

Date \_\_\_\_\_ -20

# Essay

## TOPIC : MAN IS A GOAL-SEEKING ANIMAL

### Outline :

1. Introduction ✓
2. Man and his goal-seeking temperament ✓
3. Man is a goal seeking animal [Thesis] ✓
  - (a) Bestowed with intellect and consciousness distinct from other species ✓
  - (b) Man seeks to turn his intellect into intelligence ✓
  - (c) Man is a Being aware of his existence and concerned about the world ✓
  - (d) In a quest to turn inauthentic existence into existence that is authentic ✓
  - (e) Education, Literature and philosophy are pursuits of man to better his life and living ✓
4. Man cannot be a goal seeking animal always [Anti thesis] ✓
  - (a) Distinct intellect and consciousness alone do not make man goal-seeking ✓

(b) Man can only turn his intellect in to intelligence if provided with the right environment ✓

(c) If poverty-struck or deprived of resources, man is obliged to focus on his own survival first ✓

(d) Not all men can actualise the quest to turn inauthentic existence to an authentic one so that is a privilege ✓

(e) Education, literature and philosophy are not a common man's pursuit and only accessible by few ✓

### 5. Man is a goal-seeking animal even with limited resources [Synthesis]

(a) Distinct intellect and consciousness always push man to keep trying and seeking better opportunities ✓

(b) Even if not in conventional ways, man always manages to put effort that turns intellect to intelligence ✓

(c) Every man seeks to live authentically to achieve a goal be it individual or

collective ✓

(d) Education, literature and philosophy are not just academic pursuits restricted to few, but a life process every man partakes in ✓

## 6. Conclusion ✓

This is an abstract topic  
The arguments lack deep analysis

Essay:

The Earth is now occupied by more than 7.5 billion men who have determined the affairs of its functioning throughout history. Bestowed with a distinct intellect and consciousness from any other species to inhabit the planet, man is inherently a goal seeking animal with aims unique to other animals. ✓ Man is in a constant quest to turn his intellect into intelligence; he is a Being aware of his existence and concerned about

the people around him and world in general. Only man can differentiate between inauthentic and authentic existence, always educating himself and studying literature and philosophy to better his life. Some would argue that man cannot always be goal seeking as merely possessing a distinct intellect and consciousness are not sufficient to fulfil his unique goals. They say that man can only turn his intellect into intelligence if provided with the right environment and he becomes selfish if poverty-struck to focus on his needs only. ~~like as~~ Not all men can actualise the quest to turn inauthentic existence to authentic one so it is just a privilege enjoyed by few. They argue that education, literature and philosophy are not a common man's pursuit. However, man is a goal seeking animal even with limited resources as his distinct intellect and consciousness

always push him to keep trying and seeking better opportunities. In different ways, he always manages to put effort that turns intellect into intelligence and every man seeks to live authentically to achieve a life goal be it collective or individual. Education, literature and philosophy are life processes every man partakes in.

Goal-seeking is in man's temperament. He is uniquely positioned to pursue his goals and work towards them due to his consciousness and mind. However, the goal-seeking can sometimes be seen as a mere pursuit for survival. Nonetheless, the kind of pursuits that man has undertaken in history such as learning how to eat cooked food to developing technology are specific to man's goal-seeking behaviour.

Man is bestowed with an

intellect and consciousness that is distinct from other species. Psychologically and biologically, man is all-aware of his surroundings and has language as a tool to communicate. This makes him a goal-seeking animal that is unique to all other creations.

Man seeks to turn his intellect into intelligence. Through his ideas and conceptions of Artificial Intelligence that are now realities and continuing advancements in technology, man uses his distinct goal-seeking behaviour. He, henceforth, turns his mere ideas to practical pursuits that are pragmatic.

Man is a Being aware of his existence and concerned about the world. As Martin Heidegger, a renowned modern thinker said "We are beings unto death." As man is consciousness and knows that

this world is limited and so is our life, we act in empathetic ways that ensure well-being for us and for the generations that will come after. As such, we become conscious and man's goal-seeking becomes a directed one.

In a quest to turn inauthentic existence to authentic existence then, man ensures that he undertakes projects that have a life-purpose and benefit all men collectively. Jean Paul Sartre made the distinction between two kinds of existence, existence that is just mere existence such as that of rocks and sea and existence that is a conscious existence that involves thinking and acting via responding to men around. Human beings have the goal setting ability of the latter kind of existence that they constantly exercise.

Education, literature and philosophy are pursuits of man to better his life and living standards. Each man is constantly on an endeavour to learn and educate himself in order to know better and act better. John Dewey writes, "Education is life itself, it is a social process." As such, man partakes in this social process of education, literature and philosophy to seek his goals.

