

Essay

Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2026

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

- Write two essays, choosing one topic from each of the following Sections A and B, in about 1000–1200 words each.
- Each essay carries **125 marks**. $125 \times 2 = 250$

Section A

125 marks

1. Oxymorons reflect the ironies of life.
2. A grateful mind is very beautiful.
3. A thorn is a changed bud.
4. When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled.

Section B

125 marks

5. Nature is the symbol of the spirit.
6. A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers.
7. Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course.
8. A good leader is one who follows the followers.