UPSC Mains Compulsory English (2013–2026) — Essays & Structure Vault

Complete 14-year index of UPSC Compulsory Language Qualifying papers (300 Marks, 25% qualifying cutoff). Free from preplord.com.

UPSC Mains 2026 — English (Compulsory) (Code: KVMS-G-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) The rise of Indian women in sports. | (b) A thing of beauty is a joy forever. | (c) Growth of influencer culture in India. | (d) War is a problem, not a solution.

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Transformation of India's global standing and empowerment through democratic institutions, economic growth, quality education/scientific temper, and independent foreign policy (source PDF pp. 23).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Purpose of reading history: Thucydides' Peloponnesian War, Aristotle on poetry vs history, learning universal human behaviour for the present and future, and reading multiple histories (source PDF pp. 45).

Q4: Grammar (10 corrections, 5 missing words, 5 verb forms, 5 antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (10 rewrite as directed, 5 sentences, 5 word choices, 5 idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2025 — English (Compulsory) (Code: SLPM-G-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) The raw material of cinema is life | (b) No man is an island | (c) Eating habits and lifestyle in Contemporary India | (d) Folklore as a knowledge system

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Analytical reading of books, summarizing arguments (Darwin's Origin of Species), omissions in arguments, general reader vs logician, inductive vs deductive reasoning (Galileo, William Harvey), and self-evident propositions vs tautologies (source PDF pp. 24).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Spiritual transcendence of animal instincts, conscious human progress vs subhuman evolution, self-transformation through reflection/meditation, moral conduct for social harmony, and acceptance and adventure in moral progress (source PDF pp. 46).

Q4: Grammar (10 corrections, 5 missing words, 5 verb forms, 5 antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (10 rewrite as directed, 5 sentences, 5 word choices, 5 idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2024 — English (Compulsory) (Code: PHKM-G-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) Paper books are more attractive than their electronic formats. | (b) Ethics in sports. | (c) War as a policy instrument for nations today. | (d) There is no place like home.

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Moral justification of British imperial rule in India through the ideology of modern civilisation, portraying India as 'semi-civilised', and shifting British views over time (source PDF pp. 24).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Biosphere, unchecked industrial/agricultural exploitation, IUCN Red Data Book species loss, industrial effluents, export of pollution to developing nations, and definitions of pollution/pollutants (source PDF pp. 45).

Q4: Grammar (10 corrections, 5 missing words, 5 verb forms, 5 antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (10 rewrite as directed, 5 sentences, 5 word choices, 5 idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2023 — English (Compulsory) (Code: SKYC-G-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) OTT and the future of Multiplexes | (b) Global warming in an unequal world | (c) Social media and the marketing of the self | (d) Happiness is a state of mind

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Correlation between rights and duties, reciprocity in society, duties of the state vs citizens' civic responsibilities, and foundations of a stable society (source PDF pp. 23).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Natural/defensive anger vs sinful anger rooted in pride, memory and symbolization, middle-class norms against overt anger, and anger at impersonal/unchangeable annoyances vs deliberate human slights (source PDF pp. 35).

Q4: Grammar (10 corrections, 5 missing words, 5 verb forms, 5 antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (10 rewrite as directed, 5 sentences, 5 word choices, 5 idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2022 — English (Compulsory) (Code: CRNA-X-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) Mathematics : A mirror of modern civilization. | (b) New frontiers of science need to be explored in the current times. | (c) Education is a means of shaping character and of social change. | (d) The role of literature in a common man's life.

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Evolution and relationships of great apes and modern humans: fossil assumptions, Aristotle, Huxley, Darwin's Descent of Man, and 20th-century molecular anthropology (Pauling, Zuckerkandl, Goodman, Sarich & Wilson) (source PDF pp. 23).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Computer errors as extensions of the human brain, trial and error at the foundation of human thought, accidental laboratory discoveries, and the creative faculty of wrongness (source PDF pp. 45).

Q4: Grammar (10 corrections, 5 missing words, 5 verb forms, 5 antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (10 rewrite as directed, 5 sentences, 5 word choices, 5 idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2021 — English (Compulsory) (Code: HXS-G-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) Social Media : A Challenge to Societal Harmony | (b) The Role of NGOs in Social Change | (c) Education as a Means to Serve Humanity | (d) The Crying Need for Embracing Minimalism

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Biosphere life-support services, environmental breakdown, 'Our Common Future' (UN), 'man with nature' development paradigm, climate change, nuclear winter, and ecological food security threats (source PDF pp. 23).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Literature on Indians settled abroad: historical/diplomatic/anthropological accounts, colonial vs nationalist perspectives, functionalist bias, diaspora spread across 53 countries, and regional origin-settlement patterns (source PDF pp. 45).

Q4: Grammar (10 corrections, 5 missing words, 5 verb forms, 5 antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (10 rewrite as directed, 5 sentences, 5 word choices, 5 idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2020 — English (Compulsory) (Code: URC-G-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) Indian Judicial System Needs Overhauling. | (b) Not Rural or Urban, India Needs Rurban Growth. | (c) Relevance of Hindi as the National Language. | (d) COVID-19 Pandemic and the Indian Economy.

