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UPSC Mains 2019 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/2019/>

Q1 · 125 marks

Wisdom finds truth.

Essay · 2019 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a rumour and a register. Stand:** wisdom finds; it does not dye.
- **Headings:** self, society, state, science, then one counter.

Earn **Gandhi** once. Peg RTI or a court file.

Close on a check, not a quote dump.

Note

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

Anecdote

A rumour reaches a village before the FIR. Ten forwards, one 'source'. The man who walks to the thana and reads the register is not the cleverest in the WhatsApp group. He is the one who finds. Wisdom, here, is that walk.

One stand

Wisdom is the trained patience to find what survives a check. Truth is not a tribe's comfort. Write against both cynicism ('nothing is true') and the dump of quotations.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Wisdom:** judgment, a pause, the nerve to drop a favourite story.
- **Finds truth:** truth is already there - in a body, a river, a file. Wisdom is the finding, not the invention.

Self

- We keep the news that flatters. That is unwisdom.
- **A student who rereads a failed mock:** wisdom as correction.

Society

- Caste rumour, a riot count, a 'community truth'. Wisdom prefers the slower number.
- **Gandhi's experiments:** truth as a method, not a slogan.

State

- RTI, CAG, a court that reads the paper. Boring offices that find.
- A dyed official statistic is unwisdom in khaki.

Science

- A trial, a replication, a climate series. Wisdom as the willingness to be wrong.

The counter

If truth must be 'found', the margin often holds it first - a Dalit woman's FIR, a forest dweller's map. Wisdom is not only the expert. And some 'truths' are values (dignity) we choose to keep, not only facts we measure.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** walk to the register. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2019/wisdom-finds-truth/>

Q2 · 125 marks

Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be.

Essay · 2019 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a ration queue. Stand:** values as ought, not a flattering census.
- **Headings:** self, family, market, constitution, counter.

Earn **Ambedkar** once. Peg Preamble / **Art. 21**.

Close on a practiced gap.

Note

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

Anecdote

- **A queue at a ration shop:** some cut, some wait, a clerk looks away. What humanity is in that minute is hunger and a little theft of time. What it ought to be is a fair turn. The topic is that gap - values as a pull, not a selfie of our goodness.

One stand

Values are not a description of the average Indian. They are a standard we fail and still owe. Write Hume's gap without naming a textbook: is vs ought.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Is:** appetite, fear, caste comfort, a like-button.
- **Ought:** dignity, a promise kept, a widened we.
- Values as a horizon, not a museum of ancestors.

Self

- Honesty when nobody is watching. The ought is private first.

Family / society

- **Honour, a wedding expense, a girl pulled from school:** 'our culture' as an is pretending to be an ought.
- **Ambedkar:** annihilate what the village is when it cages.

Market

- A contract honoured; a fake medicine. Profit is; fairness ought.

State

- **Preamble, Arts. 14-21:** the ought written into a file.
- **A lock-up that beats:** the is of power.

The counter

An 'ought' that starves a household is cruelty in moral dress. The floor (food, a wage, a school) is the first value. And some 'oughts' are elite taste. Still: without an ought, the is becomes

destiny.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep one ought in a queue this week. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2019/values-are-not-what-humanity-is-but-what-humanity-ought-to-be/>

WRAP Exams

Q3 · 125 marks

Best for an individual is not necessarily best for the society.

Essay · 2019 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with stubble and a child's lungs. Stand:** universalise the private good, or don't.
- **Headings:** market, speech, state, ecology, counter.

Earn Mill or **Gandhi** once; **Ambedkar** on the counter.

Close on a test, not a sermon.

Note

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

Anecdote

A man burns stubble because it is cheapest for his field this week. The city chokes. Best for him; not for the child's lungs. The topic is that fork - individual reason that does not add up to a common life.

One stand

Neither saint nor selfishness as destiny. Mill's harm, **Gandhi's** trusteeship, a GST that funds a hospital: write the seam. Keep the counter: a crushing 'society' that eats the person.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Individual best:** income, a match, a shortcut.
- **Society:** air, trust, a road, a language of fairness.
- Not always a clash - a vaccine is both. Name when it is a clash.

Market

- Plastic, groundwater, a fake degree. Private gain, public bill.

Speech / digital

- A rumour that helps my side. Best for the poster; poison for the street.

