National Officers Academy
Mock Exams CSS-2025
August 2024 (Mock-4)
ENGLISH (PRECIS AND COMPOSITION)

| TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS | PART-I (MCQS) | MAXIMUM MARKS = 20 |
| PART-I(MCQS): MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES | PART-II | MAXIMUM MARKS = 80 |

NOTE:
  i.   **Part-II** is to be attempted on the separate **Answer Book**.
  ii.   Attempt **ALL** questions from **PART-II**.
  iii. All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places.
  iv.   Write Q. No. in the Answer Book in accordance with Q. No. in the Q. Paper.

PART-II

Q. 2 Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title. (15+5=20)

Around four billion people have the opportunity to cast their votes in a series of major elections this year. However, the threat to democratic integrity posed by misinformation and disinformation looms large. An effective democracy relies on evidence-based discourse and informed citizens. Concern about the expected blizzard of election-related misinformation is warranted, given the capacity of false information to boost polarization and undermine trust in electoral processes.

Specifically, there is widespread worry about malign influence on voters, be it through conventional propaganda (including warmongering and xenophobic disinformation), unsubstantiated claims about candidates or AI-generated deepfakes (digitally altered visual media). Anti-democratic agents might also attack the electoral process directly, as was, for instance, seen in Spain in July last year, when malicious foreign actors set up an imitation of the Regional Government of Madrid's website just before an election to falsely claim that terrorists planned to attack polling stations.

Several mechanisms to protect the public against misinformation exist — from general educational interventions to specific attempts to counter misleading messages with evidence-based campaigns. But the deployment of these mechanisms requires the resolution of three issues by scholars and practitioners: recognition of the seriousness of the problem; acceptance that classifying information as false or misleading is often warranted; and an assurance that interventions against misinformation uphold democratic principles, including freedom of expression.

Misinformation: Threat to Democracy

An effective democracy is based on evidence based information and aware citizenry. However, disinformation and misinformation pose a serious threat to democracy. Disinformation triggers polarisation in society and negatively influences the voter's perception about certain candidate. Moreover, deepfakes and misinformation about candidate harm the spirit of democracy fair election. However, public awareness through seminars and evidence based learning can go a long way in combatting these nuances. But before this, three critical issues need to recognized it: the seriousness of the problem, classifying misinformation as false and recognition that action against misinformation is democratic.

Word Count: 94

8/20

Indent the paragraph.

Idea and structure are generally ok.