| TEST CODE | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | | **MGP 2024** |

Time Allowed : 3 Hours	**ForumIAS**	Maximum Marks : 250
समय : 3 घंटे		अधिकतम अंक : 250

ESSAY / निबंध

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	**MINAL NEGI**		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	**1910127601**	Medium/माध्यम	English ☑ हिंदी ☐
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	**—**	Date/दिनांक	**02|01|2024**

*Center Code : For Online – 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh – 1901, ORN – 1902, Mukharji Nagar – 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. – 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar – 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक
Q.1		
Q.2		
Total Marks/कुल अंक		

Remarks/टिप्पणी :

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
कृपया उत्तर–पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।

2. Write **two** essays, choosing **one** topic from each of the following Section A and B in about 1000 - 1200 words each.
खण्ड A व B प्रत्येक में से एक विषय चुनकर दो निबंध लिखिए, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000 – 1200 शब्दों का हो।

3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
एक प्रश्न / भाग द्वारा किए गए अंकों की संख्या इसके सामने इंगित की गई है।

4. 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.
उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।

5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।

6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.
प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा गया कोई भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ का भाग स्पष्ट रूप से काट दिया जाना चाहिए।

For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु

Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :
5:00 pm	**8:00 pm**

Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन ☑
	Offline/ऑफलाइन ☐

For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु

ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :

ForumIAS

MARKING SCHEME

Parameter/ criteria	Aspects Considered	Marks Allotted	Essay 1	Essay 2
Basic Format	Introduction	10		
	Body	15		
	Conclusion	10		
Content	Topic interpretation	10		
	Quotations and ideas	10		
	Analytical skills	10		
Organization	Flow of ideas	10		
	Absence of deviation	10		
	Ease of reading	10		
Language skills	Language and sentence construction	10		
	Grammar and spelling	10		
Examiner's discretion	perception/ innovation/ engaging	10		

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

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

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Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ़ अ, भ्यास
के लिए

> **Being human is given but keeping humanity is a choice**

Day in and day out, we come across grave incidents such as murders, rapes, suicides, and many more. Each passing day humanity struggles against the menaces of momentary pleasures and ill fantacies. However, each time it is humanity that emerges <u>victorious</u>.

Since time immemorial, philosophy's central question has been to discover what determines human's actions and what shapes his character. Beginning with <u>Plato</u> and <u>Socrates</u> in Greece, human is described as a <u>rational</u> being.

<u>Hobbes</u>, a british philosopher on the contrary

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describes man as avaracious, fickle minded, self centred and fearful.

In the Indian tradition kautilya conforms with the same and this leads to the school of universal egoism. According to this though, man works for his selfish interests, without considering emotions, rationality or humanity.

In this essay we shall explore the concept of humanity and how one can choose to be humane. We shall see how humanity has been trailing a downhill road in recent times and whether such incidents symbolise innate human nature.

Humanity is not as easy to put is words as

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It has a vast scope and its interpretation differs from society to society, culture to culture.

Albert Einstein rightly says, "We cannot despair with humanity as it is inherent in human beings". What differentiates humans from animals is their tendency to act as per <u>ethical standards</u> and after consideration of the consequences of their actions for others.

Notwithstanding this very fact, humans have become <u>self alienated</u> and have failed to recognise their organic nature. This <u>atomistic</u> tendency has created <u>unbridgable disparities</u>. On one hand, people are sleeping on luxurious tobo sofas and still complaining. On the other hand many children are sleeping empty stomach.

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Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

④
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Practice
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सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

Charity begins at home and so does humanity. When the four walls of a house are painted with <u>compassion</u>, <u>selflessness</u>, <u>love</u> and <u>humanity</u>, the same is reflected in the society.

We are not unaware about humanity being charred in the houses worshipping Lord Rama as epitome of mankind. <u>Gender insensitivity</u>, domestic violence and <u>marital rape</u> are the most common manifestations of the same. <u>National family Health Survey</u> has substantiated it with quantitative data; <u>29.3 %</u> women between age of 18 and 49 have experienced <u>sexual violence</u>. It includes 3.1 % pregnant women.

On a societal level, humanity ~~faces~~ suffers the

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Question No.
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For Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास के लिए

stains of poverty, dying children, hungry elders and malnourished women. The undying <u>appetite</u> of a few has left many on footpaths.

