

Smash Essay & Ethics 2027

Essay + the complete GS Paper 4 course, taught through microthemes

35 Sessions + Test Series

Essay + Ethics Modules

16 Sep to 5 Nov 2026

Microtheme based

Why this course

- **Two papers, one course.** A full Essay module followed by the complete GS Paper 4 syllabus, the two most writing-heavy Mains papers, together.
- **Full syllabus, nothing skipped.** All eight parts of the Ethics syllabus are covered, broken into the small topics UPSC asks again and again.
- **Built for marks.** Every idea comes with a thinker, a real example and a clear answer-writing point.
- **Theory plus workshops.** Essay theory by Rohit Sir and hands-on workshops by Trupti Ma'am; Ethics reinforced by seven case-study lectures.
- **A brisk, exam-time rhythm.** Classes move steadily from basics to governance, wrapping up well before prelims-to-mains crunch.

The full course plan

Date and Lecture	Microthemes Covered	What You Will Learn
◆ Essay Theory with Rohit Sir		
16 Sept (Wed) Essay 1: What UPSC Wants from an Essay <i>with Rohit Sir</i>	Nature and demand of the essay paper; evaluation criteria; common reasons essays lose marks; philosophical vs descriptive prompts	• What the examiner actually rewards • How to read and decode a prompt before writing • The difference between a GS answer and an essay
17 Sept (Thu) Essay 2: Structure and Flow <i>with Rohit Sir</i>	Introduction techniques; thesis and direction; body paragraphing; multi-dimensional coverage; conclusion that lands	• Build a clear spine: intro, argued body, strong close • Move between dimensions without losing the thread
18 Sept (Fri) Essay 3: Building an Argument <i>with Rohit Sir</i>	Claim, evidence, reasoning; balance and nuance; handling counter-views; avoiding one-sidedness	• Argue a position while staying balanced • Use examples, data and thinkers as evidence, not decoration

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19 Sept (Sat) Essay 4: Content and Fodder <i>with Rohit Sir</i>	Building a personal fodder bank; quotes, anecdotes, examples, reports; theme-wise material; recall under exam pressure	- Gather and organise reusable material by theme - Deploy the right example at the right point
21 Sept (Mon) Essay 5: Philosophical and Abstract Essays <i>with Rohit Sir</i>	Cracking abstract one-line prompts; interpretation and framing; keeping abstraction grounded with concrete examples	- Turn a vague, abstract prompt into a structured essay - Balance philosophical depth with real-world grounding
◆ Essay Workshops with Trupti Ma'am		
24 Sept (Thu) Workshop 1: Prompt Decoding and Brainstorming <i>with Trupti Ma'am</i>	Live prompt breakdown; mind-mapping dimensions; drawing the outline before writing	- Decode a fresh prompt as a group - Produce a full outline in minutes, not paragraphs
25 Sept (Fri) Workshop 2: Writing the Introduction and Conclusion <i>with Trupti Ma'am</i>	Hooks that work; framing the thesis; circular and forward-looking conclusions; timed practice	- Draft and critique openings and closings live - Fix the two paragraphs examiners read most closely
26 Sept (Sat) Workshop 3: Full Essay under Time <i>with Trupti Ma'am</i>	Timed full-length essay; pacing across 90 minutes; managing structure under pressure	- Write a complete essay to the clock - Learn where time actually goes and how to control it
28 Sept (Mon) Workshop 4: Peer Review and Model Essays <i>with Trupti Ma'am</i>	Structured peer evaluation; reading model essays; spotting strengths and gaps against a rubric	- Evaluate essays against a clear rubric - Learn faster by marking others' work
29 Sept (Tue) Workshop 5: Rewrite and Refine <i>with Trupti Ma'am</i>	Reworking an earlier essay; targeted feedback; final dos and don'ts before the Ethics module begins	- Turn a first draft into a polished essay - Lock in a repeatable personal essay method

