

Update and Clarification with respect to Essay Guidance Program by ForumIAS

1. The Essay Guidance Program shall commence from July 1 with a warm-up Test (Essay #0). Candidates are expected to write the Test with or without word limit in their natural writing flair. There will be grading for it, and not marks allocation.
2. The Objective of the Essay Guidance Program is to NOT completely change the writing style and genius of the candidate, but to optimise or mould it as per the Commission requirements based on the scoring pattern. Some students will be required to make subtle changes or no changes while some candidates may be required to make more changes. The goal is to develop essay writing skills along the genius of the candidate.
3. The Content Building Classes will be held before a Test after which candidates will be required to attempt the paper. Unlike earlier times, where we recommended one to write an Essay based on what one already knows, with the Essay Guidance Program 2020, we will work with Content Augmentation.
4. The Essay Classes will discuss themes of Essays and provide ideas on the topics, so as to do value addition to the theme. Note that key concepts and ideas will be discussed that can be absorbed and implemented in an Essay (and parts of GS), and topics will not be “taught” comprehensively like General Studies.
5. It is expected from the students that they absorb some of these ideas and reproduce these ideas in their subsequent essay Tests.
6. The Essay Classes Schedule with updated dates of the Class and Test Dates are provided in this document.
7. Reading Material in the form of useful articles will be provided one week before every Essay Class. Candidates are expected to read at least a few basic articles on the issue before the class.
8. The Essay Class will be held every Thursday at 5PM. The video will be uploaded by 5PM and the Test Paper will be released subsequently on the same day after the Class. Candidates are expected to absorb the ideas and submit the Test by Sunday (recommended, but not mandatory – Tests can be submitted till the validity of the program)
9. There will be a session on how to approach Philosophical Essays and build content for them. However, there will be no classes for Philosophical Essays as there is no objective content for it. Every Test paper will require candidates to write at least one philosophical essay.
10. Essay Copies will be evaluated within 10-12 days after which candidates can discuss their paper with a Mentor by raising a Mentor call request on the Academy Platform.
11. There may be an overlap of some themes of the Essay Guidance Program classes with Current Affairs Classes. The difference between the two however is that while CA classes go for

comprehensive coverage of an issue, the EGP Classes will (a) discuss important concepts and ideas only and (b) also discuss ways to introduce a topic (e.g. Story, Anecdote etc)

Themes for the Essay

1. Poverty, Inequality, Basic Income
2. Gender Issues, Women Empowerment
3. Agriculture, Green Revolution, Farmer Issues
4. Democracy, Globalisation, Capitalism, Socialism, Liberalism etc.
5. Federalism, Centre-State, Small States, Inter State Disputes, PRIs
6. S & T: AI, 4rth Industrial Revolution, Cyber Security
7. Media, Social Media, Fake News etc
8. Human Capital: Education, Health, Human Development

Essay Classes & Test Schedules

#	Description	Syllabus / Theme	Release Date / Time
0	Essay Orientation #1 Essay Test #0 Warm Up Test	-NA-	July 1, 10AM
1	Essay Orientation #2	How to approach Philosophical Essay Topics	July 2, 5PM
2	Essay Class #1 Essay Test #1	Poverty, Inequality, Universal Income	July 9, 5PM
3	Essay Class #2 Essay Test #2	Gender Issues, Women Empowerment	July 16, 5PM
4	Essay Class #3 Essay Test #3	Agriculture, Green Revolution, Farmer Issues, Skill Development	July 23, 5PM
5	Essay Class #4 Essay Test #4	Democracy, Globalisation, Capitalism, Socialism, Liberalism etc.	July 30, 5PM
6*	Essay Class #5 Essay Test #5	Federalism, Centre-State, Small States, Inter State Disputes, PRIs	Aug 6, 5PM
7*	Essay Class #6 Essay Test #6	S & T: AI, 4rth Industrial Revolution, Cyber Security	Aug 13, 5PM
8*	Essay Class #7 Essay Test #7	Media, Social Media, Fake News etc	Aug 20, 5PM
9*	Essay Class #8 Essay Test #8	Human Capital: Education, Health, Human Development	Aug 27, 5PM

* Only for Essay Guidance Program (Advanced) Students.