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ESSAY

Name of Candidate	KUNAL RASTOGI	Test Code	2322
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1 1 1 1 8 0 5
Centre	ONLINE	Date	2 3 0 8 2 0 2 3

INDEX TABLE			General Instructions	
Section	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>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 इत्यादि)।</p> <p>2. Write two essay, choosing one topic from each of the Sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each. खण्ड A व B प्रत्येक से एक विषय चुनकर दो निबन्ध लिखिए, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000-2000 शब्दों का हो।</p> <p>3. Do not write answers in bad of illegible handwriting. Such answer may not be evaluated. उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गन्दी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तरों का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।</p> <p>4. Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answer. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc. उत्तर स्याही से ही लिखें। उत्तर लिखने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग न करें। हालांकि आरेख, चित्र इत्यादि बनाने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।</p> <p>5. Do not write answers in a medium other than the authorized medium in the Admission Certificate. Do not use mixed language, i.e., authorized and unauthorized media together, for writing answers. प्रवेश-पत्र में उल्लेख किए गए माध्यम के अलावा अन्य किसी माध्यम में उत्तर न लिखें। अधिकृत और अनधिकृत की मिली-जुली भाषा का भी उपयोग न करें।</p> <p>6. Write answers at the specified spaces (right below the questions) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified spaces in the Booklet shall not be evaluated. प्रश्नों के उत्तर ठीक उसके नीचे दिए गए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें निर्धारित स्थान के अलावा किसी अन्य स्थान पर लिखे गए उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जाएगा।</p>	
A	125			
B	125			
Total Marks Obtained:				
Important Instructions				
<p>1. The ESSAY 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 a medium other than the authorized one. प्रवेश-पत्र में प्राधिकृत माध्यम में निबन्ध लिखना आवश्यक है तथा इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुखपृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर करना आवश्यक है। प्राधिकृत माध्यम के अलावा अन्य माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तरों पर अंक नहीं दिए जाएंगे।</p> <p>2. Word limit, as specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों के उत्तर निर्दिष्ट शब्द-संख्या के अनुसार होने चाहिए।</p> <p>3. 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 छोड़े गए किसी पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिए।</p>				
Remarks:				
			Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?	
			Recommended	Strongly Recommended

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Punjab & Sind Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Structure and Flow
3. Dimensional Coverage
4. Language Competence
5. Length of Essays
6. Creativity Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

