

General Studies Paper 1

Indian heritage and culture, history and geography of the world and society.

Topic I / Art & Culture : Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Q.1) Highlight the Central Asian and Greco -Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.4)The Bhakti Movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.5) How do you justify the view that the level of the excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.6) The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.7) Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.8) Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.9) The ancient civilisation in Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to present day. Comment. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.10) Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.11) To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.12) Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.13) 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. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.14) The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.15) 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. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.16) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.17) Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]

Q.18) Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]

Topic 2/ Modern History : 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.

Q.1) 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 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.3) Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]

Q.4) Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]

Q.5) Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]

Q.6) Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.7) Why did the 'Moderates' failed to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.8) Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]

Q.9) Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian Independence since the twenties of the last century. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]

Q.10) Explain how the uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.11) Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.12) Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.13) How difficult would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.14) Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B R Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.15) Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]

Q.16) In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]

Q.17) What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]

Q.18) Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.19) Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.20) In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 3/ Post-Independence : Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

Q.1) Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]

Q.2) What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes(STs)? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.3) Has the formation of linguistic states strengthened the cause of Indian unity? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.4) It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years, but its experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935 .Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.5) Critically discuss the objectives of Bhoodan and Gramdan movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.6) Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan “Jai Jawana Jai Kisan”. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.7) Discuss the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre-and post-independent India. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.8) Analyse the circumstances that led to Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the agreement. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.9) Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive roles in the emergence of Bangladesh. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 4/ World History : History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.

Q.1) Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French Revolutions. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to their colonies? have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]

Q.3) What problems are germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.4) The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western -educated Africans. Examine. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.5) Why did the industrial revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present times? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.6) To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.7) 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? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.8) The New Economic Policy – 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.9) "Latecomer" Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had experience. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.10) Africa was chopped into states artificially created by accident of European competition. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.11) American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.12) What policy instruments were deployed to contain the great economic depression? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 5/ Indian 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.

Q.1) What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) "Empowering women is the key to control population growth." Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.3) What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.4) Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.5) What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.6) Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.7) "Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.8) 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.9) How the Indian concept of secularism different from the western model of secularism? Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.10) 'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata.' Substantiate your view. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.11) 'Globalisation is generally said to promote cultural homogenisation but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian society.' Elucidate [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]

Q.12) 'Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation.' Argue by giving suitable illustrations. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.13) In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your view point. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.14) The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What are the major issues and debates concerning women in that period? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.15) Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.16) "The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues of employment, but has also created new problems". Substantiate this statement with examples. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.17) To what extent globalisation has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.18) "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation." Substantiate this statement with suitable examples. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.19) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.20) With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme.' [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.21) What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.22) Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.23) Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.24) How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.25) Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.26) Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.27) Debate the issue whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.28) How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle class working woman in India? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.29) Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.30) The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.31) Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.32) How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.33) Discussion the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.34) Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organization free from gender bias. Comment. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.35) Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.36) Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 6/ Physical Geography : Salient features of world's physical geography.

Q.1) How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and coastal environment? Give suitable examples. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.4) How does the cryosphere affect global climate? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.5) Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.6) What characteristics can be assigned to monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.7) Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.8) "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides. "Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.9) Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing and navigation? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.10) Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.11) 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. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.12) Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.13) Tropical cyclones are largely confined to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.14) 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. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.15) What do you understand by the theory of continental drift? Discuss the prominent evidences in its support. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]
Q.16) The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called "Phailin". How are the tropical cyclones named across the world? Elaborate. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]
Q.17) What do you understand by the phenomenon of temperature inversion in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place? [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]

Q.18) Major hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located between 20-30 degree north and on the western side of the continents. Why? [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]
Q.19) Bringout the causes for more frequent landslides in the Himalayas than in Western Ghats. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]
Q.20) There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the Western Ghat. Why? [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]

Topic 7/ Human and Economic 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).

Q.1) Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Discuss the factors for localisation of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.3) How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development in India? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.4) Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.5) Why is India taking keen interest in the Arctic region? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.6) “The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system.” How can it be made effective in urban areas? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.7) Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.8) What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.9) Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.10) “In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development”. Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.11) Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by United Nations. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.12) Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.13) In what way can floods be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.14) The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.15) South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.16) Major cities of India are becoming vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.17) Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.18) Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.19) In what way micro-watershed development projects help in water conservation in drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.20) Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.21) What are the economic significances of discovery of oil in Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.22) Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.23) Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.24) Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.25) How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014]
Q.26) Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in the Southern states of India ? Discuss with justification. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]
Q.27) Analyse the factors for highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]
Q.28) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.29) It is said the India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resources doesn't appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 8/ Geophysical Phenomena : 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.

Q.1) Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.3) What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.4) How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.5) What are the consequences of spreading of 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystem? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]

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| Q.6) Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three Mega cities of the country but the air pollution is much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015] |
| Q.7) India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015] |
| Q.8) The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are reaching the limits of ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015] |
| Q.9) How far do you agree that the behaviour of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscape? Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015] |
| Q.10) Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub-continent. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2014] |
| Q.11) Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world. ? [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013] |

General Studies Paper 2

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice And International Relations

Topic 1 : Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Q.1) “Parliament’s power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power.” In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) Explain the salient features of the constitution(One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough ‘to remove cascading effect of taxes and provide for common national market for goods and services’? [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.4) Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.5) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.6) Discuss each adjective attached to the word ‘Republic’ in the ‘Preamble’. Are they defensible in the present circumstances? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.7) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.8) In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.9) Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizen a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.10) Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulation on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of Indian Constitution and judgements of the apex in this regard. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.11) What do 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.12) Discuss -Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.13) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 2 : Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

Q.1) From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing developmental projects? [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]

Q.3) "The local self-government system in India has not proved to be effective instrument of governance". Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.4) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.5) Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.6) The concept of cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasised in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.7) In the absence of well – educated and organised local level government system, Panchayats and Samitis have remained mainly political institutions and not effective instrument of governance. Critically Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.8) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.9) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.10) Many States 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.11) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 3 : Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.

