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SUBJECT:	ESSAY	Test Code:	1	7	5	4

Name of Candidate	THARUN PATNAIK MADALA							
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	9	9	6	3	0	6
Center	ORN	Date	1	7	1	2	2	1

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks :

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 that 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।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

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6.

All the Best

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SECTION-A

(2) In the face of Adversity, we have a choice: we can be bitter, or we can be better:

Last winter, Texas was hit by an intense cold wave. There were severe snow storms and the power lines, water lines and other essentials were down. The entire administration and relief effort was frozen. In this grave situation, Senator of the state chose to fly out with his family while his collegues and political opponents were helping people on the ground. This situation shows how the senator Ted Cruz chose to be selfish due to impending adversity while his collegues fought on the ground to make life better.

The current essays, initially, attempts at defining and understanding adversity. Later, the incidence of 'choice' and ways of 'bitter' and 'better' are explored. Later, we explore how we can make better or bitter choices across various dimensions and then see how we can choose 'better' path. Then, the essay proceeds to a logical conclusion.

Left, Right & Centre of Adversity :

Adversity is a circumstance of any impending huge problem or catastrophe. Adversity makes situations antagonist and contrary to one's plans thus inflicting potential damage upon the future prospects.

Adversity can be faced ~~a~~ by

any individual or any company or government or institution or any other entity. For example, for an individual, lack of income or poverty or losing loved ones might be adversities. For a company, financial crisis, misgovernance might be adversities. For a government, political and economic instabilities might be adversities. For an administration, an impending natural disaster might be an adversity.

Adversity throw up novel challenges to the entity in question. It tests and reveals the inner and real character of the entity. Adversity poses questions to the conduct of an individual or entity.

How we answer these questions posed by adversity are the choices we make. The essence of these answers is what makes the choice 'bitter' or 'better'.

If we choose to face the adversity with moral uprightness, courage, right intent and with sound ethical & moral principles, we will make a 'better' choice. It shows our true character and potrays how meticulous we behave in the face of daunting catastrophe.

If we choose to turn our back to adversity and prefer 'safer' but unethical choices purely based on greed, selfishness and materialistic gains, then our choice turns 'bitter'. It potrays our non-adherence to ethical principles and betrayal of our own moral values and conscience.

How are choices better or bitter?

Having seen what makes a choice 'better' or 'bitter', let us see how these manifest across various dimensions:

Politically, adversities come in the form of political instabilities. These pose question to the clerk of the course to take decisions. India and Pakistan were both reeling under political adversities at independence.

India chose to put people in the front and built a robust democracy making a 'better choice'. Pakistan fell victim to power hunger of leaders and their 'bitter' choice led to many military coups in its history.

Economically, adversities arise in the form of crises and financial crunches. When Kingfisher was facing adversity in the form of loan defaults, its owner Vijay Mallya put himself before company and fled the country making a 'bitter' choice. Had he made a 'better' choice and stayed in India wading the company through harsh waters, he might have resurrected the company.

Socially, India & China have faced and has been facing problems of population explosion. Many of the previous Chinese governments have taken 'bitter choices' of coercive population measures like 'One Child policy'. This resulted in gender imbalance of society. India made 'better' choice of focussing on development and human capital. It has now brought fertility rate under control as per NHFS-5 survey.

Technologically, adversities come in the form of disasters and misuse of technology. During the Chernobyl disaster, the Soviet government chose to cover it up making the 'bitter' choice. This caused widespread radiation diseases in the population. As opposed to this, during Fukushima-

Daiichi disaster, Japan government prioritised its people, came up transparent. It closed its nuclear reactors for benefit of people thus making 'better' choice.

Environmentally, adversity is coming up in the form of climate change and ecological crisis. Humans have so far made 'bitter' choices by being anthropocentric. However, it is essential to make 'better' choice by prioritizing ecology and environment. Let us see how we can make 'better' choices in face of adversities.

How to make 'better' choices

Making better choices requires ethical competence and critical thinking. The foremost requirement is the individual or the entity has to look at the adversity with a calm mind. This gives us time to perceive and understand the information available.

