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Question 1:

As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

Answer 1:

The advent of technology came along with its own benefits and disadvantages, however, the given position is skewed to the negative effect technology has had on human psychology and creativity. It is true that there has never been a time in human history where a small device, in the pocket of an average citizen, anywhere from the corner of the world, could be more powerful to take down a government than in the day era of Julius Caesar. Or take for example, an average cosmopolitan who lives in city, wakes up in the morning by the sound of his alarm, relies on a health kit technology around his arm to tell him what his health condition looks like and proffer remedies to keep fit for him, speaks with a lady robot named Lucy on his phone to tell him what the weather will look like the day as well as his calendar for the day. He lives the house and depends on a humongous electric train to transit him to work while he has an earpiece between his head reading a book that would take people of previous generation a full time sitting concentration to achieve. Each of these occurrences are normal to an average person today but, they are totally incomprehensible and inconceivable to the generation of the 17th century.

The above statement has attempted to elucidate how people rely on technology to not only solve problems but to perform basic daily chores. This kind of position relies on such an assumption that since people rely on technology to solve problems, they must have traded this possibilities with their cognitive ability to think creatively and autonomously.

However, this reliance on technology does not render the human brain useless or make him such a zombie walking on the sand of time. In fact, with the possibilities available to human through the use of technology, we can now focus on more important decision making activities that requires nothing less than human creativity and imagination. As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, people can be more efficient in their daily lives by concentrating on the activities that technology or routine tasks can not perform. Take for example, the proliferation of roads with cars and other automobile has places the human race with the responsibility to think of global warming solutions to reduce the negative effect of these extracts to the ozone layer. Or with the rise in production cost through to exchange rate, human

can now think of inventing automated processes to reduce such cost so that vaccines and food can be cheaply available to the consumers.

Technology will always be a part of human activities and we cannot take that away, but the discoveries and inventions that are possible to solve and tackle the problems that will make the earth a good planet to stay or that will make the possibility of taking over mass possible total depend on how human use this technology or invent more of it to achieve solving our problems, as such, technology has only made living more efficient.

Version 2:

Technological innovation is at its apex in this generation than in any other generation before now. With every nano second a human spend, from waking up, to performing daily chores, to even getting meal into his belly, technology is a key participant, aiding the achievement of such activities. However, while it is true that people rely more on technology now than ever before, it is not true that this occurrence will take the place of human to think independently nor will it deteriorate the ability of humans to do so.

Some two decades ago, the train system replaced the animal transportation system, this little catalyst transformed the way human move from one place to another. Today, we even have more efficient means of transportation. Such technological advancement did not limit the ability for human to think independently. It empowered human to be more efficient with their time and how to economise the limited resources that we have been given.

Since human can now trust technology to perform varied activities in their place, we should note that these activities are the monotonous activities that are not efficient for human to perform. These kind of predictable activities are what machines are best for, it requires no special taught, only a set of "if/else conditions". Since human can rely on machines to perform these kind of activities, people now have the freedom as well as the responsibility to perform and focus on the imaginative and creative activities that only human can perform.

In essence, because of the possibilities to rely on technology to perform some task for us, we can now dream about taking over other planets. We can now think about solving more important problems like eradicating world poverty. Solve the most deadly diseases. And even go as far as thinking of how man could live agelessly.

Everywhere you look today, the little technologies that surrounds us have more sophistication than the Apollo 1 that went to space. And every new technological innovation gives the human race the hope and confidence that we are powerful enough to create more solutions that will make life more worthwhile to abide in. In view of this, as human rely more and more on

technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think about new possibilities are made possible.

Question 2:

Educational institutions have a responsibility to dissuade students from pursuing fields of study in which they are unlikely to succeed.

*Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.*

Answer 2:

The responsibility of educational institutions are varied but above all, it is to provide apt and poise guidance to the students about career decisions they make. The parents and the nation has bestowed this kind of responsibility on these institutions. However, such responsibility will be over executed if the institutions do not allow for independent decision making among the students. For that reason, they are not responsible to dissuade students from career decisions.

These institutions are expected to provide prerequisite guidance that will empower the students to make decisions on their own and not to actually make career decisions for their students. One thing is sure, every student is different and while a career field might not have turned out well for preceding students, the onus is not on the institution to dissuade every other students from such a field, the onus is to provide detail information that other students should look out for to avoid similar conundrum.

Independent thinking skills is vital in the labor market and this should be taught to students. For this reason, the educational institutions should give the students the guidance they need to make life changing decisions for themselves such as the career they should pursue.