Q.1) Do you think that constitution of India does not accept principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) Resorting to ordinances has always raised concern on violation of the spirit of separation of power doctrine. While noting the rationales justifying the power to promulgate, analyse whether the decision of the

Supreme Court on the issue have further facilitated to resorting to this power. Should the power to promulgate the ordinances be repealed? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.3) 'The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution.' Discuss critically. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 4 : Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.

Q.1) What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) Indian and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]

Topic 5 : Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

Q.1) Individual Parliamentarian's role as the national lawmaker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee. . [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]

Q.3) Discuss the role of Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.4) The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint session of the two houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reasons thereof. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]

Q.5) If amendment bill to the Whistle-blowers Protection Act 2011 tabled in the Parliament is passed, there may be no one left to protect. Critically Evaluate. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.6) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.7) 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? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 6: 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.

Q.1) What are the methods used by the Farmers organizations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India." Discuss. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]

Q.3) Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]

Q.4) How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.5) Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.6) How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.7) 'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people' Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.8) "The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.9) Khap panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extra – constitutional authorities, often delivering pronouncements amounting to human right violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, executive and judiciary to set the things right in this regard. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.10) What are the major changes brought in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1966 through the recent ordinance promulgated by the President? How far will it improve India's dispute resolution mechanism? Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.11) 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 [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.12) 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 is the efficacy of a government then inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.13) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 7 : Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

Q.1) On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India? . [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful? [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]

Topic 8 : Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Q.1) "The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play." Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise. . [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
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Q.2) Whether National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine. . [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.5) Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.6) 'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs.' Discuss. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 9 : Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

Q.1) "The Central Administration Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority." Explain. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.3) What is quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.4) For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institution remain independent and autonomous. Discuss in the light of experiences in recent past. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.5) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.6) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.7) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 10 : Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Q.1) 'In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost effective and remove many implementation blockages.'-Discuss. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) The need for cooperation among various service sector has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges bring the gap among the sectors. It also sets in motion a culture

of 'Collaboration' and 'team spirit'. In the light of statements above examine India's Development process. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.3) "Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate 'protection and prevention of degradation to environment.'" Comment with relevant illustrations. . [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.4) 'To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs, the identification of beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes' Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.5) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.6) 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.
Q.7) Two parallel run schemes of the Government, viz the Aadhar card and NPM, one of 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.8) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.10) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.11) Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms Comment. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.12) The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity Comment. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic II : Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

Q.1) 'The emergence of Self Help Groups(SHG) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the state from developmental activities'. Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.2) Examine critically the recent changes in the rule governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.3) The Self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Program (SBLP), which is India's own innovation, has proved to be one of the most effective poverty alleviation and women empowerment programme. Elucidate. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.4) How can be the role of NGOs be strengthened in India for development works relating to protection of the Environment? Discuss throwing light on the major constraints. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.5) The penetration of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.6) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 12 : Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Q.1) "The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self- government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process." Comment. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process – Discuss. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.3) Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.4) Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.5) Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.6) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Topic 13 : Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Q.1) Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve 'Health for All' in India. Explain. . [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.4) "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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.5) The quality of higher education in India requires major improvement to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of technical and higher education in the country. Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.6) Public health system has limitation in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that private sector can help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives do you suggest? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.7) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.8) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 14 : Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

Q.1) There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on Non- Food essential items squeezing their food – budget.- Elucidate. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India? [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) 'Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India remain mere show pieces until and unless they are backed by political will'. Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation programmes in India. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.4) Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate reduction in poverty over time. Do you agree. Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Topic 15 : Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Q.1) Implementation of information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects / Programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors, and suggest measures for their effective implementation. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) e-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about critical importance of the 'use value' of information. Explain. . [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) The Citizen's Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
Q.4) Hunger and Poverty are the biggest challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.5) "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.6) “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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.7) In the light of Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in the corporate governance to ensure transparency and accountability. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.8) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 16 : Role of civil services in a democracy.

Q.1) Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services. Comment. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]

Q.2) “Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India.” Comment. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.3) Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organization been the cause of slow change in India? Critically examine. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Topic 17 : India and its neighbourhood- relations.

Q.1) China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia’, In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbour. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.2) “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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.3) Project ‘Mausam’ is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of Indian government to improve relationship with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.4) Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India – Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchange could help generate goodwill between the two countries. Discuss with suitable examples. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.5) With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affairs 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.6) 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? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.7) In respect of India-Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 18 : Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

Q.1) 'The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) "The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order" Elaborate [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.3) "What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self- esteem and ambitions" Explain with suitable examples. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2019]
Q.4) "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.5) A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India's joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 2018. . [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.6) The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyze India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian Countries. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]
Q.7) Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.8) Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pro and cons. Critically Examine. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.9) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.10) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.11) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.12) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.13) What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.14) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.15) What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 19 : Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

Q.1) In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? . [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]
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Q.2) Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South-East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South- East Asia in this context. [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2017]

Q.3) Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 20 : Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

Q.1) 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? [200 Words] [15 Marks] [2018]

Q.3) What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.4) "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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.5) What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.6) Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UNSC. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.7) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.8) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

General Studies Paper 3

Technology, Economic Development, Bio Diversity, Environment, Security And Disaster Management

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

Q.1) Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the goods and services tax (GST) in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.3) How are the principles followed by NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile planning commission in India? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]
Q.4) How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]
Q.5) Among several factors for India's potential growth, savings rate is the most effective one. Do you agree? What are the other factors available for growth potential? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.6) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.7) Justify the need for FDI for the developments 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.8) The nature of economic growth in India in recent times is often described as a jobless growth. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.9) Craze for gold in Indian has led to surge in import of gold in recent years and put pressure on balance of payments and external value of rupee. In view of this, examine the merits of Gold Monetization scheme. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.10) 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-services vis-a-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.11) "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 [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.12) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.13) What were the reasons for the introduction of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2013? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.14) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.15) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.16) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 2 : Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

Q.1) It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]

Q.2) “Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]

Q.3) What are the salient features of ‘inclusive growth’? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyze and suggest measures for inclusive growth. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]

Q.4) Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional fiancé fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poorer section of the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.5) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.7) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Topic 3 : Government Budgeting.

