

UPSC CSE Mains Essay Writing Course: What to Write?

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- **Major Themes of Philosophical Essay Writing:**
 - → Gandhian Quote Based Essays
 - → Psychological Essay Topics
 - Values
 - Attitude & Emotional Intelligence
 - Women/Gender Based Essay
 - Stereotype/Prejudice Based Essay
 - → Virtues, Ethics and Morality Based Essay Topics:
 - → Science/Technology Vs Morality/Ethics Based Essay
 - → Socio-Religious & Contemporary Social Issue Based Essay
 - → Culture Based Essay

→ Gandhian Quote Based Essays:

- Words are sharper than the two-edged sword.
- Be the change you want to see in others
- With greater power comes greater responsibility.
- Man is Product of his thoughts; What he thinks he becomes.
- In the context of Gandhiji's views on the matter explore, on an evolutionary scale, the terms 'Swadhinata'. 'Swaraj' and 'Dharmarajya'. Critically comment on their contemporary relevance to Indian democracy.
- Need brings greed, if greed increases it spoils breed.
- If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change.
- We cannot get a rose through planting a noxious weed.
- Means are ends and Ends are means.



→ Gandhian Quote Based Essays

- We live in a world of “guided missiles and misguided men” and misguided men are more dangerous for society than guided missiles.
- Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.
- Our greatest ability as humans is not to change the world; but to change ourselves.
- There is more to life than increasing its speed.
- A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.
- Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good.
- Distinguish between real needs and artificial wants and control the latter.
- The spirit of democracy cannot be imposed from without. It has to come from within.
- In reality there are as many religions as there are individuals.



- **Psychological Essay Topics:**

- **Values**

- Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be
- Value-based science and education.
- Modern Technological Education and Human values.
- Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man more clever devil.
- 'The Past' is a permanent dimension of human consciousness and values.
- Need of socio-Cultural temporal yardstick to asses Values.
- Value development must be backed by parallel institutional development.
- Value development is only way to set things right in society;
- “Values are like fingerprints. Nobodies are the same but you leave them all over everything you do.”



→ Attitude & Emotional Intelligence

- Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success
- Does Indian cinema shape our popular culture or merely reflect it?
- Is Bollywood changing Perception of Society towards women in India?
- Attitude makes habit, habit makes character and character makes a man.
- Independent thinking should be encouraged right from the childhood.
- Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms.
- Is the Colonial mentality hindering India's success?
- Quick but steady wins the race
- All learning has an emotional base.
- Maturity is not measured by Age; it is attitude build by experience.
- Good Civil Servant is one with Civil Service Orientation.
- Never forget only dead fish swim with the stream.



→ **Attitude & Emotional Intelligence**

→ We are our choices.

→ “Your beliefs become your thoughts, Your thoughts become your words, Your words become your actions, Your actions become your habits, Your habits become your Attitudes & values, Your attitudes & values become your destiny.

→ Our environment is a mirror of our attitudes and expectations.



→ **Women/Gender Based Essay**

- Fulfillment of 'new woman' in India is a myth.
- If development is not engendered, it is endangered
- Managing work and home - is the Indian working women getting a fair deal?
- If women ruled the world.
- Whither Women's Emancipation.
- Empowerment alone cannot help women.
- Women is God's best creation
- Greater political power alone will not improve women's plight.
- "You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation."



→ **Stereotype/Prejudice Based Essay**

- Bollywood and objectification and commodification of women.
- I would be a man of Paradoxes than a man of prejudices.
- Blue Boy & Pink Girl categorisation; is root of all Gender stereotypes.
- Its hard to Crack a prejudice than an atom.
- Baby doesn't judge; doesn't hate; She is not racist or prejudice. Please don't teach him to be.
- Opinion in absence of evidence is prejudice.
- Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible.
- Prejudice is a chain, it can hold you. If you prejudice, you can't move.