Is it rational for a human to live in a 36 storey building with a destitute sleeping right outside his grand entrance with an empty stomach and uncovered head? A capitalist may answer affirmative, but a <u>human</u> would negate.

Humanity lies in simultaneous existence of <u>self sufficiency</u> and <u>common good</u>. Ratan Tata, Bill Gates demonstrate the same with their <u>philanthropic</u> activities and humanitarian assistance.

Adding to it even other tall personalities like Mother Teresa, Kailash Satyarthi

and Malala Yusufzai show that it is not important to be materialistically wealthy to be humane. It is more important to be rich at heart.

However, various irrational elements do not fail to show their inhumane nature. It takes shape in the form of untouchability, <u>caste discrimination</u>, casteist slurs, manual scavenging etc. Alienating a few from their natural rights for some illogical fragmentations construed by humans goes against the natural rights of all.

It is not uncommon to hear about instances of honour killing, rapes of Dalit women or the so called outcastes being forced into menial jobs for livelihood. As per <u>NCRB</u>, crimes against Dalits have <u>increased by 1.2% in 2021</u> over 2020.

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Mid Essay Review

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On an even larger level, the massive destruction in <u>Israel-Hamas</u> war, <u>Russia-Ukraine</u> war or border conflicts in middle east have put the conscience of all nations at test. As per UN reports <u>16000</u> Palestinians have died and <u>7600</u> are missing.

All this loss is because of the irrational acts of a non state actor and massive <u>retaliation</u> by Israel. Inspite of global efforts to convince the Israeli head of state to proclaim a ceasefire, humanity has failed to save thousands of innocent lives.

In modern times the attacks against humanity has taken a faceless form named <u>cyber crime</u>. Deepfakes, <u>revenge porn</u>, trolling and body shaming has proved that technology has played in the hands of devils.

However, it is not the end of human evolution and the choice is ours about which path we want to tread. It all boils down to each individual of the earth determining the society we will handover to our forthcoming generation.

Education is the most powerful tool to transform any human. To counter the inhumane elements, it becomes indispensable for the state to act as a pedagogic institution.

Curating the education curriculum to inculcate sensitisation for every gender, caste, class, region or religion is a way forward. Inter-community interactions and cultural exchange programs will inculcate reverence for human dignity in children from a very early age.

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Not only educational institutions but also <u>family and society</u> have an important role in framing the ethical framework of an individual. Respect for <u>individuality</u> of every family member in the home transforms into <u>compassion</u> in the society.

On an organisational level, the <u>political leadership</u> mobilised a large chunk of masses at once. Refraining from creating wedges in society for <u>votebanks</u> goes against humanitarian principles. Caste politics, communal violence have become a part of the <u>theocratic majoritarianism</u> of the government.

The solution lies framing laws conforming with humane values. Laws precede the established moral standards of a society. For instance, the SC's

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decision to deny recognition of same sex marriage falls against the principle of equality. It consolidates the beliefs of orthodox sections of society and denies the right to love for people with different sexual orientations.

However, the most important aspect of humanity lies in the conscious choice every individual makes in day to day life. Despite seeing the weight of the world if we still choose to uphold our values, that is humanity.

