

## UPSC MAINS 2013 GS PAPER 1

**Q1. Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment. (10 mark -200 words.)**

**Q2 a. Discuss the 'Tandava' dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. (5 mark- 100 words.)**

(b) Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. (5 mark - 100 words.)

**Q3. Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch-bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. (10 mark -200 words)**

**Q4. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. (10 mark-200 words)**

**Q5. In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q6. Critically discuss the objectives of Bhoodan and Gramdan Movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q7. Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan". (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q8. Discuss the contributions of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre-and post - independent India. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q9. Analyze the circumstances that led to Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the Agreement. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q10. Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the emergence of Bangladesh. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q11. “ ‘Latecomer’ Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what West had experienced.” Analyze(10 marks-200 words)**

**Q12. “Africa was chopped into States artificially created by accidents of European competition.” Analyze. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q13. “American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism”. Substantiate. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q14. What policy instruments were deployed to contain the Great Economic Depression? (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q15. Discuss the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q16. “Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women’s organization free from gender bias.” Comment. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q17. Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q18. Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate State. Discuss. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q19.(a)what do you understand by the theory of ‘continental drift’? Discuss the prominent evidences in its support. (5 marks 100 words)**

**(b) The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called “Phailin”. How are the tropical cyclones named across the world? Elaborate. (5 marks - 100 words)**

**Q20(a) Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world. (5 marks-100 words)**

(b) What do you understand by the phenomenon of 'temperature inversion' in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place? (5 marks-100 words)

**Q21. Major hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located between 20-30 degree N Latitudes and on the western side of the continents. Why? (10 marks-200 word)**

**Q22(a) Bring out the causes for more frequent occurrence of landslides in the Himalayas than in Western Ghats. (5 marks 100 words)**

**(b) There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the Western Ghats. Why? (5 marks - 100 words)**

**Q23(a) Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in the Southern states of India? Discuss with justification. (5 marks - 100 words)**

**(b) Analyze the factors for highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India.(5 marks -100 words)**

**Q24. With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, the atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world. (10 marks-200 words)**

**Q25. It is said the India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of the country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resources does not appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved. (10 marks-200 words)**

## UPSC MAINS 2013 GS PAPER 2

Answer the following questions in not more than 200 words each. Each question carries 10 marks.

1. The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years and as a result healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law, which was legislated but with a different intention? (10 marks and 200 words)
2. Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. (10 marks and 200 words)
3. Recent directives from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the State. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution. (10 marks and 200 words)
4. 'The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution.' Discuss critically. (10 marks and 200 words)
5. Many State Governments further bifurcate geographical administrative areas like Districts and Talukas for better governance. In light of the above, can it also be justified that more number of smaller States would bring in effective governance at State level? Discuss. (10 marks and 200 words)
6. Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss. (10 marks and 200 words)
7. Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances. (10 marks and 200 words)

8. The product diversification of financial institutions and insurance companies, resulting in overlapping of products and services strengthens the case for the merger of the two regulatory agencies, namely SEBI and IRDA. Justify. (10 marks and 200 words)

9. The concept of Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates, and success. (10 marks and 200 words)

10. Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India. (10 marks and 200 words)

11. The legitimacy and accountability of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the micro-finance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss. (10 marks and 200 words)

12. The Central Government frequently complains on the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate. (10 marks and 200 words)

13. Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage, and facilitate reforms. Comment. (10 marks and 200 words)

14. The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment. (10 marks and 200 words)

15. Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same. (10 marks and 200 words)
16. Though Citizens' charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided? Analyse. (10 marks and 200 words)
17. 'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs'. Discuss. (10 marks and 200 words)
18. The proposed withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests. (10 marks and 200 words)
19. What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this. (10 marks and 200 words)
20. Economic ties between India and Japan while growing in the recent years are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth. (10 marks and 200 words)
21. The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India? (10 marks and 200 words)
22. Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India? (10 marks and 200 words)
23. In respect of India — Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy. (10 marks and 200 words)

**24. What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss. (10 marks and 200 words)**

**25. The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions, and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. (10 marks and 200 words)**

## UPSC MAINS 2013 GS PAPER 3

Answer the following questions in not more than 200 words each. Each question carries 10 marks.

1. With a consideration towards the strategy of inclusive growth, the new Companies Bill, 2013 has indirectly made CSR a mandatory obligation. Discuss the challenges expected in its implementation in right earnest. Also discuss other provisions in the Bill and their implications. (10 marks and 200 words)
2. What were the reasons for the introduction of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness.(10 marks and 200 words)
3. What is the meaning of the term 'tax expenditure'? Taking housing sector as an example, discuss how it influences the budgetary policies of the government.(10 marks and 200 words)
4. Food Security Bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO.(10 marks and 200 words)
5. What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and at state levels? Critically analyse the agricultural subsidy regime with reference to the distortions created by it.(10 marks and 200 words)
6. India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in food industry for ensuring better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement.(10 marks and 200 words)
7. Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indians. Are they competing with the MNCs satisfactorily? Discuss.(10 marks and 200 words)