Q.1) The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in context of budget making during the post liberalization period. Clarify it. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]

Q.2) Comment on the important changes introduced in respect of the Long term Capital Gains Tax (LCGT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the Union Budget for 2018-2019. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]

Q.3) One of the intended objectives of Union Budget 2017-18 is to ‘transform, energize and clean India’. Analyse the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]

Q.4) Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Topic 4 : Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

Q.1) How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) Elaborate the impact of National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.3) How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]

Q.4) What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crop in the system? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]
Q.5) What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.6) What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.7) In the view of the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture non – viable for a majority of farmers should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? critically evaluate the pros and cons. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Topic 5 : Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

Q.1) What are the reformative steps taken by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]
Q.2) What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]
Q.4) Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.5) How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]
Q.6) Give 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). [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.7) Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non- farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sector in India. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.8) How can the Digital India program help farmers to improve farm productivity and income? What step has the government taken in this regard? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.9) In what way could replacement of price subsidy with direct benefit Transfer (DBT) change the scenario of subsidies in India? Discuss. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.10) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.11) “In the villages itself no form of credit organization will be suitable except the cooperative society.” – All India Rural Credit Survey. 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.12) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Q.13) India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in food industry for ensuring better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 6 : Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.

Q.1) Elaborate the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]

Q.2) Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate number of intermediaries? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]

Q.3) What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.4) What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming this bottleneck? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Topic 7 : Land reforms in India.

Q.1) Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.2) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.3) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 8 : Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

Q.1) Account for the failure of manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports rather than capital-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive exports. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.2) "Industrial growth rate has lagged behind in the overall growth of Gross-Domestic-Product(GDP) in the post-reform period" Give reasons. How far the recent changes in Industrial Policy are capable of increasing the industrial growth rate? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]

Q.3) "Success of Make in India program depends on the success of Skill India programme and radical labour reforms." Discuss with logical arguments. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.4) There is a clear acknowledgement that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a tool of industrial development, manufacturing and exports. Recognising this potential, the whole instrumentality of SEZs require augmentation. Discuss the issue plaguing the success of SEZs with respect to taxation, governing laws and administration. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.5) Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indians. Are they competing with the MNCs satisfactorily? Discuss. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 9 : Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Q.1) 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). [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.2) To what factors can be the recent dramatic fall in equipment cost and tariff of solar energy be attributed? What implications does the trend have for thermal power producers and related industry? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.3) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.4) Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problem of conventional energy. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 10 : Investment models.

Q.1) Examine the developments of Airports in India through Joint Ventures under Public-Private Partnership(PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.2) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.3) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.4) Discuss the impact of FDI entry into Multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in commodity trade pattern of the economy. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]

Q.5) 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. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]

Q.6) 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. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 11 : Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Q.1) With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]

Q.2) Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including leukaemia, Thalassemia, damaged cornea and several burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.3) Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of fast breeder reactor programme in India? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]

Q.4) India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which has a database containing formatted information on more than 2 million medicinal formulations is proving a powerful weapon in country's fight against erroneous patents. Discuss the pro and cons of making the database available publicly available under open source licensing. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.5) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.6) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.7) What do you understand by Fixed Dose drug Combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.8) 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? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.9) What is a digital signature? What does its authentication mean? Give various salient built-in features of a digital signature. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]
Q.10) How does the 3D printing technology work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the technology. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]
Q.11) What is an FRP composite material? How are they manufactured? Discuss their application in aviation and automobile industries. [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]
Q.12) What do you understand by Run-of-river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project? [100 Words] [5 Marks] [2013]

Topic 12 : Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

Q.1) How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Discuss the work of 'Bose-Einstein Statistics' done by Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose and show how it revolutionized the field of Physics. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.3) 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? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Topic 13 : Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

Q.1) What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) How is the Government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]
Q.3) How can biotechnology help to improve the living standards of farmers? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]
Q.4) Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]
Q.5) India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics? Explain critically. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.6) Why is nanotechnology one of the key technologies of the 21st century? Describe the salient features of India Government's Mission on Nan science and Technology and the scope of its application in the development process of the country. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.7) What do you understand by "Standard Positioning System" and "Precision positioning system" in the GPS era? Discuss the advantage India perceives from its ambitious IRNSS programme employing just seven satellites. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.8) What are the areas of prohibitive labour that can be sustainably managed by robots? Discuss the initiatives that can propel the research in premier research institutes for substantive and gainful innovation. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.9) Discuss the advantage and security implication of cloud hosting of servers vis-a-vis in house machine based hosting for government business. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.10) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.11) 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 judgement in rejecting Novartis' patent application for 'Glivec'. Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 14 : Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Q.1) Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indians coasts, citing specific examples. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to an environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of a region. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]
Q.3) What are the impediments in disposing the huge quantities of discarded solid wastes which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.4) What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.5) Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economic benefits of Organic State? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]
Q.6) How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act,2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]
Q.7) Not many years ago, river linking was a concept but it is becoming reality in the country. Discuss the advantages of river linking and its possible impact on the environment. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.8) 'Climate Change' is a global problem. How India will be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]
Q.9) Rehabilitation of human settlements is one of the important environmental impacts which always attracts controversy while planning major projects. Discuss the measures suggested from mitigation of this impact while proposing major developmental projects [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]

Q.10) Discuss the Namami Gange and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) programmes and causes of mixed results from the previous schemes. What quantum leaps can help preserve the river Ganga better than incremental inputs? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.11) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.12) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.13) What are the consequences of Illegal mining? Discuss the Ministry of Environment and Forest's concept of GO AND NO GO zones for coal mining sector. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.14) 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? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 15 : Disaster and disaster management.

