



VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

Master Classes

FOR ESSAY WRITING

The objective is to develop essential skills for crafting insightful and impactful essays for the **UPSC CSE exam**.



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Why Essay Writing in UPSC

The Essay paper in the UPSC CSE is more than a test of an aspirant's comprehension, analytical and writing skills but; it is a window into an aspirant's personality & traits. Through essays, candidates showcase not only their clarity of thought and knowledge but also their temperament, empathy, and integrity—key traits expected in a civil servant. A well-structured, balanced essay reflects maturity, objectivity, and a rational approach to diverse issues. Furthermore, essay writing is a vital component of UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) preparation, significantly impacting the final merit.



About the Programme

Success in essay paper demands not only practice but also a solid grasp of structure, depth, clarity and knowledge about other fundamental aspects of essay writing. VisionIAS, renowned for its programs like the **All India Mains Test Series and Essay Enrichment Program**, has been a leader in nurturing essay-writing excellence among UPSC aspirants.

Building on this foundation, we introduce **Master Classes for Essay Writing**, meticulously designed to help beginners master the art of essay writing. These classes address key challenges such as **topic selection, cohesive structuring, multi-dimensional analysis, and impactful conclusions**. A special focus on **opinion-based and philosophical essays** enables aspirants to tackle nuanced topics with clarity and critical insight, fostering personal expression and analytical thinking.

In addition, engaging activities like **group discussions, brainstorming exercises, and peer review sessions** will further enrich learning, creating a collaborative environment that enhances comprehension and articulation.



Program Highlights



Core Structure

- » **5 Master Classes:** Comprehensive master classes by experienced UPSC faculty.
- » **Essay Components Mastery:** Build command over vital pillars (structure, presentation, language, etc) of essay writing.
- » **Targeted Skill Development:** Focus on crafting high-scoring essays with UPSC-specific strategies.
- » **Simplifying Complex Topics:** Techniques to address philosophical topics and create impactful thesis statements.



Interactive Learning & Group Engagement

- » **Activity-Based Learning:** Hands-on classroom exercises to strengthen understanding and enhancing skill.
- » **Insights from Top Scorers:** Knowing and implementing proven strategies shared by previous year toppers.
- » **Personalized Feedback and Co-Learning:** Experience co-learning and peer review along with personalized feedback from the faculty.
- » **Live Writing Practice:** Real-time writing exercises with faculty support.



Practice and Feedback

- » **Workbook Exercises:** Structured activities for step-by-step learning.
- » **Home Assignments:** Regular home exercises and feedback on practice essays.
- » **Continuous Feedback Loops:** Regular evaluation by experts to track and improve performance.



Program Outcomes



Master the selection, interpretation, and effective brainstorming of UPSC-relevant topics.



Attain the skill of crafting powerful introductions and conclusions.



Develop impactful and cohesive thesis statements.



Integrate strong dimensional analysis and presentation techniques in the essay body.



Attain confidence in tackling complex, philosophical essay topics.



Develop the art of effective time management.



Building confidence & competence in writing original, creative, and structured essays.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Free Workshop on 1st December, 2024 at 5 PM

Master Classes Starts	Duration	Fees (Inclusive of all taxes)
2 nd December, 2024 5 PM	One week (5 days in a week, 3 hrs per day class)	₹ 3000



Program Outline

Session Name	Date	Objective	Key Focus Areas
Orientation Session- Fundamentals of Essay Writing Skill Development (Free Workshop)	1 st December	The objective of the workshop is to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the Essay paper in the UPSC exam, focusing on its significance in determining final rankings, different components of an essay, and exploring recent trends in essay topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » UPSC exam overview » Role of Essay paper in UPSC and its impact on final ranking » Trend analysis of essay paper » Key skills for effective essay writing » Recommended sources and insights from toppers preparation approaches » Core components of an essay: structure, flow, language, presentation etc » Importance of brainstorming for idea generation » Strategies for effective time management » Do's and don'ts in essay writing <p>+ Classroom Activity</p>
Master Class - 1 Essay Topic Selection, Interpretation & Brainstorming Techniques	2 nd December	To equip students with the skills to choose the right essay topics, interpret them accurately, and develop brainstorming abilities that would build the base for essay writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Analysis of UPSC essay paper pattern and expectations » Understanding the marking scheme and evaluation criteria » Importance of Time management » Trends and Themes of essays frequently asked in the exam » Factors and criteria instrumental to the selection of essay topics » Accurate interpretation of essay topics » Develop brainstorming techniques for concrete ideas and multi-dimensional coverage <p>+ Classroom Activity & Home Assignment</p>

