**GP Essay Outline - Culture**

**'Our cultural values are no longer prescriptive but a matter of personal choice.' To what extent is this true?**

**Type of question - Extent Of Agreement**

**Thinking aspect:**

The focus of the discussion is to show how the individuals are influenced and shaped in the development of their values from the various aspects and deduce from it the extent of agreement to the proposition. The values and behaviour could be expanded into categories such as moral, political, economic or social. It could encompass niche categories like music, food and the arts too. As this is an extent of agreement, the student must provide a nuanced conclusion and stand at the final paragraph coupled with the identified determining factor that results in differing outcomes.

**Introduction**

Our values are a set of beliefs that form the basis of our behaviours and attitudes and we use them as a moral compass to allow us to make moral judgments. In the context of modern society, the influx of liberalistic values and behaviours normalise the view that our values, behaviors are no longer inherited from our family, society or heritage but rather motivated by personal agency and will. On the other hand, traditionalists assert that our personal, communal or political values and behaviour are indoctrinated within us. Therefore, to examine the extent of the agreement we need to assess whether our values are still inherited, inculcated or indoctrinated by various institutions of modern society and whether the individuals possess the innate capacity to develop their values.

**Main Body**

Supporting view 1:

Advocates of individualism believe that moral values and behaviours are not prescribed as the education received by the individuals grants them opportunities for empowerment and self-cultivation of moral values and behaviours

EOA 1:

However, detractors do not share the view that values and behaviours are no longer prescriptive as individuals are easily manipulated by the influence of educational institutions at their most vulnerable years of development.

Supporting view 2:

It can be argued that our cultural values and behaviours are no longer prescriptive due to the diminishing functional roles of family in the modern era which minimizes the influence of inherited values on the individual.

EOA 2:

Yet such a view holds a modicum of truth as in certain societies, family heritage is one source of influence that will prescribe rather than allow the self creation of values due to extensive influence of the parents as cultural role models in the development years of the child.

Supporting view 3:

Nonetheless, our cultural values and behaviours are no longer prescriptive but a matter of personal choice due to the extensive influence of new media that spearheads the political democratisation of values among individuals.

EOA 3:

However, it can also be argued that our cultural values and behaviours are prescriptive as the omnipotent influence of the political institutions is difficult to ignore when individuals need the political framework for his development and assurance of his rights to coexist in society.

 **Conclusion**

In the contemporary world where individualism is constantly emphasized, it gives a false illusion that the individuals can no longer prescribe to moral, social or political values. Although individuals are given more opportunities to interact and are highly educated, the influences of the respective social institutions are still immense and would never cease to prescribe the values of the individual.