Q.1) Vulnerability is an essential element for defining disaster impacts and its threat to people. How and in what ways can vulnerability to disasters be characterized? Discuss different types of vulnerability with reference to disasters. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]
Q.2) Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help disaster mitigation in the case of landslides. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]
Q.3) Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing 'Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)'. How is this framework different from 'Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005'? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]
Q.4) On December 2004, tsunami brought havoc on 14 countries including India. Discuss the factors responsible for occurrence of Tsunami and its effects on life and economy. In the light of guidelines of NDMA (2010) describe the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]
Q.5) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.6) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.7) The frequency of earthquakes appears to have increased in the Indian subcontinent. However, India's preparedness for mitigating their impact has significant gaps. Discuss various aspects. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.8) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.9) 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? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 16 : Linkages between development and spread of extremism.

Q.1) Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]

Q.2) Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]

Q.3) The persisting drives of the government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. With Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into mainstream of social and economic growth. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Q.4) Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of schedules area and tribal areas. Analyse the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing extremism. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 17 : Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

Q.1) The banning of 'Jammata-e-Islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize influence of OGWs. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2018]

Q.3) The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]

Q.4) "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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.5) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Q.6) 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 Organisation. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns? [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]

Topic 18 : Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

Q.1) What is CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2019]

Q.2) Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber-crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are

the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]
Q.3) Discuss the potential threats of Cyber-attack and the security framework to prevent it. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2017]
Q.4) The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2017]
Q.5) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.6) Religious indoctrination via social media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous to the internal security of our country. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.7) Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a “Digital Armed Forces” to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]
Q.8) 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? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.9) What are social networking sites and what security implications do these sites present? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]
Q.10) Cyber warfare is considered by some defence analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country’s preparedness to deal with the same. [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 19 :Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

Q.1) Cross-Border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]
Q.2) India’s proximity to two of the world’s biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What countermeasures should be taken to prevent the same? [250 Words] [15 marks] [2018]
Q.3) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.4) “Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades.” Analyze the above statement. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.5) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2016]
Q.6) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.7) 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. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2014]
Q.8) 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? [200 Words] [10 Marks] [2013]

Topic 20 : Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

Q.1) Indian Government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations. [250 Words] [15 marks] [2019]

Q.2) Human right activists constantly highlight the fact that the Armed forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human right abuses by security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists. Critically evaluate the requirement with reference to the view held by Apex Court. [200 Words] [12.5 Marks] [2015]

Moral Philosophy

Topic 1: Ethics Theoretical Framework: *Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.*

1. What do you understand by 'Values' and 'Ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? (150 words, 10 marks) 2013
2. 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. (150 words, 10 marks) 2013
3. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustration. (150 words, 10 marks) 2013
4. "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? (150 words, 10 marks) 2013
5. What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in Public Administration? (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014
6. 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. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014
7. 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? (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014
8. In the context of defense 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. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014
9. All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with answers. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014
10. Differentiate between the following (10 marks, 2015) (200 Words) 2015
 - (i) Law and ethics
 - (ii) Ethical management and management of ethics
 - (iii) Discrimination and preferential treatment
 - (iv) Personal Ethics and Professional Ethics
11. Social values are more important than economic values. Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. (150 words) (10 marks) 2015
12. What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. (150 words) (10 marks) 2015
13. Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being. (150 words, 10 marks) 2016

14. The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017
15. Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some “enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority.” Justify. (150 Words) (10 marks) 2017
16. Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times. (150 Words) (10 marks) 2017
17. With regard to the morality of actions, one view is that means is 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 marks) 2018
18. What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three with suitable examples. (150 words, 10 marks) 2019
19. What is meant by the term ‘constitutional morality’ ? How does one uphold constitutional morality? (150 words, 10 marks) 2019

Psychology / Behavioural Ethics

Topic 2: Attitude: *content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.*

Topic 4: Emotional intelligence-*concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.*

1. What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions? (150 words, 10 marks) 2013

2. 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? (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014

3. 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. (150 words, 10 marks) 2014

4. Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude. (10 marks, 150 words) 2015

(a) Distinguish between these two terms and write their merits and demerits.

(b) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country?

5. How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan? (150 words, 10 marks) 2016

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 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. (150 words, 10 marks) 2016

(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? (150 words, 10 marks) 2016

7. Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life.

(a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviors. (150 words, 10 marks) 2016

(b) How can it be managed and controlled?(150 words, 10 marks) 2016

8. Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017

9. How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices? (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017
10. “Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you.” Do you agree with this view? Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks) 2019

Administrative Ethics

Topic 3: Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, *integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.*

Topic 6: 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.*

Topic 7: Probity in Governance: *Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.*

1. (a) What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? (250 words) (3×5= 15 marks) 2013

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) 2013

2. (a) What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience? (150 words, 10 marks) 2013

3. 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. (150 words, 10 marks) 2013

4. 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? (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014

5. 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? (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014

6. 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. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014

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? (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014
8. "A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also have to have a well developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties" Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically. (10 marks, 150 words) 2015
9. How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples (10 marks, 150 words) 2015
10. Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc. are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyse the situation in detail and suggest how the dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimised. (150 words, 10 marks) 2015
11. Today we find that in-spite of various measures of prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanism, corrupt practices are not coming under control. (10 Marks, 150 words) 2015
- (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications.
 - (b) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace.
12. At the international level, bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This lead to conflicts and tension between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples. (10 marks, 150 words) 2015
13. Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of "Conflict of Interest". What do you understand by the term "Conflict of Interest" and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples. (10 marks, 150 words) 2015
14. 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. (150 words) (10 marks) 2016
15. What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'? (150 words) (10 marks) 2016
16. Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission. (150 words) (10 marks) 2016
17. Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when
- (a) official duties,
 - (b) public interest, and
 - (c) personal interest

are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017

18. Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (150 Words) (10 marks, 2017)(Topic 6)

