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Civil Services Examination



MAINS SOLVED PAPERS

Highlights

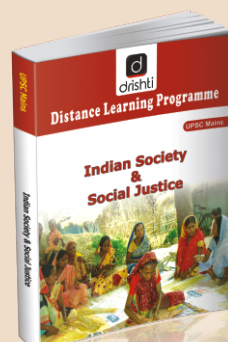
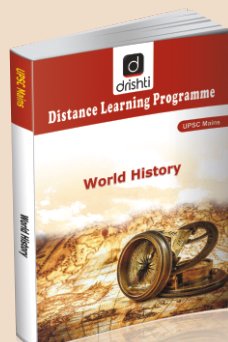
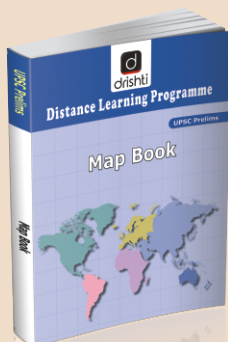
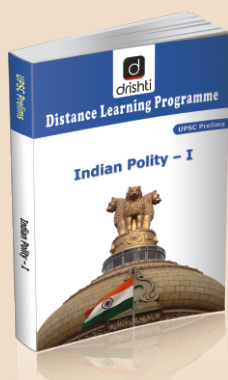
- ◆ Questions identified with specific topics of the syllabus
- ◆ Detailed and comprehensive model answers
- ◆ Relevant concepts and current examples included in the answers
- ◆ Includes an *Art of Answer Writing*



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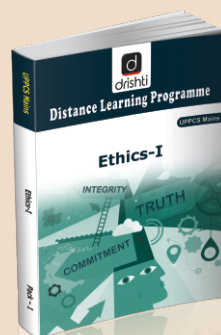
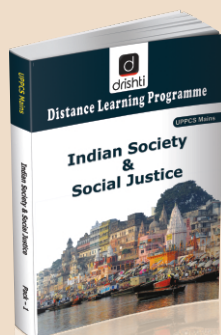
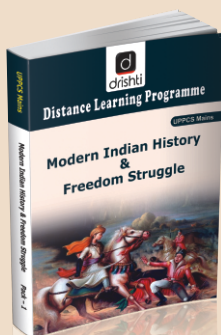
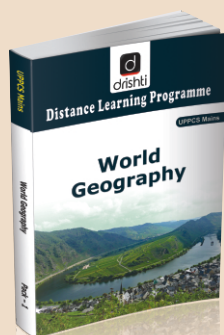
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CONTENTS

Art of Answer Writing

(vii)

GENERAL STUDIES – I..... 1-128

• Syllabus	3
• 2019	5
• 2018	23
• 2017	36
• 2016	48
• 2015	62
• 2014	75
• 2013	97

GENERAL STUDIES – II 129-246

• Syllabus	131
• 2019	133
• 2018	151
• 2017	164
• 2016	178
• 2015	192
• 2014	206
• 2013	223

GENERAL STUDIES – III 247-366

• Syllabus	249
• 2019	251
• 2018	268
• 2017	282
• 2016	297
• 2015	311
• 2014	325
• 2013	344

GENERAL STUDIES – IV 367-478

• Syllabus	369
• 2019	371
• 2018	387
• 2017	399
• 2016	411
• 2015	422
• 2014	437
• 2013	456

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.

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, redrawal 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.

Question 1: Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. (150 words) [10]

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

Answer: Gandhara art is a style of Buddhist visual art that developed between the 1st century BCE and the 7th century CE in what is now northwestern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan. The region came under the political influence of a variety of kingdoms which resulted in the emergence of a mixed school of art.

The sculptural tradition in Gandhara had the confluence of Bactria, Parthia and the local Gandhara tradition. However, the real patrons of this school of art were the Scythians and the Kushanas, particularly Kanishka.

Features of Gandhara Art Borrowed from Greco-Bactria

- The Gandhara school drew upon the anthropomorphic traditions of Roman religion and represented the Buddha with a youthful Apollo-like face, dressed in garments resembling those seen on Roman imperial statues. Its significance lies in the fact that until then Buddha was not represented in a human-like figure.
- Wavy hair in a top knot, sometimes a moustache on the face, urna (a dot or third eye) between the eyebrows, elongated earlobes, garment with thick pleats usually covering both shoulders, and muscular formation of the body are other resembling features.
- Other motifs and techniques that Gandhara school incorporated from classical Roman art, include vine scrolls, cherubs bearing garlands, tritons, and centaurs.
- The images having physiognomic features depicting symbolic expression such as of calmness, sharp outlines, smooth surface, expressive images etc. are the centre point of attraction.