<p>Master Class – 2 Crafting Suitable Introductions and Conclusions</p>	<p>3rd December</p>	<p>To highlight and develop creative acumen for writing suitable introductions, effective concluding techniques, and address common misconceptions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Learn to develop powerful introductions in correspondence with the given topics » Crafting thesis statement i.e transition paragraphs connecting the introduction and the body for a seamless flow » Exposure to different types of effective conclusions » Avoiding common myths and mistakes with regard to Introductions and Conclusions <p>+Classroom Activity & Home Assignment</p>
<p>Master Class – 3 Mastering Essay Body, Structure and Presentation</p>	<p>4th December</p>	<p>To guide students in developing the body of essay with multidimensional approach, logical flow and effective use of headings and subheadings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Structuring the body into thematic sections & developing an effective thesis statement » Content Development and Research - includes developing multidimensional perspectives and inter-disciplinary interlinkages Ensuring a coherent flow and smooth transitions between sections & paragraphs » Use of headings, subheadings, and connectors to attain unified seamless flow of the essay » Learn to develop analytical skills through use of well-reasoned arguments, balancing facts, data, and examples » Knowing and avoiding common myths and mistakes with regard to the body of the essay. <p>+Classroom Activity & Home Assignment</p>
<p>Master Class – 4 Live Essay Writing Practice and Faculty Feedback</p>	<p>5th December</p>	<p>To provide hands-on practice through a live writing session, consolidating skills learned throughout the series with feedback.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Application of all approaches & strategies covered » Real-time essay writing with faculty's guidance » Peer discussion, review, and faculty feedback on essay structure, clarity, coherence etc <p>+Classroom Activity & Home Assignment</p>
<p>Master Class – 5 Tackling Philosophical & Opinion-Based Essays</p>	<p>6th December</p>	<p>To help students differentiate between information-based and philosophical essays and develop a strategy for approaching philosophical topics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Distinguishing between information-based and opinion-based essays » Approaching philosophical essays with critical thinking and reflective analysis » Techniques for structuring philosophical essays with clarity and depth <p>+Classroom Activity & Home Assignment</p>

Essay Preparation Approach & Strategies

Insights from Topper's Answer Scripts

UPSC CSE TOPPERS 2023



**Aditya
Srivastava**

AIR 1, UPSC CSE 2023



Aditya Srivastava, who achieved **AIR 1 in UPSC 2023**, is renowned for his exceptional essay writing skills, particularly his ability to explore **philosophical themes** with depth and clarity.

His essays begin with **captivating introductions** that often incorporate quotes from influential personalities such as Erich From and Mahatma Buddha, setting a profound tone for the discourse. Aditya excels in weaving **multidimensional analysis** into his essays, covering historical, economic, societal, technological, and ethical perspectives.

He enriches his arguments with **poignant examples**, such as referencing Hitler's actions to illustrate the dangers of flawed reasoning or discussing Raja Ram Mohan Roy's reforms to highlight the impact of enlightened thinking.

Aditya's **use of data** adds credibility, while his narrative style maintains **emotional resonance**, engaging the reader throughout.

Aditya's essays are marked by a **clear logical flow and strategic use of connectors**, ensuring coherence and making complex ideas accessible. His ability to raise thought-provoking questions and incorporate constitutional values further enhances the depth and relevance of his essays, making them compelling and insightful.

Aditya Srivastava's conclusions are eloquent and impactful, often featuring poignant quotes or poems. They effectively summarize key points, provide a forward-looking perspective, and ensure thematic consistency, leaving a lasting, optimistic impression on the reader.



**Animesh
Pradhan**

AIR 2, UPSC CSE 2023



Animesh Pradhan, AIR 2 in UPSC 2023, showcases exceptional essay writing skills characterized by **profound philosophical insights and meticulous structuring**.

