

UPSC Mains 2026 Essay (Paper I): Practice Answer Booklet

Write two essays, one from each section, in about 1,000 to 1,200 words each. 125 marks each. Write by hand in the ruled space, time yourself (87 min 30 s per answer on this page's timer), then check against the answer frameworks on digitallylearn.com.

Q1. Oxymorons reflect the ironies of life.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section A

Q2. A grateful mind is very beautiful.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section A

Q3. A thorn is a changed bud.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section A

Q4. When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section A

Q5. Nature is the symbol of the spirit.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section B

Q6. A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section B

Q7. Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section B

Q8. A good leader is one who follows the followers.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section B
