

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

Q6

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but to test the character, give him power.

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

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Name the source:** often **Lincoln** - adversity vs power as the test of character
- **One stand:** hardship can be borne by pride; power reveals whether we stay human
- Move through person, office, party, republic. Keep one honest counter
- Close on constitutional limits, not a sermon against ambition

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a new chair and a stamp pad. Stand:** power is the real exam.
- **Headings:** self, society, office, politics, then one counter.

Earn Lincoln and Acton or Ambedkar. Peg Arts. 14/32, not a dump.

Close on limits plus needed power.

Note

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

Anecdote

- **A new chair in a block office:** yesterday the same man waited in the same queue. Today the peon stands. Adversity he had already passed - a failed year, a sick parent. The test that has just begun is the stamp pad in his drawer.

One stand

Most of us can survive a blow. Character is what we do when we can blow others. Write to keep power under law, and still admit that some power is needed to protect.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Adversity:** exam, poverty, defeat - a test of endurance.
- **Power:** office, money, following, a gun, a majority.
- **Lincoln (as traditionally given):** the second test is the real one. **Acton's** cousin: power tends to corrupt.

Self

- A promotion that thins listening is the desert after the forest of struggle.

- Privilege that never met adversity can also fail the test - softness is not virtue if it never had a choice.

Society

- **Caste and gender:** who has always had a small empire at home. The line is not only about CM chairs.

State and office

- **Discretion in a file, a transfer, a tender:** character as procedure - noting, reason, appeal.
- **Peg:** Articles 14, 32, CAG, a free press - the republic's way of not trusting the saint in the chair.

Politics

- A movement born in jail can become a patronage machine. Adversity was the brand; power is the audit.

The counter

Power is not original sin. A collector who uses it to open a fair-price shop is passing the test. Ambedkar wanted the depressed classes to have power, then to bind it with constitutional morality. The quote tests character; it does not preach helplessness.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the queue in the mind when you hold the stamp. Limits, audit, and a habit of stepping down are character in public. Expand each heading - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Lincoln

Nearly all men can stand adversity; to test character, give him power - as traditionally cited. Do not fake a speech number.

Acton

Power tends to corrupt - the cousin line. Use once, then show offices that resist it.

Ambedkar

Constitutional morality: daily discipline when you finally hold the chair.

Arts. 14 and 32

Equality and constitutional remedies - character as a justiciable limit.

CAG / media

Audit and publicity: we do not rely on the saint in the office.