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UPSC

Civil Services Examination



MAINS SOLVED PAPERS

Highlights

- ◆ Questions identified with specific topics of the syllabus
- ◆ Detailed and comprehensive model answers
- ◆ Relevant concepts and current examples included in the answers
- ◆ Includes an *Art of Answer Writing*

UPSC CSE PREVIOUS EIGHT YEARS MAINS SOLVED PAPERS (2013-2020)



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Art of Answer Writing

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ART OF ANSWER WRITING

The main examination is intended to assess the overall intellectual traits and depth of understanding of candidates rather than merely the range of their information and memory. So, scoring well in the Civil Services Main Exam is crucial to finally get into the services of one's choice. Thus, one has to master the technique of writing a perfect answer to fetch good marks. A good answer is generally divided into the introduction, body and conclusion.

Introduction

- It is the precursor to the actual content of the answer.
- As it is said, "first impression is the last impression", writing an impressive introduction is the first opportunity to impress an examiner.
- There may be various ways to write an introduction, such as:
 - Relating the answer to a recent happening or event of significance;
 - Writing a precise sentence of what will follow in detail in the answer;
 - Defining the most important concept in the question asked.

Body

- It is the actual content of the answer.
- It should contain all the dimensions/perspectives related to the questions asked. The more the dimensions one includes in an answer, the more chances are there to get good marks.
- It should contain all the relevant concepts, facts and figures.
- One should try to address the positive as well as negative aspects of the initiatives/issues mentioned in the question.
- One's content of the answer should be according to the demand of the question, which is explicitly conveyed by the use of directive words in the question, such as *discuss, analyse, comment, explain, etc.*

Conclusion

- It is again an important component of the answer. It leaves the final impression in the mind of the examiner.
- One should be optimistic and forward-looking in the conclusion but at the same time, be realistic too.
- Conclusion may vary as per the demand of the answer but some of the ways to conclude an answer are:
 - Taking a balanced view weighing the pros and cons of the steps/initiatives;
 - Providing the suggestions/solutions to improve the situation/problem;
 - Relating the main content of the answer to the present situations;
 - Summarising in few words what you have already stated.

Five Steps to Write a Good Answer

- **Step 1:** One should understand the question in its entirety. To get a comprehensive understanding of the question, underline the keywords and read the question at least two times.
- **Step 2:** Brainstorm for a minute or two on the main theme of the question. Without knowledge or clear understanding of the main theme you will not be able to frame a good answer.
- **Step 3:** Organise your answer into headings and sub-headings in advance.
- **Step 4:** Write the answer keeping in mind the essential points under the introduction, body and conclusion.
- **Step 5:** Revise your answer and have a final check for the spelling and grammatical errors. Also underline the essential arguments/keywords of the answer to attract the attention of the examiner.



General Studies – I

SYLLABUS

General Studies-I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

- ❖ Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- ❖ Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present significant events, personalities, issues.
- ❖ The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- ❖ Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- ❖ History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc. – their forms and effect on the society.
- ❖ Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- ❖ Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- ❖ Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- ❖ Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- ❖ Salient features of world's physical geography.
- ❖ Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- ❖ Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Questions 1: The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. **(150 words) [10]**

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Answer: Rock-cut architecture is the art of moulding a structure by chiselling it out of solid natural rock. Some conspicuous rock-cut structures of ancient India include Chaityas, Viharas, temples, etc.

Rock-cut architectures: Emblem of Indian art

- The Mesolithic period saw the first use and modifications. The overhanging rocks of natural caves were embellished with petroglyphs or rock-cut designs. Example: Bhimbetka.
- In the 3rd century BCE, rock-cut caves were constructed by the Mauryans for the Avijika and Jain ascetics in the Barabar and Nagarjuni hills of Bihar. The caves are known for the bow-shaped arches.
- The Gupta and Vakataka period (3rd century CE - 6th century CE) was perhaps the golden age for rock-cut architecture. During this period, the designs of rock-cut architectures became more elaborate and aesthetics more pronounced. A profuse variety of decorative sculpture, intricately carved columns and carved reliefs mark the rock-cut architecture of the period. Example: Ajanta Caves.
- The Pallava architects started the carving of rock for the creation of monolithic copies of structural temples. Example: Panch Ratha of Mamallapuram, the five structures shaped as rathas or chariots chiselled out of a large block of stone of granite dates back to the 7th century.
- The Kailash temple, constructed by Rashtrakutas at Ellora, provides a singular example, excavated from the top down rather than by the usual practice of carving into the scarp of a hillside.

