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Q4

Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.

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

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Often linked to da Vinci:** simplicity as the last sophistication
- **One stand:** the simple that remains after the unnecessary is cut - not the simple of the lazy
- Move through design, policy, speech, tech. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a clean sentence that still tells the truth

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with seventeen annexures vs one page. Stand:** earned simple, not lazy simple.
- **Headings:** self, UPI/GST, speech, tech, then one counter.

Earn **da Vinci** or **Gandhi** once. Peg ORS or a window.

Close on a clean true sentence.

Note

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

Anecdote

A ration form with seventeen annexures and a thumbprint that still does not open the shop. A later officer cuts it to one page and a queue that moves. That cut is not dumbing-down. It is sophistication that learned what the poor already knew.

One stand

Simple is the core that survives committee (cousin of 2024's large-consequence ideas). Write against both clutter and a slogan that hides a theft.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Simplicity:** few moving parts, sayable, usable.
- **Ultimate sophistication:** earned by knowing the complexity first (a doctor's short advice after a long training).
- **da Vinci** (as commonly given) - one nod.

Self

- A life of fewer performances. **Gandhi's** spinning as a simple that was not naive.

Policy

- UPI, ORS, a single-window that actually is one window.
- GST's idea was simple; the return was not. Name the gap.

Speech

- A manifesto in one page vs a gazette of fog. **Ambedkar** could be simple and still sharp.

Tech

- A public good with a clean interface; a 'simple' app that hides a consent trap.

The counter

Some truths are not simple (a tax on carbon, a language, a climate model). 'Keep it simple' can be anti-intellectual or a thief's friend (a simple rumour). Sophistication includes knowing when to show the working. The poor deserve simple access, not a simple lie.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** cut the annexure, keep the safeguard. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

da Vinci

Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication - as commonly given. Then leave the notebook.

Gandhi

A walkable idea (salt) - simple after a long training in the complex empire.

UPI / ORS

Simple for the user; protocol underneath.

GST returns

A simple idea that grew annexures - the gap to name.

Art. 21

Procedure that a person can actually use - simplicity as access to dignity.

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