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Reviews by Toppers

1. The book in its very nature provides a gateway to connect thoughts, presentation and right writing skills in an evolutionary manner which will immensely help aspirants to crack dynamism of essay paper and write organic essays.

Dwij Goel, AIR 71 (UPSC CSE 2022)

2. My good friend, Ishan Sinha, has beautifully handcrafted this Essay book by putting a lot of immense efforts. He has skilfully simplified complex concepts, making them easily understandable. His excellent writing skills and unique approach to deciphering Philosophical Essays will undoubtedly benefit aspiring UPSC candidates. Additionally, he has curated a collection of anecdotes and quotes related to important themes like “Patience”, “Education”, “Science & Religion” and more. Aspirants can rely on this comprehensive resource to enhance their Essay writing skills effectively

Arvind Hanglem, AIR 83 (UPSC CSE 2022)

3. Ishan Sinha has done a great work of writing this Essay book to help aspirants’ community. His excellent command over deciphering and writing essays will surely help aspirants. Also, his collection of anecdotes and quotes related to important themes like ‘Women empowerment’, ‘Gratitude’, ‘integrity’ and more is beautiful and will come handy to future aspirants. The portion regarding ‘maintaining the flow in an essay’ is very important to understand and apply during the main exam. I will strongly recommend aspirants to follow this book for understanding and approaching the essay paper in a simplified yet comprehensive manner.

Rochika Garg, AIR 174 (UPSC CSE 2022)

4. A very well written book that provides crucial insights on an oft ignored but an extremely rewarding paper. It provides a lucid exposition on the various facets of essay writing. The wide range examples, anecdotes and quotes are definitely going to be of great help to all the candidates.

Sakshi Mishra, AIR 299 (UPSC CSE 2022)

5. This book is a one stop solution for UPSC aspirants trying to get a grasp of how to write a good essay. The experience of CSE preparation carried by Ishan is quite evidently poured into the book. The book builds up one's essay writing skill from scratch to advanced level dealing with every aspect of a good essay comprehensively.

Shubhratosh Sharma, AIR 358 (UPSC CSE 2022)

6. Essay is an essential element of the Mains exam & as one of the top scorers this year, I can say that it plays an important role in the marksheet. Hence, an easy go to guide like this book is always helpful. Everything handy at one place, you will realise how helpful it is, especially a day before the exam. Given the dynamicity of this paper, the plethora of examples, anecdotes, quotes etc, will add that 'different touch' to the essay & bring you closer to your dream of being in the list.

Dr. Akanksha Jha, Rank 371 (UPSC CSE 2022)

(Scored 142 in essay paper)

Maintaining the Flow

Sample these examples:

- a. **Lack of flow:** “Education is important. It helps individuals and societies. People gain knowledge and skills. Critical thinking is necessary. Education allows personal growth and societal development.”
- b. **With proper flow:** “Education plays a vital role in shaping individuals and societies. It equips people with knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities. With a strong educational foundation, individuals can pursue their aspirations, contribute to their communities, and drive positive change. Therefore, investing in education is crucial for personal growth and societal development.”

In the first example, the ideas are haphazardly arranged, which makes it difficult for the reader to follow the thought process. A good essay will have a flow such that the reader can seamlessly move from one page to the next without realising that he has shifted to the next idea.

The trick is to put the ideas in the right order. If you do, each will naturally follow the one before. So how do you determine what order is right? You ask yourself this question: What does the reader need to know first? You start with that idea. You then ask, “What does the reader need to know next?” and then deal with that idea. And on and on until you’ve told the reader everything he or she needs to know, in an order that makes sense to them.

Another way to say this: anticipate your reader’s questions, in the order they would occur to the reader. Your reader should feel that they are being told something in logical order, each part revealed at the right moment, neither too soon or too late.

Think of how you would describe an elephant to a four-year-old who's never even seen a picture of one. What's the first thing he would want to know? Probably how big it is. Then he might want to know what makes it unusual, so the second item up for discussion is the trunk. What's it like and how does the elephant use it? Then maybe the ears and the skin. Then what it eats. Then how long it lives. Then where it lives and what kind of life it has.

Put yourself in your reader's shoes. What would you like to know first? What would you like to know second, then third, etc.? That's the way to write your piece and make it flow. And you can determine this order before writing, by outlining the essay in the rough pages before beginning writing.

1. Tips to maintain flow in your Essays:

1. **Outline your ideas:** Before you start writing, create a clear outline that organizes your main points and their supporting details. This will help you maintain a logical flow throughout your essay. Use the rough pages provided in the answer sheet. Brainstorm for at least 20-25 minutes before beginning the essay.
2. **Transitional words:** Transitional words and phrases like "however," "in addition," "on the other hand," and "therefore" help connect ideas and ensure a seamless transition from one paragraph to another. They provide a sense of continuity and coherence to the essay. These words can be used in the beginning of each paragraph to maintain connectivity with the previous paragraph. However, please do not be overburdened with connecting words if you are unable to think of any.

If you are using connecting words, remember that two consecutive paragraphs must not have the same connecting word. If one paragraph starts with 'however', the next paragraph must start with 'on the other hand' or something different from that.

3. **Topic sentences:** Begin each paragraph with a clear and concise topic sentence that introduces the main idea of that paragraph. This allows readers to understand the focus of each section and facilitates a smooth transition from one idea to the next. The following sentence is for the topic ‘Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world’:

“The role of poets as unacknowledged legislators can be seen in the economic and social domains as well.”

The above sentence establishes very clearly that you are going to be speaking categorically on the economic and social spheres in this part of the essay.

4. **Logical connections:** Ensure that there is a logical progression of ideas throughout your essay. Connect paragraphs and sentences through logical transitions, such as cause and effect, comparison and contrast, or chronological order, to maintain a coherent flow of thought. An example to demonstrate this is as follows:

Original Sentence: "The rapid advancements in technology have revolutionized various industries. Furthermore, they have also changed the way people communicate and interact with each other."

Revised Sentence with Logical Connection: "The rapid advancements in technology have revolutionized various industries, impacting everything from healthcare to transportation. Additionally, these technological innovations have not only transformed industries but have also fundamentally changed the way people communicate and interact with each other."

In the revised sentence, the logical connection word "additionally" is used to indicate that the second sentence is an additional point related to the previous sentence. This helps to establish a clear and logical progression of ideas, maintaining the flow of the essay.

5. **Vary sentence structure and length:** To prevent monotony, use a mix of sentence structures and lengths. Incorporate simple,