

UPSC MAINS 2014 GS PAPER 1

Each question was of 10 marks. UPSC wanted to answer the questions in NOT MORE THAN 150 words each.

1. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)
2. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)
3. Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)
4. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? (10 marks, 150 words)
5. Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu / Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)
6. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence. (10 marks, 150 words)
7. In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? (10 marks, 150 words)
8. What were the major political, economic, and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? (10 marks, 150 words)
9. What were the events that led to the Suez Crisis in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain's self-image as a world power? (10 marks, 150 words)

10. The New Economic Policy – 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. (10 marks, 150 words)
11. How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle class working woman in India? (10 marks, 150 words)
12. Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments. (10 marks, 150 words)
13. The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)
14. Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India. (10 marks, 150 words)
15. How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West? (10 marks, 150 words)
16. Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree? (10 marks, 150 words)
17. Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of Fold Mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes. (10 marks, 150 words)
18. Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos. (10 marks, 150 words)
19. Tropical cyclones are largely confined to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why? (10 marks, 150 words)
20. Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub-continent. (10 marks, 150 words)

- 21. Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shivaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)**
- 22. Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water? (10 marks, 150 words)**
- 23. Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world. (10 marks, 150 words)**
- 24. Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world. (10 marks, 150 words)**
- 25. How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa? (10 marks, 150 words)**

UPSC MAINS 2014 GS PAPER 2

Each question was of 12.5 marks. UPSC wanted to answer the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each.

1. Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy.

(12.5 marks, 200 words each)

2. Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, but it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism.

(12.5 marks, 200 words each)

3. The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed? (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

4. What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

5. Instances of President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

6. The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far the efficacy of a government then is inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

7. Though 100 percent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like a trade publication and general entertainment channel, the government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

8. The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways or the private container operators. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

9. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of above observation assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

10. The penetration of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

11. Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economies? (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

12. An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

13. Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

14. Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organization been the cause of slow in India? Critically examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

15. Two parallel run schemes of the Government, viz. the Adhaar card and NPR, one as voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need run concurrently. Analyse the potential of the schemes to achieve development benefits and equitable growth (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

16. With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

17. The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on Information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests? (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

18. Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and it, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

19. India has recently signed to become founding member of New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

20. WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security. (12.5 marks, 200 words each)

UPSC MAINS 2014 GS PAPER 3

All the questions were compulsory. Each question was of 12.5 marks. UPSC wanted to answer the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each.

1. Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the huge growth of services vis-a-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

2. "While we flaunt India's demographic dividend, we ignore the dropping rates of employability." What are we missing while doing so? Where will the jobs that India desperately needs come from? Explain. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

3. There is also a point of view that Agricultural Produce Market Committees [APMCs] set up under the State Acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

4. "In the villages itself no form of credit organization will be suitable except the cooperative society." – All India Rural Credit Survey. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Discuss this statement in the background of agricultural finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finance face? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients?

5. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013 has come into effect from 1st January, 2014. What are the key issues which would get addressed with the Act in place? What implications would it have on industrialization and agriculture in India? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

6. Capitalism has guided the world economy to unprecedented prosperity. However, it often encourages short-sightedness and contributes to wide disparities between the rich and the

poor. In this light, would it be correct to believe and adopt capitalism for bringing inclusive growth in India? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

7. Explain how Private Public Partnership arrangements, in long gestation infrastructure projects, can transfer unsustainable liabilities to the future. What arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that successive generations' capacities are not compromised? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

8. National Urban Transport Policy emphasises on 'moving people' instead of 'moving vehicles'. Discuss critically the success of the various strategies of the Government in this regard. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

9. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the defence sector is now set to be liberalized: What influence this is expected to have on Indian defence and economy in the short and long run? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

10. Scientific research in Indian universities is declining, because a career in science is not as attractive as are business professions, engineering, or administration, and the universities are becoming consumer-oriented. Critically comment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

11. Can overuse and free availability of antibiotics without Doctor's prescription, be contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

12. In a globalized world, Intellectual Property Rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms—Copyrights, Patents and Trade Secrets. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

13. Should the pursuit of carbon credits and clean development mechanisms set up under UNFCCC be maintained even though there has been a massive slide in the value of a carbon credit? Discuss with respect to India's energy needs for economic growth. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

14. Drought has been recognized as a disaster in view of its spatial expanse, temporal duration, slow onset, and lasting effects on vulnerable sections. With a focus on the September 2010 guidelines from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), discuss the mechanisms for preparedness to deal with likely El Nino and La Nina fallouts in India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

15. Environmental Impact Assessment studies are increasingly undertaken before a project is cleared by the Government. Discuss the environmental impacts of coal-fired thermal plants located at coal pitheads. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

16. "The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which is seen in her neighbourhood." Discuss along with strategies to be adopted to counter this environment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

17. International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory. What do you understand by 'airspace'? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggest ways to contain the threat. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

18. How does illegal transborder migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

19. In 2012, the longitudinal marking for high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65 degrees east to 78 degrees east in the Arabian Sea by the International Maritime Organization. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

20. China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for development of an economic corridor. What threat does this pose for India's security? Critically examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

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UPSC MAINS 2014 GS PAPER 4

Each of the following questions is worth 10 marks and 150 words.

