

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week - 03
Lecture - 12
Writing: Long Essays

Good morning. So, today's topic is long essays. Now what do you mean by a long essays? Here, I want to draw your attention to the fact that times, you may appear for certain kinds of competitive exams that test your knowledge of our IT of topic. So, this is not just test of English language of course, and how you write and how you express yourself is going to be extremely important. At the same time these essays also required some prior knowledge on areas as a wide ranging as governance, media culture, values even religion, education, science and technology.

Now, what does this mean? Generally, they want you to take a position and they also want to test your world view. Now this is unlike the other essays, other kinds of essays that we have been talking about all this while. Which were more about general kinds of essays that where the focus was more on expression language and the range of, perhaps let us, say language elements you can bring in; however, for today's task we are going to look at those kind of essays which will also look at not just your general knowledge, prior knowledge, but also the kinds of let us say the global understanding of various issues, of national in international importance that you have been; that means, you have to read, you have to read a lot. I can recommend that you to start reading news paper of course, help a lot, but also very is standard kinds of magazines, that are available in market as well as in your libraries.

So, that is a most. Just going through short E essays or expression of ideas on the internet that is you know so widely available. That may not be of great value here, because we are talking about a level which does require you to position yourself to project yourself as someone who goes beyond what is easily available and accessible. Generally, they may these essays or the duration of this essay could as much as three hours. You may be expected to write 2000 words, for three hours. They expect, these exams expect you to write long details essay describing in a argument or an issue and on your position on it. The length of the essays as I already said could be between 1000 to 2000 words. There

common for certain and kind of exams I am not going to take or mention names of specific exams here.

But it all depends on what is your need? What are you looking for? What kind of exam are you appearing for? And then choose the topic that we have been discussing. We have been doing a lot of writing and I have been giving you lot of tips on various kinds of exams. It all depends on your requirement. So, today is pointers, that the point that I am going to give on today like this is on going to be on longer essays, which are much more complex and complicated than whatever we have been doing so far.

Now, remember these essays they are not meant to test, just a ability to write, but also your ability to express and project and position yourself well. Examinations that provide long essays and task related to long essays are targeted at your at accessing your ability to research. Remember that, all these will be of tremendous use to you when you write for your SOPs; the statements of purpose when you apply for a Institutes outside. Remember a good understanding of the topics before hand is highly important. And excellent vocabulary ability to form complex sentences and having a good command over English, all these things will help you.

Remember you will be given a few choices of topic always, whenever there is a long essays you are given a choice. Take your time, do not just rush into it head long, think well about what you want to write about. Do not just pick your topic immediately and abandoned it mid way. Pick what you know the best and can write a good number of words on. Running out of ideas half way through, mid way through will definitely make your essay look very unprepared and very shoddy. Remember these essays are detailed ones.

So, you will be given time that take this much time; two hours, three hours and one and half hours which is very good and it gives you ample scope to a showcase your written abilities. Take a, to begin with and its very useful tip that I want to give you here. Take a good amount of a time to prepare solid essays out lines. So, what is going to the topic sentence here? How are you going to develop that particular topic, that paragraph here? And you know, so you remember those general construction and structure, restructuring of an essay, the introduction, the body, the conclusion; what goes where, how much goes

where. So, make an outline, always useful to make a rough outline not just mentally, but also on paper.

This is especially useful in the longest essay like say running into 2000 words and that will give you 40 minutes or even 1 hour. So, writing down whatever you know about the topic will help you articulate your ideas better. This may even include using proverbs, idioms, quotations, important dates and figures and all these things you can keep adding on. Remember always and this helps in every kind of essay writing, stick to the subject. Even if you're falling behind the prescribed word limit, do not unnecessarily write tangential notes in order to fill up pages. A shorter cohesive essay is still better than a shabby 2000 word essay that digresses, that deviates from the given topic.

