

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

What do each of the following quotations mean to you? (a) "An unexamined life is not worth living." - Socrates (10 marks) (b) "A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes." - M.K.Gandhi (10 marks) (c) "Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world." - A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (10 marks).

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · GS IV · 10 marks · Moral Thinkers and Philosophers

Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and the world.

Core demand of the question

- Explain what each quotation means to you
- (a) **Socrates**: an unexamined life is not worth living
- (b) M. K. **Gandhi**: a man is but the product of his thoughts; what he thinks, he becomes
- (c) **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**: righteousness in the heart to peace in the world, through character, home and nation

Revision summary

Socrates treats an unexamined life as unworthy; public office needs reasons, not copied prejudice.

Gandhi treats thought as the seed of the person; a dirty inner joke becomes a dirty signature.

Kalam chains inner righteousness to character, home, national order and world peace.

The three quotes together ask for self-audit, clean thought and private fairness as the start of public peace.

A **speaking order** and a decent home are both examinations of the self.

Introduction

Three sentences ask a public person to look inward before looking at a crowd. **Socrates** wants examination, **Gandhi** wants the thought that becomes character, and Kalam wants a chain from a clean heart to a peaceful world.

Body**(a) Socrates: an unexamined life is not worth living**

- **Socrates**, in **Plato**'s Apology, is saying that a human life that never asks "is this just?" is a life of a tool, not of a citizen.

- Examination means testing one's desires, loyalties, and official acts against reason and a standard of right, not against comfort.
- **In public life, an unexamined officer repeats a prejudice in a file:** a caste remark in a police diary, a communal assumption in a riot note, a gift taken because "everyone takes".
- **Examination is a daily audit of the self:** why this tender, why this delay, why this silence.
- The quote does not praise endless doubt that never decides. It praises a life that can give reasons, which is also what a **speaking order** owes the public.
- For me it means that marks, posting, and salary do not make a life worthy if the person has never faced the question of harm done in their name.
- **Constitutional morality is a public form of Socratic examination:** the **Preamble** as the test, not the uncle's advice.

(b) Gandhi: a man is the product of his thoughts; what he thinks, he becomes

- **Gandhi** is stating that character is grown in the mind before it is seen in the hand.
- A person who nurses envy, communal hatred, or a plan to cheat will, given time and opportunity, become that act.
- A person who practises truth in small thoughts - I will not hide this fact, I will not enjoy another's humiliation - becomes trustworthy when a large file arrives.
- The line matches the Gita's teaching that thought, will, and deed travel together, and it matches modern psychology's claim that repeated inner talk shapes habit.
- In public life, an officer who thinks of citizens as a nuisance will become rude; an officer who thinks of the desk as a trust will become careful.
- The quote is a warning against the fantasy that one can keep a dirty mind and a clean office. Leakage is the rule.
- **It is also hope:** a person can change the product by changing the thought, through prayer, study, and the company of the decent, which **Gandhi** called ashram discipline and which a service academy should still attempt.
- For me it means vigilance over the first cynical joke in the mess, because that joke is a rehearsal of the later corrupt signature.

(c) Kalam: righteousness in the heart to peace in the world

- **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam is drawing a chain:** heart, character, home, nation, world.
- Righteousness here is not display of piety; it is fairness, truth, and restraint in the private place where no one is watching.
- **Beauty of character is the public face of that inner fairness:** courtesy, courage, and refusal to humiliate.
- **Harmony in the home is the first republic:** a house that beats a child or a spouse cannot preach peace at a rally.
- Order in the nation is law, institutions, and a street that does not riot; it grows from homes that already practise dignity, and from officers whose character is beautiful in Kalam's sense.
- **Peace in the world is the last ring:** a nation of disordered homes and corrupt counters will export suspicion, not peace.
- The quote is close to the Confucian rings of self, family, and state, and to **Gandhi's** claim that the personal is the political.
- **For a civil servant it is a work map:** do not wait for a UN resolution to practise righteousness; start with the file, the driver, and the family.

- Kalam's own life as a scientist who stayed simple is the example he is asking India to copy, not only to quote on a classroom wall.

Flow diagram

Examined life -> Reasons for acts
Thought -> Character
Character -> Public act
Righteous heart -> Harmony at home
Harmony at home -> Order in nation
Order in nation -> Peace in the world

Conclusion

Socrates makes a worthy life depend on testing one's acts. **Gandhi** makes the person the fruit of repeated thought. Kalam joins a clean heart to a peaceful world through home and nation. All three tell the public servant that the file begins in the mind.

Facts & figures

Plato's Apology

The setting of **Socrates'** claim that the unexamined life is not worth living, spoken at his trial in Athens.

Gandhi's ashram discipline

Truth-telling, manual work and restraint of desire as training of thought so that public politics would not be a separate dirty self.

A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

Scientist, President of India (2002-2007), and teacher whose public ethic linked personal simplicity to national development.

Speaking order

A recorded reason for an official act; a Socratic duty owed to the citizen who is affected.

Preamble

The short public test against which an Indian officer can examine a file: justice, liberty, equality, fraternity.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2019/what-do-each-of-the-following-quotations-mean-to-you-a-an-unexamined-life-is-not-worth-living-socrates-10-marks-b-a-man-is-but-the-product-of-his-thoughts-what-he-thinks-he-becomes-m-k-gandhi-10-marks-c-where-there-is/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com