His essays begin with **engaging introductions** that set a **thematic tone using historical and contemporary references**. For instance, he often incorporates quotes from notable figures like Alfred Nobel and the Wright Brothers, providing a broad temporal spectrum that captivates and contextualizes the discussion.

In the body of his essays, Animesh seamlessly integrates **multiple dimensions**—political, historical, social, economic, and ethical—ensuring a logical flow with the **strategic use of connectors** such as "firstly," "secondly," and "moreover."

Animesh enhances his arguments with **empirical data and references** to significant legal judgments, showcasing his meticulous research and preparation. For example, he cites landmark cases such as "Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab" to substantiate his points.


His **conclusions are impactful and often cyclically reference** his introductions, creating a cohesive and compelling narrative that leaves a lasting impression. His ability to synthesize complex ideas and present them in a structured, insightful manner exemplifies his mastery of essay writing.

 **+91 8468022022, +91 9019066066**

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Ruhani's essay writing is characterized by **impactful introductions** that immediately capture the reader's interest through relevant quotes or **thought-provoking statements**, setting a strong thematic tone.

She demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of essay topics by incorporating **multidimensional analysis**, addressing political, social, economic, historical, and ethical perspectives to provide a well-rounded argument.

Her essays are enriched with **pertinent examples and data, drawn from historical events, current affairs, and personal anecdotes**, which substantiate her arguments and enhance credibility.

Ruhani maintains a **clear logical flow** throughout her essays, using strategic connectors and transitions to ensure coherence and allow the reader to follow her arguments effortlessly.



Her essays are marked by **critical thinking and philosophical insights, often questioning societal norms and proposing reflective viewpoints**.

In her conclusions, Ruhani **cyclically references her introductions**, creating a cohesive narrative that effectively summarizes key points and leaves a lasting impression. Overall, Ruhani's approach reflects a deep understanding of the topics and a commitment to presenting well-rounded, thought-provoking, and cohesive essays.



Ruhani

AIR 5, UPSC CSE 2023



Srishti Dabas

AIR 6, UPSC CSE 2023

Srishti Dabas's essay writing approach is marked by engaging introductions, comprehensive body analysis, and impactful conclusions.

Her introductions immediately capture attention through **relevant quotes or powerful statements**, setting a strong thematic foundation.

In the body, she integrates **multiple dimensions**—political, social, economic, historical, and ethical—ensuring a well-rounded argument. Each paragraph flows logically into the next, aided by strategic connectors and transitions, which maintain coherence.

Srishti enriches her essays with **pertinent examples and precise data drawn from historical events, current affairs, and personal anecdotes**, adding credibility and depth.

Her critical thinking and philosophical insights shine through **as she questions societal norms and explores complex ideas**, making her discussions rich and engaging.

The conclusions **cyclically reference the introductions**, creating a cohesive narrative that ties the essay together. Srishti **effectively summarizes key points** while providing a **forward-looking perspective**, leaving a lasting impression on the reader.

Her narrative style is both informative and emotionally resonant, simplifying complex ideas and presenting them in a relatable manner.



Aishwaryam Prajapati's essay writing demonstrates a **strong affinity for philosophical topics**, which she approaches with captivating introductions. She often employs a **comparative approach and real-life stories of personalities** like Nek Chand Sharma to make her essays relatable and grounded in reality.

Additionally, she sometimes begins with **book-based introductions** that set a thoughtful tone. Aishwaryam effectively utilizes temporal dimensions and historical examples, referencing significant events like World War, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution, which add depth and context to her arguments.

Aishwaryam structures her essays by comparing situations at various levels—**individual, family, societal, national, and international**—providing a comprehensive analysis that covers multiple perspectives. She **strategically raises questions throughout her essays to maintain the reader's attention** and engagement. The flow of her essays is **smooth and well-maintained**, ensuring coherence and logical progression of ideas.



Aishwaryam concludes her essays with **impactful prayers and poems** from notable personalities like Rabindranath Tagore, leaving a lasting impression on the reader. This approach not only ties her arguments together but also evokes a sense of reflection and contemplation.

Overall, her essay writing is characterized by engaging and thoughtful introductions, well-structured arguments with historical and contemporary examples, and powerful conclusions that resonate with the reader.



