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SUBJECT:	Essay	Test Code:	9	3	2
Name of Candidate	Saumya Sharma	Registration Number	9	5	3
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Date	2	0	9/1
Center	Online				7

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. All questions are compulsory.
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
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. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

Total Marks Obtained:

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Fourth Industrial Revolution: A means to embark on new prosperity or an intrusion in human life?

Technology's overarching presence defines the world of the 21st century for a digitally included person. A person can hail a cab, order food, purchase clothes, book a holiday, have a virtual tour of the destination all using the same handheld device. Technology is now doing things for us which took us a lot more time and effort to do on our own. This blurring of lines between the human and the digital marks the advent of the fourth industrial revolution.

Klaus Schwab, of the World Economic Forum has recently in his book described the fourth industrial revolution. Like the earlier

Three revolutions, the fourth industrial revolution marks a definite change in not only our industries, but also our lives. The first was marked by the invention of the spinning jenny, boosting textile industry in Britain; and the second by Henry Ford's technology of mass production. The third industrial revolution was marked by the use of information technology in business. e Contracts, e Mails, e Signatures all became the norm.

The fourth industrial revolution is characterised by the incredible spurt in development of new technologies that are almost-human like. The fourth industrial revolution blurs the domains of the human and the technology. It is the age of voice assistants such as Apple's Siri, Google, Amazon's Alexa who make notes for you and do mobile-enabled tasks for you. It is marked by the internet of things, automated cars,

artificial intelligence, in which data is the new oil.

It is estimated that this new phase will save precious time for humans and make our lives more comfortable. Yet, there exist many concerns too. The question to be asked is: Do these concerns outweigh the benefits?

A new dawn for humanity:

Artificial intelligence has the propensity to significantly raise the quality of our lives. The internet of things can exclude human error from various critical sectors.

Irrigation, farm inputs such as drone enabled fertilisers, climate information can be all integrated by the internet of things to ensure better yield. It also finds use in power generation and power distribution. Timely control of these systems in an automatic fashion helps reduce losses.

The use of machine learning is a technique whereby machines learn to analyse large data sets also has various applications. The most prominent would be big data, whereby data patterns are quickly deciphered by artificial intelligence. The use of big data was recently seen in Project Insight of the Finance Ministry to nab tax offenders. Big data analysis of service delivery helps in better governance.

Machine learning has further refined into deep learning, where machines can not only analyse data sets but also make decisions like humans. It has use in legal softwares, voice recognition and development of fully automated technologies such as automated cars.

A further revolutionary technology is that of blockchain, which

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works on the principle of transparency. Everyone using the blockchain can see the record of past transactions. Being un-editable, blockchain is now being used for voting and essential service delivery in many countries around the world. Its use in Aadhar Enabled Payment System and for Public Distribution System delivery in India can be revolutionary.

Linked to blockchain is the concept of cryptocurrency such as bitcoins, which is being increasingly preferred by the well heeled to store their wealth. Cryptocurrency is presently unregulated and therefore allows one to fully and truly own their wealth without any government interference.

Coupled with satellites, the fourth industrial revolution has, and will, change the human life experience. Satellites for

Health and education service ensure that the fruits of development reach all corners of the country. The Massive online open courses started by the government under the name SWAYAM ensure that children can learn without the physical presence of a teacher, at any time that suits their convenience.

All these technologies have, and will, free up a lot of human time from redundant tasks. Production and service delivery will become faster and more reliable. This will allow humans to devote more time to their health and family life, thus ensuring prosperity. A rider to this rosy picture of prosperity is that it depends on access of internet.

The flipside of the fourth industrial revolution

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As per the Economic Survey 2016-17, 350 million Indians do not have any mobile phones. The number of the digitally excluded in India far exceeds the population of many OECD countries. Therefore, the fourth industrial revolution is inherently exclusionary in the Indian context.

Further, this new phase is highly disruptive. A recent World Bank study estimates that as almost 90% of Indian jobs are in the informal sector, automation threatens 69% of jobs in India. India already is facing a job creation deficit. Any automation will render millions of low skilled workers unemployed.

Artificial intelligence additionally is a threat to privacy and bodily integrity. The machines use fingerprint scanning, voice detection, facial recognition and have access to our

location. Any misuse of this information can threaten our very life and liberty as guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution.

