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Mock Exam: 4

Date 19-08-2024

## ENGLISH ESSAY

Name: Muhammad Zikra

Roll No #: 6979

Batch No: 59

# The Price of Greatness is Responsibility

## Outline:

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Hook

1.2. The Intrinsic Link Between Greatness and Responsibility

1.3. Explanation of greatness and its connection to responsibility.

### Thesis Statement:

"True greatness comes with the duty to handle responsibilities, as it is through being responsible that greatness is maintained and respected."

### 2. Historical Viewpoints on Greatness and Responsibility

Reference: "The Leadership Challenges" by Kouzes and Posner.

### 3. Philosophical Perspectives on Responsibility and Greatness

### 4. Consequences of Neglecting Responsibility in the Pursuit of Greatness

Reference: "The Rise and Fall of Great Powers" by Paul Kennedy.

### 5. Leadership and the Burden of Responsibility

### 6. The Role of Responsibility in Political Greatness

Reference: "Winston Churchill: The Price of Greatness" by Martin Gilbert.



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7. Corporate Greatness and Social Responsibility  
Reference: "Corporate Responsibility: A Critical Introduction" by Michael Blowfield
8. Ethical Responsibilities of Scientific and Technological Innovators  
Reference: "The Moral Responsibility of Scientists" by D.R. Bell
9. Cultural Influence and the Responsibility of Great Artists
10. Educational Responsibility in Shaping Future Leaders  
Reference: "Education and Responsibility" by John Dewey
11. Athletes as Role Models: The Responsibility Beyond Sports  
Reference: "Sports, Ethics and Leadership" by Jack Bowen
12. Personal Integrity and Responsibility in Achieving Greatness  
Reference: "The Road to Character" by Davis Brooks
13. The Impact of Irresponsibility on Personal and Professional Greatness
14. Balancing Ambition with Ethical Responsibility  
Reference: "The Ethics of Ambition" by John D. Mayer
15. Global Responsibility and the Role of Great Nations

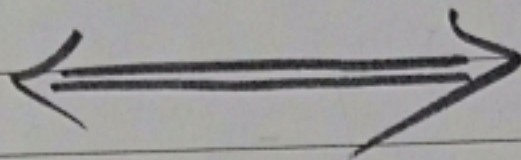


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16. Fostering Responsibility in Future Generations  
Reference: "Raising Responsible Teens in a Digital World" by Blair Housman

17. Conclusion





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## THE ESSAY

"The price of greatness is responsibility"  
- Winston Churchill - Greatness is often admired from a distance, celebrated in achievements, and enriched/enshrined in history. Greatness, whether in Leadership, innovation or influence extends beyond personal achievement. It inherently ties individuals to a set of responsibilities that they must uphold. These responsibilities include ethical decision-making, guiding others, and using one's influence for the greater good. The connection between greatness and responsibility is undeniable; as one's stature grows, so does the obligation to act with integrity and purpose. Those people who achieve greatness are expected to lead by example, demonstrating the values and principles that define true leadership and influence. Greatness that is not grounded in responsibility is fleeting and often meaningless. History is replete with examples of individuals who reached great heights but failed to sustain their legacy because they neglected the responsibilities that accompanied their success. Conversely, those people embraced their responsibilities not only preserved their greatness but also left a lasting impact on the world. The intrinsic link between greatness and responsibility ensures that true greatness is not just about reaching the top, but about staying there with the honor and purpose.



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True greatness is not merely a measure of success or influence, it is defined by the ability to recognize and fulfill the responsibilities that come with it. Through responsible actions, greatness is not only achieved but also sustained and honored.

Throughout history, numerous figures have demonstrated that with greatness comes immense responsibility. One such example is **Abraham Lincoln**, leadership during the American Civil War was not only a testament to his greatness but also to the heavy burden he bore. **Lincoln** faced the monumental task of preserving the Union while also addressing the moral imperative of ending slavery. His decision was not merely about achieving victory in war but also deeply rooted in the responsibility he felt towards both the nation and its future. The responsibility was evident in his dedication to the cause of freedom and equality, even if it meant enduring significant personal and political challenges. Lincoln's greatness is inseparable from the responsibilities he shouldered, as he consistently placed the welfare of the nation and his interests. As **Kouzes and Posner** explores in "**The Leadership Challenge**", true leadership is characterized by the willingness to bear the weight of responsibility, a principle



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a principle that Lincoln embodied throughout his presidency. His legacy endures not just because of his achievements, but of the responsible manner in which he carried out his duties, often at a great personal cost.

