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Q8

Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Often linked to Einstein:** what remains after school is forgotten
- **One stand:** education is a residue - judgment, curiosity, decency - not the marksheet
- Move through school, home, digital, republic. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a habit of mind, not a war on teachers

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a forgotten theorem and a remaining doubt. Stand:** residue is judgment.
- **Headings:** self, NEP/school, home, digital, republic, then one counter.

Earn Einstein once; Tagore once. Peg 21A.

Close on scaffold plus remainder.

Note

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

Anecdote

Twenty years after the board exam, a woman cannot recall a theorem. She can still smell a bad contract, wait her turn, teach a child to doubt a forwarded 'study'. That remainder is the topic - not a sneer at the school that gave her the first tools.

One stand

- **School is a scaffold. Education is what still stands when the scaffold is gone:** how we treat a queue, a fact, a stranger. Write to honour teachers and still refuse marks-as-destiny.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Learned in school:** content, drill, a syllabus.
- **Remains:** character, method, a love of the true, a language.
- **Einstein (as commonly given):** residue, not contempt for classrooms.

Self

- Coaching can rent a rank and return you empty. Residue is how you lose.

School and NEP

- Rote vs understanding. NEP's claim is residue-talk; coaching markets sell the opposite.
- **Tagore's path:** more sky than factory.

Home and street

- **The hidden curriculum:** caste in a joke, a girl's curfew, a boy's armour (cousin of 2023-05).
- If the home teaches fear, the school's remainder is thin.

Digital

- A feed that never forgets trivia and never keeps a doubt. Residue now includes the skill to leave.

Republic

- **Peg:** Art. 21A, scientific temper 51A(h) - the citizen as a remaining mind.
- Literacy numbers vs the ability to read a ballot and a loan.

The counter

Forgetting is not a virtue if the nurse forgets a dose. Some school-learning must not fade (a vaccine schedule, a right). The line targets inert cram, not memory itself. And a child without a school is not a romantic remainder; she is owed the scaffold first.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** build scaffolds that leave a mind, not a trophy. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Einstein

Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one learned in school - as commonly cited. Do not fake a page.

Tagore

Where the mind is without fear - the remainder the factory school often misses.

Art. 21A

The scaffold as a right - remainder talk cannot skip the missing school.

Art. 51A(h)

Scientific temper as a civic remainder.

NEP

A claim to shift from cram to understanding - test it against the coaching town, not a press note.