



UPSC Mains Essay Question Paper 2026

The graphic features a dark blue background with the PadhAI logo at the top left. The main title 'UPSC MAINS ESSAY' is prominently displayed in white and yellow, with 'QUESTION PAPER 2026' below it. A list of eight essay topics is shown on a white card, including 'In an era of rapid technological advancement, ethical governance and human values are the compass that can guide society towards a just and sustainable future. Elucidate.' and 'Climate change is no longer a distant threat but a present reality. Discuss the global and national efforts required to achieve climate justice.' To the right, there is a stack of books titled 'INDIAN POLITY', 'INDIAN ECONOMY', 'INDIAN SOCIETY', 'ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE', and 'ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE'. A black pen lies on the books. At the bottom left, four icons represent 'HIGH QUALITY QUESTIONS', 'ANALYTICAL & THOUGHT PROVOKING', 'LATEST & RELEVANT TOPICS', and 'UPSC PATTERN FOCUSED'. A circular badge at the bottom center says 'PREPARE BETTER ACHIEVE MORE' with three stars.

UPSC MAINS
ESSAY
QUESTION PAPER 2026

UPSC MAINS ESSAY QUESTION PAPER 2026

1. In an era of rapid technological advancement, ethical governance and human values are the compass that can guide society towards a just and sustainable future. Elucidate.
2. Climate change is no longer a distant threat but a present reality. Discuss the global and national efforts required to achieve climate justice.
3. "India's demographic dividend can become a curse if our education system fails to equip the youth with relevant skills and values." Comment.
4. Social media has amplified voices and democratized information, but it has also deepened polarisation and misinformation. Discuss.
5. "True development is not measured by the wealth of a nation, but by the well-being of its citizens and the health of its ecosystems." Analyse.
6. Internal security challenges in India are deeply linked to socio-economic and political factors. Examine.
7. "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." In the context of India's aspirations of becoming a developed nation, discuss.
8. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Discuss.

INDIAN POLITY
INDIAN ECONOMY
INDIAN SOCIETY
ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE
ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

PREPARE BETTER ACHIEVE MORE

HIGH QUALITY QUESTIONS
ANALYTICAL & THOUGHT PROVOKING
LATEST & RELEVANT TOPICS
UPSC PATTERN FOCUSED

The UPSC Mains Essay paper is Paper I of the Civil Services (Main) Examination, a three-hour merit-ranking paper in which candidates write two essays from a printed choice of eight topics.

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निम्नलिखित खण्ड A और B प्रत्येक से एक-एक विषय चुनकर, दो निबंध लिखिए, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000 - 1200 शब्दों में हो :

Write two essays, choosing one topic from each of the following Sections A and B, in about 1000 - 1200 words each : 125×2=250

खण्ड A
SECTION A

Q1. विरोधाभास जीवन की विडंबनाओं को दर्शाते हैं।

Oxymorons reflect the ironies of life.

Q2. एक कृतज्ञ मन अति सुंदर होता है।

A grateful mind is very beautiful. ✓

Q3. काँटा, कली का बदला हुआ रूप है।

A thorn is a changed bud.

Q4. जब दो हाथी लड़ते हैं, तब घास ही रौंदी जाती है।

When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled.

खण्ड B
SECTION B

Q5. प्रकृति ही जीवात्मा का प्रतीक है।

Nature is the symbol of the spirit.

Q6. एक अच्छे शिक्षित दिमाग में, हमेशा उत्तर से अधिक प्रश्न होंगे।

A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers.

Q7. कठोर निर्णयों को टालना सबसे कम नैतिक मार्ग है।

Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course.

Q8. उत्तम नेता वह है जो अपने अनुयायियों का अनुसरण करता है।

A good leader is one who follows the followers.