

Essay Guidance Program (EGP) 2024

Batch-2

**Mentor Supported, Test Series Based Program for Civil Services
Examination.**

Starts | 12th Dec., 23

Orientation: 12th December 5 PM

Top Rankers from ForumIAS Academy

Top Rankers from ForumIAS Academy in CSE 2022

1. Ishita Kishore (IAS Rank 1)
2. Garima Lohia (IAS Rank 2)
3. Uma Harathi N (IAS Rank 3)
4. Smriti Mishra (IAS Rank 4)
5. Mayur Hazarika (IAS Rank 5)
6. Waseem Ahmad Bhat (IAS Rank 7)
7. Kanika Goyal (IAS Rank 9)
8. Rahul Srivastava (IAS Rank 10)
9. Abhinav Siwach (IAS Rank 12)
10. Vidushi Singh (IAS Rank 13)

Top Rankers from ForumIAS Academy in CSE 2020 and 2021

1. Shruti Sharma (IAS Rank 1)
2. Utkarsh Dwivedi (IAS Rank 5)
3. Mamta Yadav (IAS Rank 5)
4. Yaksh Chaudhary (IAS Rank 6)
5. Ishita Rathi (IAS Rank 8)
6. Apala Mishra (IAS Rank 9)
7. Preetam Kumar (IAS Rank 9)
8. Yasharth Shekhar (IAS Rank 12)
9. Gaurav Budania (IAS Rank 13)
10. Abhinav Jain (IAS Rank 14)

Successful Women Candidates from ForumIAS Academy

1. Karishma Nair IAS Rank-14 (Kerala)
2. Mehak Jain, IAS Rank-17 (Haryana)
3. Radhika Gupta, IAS Rank-18 (Madhya Pradesh)
4. Anoushka Sharma, IAS Rank-20 (Madhya Pradesh)
5. Vaishali, IAS Rank-23 (Delhi)
6. Pusapati Sahitya, IAS Rank-24 (Arunachal Pradesh)
7. Shruti Rajlakshmi, IAS Rank-25 (Jharkhand)
8. Preksha Agrawal, IAS Rank-30 (Uttar Pradesh)
9. Priyansha Garg, IAS Rank-31 (Uttar Pradesh)
10. Aparna Ramesh, IAS Rank-35 (Haryana)
11. Garima Narula, IAS Rank-39 (Uttarakhand)
12. Pranita Dash, IAS Rank-42 (Odisha)

Top Rankers from ForumIAS Academy in CSE 2020 and 2021

1. Mithun Premraj, IAS Rank-12 (Kerala)
2. Yaswanth K. Reddy, IAS Rank-15 (Andhra Pradesh)
3. Arth Jain, IAS Rank-16 (Madhya Pradesh)
4. Avinash Kumar, IAS Rank-17 (Bihar)
5. Ashish, IAS Rank-23 (Bihar)
6. Bhavishya Desai, IAS Rank-29 (Rajasthan)
7. Naman Goyal, IAS Rank-30 (Maharashtra)
8. Nittin Singh, IAS Rank-32 (Jammu & Kashmir)
9. Jaspinder Singh, IAS Rank-33 (Punjab)
10. Anubhav Singh, IAS Rank-34 (Uttar Pradesh)
11. Ajmera Sanketh, IAS Rank-35 (Telangana)
12. Anup Das, IAS Rank-38 (Odisha)

3 times Rank 1 in Civil Services Examination

IAS Rank 1 - Ishita Kishore (2022), Shruti Sharma (2021), Anudeep Durishetty (2017)

5 Times Rank 1 in Indian Forest Service

IFoS Rank 1 - Kolluru Venkata Srikanth (2022), Shruti (2021), Rishi Kumar (2019), M Naveen Reddy (2018), Vaibhav Srivastava (2017)

What is Essay Paper in UPSC CSE?

It is the first paper in the UPSC CS Mains exam schedule having weightage of **250 marks**. The candidates are expected to write **2 essays** choosing one topic from each **section A and B** in three hours. The syllabus is not clearly defined by UPSC, hence the dynamicity of the Essay paper makes it, a challenge for students. UPSC in its notification has given specific guidelines about the essay paper.

*“Candidates may be required to write **essays on multiple topics**. They will be expected to **keep closely to the subject of the essay** to **arrange their ideas in orderly fashion**, and to **write concisely**. Credit will be given for **effective and exact expression**.”*

Why has the essay paper become a cause of concern in recent times?

The essay paper presents an opportunity to score as high as 170 with an effort much lesser when compared to GS Papers. On analysis of marks of approx. 130 selected aspirants, as many as 28 candidates have scored 135+ marks in essay paper of CSE Mains 2022. Hence, the essay paper in recent years has become the **determinant factor for getting top ranks** in UPSC CSE.