SECTION—A

1. (a) All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples. (10 marks and 150 words)

(b) What do ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration? (10 marks and 150 words)

2. (a) In the context of defence services, 'patriotism' demands readiness to even lay down one's life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer. (10 marks and 150 words)

(b) What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome? (10 marks and 150 words)

3. (a) "Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context. (10 marks and 150 words)

(b) "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'." Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society. (10 marks and 150 words)

4. (a) Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings giving specific examples, describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development. (10 marks and 150 words)

(b) There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging

impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility? **(10 marks and 150 words)**

5. (a) The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and for societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy? (10 marks and 150 words)

(b) It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples. **(10 marks and 150 words)**

6. What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent about many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes? (10 marks and 150 words)

7. What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants? (10 marks and 150 words)

8. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. (10 marks and 150 words)

SECTION—B

Each of the following questions is worth 20 marks and 250 words.

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

9. Now-a-days, there is an increasing thrust on economic development all around the globe. At the same time, there is also an increasing concern about environmental degradation caused by development. Many a time, we face a direct conflict between developmental activity and environmental quality. It is neither feasible to stop or curtail the development process, nor it is advisable to keep degrading the environment, as it threatens our very survival.

Discuss some feasible strategies which could be adopted to eliminate this conflict and which could lead to sustainable development. (20 marks and 250 words)

10. Suppose one of your close friends, who is also aspiring for civil services, comes to you for discussing some of the issues related to ethical conduct in public service. He raises the following points:

- (i) In the present times, when unethical environment is quite prevalent, individual attempts to stick to ethical principles may cause a lot of problems in one's career. It may also cause hardship to the family members as well as risk to one's life. Why should we not be pragmatic and follow the path of least resistance, and be happy with doing whatever good we can?
- (ii) When so many people are adopting wrong means and are grossly harming the system, what difference would it make if only a small minority tries to be ethical? They are going to be rather ineffective and are bound to get frustrated.
- (iii) If we become fussy about ethical considerations, will it not hamper the economic progress of our country? After all, in the present age of high competition, we cannot afford to be left behind in the race of development.

(iv) It is understandable that we should not get involved in grossly unethical practices, but giving and accepting small gratifications and doing small favours increases everybody's motivation. It also makes the system more efficient. What is wrong in adopting such practices?

Critically analyze the above viewpoints. On the basis of this analysis, what will be your advice to your friend? **(20 marks and 250 words)**

11. You are a no-nonsense, honest officer. You have been transferred to a remote district to head a department that is notorious for its inefficiency and callousness. You find that the main cause of the poor state of affairs is the indiscipline of a section of employees. They do not work themselves and also disrupt the working of others. You first warned the troublemakers to mend their ways or else face disciplinary action. When the warning had little effect, you issued a show cause notice to the ringleaders. As a retaliatory measure, these troublemakers instigated a woman employee amongst them to file a complaint of sexual harassment against you with the Women's Commission. The Commission promptly seeks your explanation. The matter is also publicized in the media to embarrass you further. Some of the options to handle this situation could be as follows:

- (i) Give your explanation to the Commission and go soft on the disciplinary action.
- (ii) Ignore the Commission and proceed firmly with the disciplinary action.
- (iii) Brief your higher-ups, seek directions from them and act accordingly.

Suggest any other possible option(s). Evaluate all of them and suggest the best course of action, giving your reasons for it. **(20 marks and 250 words)**

12. Suppose you are the CEO of a company that manufactures specialized electronic equipment used by a government department. You have submitted your bid for the supply of this equipment to the department. Both the quality and cost of your offer are better than those of the competitors. Yet the concerned officer is demanding a hefty bribe for approving the tender. Getting the order is important both for you and for your company. Not getting

the order would mean closing a production line. It may also affect your own career. However, as a value-conscious person, you do not want to give bribe.

Valid arguments can be advanced both for giving the bribe and getting the order, and for refusing to pay the bribe and risking the loss of the order. What those arguments could be? Could there be any better way to get out of this dilemma? If so, outline the main elements of this third way, pointing out its merits. (20 marks and 250 words)

13. Rameshwar successfully cleared the prestigious civil services examination and was excited about the opportunity that he would get through the civil services to serve the country. However, soon after joining the services, he realized that things are not as rosy as he had imagined.

He found a number of malpractices prevailing in the department assigned to him. For example, funds under various schemes and grants were being misappropriated. The official facilities were frequently being used for personal needs by the officers and staff. After some time, he noticed that the process of recruiting the staff was also not up to the mark. Prospective candidates were required to write an examination in which a lot of cheating was going on. Some candidates were provided external help in the examination. Rameshwar brought these incidents to the notice of his seniors. However, he was advised to keep his eyes, ears and mouth shut and ignore all these things which were taking place with the connivance of the higher-ups. Rameshwar felt highly disillusioned and uncomfortable. He comes to you seeking your advice.

Indicate various options that you think are available in this situation. How would you help him to evaluate these options and choose the most appropriate path to be adopted? (20 marks and 250 words)

14. In our country, the migration of rural people to towns and cities is increasing drastically. This is causing serious problems both in the rural as well as in the urban areas. In fact, things are becoming really unmanageable. Can you analyze this problem in detail and indicate not

only the socio-economic but also the emotional and attitudinal factors responsible for this problem? Also, distinctly bring out why—

- (a) Educated rural youth are trying to shift to urban areas;
- (b) Landless poor people are migrating to urban slums;
- (c) Even some farmers are selling off their land and trying to settle in urban areas taking up petty jobs.

What feasible steps can you suggest which will be effective in controlling this serious problem of our country?(**20 marks and 250 words**)