

VAJIRAM & RAVI

ESSAY PROGRAMME

Test - 3

ADMIN. NO.:

Mains Roll No.

NAME:

*Mobile No.:

*Email.:

SUBMISSION DATE:

UPSC CSE 2024
AIR-145

Overall Performance

Essay 1

Essay 2

Evaluator Code and Signature:

Essay 1:					
	Parameters	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
Introduction	Context building; Thesis Statement; Scope				
Body	Presentation (Handwriting etc)				
	Macro Dimensions				
	Micro Dimensions - Arguments				
	Supporting examples/facts				
	Objectivity				
	Content Relevance				
	Continuity/flow in writing				
Conclusion	Overall Summary; Vision; Tone etc				

Essay 2:					
	Parameters	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
Introduction	Context building; Thesis Statement; Scope				
Body	Presentation (Handwriting etc)				
	Macro Dimensions				
	Micro Dimensions - Arguments				
	Supporting examples/facts				
	Objectivity				
	Content Relevance				
	Continuity/flow in writing				
Conclusion	Overall Summary; Vision; Tone etc				

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



👍 😊 All the Best 😊 👍



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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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CHARACTER IS DESTINY

"Sudarshan chakra jaisa astra hone par
bhi, haath me baansuri hai,
to wo Krishna hai;

Ek baar me ~~pran~~ pran lene ka
samarthya hone par bhi,
99 baar kshama karne ~~ke~~ ki
kshamta hai;
to wo Krishna hai;

Dwarka jaisa ka shaurya hone par bhi
Sudama yadi mitra hai,
to wo Krishna hai,!"

[The one who chooses peace upon
war, values forgiveness over
revenge and ~~also~~ befriends humility
without pride is the lord Krishna].

on one hand we
have this Krishna and the polar
opposite is the Kansha, whose
pride, lust for power and
selfishness brought immense miseries
~~to~~ not only to this subject but

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हाथिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए।
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कृपया इस स्थान पर प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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sealed his destiny to death and eternal reference as 'evil'.

Indeed it was the character of Krishna which defined his destiny to be revered as God and ~~the~~ similarly it was Kansha's character which ^{brought} defined his destiny ^{disguised as} to be a demon.

It's quite intriguing if we think what is character and what is destiny? How character decides destiny? ~~can~~ If destiny is predetermined how does character help? In such scenarios, what should be the path to follow? Let's discuss along these lines in the ensuing essay.

CHARACTER : THE DESTINY DESIGNER

The character of a person refers to the set of moral, values, ~~an~~ qualities, traits, and behaviour which define how that person thinks,

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feels and act. It includes attributes like honesty, integrity, kindness, resilience and responsibility.

Character of a person is often revealed in their actions and, especially in challenging situations and reflects their values, beliefs and principles.

Destiny is the concept that certain events or outcomes in life are predetermined to happen, often by a higher power or a natural order. It is often regarded to be beyond control.

The understanding that character shapes destiny arises from concept of action and consequence.

Since one's character guides one's action it in turn determines the outcome, which is perceived as destiny. For example, a student who through his/her hardwork,

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Perseverance and right strategy, if
clears the UPSC examination, becomes
destined to play and worthy enough
to play the role of civil servant.

~~More~~ Moreover, one's character

Moreover, our character dictates
our choice system, which in turn
sets the course of events. Take the
case of India and Pakistan, while
India ~~at~~ upon Independence chose
to be secular country and today is
referred as 'icon for unity in
diversity', Pakistan by choosing to
be a theocratic country is today facing
the threat of being balkanised.

Further, our character helps us
gain clarity about about our core
values, which we cannot compromise
with. For instance, the ~~the~~ Indian
Judiciary's innovation of 'Basic
structure doctrine' in terms is
guided by the values of constitu-
tional morality which time and

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has set course correction of India's destiny as a democracy, even during the emergency era.

Additionally, character becomes the guide to how we handle any our position in life which in turn determines our future positions. This is best exemplified by Nokia company, once at zenith of telecommunication industry, veiled by ignorance refused to innovate which ~~dest~~ ~~to~~ as a consequence destined it to fight for its very survival.

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Similarly, our character determines if we have the courage of conviction to stand our ground when faced with opposition.

For instance, it was the honesty, integrity and courage of TN Sushan which enabled him to enforce the electoral reforms and ~~real~~

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the despite humongous political opposition
and turn provided the identity of
impartiality and fairness to election
commission.

Further, it is our character-
our humility, our open-mindedness
which enable us identify and
undertake course correction. For
example, the danger of climate
change - today which the world faces
faced with the danger of climate
change today, it will the ^{world's} ~~humanity's~~
ability to ~~so~~ mend its way
which ultimately will decide the
destiny of continuity of human race.

