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UPSC Mains 2016 Essay

Year-wise PYQ pack · WRAP model answers with canonical links

Official UPSC stems in exam order. Each live answer sits on one WRAP URL; this PDF is the year pack, not a second copy of the article. Open the link under a question for the full page.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains/essay/2016/>

Q1 · 125 marks

If development is not engendered, it is endangered.

Essay · 2016 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a road and a water walk. Stand:** design with her, or the project is already failing.
- **Headings:** title, care, work/polity, counter.

Peg SDG 5 / a land title. Close on a named budget line.

Note

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

Anecdote

A road is 'development'. The woman still walks two kilometres for water beside it. The road did not fail as tar. It failed as a life. If development is not engendered, it is endangered - the line is a warning, not a gender workshop title.

One stand

- **Engendered:** who counts, who owns, who is safe after dark. Endangered: a growth that burns the household that reproduces labour. Write SDG 5 without a brochure.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Development:** income, a tap, a school, a say.
- **Engendered:** built with gender as a structure, not a beneficiary photo.
- **Endangered:** unstable, unjust, eventually slower.

Numbers / title

- A land record without her. A census that misses unpaid work.

Care / body

- A PHC that is a day's wage away. Anaemia as 'endangerment' of the next worker.

Work / polity

- LFPR. A panchayat chair that is a proxy.

The counter

Men in a dying farm are also endangered. Gender is not a zero-sum of pity. And a 'women-only' scheme that leaves caste untouched is another sticker. **Ambedkar**: the last woman is a caste-class-gender knot.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** put her on the title and the tap. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2016/if-development-is-not-engendered-it-is-endangered/>

WRAP Exams

Q2 · 125 marks

Need brings greed, if greed increases it spoils breed.

Essay · 2016 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a tanker vs a third car. Stand:** floor vs unlimited want.
- **Headings:** self/market, ecology, republic, counter.

Earn **Gandhi** once on enough. Do not scold a ration. Close on a limit at the top.

Note

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

Anecdote

- **A drought year:** a tanker is need. A third car in a wet city is a different animal. The line says need brings greed, and greed, grown, spoils the breed - the stock of persons, a commons, a future child. Write that slide.

One stand

- **Need:** a floor. Greed: a want without a stop. Breed: character, a species of citizen, sometimes a literal ecology. Do not moralise the poor's grain.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Need → greed:** a psychological and social slide.
- **Spoils breed:** the type we become; a commons exhausted; a family ethic of grab.

Self / market

- Advertising as a need-factory. Status as a private tanker of the soul.

Ecology

- A river as a sand mine. Breed as the living stock we inherit.

Republic

- Corruption as greed in office. The breed of public servant.

The counter

- **Calling the hungry 'greedy' is a crime of language.** **Ambedkar:** a floor first. And some 'restraint' talk is a luxury ethic. The spoiled breed is at the top - a loot, a luxury emission - not at the ration queue.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** feed need; tax and shame unlimited grab. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2016/need-brings-greed-if-greed-increases-it-spoils-breed/>

Q3 · 125 marks

Water disputes between states in federal India.

Essay · 2016 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a canal gate. Stand:** basin + compact, not a capital war.
- **Headings:** law, politics, ecology, counter.

Peg **Art. 262** / one tribunal. Close on teeth plus a matching crop.

Note

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

Anecdote

A canal gate is a foreign policy between two Indian states. Farmers wait with a photograph of a god and a CM. Water disputes in federal India are not a geography quiz. They are a trust failure in a shared river.

One stand

- **Disputes:** Cauvery, a Krishna, a Punjab-Haryana file. Federal: **Article 262**, a tribunal, a Centre accused of a favourite child. Write the basin.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Water:** irrigation, a city, a hydro, a rite.
- **Disputes:** quantity, a timing, a new dam.
- **Federal India:** units that contest, a Union that must not only delay.

Law

- Inter-**State Water Disputes Act**, a tribunal, a Supreme Court that then must be obeyed.

Politics

- A vote-bank of a delta vs an upland. Language of 'our river'.

