

UPSC MAINS 2016 GS PAPER 1

Each Question is worth 12.5 marks and maximum word limit is 200.

1. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. (12.5 marks and 200 words)
2. Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. (12.5 marks and 200 words)
3. Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. (12.5 marks and 200 words)
4. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. (12.5 marks and 200 words)
5. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. (12.5 marks and 200 words)
6. Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian unity? (12.5 marks and 200 words)
7. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western -educated Africans. Examine. (12.5 marks and 200 words)
8. To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain. (12.5 marks and 200 words)
9. "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation." Substantiate this statement with suitable examples. (12.5 marks and 200 words)

10. Why are the tribals in India referred to as 'the Scheduled Tribes'? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
11. With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Program.'(12.5 marks and 200 words)
12. What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
13. Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
14. "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides."Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
15. The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
16. South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
17. Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss. (12.5 marks and 200 words)
18. Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
19. Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India.(12.5 marks and 200 words))

20. In what way micro-watershed development projects help in water conservation in drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India?(12.5 marks and 200 words)

UPSC MAINS 2016 GS PAPER 2

Each Question carries 12.5 marks.

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each.

1. Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics?(12.5 marks and 200 words)
2. To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note "Temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir", temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity (12.5 marks and 200 words)
3. "The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
4. Exercise of CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government's policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
5. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the 'Preamble'. Are they defensible in the present circumstances?(12.5 marks and 200 words)
6. What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution?(12.5 marks and 200 words)
7. Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

- 8. What is quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 9. Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary healthcare. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance?(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 10. "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement.(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 11. "Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people's participation in the governance system are inter-dependent." Discuss their relationship in the context of India.(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 12. In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social, and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 13. Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change?(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 14. "Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India." Comment.(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 15. Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 16. "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled, and creative." What measures have been taken by**

the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?(12.5 marks and 200 words)

17. "The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries." Discuss in the Indian perspective.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

18. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post Cold War international scenario.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

19. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable examples.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

20. What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these?(12.5 marks and 200 words)

UPSC MAINS 2016 GS PAPER 3

Note: Each Question is worth 12.5 marks and maximum word limit is 200. Content of the answer is more important than its length.

1. How globalization has led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalization detrimental to the development of the country?(12.5 marks and 200 words)

2. Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?(12.5 marks and 200 words)

3. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poorer section of the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

4. What are 'Smart Cities'? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for 'Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

5. Justify the need for FDI for the development of the Indian economy. Why there is gap between MOUs signed and actual FDIs? Suggest remedial steps to be taken for increasing actual FDIs in India.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

6. Comment on the challenges for inclusive growth which include careless and useless manpower in the Indian context. Suggest measures to be taken for facing these challenges.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

7. What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

8. What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

9. Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
10. Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).(12.5 marks and 200 words)
11. Give an account of the current status and the targets to be achieved pertaining to renewable energy sources in the country. Discuss in brief the importance of National Programme on Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).(12.5 marks and 200 words)
12. Discuss India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How the application of this technology has helped India in its socio-economic development?(12.5 marks and 200 words))
13. Why is nanotechnology one of the key technologies of the 21st century? Describe the salient features of Indian Government's Mission on Nanoscience and Technology and the scope of its application in the development process of the country.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
14. Rehabilitation of human settlements is one of the important environmental impacts which always attracts controversy while planning major projects. Discuss the measures suggested for mitigation of this impact while proposing major developmental projects.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
15. The frequency of urban floods due to high intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods, highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.(12.5 marks and 200 words)
16. With reference to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, discuss the measures to be adopted to mitigate the impact of the recent incidents of cloudbursts in many places of Uttarakhand.(12.5 marks and 200 words)

- 17. The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions.(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 18. "Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades." Analyze the above statement.(12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 19. Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management. (12.5 marks and 200 words)**
- 20. Use of Internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major security concern. How have these been misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat.(12.5 marks and 200 words)**

UPSC MAINS 2016 GS PAPER 4

1. (a) Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being. (150 words) 10 marks

(b) Why should impartiality and non-partisanship be considered as foundational values in public services, especially in the present day socio-political context? Illustrate your answer with examples. **(10 marks and 150 words)**

2. (a) What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'? (10 marks and 150 words)

(b) Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's concept of seven sins. **(10 marks and 150 words)**

3. (a) Analyse John Rawls's concept of social justice in the Indian Context. (10 marks and 150 words)

(b) Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission. **(10 marks and 150 words)**

4. (a) "Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national development." Discuss Kautilya's views. (10 marks and 150 words)

(b) How could Social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan? **(10 marks and 150 words)**

5. Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (10 marks and 150 words)

(a) Discuss how they achieve this objective.

(b) Giving examples show how the two differ in their approaches.

6. Our attitudes towards life, work, other people, and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these

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unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society.

- (a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians.
- (b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socio-ethical values considered necessary in public services be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants? **(10 marks and 150 words)**

7. Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (10 marks and 150 words)

- (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours.
- (b) How can it be managed and controlled?

