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UPSC Mains 2022 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/2022/>

Q1 · 125 marks

Forests are the best case studies for economic excellence.

Essay · 2022 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with sacks vs a May spring. Stand:** standing capital beats a spike.
- **Headings:** self, livelihoods, accounts, state, then one counter.

Earn **Gandhi** once. Peg FRA or IPCC.

Close on a canopy balance sheet.

Note

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

Anecdote

A village accounts the year in sacks. An old woman accounts it in whether the spring still spoke in May. The forest was her case study: shade, fodder, a delayed flood, a child who did not walk ten extra kilometres. Excellence was not a quarterly spike.

One stand

The forest is capital that works while standing. Write GDP's log against the aquifer the log was holding. Development that leaves a working canopy is still excellence.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Forests:** a going concern - biodiversity, carbon, culture, NTFP.
- **Economic excellence:** resilience, inclusion, a long rate of return - not only extraction.
- **Different from 2024's desert-warning:** here the forest is the model of a good economy.

Self

- We treat a tree as furniture-in-waiting. A household that repairs, composts, plants is a small forest-logic.

Livelihoods

- Bamboo, tendu, honey, tourism that does not eat the nest.
- **Forest Rights Act:** people as the forest's economists, not trespassers.

Accounts

- **Green GDP, CAMPA that plants a monoculture:** a fake excellence.
- **Payment for ecosystem services:** clumsy, pointing the right way.

State and world

- **Compounding like a banyan:** slow, then shade.
- **Amazon to Western Ghats:** the same lesson at two scales. IPCC: the forest as climate infrastructure.

The counter

A hospital, a rail, a farm also feed a people. Excellence is not a freeze. It is not eating the seed to decorate a press release. A slogan that keeps the poor beside a teak board is a bad case study.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** count water with the timber. **Gandhi's** trusteeship is that account. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2022/forests-are-the-best-case-studies-for-economic-excellence/>

Q2 · 125 marks

Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.

Essay · 2022 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a street that knew before the Gazette. Stand:** imagination legislates.
- **Headings:** culture, politics, feed, preamble, then one counter.

Earn Shelley once; Tagore or Ambedkar once.

Close on words that bind.

Note

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

Anecdote

A street already knew 'we are not a flock' before a section was struck. A film, a bhakti line, a classroom poem had legislated a feeling. Shelley called poets the unacknowledged legislators of the world. The Gazette arrived later, panting.

One stand

- **Imagination sets what a people will accept as normal. Write the poet widely:** Tagore, a folk singer, a meme-lord, Ambedkar's sentences. Then ask who is unacknowledged - and who is merely loud.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Poets:** makers of images that organise desire and shame.
- **Legislators:** they write the unwritten code - caste honour, national myth, a girl's curfew.
- **Unacknowledged:** the Gazette pretends it thought of it first.

Culture

- **Bhakti, a protest song, Premchand:** laws of the heart.
- A soap opera can legislate dowry more firmly than a section.

Politics

- 'Garibi hatao', 'ache din', a hashtag: poetry of power.
- **Ambedkar:** the constitution as a poem of procedure against the poem of birth.

Media and digital

- The feed is a mass poet. Deepfakes legislate a past that did not happen.

Republic

- **Preamble:** a legislative poem we did acknowledge.
- Courts sometimes quote verse; better when they quote a file.

The counter

Poets can legislate hate (a rumour in metre). Unacknowledged is not innocent. And a drain still needs an engineer. The line ranks culture's power; it does not abolish the Act and the budget.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** read the street's verses, then write a law that can survive them. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2022/poets-are-the-unacknowledged-legislators-of-the-world/>

WRAP Exams

Q3 · 125 marks

History is a series of victories won by the scientific man over the romantic man.

Essay · 2022 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a love-lake plaque vs a catchment map. Stand:** method wins the file; feeling stays human.
- **Headings:** knowledge, nation, development, digital, then one counter.

Earn **Nehru** or 51A(h); **Ambedkar** once.

Close on temper plus a true song.

Note

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

Anecdote

A plaque says a king built a lake for love. A hydrologist later maps the catchment and the labour. Both can be true; only one can run a drought plan. The line bets that the long story is the scientific person slowly winning the file from the romantic one.

One stand

- **Scientific:** evidence, revision, a second instrument. Romantic: origin myth, destiny, a feeling that will not be audited. Write the win as temper (**Art. 51A(h)**), not as contempt for poetry.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Series of victories:** incomplete, reversible - myths return every election.
- **Scientific man:** a method, not a gender. Include the woman in the lab in one sentence.
- **Romantic man:** also courage, sacrifice, **Tagore's** overflow - not only delusion.

Knowledge

- Germ theory over a curse. A vaccine over a whisper.
- History as discipline vs history as serial.

Nation

- **Nehru's** temples of modernity; also the romantic of soil and blood.
- **Partition:** romance of purity as tragedy. The scientific remainder is a census and a refugee camp.

