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UPSC Mains 2017 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/2017/>

Q1 · 125 marks

Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India.

Essay · 2017 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a field and a godown. Stand:** subsistence failed as a system.
- **Headings:** land/climate, market, household, counter.

Peg MSP / a small-plot fact. Close on a living, not a plough hymn.

Note

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

Anecdote

A family in Vidarbha keeps the field and a son in a city godown. The harvest pays the interest, not the year. Farming has not 'lost honour'. It has lost the ability to be the majority's subsistence. The topic is that arithmetic.

One stand

- **Subsistence:** food plus a surplus that covers seed, health, a wedding. Majority: the small and marginal. Write MSP, a monsoon, a plot that shrank - not a hymn to the soil.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Lost the ability:** a structural claim, not a mood.
- **Subsistence:** calorie plus cash for the non-farm bill.
- **Majority of farmers:** the small plot, not the showcase farm.

Land / climate

- Fragmentation, a groundwater crash, a heat that kills a crop twice.

Market

- Price risk, a mandi that is far, a contract that is a trap.

- MSP as a floor for some grains, a silence for the rest.

Household

- Distress migration as the real subsistence.
- A woman who farms without a title.

The counter

Some regions still live off the field. Horticulture, a dairy, a FPOs can work. The line is about the majority, not a ban on farming. And 'leave the land' without a town job is another destitution.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** a living from land plus a non-farm floor. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2017/farming-has-lost-the-ability-to-be-a-source-of-subsistence-for-majority-of-farmers-in-india/>

Q2 · 125 marks

Impact of the new economic measures on fiscal ties between the union and states in India.

Essay · 2017 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a compensation wait. Stand:** unified market, strained purse-share.
- **Headings:** GST, grants/borrowing, trust, counter.

Peg GST Council / **Art. 280**. Close on two chairs.

Note

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

Anecdote

A finance minister in a state capital waits for a GST compensation that was a promise. Delhi has a unified invoice. The state has a hospital ward. The topic is that new arithmetic of fiscal ties - not a tax-slogan poster.

One stand

- **New economic measures:** GST, a demonetisation shock, a cess, a FRBM. Fiscal ties: **Article 280**, a council, a borrowing cap. Write the bargain.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **New measures:** the 2010s toolkit - GST as the big one.
- **Fiscal ties:** who taxes, who spends, who waits.
- **Union and states:** a contract, not a family WhatsApp.

GST / compensation

- One market, many lost stamps. Compensation as the price of trust.
- Cess that does not go into the divisible pool.

Grants / borrowing

- **Finance Commission** vs a scheme with a matching grant that the poor state cannot match.
- A borrowing cap that bites the state, not the Centre's extra-budget.

Trust

- GST Council as a federal table - or a lecture hall.

The counter

A chaotic octroi India was also a fiscal cruelty to trade. Unity of market is a public good. The fight is over voice and a predictable rupee, not over going back to a checkpoint every 40 km.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the market; restore the state's chair. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2017/impact-of-the-new-economic-measures-on-fiscal-ties-between-the-union-and-states-in-india/>

Q3 · 125 marks

Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms.

Essay · 2017 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with 62 children and a register. Stand:** equal, alive rooms - not a rank factory.
- **Headings:** access, quality, values, counter.

Peg **Art. 21A** / ASER. Close on a present teacher.

Note

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

Anecdote

A classroom in a government school has 62 children and one teacher who also fills a midday-meal register. Destiny is being shaped there anyway - just not the destiny on the Independence Day speech. The topic is that room.

One stand

- **Classroom:** pedagogy, a peer, a hidden curriculum of caste. Destiny: skills, a civic temper, who gets to leave the village. Write 21A without a brochure.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Destiny:** economy, a constitution in the bone, a science.
- **Classrooms:** not only CBSE English-medium.
- **Shaped:** slowly, unequally.

Access

- Who is in the room. A girl pulled out. A child with a disability at the gate.

Quality

- **ASER:** in school, not learning. Destiny as a worksheet.

Values / republic

- A textbook war. A morning prayer that excludes. Civics as a drill or a practice.

The counter

Nations are also shaped in a factory, a barracks, a temple, a phone. The classroom is necessary, not sufficient. And a bad classroom can shape a cruel destiny - a clever devil, a 2015 cousin.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** one present teacher, one equal room. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2017/destiny-of-a-nation-is-shaped-in-its-classrooms/>

Q4 · 125 marks

Has the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) lost its relevance in a multipolar world?

Essay · 2017 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with an old handshake and a mixed present. Stand:** club may fade; autonomy stays.
- **Headings:** history, now, South, counter.

Peg Bandung / a present minilateral. Close on a spine.

Note

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

Anecdote

- **A summit photograph from another decade:** a handshake that was neither Washington nor Moscow. Today the same capital buys oil, does a quad talk, and votes a UN line that pleases nobody fully. The question is whether NAM is a relic or a renamed habit.

One stand

- **Lost relevance:** the bipolar stage is gone. Multipolar: US, China, EU, a restless South. Write NAM as history, then India's present mix. Keep the counter: fence-sitting as alibi.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **NAM:** 1955-61 birth, a method of not joining a military camp.
- **Lost?** institutions vs idea.
- **Multipolar:** more than two bosses.

History

- **Nehru**, a Bandung. Usefulness against a bloc veto on our development.

Now

- Multi-alignment, a Quad, a BRICS, a Russia oil. The method is hedging.
- NAM's formal rooms often look empty. The habit of autonomy does not.

South / UN

- A Palestine vote, a climate finance. NAM's moral language still has a constituency.

