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Q2

A good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** a good life needs two lamps - care, and a true picture of the world
- **One stand:** love without knowledge is a trap; knowledge without love is a weapon
- Move through family, school, science, state. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a life that can still be kind and still check a fact

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a fee and a fever. Stand:** two lamps.
- **Headings:** family/school, science, state, counter.

Earn one philosopher once. Peg a vaccine or **ASER**.

Close on a practiced pair.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A parent pays a coaching bill and misses the child's fever. Love was the fee. Knowledge of the body was not. A good life, the line says, is inspired by one and guided by the other. The exam wants both lamps lit.

One stand

- **Love:** attachment, care, a widened we. Knowledge: a method, a school, a science that can say no. Write against both the sentiment poster and the clever cynic.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Inspired by love:** why we bother - a child, a river, a stranger in a queue.
- **Guided by knowledge:** how we bother - evidence, a craft, a limit.
- **Good life:** eudaimonia as a cousin, then India.

Family / school

- Care without a book is still care. A book without care is a rank.

Science / public

- A vaccine is love organised by knowledge.

- A rumour in a pandemic is love of 'our people' without a lab.

State

- Welfare that knows the last person (a list that is true). Knowledge as a census, love as a right.

The counter

Knowledge has run camps and famines. Love has covered a crime in the family. The line is a tension, not a slogan. And the poor are owed knowledge as a public good, not only love as charity.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep both lamps. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Buddha / Plato

One nod: compassion and a true seeing - then a queue in India.

Tagore

Where the mind is without fear - knowledge as a public air.

Art. 21 / 21A

Life and school - love and knowledge in a file.

UIP / vaccine

Care organised by a lab.

ASER

A school that ranks without teaching - knowledge missing.

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