# ForumIAS

# Essay

## Guidance Program

# 2021

Mentor Supported, Test Series Based Program for Civil Services Examination

## Batch 2

STARTS | 4th June, '21 | ONLINE ONLY

## Introduction to Essay

The Essay Paper is the backbone of UPSC Civil Services Mains Examination. This paper is worth 250 marks which is the same as one General Studies Paper. However, its effective weightage is much higher. This is because the score range in the GS papers ranges from 90-120 marks (with exception of 140+ marks in GS IV Paper in CSE 2019) On the other hand, the essay paper score ranges from 90 – 145+ marks, with marks going as high as 175. Thus, its effective weightage in the total score is very high.

Despite its importance, the Essay paper is the most neglected one. While we do not recommend that you spend as much time on Essay, as much as you do on say, GS Paper 1 (where the average score is around 90-100 - about 66% of the average score in Essay Paper), we do recommend that you spend time

- ✓ Strategizing for it, even if not studying dedicatedly for it
- ✓ Writing at least 3-4 essays before attempting the Essay Paper in the Examination
- ✓ Actively build your content around the themes of the Essay asked in past years.

Also build content in terms of idioms, key-words, phrases, opening lines, examples, anecdotes and concepts on expected topics.

## Program Objectives

The Essay Program is designed in a manner that it ensures four things:

- ✓ help students understand the dynamics of the essay paper
- ✓ help develop an effective strategy for dealing with the paper in the examination,
- ✓ put the acquired knowledge to good use in writing a beautiful essay.
- ✓ avoid common mistakes that beginners make, which leads to poor marks despite good language skills.

The focus would be on helping students write essays in a coherent fashion with effective and exact expression, that is rewarded by the Commission. Candidates will be trained to write on abstract/philosophical essays as well, which are perceived as daunting. With requisite practice, good content to read on, and comprehensive mentor guidance, the candidate will be equipped to handle any essay from any domain with utmost ease and confidence.

## What does the program consist of?

Essay Guidance Program is a comprehensive program as it provides the student with diverse topics and tests to assess and improve their writing skills.

- Content Development Classes: to build the knowledge base of the candidates along identified and expected themes/ topics of Essay. The material will be merely descriptive and not prescriptive and will help candidates build their own content and informed views on issues.
- Evaluation: Copies will be evaluated comprehensively with proper comments and guidance by a dedicated team of evaluators.
- Mentor support: Candidates will be provided with a through feedback on the essay post- evaluation to guide them in the right direction.

# Mentorship
## Online, Seamless, Hassle-Free

## Mentorship – Available Online Seamlessly

In Essay Guidance Program, our exclusive focus will be on providing seamless, hassle free, mentorship to you – in both online and offline mode. Once you have written a Test and your copy has been evaluated, you can reach out to us for a mentorship session on your copy, through the academy portal by raising a ticket.

The essay mentorship is available online with the same mentors who provide offline mentorship at the New Delhi Offline Guidance Center.

## Fees and Concessions

Essay Guidance Program – Fee: Rs. 10000 (Inclusive of all taxes)
*The program is available to old/existing CGP/ MGP/ Essay program students at a 40% concession. Candidates must email admission@forumias.academy to avail the concession. No other concession will be granted on any other ground. No refunds in retrospect will be provided.

# ForumIAS

## Fee Payment & Enrollment

Students can enroll in the program by paying the fees through the below means:

- By visiting the website: https://academy.forumias.com ( Net Banking / Debit Card / Credit Card / UPI )
- By Visiting the Offline Center* ( Credit Card / Debit Card / Cheque / DD )
- By doing a NEFT / Cash Deposit in the bank account provided

**Note :** All Payments must be made to the given account:

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**A/C Name : FLAVIANT NETWORK PRIVATE LIMITED**
**Bank :  ICICI BANK LIMITED**
**CURRENT A/C Number : 401705000174**
**IFSC : ICIC0001129**
**Branch : 16/6 WEA KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI - 110005**

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Please note that you must retain the payment proof in case of Cash deposit / NEFT and send it to admissions@forumias.academy within 48 hours of making the payment for your course to be activated.