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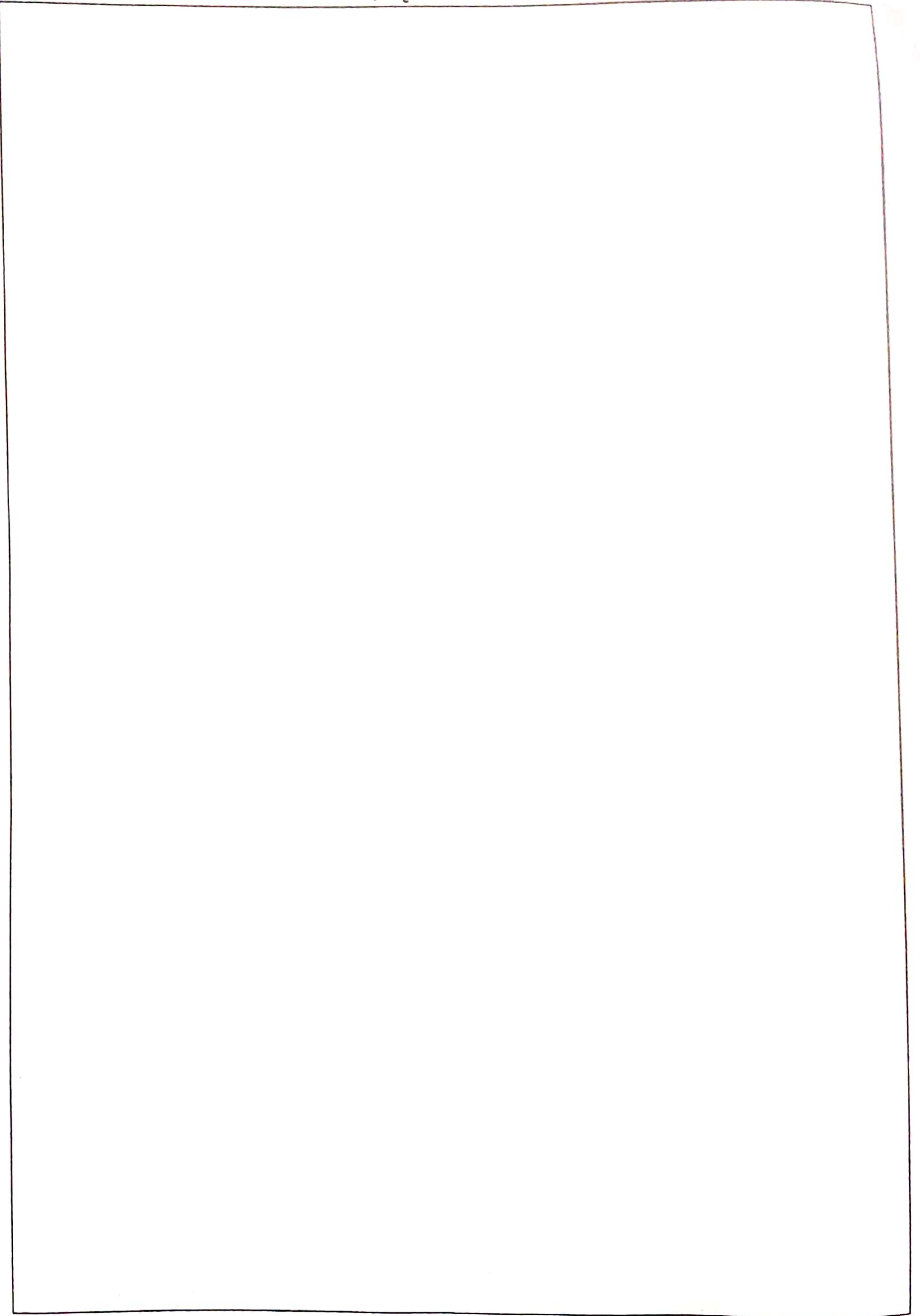
Evaluation Parameters

- Understanding of Topic
- Introduction Competence
- Body of Essay
 - Dimensions Covered
 - Shortcomings
 - Value Additions/ Missed Dimensions
- Conclusion Competence
- Organization of Essay
- Language and Expression