Historical significance

- The rock-cut architectures are mostly religious but also reflect an important connection between religion, commerce, and society. The stories represented on the cave walls or through sculptures are valuable sources of historical information.
- Buddhist monks created their cave hermitages near trade routes. The Buddhist missionaries employed the caves as shrines and shelters conforming to the religious concepts of asceticism. Traders often travelled the trade routes in the company of the Buddhist missionaries.
- The architecture also reflects the changing realities of the subcontinent. The themes of rock-cut architectures changed as Buddhism weakened in the face of a renewed Hinduism during the 6th-8th century CE.
- The Buddhist stories were replaced by Hindu Gods and mythologies. Many cave temples, developed under the patronisation of southern Indian Hindu kings were dedicated to Hindu gods and goddesses.

Rock-cut architectures occupy a very important place in Indian history. Their significance has been rightly underlined as many rock-cut structures have been incorporated in the UNESCO world heritage list. Example: Ajanta caves, Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, etc.

Question 2: Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate.

(150 words) [10]

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Answer: The Pala dynasty, founded by Gopala, ruled the regions of Bengal and Bihar from the 8th century until the end of the 11th century. The Pala kings were Buddhists and adopted initiative and policies which helped in the enrichment of Buddhism.

- **Religious tolerance:** Most of the subjects of the Palas were Hindus but they followed an approach of religious tolerance. This allowed for a peaceful exchange of ideas between the faiths and was a major factor why Hindu Tantrism made its way into Buddhism, giving rise to the Vajrayana philosophy.
- **Architecture:** Various mahaviharas, Stupas, chaityas, temples and forts were constructed by the Palas. Built by Dharmapala, Somapura mahavihara at Paharpur is one of the largest Buddhist viharas in the Indian subcontinent.
- **Sculpture:** During this period, most of the sculptures of stones and bronze drew their inspiration from Buddhism. The finest sculptures include two standing Avalokiteshwara images from Nalanda; Buddha seated in Bhumisparsha Mudra and images of Avalokiteshwara seated in Ardhaparyanka. Crowned Buddhas, instead of the earlier bare-headed ascetic figures, also began to appear in Pala times.
- **Paintings:** The Mahayana cult of Buddhism had developed its Tantrayana-Vajrayana aspects. The Pala miniatures are in a sense visual expression of these cults. Example: Miniatures on text Astasahasrika-prajnaparamita.
- **Universities:** During the Pala period, universities became the centre of Buddhist studies. The Palas founded and funded universities like Vikramshila and Odantipur to promote Buddhism, in and outside India. Scholars from all over the world came to these universities to learn the tenets of Buddhism. Many Buddhist teachers from the Pala kingdom travelled to Southeast Asia to spread the faith. For example, Atisha preached in Sumatra.
- **Foreign policy:** The Palas forged relationships with different cultures to promote new trade routes. The empire enjoyed good connections with Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Devapala even granted five villages at the request of the Shailendra king of Java for the upkeep of the matha established at Nalanda for the scholars of that country.

The Pala dynasty created the environment to thrive and discuss Buddhist philosophies without prejudice. But, importantly, it also facilitated the spread of these ideas around the world, leaving a legacy that is still visible today.

Question 3: Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long term implications on the national movement. (150 words) [10]

Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present significant events, personalities, issues.

Answer: When Lord Curzon became the Viceroy of India in 1899, the national movement was still in its infancy. The Indian National Congress has been established in 1885 and was dominated by the moderates who believed in pleading and petitioning to have their demands met.

Policies adopted by Lord Curzon

- **Imperialism:** Curzon was a true imperialist and deeply racist, and convinced of Britain's "civilising mission". He was intolerant of Indian political aspirations and his ambition was to strangulate the national movement. He had famously said, "Congress is tottering to its fall, and one of my greatest ambitions while in India is to assist it to a peaceful demise."
- **Calcutta Corporation Act, 1899:** The Act reduced the number of the elected representative to the Calcutta Corporation. The aim was to deprive Indians of self-governance and serve the interests of the European business community who complained of delay in grants of licences.
- **University Act, 1904:** On the pretext to raise the standard of education all around, the Act reduced the number of elected senate members. A countrywide movement against this Act was launched.
- **Bengal Partition, 1905:** Bengal was divided, on the pretext of administrative convenience, in two separate provinces. Besides the ostensible reason, the real motive was to check the relentlessly rising nationalism among the Bengalis. Curzon wanted to create fission based on religious identity.

