



**Anantam IAS**

MAINS ANSWER WRITING

THE WORKBOOK

# 30 Days to Examinable Answers

Mains is an answer-writing exam, not a knowledge exam. You can know everything and still score 60/250 if your answer is a Wikipedia dump. This workbook turns the daily plan into your own — diagnose, structure, write, and score for 30 days.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Start date \_\_\_\_\_ Target Mains \_\_\_\_\_



BEFORE DAY 1 – ARE YOU READY TO START?

# Baseline & Honest Diagnostic

This plan assumes a foundation. Confirm you have it, then take an honest snapshot of where your writing stands today — so on Day 30 you can measure how far you've come.

**I have...**

- ☐ Covered  $\geq 80\%$  of the GS syllabus once
- ☐ 150+ previous-year Mains questions to hand
- ☐ A 0.7 mm pen + A4 sheets (real-exam feel)
- ☐ One test series OR topper copies to compare

**Day-0 snapshot**

- ☐ Wrote 1 answer, scored it on the rubric: \_\_\_\_ / 14
- ☐ Time taken vs target: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ My weakest rubric row right now: \_\_\_\_\_

**Keep your Day-0 answer.** On Day 29 you'll write the same question again and compare. Visible structural progress on the same prompt is the most motivating proof this plan works.

## The 4-step structure (your default skeleton)

**Introduction (25–35 w)**

Define + context. Answer the "what". Never narrate.

**Body — dimensions → challenges → way forward**

3–4 sub-heads with examples; then criticism/gaps; then concrete solutions (committee / scheme / Article).

**Conclusion (2–3 lines)**

Forward-looking, balanced, linked to a constitutional value or SDG.



STRUCTURE FIRST · CONTENT SECOND · SPEED LAST

# Your 30-Day Plan

Tick each day as you finish. Weeks build on each other: foundation → subject repertoire → integration → exam pace. Full wall-poster version is in the kit.

<b>1</b> Read 5 topper copies	<b>2</b> 2 answers (10m) vs toppers	<b>3</b> 2 answers (15m), subheads	<b>4</b> 2 answers + diagram	<b>5</b> 3 answers, timed	<b>6</b> Examine vs critically
<b>7</b> Review + rewrite worst 2	<b>8</b> Modern History ×3	<b>9</b> Society ×3 + schemes	<b>10</b> Polity ×3 — Articles/SC	<b>11</b> Governance ×3 — 2nd ARC	<b>12</b> IR ×3 + map
<b>13</b> Section test 5Q/75m	<b>14</b> Rest + review	<b>15</b> Economy ×3 + data	<b>16</b> Environment ×3	<b>17</b> Security ×3	<b>18</b> GS-IV 3 case studies
<b>19</b> Ethics theory ×3	<b>20</b> GS-III test 5Q/75m	<b>21</b> GS-IV test 4 cases	<b>22</b> Full GS-I 3hr	<b>23</b> Review + rewrite ×3	<b>24</b> Full GS-II 3hr
<b>25</b> Review + rewrite	<b>26</b> Full GS-III 3hr	<b>27</b> Review + rewrite	<b>28</b> Full GS-IV 3hr	<b>29</b> Day1 vs Day29	<b>30</b> Essay ×2

■ Wk 1 Foundation   ■ Wk 2 GS-I/II   ■ Wk 3 GS-III/IV   ■ Wk 4 Full tests



THE METRIC THAT MATTERS

# Score Honestly, Then Commit

Don't count answers written — count answers you're proud of. Day 1 might give you 1-in-5. By Day 30, aim for 3-of-5. Once you hit that ratio, add speed: 5 answers in 45 minutes is Mains pace.

RUBRIC ROW (SCORE /2)	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4
Directive addressed				
Introduction				
Structure				
Content & examples				
Value addition				
Conclusion				
Presentation & limit				
Avg / 14				

**Commitment:** For 30 days I will write daily, score honestly, and rewrite my worst answer instead of avoiding it. Then I repeat this every month until Mains. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_