Furthermore, our character
which dictate how we use our
attributes and resources at hand.
For example the skill of cybersecurity
can be used to design firewalls and
security protocols and at the
same can be used to design ransome
ware, spywares - threatening the very

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security of cyberspace.

But Having discussed how character shapes destiny, lets ponder if character is the sole criteria which determines destiny? Are there other contributing factors?

THE UNCONTROLLABLES : THE PREDETERMINED DESTINY

In this world where we have little understanding of our purpose of our existence, there are larger forces at play and thus ~~are~~ we ~~are~~ our inability to take control of everything.

Despite maintaining probity and highest ethical standards, one might end up at dead ends. The example of Satyendra dubey, who paid the price of honesty by taking bullets at the hands of criminals is a point in case.

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Similarly, while we are in control of our own actions, little can we account for actions of others. Take the case of 'India out' campaign in Maldives, Bangladesh, despite long drawn history of India's good will it is a testimony for the same.

Additionally is the twist of 'Luck Factor' which adds to the uncertain nature of events and corroborates the ~~predet~~ theory of destiny being predetermined. For example, # we the farmer who ploughed out diamond from his farm in Botswana - might become wealthier to the most most hardworking in his community.

Having discussed the two aspects of a coin, let's try to understand what should be our guiding principle, how should we approach our certain - uncertain destiny.

THE KARMAYOGA

"Karmanya vadhika - Raste Ma Phaleshu kadachana".

Given the uncertainty of events and uncontrollables, one must focus on the course of action.

What can't be controlled must not be fret about.. Whether one is destined to some success or not destined must never be the guide ^{to} our actions.

If we take care of the means, the ends will take care of themselves. Thus upholding the purity of means through purity of character is the only thing we must strive for.

It must be ~~an~~ categorically imperative for us to uphold the moral law, irrespective

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of the circumstances, because it is
always the right time to do the
right thing.

Delta Detachment from
consequences and focusing on doing
the things right can guide us
emotionally and practically.

All of this calls for a
rock solid character, where the
morality and value system are guide
to all the endeavours.

Such character can
be built through constant self
introspection and self-reflection.

The determinants of our value system
- like our family, schools, society
and religion - can all contribute
significantly in this aspect.

And most importantly, in
this overambitious world, we
must understand the broader
meaning of success - which is
not determined by our material
achievements, rather, it is

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determined by the ~~virtues~~ virtuous
life we live.

In conclusion, it can be said that while the factors like ~~was~~ uncontrollable, luck, uncertainties & strengthen the concept of destiny to be pre-determined, more often than not we simply are facing the consequences of actions that we undertake.

It is our character which by dictating our choices, our reaction to adverse situations; in turn sets the course for future events.

Accepting the uncertainty of the eventualities, we must follow the principle of detachment to results and focus upon our purity of means, intentions, which in turn requires following high ethical principles and probity.

Ignoring the concerns of destiny
→ we must focus on ~~controlling our~~
~~self~~, rather than being captain of our ship and not trying to control the sea.

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प्रश्नोत्तरों का
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अधिक शब्दों का
उपयोग न करें।
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The real problem is not whether machines think but whether men do.

"within one decade, AI (Artificial Intelligence) will reach singularity"
— states the CEO of NVIDIA and he claims this event as the dawn of new chapter to more advanced humans.

contrary to this, Elon Musk ~~note~~ expressed concerns "
" If AI has a goal and humanity just happens to be in the way, it will destroy humanity as a matter of course, without a second thought! — raising the questions about the very survival of humanity in face of its own creation — the thinking machine.

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The ensuing dilemma indeed points to the real problem being if human is giving enough thought to what it is creating.

It becomes very intriguing if we think about - what are thinking machines and its consequences? what are the problems of humans bet not thinking through the situations? How can we undertake course correction? Let's discuss these dimensions in the upcoming essay.

THINKING MACHINES : HORIZON AND BEYOND

Machine is defined as something that can perform certain specific task. They are part of human evolution and in fact have enabled human the evolution to take its course.

The stone tool of homo-

habilis enabled it to hunt and

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Survive and ever since the complexity of such machines have been increasing exponentially.

The new phase was marked by the invention of chips and machines that could sense and act. The advent of machines who could take certain decisions on their own without explicitly being commanded — are termed as thinking machines.

Such machines be it the computers, the embedded machines have enabled humans significantly and added to its capabilities.

The IT revolution connected the world at single clicks, enabled processing data of millions and trillion bytes and draw value out of it (Big data). Helped humans scale

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universe and look within atoms.

Further, they enabled humans perform risky operations - robotic surgeries, with precision and cure the previously incurable diseases through genetic engineering like cancer etc.