- (a) Transparency
- (b) Accountability
- (c) Fairness and justice
- (d) Courage of conviction
- (e) Spirit of service

19. One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017

20. Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017

21. Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017

22. Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017

23. State the *three basic values*, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance. (150 words, 10 marks) 2018

24. Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples. (150 words, 10 marks)

25. What is mean by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest? (150 words) 2018

26. “*The Right to Information Act* is not all about citizens’ empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks) 2018

27. What is mean by *conflict of interest*? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest. (150 words, 10 marks) 2018

28. Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration. (150 words, 10 marks) 2018

29. Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bond by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies. (150 words, 10 marks) 2018

30. What do you understand by the term ‘public servant’? Reflect on the expected role of public servant. (150 words, 10 marks) 2019

31. Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under- utilization and mis- utilization of public funds and their implications. (150 words, 10 marks) 2019

32. “Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption”. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (150 words, 10 marks) 2019
33. What is meant by ‘*crisis of conscience*’? How does it manifest in the public domain? (150 words, 10 marks) 2019
34. Explain the basic principles of citizens’ charter movement and bring out its importance. (150 words, 10 marks) 2019
35. There is a view that the official secrets act is an obstacle to the implementation of *Rights to Information act*. Do you agree with the view? Discuss (150 words, 10 marks) 2019
36. What do you understand by *probity in governance*? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government. (150 words, 10 marks) 2019

Thinkers and Quotes

Topic 5: Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.

1. "There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed." -Mahatma Gandhi (150 words, 10 marks) 2013
2. "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." – Abraham Lincoln. (150 words, 10 marks) 2013
3. "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies." – Aristotle (150 words, 10 marks) 2013
4. "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 modern day context. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014
5. "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as 'means'." Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving it's implications in the modern techno-economic society. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2014
6. "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of strong." (10 marks, 150 words) 2015
7. "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light" (10 marks, 150 words) 2015
8. Analyse John Rawls's concept of social justice in the Indian Context. (150 words, 10 marks) 2016
9. "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 realize that the state bureaucracy might possess its own independent bureaucratic morality." Critically analyse this statement. (10 marks, 150 words) 2016
10. Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's concept of seven sins. (150 words, 10 marks) 2016
11. "Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them." – Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017
12. "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. they are father, the mother and the teacher." – A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse. (150 Words, 10 marks) 2017
13. "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 Buffett. What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain. (150 words, 10 marks) 2018

14. "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 marks) 2018
15. "The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject anything, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost everything, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded." Abraham Lincoln. (150 words, 10 marks) 2018
16. Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding. " _ Mahatma Gandhi (150 words, 10 marks) 2018
17. "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good." _ Tirukkural (150 words, 10 marks) 2018
18. "An unexamined life is not worth living." - Socrates (150 words, 10 marks) 2019
19. "A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes." - M. K. Gandhi (150 words, 10 marks) 2019
20. "Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world." - A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (150 words, 10 marks) 2019

Case studies

1. 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 were party to these decisions. Disclosure of the information is likely to lead to disciplinary action with the 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) 2013

2. 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 Engineer 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. (250 words)
20 Marks 2013

3. So far as child labor 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/relative. To evade child labor 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 owner. 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.

a) bring out and discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.

b) What would be your reaction after your above visit? (300 words) (25 marks) 2013

4. 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 favor 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 proposal of our institute for grant of funds for modernization, which are awaiting the functionary's approval. He assures you that he would get these proposals cleared.

a) What are the options available to you?

b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons. (250 words) (20 marks) 2013

5. 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 farreaching 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.

(a) What are the options available to you?

(b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the options which you would adopt, giving reasons. (250 words) (20 marks) 2013

6. 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' 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 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.

(a) What are the options available to you?

(b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the options you would adopt, giving reasons. (250 words) (20 marks) 2013

7. 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 development activity and environmental quality. It is neither feasible to stop or curtail the developmental 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. (250 Words) (20 M) 2014

8. 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 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? (250 Words) (20 M) 2014

9. 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 workings 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. (250 Words) (20 M) 2014

10. 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 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. (250 Words) (20 M) 2014

11. 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? (250 words) (20 M) 2014

12. 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 youth are trying to shift to urban areas
- (b) landless poor people are migrating to urban slums
- (c) even some farmers are selling off the, land and trying to settle in urban areas taking , petty jobs.

What feasible steps can you suggest which will be effective in controlling this serious problem of our country? (250 words) (20 M) 2014

13. A private company is known for its efficiency, transparency and employee welfare. The company though owned by a private individual has a cooperative character where employees feel a sense of ownership. The company employs nearly 700 personnel and they have voluntarily decided not to form union.

One day suddenly in the morning, about 40 men belonging to political party gate crashed into the factory demanding jobs in the factory. They threatened the management and employees, and also used foul language. The employees feel demoralized. It was clear that those people who gate crashed wanted to be on the payroll of the company as well as continue as the volunteers/members of the party.

The company maintains high standards in integrity and does not extend favours to civil administration that also includes law enforcement agency. Such incident occur in public sector also. (20 Marks) (250 Words) 2015

- (a) Assume you are the CEO of the company. What would you do to diffuse the volatile situation on the date of gate crashing with the violent mob sitting inside the company premises?
- (b) What can be the long term solution to the issue discussed in the case?

(c) Every solution/action that you suggest will have a negative and a positive impact on you as (CEO), the employees and the performance of the employees. Analyse the consequences of each of your suggested actions.

14. You are the Sarpanch of a Panchayat. There is a primary school run by the government in your area. Midday meals are provided to children attending the school. The headmaster has now appointed a new cook in the school to prepare the meals. However, when it is found that cook is from Dalit community, almost half of the children belonging to higher castes are not allowed to take meals by their parents. Consequently the attendance in the schools falls sharply. This could result in the possibility of discontinuation of midday meal scheme, thereafter of teaching staff and subsequent closing down the school. (20 Marks) (250 Words) 2015

(a) Discuss some feasible strategies to overcome the conflict and to create right ambiance.

