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Q7

All ideas having large consequences are always simple.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** large consequence often hides in a sentence a child could repeat
- **One stand:** simplicity is not stupidity; it is a core that survives committee
- Move through science, politics, markets, faith. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a simple idea that still needs hard work

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with wash-hands on a blackboard. Stand:** simple core, unsimple labour.
- **Headings:** science, constitution, economy, culture, then one counter.

Earn **Gandhi** or **Ambedkar** once. Peg **UPI** or salt, not a dump.

Close on seed plus forest.

Note

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

Anecdote

- **A teacher writes on a village blackboard:** wash hands. Cholera does not care for a white paper. A century of germ theory sat inside five letters. The line says the ideas that move history are usually that plain - and then we spend decades making them real.

One stand

- **What changes a people is often a short claim:** one person one vote; need not greed; the earth is not a warehouse. Write the simple core, then show the unsimple labour of institutions.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Simple:** few moving parts, sayable, memorable.
- **Large consequences:** law, market, war, a new common sense.
- **Not:** every slogan is deep. A simple lie also travels.

Science and daily life

- **Germs, vaccines, boiling water:** simple ideas, vast death averted.
- **Occam:** do not multiply entities - cousin, not a lecture.

Politics and constitution

- "One person, one vote, one value" - **Ambedkar**'s fight was to keep the sentence from being hollow.
- **Salt**: **Gandhi**'s idea was walkable. The empire was not simple; the idea was.

Economy

- **UPI**: pay like a message. Simple for the user; years of public rail behind it.
- "Markets allocate" is simple; 2008 showed the footnote was not optional.

Culture

- **Ahimsa as a public idea**: simple to say, costly to practise.

The counter

Some truths are complex (climate models, a tax code, a language). Do not beat experts with "keep it simple" as anti-intellectualism. And simple hatred (a rumour about a community) also has large consequences. The essay must refuse that simplicity.

Last paragraph

- **Close**: find the sentence a child could repeat, then build the office that makes it true. Simple is the seed; the forest is still work. Expand in the hall - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Gandhi

Salt as a walkable idea - large consequence from a short claim. Tie to a scene, not a biopic.

Ambedkar

One person, one vote, one value - simple sentence, unfinished social labour.

UPI

Simple for the user; years of public digital infrastructure underneath.

Handwashing / ORS

Public-health sentences that cut death - simplicity with a protocol behind it.

Art. 326

Adult suffrage - the simple political idea, still tested every election.

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