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作文部分

真题回忆答案解析

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## [Issue]

Every individual in a society has a responsibility to obey just laws and disobey and resist unjust laws."

[题目] 46 题

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Once a society has determined that it wants to be governed by the rule of law, then each individual in that society has a responsibility to obey those laws. If the laws are fair, then they must be obeyed. Unjust laws must be resisted through whatever means are necessary, including disobeying those same laws until they are repealed.

Firstly, for any society that truly wants to be civilized, laws must be enacted that at the very least give its citizens a guideline on the behavior that is expected of them. Without the rule of law, anarchy would likely reign supreme and ultimately result in the destruction of that particular society. Laws are usually enacted based on the values, beliefs and morals of the general populace. Without such laws, individuals would be tempted to give in to some of the more animalistic desires innate within the human soul, with the end result being at best a disorganized society and at worst the annihilation of the population.

Secondly, those just laws that have been enacted (which will hopefully be all or at the very least, the majority of them) must be faithfully obeyed in order for a society to move forward. Because most laws are the codification of the society's values, beliefs and morals, they are generally based on the notion of justice and fair play. As long as the laws treat everyone equally, the population should dutifully obey them. It is equally important that those who disobey those laws are punished fairly and in proportion to their crime. Without a systematic distribution of justice, laws are worth less than the paper that they are written on. Corruption in the legal system is also a distinct danger, regardless of whether the laws that have been enacted are just or unjust. If individuals are allowed to buy themselves out of trouble, the entire legal system will break down, again resulting in anarchy. As a fundamental part of a civilized society, just laws must be obeyed to the fullest extent possible

Furthermore, of equal importance is the fact that unjust laws must be fought against through whatever means are necessary. The very foundation of a legal system is that it is based on a notion of justice, and that means justice for all, not just the chosen few. Unfair or unreasonable laws can cause a society to lose respect for all laws, regardless of whether they are just or unjust. In these cases, civil disobedience may be necessary in order to bring attention to the situation. Perhaps the politicians or government officials were unaware of the unjustness of the law when it was written.

It could be that the officials did not foresee that the law would have a disparate impact on certain individuals in a society. But regardless of the reason, an unjust law must not go unopposed. One unjust law can easily lead to another; therefore it is incumbent upon all individuals in a society to fight such inadequacies with all of their might.

In summary, a legal system should serve the society as a guideline for the behavior that is expected of its citizens. Should the leaders of that society enact any laws that are unfair or unreasonable, it is the duty of all citizens to ensure that it is changed or repealed through whatever means are necessary. Laws should be of the people, by the people and for the people, and citizens must take a proactive role in ensuring that they truly give justice for all.

### [Argument]

"The citizens of Forsythe have adopted healthier lifestyles. Their responses to a recent survey show that in their eating habits they conform more closely to government nutritional recommendations than they did ten years ago. Furthermore, there has been a fourfold increase in sales of food products containing kiran, a substance that a scientific study has shown reduces cholesterol. This trend is also evident in reduced sales of sulia, a food that few of the healthiest citizens regularly eat."

Write a response in which you examine the stated and/or unstated assumptions of the argument. Be sure to explain how the argument depends on these assumptions and what the implications are for the argument if the assumptions prove unwarranted.

[题号] 53

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In this argument the speaker concludes that Forsythe citizens have adopted healthier lifestyles based their current eating habits and how closely conform to government nutritional recommendations. The speaker indicates that sales of kiran, a substance known to reduce cholesterol, have increased fourfold, while sales of sulia have been declining. This argument is unpersuasive for several reasons.

First, the survey must be proven a reliable source before being considered as evidence. Specifically, the responses must be accurate. Furthermore, the number of respondents must be statistically significant and representative of the overall Forsythe citizenry in terms of eating habits. Without evidence of the survey's reliability, it is impossible to draw any firm conclusions about the current dietary habits of Forsythe.

Second, the argument relies on the dubious assumption that the government nutritional recommendations themselves are healthy. It is entirely possible that the dietary habits of Forsythe citizens were healthier ten years ago than they are now because they ran contrary to the current recommendations. Without substantiating the government recommendations, there is no way to determine if the citizens are actually healthier or simply in compliance with the government definition of healthy.

Third, the speaker assumes too hastily that increasing sales of products with kiran indicates healthier eating habits. Perhaps Forsythe citizens are eating these foods in amounts or at intervals

that compromise the health benefits thereof. Without ruling out this possibility the speaker cannot reasonably and confidently conclude that increased kiran consumption has resulted in improved health for Forsythe's citizens.

Fourth, the speaker assumes that few of Forsythe's healthiest citizens eat sulia regularly indicating that sulia is not healthy. It is possible that sulia has no effect on health, or that it actually promotes health. Lacking firm evidence that sulia affects health, adversely or otherwise, and that healthy people avoid sulia for this reason, the speaker cannot justify any conclusions about the health of Forsythe's citizens.

Finally, even if Forsythe citizens have been making healthy changes, they could just as easily have been adopting other habits that offset these healthy changes. Unless all other habits affecting health have remained unchanged, the speaker cannot justifiably conclude that the overall lifestyle of Forsythe's citizenry has become healthier.

In sum, the argument fails to persuade. To strengthen it the speaker must demonstrate that the survey accurately reflects the dietary habits of Forsythe's citizens, and that by following the government's nutritional recommendations more closely these citizens are in fact healthier. The speaker must also show that Forsythe's citizens have not made other dietary or other lifestyle changes that offset healthful changes. Finally, to better assess the argument an audience would need to be provided with more information about the manner and extent to which Forsythe's citizens now consume kiran, and about the healthfulness of sulia.

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