For any query you can call us at +91 – 9821711605, 9311740900 or write to us at admissions@forumias.academy

*Offline Center in New Delhi is not operational for the duration of government lockdown instructions to fight Covid-19.

## Terms & Condition

- All fees once paid are non-refundable in nature. The course is also non-transferable in nature to another person.
- Each program of ForumIAS is linked to ForumIAS Account with a fixed mobile number. No sharing of any programs is allowed. If candidates are found sharing programs, ForumIAS shall be free to terminate that or all program access to the candidate without any refund to the candidate. The company may initiate legal proceedings against candidates found sharing and selling such content.
- ForumIAS shall have full rights to close admissions as per its capacity. ForumIAS shall be free to amend its schedule in case of any exigencies that may arise.
- Force Majeure: Flaviant Network Pvt Ltd ("FNPL") will deliver this program on best effort and good faith basis. By subscribing to the program, you understand that in the case of a force majeure event, such as natural disaster, calamity, outbreak of a pandemic, accident, bodily harm, sickness to any persons directly involved in delivery of the program FNPL reserves right to modify, change or discontinue the program and shall not be liable for any financial obligations arising out of it. All disputes will be subject to jurisdiction of Delhi High Court.

# Clarification

1. The Essay Guidance Program shall commence from June 4th with an Orientation Session.
2. Every Essay Test will have compulsory Philosophical Essay Topics, keeping in mind the trend of Essay Topics asked in the Civil Services Examination.
3. The Objective of the Essay Guidance Program is to NOT completely change the writing style the candidate, but to optimize or mold it as per the requirements of the UPSC, 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 augment the essay writing skills of the candidate.
4. The Content Building Classes will be held before the 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 2021, we will work with Content Augmentation.
5. The Essay Classes will discuss themes of Essays including philosophical essays and provide ideas and directions on how to explore the topic. It must be noted 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.
6. It is expected from the students that they absorb some of these ideas and reproduce the some part of it in their subsequent essay Tests.
7. The Essay Classes Schedule are provided below in this document.
8. Reading Material in the form of useful articles will be provided one day before every Essay Class. Candidates are expected to read at least a few basic articles on the issue before the class.
9. Essay Copies will be evaluated within a maximum period of 10-12 days after which candidates can discuss their paper with a Mentor by raising a Mentor call request on the Academy Platform. No model solutions will be provided. However good essay copies will be provided for reference.
10. Some themes of the Essay Guidance Program classes might overlap 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.)

# ForumIAS

Classes will be held every Thursday at 5PM. The Question Paper and QCA Booklet will also be available on the same day at 5PM. The Tests are completely flexible in nature and can be written anytime till 2 weeks before the Mains examination of CSE 2021.

| # | Description | Syllabus / Theme | Release Date / Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | Essay Orientation | N. A | June 4, 5 PM |
| 1 | Essay Class #1 Essay Test #1 | Women Empowerment, Gender Justice & Feminism | June 10, 5 PM |
| 2 | Essay Class #2 Essay Test #2 | Social Media vs Traditional Media & Fake News | June 17, 5 PM |
| 3 | Essay Class #3 Essay Test #3 | Democracy & Development | June 24, 5 PM |
| 4 | Essay Class #4 Essay Test #4 | Human Capital: Health & Education | July 1, 5 PM |
| 5 | Essay Class #5 Essay Test #5 | Writing Philosophical Essays | July 8, 5 PM |
| 6 | Essay Class #6 Essay Test #6 | Globalisation, Climate Change, Environment vs Development Debate | July 15, 5 PM |
| 7 | Essay Class #7 Essay Test #7 | Federalism, Poverty, Inequality and Agriculture & Agrarian Crisis | July 22, 5 PM |
| 8 | Essay Class #8 Essay Test #8 | S&T – Cyber Security & Artificial Intelligence | July 29, 5 PM |