(b) What should be the responsibilities of different social segments and agencies to create positive social ambiance for accepting such changes?

15. One of the scientists working in the R&D laboratory of a major pharmaceutical company discovers that one of the company's bestselling veterinary drugs has the potential to cure a currently incurable liver disease which is prevalent in tribal areas. However, developing a variant of the drug suitable for human being entailed a lot of research and development having a huge expenditure to the extent of Rs. 50 crores. It was unlikely that company would recover the cost as the disease was rampant only in poverty stricken areas having very little market otherwise.

If you were the CEO, then (20 Marks) (250 Words) 2015

(a) Identify the various actions that you could take

(b) Evaluate the pros and cons of each of your actions

16. There is a disaster prone state having frequent landslides, forest fires, cloudbursts, flash floods and earthquakes, etc. Some of these are seasonal and often unpredictable. The magnitude of the disaster is always unanticipated. During one of the seasons a cloudburst caused a devastating floods and landslides leading to high casualties. There was major damage to infrastructure like roads, bridges and power generating units. This led to more than 100000 pilgrims, tourist and other locals trapped across different routes and locations. The people trapped in your area of responsibility includes senior citizens, patients in hospitals, women and children, hiker, tourist, ruling parties, regional presidents along with his family, additional chief secretary of the neighboring state and prisoners in jail.

As a civil services officer of the state, what would be the order in which you would rescue these people and why? Give Justifications (20 Marks) (200 Words) 2015

17. You are heading a district administration in a particular department. Your senior officer calls you from the State Headquarters and tells you that a plot in Rampur village is to have a building constructed on it for a school. A visit is scheduled during which he will visit the site along with the chief engineer and the senior architect. He wants you to check out all the papers relating to it and ensure that the visit is properly arranged. You examine the file which relates to the period before you joined the department. The land was acquired for the local panchayat at a nominal cost and the papers showed that clearance certificates are available for the two of the three authorities who have to certify the site's suitability. There is no certification by the architect available on file. You decide to visit Rampur to ensure that all is in the order as stated on file. When you visit Rampur, you find that the plot under reference is a part of Thakurgarh fort and that the walls, ramparts, etc., are running across it. The fort is well away from the main village, therefore a school here will be a serious inconvenience for the children. However, the area near the village has potential to expand into a larger residential area. The development charges on the existing plot, at the fort, will be very high and question of heritage site has not been addressed. Moreover, the Sarpanch, at the time of acquisition of the land, was a relative of your predecessor. The whole transaction appears to have been done with some vested interest. (25 Marks) (250 Words) 2015

- (a) List the likely vested interest of the concerned parties.
- (b) Some of the options for action available to you are listed below. Discuss the merits and demerits of each of the options:
- (i) You can await the visit of the superior officer and let him take a decision.
- (ii) You can seek his advice in writing or on phone.
- (iii) You can consult your predecessor/ colleagues, etc, and then decide what to do.
- (iv) You can find out if any alternate plot can be got in exchange and then send a comprehensive written report.

Can you suggest any other option with proper justifications?

18. You are recently posted as district development officer of a district. Shortly thereafter you found that there is considerable tension in the rural areas of your district on the issue of sending girls to schools.

The elders of the village feel that many problems have come up because girls are being educated and they are stepping out of the safe environment of the household. They are the view that the girls should be quickly married off with minimum education. The girls are also competing for jobs after education, which have traditionally remained in boys' exclusive domain, adding to unemployment amongst male population.

The younger generation feels that in the present era, girls should have equal opportunities for education and employment, and other means of livelihood. The entire locality is divided between sexes in both generations. You come to know that in Panchayat or in other local bodies or even in busy crossroads, the issue is being acrimoniously debated.

One day you are informed that an unpleasant incident has taken place. Some girls were molested, when they were en route to schools. The incident led to clashes between several groups and a law and order problem has arisen. The elder after heated discussion have taken a joint decision not to allow girls to go to school and to socially boycott all such families, which do not follow their dictate. (250 words) (25 Marks) 2015

- (a) What steps would you take to ensure girls' safety without disrupting their education?
- (b) How would you manage and mould patriarchic attitude of the village elders to ensure harmony in the inter- generational relations?

19. 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 can not 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? (250 words) 2016

20. 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 laborers. Moreover, their development goes 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? (250 words) 2016

21. 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 fulfils 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. (250 words) 2016

22. 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 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 behavior 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. Analyse 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 situation. (250 marks) 2016

23. 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' concern? (300 words) (25 mark) 2016.

24. 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 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? (300 words) (25 mark) 2016.

25. You are an honest and responsible civil servant. You often observe the following:

- (a) There is a general perception that adhering to ethical conduct one may face difficulties to oneself and cause problems for the family, whereas unfair practices may help to reach the career goals.
- (b) When the number of people adopting unfair means is large, a small minority having a penchant towards ethical means makes no difference.
- (c) Sticking to ethical means is detrimental to the larger developmental goals
- (d) While one may not involve oneself in large unethical practices, but giving and accepting small gifts makes the system more efficient.

Examine the above statements with their merits and demerits. (250 Words, 20) 2017

26. You are aspiring to become an IAS officer and you have cleared various stages and now you have been selected for the personal interview. On the day of the interview, on the way to the venue you saw an accident where a mother and child who happen to be your relatives were badly injured. They needed immediate help.

What would you have done in such a situation? Justify your action. (250 Words, 20) 2017

27. You are the head of the Human Resources department of an organisation. One day one of the workers died on duty. His family was demanding compensation. However, the company denied compensation because it was revealed in investigation that he was drunk at the time of the accident. The workers of the company went to strike demanding compensation for the family of the deceased. The Chairman of the management board has asked for your recommendation.

What recommendation would you provide the management?

