**Prompt**:

People's behavior is largely determined by forces not of their own making.

*Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.*

**Essay**:

A person’s personality is said to be an amalgamation of their experiences. Their peers, surroundings, home, etc, all play a vital role in shaping that person and, in many cases, most of these are not in the person’s control. Therefore, I mostly agree with the prompt that people’s behavior is largely determined by forces not of their own making for two reasons.

First, one of the most crucial factors that determine a person’s behavior is their environment, especially their home. A person’s home is a place where they spend a considerable amount of time so it is not surprising that a person’s behavior is largely depending on it. It is clear that no human child is born with deep aversion or malice, yet there are a lot of people in the world that commit heinous crimes. For example, many terrorists, such as the ones responsible for the bombings of 9/11, attack innocent people because of their malicious up-bringing where they are led to believe their actions are condonable if it is to protect their religion. In most cases, they are born in families with abusive parents or in homes with members that have a criminal record. Growing up in an environment such as that will prime a person to behave similarly because that is all the person knows, none of which is the fault or making of the person.

Moreover, the people that interact with a person also go on to shape their behavior. Many famous artist and celebrities are at such heights of fame because of people who they admire and look up to. Many have said that they first took an interest in their careers because of the influence and encouragement from their role models. Take, for example, Elon Musk, a famous billionaire and CEO of SpaceX. His avidly researches ways to make the human civilization colonize other habitable planets and promotes space exploration and he stated that his inspiration to pursue such a field where his idols such Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. There are many other cases where a person, who formerly had no interest or clue about a certain field, is motivated by someone and then go on to achieve wonders.

Of course, many may argue that a person’s behavior is entirely up to a person and therefore of their own making. However, the question is what led them to behave the way they did. Obviously, when given a course of action, many people would choose differently and they could argue that their choice was their own, but internally, every choice they make is affected by their past experiences and interactions, both of which are not of their own making.