While it is clear that a lot of students did not achieve success in some career fields, such an event should serve as a gold mine for educational institutions to research what students need to do in order to correct such sullen possibilities to continue.

It is clear that students might not know how important the decisions they make about their career is. It is also obvious that this same students do not have a knowledge of how the labour market is; well enough like the educational institutions grasp. But such possibilities should not be seen as a limitation not to trust the students with making decisions, or to turn them away from being responsible. Such a limitation should be seen as an advantage to prepare students for the world they are transiting into.

The educational body is important for what the students end up becoming. The nation, the parents and the community at large look up to these institutions for directing the path of the students that goes through these institutions. However, such a right should not be overstretched to the extent that such the students will not be giving the chance to become independent thinkers who can make life changing decisions on their own.

Question 3:

Claim: Governments must ensure that their major cities receive the financial support they need in order to thrive.

Reason: It is primarily in cities that a nation's cultural traditions are preserved and generated.

*Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.*

Answer 3:

The cities are the different parts that makes a nation. And if a city must thrive it must not be wanting financially. While it is true that the major cities are the more visible aspect of any nature, it is normal that those cities receive the required financial support because they typically exemplify the nation to the world. However, for a nation's cultural heritage to be preserved, financial support must be directed to the places where those cultural traditions started and remains – the less known cities, or better still the rustic places.

While a nations' tradition has been adulterated in major cities, they are still impregnable in the less known cities. And it is financially worthwhile to push the finances to these rural places. The major cities are the cosmopolitan centers that several national cultures have been hodgepodge and it is more expensive to preserve one culture among many others in these cities.

Most of the financial aid and support are known to go to the major cities. Apart from this, these cities already generate their own revenue through several capital investments which makes them more financially worthy compared to other wanting divisions of the nation. If these major cities really need these national finance, they have better ways to generate it because they have more influence and prominence to the other less known cities.

Tourism is a lucrative investment option for a nation. And it is primarily in rustic areas that a nation's tradition are preserved and generated. In a country like Nigeria, the major traditions are in the less known places like Oduduwa in Oyo and others in the Benin Kingdom. These are less known places compared to the major cities like Lagos or Abuja. In Asia for example, the religious and monk traditions that makes India and China are not found in Mumbai or other

well-known cities but in places that are rarely spoken about. If a nation must persevere its cultural traditions, it must look away from the major cities that are already financially sustainable and must invest these money in less known places that these traditions generated from.

#### Question 4:

Some people believe that in order to be effective, political leaders must yield to public opinion and abandon principle for the sake of compromise. Others believe that the most essential quality of an effective leader is the ability to remain consistently committed to particular principles and objectives.

*Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.*

#### Answer 4:

Political leaders are regarded effective by the people they lead if they are able to connect with people from all levels and are able to 'put themselves in others shoes'. Being empathetic is relevant to being an effective leader, be it politics or not. However, I believe the most effective political leaders are committed to a set of particular principles and objectives and they do not allow sentiments, yield to public opinion and abandon principle for the sake of compromise. Effective political leaders do not let emotions embellish their decision making.

Martin Luther King was an effective political leader who stood on his ground of particular principles, although his principles were founded around religious believes. Nevertheless, these principles of respect of 'all man created equal' was what others see, regardless of their religious, they believed in him and at the end of the day projected his believe. He was an effective leader.

When leaders are not guided by public opinion, they are often mercurial and biased when making decisions. For example when a political leader is faced with a situation that involves his friends and his families, such a leader will be likely to act and make decisions in favour of his family or friends. This way the political leader will be headed towards not making the right decisions and would be regarded ineffective.

Every decision a political leader makes is very important because it affect a lot more people than such a person can realize. So, it is very important that such decisions are built around set of particular principles and objectives. When cases of decisions are presented in the court of law, the political leader want to make sure his decision making is backed and guided by the law. Anything less, which will be against the law can tarnish the career of such a political leader.

One of the most important attribute of an effective leader is being able to influence and motivate his followers. Martin Luther King once again was able to influence and motivate the world even after his death because his actions were in accordance with the a principle.

That being said, being consistently committed to a particular principles can have its own disadvantage. A perfect example will be Hitler of USSR. Hitler as a leader was not guided open to others opinions and was motivated by his own particular principles. He was rigid to the core and this made him lose his mind.

Nevertheless, political leaders have to draw the line between being rigid and being guided by particular principles, in that respect, I would always agree that leaders who act in accordance to particular principles are more effective because this shows their followers that such a leader is not driven by impulse, is not sentimental and biased and can always make the right decisions regardless of the situation.