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Q1

Life is a long journey between human being and being humane.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** biology is given; humane is made - a long walk from species to dharma
- **One stand:** the journey is conscience in public: how we treat a queue, a prisoner, a river
- Move through self, society, state, world. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a habit, not a halo

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a bench, a dog, an unseen beggar. Stand:** species vs practice.
- **Headings:** self, caste/care, constitution, world, then one counter.

Earn **Gandhi** once; **Ambedkar** once.

Close on a widened we.

Note

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

Anecdote

A man shares a bench with a stray dog and a beggar. He feeds the dog. He does not see the beggar. He is a human being. The second seeing would be humane. The topic is the distance between the two, walked over a life - and a republic's life.

One stand

- **Human being is membership in a species. Humane is a practice:** pity with justice, strength without cruelty. Write the journey as daily, not as a conversion scene.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Human being:** body, hunger, fear, a name in a census.
- **Being humane:** the extra we owe - dignity, restraint, a widened 'we'.
- **Long journey:** unfinished; backsliding is normal. Honesty about that.

Self

- Anger is the species. A pause is the walk.
- **Gandhi:** means as the walk itself.

Society

- **Caste, a riot, a joke in a wedding WhatsApp:** the species defending a small 'we'.
- **Langar, a blood bank:** humane as organisation, not only mood.

State

- **Art. 21, 17, 15:** the republic's attempt to write humane into the file.
- **A lock-up, a demolition at dawn:** the journey reversing in khaki.

World

- War, a refugee camp, climate - the species at scale. Humane is a convention and a hospital.

The counter

- **Do not preach humane to a starving household as if pity were calories. Ambedkar:** a hungry man is not first a moral project; he is owed a floor. The journey includes the state's walk, not only the saint's.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** widen the 'we' by one person this week, and by one clause in a file. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Gandhi

Means as ends in the making - humane as how we walk, not a halo at the shrine.

Ambedkar

Social democracy - humane as a structure, not a mood.

Art. 21 / 17

Dignity and the abolition of untouchability - the journey in law.

NHRC / prison

The lock-up as a test of the species in uniform.

Geneva / refugees

Humane as a convention when the species goes to war.

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