

Dear student

In view of the prevailing lockdown, we are inviting you to keep in touch with your studies. In this regard we are posting you – on a weekly basis - specific tasks that you have to work out without fail. Worked solutions for Paper 2 and exercises on grammar will be made available one week after the tasks are set. Make the most of your precious time.

Thanks.

Lower

General Paper 1

Time: 1 hr 30 mins

1. Discuss ways and means to avoid a corrupt political system.
2. Do you agree that today, transportation is environment's worst enemy?
3. How can being multi-skilled help in the world of work today?
4. 'An exam-free education system is the best education system.' How far do you agree?
5. Discuss some reasons for the decrease in tourist arrivals in your country.
6. 'It is a waste of time to renovate museums and theatres.' Do you agree?
7. How far do you agree that Mauritius is not prepared enough to face natural disasters?
8. What, according to you, are the steps that your country should take to become a high income nation?
9. How can the NGOs and the government collaborate actively towards sustainable development in your country?
10. 'Sports science should be included in professional sports to prevent athletes from burning out.' Discuss.

Material for Section A

All human development and human rights issues have gender dimensions. UN Women focuses on priority areas that are fundamental to women's equality, and that can unlock progress across the board. Below is a list of random facts about violence against women around the world.

Facts and figures: Violence against women

- It is estimated that 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner (not including sexual harassment) at some point in their lives. However, some studies show that up to 70 percent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime. Evidence shows that women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence report higher rates of depression, having an abortion and acquiring HIV, compared to women who have not.
- Similar to data from other regions, in all four countries of a multi-country study from the Middle East and North Africa, men who witnessed their fathers using violence against their mothers, and men who experienced some form of violence at home as children, were significantly more likely to report perpetrating intimate partner violence in their adult relationships. For example, in Lebanon, the likelihood of perpetrating physical violence was more than three times higher among men who had witnessed their fathers beating their mothers during childhood than those who did not.
- It is estimated that of the 87,000 women who were intentionally killed in 2017 globally, more than half (50,000- 58 percent) were killed by intimate partners or family members, meaning that 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day. More than a third (30,000) of the women intentionally killed in 2017 were killed by their current or former intimate partner.

- Adult women account for nearly half (49 percent) of all human trafficking victims detected globally. Women and girls together account for 72 percent, with girls representing more than three out of every four child trafficking victims. More than four out of every five trafficked women and nearly three out of every four trafficked girls are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. All trafficked girls are for sexual exploitation.
- It is estimated that there are 650 million women and girls in the world today who were married before age 18. During the past decade, the global rate of child marriage has declined. South Asia had the largest decline during this time, from 49 percent to 30 percent. Still, 12 million girls under 18 are married each year and in sub-Saharan Africa—where this harmful practice is most common—almost four out of 10 young women were married before their 18th birthday. Child marriage often results in early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupts schooling, limits the girl's opportunities and increases her risk of experiencing domestic violence. Cohabitation is on the rise leading to the same problems among teenage girls.
- At least 200 million women and girls aged 15-49 have undergone female genital mutilation in the 30 countries with representative data on prevalence. In most of these countries, the majority of girls were cut before age five. More than 20 million women and girls in just seven countries (Egypt, Sudan, Guinea, Djibouti, Kenya, Yemen and Nigeria) have undergone female genital mutilation by a health care provider. With population movement, female genital mutilation is becoming a practice with global dimensions, in particular among migrant and refugee women and girls.
- Approximately 15 million adolescent girls (aged 15 to 19) worldwide have experienced forced sex (forced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts) at some point in their life. In the vast majority of countries, adolescent girls are most at risk of forced sex by a current/former husband, partner or boyfriend. Based on data from 30 countries, only one percent ever sought professional help.
- Globally, one out of three students (aged 11 and 13 to 15 years) have been bullied by their peers at school at least one day in the past month, with girls and boys equally likely to experience bullying. However, boys are more likely to experience physical bullying than girls,

and girls are more likely to experience psychological bullying, particularly being ignored or left out or subject to nasty rumours. Girls also report being made fun of because of how their face or body looks more frequently than boys. School-related gender-based violence which is ingrained in many boys' mentality is a major obstacle to universal schooling and the right to education for girls. Some schools are encouraging positive discrimination with the hope that in the long run gender-based violence in schools will be solved.

Section A

Read the material for Section A and then answer the questions below.

1. Explain briefly why 'women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence' are more depressed.

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..... (2)

2. 'The likelihood of perpetrating physical violence was more than three times higher among men who had witnessed their fathers beating their mothers during childhood than those who did not.' What, in your opinion, may account for this state of affairs?

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.....(3)

3. Suggest two possible reasons why a former intimate partner might want to intentionally kill an ex companion?

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4. Identify four points made in the list of random facts and show how they could be challenged by materials found elsewhere in Section A. You may use continuous prose or bullet points.

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Challenge

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5. Summarise what main problem is each of those random facts stating. Answer in about 100 words using continuous prose.