Development

- A dam's romance vs displacement maths (cousin of forest excellence).
- 1991: a romance of the licence raj losing to a spreadsheet - with a human bill.

Digital

- A deepfake is romance with a GPU. Fact-check is a small scientific victory.

The counter

A freedom struggle needed romance - song, jail, a flag. A nurse needs feeling. Pure 'scientific man' without dharma becomes a sterilisation camp. Ambedkar wanted reason and a heart for the last man. The line ranks method over myth in the file, not in the funeral.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the second instrument, and still carry a song that does not lie. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2022/history-is-a-series-of-victories-won-by-the-scientific-man-over-the-romantic-man/>

WRAP Exams

Q4 · 125 marks

A ship in the harbour is safe but that is not what a ship is for.

Essay · 2022 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a boat that feeds no one. Stand:** purpose implies disciplined risk.
- **Headings:** self, science, 1991, state, then one counter.

Earn the proverb honestly. Peg ISRO or a disaster window.

Close on inspection plus voyage.

Note

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

Anecdote

A fishing boat that never leaves the creek does not rust in a storm. It also does not feed anyone. The owner's son wants the harbour forever. The line is the father's: safe is not what a ship is for.

One stand

Purpose implies risk under a discipline - insurance, a weather report, a right to return. Write against cowardice and against a romance of wrecks.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Harbour:** comfort, a cadre posting one never leaves, a closed economy, a mind that will not publish.
- **Ship:** a talent, a reform, a satellite, a young person.
- Often-cited nautical proverb - do not fake an author.

Self

- A rank without a difficult district is a harbour. Service is the sea.
- **UPSC itself:** the harbour of notes vs the sea of a blank page.

Science and enterprise

- A rocket that stays in the shed. ISRO's failures as weather, then a window.
- A start-up that never ships.

Economy

- **Licence-raj harbour; 1991 as putting out. Also:** a poorly built ship that should not have sailed (a bad loan).

State

- **Diplomacy, a peacekeeping contingent, a climate pledge:** leaving the creek.
- **Disaster law:** harbour when the cyclone is named - purpose includes knowing when not to sail.

The counter

A leaking hull must stay. A child, a refugee, a poorly funded PHC is not a coward for wanting a harbour. The quote addresses unused capacity, not the uninsured poor. Precaution is not the creek; it is the inspection.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** inspect the hull, then leave the creek. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — [https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2022/a-ship-in-the-harbour-is-safe-but-t
hat-is-not-what-a-ship-is-for/](https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2022/a-ship-in-the-harbour-is-safe-but-that-is-not-what-a-ship-is-for/)

WRAP Exams

Q5 · 125 marks

The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.

Essay · 2022 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a verandah that waits for July. Stand:** maintain in surplus.
- **Headings:** self, fisc, disaster, climate, then one counter.

Earn JFK once. Peg drills or FRBM.

Close on January's list.

Note

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

Anecdote

A school verandah drips every monsoon. In January the file says 'not urgent'. In July the children sit in a corner. The line is January's job: repair while the sun is on the tiles.

One stand

Sunshine is surplus, health, a quiet border, a primary surplus. Repair is drills, buffers, a law updated, a relationship tended. Write against the politics that only wakes in the flood.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Sun shining:** capacity, legitimacy, cheap credit, a young demography.
- **Roof:** institutions, infrastructure, trust, the climate file.
- JFK (as commonly linked) - one honest mention.

Self

- Save in a salaried month; repair a friendship before the blow-up.
- Health check while well.

Fisc and economy

- Counter-cyclical buffers, a GST that still needs plumbing, a bad-loan clean-up in a good year.
- **Peg:** FRBM spirit - the sunshine rule governments love to skip.

Disaster and health

- **Odisha's drills after earlier cyclones:** a roof repaired in the sun.
- Pandemic stockpiles that were not there - a roof noticed in the rain.

Climate and society

- Decarbonise while growth still has room; wait and the storm prices the tiles.
- **Social roof:** a caste census debate, a police reform - easier before a riot than after.

The counter

Some roofs cannot wait for sun (a collapsing bridge, a missing child). And 'sunshine' can be inequality - repairing a palace while the hut leaks. The line is about timely maintenance of the

common roof, not about leisure for the comfortable.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep a January list. A republic that only legislates in the rain has already wet the books.
Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2022/the-time-to-repair-the-roof-is-when-the-sun-is-shining/>

WRAP Exams

Q6 · 125 marks

You cannot step twice in the same river.

Essay · 2022 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a ghat in two seasons. Stand:** wade; do not govern a photograph.
- **Headings:** self, caste/city, constitution, climate, then one counter.

Earn Heraclitus once; **Ambedkar** once.

Close on bank plus flow.

