

Essay 01 – Brijendra Singh

Format + Purpose of the Essay paper

- **2 sections, 4 topics** each – choose one topic from each section.
- Length: **1000-1200** words per essay.

*“Candidates are expected to **keep closely to the subject** of the essay and to **arrange their ideas in an orderly fashion**. Credit will be given for **effective and exact expression**.”*

Objective	What it requires?	What needs to be done?
Keep to the Subject	-Focus on the topic -Reinforce the topic	- <i>Do not digress from the topic.</i> - <i>Use the key terms of the topic repeatedly.</i> - <i>Prove/Disprove the topic in every para.</i>
Arrange Ideas in an Orderly Fashion	-Diversity in Content -Flow, Inter-linkages between paragraphs	- <i>Present different perspectives/dimensions.</i> - <i>Sequence of paragraphs should create a good argument.</i> - <i>Pre-planning before writing is essential.</i>
Exact and Effective Expression	-Clarity in Content -Depth in Content -Diversity in Content -Prescriptive value -Language & Presentation	- <i>Content should be relevant to the topic.</i> - <i>Do not write purely personal opinions.</i> - <i>Provide valid points, supported by data/examples.</i> - <i>Present different perspectives/dimensions.</i> - <i>Provide suggestions, solutions, advice, warnings as a guide towards the right direction.</i> - <i>Simple language + easy words are most effective.</i>

ESSAY EVALUATION CRITERIA

No.	AREA	What is Expected
1	Introduction	- Should create a positive impression and generate interest. - Should connect well with the topic.
2	Interpretation of Topic	- Should convey correct understanding of the topic. - Key elements/terms of the topic should be addressed. - Primarily based upon the quality of Body Para 1.
3	Focus on Topic	- Essay should not digress from the topic. - Essay should repeatedly reinforce the writer's perspective.
4	Relevance of Content	- Content should connect with and address the topic well. - Content should not be superficial or in the nature of purely personal opinions/thoughts.
5	Coherence in Content	- Order of paragraphs should be such that the connection between them builds up a good argument. - Within a paragraph, there should be a clear connect between the dimension being discussed, the problem cited, the recommendation suggested and the example given to support the argument. - Based upon pre-writing planning (Brainstorming sheet).
6	Diversity in content	- Content should not be repetitive in nature. - Content must present different perspectives/ viewpoints.

7	Quality of examples	- Examples must be connected to the point being presented. - Examples should not be used as a point in themselves- they should be used to substantiate a point.
8	Prescriptive value	- Essay should establish the distinction between right and wrong. - Essay must provide suggestions, solutions, advice, warnings etc. as a guide towards the right direction.
9	Expression (Language, Spellings & Grammar)	- Simple language and easy words create the most effective essays. - Spelling mistakes w.r.t. important words (e.g. a word given in the topic, the name of a famous personality etc.) are penalized.
10	Conclusion	- Should leave a lasting impression on the reader. - Should connect well with the topic.

3 Elements in Essay Writing

1. How to Select a topic
2. How to Interpret the topic
3. Structure of the Essay

1. How to Select a topic

1. Choose a topic where you have **ADEQUATE CONTENT**.

2. Don't try to attempt a difficult topic just to "be different".

- **Common topic: Low risk, average returns.**

- **Difficult topic: High risk, unsure returns.**

3. Choose a **broad/general topic** – easier to generate content.

2. How to Interpret the Topic

- Understand the Topic and its demands correctly.
 - If it is **OPINION-based**, first decide what stand you want to take.
 - If it is **INFORMATIVE**, the essay needs different dimensions on the topic.
- Identify the fundamental elements of the essay.

How to interpret the topic correctly:

i) Rewrite the topic in the form of a question.

ii) Check if your answer is in agreement/disagreement with the question.

If you Agree or Disagree: Provide **ARGUMENTS** for/against the topic.

If the topic is Informative: Address the topic from different dimensions.