Further, there are risks of machines overpowering humans, as portrayed in movies such as Terminator. The recent debate between Mark Zuckerberg, who said humans do not have to fear machines and Elon Musk, who doubted the safety from machines is insightful. The debate seemingly closed in favour of Elon Musk after Facebook's technology developed a language of its own that humans could not decipher.

There are also threats of persons hacking into their rival's internet of things network to cause grave physical damage. House locks can be jammed, water temperatures can be made fatally hot if someone hacks into the

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appliance network.

There exist various ethical challenges too. If an automated car crashes, whose responsibility it should be for the deaths caused is an open question. It is also said that humanity will become lazy, and live a distanced life through screens while ignoring the world in front of them.

Further, the fourth industrial revolution involves the use of standard contracts in the form of 'I agree' clauses when one downloads an app. Unknowing to the user, such terms and conditions often violate many rights and take permissions for misusing the user data for the gain of the company.

The status of ownership of one's personal digital data also

remains hazy. Companies are entering into agreements to buy and sell data of consumers to have better knowledge on consumer preferences. This violates personal integrity, even as data assumes center stage in the economy.

The Way Ahead

The benefits of the fourth industrial revolution are many. Yet, the concerns are grave enough and cannot be overlooked. Our government should take steps to ensure that we are able to capitalise on the fourth industrial revolution, rather than being on the receiving end of it.

First and foremost, we must improve the quality of education ^{and training} provided. As more workers get skilled, lesser will

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be the chances of their jobs getting fully automated. focus must be given on sectors which will always require the human touch. These could be handloom textiles, traditional handicrafts which can be sold using the digital economy. The care economy could be seen as another sunrise sector.

Further, we must probe the idea of a universal basic income as proposed by the Economic Survey 2016-17. It will provide cushioning from any shocks that the economy may face.

We also need to have a strict data security and privacy law in place. The setting up of the Justice Srikrishna Committee for the same is a heartening step. Our data use and sharing laws

must be in line or better than the leading standards in Europe which presently has the most robust data protection laws.

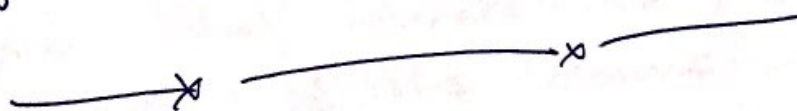
India must also take a firm stand in its international dealings to ensure that foreign companies do not colonise Indian data. The strict TRIPS plus intellectual property regime being sought by major trade deals such as Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) must be firmly countered. The threat to data integrity from all corners must be protected.

Finally, we need to increase the internet penetration in India. A large amount of our population is unable to enjoy the fruits of the fourth industrial revolution

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owing to their technological illiteracy and poverty. This must be improved. Partnership of the Bharat Net project with Google Loon and Facebook Aquila internet connectivity projects would be beneficial.

The fourth industrial revolution is here. We must accept its challenges head on, even as we embrace it. India must strike the iron when it is hot to ensure prosperity for all of its 1.2 Billion citizens.



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Rise of Populism: A threat to Democracy?

As per Oxfam's recent report titled 'An Economy for the 99 percent', the top 1% income earning persons in India own more wealth combined than the bottom 51%. These figures show that there is a large section of Indians whose lives are markedly different from the elite few. Colloquially, this section is referred to as the common (wo)man.

Populism is a political technique that seeks to promote the interests of the common man. Inherent in the rise of populism is the recognition of an 'us versus them' cleavage in society. Populism seeks to demolish the image that government is controlled by and works for the powerful lobby interests.

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Populism is seen to belong to the right wing ideology in the present times. The rise of Donald Trump and Marine Le Pen with their hardline right wing populism lends credence to this. However, populism is equally present in the left wing spectrum as well. Communism, socialism all seek to further the interests of the common population.

Stripped of its political overtones, populism seems to imply the presence of a 'just' society. A society where the government does not work for any vested interests, but instead works for the common man and woman who is otherwise invisible in the political process.

In this light, populism would appear as a good friend of democracy. After all, democracy is nothing but government of the

people, for the people, and by the people. These people cannot certainly be a handful elite. Democracy in order to be truly effective has to include the masses as well.

A brief perusal of the history of our independence struggle would show the power of populism and its help in achieving democracy. In 1885, when the Indian National Congress was formed, it comprised of a handful of the educated, landed classes. Their method of protest & petition based struggle to be heard remained largely ineffective. It was only when Gandhi ji entered the scene and ushered in a period of reliance and faith on the masses, did we realise the power of a united populace.