Aishwaryam Prajapati

AIR 10, UPSC CSE 2023

UPSC CSE TOPPERS 2022



Ishita Kishore

AIR 1, UPSC CSE 2022

Ishita Kishore, the Rank 1 achiever in the 2022 UPSC CSE, garnered an impressive **137 marks** in the essay examination, standing amongst the highest scorers.

Her preparation encompassed both **informational and philosophical essays**, with a pronounced emphasis on the latter.

Ishita's essays exhibited **impactful introductions**, ranging from anecdotes and historical references to personality-based insights and thought-provoking quotations. Through skillful use of connectors, Ishita maintained continuity, intertwining various dimensions around the central theme.

Supported by **relevant examples and facts**, Ishita seamlessly weaved quotes from personalities across spheres of life. Ishita's essays were a testament to her **pro prowess in structuring**.

With well-organized content under apt headings, she highlighted key points while presenting multiple perspectives. Ishita's strategic **use of questions** maintained reader engagement. Ishita exhibited creativity in conclusions, be it through the cyclic approach, summarization, or the inclusion of poems, thereby leaving an indelible impression.



Waseem Ahmad Bhat, achieved a commendable 140 marks in the UPSC CSE essay exam. His essay approach is remarkable in multiple aspects.

Waseem's introductions reflect a **deep understanding of the topics**, skillfully incorporating historical references that captivate readers. His **narrative prowess** shines through, crafting intriguing and accessible introductions, particularly in information-based essays.

He employed a **unique question-posing technique** to seamlessly connect introductions with the body of his essays. Waseem's essays showcase a wealth of knowledge, where he skillfully highlights diverse perspectives related to the topics. **Quoting philosophers in a simplified manner**, he adds depth to his essays.

Waseem expertly expanded his essays across various dimensions through numerous examples from different domains, maintaining logical coherence.

Maintaining flow through connectors and deconstructing essay topics are Waseem's strengths. He seamlessly **quotes sociologists, anthropologists, and thinkers** without burdening the essay.

Waseem's conclusions range from **poem-based to quotation-based**, culminating his essays on a positive note, often tied to historic personalities.



**Waseem
Ahmad Bhat**

AIR 7, UPSC CSE 2022



**Vidushi
Singh**

AIR 13, UPSC CSE 2022

Vidushi Singh showcased her talent with a remarkable score of 131 marks in the UPSC CSE essay exam.

Her introduction strategy is captivating, whether drawing from Bob Dylan's lyrics, anecdotes of Angulimala and Buddha, or relatable common experiences.

Vidushi understands the **essence of brainstorming**, evident in her meticulous analysis of topics and organized flow of thoughts.

Diverse dimensions are covered adeptly, from historical experiences to current events and a shrewd application of General Studies knowledge.

With **creative headings**, Vidushi's ideas are presented with clarity and impact. Her critical thinking shines as she balances supporting arguments with well-defined exceptional situations, ensuring a comprehensive analysis.

Vidushi's conclusions are **forward-looking, optimistic**, and thought-provoking. By incorporating **quotes**, thoughts of famous personalities, and returning to introductory anecdotes, she provides readers with a logical and satisfying end to her discussions.



Siddharth Shukla's performance in the UPSC CSE essay exam is commendable, securing 128 marks. His essay writing approach primarily revolves around **philosophical essays** based on quotes.

Siddharth's essay introductions are uniquely adorned with synonymous quotes, effectively encapsulating the core essence of the topics. His comprehensive coverage of dimensions is structured using **headings**, maintaining a coherent flow.

To ensure clarity, Siddharth employs **boxed headings** and **underlines key words**.

His forte lies in **original and innovative ideas**. Siddharth ingeniously links dimensions to the topics, offering refreshing insights.

Siddharth demonstrates exceptional **command over language**, expressing complex ideas with simplicity. His concluding remarks, though concise, leave a lasting impact, reflecting his insightful and thoughtful approach.



**Siddharth
Shukla**

AIR 18, UPSC CSE 2022



UPSC CSE TOPPERS 2021



**Yasharth
Shekhar**

AIR 12, UPSC CSE 2021

Yasharth Shekhar's achievement in the UPSC CSE essay exam, with a score of 128 marks, reflects his adeptness in crafting **Analytical-Argumentative essays**. Yasharth exhibits versatility in his approach, employing **anecdotal introductions** for philosophical essays and **recent events** for analytical-argumentative topics.