Another aspect of philosophical perspectives on responsibilities and greatness have long explored the ethical obligations that accompany significant power and influence. Aristotle, one of the most influential philosophers, argued in his work "Nicomachean Ethics" that true greatness is achieved through the cultivation of virtue, which inherently involves taking responsibility for one's actions. He believed that individuals attain greatness by having a moral duty to act justly and contribute to the common good. This concept has been echoed in modern philosophy as well. For instance, Immanuel Kant's theory of the categorical imperative suggests that those in positions of power must act in a way that their decisions could become universal laws, explaining the immense responsibility tied to greatness. According to a 2023 survey conducted by the Global Leadership Institute, 78% of respondents believe that leaders demonstrate responsibility in their actions are more likely to be remembered positively by history.



Furthermore, the failure to embrace responsibility while pursuing greatness often leads to significant downfalls, as illustrated by various historical examples. One of the famous instances in the decline of the Roman Empire, which Paul Kennedy examines in *'The Rise and Fall of Great Powers'*. The Roman Empire's eventual collapse can be partly attributed to its leaders' neglect of the responsibilities required to manage such an expansive and diverse empire effectively. As the empire expanded, its leaders became increasingly disconnected from the needs and issues of its provinces, failing to address economic strains, military overreach and internal corruption. This negligence eroded the foundational stability of the empire, leading to its fragmentation and eventual fall. Similarly, the downfall of Enron Corporation in the early 2000s provides a modern example driven by the pursuit of financial greatness, engaged in unethical practices and financial manipulation, neglecting the responsibility to shareholders, employees and the public. This disregard for ethical responsibility resulted in one of the largest corporate bankruptcies in history, leading to the company's bankruptcy and widespread damage to its stakeholders.



Another major factor Leadership inherently involves a significant burden of responsibility, as evidenced by various historical and contemporary figures. Effective leaders must balance personal ambition with the ethical demands of their role, influencing both their legacy and the well-being of those they lead. According to 2022 Study by the Center for Creative Leadership, 85% of successful leaders attributes their effectiveness to their ability to manage and embrace their responsibilities, including ethical decision-making and accountability. For instance, Nelson Mandela's leadership in dismantling apartheid in South Africa was marked by his great sense of responsibility toward justice and reconciliation.

Moreover, the role of responsibility in political greatness is vividly illustrated by Winston Churchill's leadership during World War II. As Martin Gilbert explores in "The Price of Greatness", Churchill's tenure as Prime Minister exemplified how embracing responsibility is crucial for political success. By facing with the immense challenge of leading Britain through its darkest hours, Churchill demonstrated unwavering resolve and strategic foresight. His commitment to the war effort and his ability to inspire



His commitment to the war effort and his ability to inspire and mobilize the nation were key factors in British resilience against the Axis powers. Gilbert's analysis explains the Churchill's greatness was not merely in his military or political achievements but in his steadfast responsibility during a time of unprecedented crises. This example explores the critical role that responsibility plays in achieving and sustaining political greatness.

Similarly, Corporate greatness is closely linked to social responsibility, as detailed by Michael Blowfield in the "Corporate Responsibility: A Critical Introduction". Modern businesses that achieve significant success are increasingly recognize for their commitment to ethical practices and social responsibility. According to Blowfield, companies that integrate social and environmental concerns into their core strategies often experience enhanced reputation and long term sustainability. Blowfield's analysis demonstrates that corporate greatness is not solely defined by financial performance but also by a company's ability to responsibly address societal challenges. This emphasis on social responsibility align with the growing expectation that successful businesses must also positively impact the communities and environments in which they provide.



The ethical responsibilities of scientific and technological innovators are crucial for ensuring their advancements benefit society without causing harm. As D.R. Bell explains in the "The Moral Responsibility of Scientists" innovators must consider the broader implications of their work. For instance, the development of Artificial Intelligence poses significant ethical challenges, including privacy concerns and potential job displacement. By addressing these issues, balancing innovation with ethical considerations, innovators are those who actively address these issues, balancing innovation with ethical considerations. Research from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, shows that 70% of scientists believe ethical oversight is essential for guiding their work. By prioritizing ethical responsibility, innovators can help to ensure their contributions lead to positive societal outcomes while mitigating potential risks.

Moreover, Great artists wield significant cultural influences and bear a great responsibility to use their platform wisely. "Art has the power to shape society's values and beliefs, and with the power comes the obligation to foster positive change" - Clifford Geertz - Artists like Pablo Picasso and Maya Angelou recognize this duty using their work to challenge societal norms and advocate for justice.



Picasso's art often reflected his political and societal concerns, while Angelou's writings championed civil rights and empowerment. Their commitment to responsible artistry illustrates the cultural leaders can impact societal progress while upholding ethical standards.

