



A SKELETON FOR EVERY DIRECTIVE

Question-Type Answer Templates

The directive verb decides the skeleton. Internalise these five and you can structure 80% of GS questions before you've written a word. Each shows the structure plus a one-line worked cue.

Discuss MANY SIDES → BALANCED VIEW

INTRO	Define the theme + one line of context (data / committee).
BODY	2–3 viewpoints / dimensions, each with an example → then the counter-view.
CONCLUDE	Balanced synthesis + way forward.
CUE	"Discuss the impact of gig economy on labour." → benefits risks regulation gap balanced view.

Examine PROBE CAUSES / COMPONENTS

INTRO	Define + frame what is being investigated.
BODY	Break into causes / components / factors — inspect each, don't just list.
CONCLUDE	What the examination reveals + corrective direction.
CUE	"Examine the causes of farm distress." → structural market climate policy.

Critically analyse MERITS + DEMERITS → VERDICT

INTRO	Define + state the tension at the core of the issue.
BODY	Merits / arguments-for → demerits / criticism → your analysis.
CONCLUDE	A reasoned verdict (not fence-sitting) + the way forward.
CUE	"Critically analyse one-nation-one-election." → gains constitutional & federal concerns verdict.

To what extent WEIGH THE DEGREE → CALIBRATED STAND

INTRO	Restate the claim; signal you will measure how far it holds.
BODY	Extent it is true (evidence) → limits / where it fails (evidence).
CONCLUDE	A calibrated stand — "largely / partly true because...".
CUE	"To what extent has decentralisation deepened democracy?" → gains gaps net.

Ethics case study (GS-IV) STAKEHOLDERS → OPTIONS → ACTION

IDENTIFY	Stakeholders + the ethical dilemmas at stake.
OPTIONS	2–3 courses of action with pros / cons of each.
DECIDE	Your chosen action + the values / principles that justify it.



BUILD YOUR OWN – FILL THESE BLANKS BEFORE YOU WRITE

Plan-Before-You-Write Sheet

Spend 60 seconds planning before each answer. Decode the directive, sketch the dimensions, and pick your value-additions. A planned answer beats a faster unplanned one every time.

STEP	YOUR PLAN
Directive verb What is it really asking?	
Introduction angle Definition / data / context	
Dimension 1	
Dimension 2	
Dimension 3 / counter-view	
Value-add Diagram · committee · Article · data	
Conclusion hook Way forward / SDG / value	

Directive quick-decode: Discuss = sides + balance · Examine = probe components · Critically = add a verdict · Evaluate/Assess = judge worth · To what extent = measure degree · Comment = reasoned opinion. (Full set on the Directive Decoder poster.)