→ **Virtues, Character, Ethics and Morality Based Essay Topics:**

- Wisdom Finds Truth
- Increasing Computerization would lead to the Creation of a Dehumanized Society.
- Customary morality cannot be a guide to modern life.
- Crisis faced in India - moral or economic.
- A good life(EUDAIMONIA) is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge.
- A people that values its privileges above its principles loses both.
- Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.
- Character of an institution is reflected in the leader.
- Its not wisdom but authority that makes the Law.
- Justice means Fairness.
- We are what we repeatedly do.



- **Virtues, Character, Ethics and Morality Based Essay Topics:**

- Harmony should exist between Personal Ethics and Business Ethics for a better work – life balance.
- For success of organisation; Ethical Infrastructure is as important as ethical competence in organisation.
- Man cannot remake himself without suffering; for he is both the Marble and the Sculptor.
- Relativism is the only practical moral philosophy for society in age of globalization.
- There is no higher God than Truth.
- "It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied; better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied."



• **Science/Technology Vs Morality/Ethics Based Essay**

- Science and Mysticism; Are they compatible?
- How has satellite television brought about cultural change in the Indian mindset.
- Mass media and cultural invasion
- Spirituality and scientific temper
- The march of science and the erosion of human values
- Open your arms to change and technology; but don't let your values go.
- Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life.
- In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual.
- Science has made us God even before we are worthy of being man.



- **Major Themes of Philosophical Essay Writing:**

- **Socio-Religious & Contemporary Social Issue Based Essay**

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

- Urbanization is a blessing in disguise.

- Modernism and our traditional socio-ethical values.

- We exist as part of society; society does not exist as part of us.



- **Major Themes of Philosophical Essay Writing:**

- **Culture Based Essay**

- As civilization advances culture declines.

- Globalisation and its impact on Indian Culture.