Note

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

Anecdote

A ghat in June and the same ghat in September are not the same water. A man who returns after a decade is not the same foot. Heraclitus is not a riddle for the exam. He is a warning against governing a photograph.

One stand

Change is the given. Write institutions that can update - and still keep a bank that does not wash away the weak. Flux is not an excuse for broken promises.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **River:** time, a market, a technology, a monsoon, a generation.
- **Cannot step twice:** identity, policy, a 'civilisation unchanged' boast.
- The foot also changes - humility.

Self

- Forgiveness assumes a new foot. Grudge governs a photograph.

Society

- **Caste pretends the river is stone. Ambedkar:** annihilate the freeze.
- **Language, cities, a youth bulge:** the water is already elsewhere.

State

- A living constitution (**Art. 21**'s journey) vs originalism as a dry ghat.
- **Census, delimitation, a sunset clause:** wading tools.
- **Farm laws, a platform regulation:** the river of tech outruns the Act.

Ecology

- A 'same' monsoon that is not; a glacier that will not return as the old river.

The counter

- **Some things must feel the same:** a fair trial, a kilogram, a promise to a pensioner.

Heraclitus is not a licence to move the goalposts on the poor. The bank is ethics; the water is

history.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** write law for a river, keep faith with the bank. Expand - this is only the map.

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<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2022/you-cannot-step-twice-in-the-same-river/>

WRAP Exams

Q7 · 125 marks

Smile is the chosen vehicle for all ambiguities.

Essay · 2022 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a clerk's smile that means tomorrow. Stand:** tact vs mask.
- **Headings:** self, hierarchy, office, diplomacy, then one counter.

Earn one literary mention. Peg RTI or a reasoned order.

Close on ink where power sits.

Note

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

Anecdote

A clerk smiles when a widow is told to come tomorrow. The smile is not joy. It is the chosen vehicle for a refusal he will not put in a sentence. The line is that vehicle: useful in a drawing room, dangerous in a queue.

One stand

Ambiguity oils life - a joke, a peace talk, a family truce. It also hides a lathi. Write to praise tact and to demand a plain no where power sits.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Smile:** a social technology, not only a mood.
- **Ambiguities:** several truths, or a truth refused.
- Often a literary line - do not fake a footnote.

Self

- We smile to keep a room. Sometimes we should not. A false yes is a later flood.

Society

- **Hierarchy:** the weaker smile more. Read who must.
- Festival courtesy vs a communal 'smile' that papers a boycott.

State

- Diplomatic notes, a Model Code pause, a judge's reserved smile in court.
- A press briefing that smiles while a number dies. RTI is an unsmiling file.

World

- **A communicate that 'notes with concern':** a smile between flags.
- **Trade talks:** ambiguity as a bridge until a tariff is real.

The counter

A child, a defendant, a disaster warning need a sentence, not a smile. Ambiguity is a tool of the strong if the weak cannot decode it. Plain language (a reasoned order) is the opposite

vehicle - still kind, not blunt for sport.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** smile at the tea, write the refusal in ink. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2022/smile-is-the-chosen-vehicle-for-all-ambiguities/>

WRAP Exams

Q8 · 125 marks

Just because you have a choice, it does not mean that any of them has to be right.

Essay · 2022 · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with two wards and no OT. Stand:** a menu is not a right.
- **Headings:** self, market, ballot, tech, office, then one counter.

Earn one line on consent. Peg PDS or DPDP.

Close on designing a good option.

Note

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

Anecdote

A patient is shown two private wards and a corridor. 'You have a choice,' the board says. None of them is a functioning public OT. The line is that corridor: choice without a right option is a kind of cruelty with a brochure.

One stand

Liberal language loves choice. A republic also needs a floor so that a choice is among goods, not among harms. Write against fake menus - and against a nanny that abolishes all menus.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Choice:** plurality, consent, a market, a ballot.
- **Right:** true, just, safe, reversible if wrong.
- **Stake:** do not confuse a dropdown with a duty discharged.

Self

- A career menu; a marriage market. More options, same cage (cousin of restrictions/demands).

Markets

- Twenty soaps, one polluted river. Consumer choice as a veil.
- **Peg:** junk food vs a PDS plate - the 'free' choice of the hungry.

Democracy

- Many parties, one money-tree. NOTA as a small honesty.
- A referendum that offers two hatreds.

Tech

- **Privacy settings no one can parse:** a choice designed to fail.
- **DPDP:** consent that must be real.

Ethics of office

- A tender with three related firms. The file says competitive.

The counter

Some choice is itself the right (Art. 19, a woman's reproductive autonomy within the law). The line does not restore a single official truth. It asks: is there a good among the goods? If not, design a new option - a public OT - rather than praise the brochure.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** multiply good options; do not advertise a corridor as a menu. Expand - this is only the map.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/essay/2022/just-because-you-have-a-choice-it-does-not-mean-that-any-of-them-has-to-be-right/>

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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