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Q2

Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** values are a demand on what we should become - not a census of what we already are
- **One stand:** 'is' is the species; 'ought' is the republic's unfinished walk
- Move through self, family, market, constitution. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a practiced ought, not a sermon

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a ration queue. Stand:** values as ought, not a flattering census.
- **Headings:** self, family, market, constitution, counter.

Earn **Ambedkar** once. Peg **Preamble / Art. 21**.

Close on a practiced gap.

Note

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

Anecdote

- **A queue at a ration shop:** some cut, some wait, a clerk looks away. What humanity is in that minute is hunger and a little theft of time. What it ought to be is a fair turn. The topic is that gap - values as a pull, not a selfie of our goodness.

One stand

Values are not a description of the average Indian. They are a standard we fail and still owe. Write Hume's gap without naming a textbook: is vs ought.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Is:** appetite, fear, caste comfort, a like-button.
- **Ought:** dignity, a promise kept, a widened we.
- Values as a horizon, not a museum of ancestors.

Self

- Honesty when nobody is watching. The ought is private first.

Family / society

- **Honour, a wedding expense, a girl pulled from school:** 'our culture' as an is pretending to be an ought.
- **Ambedkar:** annihilate what the village is when it cages.

Market

- A contract honoured; a fake medicine. Profit is; fairness ought.

State

- **Preamble, Arts. 14-21:** the ought written into a file.
- **A lock-up that beats:** the is of power.

The counter

An 'ought' that starves a household is cruelty in moral dress. The floor (food, a wage, a school) is the first value. And some 'oughts' are elite taste. Still: without an ought, the is becomes destiny.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep one ought in a queue this week. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Kant / Hume

Ought is not derived from is - one nod, then India.

Ambedkar

Constitutional morality - the ought against village destiny.

Preamble

Justice, liberty, equality, fraternity - the republic's ought.

Art. 17 / 21

Untouchability and dignity - ought in a lock-up and a well.

NFHS / ASER

What we are in health and school - the gap the ought must close.

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