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◆ Module 1 Ethics and Human Interface		
30 Sept (Wed) Lecture 1: What is Ethics? <i>The gap between what I can do and what I should do</i>	Essence of ethics; Ethics vs Morality; Ethics vs Law; Ethics vs Social acceptance; Ethics in private and public life	• Meaning, nature and purpose of ethics • How ethics differs from law, morals and social approval • Why a legal act can still be an unethical act Thinkers: Potter Stewart, Aristotle, Plato, Vivekananda
1 Oct (Thu) Lecture 2: Why We Act Ethically <i>What makes an action right or wrong</i>	Determinants of ethics; Dimensions of ethics; Consequences of ethics; Ethics in private and public relations	• What shapes an action: the person, the situation, upbringing, culture, profession, law and conscience • What follows from ethical and unethical acts
3 Oct (Sat) Lecture 3: Making the Ethical Choice <i>How to think through a hard choice</i>	Normative ethics; Duty-based vs Result-based ethics; Gut feeling vs Reasoning; Ethical dilemmas	• Means vs ends • Duty view (Kant), result view (utilitarian), character view (virtue ethics) • Working through a case where two right values clash Thinkers: Kant, Mill, Aristotle
5 Oct (Mon) Lecture 4: Ethics in Today's World <i>Applying one ethical idea to a live issue</i>	Ethics and technology; Ethics and environment; Ethics and development; Current ethical issues	• Take an abstract idea and apply it to a real issue • AI in government, social media, weaker sections, growth vs environment
7 Oct (Wed) Case Study 1 <i>Ethics and human interface in action</i>	Guided case walkthrough; timed writing; model structure; peer review	• Apply the module's ideas to a real dilemma • Practise a defensible, repeatable answer structure
◆ Module 2 Human Values		
8 Oct (Thu) Lecture 5: Values and Character <i>What value is involved here?</i>	Nature of values; Crisis of values; Values vs Ethics vs Attitude; Good life; Happiness	• What values are and how they rank • The difference between values, beliefs and attitude • What happens when values weaken
9 Oct (Fri) Lecture 6: Who Shapes Our Values <i>Where does the character come from?</i>	Role of family; Role of society; Role of educational institutions; Role of education	• How family, school, teachers, media, sports and community build values • Moving from values are falling, to why, to how to rebuild them

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10 Oct (Sat) Lecture 7: Lessons from Great Lives <i>Using thinkers as evidence, not decoration</i>	Teachings of great leaders; Reformers; Administrators	• Read a value, then a real life incident, then today's relevance • Turn a life story into an answer-writing point Thinkers: Gandhi, Buddha, Mahavir, Guru Nanak, Vivekananda, Kalam, Savitribai Phule, Kautilya
12 Oct (Mon) Case Study 2 <i>Values and character under pressure</i>	Guided case walkthrough; timed writing; model structure; peer review	• Apply the module's ideas to a real dilemma • Practise a defensible, repeatable answer structure
◆ Module 3 Attitude		
14 Oct (Wed) Lecture 8: From Thought to Behaviour <i>How attitude turns into action</i>	Attitude content, structure, function; Attitude vs Opinion vs Belief; Attitude formation	• The three parts of attitude: thinking, feeling, action • How family, society and experience shape attitude
15 Oct (Thu) Lecture 9: The Civil Servant's Attitude <i>Following a rule vs being ruled by rules</i>	Attitude for civil servants; Bureaucratic vs Democratic attitude; Attitude and practical sense; Positive attitude	• The difference between following a rule and being trapped by it • Building a sharp, responsive officer's attitude
16 Oct (Fri) Lecture 10: Influence and Persuasion <i>Changing behaviour without force</i>	Social influence and persuasion; Moral attitude; Political attitude; Coercion vs Undue influence; Discipline	• How an officer changes public behaviour by persuasion, not force • How social pressure and leadership move people
17 Oct (Sat) Case Study 3 <i>Attitude and persuasion in the field</i>	Guided case walkthrough; timed writing; model structure; peer review	• Apply the module's ideas to a real dilemma • Practise a defensible, repeatable answer structure
◆ Module 4 Emotional Intelligence		
19 Oct (Mon) Lecture 11: Intelligence of the Heart <i>Managing yourself and others under pressure</i>	EI meaning and use; EI in administration; EQ vs IQ; Anger management; EI and crisis of conscience	• Self-awareness, self-control, empathy, motivation and social skill • Using EI as a real administrative tool, not soft talk
21 Oct (Wed) Case Study 4 <i>Emotional intelligence in a crisis</i>	Guided case walkthrough; timed writing; model structure; peer review	• Apply the module's ideas to a real dilemma

