

**MANHATTAN GMAT**

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## CAT Exam #1

Mohit Joshi

Test completed on: 03/10/12

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### AWA ESSAYS: Analyze Issues

**ESSAY QUESTION:**

"Out of respect for individual freedom, government should impose no restrictions on an individual's ability to wager at online casinos."

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

**YOUR RESPONSE:**

The issue that no restrictions should be imposed on an individual's ability to wager at online casinos, out of respect for individual freedom is a controversial one. Although some argument can be made in support of such a claim, I will believe that regulation is necessary and some form of control must be present to restrict individual's ability to wager at online casinos.

Firstly, Online casinos are similar to brick and mortar casinos in that they provide a place for people to gamble. However, unlike the brick and mortar casinos online casinos are generally not regulated by government. The reason for this generally is that internet moves such casinos out of jurisdiction area of the government. This presents a risk as casinos generally invite huge transaction of money. Therefore risk of illegal activities such as money laundering is huge if such activities are not regulated by government or international agencies. For example the government can set maximum permissible limit on wager at online casinos and can regular monitor certain transactions.

Secondly, it is true that individuals have freedom to do as they wish with their money. In general no restriction should be imposed on such freedom. However, casinos can be highly addictive, especially online casinos as they are easily accessible with click of a button. The argument that can be drawn in favor of government restriction is similar to one that is applicable in case of alcohol or smoking. This is that government also has social responsibility towards its citizens and can create indirect incentive to regulate such behavior. So government can for example impose high taxes on profits made from gambling at online casinos.

Thirdly, restriction should be imposed by the government so as to ensure that only those above certain age limit are allowed to gamble at online casinos. Unlike brick and mortar casinos, online ones are easily accessible even by children. The government can therefore ensure that online casinos follow proper norms

to restrict such activity.

To conclude, while individual freedom is necessary, it cannot be said that government cannot impose restrictions on online casinos. This is because the benefits on moderate regulation, such as discouragement of money laundering, far exceed limitations introduced by it.

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