Implication of Curzon's policies

- The steps taken by Curzon to curb political aspirations created resentment and a confrontation with the educated middle-class nationalists ensued.
- The Swadeshi movement was started in Bengal in 1905 with an appeal to boycott British goods and promote swadeshi. It was probably the first wide-scale movement after the revolt of 1857. The future movements by Gandhiji, such as Non-Cooperation were considered to be based on Swadeshi movement.
- The movement had started on the conventional moderate lines but later it was taken over by the extremists and became a nation-wide anti-colonial movement. Leaders like Tilak, Bipin Pal, Aurobindo Ghose started to dominate the Congress.
- Later, numerous revolutionary organisations like Jugantar began to emerge. They actively engaged in anti-colonial activities and instilling nationalism among the youth.

The partition of Bengal and the high-handed behaviour of Curzon fired the national movement. His policies, contradictory to his beliefs, strengthened and extended the reach of nationalism. He also ended up extending the clout of extremists and revolutionaries who did not believe in pleading and petitioning.

Question 4: Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone.

(150 words) [10]

Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Answer: The Circum-Pacific Belt, also referred to as The Ring of Fire, is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

Basic characteristics

- **Location:** A nearly continuous chain of volcanoes surrounds the Pacific Ocean. The chain passes along the west coast of North and South America, from the Aleutian Islands to the south of Japan, from Indonesia to the Tonga Islands, and New Zealand.
- **Formation:** This Circum-Pacific chain of volcanoes and the mountain ranges associated with it owe their formation to the repeated subduction of the oceanic lithosphere beneath the continents and the islands that surround the Pacific Ocean. The Ring of Fire is the result of plate tectonics (Convergent, Divergent Plate Boundary, Transform Plate Boundary).
- **Formation of Hot Spots:** The Ring of Fire is also home to hot spots, areas deep within the Earth's mantle from which heat rises. This heat facilitates the melting of rock in the brittle, upper portion of the mantle. The melted rock, known as magma, often pushes through cracks in the crust to form volcanoes. The examples of volcanoes include Mount Fuji of Japan, Aleutian Islands of US, Krakatau Island of Indonesia, etc.
- **Harbors Majority of Volcano & Earthquakes:** 75% of Earth's volcanoes are located along the Ring of Fire. 90% of earthquakes occur along its path, including the planet's most violent and dramatic seismic events.

As the Circum-Pacific Belt harbors the majority of global Volcanic eruptions & Earthquakes, it holds immense significance regarding the study of the earth's interior.

Question 5: The process of desertification does not have climate boundaries. Justify with examples.

(150 words) [10]

Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.



General Studies – II

SYLLABUS

General Studies-II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

- ❖ Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- ❖ Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- ❖ Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- ❖ Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- ❖ Parliament and State legislatures – structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- ❖ Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- ❖ Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act.
- ❖ Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- ❖ Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- ❖ Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- ❖ Development processes and the development industry – the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- ❖ Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- ❖ Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- ❖ Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- ❖ Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance-applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- ❖ Role of civil services in a democracy.
- ❖ India and its neighborhood-relations.
- ❖ Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- ❖ Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.
- ❖ Important International institutions, agencies and fora – their structure, mandate.

Question 1: “There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act”. Comment. **(150 words) [10]**

Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act.

Answer: The Representation of the Peoples Act (RPA), 1951 deals with the conduct of elections to the parliament and state legislatures. It also covers the qualifications and disqualifications for the membership of these Houses, the corrupt practices and other election offences.

Section 123 of RPA, 1951 provides for disqualification on ground of corrupt practices like:

- Bribery i.e. any gift/offer/promise or gratification to any person as a motive or reward.
- Undue influence i.e. any direct or indirect interference on part of the candidate with the free exercise of any electoral right.
- Publication by a candidate any statement of fact which is false.
- Promotion of feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of citizens.
- The incurring of expenditure more than the stipulated limit.

Procedure of Disqualification under RPA

- The procedure of disqualification under the corrupt practices can be started only after the election is over and only in an election petition submitted in the State High Court in accordance with the provisions of Article 329 of the Constitution.
- Section 8 (3) of the Act states that if an MP or MLA is convicted for any other crime and is sent to jail for 2 years or more, he/she will be disqualified for 6 years from the time of release.
- Despite such an elaborate classification of corrupt practices that could potentially nullify the election of a candidate, electoral malpractice continues to flourish.