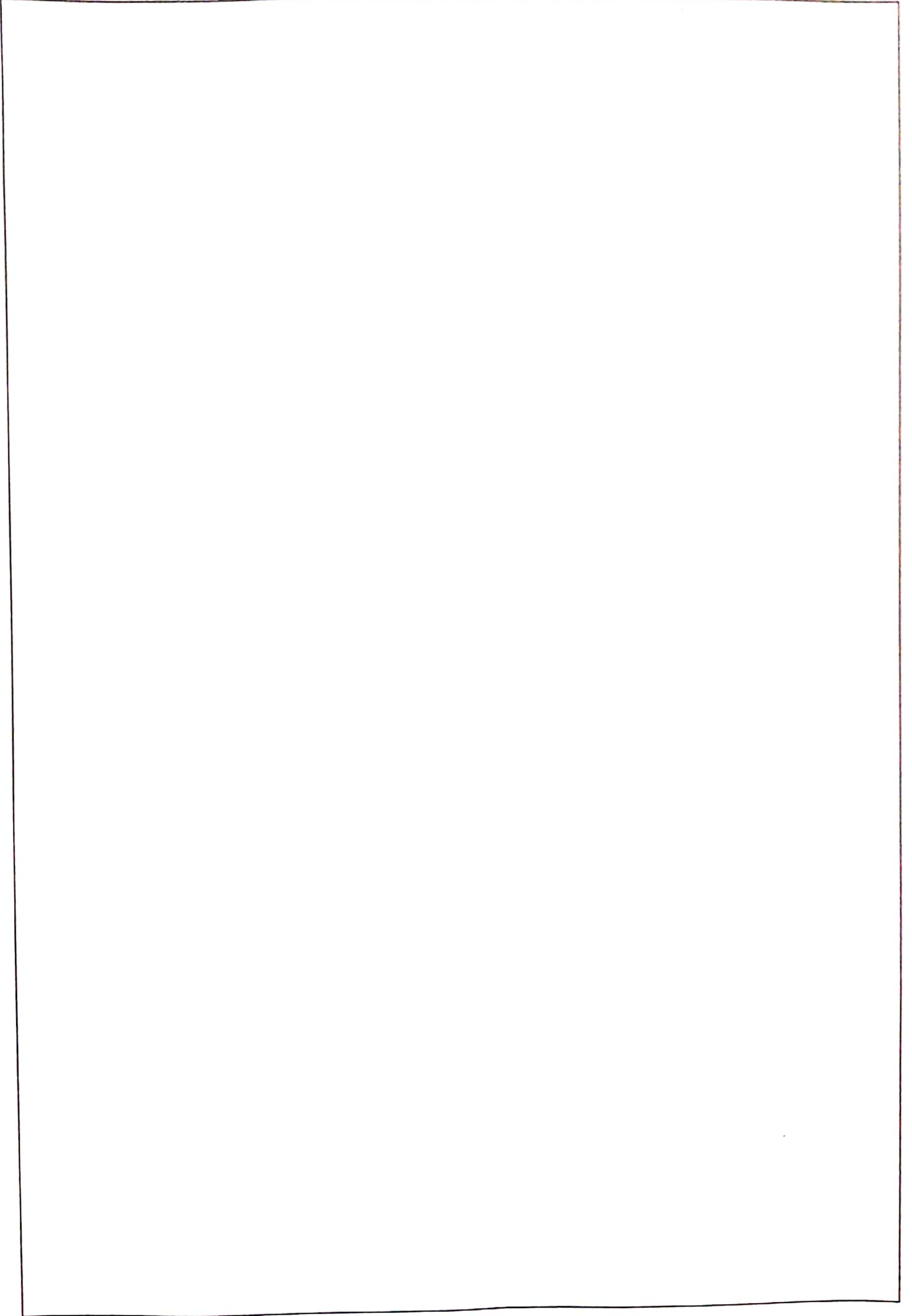
Macro Comments – Essay 1

Essay Topic:

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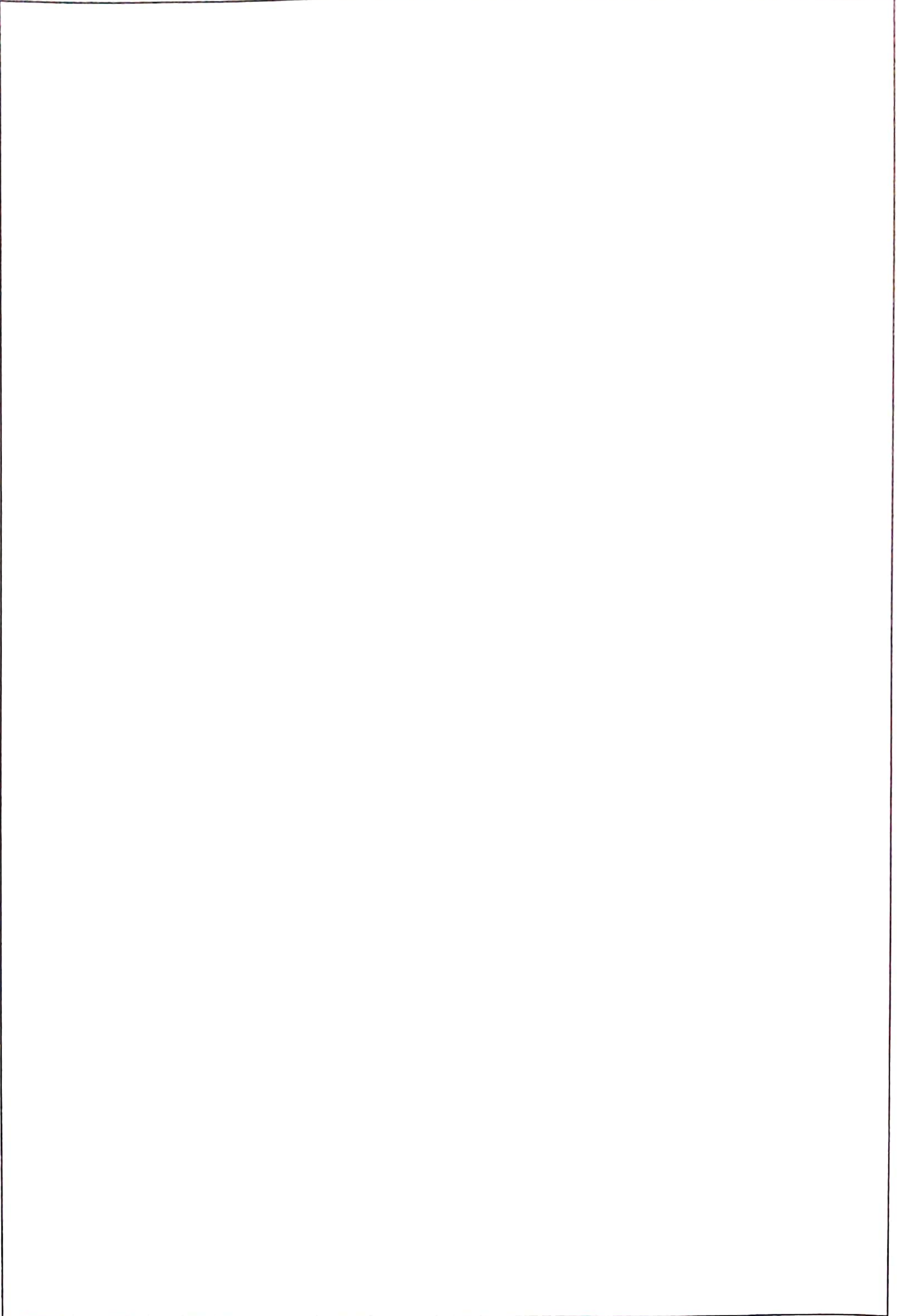


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Macro Comments – Essay 2

Essay Topic:

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All the Best

2.

Changing mass consciousness is an individual responsibility

Chicago Conference of religion was organised in 1893 to further perpetuate the already held mass consciousness of White Superiority. The sole aim of conference was to demonstrate that how the rule of whites over the orient was a blessing in disguise for the natives.

The above proposition was accepted without question by most of the orientalist, except one. Armed with facts, knowledge, wisdom and equanimity Swami Vivekanand considered changing the man consciousness as his solemn individual responsibility

Following neo-vedantic ideals of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, he addressed the gathering with simple words - "My brothers and sisters". This ~~simple~~ busted the myth of racial superiority of whites thus paving way for decolonisation of thoughts and ultimately created mass consciousness of equality, fraternity and Swaraj.

Above anecdote exemplifies that how people with knowledge such as Swami Vivekananda must virtuously use it as a matter of responsibility to change mass consciousness.

In this essay, we will explore what is mass consciousness and why individuals should strive to change it. Further, we will explore

certain exceptions to above and ~~other~~
measures that could be adopted
for changing mass consciousness for
a better future.

Jurval Noah Harari in his
book "Sapiens" describe fictional stories
to be the bond that keeps society
together. These stories create mass
consciousness through inculcation of
culture, traditions, beliefs and norms.
For example paper currency is a
mass consciousness that allows the
operation of modern finances.

However, all stories that
create mass consciousness do not
lead to mutual goodwill. Rather
some stories are perverted to

make humans prisoners of their own
thoughts. Psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud
termed these stories as cycles of doom

One such mass consciousness created
by such story is - "war is glorious".

This ~~was~~ created the two world wars
and the recent Russia-Ukraine Crisis.

Nevertheless, these stories
seldom find roots in certain remarkable
individuals who have knowledge and
capacity to think without barriers.