**8. Establish relationship between land reforms, agricultural productivity, and elimination of poverty in the Indian economy. Discuss the difficulties in designing and implementation of agriculture – friendly land reforms in India.(10 marks and 200 words)**

**9. a) Discuss the impact of FDI entry into Multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in commodity trade pattern of the economy.(5 marks and 100 words)**

(b) Though India allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in what is called multi-brand retail through the joint venture route in September 2012, the FDI, even after a year, has not picked up. Discuss the reasons.(5 marks and 100 words)

**10. Discuss the rationale for introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Bring out critically the reasons for the delay in roll out for its regime. (10 marks and 200 words)**

**11. Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problem of conventional energy. (10 marks and 200 words)**

**12. Adoption of PPP model for infrastructure development of the country has not been free of criticism. Critically discuss the pros and cons of the model. (10 marks and 200 words)**

**13. Bringing out the circumstances in 2005 which forced amendment to the section 3(d) in Indian Patent Law, 1970, discuss how it has been utilized by the Supreme Court in its judgment in rejecting Novartis' patent application for 'Glivec'. Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision. (10 marks and 200 words)**

**14. What do you understand by Fixed Dose Drug Combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits. (10 marks and 200 words)**

**15. What do you understand by Umpire Decision Review System in Cricket? Discuss its various components. Explain how silicone tape on the edge of a bat may fool the system? (10 marks and 200 words)**

**16. a) What is a digital signature? What does its authentication mean? Give various salient built-in features of a digital signature.(5 marks and 100 words)**

(b) How does the 3D printing technology work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the technology. (5 marks and 100 words)

**17. a) What is an FRP composite material? How are they manufactured? Discuss their applications in aviation and automobile industries. (5 marks and 100 words)**

(b) What do you understand by Run-of-river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project?(5 marks and 100 words)

**18. How important are vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management? As an administrator, what are key areas that you would focus on in a Disaster Management System? (10 marks and 200 words)**

**19. What are the consequences of Illegal mining? Discuss the Ministry of Environment and Forests' concept of GO AND NO GO zones for coal mining sector. (10 marks and 200 words)**

**20. Enumerate the National Water Policy of India. Taking river Ganges as an example, discuss the strategies which may be adopted for river water pollution control and management. What are the legal provisions of management and handling of hazardous wastes in India? (10 marks and 200 words)**

**21. Money laundering poses a serious security threat to a country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace? (10 marks and 200 words)**

**22. What are social networking sites and what security implications do these sites present? (10 marks and 200 words)**

**23. Cyber warfare is considered by some defense analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats**

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**which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same. (10 marks and 200 words)**

**24. Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of scheduled area and tribal areas. Analyse the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing extremism. (10 marks and 200 words)**

**25. How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar? (10 marks and 200 words)**

## UPSC MAINS 2013 GS PAPER 4

### SECTION - A

**1. What do you understand by 'values' and 'ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? (10 marks | 150 words)**

**2. A. What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? (15 marks | 250 words)**

1. Integrity
2. Perseverance
3. Spirit of service
4. Commitment
5. Courage of conviction

**B. Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer. (10 marks | 100 words)**

**3. Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification. (10 marks | 150 words)**

**4. What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions? (10 marks | 150 words)**

**5. A. What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience? (10 marks | 150 words)**

**B. What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. (10 marks | 150 words)**

**6. Given below are three quotations of great moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these quotations, bring out what it means to you in the present context: (10 marks | 150 words)**

- A. "There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed."- Mahatma Gandhi.
- B. "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."—Abraham Lincoln.
- C. "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies."—Aristotle.

**7. "The good of an individual is contained in the good of all." What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life? (10 marks | 150 words)**

**8. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics' do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations. (10 marks | 150 words)**

**SECTION - B**

**In the following questions, carefully study the cases presented and then answer the questions that follow:**

**9. A Public Information Officer has received an application under RTI Act. Having gathered the information, the PIO discovers that the information pertains to some of the decisions taken by him, which were found to be not altogether right. There were other employees also who party to these decisions. Disclosure of the information is likely to lead to disciplinary action with possibility of punishment against him as well as some of his colleagues. Non-disclosure or part disclosure or camouflaged disclosure of information will result into lesser punishment or no punishment.**

**The PIO is otherwise an honest and conscientious person but this particular decision, on which the RTI application has been filed, turned out to be wrong. He comes to you for advice.**

**The following are some suggested options. Please evaluate the merits and demerits of each of the options:**

1. The PIO could refer the matter to his superior officer and seek his advice and act strictly in accordance with the advice, even though he is not completely in agreement with the advice of the superior.
2. The PIO could proceed on leave and leave the matter to be dealt by his successor in office or request for transfer of the application to another PIO.
3. The PIO could weigh the consequences of disclosing the information truthfully, including the effect on his career, and reply in a manner that would not place him or his career in jeopardy, but at the same time a little compromise can be made on the contents of the information.
4. The PIO could consult his other colleagues who are party to the decision and take action as per their advice.