Reasons

- Many of the provisions are extremely difficult to enforce despite an assertive Election Commission.
- Electoral frauds such as booth capturing and casting of false votes have been drastically reduced, but vote-buying and unaccounted campaign expenditure continue unabated.
 - A study by the Centre for Media Studies found that over the last decade, at least one-fifth of India’s electorate was paid cash for their votes.
- Besides, the cap on campaign expenditure is often breached by candidates.
- The petitions are filed before the High Courts, which already have a large number of pending cases. The RPA has mandated that the petitions be disposed of within a period of six months, in reality, they drag on for years.
- The RPAs lack clear provisions and guidelines on the matters related to the misuse of official machinery that gives an unfair advantage to the ruling party.

Way forward

- The Law Commission has recommended changing the procedure for hearing election petitions. It said that special election benches should be constituted to dispose of election petitions quickly.
- It also recommended that the President of India should decide the period of disqualification of guilty candidates on the advice of the Election Commission.

Question 2: “Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have a profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission”. Discuss. **(150 words) [10]**

Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

Answer: The basic objective behind the Right to Information (RTI) Act was to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, contain corruption, and make our democracy work for the people in real sense.

The recent amendments to the RTI Act

- The Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 has changed the status, salary and tenure of the Central Information Commissioners (CICs) and State Information Commissioners (SICs).
- The original Act prescribed salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the state CIC as “the same as that of an Election Commissioner”, and the salaries and other terms of service of the State Information Commissioners as “the same as that of the Chief Secretary to the State Government”.
- The amendment says that these “shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government”. Thus, the Centre now has the powers to decide the salaries, term, and service conditions of CICs and SICs.

It has been argued that the amendments were necessary to correct certain anomalies. For example, the mandate of Election Commission of India and Central and State Information Commissions are non-identical, so should be their status and service conditions.

However, the amendments have the potential to impact the autonomy and independence of the Information Commissions.

- Independent structures set up to regulate and monitor the government are vital to a democratic state committed to delivering justice and constitutional guarantees.
- The amendment allows the interference of the executive in the functioning of information commissions which are quasi-judicial bodies. This may affect the doctrine of separation of powers, which underscores this independence and is vital to our democratic checks and balances.
- Apart from this, the amendment also affects the constitutional principles of federalism, as now the Central government can change terms of service of state information commission.
- The amendment has the potential to make access to information difficult. Easy and quick access to information is vital to ensure the accountability of the representatives and the state.

The 2nd ARC held that RTI is the master key to governance as it checks the misuse and arbitrariness of power and corrupt governance. Therefore, in the pursuit of good governance, the RTI Act requires strengthening of the provisions.

Question 3: How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer. **(150 words) [10]**

Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges. therein.

Answer: A federation is a political entity characterized by a union of partially self-governing states or regions united by a central government. Granville Austin describes the Indian federation as an example of cooperative federalism that produces a strong Central government but does not result in weak provincial governments. Such distinctive nature of federalism gives rise to cooperation, competition and sometimes confrontation among the federal units.

Collaboration

- It was seen during the GST reforms when each state agreed to leave some part of their share in the tax pool for the long-term goods.
- Collaboration was also evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when states and the Centre acted as one in the fight against the virus.

Competition

- With the Liberalisation Reforms of 1991, there has been a competition among the states to attract foreign investment and industries.
- Planning Commission was replaced by NITI Aayog to promote competition among states and promote the spirit of cooperative federalism. The NITI Aayog publishes rankings of different states in accordance with Ease of Doing Business and this has led to several states and districts doing reforms at the ground level.
- The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) started by the NITI Aayog aims to identify 115 laggard districts in terms of socio-economic outcomes and institute a programme with convergence, collaboration and competition as the core tenets.

Confrontation

- From 1967 to 1990, India had witnessed confrontational federalism due to the emergence of regional parties. The confrontation between States and the Union was due to the role of the governor and the use of Article 356.
- Politically, the rise of coalition politics increased the role of states at national level. This can be seen in the role of West Bengal in River Sharing Agreement with Bangladesh and of Tamil Nadu during India's role in conflict with LTTE in Sri Lanka.

This collaboration, competition and confrontation has shaped the Indian federation. It is visible in following ways:

- The diverse regional aspirations have managed to constantly assert themselves, resulting in the decentralisation of governance in India and the institutionalisation of the Local Self-government under the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts.
- The passing of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is another such example. By implementing GST the Centre and States have become equal fiscal partners in sharing a common indirect tax base.
- The Union government accepted the 14th Finance Commission recommendation to give the States 42% share of the funds from the central pool.