Long essay tasks often test your ability to argue convincingly for a given topic. Ensure that your essays are not a collection of factual details, but a well-argued consistent paper that clearly represents or stands. It is important to take sides and argue for them, irrespective of what the examiners' position is, do not have to worry about. His or her position you need to know, how many positions you can take for or against or if there are, are there numbers of arguments that can hold ground for a given topic? Include as much as possible, but do not digress. Remember there is no fixed specific right or wrong answer for a long essay. Once you write your essay outline, structure it accordingly by figuring out your introduction and conclusion and the arguments you are going to include in each paragraph.

Now, I would like you to understand what how many kinds of long essay types are there? So, let us say here we have written a number of topics. Now education; let us take education which is so popular among test takers. Now these questions deal with a state of education in the country. What an ideal kind of an education means? So, you need to have some idea understanding of the education system in India, the challenges within the system, so read the news papers, read magazines. You should be able to include constructive social and critical arguments and scholarly debates on the state of education or existing educational patterns in your country.

What are the possible Acts, improvements that have been made and that can be made in the system? Coming to a topic like economics; this involves discussions on the country's economy, the advantages and limitations of economic indicators and judging the

countries progressive development, global economic order as it exist today, growth, debates and impact of globalization all these things. You can also have topics on a civil society and governance. So, they include discussion of what is Democracy? What is good governance? What are governmental polices their impact, repercussions, constitution? So, it always pays to know something about that. You need not be political thinker or political scientist, but it pays to have some rough idea of the constitution of your country, that is rough idea about the measure Acts that have happened historically on certain issues of national importance. Women empowerment is also becoming quite popular, now there is a lot of talk about women empowerment and franchisement.

So, you have to think of various famines issues of increasing importance. How these issues increase women's representation in politics? What are the policies that empower women in a country? What are the national concerns for general polices and politics etcetera. Poverty is another issues is of course, its related to economic and socialize and these topics poverty related topics will be closed related to policy making, governmental reforms in the context of poverty measurement in the eyes of poverty current problems and suggested improvements. Environment and society; these kinds of topics include discussions on sustainable development, environmental resources, global warming climate change, growth versus development debates, reforms, and position of at stance of various countries towards addressing global warming and environmental concerns, so deforestation could be one of those.

Religion and society this is another very popular topic. Always are bit debatable controversial, but there are certain kinds of exam that may test you for understanding of religious conflicts, society that of society faces and also governmental reforms and laws on relied. Science and technology always very popular area and this may include topics related to development. Development will always be there, globalization is always you know at the, at current scenario these things are always at the fore front. So, have a good understanding of various areas that are been dealt with through the lens of globalization and development. Policy making, labour reforms, debates on investment and science and technology etcetera.

Now, let us talk about ethics and values they are of, let us say in recent times they have become popular and they may include areas like topics like youth in Asia, capital punishment, human and animal rights all these things, specifically in the context of the

countries cultural, ethos. Now cultural, topics related to cultural is are also quite popular very important area for test takers. Questions may cover the themes related to popular cinema, music, cities, architecture, food, etcetera and over arching themes of globalization, urbanization, multi culturalism are also important.

Now, remember in this course I may not be able to cover all topics with a practice test; however, I am going to give you some simple topics that may help you in developing your; you know ideas, that may encounter you that the kinds topic that may that you may encounter for your exams.

So, let us look at this slide. I am giving you certain essay topics on education. Of course, the net can give you much more variety, but here I have tried to do my best, to give you a number of possible essay topics related to the area of education only. Then I will give you some other broader areas also. So, in education you can expect these kinds of questions; please look at the slide.

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Sample Essay Topics on Education

1. Discuss the role of the classroom in higher education. To what extent can we replace the teacher with technology?
2. Are the standardized tests good measure of academic ability or progress?
3. Examine the relevance of value-based education, and how it is advantageous in contemporary society.

Discuss the role of the classroom in higher education. To what extent can we replace the teacher with technology? So, is it possible to replaced teacher with technology? What could be the possible solutions? So, you have to introduce and then you have to bring, introduce the topic please talk about what other reason changes as information, technology, brought about a kind of revaluation. What does a teacher bring to the table?