Ecology / people

- A monsoon that shrank. A crop that is too thirsty.
- A fisher, a delta, a groundwater cousin.

The counter

'Basin only' can ignore a historical pact. And the Centre as a neutral umpire is sometimes a player. Complexity is not an excuse for a summer of empty canals.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** compact, crop, a tribunal with teeth. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2016/water-disputes-between-states-in-federal-india/>

Q4 · 125 marks

Innovation is the key determinant of economic growth and social welfare.

Essay · 2016 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a paper PHC and an app. Stand:** innovation as absorbed capacity.
- **Headings:** firm/farm, state, inclusion, counter.

Peg UPI or a vaccine. Close on scale, not a summit.

Note

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

Anecdote

A PHC still sends a paper file. A start-up in the same city sells a health app to people who have a phone and a card. Innovation is happening. Welfare is the question of who it reaches. The topic makes innovation the key - write the lock it must fit.

One stand

- **Key determinant:** not the only one (capital, a school, a peace). Growth: productivity. Social welfare: a public that works. Write frugal, a public lab, a last-mile.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Innovation:** process, a product, an institution.
- **Economic growth:** TFP, a firm that learns.
- **Social welfare:** health, a school, a dignity - not only GDP.

Firm / farm

- A machine, a seed, a UPI as a cousin of innovation.

State

- A vaccine platform, an Aadhaar that can include or exclude.
- **Public R&D:** CSIR, a university that is not only a rank.

Inclusion

- A language, a repair, a price.

The counter

Innovation without a demand (a poor who cannot buy) is a toy. Labour displaced without a floor is a welfare crime. And 'innovation' can be a rent-seeking patent thicket. The key turns only in a lock called absorption.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** one scaled boring fix. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2016/innovation-is-the-key-determinant-of-economic-growth-and-social-welfare/>

Q5 · 125 marks

Cooperative federalism: Myth or reality.

Essay · 2016 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a launch without a file. Stand:** patches of reality; money often a myth.
- **Headings:** money, institutions, crisis, counter.

Peg GST Council / FC. Close on consultation as a habit.

Note

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

Anecdote

A Chief Minister flies to Delhi for a scheme launch that was designed without his file. The banner says cooperative federalism. The chair was a photo. The topic asks myth or reality - write both, then a stand.

One stand

- **Cooperative:** Sarkaria, a Punchhi, a GST vote. Myth: one-way money. Reality: a disaster that needed both. Do not pick a party.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Cooperative federalism:** shared rule, not a gift from the Centre.
- **Myth or reality:** a spectrum - name when it worked.

Money

- **Finance Commission** vs a CSS that eats the state's list.

Institutions

- GST Council, Inter-State Council, NITI as a talking shop or a table.

Crisis

- **A flood, a pandemic:** cooperation as a necessity.

The counter

Competitive federalism (a race of states) is a cousin, not an enemy. And a strong Centre was **Ambedkar's** design against a crumbling. The myth is harmony as already achieved. The reality is a bargain that must be re-struck every Budget.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep two chairs in the room before the banner. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2016/cooperative-federalism-myth-or-reality/>

Q6 · 125 marks

Cyberspace and internet: Blessing or curse to the human civilization in the long run.

Essay · 2016 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a paper and a rumour. Stand:** public net vs feed-as-commons.
- **Headings:** knowledge, crime, mind, counter.

Peg UPI and a riot rumour. Close on a library plus a brake.

Note

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

Anecdote

A student in a small town reads a paper that used to live only in a Delhi library. The same week a rumour kills a man two districts away. Cyberspace is both rooms. The topic wants the long run - blessing or curse - with a spine, not a shrug.

One stand

- **Blessing:** access, a voice, a science. Curse: a lie at light-speed, a surveillance, an addiction.
- Long run: institutions we build now. Write both, then a public-net stand.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Cyberspace and internet:** infrastructure plus culture.
- **Blessing or curse:** a false binary - write the fork.
- **Civilisation in the long run:** memory, a trust, a war.