The role of the common men and women in achieving

freedom for our country cannot be understated. Fuelled with this victorious experience, our nation embarked on a massive experiment in the history of nation states when it decided to be a perennial democracy.

By granting the right to vote to all adults upon achieving independence, India set an example to the world for popular participation in politics. It was this inclusion of the common man that made our tryst with democracy credible. The policies of successive governments too took care of the needs of the common person. Land ceiling were introduced, land was redistributed to the poor in order to bring democracy to the very people who had elected the government.

Seventy years on, can it be said that populism is still

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a good friend of democracy? It must be emphasised that the political class in the initial years of our democracy held some very high values. Harmony was always in focus due to the bitter experience of partition. Unfortunately, this trend reversed in the coming years. The trend of *asya sam gaya sam* politics ensured that populism was misused to earn short term political dividends.

It is not to say that populism did no good to our country. The Public Distribution System and the Mid Day Meal scheme ensure access to food for the poor. Tax slabs and tax exemptions promote equity. Reservations for the socially and economically backward allow for greater reach of the fruits of development. Populism is instrumental in giving voice to the disfranchised. It is populism which ensures that in the clamour for

High speed bullet trains, the lives of those lost to train derailments are not forgotten.

Despite the sunny side of populism, there are grey clouds in sight too. Populism in the present age has acquired a negative connotation for many. Even as populism strikes at the assumed correctness of the elite opinion, it is an open question whether what is popular is certainly right?

Seen in this light, populism promotes majoritarianism. It suffers from the same flaws of utilitarianism as given by Jeremy Bentham. In promoting the greatest happiness of the greatest number, populism does not account for the few who do not conform to what the majority wants. Populist views may make sense when they are in the economic sphere. But once populism propagates an 'us versus them' in

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the social and cultural sphere, it can become a tool of oppression.

Populism chills speech that dissents. People become wary of what they say, lest they should be labelled as anti-establishment. The worst sufferers are the minorities, who get stereotyped even before they have put their views across. This way, populism promotes reactionary elements.

The populist schemes announced for quick political dividends have many times ended up being unworkable or with long term costs. An example would be farm loan waivers, which have not only affected the state exchequer but also promoted the moral hazard of farmers not paying their loans, as they hope for a waiver. Brexit is another example. Fuelled by populist anti-migrant fears, it has not achieved much.

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In a post truth world, which runs on emotions and opinions more than facts, populism can have many regressive consequences. An example would be of the climate change deniers, who claim the scientific research to be a myth aimed at increasing unemployment and decreasing development in the global north.

One might wonder as to how can hard facts be ignored by people who fall for regressive populist forces? The answer would lie in emotional intelligence. Humans tend to remember how something made them feel more strongly than remembering hard facts. This adds to stereotypes, and fans divisive forces. Populism in this manner promotes parochial thinking. The recent success of Narendra Patel - is an example.

As the Economic Survey notes, such populism leads to hesitancy in policy making to embrace the capitalist principles. Anything favouring capitalism is made into an 'anti-poor' issue. Many NGOs promote this thinking. The result is increased envy and divide in the society, even when the capitalists engage in nation building activities and corporate social responsibility.

Looking forward, it is clear that democracy as a form of government is here to stay. As demonstrated, populism is integral to democracy. A democracy which does not care about the interests of the common persons is as good as autocracy or an oligarchy. What is required is a progressive kind of populism.

Instead of promoting

social divisions & cleavages, populism must focus on genuine issues that affect the majority of the society. Populism must be ethical.

It must respect the diversity of our society and aim to preserve it. Populism should not be at the cost of minorities, instead, it must be wholesome and inclusive in its reach.

To conclude, populism cannot be excluded from democracy. We need to forge a new brand of value-based populism. This can be done by ensuring good quality of education which ensures that the future leaders of tomorrow know the importance of social harmony. Workshops can be organised for the present crop of political leaders to reinforce ethics in politics.

Fake news and polarising speeches must be made punishable offences. Politicians and all leaders must back their claims with verifiable data. An attempt must be made to inculcate the value of questioning the status quo in the population. The teleological model of progress must be discarded in favour of the deontological model in which it is not only the ends which matter but also the means.

Such an approach to populism will ensure our democracy fulfills the high ideals set by our Constitution.