DIMENSIONS OF ETHICS / ESSAY ANSWER WRITING

SOCIO-CULTURAL /
RELIGIOUS -
SOCIOLOGISATION
ENCULTURATION;
ACCULTURATION

TECHNOLOGICAL

INDIVIDUAL/
PSYCHOLOGICAL

PERSONALITY
- EMOTIONAL
INTELLIGENCE

VALUES -
ORIENTAL
VS
OCCIDENTAL

ATTITUDES -
STEREOTYPES &
PREJUDICES

THEORIES OF
ETHICS

→ META/ANALYTICAL
ETHICS;
→ DESCRIPTIVE ETHICS
→ NORMATIVE ETHICS;
→ APPLIED ETHICS

MEDIA

PRINT AND
ELECTRONIC(TV AND
INTERNET) MEDIA

SOCIAL NETWORKING

ENTERTAINMENT AND
ADVERTISEMENT
INDUSTRY

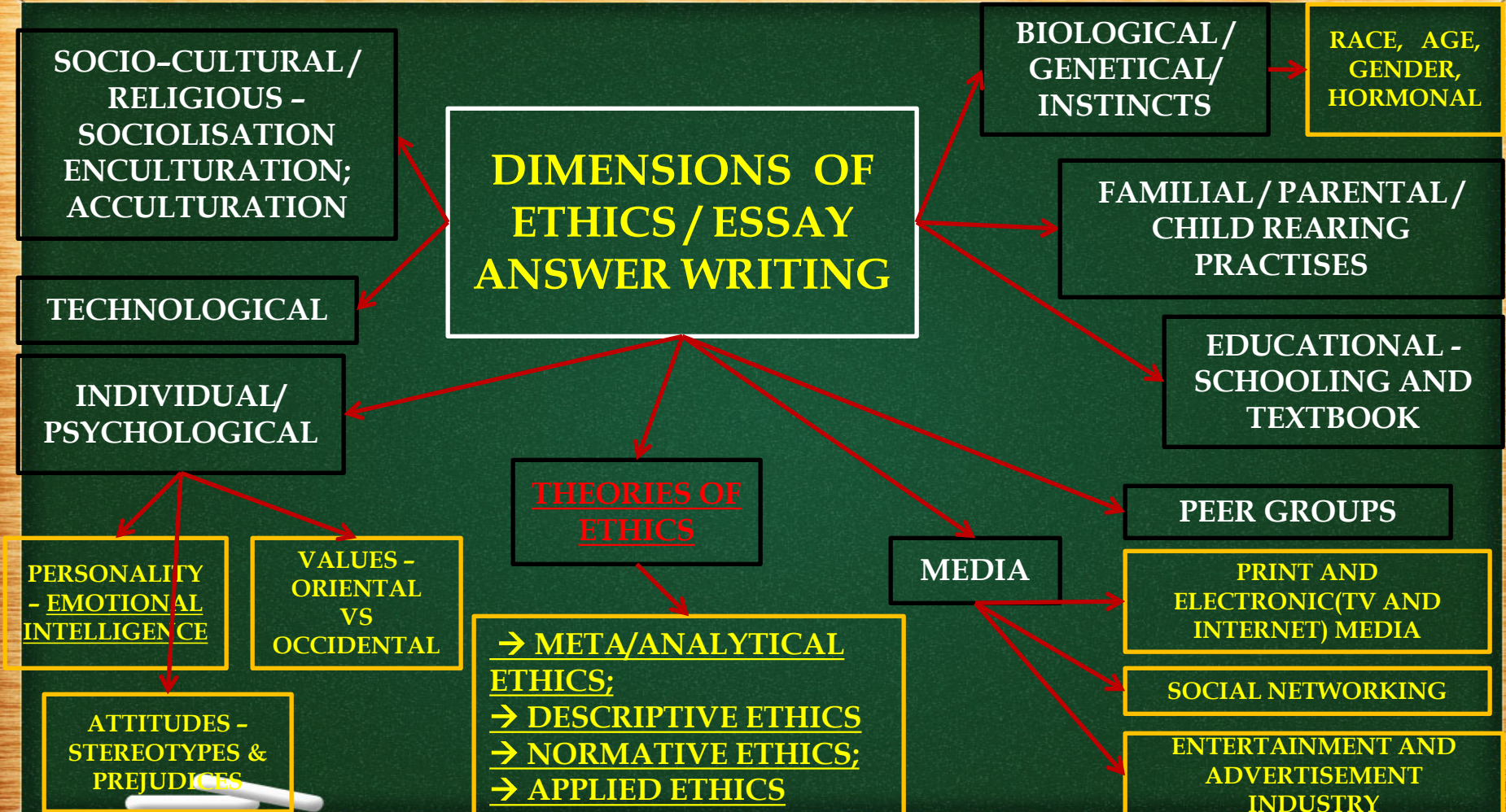
BIOLOGICAL /
GENETICAL /
INSTINCTS

RACE, AGE,
GENDER,
HORMONAL

FAMILIAL / PARENTAL /
CHILD REARING
PRACTISES

EDUCATIONAL -
SCHOOLING AND
TEXTBOOK

PEER GROUPS



CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES -
FUNDAMENTAL VALUES;
DPSP; FUNDAMENTAL
DUTIES

LEGAL FACTORS -
JUDICIAL
FACTORS; LAWS

ADMINISTRATIVE
FACTORS -
IMPLEMENTATION
ISSUES; RED TAPISM

POLITICAL
FACTORS

ENVIRONMENTAL
FACTORS - CLIMATE
CHANGE

ORGANISATIONAL
FACTORS -
BUSINESS ETHICS

**DIMENSIONS OF
ETHICS / ESSAY
ANSWER WRITING**

ECONOMIC -
SURVEY - BUDGET,
POLICIES

INTERNATIONAL
FACTORS -
GLOBALISATION

HISTORICAL
PERSPECTIVE

GEOGRAPHICAL
FACTORS

Thank You!!

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