The next step would be to apply this information to our moral values and conscience. These tools help us to filter out unethical or 'bitter' choices. Tools like Gandhi's Talisman, Kantian theory will help in guiding us to 'better' choices.

Later, what we perceived to be 'better' choice must be executed to fight the adversity. Post that, the general opinion of people regarding that choice must be taken to further improve our ethical competence and widen our moral spectrum. This will help us in taking much 'better' choices in case of future adversities.

The Road Ahead

Adversities are no stranger to humans. However, the rise of materialistic tendencies has led to many people choosing 'bitter' choices. This indicates a fall of ethical plane in humans. This points out to the need to develop ethical competency in individuals right from childhood.

There is a need to introduce ethical education and moral-based curriculum right from childhood. Everyone needs to be made aware of the ill effects of 'bitter' decisions and how to avoid them.

There is also a need to realise that just making a 'better' choice isn't enough. We need to build back better to avoid adversities in future. That being said, it should also be noted that adversities are not bad things. They form an avenue for us to learn. Just like spring comes after autumn, adversity provides avenues to improve and better ourselves.

As smoother seas never made skilled sailors, ~~adversities also~~ lack of adversities also makes humans uninventive. Hence, it is essential to learn how to make 'better' choices during adversities. This will further the development of our civilization and is good for human survival. Adversity is asking us questions, the answers will determine our future.

'When the going gets tough,
the tough get going'

SECTION -B

(8) Is Cryptocurrency the beginning of Something great?

Four months ago, a small South American country announced that it would make 'Bitcoin', a cryptocurrency, a legal tender within its jurisdiction. Immediately after the announcement, the world started buzzing with opinions, speculations and predictions on cryptocurrency. Supporters of cryptocurrency saw this move as start of a great crypto-revolution while the old school economists exercised caution. Nevertheless, it was a step up for cryptocurrency. This event shows how countries of the world started to accept cryptocurrency as a reality, it is not an on-paper phenomenon anymore. The same reality brings out the question whether cryptocurrency is really the start of something great.

This essay precisely tries to answer this question. Initially, we explore what cryptocurrency is and how it is different from conventional currencies. Later, the potential advantages and disadvantages are explored. Later, an attempt to outweigh pros and cons is done leading to a logical conclusion.

A, B, Cs of cryptocurrency:

Crudely put, cryptocurrency is a digital currency that uses blockchain technology. One cannot understand cryptocurrency without getting a hang of blockchain technology.

Blockchain technology is a public, digital ledger. Entries into this ledger are confirmed by solving complex mathematical problems using advanced computing machines. These confirmations are done by users worldwide who can be anyone with a computing machine. This technology is used by cryptocurrency.

Cryptocurrency has its transactions entered into the 'ledger' of blockchain. The people who ~~enter~~ confirm the transactions using computers are rewarded with some amount of that cryptocurrency. They are called 'miners' for this reason.

Let us simplify this by an example. Take 'Bitcoin' for example, suppose person 'A' is holding 2 bitcoins and transfers it to person 'B'. Some other person 'C', who is a miner, confirms the transaction and gets, say, 0.5 bitcoin for the same. In this whole scenario, one might ask who controls the entire process. The answer is exactly why cryptocurrency is different.

Cryptocurrency is controlled by no one. It is deregulated and decentralised. No one person or group of persons can control it. Hence it is immune to policies and instabilities of government. It cannot be manipulated and grants the holder freedom from consistencies and inconsistencies of monetary policy.

Charms of cryptocurrency

Cryptocurrency is not owned by any one user or group or company. No one can shut this system or introduce changes. Thus, the holders of this can make smooth, seamless and free transactions as long as receiver is okay with receiving cryptocurrency. This eliminates the economic barriers that are present in the current conventional currency exchange.

With the rise of globalisation, there is an increasing interconnection of markets. This interconnection ~~needs~~ needs smooth currencies to efficiently integrate the markets. Till the turn of century, US Dollar ($) used to satisfy this job. Lately, investors are losing confidence in US markets. There seems to be emerging a currency vacuum in world markets.

