

Preparing for Essay - Anudeep D. Summary

- Being good at GS is a necessary prerequisites
- Reading lots of Non-Fiction
- Collect information from Magazines ex Yojana, Economic Survey
- Daily Newspaper with notes
- Rough Draft of major Essay themes.
- Practicing Writing

1. Essay Introduction

- Should start strong to generate interest, must be relevant and concise.
- Could start by telling a story to weave a narrative around the topic.
- Anecdotal beginning could be Historical. Ex Incident of Gandhiji being racially discriminated in South Africa.
- Mentioning an interesting fact to build curiosity.
- Posing a question or a series of rhetorical questions.

Topic: *A good life is one helped by compassion and guided by humanity*

Introduction: *What is a good life? This is a fundamental question that captured the human's imagination for eternity. And we often hear many answers.*

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Is it one with enormous wealth, power and status? Or is it one filled with compassion and empathy for fellow living beings? From Mahatma to Mandela, Lincoln to Luther King, if there is one common thread that binds these great lives, it is that they led a life full of compassion and love for fellow humans. From the lives of these great people who have left a remarkable legacy, what can we learn? How do we live a life full of purpose and meaning? How can we inculcate these learnings to become better individuals, build better societies, and shape great nations? Let us explore these fundamental questions.

- Beginning with a Quote or a Poem. After it the next paragraph should explain the quote.

Topic: Can Capitalism bring inclusive growth?

Introduction: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness...", so wrote Charles Dickens during the Industrial Revolution. These lines describe the paradox of those times: incredible riches coexisting with unimaginable poverty. One would be inclined to form a similar opinion of modern day capitalism.

Advocates of capitalism claim that it has created immense global wealth for everyone and accelerated our economic progress. Yet, critics point out that it is deeply biased towards a privileged few leading to a fundamental debate: can capitalism be beneficial to everyone?

Is capitalism a rising tide that lifts all boats? Or is it a rigged system of the rich, by the rich and for the rich? The endeavour of this essay is to carefully examine these claims and provide an answer to the debate.

- Providing recent context to the theme viz recent legislation, newly introduced gov scheme, recurring current affairs topic etc. **Avoid Using this method/Worst Case scenario**
- Thesis statement near the end of introduction as a prelude to the rest of the Essay. No need if Essay is fluid

2. Main Body

- Should explain, interpret, describe or argue topic at hand.

2.1 Structuring

- Explaining the past present and future relevance of the topic
- How topic relates to Individual, Family, Workplace, Society, Nation and World.
- Problem - Solution for topics that have certain negative effects ex Globalisation.
- Debating for and against for topics that ask a question.
- Sectoral approach addressing Social, Political, Economical, Administrative, International, Environmental, Historical, Scientific, Security, Legal dimensions.

2.2 Subheading

- To delineate broad sections. Not more than 3-4

2.3 Diagram

- Avoid unless extremely necessary. Ex. solution to border problems, water dispute in India.

3. Conclusion

- Comprehensive overview of essay to leave a favorable impression.

3.1 Summary method of conclusion

- 250-300 words using words such as In conclusion, In summary, In the final analysis, On the whole etc.
- Could be used to summarize every main point mentioned using words such as Firstly, Secondly, Thirdly, Lastly etc.

3.2 Rhetorical method

- Using persuasive, rhetorical writing for ex. A poem or a shloka.

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow
domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert
sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and
action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

- Futuristic conclusion showing your vision using references to preamble or directive principles.
- Quote from a famous person to bring credibility to your writing
- If a fictitious story was written, a reference to it can be given in the conclusion.

4. Flow and Coherence

- Using connective within the paragraph such as : **it is, this act, along with, to further** phrases.
- Words to link sentences such as accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus, also, likewise, similarly, in addition to, but, however, in spite of, nevertheless, nonetheless, first, second, third, next, after, before, for instance, namely, for examples etc.
- Central theme of the para should be linked within and outside of the Essay.
- Transitioning b/w paragraphs : At the end of paragraph write a sentence to signal what is coming next or by asking a question at the end of it.

- Signalling a shift at start of next paragraph Ex. using words like Politically too etc.

5. Other Aspects

- Using familiar words instead of unfamiliar ones. Could be improved by inquisitive reading of Non fiction, newspapers etc.
- Language :
 - One paragraph should have one major idea
 - Short sentences and avoiding use of Jargon
 - Grammar
- Choosing Essay
 - Chose the sentence that you understand. Don't wrongly interpret it.
 - Should have knowledge and comfort in topic chosen.
- Brainstorming should be done to write as many ideas as possible.
- Outline of Essay should be prepped in rough ie Intro, Body and Conclusion.
- Time Management

Here's how you can allot time for essay writing:

- 5 min for choosing both the topics
- 20 min per essay for brainstorming [Total: 40 min]
- 1 hr 5 minutes for writing each essay [Total: 130 minutes]
- 5 minutes for last minute checks; grammar and spelling corrections.

6. Philosophical Essays

- More vague and abstract topics on which points could not be generated should be left alone.
- Real life anecdote is best way to start such Essays.
- Are mostly general truths that we all agree upon which need liberal and creative expression.
- Analysis to essay be done through asking critical questions.
- General Framework

To sum up, a general framework for a philosophical essay is as follows:

- a. Anecdotal introduction
- b. Main body— Exploration of the concept in various contexts
- c. Main body— Analysis of the statement by discussing important questions
- d. Conclusion— Solutions and suggestions for a better future
- e. Conclusion— A rhetorical paragraph

7. Components of a Good Essay

- Balanced and Moderate views avoid outright rejection of sentence.
- Multidimensional Outlook.
- Effective Language
- Flow and Coherence
- Splendid Introduction
- Compelling arguments
- Sound Analysis
- Visionary Conclusion.