

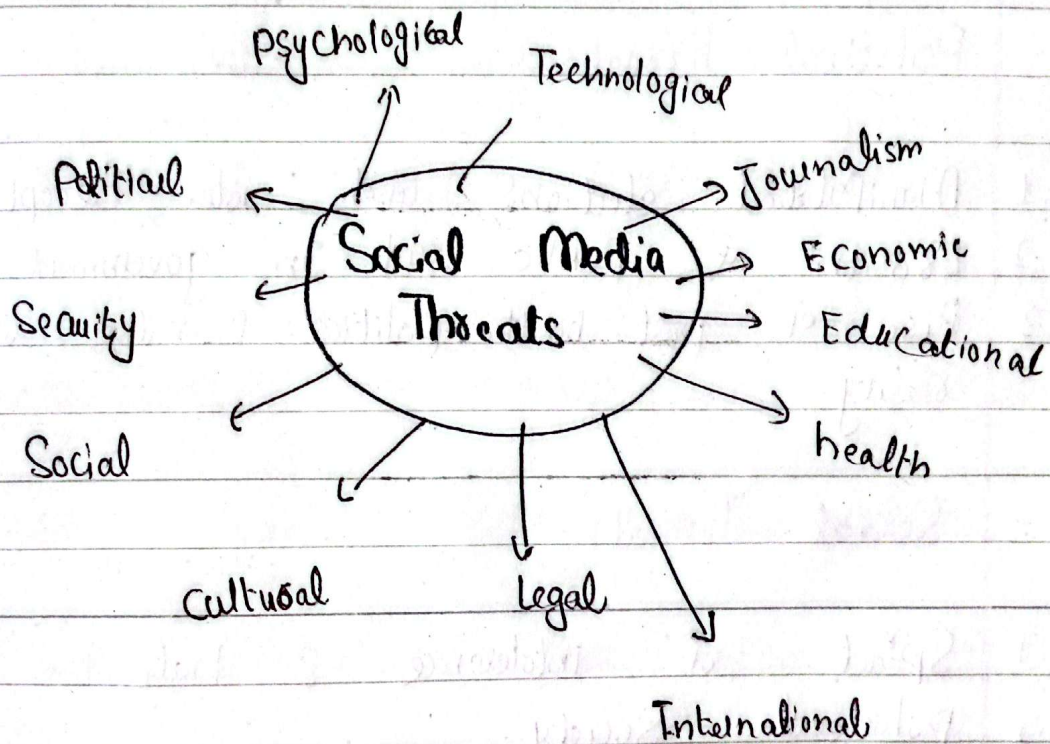
Name :- Nadia Malik
Batch : 70

Mock Exams For CSS - 2026

English Essay

Topic :-

The biggest threat of the current age is Fake news and Propaganda.



Outline :-

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Hook
- 1.2 Historical background / General Statement.
- 1.3 Thesis Statement:

Main body (Threats)

2. Political Threats

- 2.1 Manipulated elections and voter deception.
- 2.2 Erosion of public trust in government.
- 2.3 Rise of post-truth politics: Narrative over reality.

3. Social Threats

- 3.1 Spread of intolerance & hate.
- 3.2 Polarized Society.
- 3.3 Sectarian and ethnic propaganda divides Communities.

4. Economic Threats

- 4.1 Stock market manipulation and financial rumors.

4.2 Corporate Reputation Crises.

4.3 Fraudulent Investment Schemes.

5. Educational Threats.

5.1 overdependency on media for knowledge.

5.2 Lack of media literacy.

5.3 misinformed generation threatens the future of a nation.

6. Psychological and Health threats.

6.1 vaccine misinformation and Conspiracy theories.

6.2 Distrust in health experts and institutions.

7. Security and international threats.

7.1 Fake news incites riots, mob violence, and terrorism.

7.2 wars and escalate conflicts.

7.3 State - Sponsored Cyber warfare -

7.4 loss of trust in international organizations.

7.5 Diplomatic tensions and instability in world peace efforts.

8. way Forward.

- 8.1 Media literacy in Schools and universities
- 8.2 Strengthening Cyber Laws with Fairness and Accountability.
- 8.3 Public awareness Campaigns.
- 8.4. International Cooperation to regulate digital platforms.

9. Conclusion..

"A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes" - Mark Twain.

In the modern digital era, the world is not only struggling terrorism, poverty, wars and Climate Change, but also a silent yet more dangerous enemy - Fake news and Propaganda.

What was once spread through pamphlets, books and newspaper is now amplified a thousand times faster through social media, artificial intelligence, and digital means.

From influencing elections to triggering wars, from spreading sectarian hatred to creating health threats, Fake news and Propaganda as according to Pakistan Survey 2025 is 78% and 39% can only be detectable - (Social Sciences Review, 2025)

So, it becomes crucial to analyze the multidimensional threats - like Political, Social, Economical, educational and Security - and to explore strategies to counter it before truth itself becomes the greatest casualty.

Fake news and propaganda are the most dangerous for politics and governance. They change the way people think about leaders, parties, and institutions.

In many countries elections are no longer only about real performance, but about the lies that are spread online. For example, during the United States elections of 2024, several artificial intelligence (AI) - generated campaign videos and deepfakes were circulated on social media, which created confusion among voters (Reuters, 2024; BBC, 2024). In Pakistan also, political parties frequently use fake audio clips, doctored videos, and social media "breeding wars" to damage the reputation of their opponents.