PREPLORD.COM UPSC CSE MAINS PYQ VAULT

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Tolstoy's 'bread labour', Gandhi, Thoreau, Ruskin, Rousseau, and Swiss pacifist Pierre Ceresole founding Service Civil International (SCI) for post-war reconciliation (source PDF pp. 24).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Emperor Ashoka's administration, Mauryan society, Gautam Buddha's teachings, transformation after the Kalinga War, rock inscriptions, and spread of Dhamma across Asia (source PDF pp. 46).

Q4: Grammar (10 corrections, 5 missing words, 5 verb forms, 5 antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (10 rewrite as directed, 5 sentences, 5 word choices, 5 idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2019 — English (Compulsory) (Code: SDF-G-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) Indian universities are Indian in their geographical locations only | (b) Journalism has been rendered into sensationalism | (c) Information is not knowledge | (d) Even a layman can transform a society

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) All-inclusive scope of history, distortions by clergy/statesmen/nationalism, the 'new history' school and its dangers, and defining/evaluating civilization (source PDF pp. 23).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Gandhi's Hind Swaraj (1909), civilisational concept of Indian nation, critique of industrial capitalism and modernity, satyagraha, Home Rule Leagues, and uniting moderates/extremists & Khilafat (source PDF pp. 46).

Q4: Grammar (10 corrections, 5 missing words, 5 verb forms, 5 antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (10 rewrite as directed, 5 sentences, 5 word choices, 5 idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2018 — English (Compulsory) (Code: EGT-G-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) Impact of westernization on the Indian Family | (b) Literature Mirrors Society | (c) Women in Indian Politics | (d) Rural Urban divide in India

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Ghaznavid and Ghurid invasions, organization of Indian armies, non-fortification of North-Western passes, parochial outlook, and Alberuni's observations (source PDF pp. 24).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Indian Renaissance vs European/Celtic Renaissance; analyses by Sir Jadunath Sarkar and Sri Aurobindo on spiritual recovery and socio-religious reform movements (source PDF pp. 45).

Q4: Grammar (10 corrections, 5 missing words, 5 verb forms, 5 antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (10 rewrite as directed, 5 sentences, 5 word choices, 5 idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2017 — English (Compulsory) (Code: STH-G-ENG | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) Recent Economic Reforms in India | (b) Threats to Environment | (c) Uses and Abuses of Social Networking | (d) Caring for the Aged

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) History of travel & tourism from antiquity and the Marshall Plan to technology, post-Independence India, and future leisure trends (source PDF pp. 23).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Exercise of skill and constructiveness vs destruction as sources of lasting happiness in work (source PDF pp. 35).

Q4: Grammar (corrections, missing words, verb forms, antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (rewrite as directed, sentences, word choice, idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2016 — English (Compulsory) (Code: m-esc-cu-eng | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) Majoritarianism conflicting with the constitutional spirit, an unhealthy trend in true democracy. | (b) The Indian girl child — still a victim of exploitation. | (c) Industrialization should not affect but contribute to agricultural growth in India. | (d) Mass media has great responsibility in transforming the society.

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Young Bengal movement, Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, David Hare, Drummond, and spirit of rational enquiry (source PDF pp. 23).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) India as a knowledge society, TIFAC core technologies, societal transformation, wealth generation & knowledge protection (source PDF pp. 35).

Q4: Grammar (corrections, missing words, verb forms, antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (rewrite as directed, sentences, word choice, idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2015 — English (Compulsory) (Code: C-AVZ-O-FOHC | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) Impact of politics on society | (b) E-commerce : a win-win situation for all | (c) Harassment of women at workplaces | (d) Does the Indian cinema reflect social reality?

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Deserts, hot vs cold deserts, desert flora/fauna adaptations (camels, cacti), and desertification (source PDF pp. 23).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Inviolable connection between means and ends; force of love/pity vs force of arms (source PDF pp. 45).

Q4: Grammar (corrections, missing words, verb forms, antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (rewrite as directed, sentences, word choice, idioms) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2014 — English (Compulsory) (Code: C-DRN-N-GOHC | 300 Marks)

Essay Topics (600 words, 100M): (a) What kind of crisis is India facing – moral or economic? | (b) Participating in sports helps develop good character. | (c) Should students be allowed to grade their teachers? | (d) Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.

Q1: Essay (600 words, choose 1 of 4) (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (75M) Complete reading program, underlining books, and correlating facts with creative intelligence (source PDF p. 2).

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (75M) Making the world safe for diversity, India's global leadership, stewardship of global commons, and South Asian economic integration (source PDF pp. 34).

Q4: Grammar (corrections, missing words, verb forms, antonyms) (25M)

Q5: Grammar & Usage (rewrite as directed, sentences, word choice, phrases) (25M)

UPSC Mains 2013 — English (Compulsory) (Code: A-BRL-M-FOHC | 300 Marks)

Q1: Short Essays (100M)

Q2: Reading Comprehension (50M)

Q3: Precis Writing (1/3rd length, no title) (100M)

Q4: Grammar & Vocabulary (50M)

PREPLORD.COM
UPSC CSE MAINS PYQ VAULT