Cooperative and competitive federalism are complementary ideas that will drive India's growth story in the coming decades. However, it is necessary to avoid confrontations among the units of federalism. Inter-state Council can play an enabling role in bringing the Centre and the States together on contentious policy issues.

Question 4: The judicial systems in India and the UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices. **(150 words) [10]**

Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.

Answer: Both India and the United Kingdom are democratic countries with parliamentary form of government. Besides, there are differences as well as similarities on how the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary of these countries function.



General Studies – III

SYLLABUS

General Studies-III

Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- ❖ Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- ❖ Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- ❖ Government Budgeting.
- ❖ Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- ❖ Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System-objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- ❖ Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- ❖ Land reforms in India.
- ❖ Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- ❖ Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- ❖ Investment models.
- ❖ Science and Technology – developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- ❖ Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- ❖ Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- ❖ Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- ❖ Disaster and disaster management.
- ❖ Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- ❖ Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- ❖ Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.
- ❖ Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- ❖ Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

Question 1: Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development. **(150 words) [10]**

Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

Answer: Inter-generational (between the present and future people) and intra-generational (between the rich and the poor of the present generation) equity are two hands of the doctrine of sustainable equity.

Inter-generational equity and issues

- Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed”. One of the primary objectives of inter-generational equity is the sustainable use of resources by one generation to enhance economic sustainability for the future generation.
- Inter-generational equity has become crucial in the present times, due to the growing imbalance in the distribution of resources, ongoing degradation of environment and overexploitation of resources.
- This imbalance is more profound between the developed and developing nations or between the Global North and the Global South. Moreover, the developed countries are today unwilling to help developing countries adapt and mitigate climate change impacts.

Intra-generational equity and issues

- Progress of a society should be determined by the state of the most vulnerable and the weakest ones: Mahatma Gandhi
- The concept of intra-generational equity provides rights and duties to every person of a single generation to use and take care of the resources justifiably so that benefits are reaped by every section of society.
- In order to promote intra-generational equity, the concept of social justice is propagated. Welfare schemes like subsidies, reservations, etc. are provided by the governments to help the vulnerable section of society but these are often marred in corruption and inefficient implementation.
- The doctrine of free market demands rollback of state and projects the market as the solution of every problem. However, the pro-market reforms of 1991 have failed to have the trickle-down effect.

The concept of inclusive growth and sustainable development are the key pillars of the global welfare narrative, which can be prompted by ensuring intra-generational and inter-generational equity.

Question 2: Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP? **(150 words) [10]**

Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Answer: Potential GDP is one of the theoretical aspects of national income accounting which assumes that an economy has achieved full employment and that aggregate demand does not exceed aggregate supply. Like other national income accounting methods, potential GDP also represents the market value of all goods and services but rather than capturing the current objective state of a nation’s economic activity, it attempts to estimate the highest level of output an economy can sustain over a period.

Determinants of Potential GDP

- **Capital Stock:** In an economy, capital stock is the plant, equipment, and other assets that help with production. The availability of capital stock determines the extent of economic output and potential GDP.
- **Labor Force:** At any given moment in time, the quantities of capital, land, etc., are typically fixed, but the quantity of labor employed varies. Therefore, in the short-run, Potential GDP depends on the quantity of labor employed, which depends on demographic factors and on participation rates.

- **Non-accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment:** It is the specific unemployment rate at which the rate of inflation stabilizes – inflation will neither increase nor decrease.
- Other determinants of Potential GDP are the level of labor efficiency, labor market efficiency, production capacity, sufficient liquidity, government fiscal support, etc.

Factors Inhibiting India from Realizing its Potential GDP

- **Negative Output Gap:** A negative output gap occurs when actual output is less than what an economy could produce at full capacity. A negative gap means that there is spare capacity, or slack, in the economy due to weak demand.
- **Fall in Private Consumption:** Private consumption is the prime component of India's GDP as it contributes a significant share to GDP (More than 55%). Indian economy experienced a sharp decline in private consumption expenditure in the past few quarters. Such decline in private consumption de-incentivizes firms in producing more goods, thereby the economy is left with unutilized resources and labor force.
- **Mounting NPAs of Banks:** The Indian banking system is under the huge burden of NPAs (Non-Performing Assets), which has tremendously reduced banks' lending capacity. This has severely affected businesses, production houses and particularly the real estate segment. Such liquidity shortages reduce the productive capacity of the economy.
- **Unemployment:** Huge unemployment in India is also one of the major factors that inhibits India from realizing its Potential GDP.
- **Informal Economic Activities:** Most of the economic activities in India are informal or unorganized and the size of such unorganized sectors is considerably huge but not accounted for in GDP. Therefore, the value of such an economy is not recorded in the national account book and remained unreleased.
- **Other Factors:** Weak intellectual property rights, low expenditure on R&D, contract enforcement issues, etc.

