

The quit-decision checklist.

Two tests decide this. Fill them in with a pen, honestly. Either answer is a serious aspirant's answer.

THE DEFAULT

Keep the job, at least for now.

Quitting feels like commitment, but it tends to add pressure rather than remove it, and an open day rarely produces more study than one protected block, defended because it is scarce. Only the two tests below overturn this default.

TEST 01 · EVIDENCE, NOT HOPE

The final push after a near-miss

- I reached Mains or Interview **alongside this job**.
- STAGE REACHED _____
- The gap I am quitting to close is **known and specific** — answer speed, an optional, one paper. Not "more time in general".
- THE GAP _____
- The push is **bounded**. It has an end date, written before I resign.
- END DATE _____
- Savings cover the whole push **without panic**.
- MONTHS COVERED _____

All four boxes ticked: this is a strategic move, with **nothing to apologise for**.

TEST 02 · THE JOB, NOT THE DISCIPLINE

Structurally hostile hours

- My hours **structurally prevent** any consistent block: rotating night shifts, 70-hour weeks, no predictable routine.
- WHAT MINE LOOK LIKE _____
- I have **honestly tried for three months** to build a daily block (the protocol below).
- FROM _____ TO _____
- The job **prevents** the block. It does not merely tire me; a tiring job is a different case.
- I have considered **moving to a less demanding role** instead of resigning outright.

All four boxes ticked: changing the job is a legitimate move, and **no failure of discipline**.

NOT ON THIS LIST "I want to feel fully committed." Commitment is measured in hours kept, not in bridges burned. The exam can only see the hours — and those can be kept either way.

BEFORE YOU DECIDE · THE THREE-MONTH EVIDENCE PROTOCOL

One fixed daily block. Judged on one thing only: did it happen?

How each day felt is noise; count the blocks, nothing else. On the worst days the minimum viable day holds the thread: 45 minutes — 20 of revision, 15 of PYQs, 10 of current affairs. If the job will not allow even that, you have your evidence. Decide from it, not from frustration.

MY DAILY BLOCK, FROM _____ TO _____ STARTING _____

MONTH 1

BLOCKS KEPT / DAYS

MONTH 2

BLOCKS KEPT / DAYS

MONTH 3

BLOCKS KEPT / DAYS

IF THE JOB STAYS

What it quietly gives you

- Income** good resources, a test series, and another cycle if ever needed, without a family negotiation.
- Structure** the day has a skeleton; study blocks are defended because they are scarce.
- Interview material** the Interview is built around your DAF, and your job sits in the middle of it.
- Lower desperation** a fallback lets you take intelligent risks and be honest on paper.

EITHER WAY

What the road honestly costs

- Weekends** most belong to the syllabus. Protect one evening fully off, every week; it is load-bearing.
- The explaining** tell the people close to you the plan, early. They deserve the plan, not just the absence.
- A slower pace** ten months where a full-timer takes six. Revision depth beats first-reading speed.
- Fatigue** hardest subject in the morning block; nights are for light revision. Sleep guarded like an exam date.

Whatever you tick, nothing restarts from zero. Coverage, notes, a trained writing hand, sharp PYQ instincts — **all of it walks with you**. No honest telling of that story calls it a waste.