

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q1

Thinking is like a game, it does not begin unless there is an opposite team.

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

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- Unpack thinking as a contest, not a monologue
- **One stand:** the mind starts when it meets a worthy opposite - a fact, a person, a doubt
- Move through self, academy, democracy, diplomacy. Keep one honest counter
- Close on argument as a public good, not a brawl

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with an empty chess chair. Stand:** thought needs a worthy opposite.
- **Headings:** self, lab, democracy, world, then one counter.

Earn **Mill** or **Ambedkar** once. Peg Assembly debates, not a dump.

Close on argument as a public good.

Note

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

Anecdote

- **A chessboard in a railway waiting room:** a boy will not move until someone sits opposite. Alone he only rearranges the same pieces. "Thinking is like a game; it does not begin unless there is an opposite team" is that empty chair - the other mind that makes yours work.

One stand

Thought is not a diary. It starts when it is tested - by a rival claim, a datum, a dissenting colleague. Write to keep the opposite team in the room, and still refuse a mob.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Thinking:** checking, revising, inventing - not repeating a slogan.
- **Opposite team:** a counter-argument, a failed experiment, a minority judgment, a foreign brief.
- **Stake:** comfort is not thought. Conflict can be; a street fight is not.

Self

- We keep news that flatters. The opposite team is the article we skip.
- A journal that records only victories is not thinking; it is branding.

Knowledge

- **Science:** hypothesis vs nature. The lab is the opposite team.
- A classroom without questions is a waiting room with one player.

Democracy and law

- **Parliament, a second chamber, a dissent on the bench:** designed opposites.
- Media as a check - or as an echo. Name the difference.
- **Peg:** **Constituent Assembly** debates - **Ambedkar**'s sentences earned against other sentences.

World

- **Diplomacy:** the other capital is the opposite team; a communicate that never met a fact is not thought.

The counter

- **Some "opposites" are bad-faith:** a troll, a rumour **mill**, a paid doubt. You do not owe every chair a game. The line asks for a worthy opposite - evidence, not noise. Silence before a lynch-mob is not the empty board; it is duty.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep one honest rival on the desk - a number, a dissent, a walk in the other ward. **Mill's** marketplace and a civil servant's noting are that habit. Expand each heading; this page is only the map.

Facts & figures

Mill

If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, that one should still be heard - the opposite team as liberty.

Ambedkar

Constitutional morality is daily argument under rules - not a monologue of the majority.

Constituent Assembly

Drafting as a contest of briefs - thought that began because someone sat opposite.

Art. 19

Free speech includes the speech you dislike - the legal chair for the opposite team.

Dissenting judgments

A minority opinion that later becomes law - the game continuing after the sitting.