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Materials for Section B

There are lots of reasons why colonizing space seems compelling. The popular astronomer Neil deGrasse Tyson argues that it would stimulate the economy and inspire the next generation of scientists. Elon Musk, who founded SpaceX, argues that “there is a strong humanitarian argument for making life multi-planetary...to safeguard the existence of humanity in the event that something catastrophic were to happen.” The former administrator of NASA, Michael Griffin, frames it as a matter of the “survival of the species.” And the late astrophysicist Stephen Hawking has conjectured that if humanity fails to colonize space within 100 years, we could face extinction.

To be sure, humanity will eventually need to escape Earth to survive, since the sun will make the planet uninhabitable in about 1 billion years. But for many “space expansionists,” escaping Earth is about much more than dodging the bullet of extinction: it’s about realizing astronomical amounts of value by exploiting the universe’s vast resources to create something resembling utopia. For example, the astrobiologist Milan Cirkovic calculates that some 10 people per century could come into existence if we were to colonize our Local Supercluster, Virgo. This leads Nick Bostrom to argue that failing to colonize space would be tragic because it would mean that these potential “worthwhile lives” would never exist, and this would be morally bad. But would these trillions of lives actually be worthwhile? Or would colonization of space lead to a dystopia?

In a recent article in *Futures*, which was inspired by political scientist Daniel Deudney’s forthcoming book *Dark Skies*, it was decided to take a closer look at this question. The conclusion is that in a colonized universe the probability of the annihilation of the human race could actually rise rather than fall.

The argument is based on ideas from evolutionary biology and international relations theory, and it assumes that there aren’t any other technologically advanced lifeforms capable of colonizing the universe (as a recent study suggests is the case).

Consider what is likely to happen as humanity hops from Earth to Mars, and from Mars to relatively nearby, potentially habitable exoplanets like Epsilon Eridani b, Gliese 674 b, and Gliese 581 d. Each of these planets has its own unique environments that will drive Darwinian evolution, resulting in the emergence of novel species over time, just as species that migrate to a new island will evolve different traits than their parent species. The same applies to the artificial environments of spacecraft like “O’Neill Cylinders,” which are large cylindrical structures that rotate to produce artificial gravity. Insofar as future beings satisfy the basic conditions of evolution by natural

selection—such as differential reproduction, heritability, and variation of traits across the population—then evolutionary pressures will yield new forms of life.

But the process of “cyborgization”—that is, of using technology to modify and enhance our bodies and brains—is much more likely to influence the evolutionary trajectories of future populations living on exoplanets or in spacecraft. The result could be beings with completely novel cognitive architectures, emotional repertoires, physical capabilities, lifespans, and so on.

In other words, natural selection and cyborgization as humanity spreads throughout the cosmos will result in *species* diversification. At the same time, expanding across space will also result in *ideological* diversification. Space-hopping populations will create their own cultures, languages, governments, political institutions, religions, technologies, rituals, norms, worldviews, and so on. As a result, different species will find it increasingly difficult over time to understand each other’s motivations, intentions, behaviours, decisions, and so on. It could even make communication between species with alien languages almost impossible. Furthermore, some species might begin to wonder whether the proverbial “Other” is conscious. This matters because if a species Y cannot consciously experience pain, then another species X might not feel morally obligated to care about Y. After all, we don’t worry about kicking stones down the street because we don’t believe that rocks can feel pain. Thus, phylogenetic and ideological diversification will engender a situation in which many species will be “not merely aliens to each other but, more significantly, alienated from each other.”

But this yields some problems. First, extreme differences like those just listed will undercut trust between species. If you don’t trust that your neighbour isn’t going to steal from, harm, or kill you, then you’re going to be suspicious of your neighbour. And if you’re suspicious of your neighbour, you might want an effective defence strategy to stop an attack—just in case one were to happen. But your neighbour might reason the same way: she’s not entirely sure that you won’t kill her, so she establishes a defence as well. The problem is that, since you don’t fully trust her, you wonder whether her defence is actually part of an attack plan. So you start carrying a knife around with you, which she interprets as a threat to her, thus leading her to buy a gun, and so on. Within the field of international relations, this is called the “security dilemma,” and it results in a spiral of militarization that can significantly increase the probability of conflict, even in cases where all actors have genuinely peaceful intentions.

(Source: <http://nautil.us/blog/-why-we-should-think-twice-about-colonizing-space>)

Section B

Read the material for Section B, and then answer the questions below.

6 (a). From the material, identify the phrase that means the following:

(i). Space colonisation is a fascinating idea (Paragraph 1)

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(ii). Colonising space makes some people think of injustice in an imagined society (Paragraph 2)

.....(1)

(iii). Cerebral (Paragraph 6)

.....(1)

(b). Explain the meaning of the two following phrases as they are used in the passage. You may write the answer in one word or a short phrase.

(i). annihilation

.....(1)

(ii). Ideological diversification

.....(1)

(iii). Use these phrases in two separate sentences to illustrate their meanings as used in the material. Your sentences should not use the subject matter of the passage.

(a).....
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(b).....
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7. What are the four reasons given in paragraph one for the colonisation of space. Answer in your own words as far as possible.

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8. Explain in your own words as far as possible and in as much detail as you can:

(i). the difference between Milan Cirkovic's and Nick Bostrom's arguments in paragraph 2

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(ii) the process of ideological diversification as stated in paragraph 7

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(iii). the point that is being forwarded in paragraph 8 and how it is related to the subject matter of the passage

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