

JK LAKSHMIPAT UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR

Institute of Management

End Term Examination October 2019

MBA Term -IV

Roll No.....

Perspectives on Contemporary Issues

Time: 2 hours

Max. Marks: 40

(SECTION 1)

Across the globe, millions join biggest climate protest ever

Young and old alike took to the streets in an estimated 185 countries to demand action

Millions of people demonstrated across the world yesterday demanding urgent action to tackle global heating, as they united across time zones and cultures to take part in the biggest climate protest in history.

In an explosion of the youth movement started by the Swedish school striker Greta Thunberg just over 12 months ago, people protested from the Pacific islands, through Australia, across-south east Asia and Africa into Europe and onwards to the Americas.

Q1- Do you think that global warming is most likely to be reduced by global, local or individual action? 8marks

In your answer you should:

- Give reasons for your opinion;
- Give relevant examples to support your opinion (you may use your own experience);

(SECTION 2)

Q2- There are two questions in section 2. Answer question A or B. 8 marks

Climate change is no longer a distant threat. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, the annual mean temperature in the country has increased by 0.6 degrees Celsius between 1901 and 2018, when compared to pre-industrial levels. Eleven of the 15 warmest years have so far all been within the last 15 years with 2018 being the sixth warmest year in India's recorded history.

The extent and degree of warming are going to get more severe. As carbon emissions continue and those which are built into the climate system take effect, temperatures across the world are expected to increase between 3-5 degree Celsius by 2100. India is among the countries which are likely to bear the worst of a warming planet due to its tropical location and relatively lower levels of income.

Agriculture and food production are likely to be significantly affected by climate change. According to one estimate, yields of major crops could decline by up to 25%. A recent IPCC report also warned that in the years to come, food security will stand threatened due to climate change coupled with increasing demands of the rising population.

The global population is expected to increase from 7.7 billion in 2019 to 8.5 billion by 2030 and 9.7 billion by 2050. According to the United Nation's World Population Prospects (June 2019), the Indian population is projected to increase from 1.36 billion in 2019 to 1.5 billion by 2030 and 1.64 billion by 2050.

Providing food and nutritional security to an entire population needs some serious planning and effective implementation. And we need to start now.

A. Are GMO's the key to global food security?

- Give reasons for your opinion;
- Give relevant examples to support your opinion (you may use your own experience);
- Show that you have considered different perspectives.

-----OR-----

Elon Musk usually isn't one for advocating regulation and oversight.

But when it comes to AI, he doesn't mince words. AI is humanity's "biggest existential threat," he once proclaimed to some controversy. While that statement may be overblown, the fears aren't: AI will be the next technological force that transforms the face of society—for better or worse—much as the industrial revolution once did.

B. A.I. brings impressive applications, with remarkable benefits for all of us; but there are notable unanswered questions with social, political or ethical facets.

Is Artificial Intelligence a Threat to Humanity?

- Give reasons for your opinion;
- Give relevant examples to support your opinion (you may use your own experience);
- Show that you have considered different perspectives.

(SECTION 3)

-----10 marks-----

Day Zero is looming for Cape Town. According to the latest estimates 16 April is when the city's water supply will be turned off until the rains arrive, leaving residents to line up for water rations at one of 200 points across the city.

The scramble for water is already raising tensions among residents. Freshwater springs now require 24-hour policing as congestion builds in surrounding streets and there have been sporadic reports of fights break out in the lengthy queues.

How did one of the wealthiest cities in Africa find itself in this position? –Guardian Newspaper

According to research unveiled last week, mega-droughts may no longer be history. On Thursday, a team of climate scientists argued that the American West may currently be experiencing its first mega-drought in more than 500 years. A record-breaking period of aridity set in around the year 2000 and continues to this day, they said. –The Atlantic Newspaper

The study, which comes from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), says that the effects of climate change will be combined with an ever-increasing number of people to trigger intense competition for increasingly scarce resources. This can lead to regional instability and social unrest.

Study showing disturbing picture of a nearby future where people are fighting over access to water. These post-apocalyptic-sounding "water wars" could rise as a result of climate change and population growth and could become real soon enough if we don't take steps to prevent them.

Q3- Do you think next world war will be fought over water?

How can it be averted?

- Give reasons for your opinion
- Give relevant examples to support your opinion (you may use your own experience)
- State your conclusion

(SECTION 4)

SOURCE 1

People are attracted to living in cities. Images of skyscrapers and exciting new environments are attractive to people seeking new lives. Hoping to find work and employment, families look for better housing and living conditions. The city promises new opportunities for education and entertainment. As more and more people move to cities there are many challenges for authorities and governments. Rapid growth of cities often creates problems for people. Life is more expensive in cities. Many people arrive in cities before resources and facilities are available. This causes many problems and creates slum areas and shanty towns.

Some of the problems in slum areas and shanty towns

- Lack of housing
- Poor sanitation
- Unclean water
- Few jobs
- Poverty
- Not enough schools
- Pollution from cars
- Crime & Political unrest

SOURCE 2

I love living in the city – there is so much to do! There is culture, nightlife, meeting friends, eating in restaurants and an exciting atmosphere. There is always something new! Cities provide more opportunities for leisure and entertainment than small villages. But cities are growing too fast. Too many people are coming to my city and too quickly – thousands every day! They come mainly from rural areas; but there is nowhere for them to live. So they build a shack in a slum area or shanty town. Many cannot find a job because of the world financial crisis. So they cost the government lots of money and they do not pay taxes to provide services like schools and hospitals. Getting to work is very difficult – so much traffic and air pollution. We should only let people move here when the city is ready. Adapted from a blog about living in a city posted in 2002.

SOURCE 3

The Future of Cities – Two Perspectives from a TV Documentary

A)

Cities are the future! Since 2008, for the first time in history, more people now live in cities than in rural areas. Fifty years ago it was 30%. A century ago it was 10%. The global urban population is now 3.5 billion. The urban population is expected to grow to 5 billion by 2030. In 1800, Beijing was the only city with a population of one million or greater. By 1900, 16 cities had reached this figure. By 2000, it was 378 cities. By 2025, there will be about 600 cities of one million or more worldwide. The trend of urban growth will continue. It cannot be stopped.

B)

I am not so sure. More and more people are becoming unhappy about living in cities. Many people are moving out of the cities back into rural areas. They do not like the way of life in cities – too big, too fast and too much change. People think a simpler lifestyle is better. They want more attractive places to live and some land. Families believe a safe environment for their children and a sense of community is important. New technology makes this possible. You can work from home using the internet. You can have meetings across the whole world through video links. My father now works for himself as a consultant engineer for many different people – he does not need to travel to work in a city anymore!

Q.4 Answer the following questions

1. Discuss why the rapid growth of cities is an important national issue. (5 marks)
2. **Study Source 2.** (3 marks)
 - 2.1 'Cities are growing too fast.' How well does the writer support this statement? You should consider the strengths and weaknesses of the Source material.
3. The government is considering four ways to improve the lives of people in cities:
 - Reducing air pollution
 - Providing clean water and sanitation in slum areas and shanty towns
 - Developing more parks and spaces for leisure
 - Creating more jobs for unskilled people

How will these measures by the government will improve the lives of people in cities?

In your answer you should: (6 marks)

- 3.1 Give reasons for your opinion;
- 3.2 Use the material in the sources and your own experience and evidence;
- 3.3 Show that you have considered different perspectives.