

# Essay

## Guidance Program

# 2020

Mentor Supported, Test Series Based Program for Civil Services Examination

**STARTS | 01 JULY, '20 | ONLINE ONLY**

## Introduction to Essay

Writing is an art which best reflects what we think. Effective writing reflects the way we think, argue and the way we substantiate our argument. It allows the reader to thoroughly understand everything, you are saying. This explains the significance of the essay paper in the UPSC and other competitive Examinations.

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. The highest scores in the GS papers might vary from 120-140 whereas the essay paper can fetch a whopping 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 I (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 Objective

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

- ✓ assist students understand the dynamics of the essay paper
- ✓ how to effectively strategize on it,
- ✓ use the acquired knowledge to good use in writing a beautiful essay.

The focus would be on helping students write academic essays in a coherent fashion with effective and exact expression.

Candidates will be trained to write on abstract/philosophical essays 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 more comprehensive program as it provides the student with diverse topics and tests to test 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 thorough feedback on the essay post- evaluation to guide them in the right direction.

# Mentorship

Online, Seamless, Hassle-Free

## Mentorship – Available Online Seamlessly

What is common to the majority of our students who have secured Ranks in Top 100 including Rank 1?

- They may have never visited the Offline Centre, but kept in touch through Email / WhatsApp / Phone and Support Tickets

In Essay Test Series, our exclusive focus will be on providing seamless, hassle free, mentorship to you – without having to wait in a queue at the Offline Centre. 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.

## Online Mentorship @ForumIAS

With MGP, whether you are in New Delhi or elsewhere, you will have the same guidance available online, that is available to those at our Offline Centres.

Mentorship is available to students by raising a ticket or email. You get support via tickets / email

/ telephone call or an online meeting.

**Through these years, we have been evolving and revising our strategies every year to ensure two objectives**

- That the guidance makes it easy for our students to learn how to write answers.
- That the guidance we provide helps score better marks in the upcoming Mains Examination

## How it works?

We recommend that you write the Test on the designated day, even if you have other Tests such as MGP – GS on that day – so that you develop the habit of writing two tests in a single day – as you will be required to do in the actual examination. Do not wait for the time when you feel you are prepared fully because as Margaret Atwood said,

*“If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word.”*

Papers will be evaluated by the ForumIAS Team within 10-15 days.

## Fees and Concessions

Essay Guidance Program – Fee: Rs. 10,000 (Inclusive of all taxes)

\*The program is open to our students enrolled in the CGP program. Students in the MGP program can also avail a 40% discount on joining the module. No other concession will be granted on any other ground.

## Fee Payment & Enrollment

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

- A. By visiting the website: <https://academy.forumias.com> and making payment through Net Banking / Debit / Credit Card / UPI etc.
- B. By Visiting the Offline Guidance Center\* and making payment through Credit Card / Debit Card / Cheque / DD
- C. By doing a NEFT / Cash Deposit in HDFC bank Accounts. For this Option, please email us at [admissions@forumias.academy](mailto:admissions@forumias.academy)

For any query you can call us at +91 – 9821711605 or write to us at [admissions@forumias.academy](mailto:admissions@forumias.academy) Admissions to the program are subject to acceptance of Terms & Conditions mentioned below.

\*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.

Covid-19 Clause: The Program is being planned for and will be provided on a best effort basis to ensure that students preparation is not disrupted. In the event of unforeseen turn of events there could be changes to the program deliverables without prior notice. The plan details are completely flexible and program validity will be till the actual date of the Mains Examination 2020.

## Clarification

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 were 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)

## Test Plan

#	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

NOTE: There will be compulsorily one or two topics of abstract/philosophical nature in each test. This is to encourage you to start writing on these topics at the earliest for better scores in the main examination.