The counter

A slogan of non-alignment that cannot name a red line (a border, a terror camp) is vanity. Multipolarity can also mean everyone is a camp. Relevance is a practice: issue-based, not a museum of 1961.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the autonomy; retire the empty hall if it is empty. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2017/has-the-non-alignment-movement-nam-lost-its-relevance-in-a-multipolar-world/>

Q5 · 125 marks

Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.

Essay · 2017 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with water and a laugh. Stand:** joy is thanks before a speech.
- **Headings:** self/family, public, counter.

Earn one spiritual nod once. Peg a public good. Close on thanks plus a right.

Note

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

Anecdote

A child finds water in a tanker after three dry days and laughs before anyone says 'thank you'. The laugh is the gratitude. The topic wants that simplicity - not a gratitude journal sold as a lifestyle.

One stand

- **Joy:** an unforced yes. Gratitude: recognition of a gift, a person, a luck. Simplest form: before ritual, before a tweet. Write against both a greeting-card and a cynic.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Joy:** not entertainment; a settled gladness.
- **Simplest form of gratitude:** thanks as a feeling before a sentence.
- **Form:** what gratitude looks like when it is not a performance.

Self / family

- A meal, a recovered parent. Joy as the body's receipt.

Public

- A working tap, a teacher who came. Civic joy as gratitude to a nameless file.

The counter

- **Telling a hungry queue to 'be grateful' is cruelty. Ambedkar:** a right is not a gift. And some joy is unjust (a riot's cheer). The line is about a clean thanks, not a muzzle on anger.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the laugh at the tanker; still file for a tap. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2017/joy-is-the-simplest-form-of-gratitude/>

Q6 · 125 marks

Fulfillment of 'new woman' in India is a myth.

Essay · 2017 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a billboard and a last meal. Stand:** doors opened; fulfilment is not done.
- **Headings:** law/labour, home/body, counter.

Earn **Ambedkar** once. Peg NFHS / labour force. Close on title, wage, safety.

Note

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

Anecdote

A billboard shows a woman in a blazer. In the same city a daughter-in-law eats last and has no name on the land. The 'new woman' is imagined daily. Fulfilment is rarer. The topic calls that gap a myth.

One stand

- **New woman:** education, a vote, a job, a chosen marriage. Fulfilment: time, safety, property, a voice that is not punished. Myth: a story we tell to stop the work.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **New woman:** a 20th-century promise - school, suffrage, a workplace.
- **Fulfilment:** not visibility; a life that is hers.
- **Myth:** the promise as already done.

Law / labour

- Rights on paper. A workforce that still drops her at childbirth.
- Unpaid care as the hidden GDP.

Home / body

- A kitchen that did not modernise. A street that still prices her honour.
- **NFHS:** anaemia, a say in the house.

The counter

Millions of women did walk into a college, a panchayat, a court. Calling all fulfilment a myth erases them. The myth is the completion story - the CEO as the nation. **Ambedkar**: a Hindu Code is a start, not a sunset.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the walk; drop the completion poster. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2017/fulfillment-of-new-woman-in-india-is-a-myth/>

Q7 · 125 marks

We may brave human laws but cannot resist natural laws.

Essay · 2017 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a clearance and a slide. Stand:** statutes can be gamed; slopes cannot.
- **Headings:** ecology, body, economy, counter.

Peg EIA / a flood. Flag the ethics-homonym. Close on a limit.

Note

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

Anecdote

A builder gets a clearance. The hill still slides. The file was brave. The slope was not impressed. We may game a human law. We cannot resist a natural one for long. The topic is that mismatch.

One stand

- **Human laws:** IPC, an EIA, a tax. Brave: evade, a jugaad, a contempt. Natural laws: gravity, a carrying capacity, an epidemic. Write science, not a mystic Fate.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Human laws:** made, amended, broken.
- **Cannot resist:** consequence that does not take a bribe.
- **Natural:** physical and ecological - not 'natural justice' as a lawyer's cousin unless you flag it.

Ecology / climate

- A floodplain, a glacier, a city that sealed its drains.

Body / epidemic

- A virus that did not read the circular.

Economy

- A resource that ends. A soil that salinises.

The counter

'Natural law' in ethics (Aquinas) is another essay. Here, keep physics. And some 'natural' claims are social prejudice in a lab coat (a caste as biology). Resist those. Do not resist the monsoon.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** obey the slope; fix the file. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2017/we-may-brave-human-laws-but-cannot-resist-natural-laws/>

Q8 · 125 marks

Social media is inherently a selfish medium.

Essay · 2017 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a face and a count. Stand:** design is a self-harvest; a public is upstream.
- **Headings:** design, politics, mind, counter.

Peg one mobilisation and one riot rumour. Close on a tool.

Note

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

Anecdote

A feed shows a face, a count, a fight. The product is the user. The topic is harsh: inherently selfish - not only 'some trolls'. The exam wants the design, then an honest exception.

One stand

- **Inherently:** in the grain of the medium - a profile, an algorithm of more-me. Selfish: the self as the unit of value. Write a riot rumour and a disaster thread as cousins.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Social media:** platforms of broadcast-plus-mirror.
- **Inherently selfish:** structure, not a mood of users.
- **Medium:** McLuhan cousin - the form is the bias.

Design

- Like, a streak, a rage-click. The self as bait and catch.

Politics / street

- A rumour that flatters 'our' people. Polarisation as a business model.

Mind

- Comparison, a loneliness that still scrolls.

The counter

- **A missing-child post, a flood SOS, a worker's union group:** the same pipes can carry a we. RTI-style leak, a feminist hashtag. The medium is selfish by default; a public is an achievement against the grain. Law: IT rules, a intermediary - do not make it the whole essay.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** use the pipe; do not worship the mirror. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2017/social-media-is-inherently-a-selfish-medium/>

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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