

Embellishments

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• How to improve essay ?

- Develop a clear thesis statement
 - Instead of saying, "Social media affects society," say, "Social media promotes political polarization by encouraging echo chambers and amplifying extreme viewpoints."
- 'Organize' a strong outline
 - Divide the essay into clear sections—introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.
 - Break each body paragraph into a single point with supporting evidence, and ensure it links back to your thesis.
 - The first sentence of each paragraph, summarizing the main point.
 - Avoid introducing new ideas in conclusion. End with a thought-provoking statement or call to action.
- Approach topics analytically and with depth.
 - It means show you know both sides of the argument and explain why you think your argument weigh more.
- **Build a problem in introduction**

- Candidates may be required to write essays on multiple topics. They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay, to arrange their ideas in orderly fashion, and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.

• CHOOSING A TOPIC

- पूछा क्या है
- किस संदर्भ में?
- क्या तुम्हें इतना आता है कि 1200 शब्द लिख दोगे?

• Introduction - 150-200 Words

- General Statement
- Quote - **Only verbatim (don't play Russian Roulette)**
- ☒ • Start with an anecdote - a short story
 - Aristotelian art of drama -> sudden change in fortune -> Tragedy -> Human perseverance to succeed in end.
 - Use examples from **History!!**
- Premise or background of the topic
- Conversational introduction
- ☒ • Paradox - comparative analysis

India, a country as diverse as ~~one~~ can be, is a country made for tourism. From the heights of Kedarnath to the coast of Mumbai, from the desert of Rajasthan to the rainforests of North-East, from the prehistoric caves of Bhimbetka to the colonial architecture, it is a country filled with sites—both natural and man-made—that produce the sense of awe and wonder in a person. But one is more perplexed when one hears that it is one of the least visited countries for tourism in terms of per-capita volume. Why this dichotomy, one begins to ask?

- Interrogative Introduction - Asking rhetorical questions

• Body

- Approach
 - Temporal
 - Sectoral - Skim GS syllabus -
 - Society - Individual, Family, Society, Nation, Global
 - Problem solution approach
 - For and Against approach

- Using **Subheading** can help in increasing the legibility of your essay, it can help in arranging the ideas in orderly fashion.

- An evolving mechanism
- The Positive Face of Technology: A Useful Servant

- The Dark Side of Technology: A Dangerous Monster
- Balancing Act: Managing Technology Wisely

1. History

- i. Journey so far
- ii. Snapshots of the past
- iii. A tumultuous journey

2. Transition | Change

- i. Then and Now
- ii. Evolving Dynamics
- iii. Necessity is the mother of invention
- iv. Fortune favours the bold
- v. A rolling stone gathers no moss

3. Issues

- i. A dismal state of affairs
- ii. Haste makes waste
- iii. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link

4. Dichotomy

- i. Saviours or saboteurs?
- ii. Promise or Peril?
- iii. Silver lining in dark cloud
- iv. All that glitter is not gold
- v. A double-edged sword
- vi. Managing dichotomy
- vii. Look before you leap
- viii. You reap what you sow
- ix. Still waters run deep
- x. The grass is always greener on the other side

5. Way forward

- i. A Window of opportunity
- ii. Miles to go
- iii. Journey not an end
- iv. Path Ahead
- v. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
- vi. The Right Approach
- vii. Towards a brighter future
- viii. A penny saved is a penny earned
- ix. MEN ARGUE. NATURE ACTS
- x. Better safe than sorry
- xi. Where there's a will, there's a way
- xii. Actions speak louder than words
- xiii. The early bird catches the worm
- xiv. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade
- xv. Practice makes perfect
- xvi. Strike while the iron is hot
- xvii. A stitch in time saves nine
- xviii. All's well that ends well
- xix. In unity, there is strength
- xx. All roads lead to Rome

6. Miscellaneous

- i. Rome wasn't built in a day, but they were laying bricks every hour - John Heywood
- ii. The pen is mightier than the sword
- iii. When in Rome, do as the Romans do
- iv. Actions speak louder than words
- v. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
- vi. Love conquers all

• Connectives

- To show a cause and effect relationship between sentences— *accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus, if, and, because, unless, in this regard, in the face of,*
 - E.g. The weather forecast predicts heavy rain tomorrow; **accordingly**, we should carry umbrellas and raincoats when we go out.
 - E.g. He didn't prepare for the exam, **and consequently**, he failed to get the desired grade.
 - E.g. The company has been experiencing financial losses for consecutive quarters; **hence**, they are implementing cost-cutting measures to improve their financial situation.
 - E.g. She studied diligently for the exam, **so** she felt confident that she would perform well.
 - E.g. The experiment yielded inconclusive results; **therefore**, further research is needed to draw definitive conclusions.
 - E.g. She aced all her exams, **and thus**, she earned the highest GPA in her class.
 - E.g. We can't leave for the trip **unless** everyone is ready to go.
- To show similarity— *also, likewise, similarly, in addition, although, furthermore,*
 - E.g. He not only excels in academics **but also** actively participates in various sports.