Discuss the merits and demerits of each of the recommendations. (250 Words, 20) 2017

28. You are the manager of a spare parts company A and you have to negotiate a deal with the manager of a large manufacturing company B. The deal is highly competitive and sealing the deal is critical for your company. The deal is being worked out over a dinner. After dinner the manager of manufacturing company B offered to drop you to the hotel in his car. On the way to hotel he happens to hit motorcycle injuring the motorcyclist badly. You know the manager was driving fast and thus lost control. The law enforcement officer comes to investigate the issue and you are the sole eyewitness to it. Knowing the strict laws pertaining to road accidents you are aware that your honest account of the incident would lead to the prosecution of the manager and as a consequence the deal is likely to be jeopardised, which is of immense importance to your company.

What are the dilemmas you face? What will be your response to the situation? (250 Words, 20) 2017

29. A building permitted for three floors, while being extended illegally to 6 floors by a builder, collapses. As a consequence, a number of innocent labourers including women and children died. These labourers are migrants of different places. The government immediately announced cash relief to the aggrieved families and arrested the builder.

Give reasons for such incidents taking place across the country. Suggest measures to prevent their occurrence. (250 Words, 20) 2017

30. You are a Public Information Officer (PIO) in a government department. You are aware that the RTI Act 2005 envisages transparency and accountability in administration. The act has functioned as a check on the supposedly arbitrarily administrative behaviour and actions. However, as a PIO you have observed that there are citizens who filed RTI applications not for themselves but on behalf of such stakeholders who purportedly want to have access to information to further their own interests. At the same time there are these RTI activists who routinely file RTI applications and attempt to extort money from the decision makers. This type of RTI activism has affected the functioning of the administration adversely and also possibly jeopardises the genuineness of the applications which are essentially aimed at getting justice.

What measures would you suggest to separate genuine and non-genuine applications? Give merits and demerits of your suggestions. (250 Words, 20) 2017

31. Rakesh is a responsible district level officer, who enjoys the trust of his higher officials. Knowing his honesty, the government entrusted him with the responsibility of identifying the beneficiaries under a health care scheme meant for senior citizens.

The criteria to be a beneficiary are the following:

- (a) 60 years of age or above.
- (b) Belonging to a reserved community.
- (c) Family income of less than 1 Lakh rupees per annum.
- (d) Post-treatment prognosis is likely to be high to make a positive difference to the quality of life of the beneficiary.

One day, an old couple visited Rakesh's office with their application. They have been the residents of a village in his district since their birth. The old man is diagnosed with a rare condition that causes obstruction in the large intestine. As a consequence, he has severe abdominal pain frequently that prevents him from doing any physical labour. The couple has no children to support them. The expert surgeon whom they contacted is willing to do the surgery without charging any fee. However, the couple will have to bear the cost of incidental charges, such as medicines, hospitalization, etc., to the tune of rupees one lakh. The couple fulfils all the criteria except criterion 'b'. However, any financial aid would certainly make a significant difference in their quality of life.

How should Rakesh respond to the situation? (250 words) 2018

32. As a senior officer in the Ministry, you have access to important policy decisions and upcoming big announcements such as road constructions projects before they are notified in the public domain. The Ministry is about to announce a mega road project for which the drawings are already in place. Sufficient care was taken by the planners to make use of the government land with the minimum land acquisition from private parties. Compensation rate for private parties was also finalized as per government rules. Care was also taken to minimize deforestation. Once the project is announced, it is expected that there will be a huge spurt in real estate prices in and around that area.

Meanwhile, the Minister concerned insists that you realign the road in such a way that it comes closer to his 20 acres farmhouse. He also suggests that he would facilitate the purchase of a big plot of land in your wife name at the prevailing rate which is very nominal, in and around the proposed mega road project. He also tries to convince you by saying that there is no harm in it as he is buying the land legally. He even promises to supplement your savings in case you do not have sufficient funds to buy the land. However, by the act of realignment, a lot of agricultural lands has to be acquired, thereby causing a considerable financial burden on the government, and also the displacement of the farmers. As if this is not enough, it will involve cutting down of a large number of trees denuding the area of its green cover.

Faced with this situation, what will you do? Critically examine various conflicts of interest and explain what your responsibilities are as a public servant. (250 words) 2018

33. It is a State where prohibition is in force. You are recently appointed as the Superintendent of Police of a district notorious for illicit distillation of liquor. The illicit liquor leads to many death, reported and unreported, and causes a major problem for the district authorities.

The approach till now had been to view it as a law and order problem and tackle it accordingly. Raids, arrest, police cases, and criminal trials – all these had only limited impact. The problem remains as serious as ever.

Your inspections show that the parts of the district where the distillation flourishes are economically, industrially and educationally backward. Agriculture is badly affected by poor irrigation facilities. Frequent clashes among communities gave boost to illicit distillation. No major initiatives had taken place in the past either from the government's side or from social organizations to improve the lot of the people.

Which new approach will you adopt to bring the problem under control? (250 words) 2018

34. A big corporate house is engaged in manufacturing industrial chemicals on a large scale. It proposes to set upon the additional unit. Many states rejected its proposal due to the detrimental effect on the environment. But one state government acceded to the request and permitted the unit close to a city, brushing aside all opposition.

The unit was set up 10 years ago and was in full swing till recently. The pollution caused by the industrial effluents was affecting the land, water and crops in the area. It was also causing serious health problems to human beings and animals. This gave rise to a series of agitation thousands of people took part, creating a law and order problem necessitating stern police action. Following the public outcry, the State government ordered the closure of the factory.

The closure of the factory resulted in the unemployment of not only those workers who were engaged in the factory but also those who were working in the ancillary units. It also very badly affected those industry which depended on the chemicals manufactured by it.