Way Forward

- Need to work more on the policy levels to generate employment, efficient and cost-effective resource mobilization, to promote export and innovation and to enhance the scope of Make in India Programme.
- Better wages must be ensured so as to increase private consumption expenditure.
- The negative output gap in GDP needs to be managed and compensated through various fiscal and monetary policy measures keeping inflation in check.
- The government needs to bring policies that catalyse rural economic growth.

Question 3: What are the main constraints in transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India?

(150 words) [10]

Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

Answer: Agriculture contributes about 17% to India's GDP and it is the primary source of livelihood for more than 55% of India's population. Indian farmers today can sell their produce at the local market, APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) mandis or to the government at the minimum support price (MSP). But still those traditional mechanisms are not improving the farmers' income. So as to double farmers income and to provide sustainable livelihood, effective transportation and marketing of agricultural produce is crucial.

Constraints in Transport

- Poor rural connectivity to markets.
- Poor supply chain development.

- Lack in warehousing and cold storage facilities especially in the rural areas where agricultural commodities are being produced.
- Poor vehicle design or non-availability of cold chain vehicles that transport perishable agricultural produce.

Constraints in Marketing

- High logistical cost.
- Lack of formal agricultural market.
- Lack of packaging, grading and measurement facility.
- Stringent commodity transfer control at the state level
- Lack of national market development
- Lack of technology integration in the market mechanism
- Low marketable surplus for agricultural goods.
- Malpractices in the market and lack of market information.

The problem for transport and marketing of agricultural produce do not only result in wastage of product and loss of efficiency but also have a very large impact on equitable distribution and inclusive growth by depriving by reducing the returns for smaller farmers.

Question 4: What are the challenges and opportunities of the food processing sector in the country? How can the income of the farmers be substantially increased by encouraging food processing? **(150 words) [10]**

Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.

Answer: Food processing generally includes the basic preparation of foods, the alteration of a food product into another form, and preservation and packaging techniques. For example, extraction of mango juice from the pulp.

Challenges Faced by Food Processing Industry In India

- **Supply Side Bottlenecks:** Fragmented land holdings result in low farm productivity. Due to this, farmers are left with a small and dispersed marketable surplus.
- **Demand Side Bottlenecks:** The demand for processed food is mainly restricted to urban areas of India and the middle and higher class of population.
- **Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** Lack of mechanization and proper supply chain results in poor access to market. High seasonality and perishability requires cold storage & warehousing facilities and road, rail & port connectivity.
- **Manpower:** There is a shortage of skilled workers. At each level in the value chain, there are strong deficiencies in technical know-how and support.
- **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measure:** The stringent SPS measures applied by developed countries also impedes the exports of processed foods.

Opportunities Associated with Food Processing Industries

- **Employment Generation:** FPI provides vital linkage between the two pillars of the economy – agriculture and industry. Therefore, it provides direct and indirect employment opportunities.
- **Nutritional Security:** Processed foods when fortified with vitamins and minerals can reduce the nutritional gap in the population.
- **Trade and Foreign exchange:** Food export can be an important source of foreign exchange, given the huge demand for nutritious, easy to eat and time-saving food in the evolving busy lifestyle.



General Studies – IV

SYLLABUS

General Studies-IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

This paper will include questions to test the candidates' attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects. The following broad areas will be covered :

- ❖ Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics – in private and public relationships.
- ❖ Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- ❖ Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- ❖ Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
- ❖ Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- ❖ Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
- ❖ Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
- ❖ Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
- ❖ Case Studies on above issues.

SECTION – A

Question 1: (a) Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies), and social harmony. **(150 words) [10]**

✍️ Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships.

Answer: Comprehensive National Power (CNP) is the comprehensive capability of a country to pursue its strategic objectives by taking the necessary actions internationally. It can also be defined as the degree of ability to mobilize and utilize strategic resources of a country to realize national objectives.

