## MANIPAL ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

#### FIRST SEMESTER B.TECH. EXAMINATIONS – FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

SUBJECT: HUM 1053: COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH AND HUMAN VALUES (DTQ)

Monday, February 21, 2022

Time: 10:30 am– 12:10 pm Maximum Marks: 40

#### PART - B

## 1. Answer any ONE of the following in 300-400 words:

- 1A. The ability to adapt will be the biggest skill required for human beings in the future, more than technical skills or knowledge of science. Substantiate your answer with reference to the texts you have discussed in class.
- 1B. Perceptions of beauty and disability differ in two widely different cultural contexts Asia and the West. Is one perception better than the other in your view? Substantiate your answer with reference to the texts you have discussed in class.

(10 marks)

## 2. Answer any <u>ONE</u> of the following in 300-400 words:

- 2A. It is important to inculcate a strong sense of ethics and principles among youth to create a successful future. Elaborate with the examples from the texts you have discussed in class.
- 2B. Has the world moved towards a more democratic and equitable society due to the technological revolutions? Elaborate your views with reference to the texts you discussed in class.

(10 marks)

# 3. Read the following passage and provide a response to the question in 200-250 words. Your response is required to show a critical understanding of the ideas presented in the passage.

The concept of individual privacy is often questioned and deliberated upon in the current technologically advanced and internet-reliant world. The use of the internet in everyday life is almost inescapable these days. From watching a movie to booking a cab, from exercising to enjoying a meal, from personal security to enjoying bedtime, the internet is in every activity and all of us log on to it, increasingly through mobile phones, which provide cheap and easy access.

Thanks to our 'smart' devices and complex algorithms, the choices presented to us for any of the above actions are already influenced and also recorded by our likes, searches, location, spending habits, and any other data we may have given. Any act of choice on the internet is being observed, if not influenced. There can be little doubt that we cannot enjoy complete privacy. The question is, how much privacy are we willing to give up? As technology grows, with each passing day, there is further intrusion into individual privacy.

Initially, we had cameras in public places for surveillance. So each time you stepped out of your house and into a public place, your privacy was compromised. This was justified as a trade-off for the larger good i.e., the safety of everyone in society outweighs the compromise of individual privacy.

While surveillance in public seemed reasonable, the same "larger good" logic is now being weaponised to monitor the data in our phones. Apple, sometime in 2018, discussed introducing a feature that could check the photos sent on iMessage on the phone of any user to prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. While child abuse should be prohibited and abusers should be punished, the fact that a private company could legally and willingly admit openly and proudly that they now have the technology to scan the photos in your phone is a scary thought.

Until now at least, we knew we were being watched. However, with the rampant presence of virtual assistant devices, our privacy becomes non-existent as soon as we buy/use them. For no conversation around such a device goes unrecorded goes unrecorded. In 2018, a court in New Hampshire, during a murder trial, ordered Amazon to produce audio recorded in its smart speaker. Though not stated explicitly, the underlying principle is that for the larger good -- the safety of society -- it is important that alleged criminals are tried, though the trial may require comprising what is being spoken within the boundaries of one's home.

The need for surveillance is always wrapped up in the language of the "larger good" argument and the demonisation of those who speak against it. For example, when opposing voices were raised against allowing Amazon to present the audio recordings made by its device in the murder trial, they were termed "opponents of a safe society" and "supporters of crime". While the demonisation of dissent is a pattern, it is important to ask ourselves, how much of a "larger good" is too good? Where do we draw the line for privacy when it keeps shifting away from us?

As of now, we really have no choice over sharing our data: refuse and you might not get any access to technology and you may also be labelled a misanthrope, an anarchist, a Luddite. Our acquiescence is assumed, and that is where the problem lies.

(Source: Deccan Herald, Tejas Kishore Motwani, Percy Barucha, JAN 12 2022)

#### **Question:**

Do you think technological advances erase the idea of 'individual privacy? Justify.

(10 marks)

- 4. Answer any ONE of the following essays in 500-600 words.
- 4A. The notion of creativity as redefined among today's youth.
- 4B. The classrooms of the future in India.

(10 marks)

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