Gandhara art not only assimilated the features of Hellenistic art but also borrowed many West Asiatic and Central Asiatic features such as:

- Halo behind the head of Buddha was associated with solar deities of ancient Persian and Greek art.
- Figures with conical and pointed caps on their heads resemble the Scythian caps of similar design.
- The regular depiction of fire worship in the Gandhara art, a trait which was probably derived from Iranian sources.

The foreign elements imbibed in the Gandhara art not only placed it on a high pedestal of artistic achievements but also made possible the naturalistic depiction of the human form for the first time in the Indian art history.

Question 2: The 1857 Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British Rule. Elucidate. (150 words) [10]

The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

Answer: The revolt of 1857 was the cumulative effect of British expansionist policies, economic exploitation and administrative innovations over the years which had adversely affected all strata of the Indian society (i.e. the rulers of Indian states, sepoys, zamindars, peasants, traders, artisans, pundits, maulvis, etc). The simmering discontent growing in the last hundred years had busted in the form of a violent storm in 1857 which shook the very foundation of the British Empire.

Genesis of Resentment

The genesis of resentment can be categorised into five broad categories with different causative factors as mentioned below:

Civil Uprising: Rapid changes in the economy, administration and land revenue system which went against several zamindars and poligars due to which they lost control over their land and its revenues. They were further sidelined in rank by government officials and a new class comprising of merchants and money-lender came in scenario. Some of the important Civil Uprisings were Sanyasi Revolt (1763-1800), Revolt of Raja of Vizianagaram (1794), Poligars' Revolt (1795-1805).

Question 19: Tropical cyclones are largely confined to the South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why? (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: Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas. As they move closer to the coastal areas, they bring large scale destruction due to violent winds (known as squalls), heavy rainfall (torrential rainfall) and storm surge.

Tropical cyclones involve wind movements involving closed circulation of air around a low pressure center. This circulation movement is subjected to the coriolis forces.

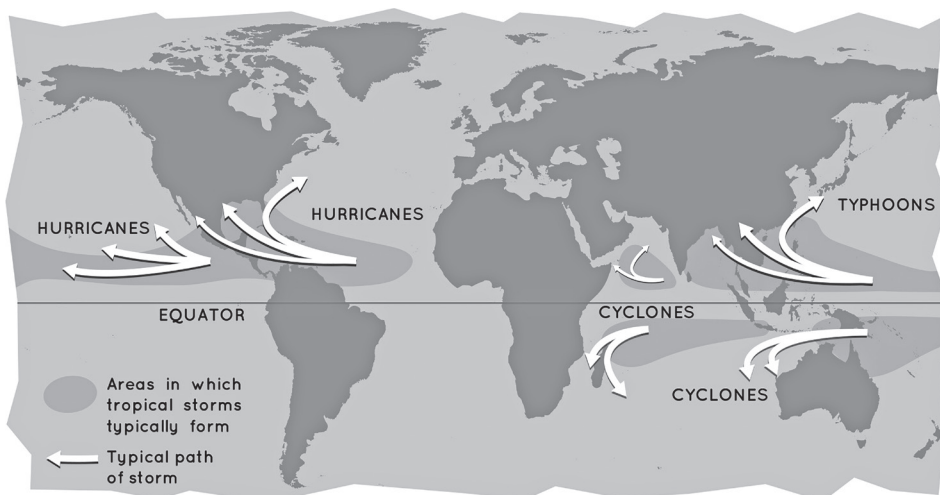
Conditions Favourable for Tropical Cyclone Formation

- Large water body with temperature higher than 27°C.
- The region needs to be in close proximity of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) for the continuous supply of moist air.
- Presence of the coriolis force for the creation of cyclonic vortex (that is why tropical cyclones are absent near the equator where the coriolis force is absent).
- Small variations in the wind speed.
- Abundant supply of warm and moist air.
- Weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation (eye of the cyclone).
- Upper divergence above the sea level system.

South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico satisfy these conditions

- Proximity to the tropical region keeps the water warm (above 27° C).
- All these regions are closer to the ITCZ, and receive sufficient heat creating low pressure area.
- These areas are surrounded by large land masses. Differential heating of land and water masses creates pressure differences which in turn give rise to the tropical cyclone.
- Coriolis force is generally higher in the tropical region where these areas are situated.
- Upper air circulation like jet stream are remarkably absent during the monsoon season which aids the formation of tropical cyclone especially over Bay of Bengal region.
- Disruption of water circulation caused by El Nino also aids the formation of cyclones in the region.