But, essay is also the paper which has shown huge variation in marks for the same student in two consecutive mains. In our experience we have seen students' marks dropped from 120 in 2021 to 75-85 in 2022. This variation of 45-50 marks along with the ability to score high right up to 150 with less effort - brings attention to the essay paper.

What makes the essay paper a challenge for candidates?

Candidates are expected to write two essays of **1000-1200 words** each. This requires **ability to interpret and understand** the topic and break it down into multiple dimensions and arguments. Specially in the recent years, UPSC along with objective themes has emphasized on philosophical and abstract essay topics - which has become tricky to address. Due to open ended nature essay the aspirant thought processes can deviate from the actual expectation of the examiner.

There is no holy grail strategy for essay and hence there could be numerable ways of approaching a single essay topic. The essay requires content and being able to present in a coherent structure and at the same time correlating it with different aspects of the syllabus and current affairs while not making it a GS answer.

This makes practice writing an essay very important.

What are the features of the program?

***Workshops:** Multiple Workshops on different aspects of essay writing will be conducted to provide you and arm you with different strategies and techniques to approach and write Essay. It will also assist you to brainstorm and understand the requirements of the essay. It will give you a know-how of how to segregate your content in a structure that meets the expectations of the exam.

***Thematic classes:** The content classes will cover both **objective (GS themes) and philosophical** themes to give the student adequate content to write a good essay. The objective is to not burden students with excessive content but train them to use the content provided, as it is, in their essays.

***Essay writing session:** Two sessions based on workshop format will be conducted with objective to teach the students the **art and science of writing essays**. The aim is to help students understand the structuring of the essay with respect to introduction, body and conclusion and other nuances.

Sectional tests: With every thematic class, there is a sectional test based on the same theme aiming to test the essay writing skills. It will be conducted on the next scheduled day of class giving ample time to prepare for the test. An **answer skeleton** will be provided to help orient students towards developing thought process required for the essay.

Test copy evaluation: The essay evaluation unlike GS evaluation is not done on set parameters. Instead the focus is on multi-dimensional analysis, and trying to appreciate different viewpoints on the topic. An experienced team of evaluators will provide **comprehensive, objective and timely evaluation** of Sectional test and Full-length test copy within 5 days from the date of submission.

Material and resources: The handouts provided with every thematic class will consist of adequate **content in usable format** with value addition points like examples, anecdotal references and quotes.

Full length tests: This simulates the UPSC CS mains essay paper with choice of 4 topics in each Section A and B. The objective is to help student understand how to choose the topics and write two topics of varied content in three hours. The Full-Length Tests will have a **discussion class** to help students get perspective about different topics. An answer skeleton will be provided to help orient students towards developing thought process required for the essay. There will be 4 FLT's in total, 2 scheduled towards the end of the program and 2 FLT's scheduled post prelims.

Mentorship support: A team of dedicated mentors will provide **individual mentorship** based on the essay test, both in offline and online mode. As every student has a different understanding and approach on a topic, a mentor can guide the student to highlight shortcomings and bridge the gap of their understanding and the expectation.

***Online Group Session with Mentors:** Two **interactive sessions** will be organized with agenda to provide a platform for students to discuss the issues in essay writing, get perspective of other students and a real time look at '**what to do and what not to do**'.

Please Note: Workshops, Thematic classes, Essay writing sessions, and Online Group sessions with Mentors are available in Online mode only. Students can watch these on their portal.

How can EGP+ 2024 program help the student?

We believe that aspects where the program will assist the student i.e., a) better understanding of the complexities and core demand of the topic, b) build reusable content and expand your available knowledge base, and c) practice and evaluate your essay writing skills.

The program through its thematic classes will help you in generating ideas and examples for effectively utilizing the same in the essay paper.

The different workshops will help you with a know-how of approaching and brainstorming an essay topic, with emphasis on philosophical topics. We don't expect the student to drastically change their style of writing but **aim to guide them to enhance their essay writing technique** to fetch 140+ marks.

With our guidance, the UPSC CSE toppers have been able to fetch high scores (175 and in recent years 145+) and improve from low scores in earlier attempts.

Variants, Fee Structure and Enrolment Process

| Course Variant | Total Fees |
|---|----------------|
| Essay Guidance Program 2024 9 Sectional Test + 4 Full Length Test | ₹11,800 |
| Essay Guidance Program + 2024 11 Thematic Classes + 9 Sectional Test + 4 Full Length Test | ₹16,520 |

- Students of the CGP and GS Foundation program can avail a 50% fee concession.
- Students of the Eklavya, MGP, and GS Advanced Program can avail a 30% fee concession.
- Students enrolled in any ForumIAS Program exclusive of the above-mentioned programs can avail a 10% fee concession.
- Note: Fee concession can be availed by writing to admissions@forumias.academy. No other concession will be granted on any other ground.**

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

- Visit 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 ICICI account.