- E.g. The CEO emphasized the importance of teamwork, **and likewise**, the managers encouraged collaboration among their teams.
 - E.g. The textbook covers the core concepts of the subject, **and in addition**, it includes practical examples to enhance understanding.
 - E.g. **Although** he was feeling tired, he stayed up late to complete his assignment. | The movie received mixed reviews from critics, **although** it performed well at the box office.
- *To bring out contrast— but, however, in spite of, nevertheless, nonetheless, despite, On the other hand, In contrast*
- E.g. The initial plan was to hold the event outdoors; **however**, due to the bad weather, it was moved indoors.
 - E.g. **In spite of** the traffic jam, she arrived at the meeting on time.
 - E.g. He was tired after a long day at work; **nevertheless**, he stayed up late to finish his assignment.
 - E.g. The team faced several challenges during the competition; **nonetheless**, they emerged victorious in the end.
 - E.g. The team played well **despite** the absence of their star player.
 - E.g. The weather was cold and rainy. **On the other hand**, it was perfect for a cosy day indoors.
- *To show a sequence— firstly, secondly, thirdly, ... next, finally*
- To establish time relationship— after, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently*
- E.g. I had breakfast **earlier**, so I'm not hungry right now. | She finished her assignment **earlier** than expected.
 - E.g. As soon as the fire alarm rang, everyone evacuated the building **immediately**. | The patient's condition deteriorated suddenly, and the doctors attended to him **immediately** to stabilize his health.
 - E.g. The company released its latest product, **and subsequently**, it received positive reviews from customers.
- *To add an example— for instance, namely, for example, specifically, to illustrate*
- E.g. There are several ways to reduce energy consumption in households; **for instance**, using energy-efficient appliances and sealing drafts in windows and doors.
 - E.g. The report highlighted three key challenges in the education system, **namely**, inadequate infrastructure, teacher shortages, and outdated curricula.
 - E.g. There are several ways to reduce water consumption at home; **for example**, fixing leaks, using water-saving appliances, and collecting rainwater. | The company offers various employee benefits, **for example**, paid time off, health insurance, and retirement plans.
 - E.g. The research study examined the effects of the drug **specifically** on patients with a particular genetic mutation.
 - E.g. The artist used vibrant colours **to illustrate** the beauty of the natural landscape in her paintings.
- *In conclusion, In summary, To sum up, In the final analysis, On the whole, All things considered, As discussed above, On balance*
- **Connectives**
- **On a similar note**
- **Beautiful words**
- **not a watertight solution**
 -
 - A major yard stick
 - Contemporary society
 - Instrumental role
 - Unravelling the mystery
 - Baffling questions
 - Mosaic of life
 - Unending saga
 - Perpetual conundrum
 - In all it's hues
 - Spirit of enquiry
 -
 - Fast forward
 - Fragile ecosystem
 - Silent killer
 - Dwindling resources
 - Jigsaw puzzle
 - Rapid expansion
 - Deep rooted problem
 - Myopic vision <> broad vision
 - Daunting task
 - Thriving biodiversity
 - Intricately intertwined
 -
 - Silent revolution
 - Formidable challenge
 - Striking pattern
 - Total despair
 - Unforeseen consequences
 - Deadly weapon
 - Debilitating impact
 - Reckless devastation
 - Lopsided development
 - Glaring disparities
 - Chronic deficiency
 - Irreversible damage
 - Mission mode approach
 - Congenial atmosphere

- Quantum jump, leap frog
- Holistic vision
- Enduring efforts
- A wake up call
- Down to earth
- Judicious use
- Cutting edge technology
- Equitable distribution
- Peaceful coexistence
- Brimming with confidence
- Panoramic view
- Long cherished goals
- Amicable solution
- Astounding success
- Of utmost importance
- Meticulously designed
- Far reaching impact
- Staunch supporter
- Relentless efforts
- Tremendous capacity
- Unprecedented opportunity
- Renewed vigour
- Great strides
- Collective consciousness
- Piecemeal approach
- Inherent potential
- The critical hour
- Revolutionary ideas
- Untapped potential
- Redefining priorities
- Traditional wisdom
- Skewed development
- Remote possibilities
- Regenerate capacity
- Targeting troubles
- Supreme sacrifice
- Unflinching - अदम्य
- Unwavering - अटल/हृढ़

- Orwellian - to represent totalitarian or authoritarian

• Conclusion - 250-300 Words

- Closure
- Rhetorical paragraph
- **Don't introduce any fresh argument in conclusion**
- Don't be apologetic, be decisive and assertive

Avoid this mistakes	Essay
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Idioms

• General Metaphorical Idioms

1. **A drop in the ocean:** Something small in comparison to something much larger.
2. **A piece of cake:** Something easy to do.
3. **Beat around the bush:** Avoid the main topic.
4. **Break the ice:** Overcome shyness or awkwardness.
5. **Cost an arm and a leg:** Very expensive.
6. **Hit the nail on the head:** Exactly right.
7. **Let the cat out of the bag:** Reveal a secret.
8. **Pull someone's leg:** Teasing someone playfully.
9. **See eye to eye:** Agree with someone.
10. **Spill the beans:** Reveal a secret.