DIMENSIONS			
Social	Political	Economic	Historical
Scientific	Humanitarian	Medical	Cultural
Technological	Philosophical	Environmental	Ethical

3. Structure of the Essay (4 parts - 8 paras)

	PART	LENGTH	PURPOSE
1	Introduction	120 – 150 words	- <i>Convey correct understanding of topic.</i> - <i>Generate interest; create a positive impact.</i>
2	Body Para 1	120-150 words	- <i>Provide your interpretation of the topic.</i>
3	Body paragraphs	(120-150 words) 5 paras	- <i>Provide distinct & different perspectives, dimensions on topic.</i>
4	Conclusion	120-150 words	- <i>Reinforce views on the topic.</i> - <i>Leave a lasting impression.</i>
	TOTAL	1000-1200 Words	

Body Para. 1

- This paragraph conveys **your interpretation** of the topic.
- What it should contain:
 - **your understanding** about the key terms and how they are correlated.
- What it should NOT contain:
 - Theory.
 - Examples/Anecdotes/Data.

Body Para. 1 – Brainstorming (5 W's + H)

What	- <i>What do the terms/topic mean/signify?</i>
Why	- <i>Why is there a correlation between them?</i>
Who	- <i>Who is affected by the terms/issues?</i>
When	- <i>When do these terms or their correlation become important?</i>
Where	- <i>Where do we witness the terms/issues around us?</i>
How	- <i>How are the terms related?</i> - <i>How do they affect each other?</i>

- Choose any **3 questions** to frame Body para 1.

Topic: Not all who wander are lost.

Question: *Do some of those who wander not get lost?*

Answer/Response: Yes/Agree

3 Questions to frame Body Para 1:

WHAT do “wandering” and “lost” signify?

- **Wandering:** The struggles one has to endure before achieving a desired objective.
- **Lost:** Not being able to achieve the desired objectives.

WHY is there a risk of getting lost while wandering?

- Because one may lose heart or focus, become pessimistic, settle for less.

WHO does not get lost despite having had to wander?

- Those with faith in themselves and their abilities; those who understand that *failure is finite but hope is infinite*.
- Those who persevere despite setbacks; *focus on efforts, not results*.

BODY PARA 1

*Many of life's failure are people who didn't realize how close they were to success when they gave up. This means that anyone who wants to realize their dreams will have to **“wander” through many struggles** and setbacks before they can taste success. But **many people get “lost”** during this wandering and give up before they achieve their objectives. Most people lose heart and become pessimistic when they face constant failures. They are unable to focus on their goals and end up settling for less. However, **some people are able to maintain faith** in themselves and their abilities. Such people understand that *failure is finite, but hope is infinite*. They persevere despite multiple setbacks and remain optimistic by *focussing on their efforts, not the results*. **This is why it is said that not all who wander are lost.*** (140 words)

Topic: A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what a ship is for.

Question: *Is a ship in harbour safe? Are ships built to not stay in the harbour?*

Answer/Response: Yes/Agree

3 Questions to frame Body Para 1:

WHAT do “ship” and “harbour” signify?

- Ship: an individual, institution or nation.
- Harbour: being sheltered from challenges; comfort zone.

WHAT are ships built for?

- To cross oceans (new endeavors), to weather storms (overcome problems) and to help us reach new destinations (accomplishments).

WHY are ships not built to stay in a harbour?

- Because by staying in the harbour, we will never reach our destination.
- Will never accomplish what we are meant to; miss the true purpose of life.

BODY PARA 1

A caterpillar will never become a butterfly unless it sheds its cocoon. In the same way, a ship will never reach its destination till it sets sail and leaves the safety of the harbour. Ships are not built to remain anchored in the harbour—they are built to cross oceans, weather storms and help us reach new destinations. Similarly, **an individual, institution or nation is not meant to remain sheltered** from challenges. By insulating ourselves from challenges, we are missing out on the true purpose of life. Life acquires meaning when we attempt new endeavors, try to overcome problems that come our way, and strive towards better accomplishments. And for this, we will have to **step outside out comfort zone**. **Because a ship in harbour may be safe but that is not what a ship is for.**

(135 words)

Topic: A good leader is one who follows the followers.

