

Sankalp/TLP daily Answer writing Challenge Day 7 ESSAY (Philosophical)

Dear Students,

- This essay synopsis document presents two model schemas designed to help students master effective essay writing.
- These structured frameworks provide clear guidance on organizing ideas, developing arguments, and crafting well-constructed academic papers.
- By this student will gain practical tools for tackling various essay types with confidence and clarity.

Essay Topic : "With Greater Power Comes Greater Responsibility"

Model Schema

Objective of the Essay

This is a value-based, ethical essay topic that tests a student's ability to understand abstract ideas and relate them to practical governance, leadership, institutions, and individual roles in society. The topic encourages an exploration of the relationship between authority and accountability. It aims to assess not just knowledge, but the student's capacity for reflection, structure, and ethical reasoning.

1. Understanding the Topic

Begin by understanding the key terms:

- *Power*: This can include political authority, institutional control, social influence, economic resources, intellectual capacity, or technological dominance.
- *Responsibility*: This refers to ethical obligations, accountability, transparency, duty of care, or commitment to public interest.

Students should explore why power becomes dangerous without responsibility and how responsible use of power leads to justice, development, and trust in systems.

Important guiding questions:

- Who holds power in a society, and why?
- What are the consequences of power exercised without accountability?

- Can responsibility exist without power? Can power be legitimate without responsibility?

2. Introduction Techniques

Students should explore various ways to begin the essay to capture attention and set the tone. Some methods include:

Anecdotal Introduction

Begin with a real or fictional story that reflects the misuse or noble use of power. For instance, referencing an ethical civil servant or a historical event where power was used for the greater good.

Philosophical Introduction

Start with a general reflection on the nature of power and how its ethical use is foundational to social order.

Quotation-Based Introduction

Use a relevant quote such as Winston Churchill's "The price of greatness is responsibility" or Gandhi's idea that "the means must justify the ends."

Historical Hook

Start with a brief historical example, such as the aftermath of World War II and the creation of the United Nations to illustrate global responsibility following large-scale use of military power.

3. Structuring the Body

Encourage students to select an essay structure that best suits their thinking and content preparation. Some possible frameworks:

Thematic Structure

Divide the essay into sections based on themes, such as:

- Political power and ethical leadership
- Institutional power and public accountability
- Technological power and corporate responsibility
- Social and individual responsibility in a democratic society

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- Global power and responsibility of nations

Temporal Structure

Divide the essay based on time periods:

- Historical perspectives on the use and abuse of power
- Present-day challenges in balancing power and responsibility
- Future concerns, such as the role of AI, climate leadership, or emerging economies

Level-Based Structure

Divide the analysis across different levels of society:

- Individuals (e.g., educated citizens, influencers)
- Institutions (e.g., media, judiciary)
- Nation-states (e.g., democracies, superpowers)
- International organizations (e.g., UN, IMF)

4. Building Arguments

Students should be trained to construct balanced arguments supported by:

- Real-life examples from Indian and world history
- Constitutional principles (e.g., separation of powers, checks and balances)
- Reports (e.g., Law Commission, UNHRC)
- Ethical theories (e.g., Kant's categorical imperative, Gandhian philosophy)

Guiding thought prompts:

- What examples show power used with high responsibility?
- What happens when leaders or institutions fail in their duties?
- How does democratic accountability function as a safeguard?
- Can too much responsibility dilute the decisiveness of power?

5. Conclusion Techniques

Students should practice writing different types of conclusions:

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Vision-Based Conclusion: End with a call for ethical leadership and responsible citizenship in an increasingly interconnected world.

Return-to-Intro Conclusion: If the essay began with an anecdote or case, return to it in the conclusion to provide a sense of closure and completeness.

Philosophical Conclusion: Reflect on the enduring relevance of the theme in every era, profession, and level of human interaction.

LASBABA

Essay Topic : "It is not true that good can follow only from good and evil only from evil, but that often the opposite is true"

Model Schema

Objective of the Essay

This topic challenges the simplistic view of **moral cause and effect**—i.e., that good actions always lead to good outcomes and bad actions always to harm. It asks students to explore **moral paradoxes, historical contradictions, and the complex relationship between intention, action, and outcome.**

1. Understanding the Topic

Before writing, students must ask:

- What is “good”? Is it the action, the intent, or the outcome?
- Can a morally wrong act lead to a beneficial result? (e.g., war for peace, censorship to prevent riots)
- Can morally right acts have harmful consequences? (e.g., free speech abused to spread hate)

The topic invites critical engagement with real-world dilemmas where **outcomes contradict moral intentions.**

2. Introduction Techniques

Here are multiple methods to begin this essay:

A. Philosophical Introduction

Start with the ethical dilemma itself:

“In moral reasoning, the lines between right and wrong are often assumed to be clear. Yet, human experience shows that the outcomes of our actions can defy moral predictability.”

B. Real-World Example

Begin with a historic paradox:

“When the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the act was undeniably catastrophic. Yet, it hastened the end of World War II and arguably saved millions of lives.”

C. Literary or Mythological Reference

“The Mahabharata’s central war was fought for dharma, yet caused immense destruction. This tension between righteous intention and violent outcome underscores the complexity of ethical causality.”

D. Quotation

Use a reflective quote:

“The road to hell is paved with good intentions.” – A powerful way to signal the essay's theme.

3. Structuring the Body – Suggested Frameworks

Option A: Thematic Exploration

1. Good intentions, harmful consequences

- Overregulation harming innovation
- Charity reinforcing dependency
- Unchecked freedom of speech fueling hate

2. Evil or questionable actions, positive outcomes

- Revolutions involving violence but leading to liberty
- Surveillance preventing terrorism
- Lies or deception to protect lives

3. Context matters

- Situational ethics: when intentions and outcomes are judged differently based on time, context, and culture

4. Legal and moral complexities

- Just War theory
- Ethical utilitarianism (ends justify means) vs. deontology (means matter)

Option B: Dialectical Method (Contradiction and Resolution)

- Present the conventional belief: Good leads to good; evil to evil.

- Present contradictions through examples.
- Introduce ethical theories that explain these contradictions.
- Conclude with a balanced view: Life is morally complex; rigid dualism fails.

4. Argument Development Prompts

To help students develop ideas, ask them to reflect on:

- Are intentions or outcomes more important in ethics?
- Does society accept morally questionable acts if they lead to good results?
- Can bad actions be justified in hindsight due to their outcomes?
- Can a virtuous act still cause harm unintentionally?

Support should include:

- Historical events (e.g., French Revolution, Hiroshima)
- Indian epics (e.g., Ramayana, Mahabharata)
- Ethical philosophy (e.g., utilitarianism, consequentialism, Kantian ethics)
- Contemporary issues (e.g., digital surveillance, bioethics)

5. Conclusion Techniques

A. Philosophical Conclusion

“Ethical judgment cannot rest solely on a formula of good producing good. Life’s moral terrain is uneven, and outcomes often defy intentions. Wisdom lies in acknowledging this ambiguity.”

B. Return-to-Intro

If the essay began with an example or quote, return to it:

“As the Mahabharata teaches us, even dharma may require difficult choices. What matters is clarity of purpose and readiness to accept consequences.”

C. Forward-Looking Vision

“In an age of complex decisions—AI, geopolitics, climate change—our ethical compass must balance principle with prudence, not assume easy moral equations.”