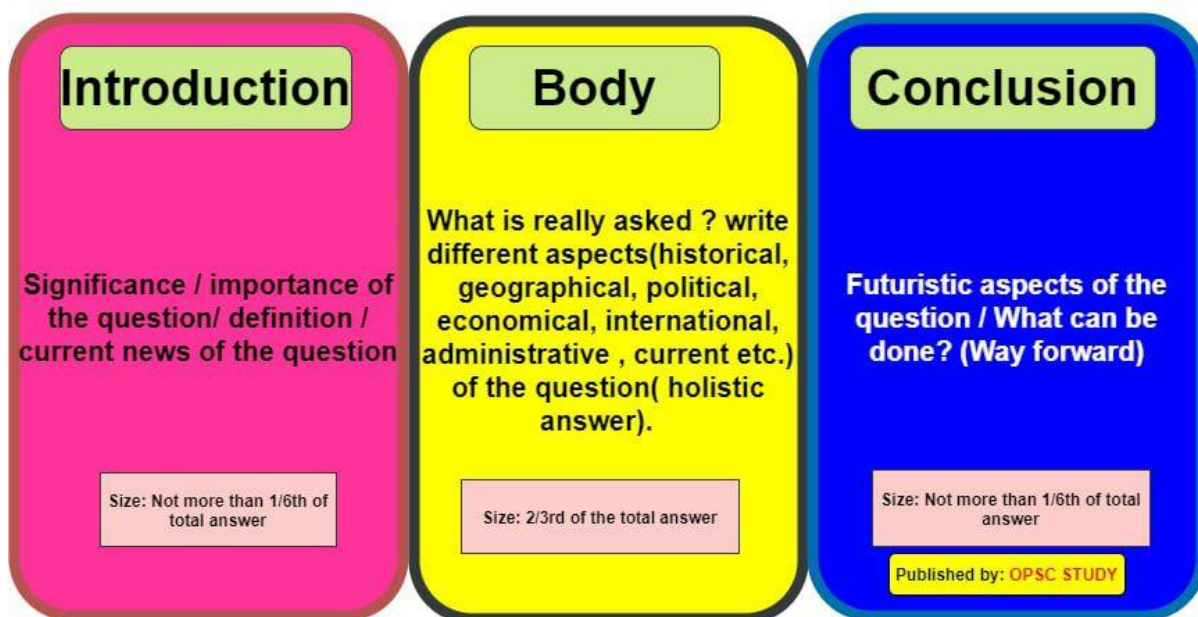


How to write an answer in Civil Service Mains Examination ?



UPSC/ OPSC mains various keywords and explanation

Descriptive Directives

1. Define:

- Meaning: Provide the precise meaning of a term or concept.
- Example: Define 'democracy'.
- Approach: Give a clear and concise definition, and if applicable, mention different perspectives or interpretations.

2. Describe:

- Meaning: Provide a detailed account of a topic.
- Example: Describe the features of the Indian monsoon.
- Approach: List the main characteristics and provide thorough insight into the topic.

3. Elaborate:

- Meaning: Provide detailed information on a topic or argument.
- Example: Elaborate on the role of the judiciary in India.
- Approach: Discuss in detail with examples and arguments.

4. Explain:

- Meaning: Clarify a topic by providing detailed information.
- Example: Explain the concept of sustainable development.
- Approach: Provide as much detail as possible and define any key terms.

Analytical Directives

5. Analyse:

- Meaning: Break down an issue into its component parts and explain how they relate to one another.
- Example: Analyse the impact of globalization on Indian agriculture.
- Approach: Discuss the components, their relationships, and their overall impact.

6. Examine:

- Meaning: Give a detailed account, questioning and exploring the relevant issues.
- Example: Examine the causes of urbanization in India.
- Approach: Provide a thorough analysis, including both positive and negative aspects.

7. Evaluate:

- Meaning: Weigh the importance, success, or value of something with evidence to support your view.
- Example: Evaluate the effectiveness of the Right to Information Act.
- Approach: Discuss the strengths and weaknesses, and provide a balanced judgment.

8. Critically Analyse:

- Meaning: Provide a detailed analysis, including both positive and negative aspects, and offer a balanced judgment.
- Example: Critically analyse the impact of digitalization on employment.
- Approach: Discuss the pros and cons, and provide a well-rounded evaluation.

Comparative Directives

9. Compare:

- Meaning: Examine the similarities and differences between two or more items.

- Example: Compare the parliamentary and presidential forms of government.
- Approach: Highlight both similarities and differences.

10. Contrast:

- Meaning: Concentrate on the differences between two or more items.
- Example: Contrast the economic policies of India and China.
- Approach: Focus on the differences and provide a detailed comparison.

Opinion-Based Directives

11. Comment:

- Meaning: Give your opinion or interpretation of a topic.
- Example: Comment on the role of the media in a democracy.
- Approach: Provide your perspective, supported by evidence and examples.

12. Justify:

- Meaning: Make a case for a particular perspective or action.
- Example: Justify the need for environmental conservation.
- Approach: Provide logical reasoning and evidence to support your argument.