Most of these factors are absent or weak in other water bodies like Arabian sea, Arctic sea etc. Thus, tropical cyclones are largely confined to the South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico.



Question 14: “The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India.” Discuss. **(250 words) [15]**

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.

Answer: The Constitution under Article 76 has provided for the office of the Attorney-General for India (AGI). He is appointed by the President and holds the office during the pleasure of the President. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Duties of Attorney-General

- To give advice to the Government of India on legal matters, which are referred to him by the President.
- To perform other duties of a legal character that are assigned to him by the President.
- To discharge the functions conferred on him by the Constitution or any other law.
- The AGI is the highest law officer in the country and acts as the lawyer of the Government of India.

Duties Assigned by President via Notification of 1950

- To appear on behalf of the Government of India in the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- To represent the Government of India in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution.
- Along with these duties, the AGI also has the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India. He also enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a member of Parliament.

However, the Attorney-General is not the full-time counsel of the Government. He does not fall in the category of government servants and he is not debarred from private legal practice. But, he should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India and he should not defend accused persons in criminal prosecutions without the permission of the Government of India.

Thus, the duties and privileges of the AGI, combined with the limitations imposed on him, make him the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India. Nevertheless, the separate law minister in the Central cabinet to look after legal matters at the government level, to some extent, gives the office of AGI a subordinate position.

Question 15: Individual Parliamentarian’s role as the national law maker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss. **(250 words) [15]**

Parliament and State legislatures – structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

Answer: The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014 was introduced as a private member’s Bill by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Tiruchi Siva, and passed by the Rajya Sabha in April 2015. It was the first time in four decades that the Rajya Sabha had passed a private member’s Bill. The Bill brought into the picture, the plight of transgenders in the country and brought this issue in mainstream public debate.

Ministers or Parliamentarians representing a political party are often bound by populist decision making, election manifestos and the ideology that governs the party. Individual Parliamentarians or the private members are free from such boundations and offer a more fertile ground, on the floor of the Parliament, for dissent and debate around various issues that affect the nation.

However, the Individual Parliamentarian’s role as national lawmaker has been on a decline of late. From 2014-2018 about 900 private member Bills were introduced in the Parliament, but not even 2% of these bills were discussed.

Question 6: What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?
(150 words) [10]

Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

Answer: A space station is a large artificial satellite designed to be occupied for long periods and to serve as a base for scientific observation. Recently, India has announced its plan to build its own space station, as a carry forward of the Gaganyaan mission, which will be the first Indian manned mission to space.

India's Plan Toward Own Space Station

- The proposed space station is envisaged to weigh 20 tonnes and serve as a facility where astronauts can stay for 15-20 days.
- It would be placed in lower Earth's orbit at around 400 km above the earth.
- The time frame for launch is 5-7 years after the Gaganyaan mission which is expected to take place in 2022.
- The Gaganyaan mission would equip the ISRO with the necessary technology required for creating space platforms.

Benefit of Space Station in Space Programme

- It would help to sustain Human Space Mission in the future for a longer period of time.
 - Space platforms can be used to perform Microgravity experiments. It would help in scientific and technological developments such as innovations related to water purification and biotech.
 - It will help in deep space exploration like the study of other galaxies.
 - The indigenous Space station would enhance India's image in the international sphere. It would increase India's position as a space power.
 - India can also earn revenue from the commercial engagements with other countries from its space prowess.
- India should increase its engagement with the private sector and research institutions in order to create human resources and innovative products for its growing space economy.

Question 7: Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyse the impact of sand mining along the Indian coasts, citing specific examples.
(150 words) [10]

Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Answer: Rising construction activities has increased the global demand and consumption of sand. According to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), India is in the list of critical hotspots for coastal sand mining.

Threat of Coastal Sand Mining

- It is very damaging to the beach fauna and flora and is ruinous to beach aesthetics.
- Resulting in coastal erosion, it frequently causes environmental damage to other coastal ecosystems associated with the beach such as wetlands.
- Another major impact of beach sand mining is the loss of protection from storm surges associated with tropical cyclones and tsunamis.