Another political threat is the loss of trust in state institutions. When people continuously see fake news about courts, parliament, or government officials, they stop believing in them. This weakens democracy and makes people angry and hopeless. In such an environment, "post-truth politics" grows, where emotions and rumors become

Stronger than Facts and Truth. Scholars warn that this is especially dangerous in Fragile democracies like Pakistan, India, and many African States (World Justice Project).
2024

In the long term, the impact is Severe. A democracy Cannot Survive if voters make decisions based on lies. Propaganda Can bring unqualified leaders into power, Create unnecessary protests, and even political instability.

Social media Platforms are filled with rumors and misleading stories that target specific groups, Community or Person. This Created anger and hostility in Society like during the COVID-19 pandemic. False news about Communities being "Responsible" for the virus led to hate Campaigns in different Countries (WHO, 2021). Another example is the May 2025 India - Pakistan Conflict, where Fabricated Combat videos and hate-filled propaganda posts on Twitter Created a wave of anti-Pakistan and anti-India sentiments, worsening intolerance between the people of both nations.

Fake news also creates a polarized society where people only believe information that supports their existing views and reject everything else. This creates "echo chambers" where groups are divided and unwilling to listen to each other. The **Reuters Digital News Report 2025** shows that younger people mostly rely on TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube for news, which often exposes them to biased or incomplete information.

Third social threat is sectarian and ethnic propaganda. In countries like Pakistan, where communities are already sensitive to religion and ethnic issues, fake news can lead to violence. There have been cases where false social media posts resulted in mob lynching incidents on charges of blasphemy or personal disputes.

Fake news are also very dangerous for any economy. One of the most common threats is stock market manipulation and financial rumors. False news about government policies, state banks interest rates, or company performance can cause panic among investors.

In 2023 a fake tweet about U.S. Financial Firm losing billions briefly shook the stock market before it was confirmed false (CNBC, 2023). Fake news about Pakistan's foreign reserves falling below \$2 billion spread widely, which created panic in markets until the State Bank of Pakistan officially denied it (Dawn, 2022).

Another danger is Corporate Reputation Crisis. Fake news about Company's product or leadership can badly damage its goodwill (public image). In 2024, a deepfake video targeting a global technology company went viral, leading to a fall in its share prices (Financial Times, 2024).

In Pakistan, telecom companies like Jazz and Ufone have repeatedly faced propaganda posts accusing them of "data theft" or "overcharging customers". Even when untrue, such things reduce customer trust and hit the corporate reputation.

Third threat is Fake advertisements on social media often promise quick profits - through cryptocurrencies, online trading etc. According to The World Bank (2024), digital

Financial Fraud is rising sharply in South Asia because of weak digital literacy and the spread of false financial information.

These economic threats not only harm individual investors but reduce overall trust in markets and institutions.

Fake news and propaganda also affect the education and the mindset of youth. A major issue is overdependency on media for knowledge. Instead of reading books, Journals, or reliable sources, many students rely on social media platforms. The Reuters Digital News report 2025 shows that a large share of young people worldwide now depend on social media rather than newspapers or television for news. Students often believe viral videos or forwarded whatsapp messages without checking accuracy. This weakens critical thinking and encourages blind trust in unverified contents.

Another problem is lack of media literacy.

Most Schools and universities in Pakistan do not train Students on how to verify the Sources and Check Fake news. False Stories about Science, Religion, or politics often become part of Student discussions, Showing how weak the filtering of information has become, without training, Students are unable to question what they Consume Online.

The result is the rise of a misinformed generation that threatens the Future of the nation. Young people who grow up believing in Conspiracy theories or propaganda may become intolerant leaders, biased professionals, and uninformed Citizens. A Society led by Such a generation risks making wrong Choices, not because of lack of talent, but because of poisoned information.

Fake news and propaganda also put human health and mental stability at risk. ~~Cine~~ During the Covid-19 pandemic, social media was filled with false claims that vaccine caused infertility, contained microchips, or were part of a global conspiracy. Misinformation was a major reason behind vaccine hesitancy (WHO, 2021). For years, fake news has circulated that polio drops are 'western conspiracy' to harm our children. As a result, parents refuse to vaccinate their children. This has kept Polio on the only two countries in the world where polio still exists (UNICEF, 2024).

Another impact is the distrust in health experts and institutions. When people see repeated ~~prop~~ propaganda against doctors, pharmaceutical companies, or organizations, they lose confidence in official health advice. This distrust encourages them to rely on unverified remedies.

Fake news is not only a danger for individuals or societies but also to the security and peace of entire nations. On a large scale, fake news has become a weapon of war. During the Pakistan-India conflict of May 2025, deepfake combat videos and propaganda posts flooded social media. Similarly, Russia-Ukraine war has been called the world's first "information war", where both sides use propaganda to control international opinion and morale.

Fake news also plays a major role in global conflicts and international politics. Propaganda related to Palestine and Kashmir is widely used to influence global narratives, often spreading half-truths and false images to gain sympathy or fuel anger. At the same time, powerful states show engage in cyber warfare and psychological operations to weaken their rivals.

Another serious outcome is loss of trust in international organizations such as United Nations etc. Propaganda often portrays these institutions as biased or corrupt, which reduces their credibility. This makes them harder for them to maintain peace, resolve disputes, or turn global peace campaigns.

Although fake news and propaganda cannot be removed completely, their harmful impact can be reduced through serious steps at different levels.

Schools and universities should teach students how to verify sources.

Government should create strict but fair

laws against deliberate disinformation campaigns. People should be taught to "think before you share". Awareness campaigns through

TV, radio, and social media can encourage responsible use of digital platforms. Since fake news crosses borders, countries must work together to create global rules.

Fake news and Propaganda have become the most silent yet powerful weapon.

They spread lies faster than truth, damage democracy. The only way to fight is through combined effort.