Role of ethics and values in enhancing human capital

- Ethics is all about the choices that an individual makes. People always face many dilemmas and choices that affect the quality of their lives.
- Ethics and values make an individual aware that their choices have consequences, both for themselves and others.
- Thus, ethics and values build credibility, improve decision making, and provide long term gains.

Role of ethics and values in enhancing social harmony

- Ethics and values are about character; the sum of qualities that defines a person. The same principle applies to society.
- Ethics and values develop norms of behaviour that everyone should follow in society. If every person acts with a selfish motive, society might fall into chaos and anarchy.
- There is nothing wrong with pursuing one's interests. However, an ethical person must be willing – at least sometimes – to place collective interests ahead of self-interest.

Role of ethics and values in enhancing soft power

- International relations are largely driven by the ideology of realism, which propagates national interest precedes global interest.
- However, pursuance of national interest must not always be fulfilled with hard power (military power, economic power). The soft power (a country's image due to its culture and values) also secures national interest without compromising others' interest.
- In this regard, ethics and the country's ancient values (for example, the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in India) revive national pride and project a country's rightful image.

Each country wants to have a respectful place in the global community. CNP is about pursuing it with the right course and action. Each citizen is a nation-builder, and their ethical righteousness help a country achieve wider acceptability.

Question 1: (b) “Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all-round development of an individual and social transformation”. Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement. **(150 words) [10]**

✍️ Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

Answer: Education is an important aspect that plays a huge role in the modern, industrialized world. People need good education to be able to survive in this competitive world.

- **Critical Thinking:** Education encourages critical thinking among individuals. It helps in decision making, planning, and execution. It expands an individual’s vision to see the world.
- **Skill Enhancement:** Innovation and creativity can only occur when people are skilled enough to know how to operate with different technologies.
- **Personal Growth:** A person with good education is imparted with tools to deal with the problems of life. Education transforms personality of an individual and improves his/her confidence level.
- **Social Growth:** An educated person is more likely to develop better moral and ethical values as compared to an uneducated person. Lack of education often creates problems like superstition, domestic violence, poor health, and poor living standards.

NEP’s Vision of Individual and Social Transformation

- **Recognizing the Importance of Formative years:** In adopting a 5+3+3+4 model for school education, the policy acknowledges the formative years’ primacy from ages 3 to 8 in shaping the child’s future.
- **Encouraging Vulnerable Sections of Society:** The vocational courses with an internship may encourage the vulnerable sections of society to send their children to school.
- **Making Education More Inclusive:** The NEP proposes extending the Right to Education (RTE) to all children up to the age of 18. Further, the policy envisages utilizing technological solutions for creating greater access to disadvantaged groups.
- **Departure from Silos Mentality:** The new policy also seeks to break the strict division of arts, commerce, and science streams in high classes. This can lay the foundation for a multi-disciplinary approach in higher education.
- **Education & Social Justice:** NEP recognizes education as the most effective way for social justice. Thus, the NEP calls for an investment of about 6% of GDP jointly by the Center and the States.

The new National Education Policy 2020 aims to make the education system holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, aligned with the needs of the 21st century and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Question 2: (a) Hatred is destructive of a person’s wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation’s spirit. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (150 words) [10]

Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships.

Answer: Hatred is a strong negative emotion or extreme emotional dislike that can drive oneself to extreme behaviors such as violence, murder, and war. It is corrosive of a person’s wisdom and a nation’s spirit. In the contemporary world, religious violence, communal polarization and intolerance have increased and it is a continuous obstacle in the progress and growth of a country.

One of the characteristics of hatred is the need to devalue the victim more and more. At the end, the object of the hatred loses all moral or human consideration in the eyes of the hater. Hatred severely destructs person’s wisdom and conscience as:

- Hatred produces energy for destructive power and the fission that ignites the explosion, which is driven by the intense hostility, fear, anger or sense of injury one feels.
- Hatred reduces an individual’s quality of making good judgements or having good experience and knowledge.
- It further reduces an individual’s quality of being wise.

Hatred may also lead to:

- **Deprivation of Amenities:** Victims of intolerance are found to be deprived of facilities and opportunities, thus excluding them from contributing to the overall development of the society and subsequently lose out on self-development too.

