

# Directives in UPSC Mains Answer Writing

## Understanding Directives in UPSC Mains Answer Writing

Before diving into the practice of answer writing for UPSC Mains, it is crucial to grasp the **Directives** that are frequently used in the questions. These directives guide how to approach the question and structure the answer. Knowing the nuances of these words can help frame answers precisely, addressing the demand of the question, and avoiding unnecessary deviations.

## Common Directives Used in UPSC Mains

### 1. **Critically Examine**

- This directive asks you to delve deeper into the topic, presenting both the strengths and weaknesses. Here, you are required to evaluate the subject and make a balanced judgment by offering pros and cons.

### 2. **Discuss**

- In this case, you need to present a thorough analysis, giving arguments on both sides or covering all aspects of the issue. You are expected to weigh different viewpoints and provide a balanced account.

### 3. **Analyze**

- This directive requires a detailed breakdown of the subject into its various parts. You need to explain how different elements relate to one another and assess their significance.

### 4. **Evaluate**

- Evaluate asks for an assessment of the value, impact, or importance of something. You need to offer a judgment backed by evidence or data and consider multiple perspectives before reaching a conclusion.

### 5. **Elucidate**

- This is used when you are required to explain or clarify something in detail. The aim is to make the concept clear, focusing on the 'what' and 'how' aspects.

### 6. **Comment**

- Here, you need to give your opinion on a topic based on a thorough understanding. The answer should reflect your viewpoint and you should substantiate it with relevant arguments or facts.

### 7. **Examine**

- This requires you to investigate the topic critically, discussing various aspects of the issue in detail. The focus should be on uncovering the "how" and "why" of the issue.

### 8. **Illustrate**

- You are expected to explain the concept using examples, case studies, or facts. The focus should be on making the concept more tangible and understandable through illustration.

## 9. Compare and Contrast

- This directive requires you to bring out the similarities and differences between two or more subjects. You should present a comparative analysis rather than simply listing similarities or differences.

## 10. Justify

- You are required to provide strong arguments or reasons to support a particular stance or viewpoint. The answer should be convincing, and evidence-based.

## 11. Differentiate

- You are required to highlight the distinctions between two or more concepts, ideas, or phenomena.

## 12. Enumerate

- This directive asks for a listing of facts or aspects. You are expected to provide a simple and concise list without much elaboration.

## 13. Outline

- Here, you are expected to give a brief description or summary, touching upon the main points without going into detail.

## 14. Summarize

- This directive requires you to condense the information, focusing on the essential points and leaving out any unnecessary details.

## Importance of Directives in Answer Writing

Understanding directives is fundamental for:

- **Tailoring your answer** to meet the specific demand of the question.
- **Saving time** by sticking to the relevant approach instead of discussing unnecessary details.
- **Presenting a balanced perspective** when required, enhancing the quality of your answers.