Arguments against the thesis that man is goal seeking animal present counter-statements that it is not possible for man to be goal seeking all the time. The presence of distinct intellect and consciousness alone, for instance, are not sufficient to make man goal-seeking. If man does not put his intellect to good use beyond just basic survival and



existence, then it does not place man differently from any other species in the animal kingdom. According to this, then man is not a unique goal-setting animal but rather like any other animal that lives for survival.

Man can only turn his unique intellect into intelligence if he is provided with the right environment. According to the nature versus nurture side of the nature versus nurture debate, the kind of people that man interacts with and has around him that determine his upbringing is more important and ultimate decider of man's intelligence and what he will do with his intellect. For instance, as Simone De Beauvoir argues if women are constantly taught and told that their job is solely that of reproduction and nothing beyond,

even if naturally they have the intellect to excel in career they would not be able to make that goal-seeking a reality. Hence, a right environment and the kind of conditioning a human being is exposed to are important factors that make affect man as a goal-seeking animal.

If poverty-struck or deprived of resources, man is obliged to focus on survival rather than goal seeking of his desires. Especially seen in war-ridden and conflict-afflicted zones in the world, people are combating basic survival needs such as poverty, hunger and threat of being killed. In such situations, goal-seeking of man becomes a distant reality and just making ends meet as any other animal is the only possibility.

Hence, man cannot always afford to be a goal seeking animal of his unique aspirations.

Not all men can actualise the quest to turn inauthentic existence to an authentic one so that is a privilege.

Unique projects such as being pioneers of ground-breaking movements such as Black Lives Movement, feminist movement or applications such as

Twitter are not every man's reality.

Not every man can turn aspirations to authentic manifestation and as such, majority ends up becoming followers and not goal-setting beings.

Education, literature and philosophy are not a common man's pursuit and only a few men can access these disciplines. Goal-setting and desire to study fields such as education, literature and philosophy

are expensive pursuits. These disciplines do not have much cash value and in an increasing rate of unemployment, turning more hard-core fields such as business are preferred to get job security. Hence, goal-setting capabilities of man are limited.

Nonetheless, the counterarguments to the thesis that man is a goal setting animal do not substantiate the notion that inherently, goal setting of man is an inevitable and unique feature. Distinct intellect and the consciousness that is different from other animals always push man to keep trying and seeking better opportunities. Man is able to move around and comprehend the world like no other animal species. The notion of refugees proves this. In order to step out of harsh situations, people

migrate and move from one place to another. In this way, they make the best use of whatever is available to them. This kind of action makes man a goal-setting animal.

Even if not in conventional ways, man always manages to put effort that turns intellect into intelligence. Will Durant differentiated between intellect and intelligence. Only man has the goal-setting ability to practically turn his intellect to intelligence in the best manner possible. Man has the ability to consider and ponder over alternatives. He reflects before moving further on a goal unlike any other animal that inevitably moves in only one direction. For instance, a fish does not have the goal-setting ability to change the waters it finds itself or understand the notion of

'migrating'. Hence, man always does goal-setting with the intent to do what is best for him, understanding and seeking alternatives.

Every man seeks to live authentically to achieve a goal be it individual or collective. Regardless of goals that focus on individual interest or collective humanity, goal-setting is done by man from a realistic and pragmatic intent to seek betterment. At the individual level, even if at times it seems as if an individual is being selfish to achieve goals there is an intent to become self-sufficient and less economically dependent on anyone else. As Karl Marx said, 'the history of all classes is the struggle to survive.' Survival takes many different forms according to one's socio-

economic position and man does the best to do goal-setting that is beneficial.

Education, literature and philosophy are not just academic pursuits restricted to a few people, but a life process every man takes part in. Formal and academic learning is not all that fuels man's goal setting. Many a times, informal learning through socialisation or reading otherwise teach man to seek goals. Life's experience is the biggest teacher that is most practical. As pragmatism as a school of thought in philosophy argues, "education is life itself." Every man constantly educates himself every day, regardless of going to a formal educational institution. This makes man a goal seeking animal

who is constantly refining himself.

To sum it up, man and his goal-seeking nature places him at a distinct position from any other species. Man is constantly goal-seeking in order to turn his intelligence intelligible. As a conscious, aware and linguistic Being man is concerned about the world one way or the other. There are restrictions and barriers to man's goal-seeking pursuits as those who argue against the thesis say, but at the end, man is constantly learning, philosophising and coming up with better goal-seeking endeavours.