State

- **Tax, a helmet, a lockdown:** the common written as a rule.
- **Land acquisition:** society's project that can erase a household.

Ecology

- A river as a sewer because my drain is convenient.

The counter

A society that is 'best' by crushing a minority, a woman, a dissenter, is not society - it is a crowd. **Ambedkar:** the individual is not a gift to the village. The line forbids both the stubble fire and the mob.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** ask if the shortcut can be everyone's. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2019/best-for-an-individual-is-not-necessarily-best-for-the-society/>

WRAP Exams

Q4 · 125 marks

Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success.

Essay · 2019 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a ration file. Stand:** both keys, or neither works.
- **Headings:** self, institution, republic, counter.

Peg CAG or a public inquiry. Close on repair.

Note

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

Anecdote

A collector's inquiry names a missing ration. The file can be buried. It can also be read aloud, and a new godown opened. Courage is the reading. Dedication is the godown. The topic is both keys on one ring.

One stand

- **Accept:** see the crack. Improve: mortar. Write against the TV apology and against the silent patch that pretends nothing happened.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Courage to accept:** failure, a caste slight you gave, a policy that did not work.
- **Dedication to improve:** hours, a redesign, a second attempt.
- Success as a repaired thing, not a first-time miracle.

Self

- A failed attempt, a lie caught. Accept; then change the hours.

Institution

- A hospital infection audit. A university that admits a paper mill.
- **ISRO's early failures:** accept telemetry; then fly again.

Republic

- **A truth commission tone without the name:** riots, a leaked exam, a collapsed bridge.
- **CAG, a PAC hearing:** courage in public; improvement in the next budget.

The counter

- **Endless confession without a brick is a career. And 'improve' can mean whitewash.**
Also: the powerless are often forced to 'accept' a wrong they did not make. Courage belongs first to the one who holds the file.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** name the crack, then lay one brick. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2019/courage-to-accept-and-dedication-to-improve-are-two-keys-to-success/>

WRAP Exams

Q5 · 125 marks

South Asian societies are woven not around the state, but around their plural cultures and plural identities.

Essay · 2019 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a wedding playlist. Stand:** older weave, necessary loom.
- **Headings:** culture, identity, border, counter.

Earn one neighbour example. Peg SAARC or a people-to-people fact.

Close on constitution plus culture.

Note

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

Anecdote

A wedding playlist in Lucknow already holds a Punjabi beat, a Tamil film song, a qawwali. Passports were not invited. The topic is that older weave: cultures and identities that ignore the map the way a river ignores a checkpoint - until the checkpoint shoots.

One stand

- **Not anti-state. The state is a necessary loom. The cloth is older:** language, caste, faith, a shared monsoon. Write against both hyper-nationalism and a romantic 'no borders'.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Woven not around the state:** family, shrine, a market, a film, a cricket crowd.
- **Plural cultures / identities:** not one civilisational slogan.
- **South Asia:** India, neighbours, diasporas.

Culture

- Food, film, a pir's dargah, a temple town that draws a bus from another flag.

Identity

- Caste and language travel better than a visa. So does a wound.

State / border

- 1947, a fence, a file on citizenship: the loom that can tear the cloth.
- SAARC's stall; people-to-people still moves.

The counter

A weave without a state is also a riot's opportunity. Constitutions, a court, a census of rights - the loom that stops a majority identity from eating the rest. **Ambedkar** over a civilisational lullaby. And the line must not erase Tibet, Tamil Eelam memories, or Kashmir as if culture were always gentle.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the playlist and the Constitution. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2019/south-asian-societies-are-woven-not-around-the-state-but-around-their-plural-cultures-and-plural-identities/>

WRAP Exams

Q6 · 125 marks

Neglect of primary health care and education in India are reasons for its backwardness.

Essay · 2019 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a fever and missed letters. Stand:** first mile as the missing brick.
- **Headings:** health, school, gender, purse, counter.

Peg NFHS / ASER / a PHC. Close on capability.

Note

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

Anecdote

A child with a fever sits out another week of class. The fever was cheap to treat. The missed letters will cost a life. The topic names two neglects as reasons - primary health, primary school - for a country's remaining backwardness.

