

ESSAY

SYLLABUS & QUESTION PAPERS 2010-19

Examiners will pay special attention to the **candidate's grasp of his/ her material**, its **relevance** to the subject chosen, and to his/ her ability to **think constructively** and to present his/her ideas **concisely, logically and effectively**.

PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS

Write **two** essays, choosing one from each of the following Section A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each: **125x2=250**

2019

SECTION-A

1. Wisdom finds truth
2. Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be
3. Best for an individual is not necessarily best for the society
4. Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success

SECTION-B

1. South Asian societies are woven not around the state, but around their plural cultures and plural identities
2. Neglect of primary health care and education in India are reasons for its backwardness
3. Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy
4. Rise of Artificial Intelligence : the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling

2018

SECTION-A

1. Alternative technologies for a climate change resilient India.
2. A good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge.
3. Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere.
4. Management of Indian border disputes-a complex task.

SECTION-B

1. Customary morality cannot be a guide to modern life
2. 'The past' is a permanent dimension of human consciousness and values
3. A people that values its privileges above its principles loses both
4. Reality does not confirm to the ideal, but confirms it

2017

SECTION A

1. Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India.
2. Impact of the new economic measures on fiscal ties between the union and states in India.
3. Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms.
4. Has the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) lost its relevance in a multipolar world?

SECTION B

1. Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.
2. Fulfilment of 'new woman' in India is a myth.
3. We may brave human laws but cannot resist natural laws.
4. 'Social media' is inherently a selfish medium.

2016

SECTION A

1. If development is not engendered, it is endangered
2. Need brings greed, if greed increases it spoils breed
3. Water disputes between States in federal India
4. Innovation is the key determinant of economic growth and social welfare

SECTION B

1. Cooperative federalism: Myth or reality
2. Cyberspace and internet: Blessing or curse to the human civilization in the long run
3. Near jobless growth in India: An anomaly or an outcome of economic reforms
4. Digital economy: A leveller or a source of economic inequality

2015

SECTION A

1. Lending hands to someone is better than giving a dole.
2. Quick but steady wins the race.
3. Character of an institution is reflected in its leader.
4. Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man more clever devil.

SECTION B

1. Technology cannot replace manpower.
2. Crisis faced in India - moral or economic.
3. Dreams which should not let India sleep.
4. Can capitalism bring inclusive growth?

2014

SECTION A

1. With greater power comes greater responsibility.
2. Is the growing level of competition good for the youth?
3. Are the standardized tests good measure of academic ability or progress?
4. Words are sharper than the two-edged sword.

SECTION B

1. Was it the policy paralysis or the paralysis of implementation which slowed the growth of our country?
2. Is sting operation an invasion on privacy?
3. Fifty Golds in Olympics: can this be a reality for India?
4. Tourism: Can this be the next big thing for India?

2013

Write an essay on any **one** of the following topics:

250

1. Be the change you want to see in others – Gandhiji.
2. Is the Colonial mentality hindering India's success?
3. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) along with GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) would be the right indices for judging the well-being of a country.
4. Science and Technology is the panacea for the growth and security of the nation.

2012

Write an essay on any **one** of the following topics:

200

1. 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 India democracy.
2. Is the criticism that the 'Public-Private-Partnership' (PPP) model for development is more of a bane than a boon in the Indian context, justified?
3. Science and Mysticism: Are they compatible?
4. Managing work and home-is the Indian working woman getting a fair deal

2011

Write an essay on any **one** of the following topics:

200

1. Creation of smaller states and the consequent administrative, economic and developmental implications.
2. Does Indian cinema shape our popular culture or merely reflect it?
3. Credit-based higher education system-status, opportunities and challenges.
4. In the Indian context, both human intelligence and technical intelligence are crucial in combating terrorism.

2010

Write an essay on any **one** of the following topics:

200

1. Geography may remain the same; history need not.
2. Should a moratorium be imposed on all fresh mining in tribal areas of the country?
3. Preparedness of our society for India's global leadership role.
4. From traditional Indian philanthropy to the Gates-Buffer model-a natural progression or a paradigm shift?