Impact of Coastal Sand Mining to Indian Coasts

- For instance, in Periyasampuram in Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu, fish catch has come down, the palm trees have dried up, ground water has turned brackish and the sea has entered the village due to coastal sand mining.

Question 3: (b) “In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you.” – *Warren Buffet*

What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain.

(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: People without integrity could be dangerous; just intelligence and energy are not enough, even though these two are great qualities of achievers. Without integrity, the other two qualities are problematic.

- In the present-day scenario, it means that intelligence and energy without the sobering touch of integrity are dangerous. It could create dangerous leaders, policy makers or civil servants. Integrity or moral soundness is a greater virtue than intelligence and energy. Integrity keeps energy and intelligence in control and puts the latter to good use. People without integrity (but loaded with intelligence) are not to be hired or trusted.
- A reliable person would be one with integrity. A person without integrity, but intelligence could be a potential thief or a fraud. In the present-day context, many financial frauds are often committed by people who are low on integrity, but very high on energy and intelligence.
- In today's political, economic and administrative field, policy makers and leaders without integrity would create chaos and danger for society. A person with low integrity would compromise on values and subvert social progress while furthering their own progress with their intelligence.

Question 4: (a) “In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication.” Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties.

(150 words) [10]

 *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.*

Answer: Things that are not expressly forbidden by law or by clear implication are allowed in public administration. If the action promotes good and is not proscribed by any law or is not covered potentially by possible implication of conflict of interest, then it is permitted.


For public servants discharging their duties, the above statement provides a code of conduct for carrying out their responsibilities. ‘Everything which is not forbidden is allowed’ is also a constitutional principle of English law defining the essential freedom of citizens.

The conduct of a civil servant should be free of bias and prejudice. The overriding motive should be ‘public interest’ and conflict of interest should be avoided. As such, doing a good thing is allowed if there is no law against it and if there is no potential or perceived conflict of interest.

For example, a public servant such as a District Magistrate endowed with the spirit of service may arrange for refreshment of senior citizens visiting the office for various services. Such a good gesture is not forbidden by law and does not appear to be influenced by any prejudice. Similarly, treating flood-affected victims with more kindness, empathy and understanding and going out of one's way to help them as long as it does not violate any law is another case of an act within the ambit of the spirit of the statement.

Question 4: (b) With regard to morality of actions, one view is that the means are of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.

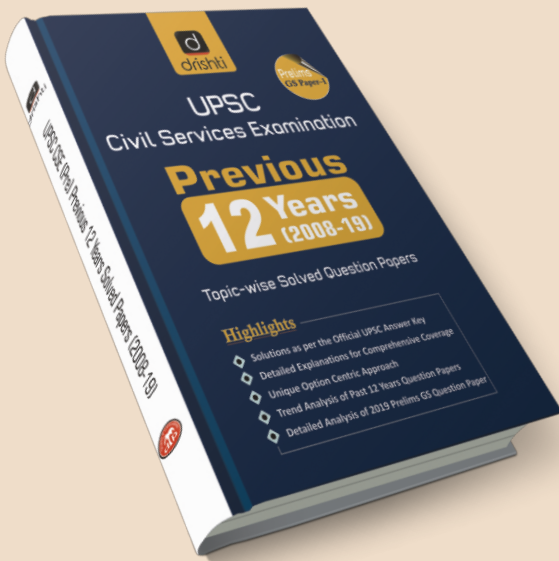
(150 words) [10]

 *Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.*



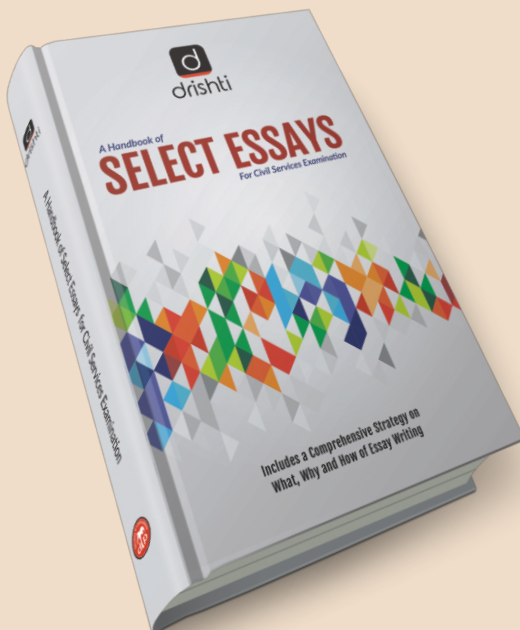
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