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Q6

'The past' is a permanent dimension of human consciousness and values.

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

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** the past is not a museum we can lock - it sits in memory, a wound, a law, a ritual
- **One stand:** we cannot jump out of history; we can refuse to be its prisoners
- Move through self, caste/faith, republic, globe. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a usable past, not a worship

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a surname and a silence. Stand:** host the past; do not worship it.
- **Headings:** self, society, republic, counter.

Earn **Ambedkar** once. Peg a textbook or a museum.

Close on audit.

Note

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

Anecdote

A child inherits a surname, a partition story, a recipe, a silence. The past is already in the house. The topic is that permanence: consciousness and values still drink from a well we did not dig.

One stand

- **Permanent dimension:** memory, a trauma, a Sanskrit line, a factory Act. Values: we choose which past to honour. Write against both amnesia and a civilisational police.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Past:** archive, a ruin, a family tale, a colonial file.
- **Consciousness:** how we see; a default story.
- **Values:** what we praise in that story.

Self

- A name, a mother tongue, a scar. Therapy as a modern way of hosting the past.

Society

- Caste as a past that walks. A festival as a past that feeds.

Republic

- The Constitution as a chosen past (**Ambedkar**, a freedom struggle) against another past (a varna police).
- Museums, a textbook war.

The counter

- **If the past is permanent, is reform a lie? No:** the dimension stays; the contents can be judged. And some 'pasts' are inventions of last Tuesday. A usable past is one that can sit with **Art. 14**.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** inherit, then audit. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Ambedkar

Annihilation - a past that must not be a destiny.

Tagore

The lamp of the past - light, not a lock.

Constituent Assembly

A chosen inheritance - rights over a varna file.

Art. 25-30

Faith and culture as a past the republic still hosts.

NCERT / ASI

Textbook and ruin - the public past.