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Q6

Mathematics is the music of reason.

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

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** mathematics is reason made audible - pattern, proof, proportion
- **One stand:** a republic that cannot count cannot be just; a life that only counts is not yet human
- Move through mind, science, economy, democracy. Keep one honest counter
- Close on measure plus meaning

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with tabla and tax on one bus. Stand:** honest pattern vs dashboard tyranny.
- **Headings:** self, science, **census**/GDP, democracy, then one counter.

Earn **Ramanujan** or Sen once. Peg **census** or a trial.

Close on measure plus meaning.

Note

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

Anecdote

A tabla player and an accountant share a bus. One counts beats; the other counts tax. Both are listening for a pattern that must not cheat. "Mathematics is the music of reason" is that shared ear - not a threat to the poet.

One stand

Maths is the craft of not lying with quantity. Write to honour proof, **census**, a bridge load - and to refuse a world where only what is numbered is real.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Music:** structure, interval, surprise within a rule.
- **Reason:** claims that another can replay.
- **Cousin:** Pythagoras / Leibniz (often so linked) - one honest mention, not a lecture.

Self

- A budget of the month; a lie we tell with averages. Numeracy as character.

Science and tech

- Models of monsoon, a vaccine trial, encryption.
- **Peg:** **Ramanujan**; ISRO orbital maths - beauty that must still dock.

Economy and state

- GDP is a tune; jobs, air, unpaid care are the missing instruments.
- **Census, SECC, a GST invoice:** the state's sheet music. A delayed **census** is a silenced bar.

Democracy

- **Delimitation, a seat reserved, a poll percentage:** numbers that can serve or steal.
- **Algorithms scoring credit:** music of someone else's reason.

The counter

Not all that matters sings in numbers - grief, a language, a sacred grove. **Amartya Sen:** capabilities, not only income. And bad maths (a communal 'count') is noise, not music. The line praises honest reason, not the tyranny of a dashboard.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the ear for proof, and still hear the uncounted. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Ramanujan

Pattern as beauty that still had to face Hardy's proof - music that answered to reason.

Amartya Sen

A life is more than a number - capabilities as the lyric the GDP misses.

Census

The republic's sheet music - delay is a silenced bar.

Art. 51A(h)

Scientific temper - the citizen's duty to prefer proof to rumour.

GDP vs care

Unpaid household work: a missing instrument in the national tune.