Date and Lecture	Microthemes Covered	What You Will Learn
		• Practise a defensible, repeatable answer structure

◆ Module 5 | Moral Thinkers and Philosophers

22 Oct (Thu)

Lecture 12: Indian Ethical Traditions

The highest-scoring unit: 32 past questions

Quote-based questions on Gandhi, Buddha, Mahavir, Guru Nanak, Vivekananda, Kautilya, Kalam, Tiruvalluvar

- A quote decoding method: plain meaning, deeper idea, today's use, example
- Truth, non-violence, service, duty, statecraft and justice

23 Oct (Fri)

Lecture 13: Western Thinkers and Frameworks

One thinker used across many questions

Quote-based questions; Thinker and concept links

- Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Rawls, Lincoln and others
- Ideas of virtue, duty, justice, character and rights

24 Oct (Sat)

Case Study 5

Decoding thinkers through cases

Guided case walkthrough; timed writing; model structure; peer review

- Apply the module's ideas to a real dilemma
- Practise a defensible, repeatable answer structure

◆ Module 6 | Aptitude and Foundational Values

26 Oct (Mon)

Lecture 14: Core Values of a Civil Servant

Telling similar values apart

Integrity; Impartiality; Non-partisanship; Objectivity; Trustworthiness; Fortitude

- Tell apart integrity, honesty, impartiality and objectivity
- Use each value correctly in an answer

28 Oct (Wed)

Lecture 15: Service Before Self

Turning values into visible behaviour

Dedication to public service; Empathy; Tolerance; Compassion for weaker sections; Aptitude

- Turn foundational values into real behaviour on the ground
- Spirit of service, responsibility and public interest

30 Oct (Fri)

Case Study 6

Foundational values in a live decision

Guided case walkthrough; timed writing; model structure; peer review

- Apply the module's ideas to a real dilemma
- Practise a defensible, repeatable answer structure

◆ Module 7 | Public Service Ethics

31 Oct (Sat)

Lecture 16: When Rules Meet Conscience

A repeatable method for case studies

Public service values; Ethical dilemmas; Law, rules and conscience; Crisis of conscience

- Law vs ethics, conscience and public interest
- A fixed, repeatable way to solve any case study

Date and Lecture	Microthemes Covered	What You Will Learn
◆ Module 8 Ethical Governance and Probity		
2 Nov (Mon) Lecture 17: From Ethical Governance to Probity <i>Linking personal ethics to governance results</i>	Accountability; Social accountability; Good governance; E-governance; RTI; Transparency; Corporate governance; Ethics in international relations and funding	- Connect personal ethics, institutional ethics and governance outcomes - Accountability, social audit and stakeholder trust
4 Nov (Wed) Lecture 18: Building an Ethical State <i>The full GS-4 picture and a toolkit</i>	Probity; RTI; Codes of ethics and conduct; Citizen's Charter; Work culture; Service quality; Public funds; Corruption; Whistleblower; Corporate governance	- Probity, codes, Citizen's Charter, Sevottam and social audit - Corruption control and whistleblower protection
5 Nov (Thu) Case Study 7 <i>PYQ-based: solving real UPSC case studies</i>	Past UPSC GS-4 Section B case studies; recurring dilemma types; law vs conscience; stakeholder mapping; time-bound writing	- Solve actual previous-year case studies end to end - Spot recurring dilemma patterns UPSC sets and how to structure each - Lock in one repeatable method under exam-time pressure

Starts 16 Sept



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COURSE FEE:
~~21,999/-~~ **14,999**
(Inclusive of GST)



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