Terms and Conditions

- Students enrolled in any course of ForumIAS must get a physical ID card for availing services in the offline mode. A nominal fee of Rs. 20 will be payable for the same.
- The program is non-refundable and non-transferrable
- 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.
- 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. You can make the payment online at <https://academy.forumias.com> (recommended) or by writing to us at admissions@forumias.academy.
- Please create an account on <https://academy.forumias.com> before enrolling either offline or online.
- This program will be valid till Mains 2024.
- By subscribing to the course, you agree to the terms and conditions mentioned above.

ANNEXURE I – SCHEDULE

| # | Date Day Time | Activity | Activity Code | Theme |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---|
| 1 | 12 Dec' 23 Tuesday 5 PM | Workshop | WS#1 | Orientation and PYQs Trend Analysis |
| 2 | 15 Dec' 23 Friday 5 PM | Workshop | WS#2 | Session on how to write an Essay |
| 3 | 19 Dec' 23 Tuesday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#1 | Theme: Gender Issues and Issues of Vulnerable Sections |
| 4 | 22 Dec' 23 Friday 10 AM | Test | 721201 | Sectional Test #1 |
| 5 | 22 Dec' 23 Friday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#2 | Theme: Intelligence, Knowledge and Wisdom; Leadership and Power |
| 6 | 26 Dec' 23 Tuesday 10 AM | Test | 721202 | Sectional Test #2 |
| 7 | 29 Dec' 23 Friday 5 PM | Workshop | WS#3 | Essay Writing Session 1 – Approaching the topic, methods of brainstorming, how to introduce? |
| 8 | 02 Jan' 24 Thursday 5 PM | Workshop | WS#4 | Essay Writing Session 2 – Body – (dimensions and argument), how to conclude? |
| 9 | 05 Jan' 24 Friday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#3 | Theme: Government and Governance |
| 10 | 09 Jan' 24 Tuesday 10 AM | Test | 721203 | Sectional Test |
| 11 | 12 Jan' 24 Friday 5 PM | Workshops | WS#5 | Understanding Different Types Philosophical Topics I |
| 12 | 16 Jan' 24 Tuesday 5 PM | Workshops | WS#6 | Understanding Different Types Philosophical Topics II |
| 13 | 19 Jan' 24 Friday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#4 | Theme: Perception and awareness, rationality, and reality |
| 14 | 23 Jan' 24 Tuesday 10 AM | Test | 721204 | Sectional Test |
| 15 | 23 Jan' 24 Tuesday 8 PM | Workshop | WS#7 | Online Mentor's Group session |
| 16 | 30 Jan' 24 Tuesday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#5 | Theme: Social justice: inclusive growth, poverty, health, and education |
| 17 | 02 Feb' 24 Friday 10 AM | Test | 721205 | Sectional Test |
| 18 | 02 Feb' 24 Tuesday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#6 | Theme: Human life, Humanity, and compassion |
| 19 | 06 Feb' 24 Friday 10 AM | Test | 721206 | Sectional Test |
| 20 | 09 Feb' 24 Friday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#7 | Theme: Climate Change and Science and technology + breakthroughs in science; International Relations |
| 21 | 13 Feb' 24 Tuesday 10 AM | Test | 721207 | Sectional Test |
| 22 | 13 Feb' 24 Tuesday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#8 | Themes: Values and Morality, Concept of Justice, and Peace |
| 23 | 16 Feb' 24 Friday 10 AM | Test | 721208 | Sectional Test |
| 24 | 16 Feb' 24 Friday 8 PM | Workshop | WS#8 | Online Mentor's Group session |
| 25 | 20 Feb' 24 Tuesday 10 AM | Test | 721209 | Sectional Test |
| 26 | 23 Feb' 24 Friday 10 AM | Test | 721310 | Full-Length Test 1 |
| 27 | 23 Feb' 24 Friday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#9 | Full-Length Test 1 Discussion |
| 28 | 27 Feb' 24 Tuesday 10 AM | Test | 721311 | Full-Length Test 2 |
| 29 | 27 Feb' 24 Tuesday 5 PM | Class | ESSAY#10 | Full-Length Test 2 Discussion |
| PRELIMS BREAK | | | | |
| 31 | Post Prelims | Test | 721312 | Full-Length Test 3 |
| 32 | Post Prelims | Test | 721313 | Full-Length Test 4 |