More Figurative Idioms

1. **A blessing in disguise:** Something good that initially seems bad.
2. **A storm in a teacup:** A lot of fuss about something unimportant.
3. **Back to the drawing board:** Start again.
4. **Ball is in your court:** It's your turn to act.
5. **Bite the bullet:** Face a difficult situation.
6. **Burning the midnight oil:** Working late into the night.
7. **Cross that bridge when you come to it:** Deal with a problem when it happens.
8. **Let sleeping dogs lie:** Avoid a potentially difficult situation.
9. **Open a can of worms:** Create a problem or situation that is difficult to deal with.
10. **Piece of the pie:** A share of something.

Idioms for Deeper Contemplation

1. **A stitch in time saves nine:** It's better to deal with a problem early on.

2. **The tip of the iceberg:** A small visible part of a much larger issue.
3. **Throw caution to the wind:** Take a risk.
4. **Turn over a new leaf:** Make a fresh start.
5. **Water under the bridge:** Something that has happened and cannot be changed.

UPSC ESSAY TOPICS ASKED		
Thinking is like a game, it does not begin unless there is an opposite team.		2023
Visionary decision-making happens at the intersection of intuition and logic.		2023
Not all who wander are lost		2023
Inspiration for creativity springs from the effort to look for the magical in the mundane.		2023
Girls are weighed down by restrictions, boys with demands — two equally harmful disciplines.		2023
Mathematics is the music of reason.		2023
A society that has more justice is a society that needs less charity.		2023
Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.		2023
Forests are the best case studies for economic excellence		2022
Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world		2022
History is a series of victories won by the scientific man over the romantic man	Reason over passion	2022
A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ship is for	Purpose	2022
The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining	Preparation	2022
You cannot step twice in the same river	Change	2022
A smile is the chosen vehicle for all ambiguities		2022
Just because you have a choice, it does not mean that any of them has to be right		2022
The process of self-discovery has now been technologically outsourced.		2021
Your perception of me is a reflection of you; my reaction to you is an awareness of me		2021
Philosophy of wantlessness is Utopian, while materialism is a chimera		2021
The real is rational and the rational is real.		2021
Hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.		2021
What is research, but a blind date with knowledge!		2021
History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as a farce.		2021
There are better practices to "best practices"		2021
Life is long journey between human being and being humane		2020
Mindful manifesto is the catalyst to a tranquil self		2020
Ships do not sink because of water around them, ships sink because of water that gets into them		2020
Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication		2020
Culture is what we are, civilization is what we have		2020
There can be no social justice without economic prosperity but economic prosperity without social justice is meaningless		2020
Patriarchy is the least noticed yet the most significant structure of social inequality		2020
Technology as the silent factor in international relations		2020
Wisdom finds Truth		2019
Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be		2019
Best of an individual is not necessarily best for the society		2019
Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success		2019
South Asian society are woven not around the state, but around their plural culture and plural identities		2019
Neglect for primary health care in india and education in India are reason for it's backwardness		2019
Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy		2019
Rise of Artificial Intelligence : the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling		2019
Alternative technologies for climate change resilient India		2018
A good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge		2018

Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere		2018
Management of Indian border issue - A complex task		2018
Customary morality cannot be guided to modern life		2018
'The past' is the permanent dimension of human consciousness and values		2018
A people that values its privilege above its principle loses both		2018
Reality does not conform to the ideal, but confirms it		2018
Forest service asked topics		
Ethical Dilemmas and Artificial Intelligence		
The Revival of Traditional Indian Sports		
Liberal Education is not Antithetical to Technical Education		
To Reap the Demographic Dividend, Investment in Human Capital is Crucial for India		
Perils of Eco degradation		
COVID-19: A Natural Calamity or a Man-Made Disaster		
Paradox of Freedom and Responsibility		
Our Urban Survival Depends upon Efficient Waste Management		
New Education Policy and the Future of India's Youth		
Virtual Teaching and the Crisis of Primary Education		
Impact of Agricultural Reforms on India's Economic Future		
Depletion of Natural Resources: A Threat to Humanity		
Global Warming and Climate Change		
What lies ahead for the Indian Economy ?		
Quality education as an indicator of social development		
The influence of the internet on youth		
Education as Social Justice		
The Earth as Home		
The Future of Heritage Buildings		
Compassion as a Human Virtue		
Globalization and the environment		
Education or Economics - The more valuable asset?		
Alternative source of energy - the future of the world		
India @ 70 : Technology for social justice		
The factors that have influence industrialization in India		
Forest as they used to be		
Educating the masses - a challenge and an opportunity		
Is coalition politics the sign of mature democracy		
India has a long history of tolerant secularism		
Women should find their voice for security, progress and empowerment		