

ADCPS PhD Entrance Examination (2022)

There are two parts to the Entrance Examination for all Applicants to the PhD Programme (2022) at the Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), IIT Bombay:

1. Essay Examination (50%) [April 26-27, 2022]
2. Online Interview of selected candidates after assessing essay (50%) [May 18-19, 2022]

The Essay is a crucial input for evaluating eligibility for admissions to the 2022 PhD Public Policy offered by the Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay.

Response to be sent to: office.cps@iitb.ac.in

Subject Heading: Essay for PhD Admission 2022

Deadline: April 27 (7:00 pm) for submission (LATE entries will NOT be accepted). Please do not wait until the very last minute to submit. We are not responsible for computing or power related problems at your end.

IMP: Please clearly write your **Name**, your **PhD Application Number** (PW _____), the actual **Word Count** and the **Question Number** that you attempted (**Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5**) at the very top of the Essay.

General Instructions for Essay Style (please pay very close attention):

Structure (need to adhere):

- Give an informative but specific **Title**.
- **Abstract** (as separate from Introduction) must clearly state your position and summarize your arguments (100-150 words). The main body of the essay must be composed of: **Introduction - Main Body - Conclusion – References**.
- Please use **Headings and Subheadings**.
- In the Main Body, you **MUST ALSO** accurately summarize the strengths of the **opposing point(s)** of view (avoid creating straw men). Then argue why your position stands **in spite of** this counterargument.
- Use only evidence from **credible sources** in support of your position.
- Use the **final paragraph** to summarize your paper.

Style guide (need to adhere):

- **Font:** Times New Roman (12pt). *Paragraph:* Double Spaced.
- TYPE in simple English, using first-person pronouns. Send as a **WORD file (NO PDF files)**.
- Use short sentences and **focused paragraphs**.
- You are writing for a **general audience** that is informed and intelligent.
- Strictly, strictly, strictly, do **not plagiarize**. A plagiarism check **WILL BE** conducted at our end. **Plagiarism is a clear and sufficient ground for disqualification**.
(<https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/judicial-board/academic-honesty-and-plagiarism/common-types-of-plagiarism.html>).
- Please run a thorough **Spelling and Grammar** check.
- Edit the paper thoroughly for **Readability**.

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ADCPS PHD ENTRANCE ESSAY TEST (2022)

Please select and answer **ONLY ONE** from the 5 questions below. Select essays from **the same research area** to which you have submitted your research proposal along with your PhD application. Clearly indicate the **Question number** at the very top of your submission.

1. Digital Societies

The use of digital platforms in our everyday lives have become ubiquitous. Write an essay that examines such presence. It must address at least the following two aspects:

(a) What are the specific mechanisms through which digital platforms penetrate everyday societal functioning?

(b) What policy measures, by specific public authorities, can be taken to better regulate such mechanisms?

Please ensure that every argument that you make is supported by examples and/or evidence.

2. Structural Inequalities

Widening inequalities create barriers of access for underprivileged groups to a better life. Write an essay that describes these barriers; it must address at least these two aspects:

(a) What are the mechanisms by which inequalities are being widened?

(b) What policy measures, by specific public authorities, can be taken to disrupt the identified mechanisms?

Please ensure that every argument that you make is supported by examples and/or evidence.

3. Technology and Society

Technology is increasingly acquiring a more decisive role in everyday democratic governance. Write an essay that explains the underlying concerns; it must address at least the following two aspects:

(a) What are the mechanisms by which Technology is influencing democratic institutions?

(b) What policy measures, by specific public authorities, can be taken to prevent the potential misuses of Technology?

Please ensure that every argument that you make is supported by examples and/or evidence.

4. Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources

Equitable access to environmental resources and services (for instance, water and sanitation) is one of the main concerns in both rural and urban areas. Write an essay that explains the reasons; it must address at least the following three aspects:

(a) What are the mechanisms which cause inequity in access to such resources (Focus on EITHER safe water OR sanitation)?

(b) What are the existing policy/governance mechanisms and schemes that determine this?

(c) What policy measures, by specific public authorities, can be taken to ensure equity in access?

Please ensure that every argument that you make is supported by examples and/or evidence.

5. Markets and Governance Processes

Increasingly, the corporate sector is being given a prominent role in provision of public goods? Write an essay that explains the implications when market replaces the state; it must address at least the following two aspects:

(a) What are the mechanisms through which private philanthropies are displacing the state in the provision of public goods?

(b) What policy measures, by specific public authorities, can be taken to ensure that profit motives do not displace public welfare?.

Please ensure that every argument that you make is supported by examples and/or evidence.