As a senior officer entrusted with the responsibility of handling this issues, how are you going to address it? (250 words) 2018

35. Dr X is a leading medical practitioner in a city. He has set up a charitable trust through which he plans to establish a super-speciality hospital in the city to cater to the medical needs of all sections of the society. Incidentally, that part of the State had been neglected over the years. The proposed hospital would be a boon for the region.

You are heading the tax investigation agency of that region. During an inspection of the doctor's clinic, your officers have found out some major irregularities. A few of them are

substantial which had resulted in considerable withholding of tax that should be paid by him now. The doctor is cooperative. He undertakes to pay the tax immediately.

However, there are certain other deficiencies in his tax compliance which are purely technical in nature. If these technical defaults are pursued by the agency, considerable time and energy of the doctor will be diverted to issues which are not so serious, urgent or even helpful to the tax collection process. Further, in all probability, it will hamper the prospects of the hospital coming up.

There are two options before you:

1. Taking a broader view, ensure substantial tax compliance and ignore defaults that are merely technical in nature.
- 2) Pursue the matter strictly and proceed on all fronts, whether substantial or merely technical.

As the head of the tax agency, which course of action will you opt and why? (250 words) 2018

36. Edward Snowden, a computer expert and former CIA administrator, released confidential Government documents to the press about the existence of Government surveillance programmes. According to many legal experts and the US Government, his action violated the Espionage act of 1971, which identified the leak of State secret as an act of treason. Yet, despite the fact that he broke the law, Snowden argued that he had a moral obligation to act. He gave a justification for his “whistle blowing” by stating that he had a duty “to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them.”

According to Snowden, the Government’s violation of privacy had to be exposed regardless of legality since more substantive issues of social action and public morality were involved here. Many agreed with Snowden. Few argued that he broke the law and compromised national security, for which he should be held accountable.

Do you agree that Snowden’s actions were ethically justified even if legally prohibited? Why or why not? Make an argument by weighing the competing values in this case (250 words) 2018.

37. You are heading the rescue operations in an area affected by severe natural calamity, thousands of people are rendered homeless and deprived of food, drinking water and other basic amenities. Rescue work has been disrupted by heavy rainfall and damaged to supply routes. The local people are seething with anger against the delayed limited rescue operations. When your team reaches the affected area, the people there heckle and even assault some of the team members. One of your team members is even severely injured. Faced with this crisis some team members plead with you to call off the operations freeing threats to their life.

In such trying circumstances, what will be your response? Examine the qualities of a public servant which will be required to manage the situations. (250 words) (20 marks)

38. Honesty and uprightness are the hallmarks of a civil servants. Civil servants possessing these qualities are considered as the backbone of any strong organizations. In line of duty, they take various decisions, at times, some become bonafide mistakes. As long as such decisions are not taken intentionally and do not benefit personally, the officer cannot be said to be guilty. Though such decisions may, at times, lead to unforeseen adverse consequences in the long term.

In the recent past, a few instances have surfaced where in civil servants has been implicated for bonafide mistakes. They have often been prosecuted and even imprisoned. These instances have greatly rattled the moral fiber of the civil servants.

How does this trend affect the functioning of civil services? What measures can be taken to ensure that honest civil servants are not implicated for bonafide mistakes on their part? Justify your answer. (250 words) (20 marks) 2019

39. An apparel manufacturing company having large number of women employees was losing sales due to various factors. The company hired a reputed marketing executive, who increased the volume of sales within a short span of time. However, some unconfirmed reports came up regarding his indulgence in sexual harassment at the work place.

After sometime a women employee launched a formal complaint to the management against the marketing executive about sexually harassing her. Faced with the companies' indifference, in not taking cognisance of her grievances, she lodged an FIR with police.

Realizing the sensitivity and gravity of the situation, the company called the women employee to negotiate. In that she was offered a hefty sum of money to withdraw the complaint and the FIR and also give in writing that the marketing executive is not involved in the case.

Identify the ethical issues involved in this case. What options are available to the women employees? (250 words) (20 marks) 2019

40. In a modern democratic polity there is a concept of political executive and permanent executive elected people's representatives forms the political executive and bureaucracy forms the permanent executive. Ministers frame policy decisions and bureaucrats execute these. In the initial decades after independence, relationship between the permanent executives and the political executives were characterized by mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation, without encroaching upon each other's domain.

However, in the subsequent decades the situation has changed. There are instances of the political executive insisting upon the permanent executives to follow its agenda. Respect for an appreciation of an upright bureaucrats has declined. There is an increasing tendency

among the political executive to get involved in routine administrative matters such as transfers, posting etc. Under this scenario, there is a definitive trend towards 'politicization of bureaucracy'. The rising materialism and acquisitiveness in social life has also adversely impacted upon the ethical values of both the permanent executive and the political executive.

What are the consequences of this 'politicization of bureaucracy'? Discuss. (250 words) (20 marks) 2019

41. In one of the districts of a frontier state, narcotics menace has been rampant. This has results in money laundering, mushrooming of poppy farming, arms smuggling and near stalling of education. The system is on the verge of collapse. The situation has been further worsened by unconfirmed reports that local politicians as well as some senior police officers are providing surreptitious patronage to the drug mafia. At that point of time a woman police officer, known for her skills in handling such situations is appointed as superintendent of police to bring the situation to normalcy.

If you are the same police officer, identify the various dimensions of the crisis. Based on your understanding, suggest measures to deal with the crisis. (250 words) (20 marks) 2019

42. In recent times, there has been an increasing concern in India to develop effective civil service ethics, code of conduct, transparency measures, ethics and integrity systems and anti-corruption agencies. In view of this, there is a need being felt to focus on three specific areas, which are directly relevant to the problems of internalizing integrity and ethics in the civil services. These are as follows:

1. Anticipating specific threats to ethical standards and integrity in the civil services,
2. Strengthening the ethical competence of civil servant and
3. Developing administrative processes and practices which promote ethical values and integrity in civil services.

Suggest institutional measures to address the above three issues. (250 words) (20 marks) 2019