Such knowledgeable individuals have
power to change mass consciousness.

As often said, that with
great power comes great responsibility
Individuals therefore utilise this
knowledge out of responsibility to

Change human mass consciousness: This fact can be explored in various dimensions.

At political level, great leaders who have ability to generate consensus, responsibly use ideologies, oratory to change consciousness. For instance Abraham Lincoln believing in foundational equality, mobilised individuals out of volition to ban the inhumane act of slavery that was widespread in USA.

Similarly, even at the social level individuals who are equipped with rationality try to question conservative mass consciousness that sanction structures that promote

exploitation. This questioning is through the process of dialectics. The acts of Raja Ram Mohan Roy against Sati or the recent Mahsa Amini protest against patriarchy in Iran reaffirms our faith in rational dialogue.

Moreover, altering the mass consciousness also occurs at the scientific level. Remarkable individuals who have ability of foresight, insight into underlying principles of reality create alternative discourses. For example the brilliance of Copernicus was responsible for shifting mass consciousness from Geocentricity to Heliocentricity.

From above discussion it seems that it is only individuals

responsibility to alter consciousness. But nothing can be farther from truth. Sometimes it is collective responsibility that is required for shaping the man consciousness. Let me illustrate above.

In spirit of changing the ecological consciousness of manes which were overshadowed by greed, collective social movement like Chipko, Silent valley, Appiko and the recent Save Aarwy tried to rekindle the age old Indian ethos - "Maata Bhumi Putro atam Prithvi". This signifies that earth is our mother and we should protect it.

Not only do individuals have collective responsibility, but some

Times nations also have the responsibility to alter man consciousness. For instance, India following the tenets of revolutionary constitution embarked on mission to change traditional consciousness based on caste, region, race to a modern consciousness highlighted by values of preamble like Justice, Equality, liberty and fraternity

In short, both individuals, society and nations have responsibility to change consciousness. Does this signify that we should always change our consciousness? The answer to above is NO!

In certain situations it is the responsibility of individuals

to ensure that man consciousness does not change. This is because change sometimes is accompanied by chaos resulting in blood shed.
Grandhiji's action after Chauri Chaura where he relentlessly pursued to maintain the man consciousness of non-violence against violence of British. Corroborate above thesis.

Moreover, people and by extension the masses should also resist the efforts of individuals to change their consciousness. This is because leaders sometimes out of their selfish motive try to polarise the masses. Imagine if the Germans had not let Hitler change their consciousness, would the Second

World war which led to more than 50 million deaths occur!

Thus from above, it is evident that when individuals who are attempting to change mass consciousness act responsibly, only than alterations are justified and even promoted. However, in current time it seems that reverse is happening.

Individuals are acting irresponsibly but still their acts of change are being justified, accepted and even promoted. Recent killings in Manipur, rising hate crimes and Xenophobia in France and Sweden or the radical call for Jihad have one common denominator. That is change in mass consciousness fueled

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by individuals who are looking for personal interest.

How do we counter this? Well the answer agains lies where the question begins - individual responsibility. That is individuals must be imparted with value based education based on maxim of Kantian Human dignity and values of rationality, scientific temper. Only than would they be able to achtere Gandhiji ideacy - "Be the change you want to see in world"

Furthermore, principles of democracy which creates an ideal speech situation must be promoted. This would ensure that individuals would not be able to create what Alexis de Tocqueville

described as tyranny of masses by
diabolically manipulating the masses.

To sum up, individuals having
ability and novel thought who are
grounded in morality have responsibility
to show a better path to the masses
just like Swami Vivekananda. However,
this path must also be carefully
scrutinised by the masses to ensure
that their consciousness passes the
test of Universal Humanism.

only when combination of
above meet a common virtue point,
would humanity be able to create society
where mind is without fear, head held high
where words appear from depth of truth
where reason has not lost way

let my country awake — Tagore

8

Men have become the tools of their tools

The fictional movie "Terminator" is widely acclaimed not only for its artistic brilliance but because of the ~~big~~ dystopian future it presents. In the movie, an Artificial Intelligence named Skynet was created to ease the living of humans by acting as tools. However, the tools quickly learned from their master - Humans the art of war and ultimately relegated humans as tools for their repair.