8. "Max Weber said that it is not wise to apply to public administration the sort of moral and ethical norms we apply to matters of personal conscience. It is important to realise that the State bureaucracy might possess its own independent bureaucratic morality." Critically analyse this statement. (10 marks and 150 words)

9. A fresh engineering graduate gets a job in a prestigious chemical industry. She likes the work. The salary is also good. However, after a few months she accidentally discovers that a highly toxic waste is being secretly discharged into a river nearby. This is causing health problems to the villagers downstream who depend on the river for their water needs. She is perturbed and mentions her concern to her colleagues who have been with the company for longer periods. They advise her to keep quiet as anyone who mentions the topic is summarily dismissed. She cannot risk losing her job as she is the sole bread-winner for her family and has to support her ailing parents and siblings. At first, she thinks that if her seniors are keeping quiet, why should she stick out her neck. But her conscience pricks her to do something to save the river and the people who depend upon it. At heart she feels that the advice of silence given by her friends is not correct though she cannot give reasons for it. She thinks you are a wise person and seeks your advice.

- (a) What arguments can you advance to show her that keeping quiet is not morally right?
(b) What course of action would you advise her to adopt and why? **(20 marks and 250 words)**

10. Land needed for mining, dams and other large-scale projects is acquired mostly from Adivasis, hill dwellers and rural communities. The displaced persons are paid monetary compensation as per the legal provisions. However, the payment is often tardy. In any case, it cannot sustain the displaced families for long. These people do not possess marketable skills to engage in some other occupation. They end up as low paid migrant labourers. Moreover, their traditional ways of community living are destroyed. Thus, the benefits of development go to industries, industrialists and urban communities whereas the costs are passed on to these poor helpless people. This unjust distribution of costs and benefits is unethical.

Suppose you have been entrusted with the task of drafting a better compensation-cum-rehabilitation policy for such displaced persons, how would you approach the problem and what would be the main elements of your suggested policy? (20 marks and 250 words)

11. Suppose you are an officer in-charge of implementing a social service scheme to provide support to old and destitute women. An old and illiterate woman comes to you to avail the benefits of the scheme. However, she has no documents to show that she fulfills the eligibility criteria. But after meeting her and listening to her you feel that she certainly needs support. Your enquiries also show that she is really destitute and living in a pitiable condition. You are in a dilemma as to what to do. Putting her under the scheme without necessary documents would clearly be violation of rules. But denying her the support would be cruel and inhuman.

- (a) Can you think of a rational way to resolve this dilemma?
(b) Give your reasons for it. **(20 marks and 250 words)**

12. You are a young, aspiring and sincere employee in a Government office working as an assistant to the director of your department. Since you have joined recently, you need to learn and progress. Luckily your superior is very kind and ready to train you for your job. He is

a very intelligent and well-informed person having knowledge of various departments. In short, you respect your boss and are looking forward to learn a lot from him.

Since you have a good tuning with the boss, he started depending on you. One day due to ill health he invited you at his place for finishing some urgent work.

You reached his house and before you could ring the bell you heard shouting noises. You waited for a while. After entering the house the boss greeted you and explained the work. But you were constantly disturbed by the crying of a woman. At last, you inquired with the boss but his answer did not satisfy you.

Next day, you were compelled to inquire further in the office and found out that his behaviour is very bad at home with his wife. He also beats up his wife. His wife is not well educated and is a simple woman in comparison to her husband. You see that though your boss is a nice person in the office, he is engaged in domestic violence at home.

In such a situation, you are left with the following options. Analyze each option with its consequences.

- (a) Just ignore thinking about it because it is their personal matter.
- (b) Report the case to the appropriate authority.
- (c) Your own innovative approach towards the situation. **(20 marks and 250 words)**

13. ABC Ltd. is a large transnational company having diversified business activities with a huge shareholder base. The company is continuously expanding and generating employment. The company, in its expansion and diversification programme, decides to establish a new plant at Vikaspuri, an area which is underdeveloped. The new plant is designed to use energy efficient technology that will help the company to save production cost by 20%. The company's decision goes well with the Government policy of attracting investment to develop such underdeveloped regions. The Government has also announced tax holiday for five years for the companies that invest in underdeveloped areas. However, the new plant may bring chaos for the inhabitants of Vikaspuri region, which is otherwise tranquil. The new

plant may result in increased cost of living, aliens migrating to the region, disturbing the social and economic order. The company sensing the possible protest tried to educate the people of Vikaspuri region and public in general that how its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy would help overcome the likely difficulties of the residents of Vikaspuri region. In spite of this the protests begin and some of the residents decided to approach the judiciary as their plea before the Government did not yield any result.

- (a) Identify the issues involved in the case
- (b) What can be suggested to satisfy the company's goal and to address the residents' concerns? (25 marks and 300 words).

14. Saraswati was a successful IT professional in USA. Moved by the patriotic sense of doing something for the country she returned to India. Together with some other like-minded friends, she formed an NGO to build a school for a poor rural community.

The objective of the school was to provide the best quality modern education at a nominal cost. She soon discovered that she has to seek permission from a number of Government agencies. The rules and procedures were quite confusing and cumbersome. What frustrated her most was the delays, callous attitude of officials and constant demand for bribes. Her experience and the experience of many others like her has deterred people from taking up social service projects.

A measure of Government control over voluntary social work is necessary. But it should not be exercised in a coercive or corrupt manner. What measures can you suggest to ensure that due control is exercised but well meaning, honest NGO efforts are not thwarted? (25 marks and 300 words).