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Q2

Your perception of me is a reflection of you; my reaction to you is an awareness of me.

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

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Two clauses:** your view of me shows you; my reaction shows me
- **One stand:** the other is a mirror; the reaction is a second mirror we can still choose
- Move through self, caste/media, office, diplomacy. Keep one honest counter
- Close on responsibility for the second glance

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with 'you people' and a later noting. Stand:** two mirrors; only one is yours to wash.
- **Headings:** self, rumour, office, world, then one counter.

Earn one Vedanta or **Gandhi** line. Peg a reasoned file.

Close on the second glance.

Note

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

Anecdote

A new officer hears 'you people' in a teashop and burns. Later he hears the same shape of sentence in his own noting about a village. The first insult showed the shop. The second sentence showed him. The line is that double pane.

One stand

Perception is often projection. Reaction is character. Write to use the first clause against prejudice, and the second against the cult of blame.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Your perception of me:** bias, caste-eye, a feed's stereotype, a lover's hope.
- **My reaction:** the only pane I can wash today.
- Vedanta / a modern therapy cousin - one honest nod, not a gurudom.

Self

- We meet our own fear in the other's face. A pause is the washcloth.

Society

- A rumour about a community is a portrait of the rumourer.
- **Still:** the target's anger is data, not 'their karma'. The first clause must not gaslight.

Office

- A file that 'sees' a petitioner as a type. 360-degree feedback as a civic mirror.
- **Police reform:** the public's perception is also a portrait of the khaki - sometimes earned.

World

- A country's 'image' campaign vs how it treats a student at a visa counter.

The counter

A Dalit's testimony is not 'a reflection of the listener' in the sense that it can be dismissed. Some perceptions are true because they tracked a fact. The line is about distortion, not about dissolving the world into mood. Keep a stubborn outer event (a blow, a law).

Last paragraph

- **Close:** wash the pane you hold. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Gandhi

Be the change - the reaction as the pane we can wash.

Vedanta nod

The world as seen through a mind - use once; then return to the teashop. Do not dissolve a blow into metaphysics.

Art. 14

The file must not 'see' a type - equality as a washed pane.

Media / IT Rules

A feed that projects; a duty to slow the portrait.

Police / prison

Public perception as a portrait that can be earned - reform as washing khaki's pane.

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