What does it technology bring to the table? So, the debate, the choice is between these two entities. So, you have to develop accordingly.

Second topic, are the standardized tests good measured of academic ability or progress? What are the standardized tests? What are the pros and cons of standardized tests? Are these those kinds of tests that test, a candidate on the basis of a set of a skills? So, these kinds of test due you think they are enough to give you or give the test taker a good indication of the calibre, of this is to a particular candidate or a student? So, you have to think of it, what are the merits and demerits. Next topic, examine the relevance of value based education and how is it advantageous in contemporary society. What is value based educations, why do we need values, what kinds of values in contemporary society? Are there other areas, apart from education? Are we getting values imparted to us from some other source also? Consider all this.

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4. "Education for all" campaign in India: Is it a myth or reality?
5. Should children be taught sex education in schools?
6. Discuss the relevance of incorporating ICT for educational purposes in school?
7. Privatization of education is a growing evil. Discuss.
8. Should corporal punishment be used to teach discipline to young students?

Now next topic, please look at the slide. Again in education; education for all campaign in India; is it a myth or reality? Our children getting educated then what explains child labour or what explains how do we explain so much of illiteracy. So, is it just a myth or are concrete realistic measures are been taken towards achieving this. Next topic, should children be taught sex education in schools? This is a very debatable topic, but still relevant and you need to research on this particular area and give your response. Many people would be staunchly against it, many people would be for it.

By children, please remember we mean children who are you know about the teen age, almost teen agers. We are talking about those children's. So, let us not confuse it with kids below ages of eleven or twelve. We are talking about higher age limits; upper age limits. Next topic could be, discuss the relevance of incorporating ICT for educational purpose in school. This is again a very important area, and lot of discussion and research is being done on this. You have to look at it. Now privatization of education; this is the next topic and it is a fact all over the world. So, agree or disagree privatization of educations is a growing evil; is it evil or is it not? Is it a necessary evil talk about; that and then should corporal punishment be used to teach discipline to young students?

Many people are especially, child psychologist are against the idea of giving physical punishment to people students young children, but is it always bad or are there any merits? So, it is again a very controversial topic, I mean we know that there are horrendous Acts committed on children, but how far can we go, when we talk about corporal punishment. And it does it yield any benefit or is it should it be eliminated, And should it and some people may even go as far as asking for punishment for the person who gives physical to children.

So, all this things are important and need to be looked at. Remember in order to title essays on education, you have to include reading course whatever area you know educations for all, freedom to choose a subject or talk mere is too much of parental interference in our country specially on which, about which is stream should child choose. All these things need research, prior research. So look at the kind of exam that you are appearing for. And if you are appearing for a particular kind of exam then you should know that this exam is going to test you for something that goes beyond just regular ability to write an essay.

So, make sure that you know something, some important quotations, some important dates and figures, policies on education reforms in education, keep note book handy which includes so make you know whatever way you like to keep your dairy, which include such relevant details. Revise this on timely basis, since you need to be absolutely sure about your facts when you are writing this essay. Writing incorrect facts in your essay will or may cost your scores. Remember that essay type question that we essay topics that we are just hinted at, they are asked in relation to society, education policy, follow news papers, recent debates and other source to keep yourself updated on the

trends. Be aware of the limitations of your essay. Do not take an uncritical stance always address both sides of the topic as well as your responses to ensure you write a well rounded essay.

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Sample Essay Topics on Economics

1. Enumerate the political, social and economic impact of demonetization on India.
2. Among all the multilateral organizations, of which India is member, which one do you believe, serves India's interest more?
3. Discuss the role of Sensex with respect to food inflation in India.

Now, let me show you this slide sample essay, topics on economics. Look at the slide here. Topic 1, enumerate the political comma social and economic impact of demonetization on India. Next topic among all, the multilateral organizations comma of which India is member, which one do you believe serves India's interest more? Discuss the role of Sensex with respect to food inflation in India. Provide a critical commentary on RBI's strategic debt restructuring scheme and its advantages to Indian society.