One stand

- **Backwardness here is capability:** years of life, a sentence read, a woman who can choose. Write **Amartya Sen** without a lecture. Keep the counter: elite hospitals and English-medium islands do not disprove the line.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Primary:** the first mile - ASHA, a government school, a mid-day meal that arrives.
- **Neglect:** money, teachers, a closed PHC, a private trap.
- **Reasons:** not the only ones (caste, gender, a colonial hangover) - but load-bearing.

Health

- Immunisation, anaemia, TB, a delivery. NFHS as a mirror.
- Ayushman at the top does not replace the sub-centre.

Education

- **ASER:** a class 5 child who cannot read class 2. That is backwardness with a rank in GDP.

Gender / caste

- The girl pulled out; the Dalit hamlet's school without a teacher. Neglect is not evenly spread.

Federal purse

- 15th Finance, a state that under-spends on health. The Union's flagship vs the last-mile wage.

The counter

East Asia also used land, factories, a trade shock. India is not only two departments. And 'backward' can be a slur. Still: without the first clinic and the first book, every other scheme is a poster.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** fund the boring mile. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2019/neglect-of-primary-health-care-and-education-in-india-are-reasons-for-its-backwardness/>

WRAP Exams

Q7 · 125 marks

Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy.

Essay · 2019 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a ticker that convicts. Stand:** shared facts, or no democracy.
- **Headings:** ownership, election, rumour, regulator, counter.

Peg **Art. 19** / PCI. Close on literacy, not a ban.

Note

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

Anecdote

A channel runs a ticker that has already convicted a man. The court has not sat. Shares in the story rise. The republic's shared floor - 'what happened' - thins. The topic is that threat: biased media, Indian democracy.

One stand

Democracy needs disagreement. It dies when there is no shared fact-layer. Write against both 'all media is fake' and 'my channel is the nation'.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Biased:** owner, advertiser, party, a TRP incentive, a caste comfort.
- **Threat:** not a rude editorial - a public that cannot reconstruct an event.
- **Democracy:** vote, a protest, a court, a census of reality.

Ownership / market

- Paid news, a merger, a government ad as a leash.

Election

- A model code that is slower than a prime-time hour.
- Deepfake as the new bias.

Rumour

- A riot that starts on a phone. The old newspaper at least had a next-day correction.

Regulator / citizen

- PCI, IT rules, a fact-check that is itself partisan.
- **The citizen's slow read:** the only last regulator.

The counter

A completely 'neutral' press is a myth. Advocacy for the margin is not the same as a lie. Censorship in the name of fighting bias is a second threat. **Art. 19** is the room; defamation and a riot law are the walls - use them, do not burn the room.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep a second source, and a court. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2019/biased-media-is-a-real-threat-to-indian-democracy/>

WRAP Exams

Q8 · 125 marks

Rise of Artificial Intelligence: the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling.

Essay · 2019 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a clerk and a portal. Stand:** politics of the fork, not fate.
- **Headings:** labour, school, inequality, counter.

Peg a gig law / skilling mission. Close on bargaining.

Note

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

Anecdote

A clerk's register is now a portal. The clerk is not sure he is. A radiologist's junior is a model that never sleeps. The topic puts a gun on the table: jobless future, or better work if we retrain. Refuse the gun. Write the politics of the fork.

One stand

Some tasks die. Some tasks get worse (surveillance, a gig score). Some get better if bargaining and public education move. Write India: IT services, a warehouse, a farm drone.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Threat:** displacement, a thinner middle, a deskilled craft.
- **Opportunity:** new tools, new firms, time for care if the gains are shared.
- Reskilling is real; it is not a moral duty dumped on the fired.

Labour

- A BPO script vs a model. A warehouse picker paced by an algorithm.
- Unions, a portable social security, a just transition fund.

School / skilling

- ITI, a university that still teaches judgment. 21A is childhood; this is adulthood's school.

Inequality

- Capital owns the model. Labour owns a certificate that expires.
- Public compute and open data as a democratic demand.

The counter

'Everyone will be a prompt engineer' is a fairy tale. Care, teaching, a judge's hearing, a nurse's hand - not all excellence is a token. And a jobless future for some is already here; do not wait for a perfect forecast.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** retrain the system, not only the worker. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2019/rise-of-artificial-intelligence-the-threat-of-jobless-future-or-better-job-opportunities-through-reskilling-and-upskilling/>

WRAP Exams

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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