

**MANHATTAN GMAT**

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CAT Exam #2

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AWA ESSAYS: Analyze Issues

ESSAY QUESTION:

An author once wrote that "The invention of the telephone prevents us from appreciating the distance between us." Today this is even more true as the rise of the Internet has enabled inexpensive global communication.

Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the position stated above. Support your viewpoint using reasons and examples from your own experience, observations, or reading.

YOUR RESPONSE:

The idea that invention of such devices as telephone and internet prevent us from appreciating the distance between us subject to some debate. However, a closer viewing reveals that this is not true. Even with the modern inventions, the distance still poses several challenges and risks that need to be appreciated.

Firstly, we mentally measure distance as a function of time. A journey that takes along time to complete is generally regarded as greater distance. Same is true of information. In old days a simple letter used to take a lot of time to reach intended recipient while now an e-mail takes just a few seconds. While it is true that speed of information transfer has changed significantly, there has been parallel increase in other concerns such as authenticity of the data. The speed of information does not ensure that the information sent is still authentic or whether it has been tampered with or corrupted. A lot of work must go into ensuring that such situation do arise and when they do their impact is mitigated.

Secondly, conventionally greater distance is associated with greater dangers, especially to life. For example, a pilgrimage to holy shires such as Mecca were considered to be perilous journey. May people lost their lives while traveling to the holy city. However, with modern inventions has reduced such a risk to significant degree. However, it must be noted that different kind of risks have also come forth. For example while today we have video conference over the internet to reach our client or colleagues remotely, there are also increased dangers of data security and privacy concerns. It has become more easy than ever for the terrorist organizations to snoop information for malicious purposes.

Thirdly, the use of telephone and more recently the internet has led to development of infrastructure that enables us to avoid the expenses of traveling to various locations for simple tasks. It has enabled greater coordination between workforces in various countries and has given rise to outsourcing. However, this

infrastructure required great skills to develop. Also the cost of such infrastructure is not always low. Therefore, a company that uses or develops such infrastructure has to appreciate the challenges and cost associated with it.

To conclude, I would like to say that while telephone and internet have helped in reducing the time of information travel and have reduced various risks that distance was originally related to, they have created new risks and challenges such as specialized skill requirement, data security and data authenticity. Such risks and challenges still help us appreciate the value of distance between us.

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