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## **JUDGEMENT WRITING FORMAT FOR JUDICIARY MAINS EXAM -M2025-26**

The judgement writing format is the stepping stone of judgement writing. An appropriate judgment writing format is the low-hanging fruit that can fetch you real quick marks for sure.

**Introduction:** This should ideally be a 4-5 line paragraph highlighting the introduction to the case mentioned in the question. A criminal case would be brief about the subject of prosecution. Under a civil case, it will briefly lay down the plaintiff's claim.

**Facts Admitted:** You need to mention all the undisputed facts and established in the case to clarify the lack of necessity. This lets you look for the proof from the party which bears the burden to prove the same.

Candidates must have seen that judgments begin with admitted facts. So, the first thing that needs to be done before you directly start writing is to highlight the facts involved in the issue. Write 2-3 paras depending upon the problem. After mentioning the facts, briefly mention the dispute in case of civil judgment or charges for a criminal matter.

**Framing of Charges/ Framing of Issues:** Now it is time to discuss the issues involved. Here the presence of mind of the candidate is needed because wrong identification of issues can go negatively for you. Use your logic and identify the law applicable to frame charges and issues carefully. In case you can't decide, take some more time and re-read your given facts again.

In a criminal case, framing charges is an important responsibility bestowed upon a magistrate, whereas in a civil case, its place is taken by the framing of issues. While charges are framed in connection with the offence alleged to be

committed, issues are framed in a civil dispute connected with the conflict between the parties therein.

***Appreciation of Evidence:*** At this stage, all the evidence given in the question is measured up, implying that you have to analyse and specify if facts that were attempted to be proved by the presented evidence have been sufficiently established or not. In addition, you also have to evaluate whether a particular piece of evidence is accepted or not.

***Marshaling of Evidence:*** This stage is usually confused with an appreciation of evidence, but once all the evidence is appreciated (i.e., which evidence is accepted and which is not), all evidence that substantiates a particular fact is put together. For example, in a criminal case of affray, proof of all eyewitnesses about the incident has to be clubbed together so that the facts that all such witnesses commonly establish can be considered sufficiently proved.

***Ratio Decidendi :*** The most crucial step while writing a judgment is reasoning. How and why you reached a conclusion is important. Merely saying because you think so is not good enough.

The reasoning provided by the candidate should be logical and supported by Supreme Court and High Court precedents. The application of mind should be the utmost priority of the candidate.

***Findings/Decision:*** This is the last heading of the answer on Judgement Writing. Here, you have to briefly summarise all your findings in the case and mention the decision. Under civil cases, while this decision (operative part of the judgement) is whether the plaintiff's suit is decreed or not. In criminal cases, such a decision is either of conviction or acquittal of the accused and also stretches to the question about the quantum of sentence decided by the court for the charged in the event of a sentence. Candidate, please note that a well-applied judgment will definitely fetch you high marks.

## **General Tips**

- The first and foremost requirement is to have in-depth knowledge of all substantive and procedural laws, such as the Civil Procedure Code, Contract Act, Specific relief act, TP act etc., from Civil Law and BNSS, BNS for Criminal Law.
- Thorough knowledge of the **BSA** is another important thing that can help you write an impressive judgement and fetch good marks.
- Judgment Writing for Judicial Services is like a **Mathematics problem** that involves step marking. Hence, sticking to a proper judgement writing format of a court's judgement and attempting each stage of the judgement will exponentially increase your marks.
- Avoid the temptation to use technical Legal Jargon or vocabulary. Use simple language that anyone can understand.
- Practice previous year's judgement writing questions for Judiciary exams in the same format.
- While attempting the judgement, diligently read all the facts given in the question and mark the critical points to ensure that you do not miss out on them.
- Prepare a rough format of judgement writing by taking a minute not to skip any vital piece of information.
- Make sure to keep in mind essential aspects that are different in a civil law judgement and a criminal law judgement.
- Be crisp and write what is necessary. Avoid repetition, and do not worry about the length of the answer, as you will get marks if you have mentioned all the relevant points.
- **Contrary to popular belief**, the final decision in given facts (for example, acquittal or conviction in a criminal case) is not the most significant part of the Mains answer in the judiciary exams.

- Your judgement will fetch marks if you have mentioned all the relevant points, discussed all critical issues, and given logical and sound reasoning for your decision.