The movie which was released 2 decades back finds conurance in today's reality. We today have also created Artificial intelligence called ChatGpt with an intention to

automate mundane task like language translation, coding etc.

However ~~not~~ ^{Chatgpt} like Skynet has quickly learned from the data fed by Human algorithms to outpace humanity itself. It has not only learnt the art of writing, computing, playing chess but is on the path of creating new cultures and languages which could make humans prisoners of new reality. Jamie Bartlett in his book People vs tech goes on to say that Chatgpt may well be the beginning of Skynet.

From above analysis, it is evident that technology tool made by humans has a possible to turn humans into tools. But why is this the scenario? Before answering this

Let us first understand the meaning of tools and why humans created them.

Tools: Force Multiplier

Will Durant in his book Story of Civilization attempts to answer age old question - Why humanity dominates Earth? The answer according to him lies in Human ingenuity to create useful tools.

These tools are however, not restricted to the physical world like the case with orangutan who uses sticks to eat ants. Rather, humans have the unique ability to create physical as well as metaphysical tools.
If humanity had capacity to create

tools like hand axes, it also had the imagination to use ideologies, paintings, books as tools for communicating. Successive generation the accumulated information. Thus tools were conduits of information.

In its long history of more than 2.5 million years, humanity has always been in control of using the tools. During agricultural revolution, human controlled the tool of ploughs. In the scientific revolution, humans controlled the tool of discourses while in Industrial revolution it controlled tool of energy using steam engines.

However, post 4th industrial revolution, it is becoming

interestingly common to see men become tools of tools. Let us explore this at various levels.

~~At the individual level~~

Tools Controlling the narrative

At the individual level, tools can be thought of to be ideology which help individuals make sense of reality. However, today it seems that ideology is manufacturing reality thus making humans passive recipient to it. For instance, ideological tools of liberalism, Marxism are not being used by humans, rather these ideology are polarising humans into warring factions like the case in USA elections.

At the organisational level, tools can be interpreted to

to be rules, regulations and system.
Max Weber gave concept of rule
based bureaucracy which acted as
tool for running organisation. However
today, it seems that rules in bureaucracy
have become end in itself - that is
adherence to rules are more important
than running organisation. The bureaucratic
inertia, apathy in India highlight above

At national level, tools
can be interpreted as important
statistics like GDP. These tools
help state to achieve welfare of
its citizens. However today, tools
like GDP have become the sole
criteria for development, thus
subordinating men's welfare to the
tool of GDP. Growth in GDP, however

unequal it may be is sign of development.

What is the reason for such predicament. Why have tools that were intentioned to be a means for human development become an end in itself? Let us examine the reasons.

Tools : Shaping Human Reality

Firstly, reason could be the informational asymmetry between tools and humans. Michel Foucault, held that Knowledge is Power. These tools have the knowledge via data accumulation, thus hold power over us. For instance, take use of Smartwatch. Although it was considered an vital input in healthy lifestyle, smartwatches today shape lifestyle. What we eat, how

much we sleep, how much we exercise is all controlled under the diktats of knowledge presented by smartwatch.

Secondly, Olivia Henderson in her book Social detox highlight Confirmatory bias as reason for men becoming tools to their tools. Let me illustrate ^{above} via example.

Social media was envisaged as tool for interpersonal relation between humans. However today, social media controls us through Cancel Culture - our likings are shaped by what likes, hashtags and comments teaches us. Social media through targetted ads, repeatedly exposing us to similar information reinforces our relation choices to the whims of our tool.

The independent agency of thinking has been replaced by algorithms.

Thirdly, humans have become so comfortable in their relation with their tools, that they have forgotten a life without it. In a recent study conducted by MIT among 12 year olds, it found that 85% of children cannot live without their phones for more than one day. This highlights how tools have colonised our minds.

From above analysis it is evident that how men have become tools to their tools. But is this an iron law? Fortunately NO, as there are exceptions.