Question: *Is a good leader one who follows the followers?*

Answer/Response: Not always/ Partially Agree

3 Questions to frame Body Para 1:

WHY should a leader follow the followers?

- Because the fundamental objective is public welfare.
- Accurate identification of public needs; Citizen-centric decisions; strengthens democracy.

WHO is a “good” leader?

- Someone who takes decisions that produce sustainable welfare.
- Upholds & promotes secularism, justice, liberty, fraternity

WHEN should a leader not follow the followers?

- When the followers lack awareness; are prejudiced; irrational.
- Good leader enlightens followers; shape responsible public opinion; creates more leaders.

BODY PARA 1

Chanakya has rightly said that “*in the happiness of his subjects lies the happiness of the king*”. This emphasizes the fact that a leader must always remember that he serves the people. Since the fundamental objective of a leader is public welfare, he must be guided by the wishes and aspirations of his followers. This will enable accurate **identification of public needs**, promote **citizen-centric decisions** and **strengthen democracy**. However, for a leader to be called “good”, he must take decisions that produce **sustainable welfare**. As such, a “good leader” must uphold & promote **secularism, justice, liberty and fraternity**. Such a leader should be careful to not follow his followers when the followers themselves **lack awareness**, are **prejudiced**, and are making **irrational** demands. Rather, it is the responsibility of a good leader to enlighten his followers and shape responsible public opinion. *Because the true work of a good leader is not just to follow the followers, but to produce more leaders.* (150 words)

Topic: There is no path to happiness; happiness is the path.

Question: *Is there no path to happiness? Is happiness itself the path?*

Answer/Response: Yes/Agree

3 Questions to frame Body Para 1:

WHY is there no path to happiness?

- Because as long as we search for happiness, we never have it.
- It is not a distant goal, but something that is within us.

HOW can happiness be attained?

- By not merely pursuing professional success or material wealth.
- Being happy in all that we have and do; appreciating our blessings.

HOW is happiness itself the path?

- Way of living; ongoing journey, not an objective.
- Because when we enjoy the process, without attributing happiness to a particular event or goal, only then can we be truly happy.

BODY PARA 1

It is rightly said that *the foolish man seeks happiness in the distance, the wise man grows it at his feet*. This implies that happiness is not a distant goal to be achieved someday, but something that exists within us. As long as we search for happiness, we can never truly have it. The path to happiness is not the pursuit of professional success or material wealth. Rather, the path appears when we start appreciating our blessings and find happiness in all that we have and all that we do. As such, happiness is a way of living and an ongoing journey, not a destination. We can only be happy when we enjoy journey, without attributing our happiness to a particular event or goal. Thus proving that *there is no path to happiness, happiness itself is the path*.

(140 words)

Topic: Visionary decision making happens at the intersection of intuition and logic.

Question: *Does visionary decision making happen at the intersection of intuition and logic?*

Answer/Response: Yes/Agree

3 Questions to frame Body Para 1:

WHAT does intuition enable?

- Belief in something, even when we cannot explain the reason.
- Creates a dream/vision.

HOW does logic complement intuition?

- Gives us the tools to achieve our dreams; overcome obstacles.

HOW do they lead to a visionary decision?

- They are mutually complementary.
- Dreams cannot fulfill themselves; Tools are of no use without a dream to work towards.

BODY PARA 1

Faith is to believe what you do not see, the reward of faith is to see what you believe. This means that **to achieve something visionary** and innovative, it is important to first **believe in it passionately**. **Intuition enables us** to believe in something, even though we may not be able to justify the reason. It creates a dream and vision about what we want to achieve and **generates confidence** in our ability to make the dream a reality. However, such dreams can be realised only by **complementing our intuition with logic** – it is **logic that gives us the tools** through which our vision can be manifested. Intuition and logic are **mutually complementary** because **dreams cannot fulfill themselves**, while the tools of **logic are of no use without a dream** to work towards. *This is why it is said that visionary decision making happens at the intersection of intuition and logic.*

(150 words)

VAJIRAM & RAVI