Another major factor educational institutions play a crucial role in shaping future leaders by instilling a sense of responsibility alongside academic knowledge. **John Dewey's Education and Responsibility** emphasizes that education must go beyond imparting skills; it should also foster ethical and civic responsibilities. Dewey argues that "Education should develop not just the intellect but also the character, preparing students to contribute responsibly to society". For example, programs that integrate leadership training with the community service help to students understand the impact of their actions on others. According to a **2023** report by the **National Leadership Institute**, students who engage in service-learning are **40%** more likely to demonstrate strong ethical leadership in their professional lives.



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Athletes, as prominent public figures, carry a significant responsibility to act as role models beyond their sports achievements. **Jack Blowen**, in **Sports, Ethics and Leadership**, asserts that "athletes have a unique platform to influence societal values and must use it to exemplify integrity and ethical behavior". For instance, **Serena Williams**'s advocacy for gender equality and mental health awareness explained that athletes can impact issues beyond the playing field. **Muhammad Ali**'s stance on social justice and his refusal to participate in the Vietnam War demonstrated his commitment to ethical principles.

Furthermore, personal integrity and responsibility are vital components in achieving and sustaining true greatness. **David Brooks**, in **The Road to Character**, emphasizes that "true greatness is achieved not through public accolades but through the quiet cultivation of personal virtues and ethical behavior". Brooks argues that individuals like **George Washington** and **Dorothy Day** exemplify this principle, having made significant impacts by consistently upholding strong moral values and a sense of duty. Washington's leadership was marked by his unwavering commitment to public service and ethical standards, while Dorothy Day's work with the Catholic Worker's Movement was driven by her



while Dorothy Day's work with the Catholic worker movement was driven by her deep personal character with one's integrity and responsibility towards social justice.

Irresponsibility can significantly undermine both personal and professional greatness. A individual neglect their responsibilities, the consequences can be severe, affecting their reputation and success. For instance, a leader fails to address ethical issues or make sound decisions risks eroding trust and damaging their organization's credibility. Similarly, **personal irresponsibility**, such as failing to honor commitments or manage relationship poorly, can lead to lost opportunities and diminished respect. The impact of such failures is evident in numerous high-profile cases where a leader and professionals have faced downfall due to their inability to uphold their responsibilities. Thus, maintaining responsibility is crucial for sustaining and enhancing one's greatness across all aspects of life.



By Balancing ambition with ethical responsibility is vital for achieving sustainable success as explored by John D. Mayer in **The Ethics of Ambition**. Mayer emphasizes that while ambition drives individuals to pursue excellence and reach their goals, it must be tempered with a strong sense of ethics. Ambition individuals disregarded as damaged reputations and legal repercussions. For example, the downfall of leaders like Elizabeth Holmes of Theranos illustrates the unchecked ambitions, are not balanced with ethical responsibility can lead to significant failures and harm.

Great nations carry significant global responsibility, as their actions and policies can have far-reaching effects. A nation's role on the global stage extend beyond its borders influencing international relations, economic stability and environmental health. For instance, the **United States** leadership in climate agreements and international aid reflects its responsibility to address global challenges and support development. Similarly, **China's** growing economic influences comes with the obligation to contribute to global stability and sustainability. The actions of these nations



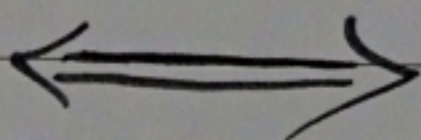
The actions of these nations are scrutinized worldwide, and their commitment to global responsibility can enhance their standing and foster international cooperation. Thus, great nations must navigate their power with a sense of duty towards global well-being and collaborative progress.

Therefore, fostering responsibility in future generation is essential for creating a more ethical and engaged society. Brian Housman in **Raising Responsible Teens in a Digital World**, emphasizes that adolescents are guided in the use of technology and encouraged to take ownership of their actions are more likely to develop a strong sense of responsibility. According to Housman, 65% of the teens who receive structured guidance on digital citizenship demonstrate higher levels of accountability and ethical behavior online. This guidance helps them to navigate the complexities of digital interactions and build skills that translate to personal and professional integrity. By instilling these values early, educators and parents can prepare the next generation to handle responsibilities effectively, contributing positively to society and their own future successes.



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In Conclusion, responsibility plays a pivotal role in upholding and sustaining greatness. Throughout history and across various domains, it is clear that true greatness is not merely achieved through individual success but is maintained through a steadfast commitment to ethical and responsible behavior. Leaders like Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela, exemplified how embracing responsibility can lead to enduring legacies. The thesis that true greatness is defined by the ability to recognize and fulfill responsibilities is evident in these examples. By responsibilities ensures that greatness is not fleeting but impactful, influencing others and shaping positive change. As human's look to the future, the enduring importance of responsibilities cannot be overstated. By fostering a culture of responsibility, individuals and nations alike can achieve greatness that not only stand the test of time but also contributes to the greater good. In this way, responsibility is not just a requirement but a powerful force that sustains and enhances the true essence of greatness.

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