Knowledge / market

- A MOOC, a UPI, a language that may die in thin data.

Crime / conflict

- A cyber attack, a deepfake, a riot.

Mind / child

- Attention as a mined ore.

The counter

Going off-grid is a privilege. The poor's first net is often a cheap phone and a rumour. The task is not nostalgia for a pre-net village; it is a public digital that includes a library and a brake. Law is a tool, not the whole civilisation.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the library; put a brake on the rumour mill. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2016/cyberspace-and-internet-blessing-or-curse-to-the-human-civilization-in-the-long-run/>

Q7 · 125 marks

Near jobless growth in India: An anomaly or an outcome of economic reforms.

Essay · 2016 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a chart and a factory gate. Stand:** mostly an outcome of the path, not a glitch.
- **Headings:** path, farm/informal, skill, counter.

Peg PLFS / elasticity once. Close on a job strategy.

Note

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

Anecdote

A chart goes up. A young man still waits outside a factory that hired a machine. Near jobless growth in India is a lived queue. The topic asks: anomaly or the child of reforms? Write a cause, not a mood.

One stand

- **Reforms:** 1991 and after - trade, a service boom, a thin manufacturing. Anomaly would mean growth should have hired. Outcome: the path selected sectors that hire few.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Near jobless:** employment elasticity that is weak.
- **Anomaly:** a surprise vs textbook.
- **Outcome of reforms:** a structural child, not a gremlin.

Path

- Services and capital-intensive industry. A missing mass manufacturing.

Farm / informal

- The sponge that hides the jobless. A reform story that did not absorb them.

Skill / regulation

- A mismatch. A fear of hiring. A gig that is not a career.

The counter

Some jobs did come (IT, a construction). Demography made the same growth look jobless. And pre-1991 was not a job paradise - it was a scarcity. The honest stand: reforms raised output; they did not automatically raise decent work. That is a policy unfinished, not a reason to freeze 1990.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** grow what hires, skill what exists, a floor for the informal. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2016/near-jobless-growth-in-india-an-anomaly-or-an-outcome-of-economic-reforms/>

Q8 · 125 marks

Digital economy: A leveller or a source of economic inequality.

Essay · 2016 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a QR and a failed iris. Stand:** leveller if public and optional-path.
- **Headings:** payments, school/health, labour, counter.

Peg UPI / DBT and an exclusion. Close on a human counter.

Note

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

Anecdote

A vegetable seller takes a QR. A widow is turned away because an iris did not match. The same digital. Leveller or a new inequality - the topic is that fork in one market.

One stand

- **Leveller:** lower transaction cost, a voice, a transfer that skips a tout. Inequality: a device, a skill, an algorithm that excludes. Write both rooms.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Digital economy:** payments, a platform, a public ID.
- **Leveller:** equalising access to a market.
- **Source of inequality:** a new scarce good (connectivity, a score).

Payments / welfare

- DBT that arrives. Aadhaar that locks a ration.

School / health

- An online class in a blackout. A telemedicine that needs a son's phone.

Labour / data

- A gig that pays by the ping. A data exhaust that is a new oil - not hers.

The counter

Cash was not equal (a tout, a delay). Digital can be the least-bad leveller if a fallback exists. The sin is a digital-only state. **Ambedkar:** the last person must still be able to walk into an office.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** public rails plus a human window. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2016/digital-economy-a-leveller-or-a-source-of-economic-inequality/>

Compiled answer key

Last pages of this pack. Each question links to the WRAP model answer on wrapexams.com.

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Q1 125 marks	Q2 125 marks	Q3 125 marks	Q4 125 marks
Q5 125 marks	Q6 125 marks	Q7 125 marks	Q8 125 marks

Question-wise key

Q1 · 125 marks Solution

Q2 · 125 marks Solution

Q3 · 125 marks Solution

Q4 · 125 marks Solution

Q5 · 125 marks Solution

Q6 · 125 marks Solution

Q7 · 125 marks Solution

Q8 · 125 marks Solution

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