Cryptocurrency aims to exactly fill this currency vacuum. Market integration may be made complete by instantaneous crypto transactions. One doesn't have to fret about currency convertibility or acceptance of a country's currency.

Cryptocurrency will serves as a bridge between exporters, importers and service providers and bring them on a common platform.

Cryptocurrency is free from government policies. One can freely hold these currencies without worrying about Fed's Quantitative Easing or RBI's monetary decisions. This increases investor's confidence and insulates the market from cascading effect of economy.

Cryptocurrency is a digital asset. It's transactions are entered in an online, public ledger. Hence, there is no chance for fraud or manipulation. The transactions are safe

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and one can't lose bitcoins or any cryptocurrency by merely being a victim of financial fraud. They can't be stolen out of your 'digital pocket' unless you voluntarily transfer them to another person. Having seen the advantages, we now look at the caveats with which cryptocurrency comes.

Not everything is sunshine and rainbows :

Everthing comes with a cost, so does cryptocurrency. Here, there is a huge cost on environment. The computing machines that confirm transactions require huge, huge power to work. With their proliferation, cryptocurrency imposes huge carbon cost to enviroment especially when the world is reeling under climate change.

How utopian it may seem, any unregulated entity has huge potential to fall into bad hands. Cryptocurrencies can be used by non-state actors to sponsor terrorism and organised crime. They are anonymous transactions, hence, can't be traced by governments or intelligence agencies.

The current stage of awareness on cryptocurrencies is low making it vulnerable to speculations thus inducing a lot of volatility. Sometimes, the value of these cryptocurrencies vary by 40-50% in a single day. A single tweet by Elon Musk, founder of Tesla made the value of Bitcoin slide by 15% within seconds.

Smaller cryptocurrencies might be vulnerable to attacks like 51% attack though the possibility is very minimal and absolutely very less probable.

Double edged sword

Cryptocurrencies promote economic integration and provide true freedom to markets alleviating any economic barriers. It promotes and provides seamless, instantaneous and charge-free international, pan-global transactions. It has the potential to revolutionize the entire financial system of the world.

At the same time cryptocurrency carries an inherent risk. They are untraceable, anonymous transactions which can easily be used for illegal, transnational crimes.

What the future has in store:

The time has come for world nations to accept cryptocurrency as a part of reality though the status of legal tender globally is very far away. Cryptocurrency is a global phenomenon and hence local regulations, bans, restrictions will have minimal effect. To put cryptocurrency to good use, there is a need for international regulation and consensus. There are also apprehensions of 'crypto winter' where the prices of cryptocurrencies would plummet. It is difficult to move away from conventional currencies but it is what seems to be in store for the future.

No man can stop an invention whose time has come. Cryptocurrency is definitely a part of our future. Whether it turns into something great depends on the international dynamics and regulations. Since we cannot stop crypto-revolution, let us work towards putting ~~into~~ it into good use for the future.

ROUGH

10:40

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Is cryptocurrency beginning of something great?

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Crypto winter
Blockchain
Bitcoin
Dogecoin
Shiba
Elon Musk
Manipulation
51% attack
Environment.

40 24

① Environ
② Non state custom
③ Volatility Eg Elon Musk
④ 50% others
⑤ Anonymous
⑥ Cross jurisdiction
Ecuador
Tesla
⑤ Black money
⑥ Tax evasion
① decentralised
② globalisation
① no transaction fee
③ Free from mgt/politics
④ Global public ledger no stealing & hide

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ROUGH

In the face of adversity, we have a choice:
we can be bitter, or we can be better.

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Gravious defect

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3 What is adversity (2)
4 Do we have a choice
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Adversity
Escalation
education
instability
bitter

Political → South Korea (Pakistan) vs India (Myanmar)
5 Economic → SATYAM-MAYTAS | Vijay Mallya
6 1991 crisis
7 Social → population explosion
8 Sports → 2007 WC
Technology → Chernobyl, Fukushima
Legal
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9 10
(8) 1991

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