Utilizing success **stories, historical incidents, and international organization reports**, Yasharth's essays are well-organized, maintaining coherence and ensuring a seamless flow.

His **creative and critical thinking** is evident in his skillful use of proven instances/events. Yasharth's **unique presentation style** involves underlining key sentences and using all capital letters for emphasis, foregoing traditional headings.

Yasharth's conclusions are **elaborate** and **optimistic**, shedding light on pertinent global or domestic issues while connecting with the core idea of the topic.



Utsav Anand's outstanding performance in the UPSC CSE essay exam, achieving 131 marks, is a testament to his versatile essay approach, covering a range of topics from **philosophical themes**.

Utsav's introductions are captivating, often anchored by **anecdotes** or real-life incidents from recent times. In the essay body, Utsav **employs subheadings** to navigate dimensions. Supportive examples bolster his arguments effectively.



Presentation, language, and flow mirror other high achievers, with Utsav's essays adopting clear, lucid language and maintaining seamless coherency. Consistent **underlining of key terms** enhances reader understanding.

Utsav's conclusions are **optimistic and solution-oriented**, grounded in current contexts. His conclusions resonate with **quotes** and expressions from notable figures, delivering impactful and thoughtful endings to his essays.



Utsav Anand

AIR 26, UPSC CSE 2021

UPSC CSE TOPPERS 2020



Shubham Kumar

AIR 1, UPSC CSE 2020

Shubham Kumar's exceptional performance in the UPSC CSE essay exam, scoring 134 marks, is a testament to his skillful approach.

In crafting introductions, Shubham adeptly weaves personalities like Kautilya, Buddha, Ashoka, and Gandhiji into the core theme, showcasing his unique ability to connect historical narratives to the topic.

His essays boast **remarkable connectivity and flow**. Through connecting paragraphs and strategic use of words like "similarly" and "thus," he ensures a seamless transition from introduction to body.

Shubham's presentation is dynamic, employing varied methods to break monotony. His use of **small paragraphs, keyword highlights, and subheadings** in one topic and the sectoral approach in another underscores his versatility.

Innovative subheadings reveal his knack for deconstructing topics, while the strategic inclusion of quotes and examples showcases his creativity.

Employing the **cyclical approach**, Shubham elegantly links introductions and conclusions, often incorporating quotes from eminent figures like APJ Abdul Kalam to underscore his points.



Ria Dabi's remarkable achievement in the UPSC CSE essay exam is a testament to her strategic approach. The essays' seamless flow is a result of meticulous brainstorming, showcasing a **clear and linear progression of thoughts**.

In her introductions, Ria adeptly **introduces key terms**, setting the stage with real-life scenarios. The framework of her content presents a **temporal and evolutionary approach**, ensuring a smooth and coherent essay structure.



Ria's presentation showcases apt paragraph sizes and strategically underlined key phrases, enhancing readability.

A distinct thematic thread runs through her paragraphs, effectively conveying their essence.

Her conclusions adopt a **solution-oriented approach**, rounding off the essays effectively.



Ria Dabi

AIR 15, UPSC CSE 2020

Heartiest Congratulations

to all Successful Candidates



Aditya Srivastava

16
Selections
in **TOP 20**
Selections in **CSE**
2023 from various
programs of
Vision IAS



Animesh Pradhan



Ruhani



Srishi Dabas



Ishita Kishore



Garima Lohia



Uma Harathi N

39 Selections in TOP 50 in CSE 2022



SHUBHAM KUMAR
CIVIL SERVICES
EXAMINATION 2020



HEAD OFFICE

Apsara Arcade, 1/8-B 1st Floor,
Near Gate-6 Karol Bagh
DELHI Metro Station

MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTER

Plot No. 857, Ground Floor,
Mukherjee Nagar, Opposite Punjab
& Sindh Bank, Mukherjee Nagar

GTB NAGAR CENTER

Classroom & Enquiry Office,
above Gate No. 2, GTB Nagar
Metro Building, Delhi - 110009

FOR DETAILED ENQUIRY

Please Call:
+91 8468022022,
+91 9019066066



enquiry@visionias.in



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