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Q6

What is research, but a blind date with knowledge!

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** research is a date with the unknown - no script, a chance of a mismatch, a chance of a world
- **One stand:** method is how we stay brave and honest on that date
- Move through science, public policy, history, digital. Keep one honest counter
- Close on curiosity with a protocol

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a data file that will not flirt. Stand:** encounter plus method.
- **Headings:** lab, pilot, archive, AI, then one counter.

Earn Feynman once. Peg a trial or census.

Close on curiosity with consent.

Note

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

Anecdote

A PhD student opens a file she did not write. The data will not flirt back as planned. That awkwardness is the point. Research is a blind date with knowledge - you dress, you show up, you do not get to pick the ending in advance.

One stand

- **Blind:** we do not know. Date: we still prepare, listen, leave when it is wrong. Write against both the know-it-all file and the conspiracy that 'research' means a bought result.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Blind date:** uncertainty, surprise, chemistry that may fail.
- **Knowledge:** not a download; an encounter.
- **Tone:** playful, then serious.

Science

- Hypothesis as a profile; experiment as the meeting. Replication as asking a friend if it was true.
- **Peg:** a vaccine trial; an ISRO anomaly - the date going badly, then well.

Policy

- A pilot scheme is a chaperoned date. Scaling without evaluation is a forced marriage.
- **Census** as a national date with ourselves.

History and society

- Archives surprise. A 'glorious past' that never shows up is a catfish.

Digital

- An AI summary is not the date; it is a friend's gossip. The primary source still has to walk in.

The counter

Some dates should not happen - a trial without consent, a study on the poor as if they were a buffet. Ethics boards are the streetlight. And 'blind' is not 'ignorant of harm'. Precaution is part of showing up dressed.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the protocol, keep the wonder. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Feynman

Do not fool yourself - the honesty a blind date requires.

Popper

A claim that cannot be risked is not a date; it is a speech.

Clinical ethics

Consent - the streetlight on the date.

Pilot / evaluation

Policy as a chaperoned meeting before a marriage of scale.

Anusandhan / NRF

Public research capacity - showing up as a republic, not only as a slogan.

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