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4. Provide a critical commentary on RBI's Strategic Debt Restructuring Scheme and its advantages to Indian society.
5. Examine the significance of gold as an asset in India in the context of the impact of Gold Monetization Scheme (GMS) in the country.
6. The Indian Agrarian economy is in shambles. Examine its fault lines and elaborate on the statement.

Examine the significance of gold as an asset in India, in the context of the impact of gold monetization scheme GMS in that country, and the Indian Agrarian economy is in shambles. Examine its fault lines and elaborate on the statement. Remember many standard news papers have a feature, so regular features and column on these areas. Please keep looking at or looking up these topics and essays. These are very specialized kinds of areas, they require attention and regular practice is not one day before kind of practice.

I can only give you certain tips on handling essays or essay topics on economics. Remember while preparing make a list of the important economic reforms that have been proposed and implemented in the country in the past year. Note down important points regarding the effectiveness, advantages, context relevance of implementation and so on.

More so, then economic facts and figures, your essay will need to cover on the ground realities of how a scheme of Acts of particular population or area. Note all these questions are descriptive type essays, some of them require you to provide a personal opinion and suggestions regarding the topic. Ensure that while preparing for the essay you do not deal with your facts and figures from your personal opinions. So, you should always give your personal opinion after all it is a test of language.

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Sample Essay Topics on Women Empowerment

1. Have increased access to employment opportunities, financial independence and educational attainments enabled women in urban India to exercise their freedom and agency?
2. "Countries and Nations which do not respect women have never become great nor will ever be in future". Discuss.
3. Managing work and home – is the Indian working woman getting a fair deal?

Remember to look up similar schemes and their implementation in other countries. It is always good to give a comparative analysis and suggestions wherever relevant. Let us talk about sample essay topics on women empowerment and here is the list here. Have increased access or has increased access to employment opportunities, financial independence, and educational attainments, enabled women in urban India to exercise their freedom and agency? Second topic, "Countries and Nations we do not respect women have never become great nor will ever be in future". Discuss. Managing work and home is the Indian working woman getting fair deal? Discuss.

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4. Provide a commentary on the Women's Reservation Bill and its implications for women in India.
5. Is an egalitarian, gender-neutral society possible by educating the masses?
6. Men have failed: let women take over.

And next slide please look at it. Provide a commentary on the women's reservation bill and its implications for women in India. Is an egalitarian, gender neutral society possible by educating the masses? Men have failed; let women take over.

So, these are the topics that you can expect. Now, how to tackle all these? So, remember you have to familiarize as in other essays that we have been talking about education or economics. Again you have to familiarize yourself with the basic arguments of feminism. Now this may, this is not literary theory that I am teaching you. This is very much routed in sociological debates and topological ideas you have to look at areas. So, you know basically you have been tested if you are well read, well informed person.

We have to look at history of feminism, its background history context, in general and particular *visa vis*; the countries temporary special locations. Remember to focus on policies and measure mile stones and events with regard to feminism, and women's rights movements in Indian history. You need to brush upon important events in India with regard to women's empowerment, issues with conserving molestation, dowry and you know violence against women, female infanticide all these there are ample amount, there is ample amount of writing available.

So, you have to update yourself yeah; and we are not talking about sensationalism, we are talking about serious writings in academia and also in media that appears on in related to these issues. Test takers also expect some solutions. So, take a stand, a critical essay remember must also provide solutions and feasible policies to combat or to combat the issues of, the issues at hand.

So, read upon important court judgements in the country so that you can handle the essay more readily. Then remember all these things are very specialized as we have already talked about. It reads; it requires a very very intense amount of, level of reading and preparation. Know yourself, know the kind of exam that you are going to appear for and prepare yourself accordingly. We stop at this point and we will continue talking about longer essay type of questions, in our next class.

Thank you very much