administration. we have seen several cases of schemes targets being achieved with great vigour. Example is RCS UDAN where several new routes were operational. But lack of constant reexamination has led to 50% routes being grounded. ~~It~~ Getting comfortable, reverses the progress we have made.

'It is not about winning, but about staying on top'. Usually human survival instinct makes one succeed an adverse situation. However, he lets his guard down after reaching the top. Staying successful, hence, is the true test of ability.

This brings us to the imperative question - How do we prevent our comfort from killing us? The answer lies in a simple proverb - "A ship is very safe in the harbour," but that was not what it was built for". Comfort keeps us safe, but we thrive only when we challenge ourselves.

Firstly, self examination is important. Aristotle advocated this to develop moral virtues for a noble life. It can be as simple as running a marathon once in a while to test our health, to simulating terror attacks to test our security preparedness.

Secondly, constant upskilling is crucial. New innovations like 3D printing, AI, ML, nanotechnology has changed the skill requirement of the economy. Only 49% of our graduates are employable: Skill India report. Getting comfortable with current skill level will lead to unemployment and recession.

Third is to create and face controlled adversities. For example challenge yourself to try new hobbies. Researches show that it makes one's brain younger and more active. This prevents complacense and encourages thinking of new ways to do old tasks.

Comfort is necessary for each one of us. In fact the reason why we work so hard is to achieve a comfortable life. All the government schemes, extensive bureaucracy, Infrastructure projects, elections, etc are all aimed to ease the life of humans on this planet.

Since comfort is our end goal, it is very easy to slip into too much comfort, without even realising it. It is excess comfort that is dangerous. A state where we stop realising that we are losing ourselves.

Several ~~rich~~ people do not know to cook or clean or do basic first aid. We do not remember phone numbers by heart. We do not know any survival skills. It is born out of the false belief that comfort once achieved, is permanent.

"Change is the only permanent thing in life" - Hereticus. Just because you have achieved something, doesn't mean you will be the best forever. The fight needs to continue.

# In this era of uncertainty, anything can happen. Any adversity is a possibility. Therefore if one doesn't want to face real adversity, it is necessary to constantly train through controlled adversities.

"The more you sweat in practise, the less you bleed in war". Therefore, instead of waiting for an adversity to wake us up, we need to sharpen our senses at all times to truly enjoy the comfort we possess.