Moreover, if humanity is as simple as feeding a poor instead to eating lavishly at a restaurant or creating a symmetrical married life by sharing household work load. Or by asking the sweeper on the street for a glass of water.
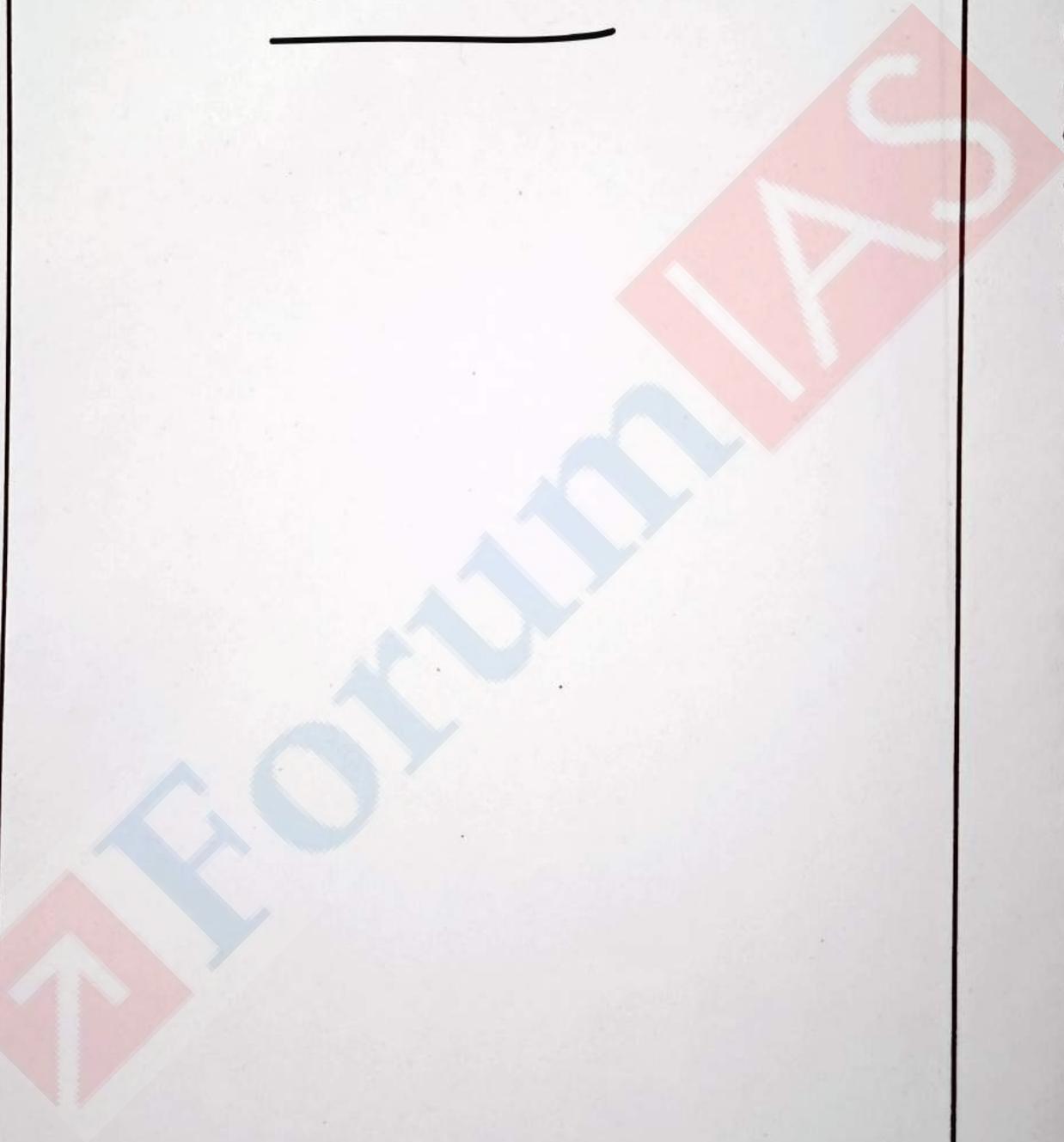
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① It is understandable to be distressed about doing good to others when wars, violence and deaths have become so common. But, as <u>Mahatma Gandhi</u> rightly articulates, "You must not lose faith in humanity. <u>Humanity is an ocean.</u> If a few drops of ocean are dirty, ocean does not become dirty."

Hence it has to be each of us shouldering the burden of humanity everyday. Humanity is a means and humanity is an end but it requires constant efforts to be upheld as <u>being human is given but keeping humanity is a choice.</u>

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Feedback

> Social media is more about sociology and psychology than about technology

Our parents' generation woke up with chanting "Dharti Mantra" before stepping on the ground. We on the other hand look for latest <u>story updates</u> by our friends, <u>tweets</u> by our favourite celebrities and new <u>reels</u> uploaded by the influencers we follow.

Social media has penetrated so deeply in our <u>subconscious mind</u> that even if we were stranded on an island, the only thing we would want is our mobile phone. The <u>fear of missing out</u> makes us look frantically for our device every few minutes.

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Despite such an addiction to media, it is as clear as day and true as algorithmetic that social media has given a new dimension to the global village, business ventures, movie industry and much more. However, the most important aspect of social media emanates from the fillip it has given to freedom of speech and expression.

"I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to death your right to say it", says S.G. Tallentyre in his book "The Friends of Voltaire". With social media in the picture for past couple of decades, even Voltaire might change his views.

