

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER for PhD admission to HSS, IIT Delhi (Technology in Society)

The following sub-topics may be covered: Media archaeology, history of technology, psychology of human-robot interaction, digital behaviour, intellectual property, technology ethics, pedagogy and technology, technology and food systems, algorithms and society, critical code studies, future of work, technology and public health, social epistemology of internet, ontology of digital worlds, art and technology, industrial policy and technology policy, technology and democracy.

The actual exam structure, format and topics may vary. The following questions are indicative only.

There are two parts to this exam. Please answer both parts.

Part A - (General perspective question)

Offer a critical response to a passage that is provided in the question paper.

Part B - Answer any 2 out of the 7 questions.

- a. It is assumed that language proficiency plays an important part in one's performance in higher education. How could education accessed through technology alter such scenarios?
- b. Do the processes of digitization of cultural heritage leave a concern in creating new hierarchies of interpretation and access?
- c. What could be a more pluralistic theoretical approach/es to conceptualising liberty and privacy in face of modern/ contemporary technology/ ies.
- d. In what ways do you see 'technology' displacing 'law' as the dominant site of practice/imagination about sovereignty and contemporary rule?
- e. Technology has been the driving force behind climate change but will also save human beings from it. Comment on this using any theoretical perspective(s) you are familiar with.
- f. Discuss the relationship between intellectual property rights, technology diffusion and 'underdevelopment' drawing upon any literature / theorist(s) you are familiar with.
- g. Many-a-times people prefer human experts to algorithms even if, objectively, algorithms outperform humans. This psychological propensity has been termed 'algorithm aversion'. What are three factors that might be guiding people in this direction?