Furthering its advances, humanity is now faced with AI, ~~with~~ which has ability to create new content - based on the data it consumed earlier. which is said can do anything a human can - with just one thing missing - 'CONSCIENCE'

Additionally, Singularity is the state which if achieved will make AI self aware, and ~~comp~~ thinking in true terms - akin to a human. This is what a fiction of human is scared of; as the chances of AI outcompeting human is fairly significant

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While we are creating more intelligent and thinking machines, which create more opportunities than problems, what is important is ~~if~~ ^{while} we are enjoying the fruits of development are we ready to face the consequences? are we tackling the problems in right fashion?

THINKING MACHINES AND IGNORANT MAN

The ~~the~~ machines thinking is nothing but the algorithms being executed; so how does a machine act is entirely in the hands of who designed it. Thus, it depends on the intent with which the machine was created. Take the case of social media where the game is all about attention economy thus are the machines designed to keep humans glued to screen.

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Moreover, since how human interaction with technology will happen and what course it will take cannot be predicted; the real challenge occurs when we realise the pitfalls and fall to put guards. For examples, even though like New York many cities have declared Facebook a health hazard we hardly see any concrete action being taken.

Additionally, empowered by these technologies some countries and companies have grown ever more powerful, dividing the world into haves and have nots. For to instantiate the role which StarLink had to play in Russia-Ukraine war due to ~~the~~ the technology of space internet is a worrying trend.

Further, being a tool in hand these thinking machines have been misused to mould the thinking of masses for narrow political gains. For example the Cambridge

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analytical case is a point in case for how unthink humans are being ^{becoming} the tools to their tool.

Additionally, the challenge is when without enough ~~scrutiny~~ scrutiny these machines are trained using data with inherent biasness. This leads to these machines replicating and reinforcing the social divides and stereotypes. For example AI enabled COMPASS tool used by USA Judiciary was found to be biased towards blacks.

Further, blind adoption and unregulated adoption of such machines have enabled the rise of neo-colonialism where the resources of the under-developed and developed nations are exploited for the gain of new imperialists - the tech giants. Take the case of cobalt mining in Congo, the ~~the~~ tribals are being ruthlessly harassed

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to treated as means to extract cobalt and coltan and these same elements put to use in chip enable the enabling the ~~or~~ continued operation of smarter machines.

Moreover, in quest to make these machines smarter tons of GPUs are deployed which consume enormous ~~also~~ amount of electricity and have ^{significant} carbon foot prints ~~equivalent~~, contributing further to climate crisis.

Additionally, while we are cognizant of these challenges our thinking is blurred by the dilemmas we face with respect to regulating these machines - like - Innovation vs regulation, Freedom to commerce vs our fair market and many others. ~~to~~ Such dilemmas lead to conferences and submits without any concrete outcomes for example the ~~the~~ UK security summit and APMI summit - both

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could not produce any concrete regulatory framework with respect to AI.

Having discussed the problems of humans not being able to think soundly in face of thinking machines, lets discuss what should be our way forward.

The Guard Rails

while advancements in technology must never be discouraged, it is equally important to put guard rails to guide safe and healthy progress and development of these technologies.

one such option is 'code as law'; where in the legal and ethical principles are put in the very algorithms within such machines.

Additionally, befo precautionary principle must



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be followed, i.e. enough testing must be done before market release of such technologies.

on behalf of the companies it is very crucial that the transparency, accountability and respect for privacy are prioritised.

Moreover, taking responsibility for the technology sets precedence and reflects good business ethics. For example whatsapp launched an ad campaign to fight fake news.

Further, it is equally important that a global regulatory framework is built consensus upon, backed by the principles of equity, justice and fair share and proactive approach is followed to regulate these fast evolving and technologies.

And most important is to understand that any technology must follow beneficence.

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objective and treat human as end in itself.

In conclusion, it can be said that while these thinking machines have opened new horizons for humanity, the dangers of humans ignoring the challenges out of such technologies can have hazardous consequences.

Thus, the need for proactive and approach while dealing with thinking technologies, guided by the principles of equity, equality, justice as fairness and respect for human values.

Thus, the real problem is not whether the machines think or humans think; it is whether humans are courageous and determined enough to take actions and avoid a future where humanity becomes tool for these machines.

VAJIRAM & RAVI

[Institute for IAS Examination]

Essay Programme

TEST NO. 03

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

Write two essays, choosing one from each of the following

Sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each $2 \times 125 = 250$ Marks

Section - A

- Truth is the cry of all, but the game of few
- Man is the measure of all things
- The whole is more than the sum of its parts.
- Character is destiny.

Section - B

- The Earth is what we all have in common
- Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.
- The real problem is not whether machines think but whether men do.
- Social media is inherently a selfish medium