Individuals having critical

rationality with a bend towards
Spiritualism have been able to escape
the charm of tools. For instance, the
growing affinity towards Yoga,
Vipassna, meditation point to above.
In 2023 yoga day celebration, more
than 1 crore people all over world
practised yoga by setting aside
their tools.

Furthermore, tools have also
been properly regulated so that
they only act as force multipliers and
not an end. The digitisation process
of India where tools such as e-governance
are tempered with human touch through
face to face portals like PARAGATI
highlight how tools should be used -
in tandem with Human Resource.

However, these are exceptions and the general trend is tools overpowering humans. The growing affinity for money - tool for exchange, nuclear weapons - tool for deterrence or natural resources like gold highlight how tools are dominating us.

To come out of this problem, various solution can be adopted. One could be adopting Socrates maxim of "Unexamined life not worth living". That is before using tools, careful critical introspection should be done to judge the necessity and utility of tool.

This should be complemented by regulations from the state that creates conditions which allow humans to self-regulate. For example EU GDPR laws restrict the use of data

as a tool by companies for microtargetting
thus avoiding a repeat of Cambridge
Analytica political scandal in USA.

Thus, in nutshell, humanity today
is beset with challenges that our
tools have put in front of us. They
have snatched away social capital
and human individuality itself. In this
scenario it becomes more pertinent
to follow above guidelines which could
help us avert a disaster like that
of Skynet in Terminator.

only when our tools are
considered as just one determinant in
our multi-dimensional lifestyle, we
could regulate their use and ensure
that humanity remains the sole creator,
user and beneficiary of tools.

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

Changing mass consciousness is an individual responsibility.

Swami Vivekanda - 1893 - Chicago religion man consciousness - white man superiority individual → responsibility → changed it through his universalism, neovedantic

man consciousness - Juval Noah Harari → individuals
↳ stories

↳ Prisoners of their culture and stories

↳ individual cause → alter the status quo and

↳ give alternative ideas to change reality

↳ Knowledge is power

↳ with great power comes great responsibility

Politically → change it through consensus generation
political ideas → knowledge
↳ Abraham Lincoln → slavery

Socially → busting the regressive social norms
↳ knowledge → rationality
↳ RRM, Narendra Dabholkar

Economically → Adam Smith (models and analogies)

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SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

Ecologically → love and companion, one health
→ Sunderdal Bahuguna.

~~Science~~
~~Psychology~~ → Intersubject Consciousness → ~~Psychology~~ → ~~sigmund freud~~
George Orwell → authoritarianism

Not only individual

changing → dictators

Collective Responsibility

Constitution → National Humanism
Books → ~~India~~ by (IA) Indian of stand
Movies → ~~India~~ in Russia-Ukraine

Positives

double edged sword

Negative

Collective responsibility

Constitution ✓

Movies → ~~India~~

negatives (Parent ill)

→ ~~sigmund freud~~

→ George Orwell

highlight the ill
Changing is not necessary → consciousness toward science
Perverted

George Orwell → authoritarianism.

Patriarchy → Sigmund Freud ✓

ethics → ~~Universal~~ Radical Humanism MN Roy

Democracy → ideal speech situation

Conclude → Tagore poem

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

tools

ChatGPT

G

History → tool

~~ChatGPT~~ → new tech.

~~Ideology~~ → ~~political~~ → individual (Max Weber)

~~organisation~~ → ~~data~~ → how it bureaucratic apathy

Social media → one dimensional man

Religion →

GDP → GDP.

~~nation-states~~

discomfort in new thinking → we are too prone to comfort → smartwatch

Reasons

feed → for the tools (artificial intelligence) → ChatGPT algorithms.

Confirmatory bias → Social detox

tools of marketing → Dan Ariely

no we have not

data → Aspirational districts → Covid → Aspirational dish

tools → for convenience

Society
Sports

Terminator movie

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

Exceptions → general trend how do we connect

Critical Rationality → ~~Stannah An~~ Socrates

Regulation of access to internet → China
for specially children
↓
3 hrs per

intuition → trust in humanity

Nadhyas Mary

Regulation

Anecdote

Terminator movie