- **Curbing of Individual Freedom:** Any form of illogical intolerance often leads to taking away individual freedom and rights. Constructive criticism and debates over various aspects are absent and dominance of one ideology takes over. Any society plagued by this halts the overall growth and progress of the collective.
- **Destruction of Social Harmony:** Due to the communal intimidation and hatred being spread, the very fabric of a society is being diminished in the larger sense, rendering a weak and divided social strength. For example: Assimilation with accommodation, stable patterns of pluralism, inequality and integration etc. constitute the basic fabric of Indian society, which when tainted with communal intolerance get divided and internally threatened.
- **Economy:** Disturbances caused due to communal intolerance largely impact the local economy due to the disruptive activities like strikes, riots, destruction of public property, etc. against each other, and also disturb the macro-economic outlook of countries on the global sphere as a result of the apprehensions of investors or economic giants of a good work environment.
- **Political Instability:** At times massive such clashes result in political blame game, interference, and unnecessary measures, projecting an unstable political atmosphere. Welfare of the nation is mainly side-lined, and the representatives are caught in inconsequential issues.

Hatred is a negative emotion and that is irrational and subjective. When hatred becomes all-pervasive in a society it can destroy a nation's spirit and could further hurt social capital and cooperation among citizens. This can be explained as to how the hatred of Hitler for Jews led to the corruption of many German citizens which had devastating effects on the German nation and its conscience. Therefore, hatred is indeed a serious threat to a person's wisdom, wellbeing, and national prosperity.

Question 2: (b) What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? Discuss. (150 words) [10]

Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

Answer: Emotional intelligence is the capability of a person to assess, manage and control one's own emotions as well as the emotions of others. It is critical to manage our behaviour and decision making. It is a scientific fact that emotions precede thought. When emotions run high, they change the way our brains function, diminishing our cognitive abilities, decision-making powers, and even interpersonal skills. Understanding and managing our emotions and the emotions of others helps us to be more successful in both our personal and professional lives.

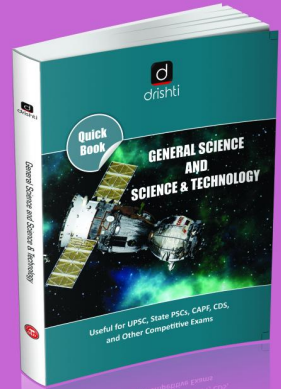
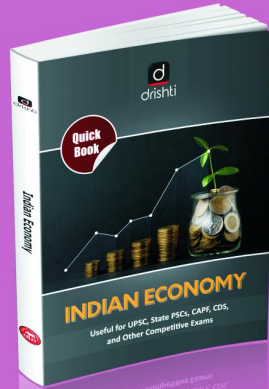
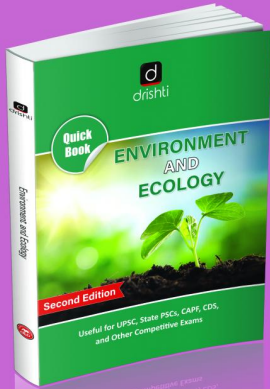
Components of Emotional Intelligence:

- **Self-awareness:** A person has a healthy sense of emotional intelligence self-awareness if they understand their own strengths and weaknesses, as well as how their actions affect others. A person with emotional self-awareness is usually receptive to, and able to learn from, constructive criticism more than one who doesn't have emotional self-awareness.
- **Self-regulation:** A person with high emotional intelligence can exercise restraint and control when expressing their emotions.
- **Motivation:** People with high emotional intelligence are self-motivated, resilient, and driven by an inner ambition rather than being influenced by outside forces, such as money or prestige.
- **Empathy:** It is an awareness of the needs and feelings of others both individually and in groups and being able to see things from the point of view of others. An empathetic person has compassion and can connect with other people on an emotional level, helping them respond genuinely to other people's concerns.
- **Social skill:** People who are emotionally intelligent are able to build trust with other people and are able to quickly gain respect from the people they meet.

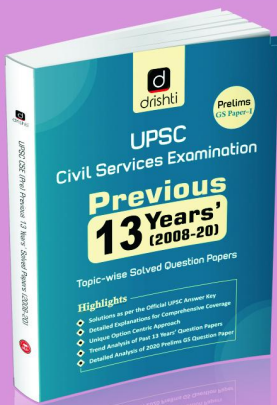


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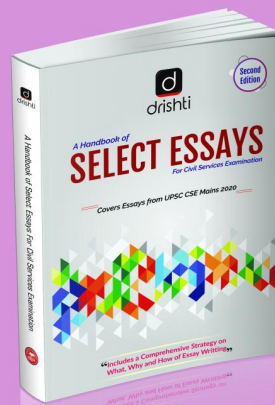
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