Limitless powers in the hands of every individual

through that pocket-size device owned by almost every adult has made technology play in the hands of devil.

Moreover, with emergence of newer technologies such as <u>Artificial Intelligence</u>, <u>big data</u>, <u>blockchain</u>, machine learning and <u>data science</u>, social media has taken an even more satanic version.

We search for a wrist watch on our favourite brand's website and within seconds, as we switch the tab to our social media profile, we can see the advertisements of wrist watches of all the brands we never even knew existed.

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This is the power of <u>algorithm</u>. It makes it evident that our privacy goes out of the window as soon as we are connected to the internet. There is no rock under which one can hide in the metaverse of <u>world wide web</u>.

However, such technological tools are the secondary mechanisms of influencing sociology and framing <u>propaganda</u>. IMAI <u>report</u> estimates 700 million internet users in India which are projected to reach 950 million by the end of 2024.

Such majestic reach of media is often used to mobilise the masses and their <u>subjectification</u> to an ideology.

More than the mass rallies by politicians, focus is on the expert social media team of a party. It is substantiated by the Prime Minister of India touching milestone of 2 crore subscribers on his youtube channel.

Celebrities, influencers and movie actors hire proffessionally trained individuals to handle their social media to create a cult among followers which helps them get work in the industry. However, youth in turn fails to realise utter uselessness of their blind efforts for such celebrities and the time they waste.

Not only individuals but also corporate firms resort to social media to shape the mentality of consumer. The

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For
Practice
Use Only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

consumer loses his evaluative rationality and ends up hoarding products he never actually wanted.

The influencer culture further proliferates the consumerist culture by glorifying luxury brands and expensive possessions. Blind adherence to such set standards has increased lust for money and made the middle class increasingly materialistic.

Looking from a different perspective, on one hand, social media has liberated women by supporting feminist ideologies. While on the other hand objectification of women has taken a different manifestation. Unachievable beauty standards such as a clear skin,

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Mid Essay Review

smaller waistline, smoother hair, plump lips and bigger eyes has certainly revolutionised <u>cosmetic industry</u>. However, its impact on <u>gender neutrality</u> is doubtable.

Adding to it, a misconception floats all over social media which determines the open - mindedness and freedom of a woman by the amount of skin she shows. Wearing short clothes in no way is objectionable. Infact one must have absolute freedom over one's own body.

However, if one's choices are shaped by desires of others, I doubt how liberated that individual is. Item numbers in movies often have shorter clothes, not because they are woke feminists who want to break the

chains of patriarchy but because that is what sells in the industry.

The _anonymity_ provided by social media has greatly impacted psychology of the youth. People who bravely write _troll comments_, hiding behind a fake username are often timid individuals who may not even be able to have a formal conversation if asked to do so.

However, notwithstanding all these grey areas of social media, we cannot turn a blind eye to role of media is making beds and oxygen available during _Covid 19_. _NGOs_ successfully make emotional appeals through

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their social media handles and collect donation.

Day in and day out we see posts exposing corrupt politicians, money laundring and even the very famous #MeToo movement which sprouted on media platforms. A passenger travelling in train posted a suspected human trafficking case in his compartment and tagged Railway protection force. Action was taken within few hours and twelve girls were saved.

Hence, it can be concluded that social media is an indispensable reality of today which has to be used responsibly to make the best out of it. As Noam Chomsky says, "Social media is a double edged sword".

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The threats posed by artificial intelligence and <u>surveillance</u> tools need to be checked with strong litigations and <u>global collaboration</u>. A <u>deepfake</u> of an Indian actress which recently floated on twitter raises eyebrows over effective tools to curb such misuse.

Although technology fast outpaces laws, it is our duty to strive towards a harmonious use of social media. <u>Algorithmic biases</u> which often impact psychology of masses must be brought in public eye.

Moreover, awareness among masses about <u>cyber hygiene</u> and potential cyber frauds through media is the need of the hour. IT firms must be checked from

using dark patterns to impact choices of the society.

The digital revolution has brought us closer in the virtual world but at the same time has alienated us in the world of reality. Social media has hailed us to doom scrolling and thoughtlessly following whatever we see on screens.

It can rightly be said that technology is merely a tool. Real impact, though not visible, is on the sociology and psychology. It is necessary to be aware, alert and conscious before we are carried too far by complex algorithms of social media.

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