**Also please indicate (without necessarily restricting to the above options) what you would like to advise, giving proper reasons. (20 marks | 250 words)**

**10. You are working as an Executive Engineer in the construction cell of a Municipal Corporation and are presently in-charge of the construction of a flyover. There are two Junior Engineers under you who have the responsibility of day-to-day inspection of the site and are reporting to you, while you are finally reporting to the Chief Engineer who heads the cell. While the construction is heading towards completion, the Junior Engineers have been regularly reporting that all construction is taking place as per design specifications. However, in one of your surprise inspections, you have noticed some serious deviations and lacunae which, in your opinion, are likely to affect the safety of the flyover. Rectification of these lacunae at this stage would require a substantial amount of demolition and rework which will cause a tangible loss to the contractor and will also delay completion. There is a lot of public pressure on the Corporation to get this construction completed because of heavy traffic congestion in the area. When you brought this matter to the notice of the Chief Engineer, he advised you that in his opinion it is not a very serious lapse and may be ignored. He advised for further expediting the project for completion in time. However, you are convinced that this was a serious matter which might affect public safety and should not be left unaddressed.**

**What will you do in such a situation? Some of the options are given below. Evaluate the merits and demerits of each of these options and finally suggest what course of action you would like to take, giving reasons. (20 marks | 250 words)**

1. Follow the advice of the Chief Engineer and go ahead.
2. Make an exhaustive report of the situation bringing out all facts and analysis along with your own viewpoints stated clearly and seek for written orders from the chief Engineer.
3. Call for explanation from the Junior Engineers and issue orders to the contractor for necessary correction within targeted time.
4. Highlight the issue so that it reaches superiors above the Chief Engineer.

5. Considering the rigid attitude of the Chief Engineer, seek transfer from the project or report sick.

**11. Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu is known for its manufacturing clusters on firecrackers and matches. The local economy of the area is largely dependent on firecrackers industry. It has led to tangible economic development and improved standard of living in the area.**

So far as child labour norms for hazardous industries like firecrackers industry are concerned, International Labour Organization (ILO) has set the minimum age as 18 years. In India, however, this age is 14 years.

The units in industrial clusters of firecrackers can be classified into registered and non-registered entities. One typical unit is household-based work. Though the law is clear on the use of child labour employment norms in registered/non-registered units, it does not include household-based works. Household-based work means children working under the supervision of their parents/relatives. To evade child labour norms, several units project themselves as household-based works but employ children from outside. Needless to say that employing children saves the costs for these units leading to higher profits to the owners.

On your visit to one of the units at Sivakasi, the owner takes you around the unit which has about 10-15 children below 14 years of age. The owner tells you that in his household-based unit, the children are all his relatives. You notice that several children smirk, when the owner tells you this. On deeper enquiry, you figure out that neither the owner nor the children are able to satisfactorily establish their relationship with each other. (25 marks | 300 words)

1. Bring out and discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.
2. What would be your reaction after your above visit?

**12. You are heading a leading technical institute of the country. The institute is planning to convene an interview panel shortly under your chairmanship for selection of the post of professors. A few days before the interview, you get a call from the Personal Secretary (PS) of**

a senior government functionary seeking your intervention in favour of the selection of a close relative of the functionary for this post. The PS also informs you that he is aware of the long pending and urgent proposals of your institute for grant of funds for modernization, which are awaiting the functionary's approval. He assures you that he would get these proposals cleared. (20 marks | 250 words)

1. What are the options available to you?
2. Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons.

**13. As a senior officer in the Finance Ministry, you have access to some confidential and crucial information about policy decisions that the Government is about to announce. These decisions are likely to have far-reaching impact on the housing and construction industry. If the builders have access to this information beforehand, they can make huge profits. One of the builders has done a lot of quality work for the Government and is known to be close to your immediate superior, who asks you to disclose this information to the said builder. (20 marks| 250 words)**

1. What are the options available to you?
2. Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons.

**14. You are the Executive Director of an upcoming InfoTech Company which is making a name for itself in the market.**

**Mr. A, who is a star performer, is heading the marketing team. In a short period of one year, he has helped in doubling the revenues as well as creating a high brand equity for the Company so much so that you are thinking of promoting him. However, you have been receiving information from many corners about his attitude towards the female colleagues; particularly his habit of making loose comments on women. In addition, he regularly sends indecent SMS's to all the team members including his female colleagues.**

**One day, late in the evening, Mrs. X, who is one of Mr. A's team members, comes to you visibly disturbed. She complains against the continued misconduct of Mr. A, who has been making undesirable advances towards her and has even tried to touch her inappropriately in his cabin. She tenders her resignation and leaves your office. (20 marks | 250 words)**

1. What are the options available to you?
2. Evaluate each of these options and choose the option you would adopt, giving reasons.

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