

Topic Wise UPSC Mains Questions (PYQs)

GS Paper II

Year	Subject	Sub-Topic	Question	Marks
2023	Polity	Features of the Constitution	“Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy”. Comment.	10 Marks
2023	Polity	Judiciary	Who are entitled to receive free legal aid? Assess the role of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in rendering free legal aid in India.	10 Marks
2023	Polity	Local Self Government	“The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially.” Comment.	10 Marks
2023	Polity	Comparison - Indian Constitution with other countries	Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty.	10 Marks
2023	Polity	State Executive	Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices.	10 Marks
2023	Polity	Governance	The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this adequacy.	10 Marks
2023	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions.	10 Marks
2023	Polity	Governance	e-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features?	10 Marks

2023	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO'. In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating problems.	10 Marks
2023	Polity	International Relations	Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India.	10 Marks
2023	Polity	Fundamental Rights	"The Construction of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society". Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty.	15 Marks
2023	Polity	Features of the Constitution	Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws.	15 Marks
2023	Polity	Emergency Provisions	Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid 1990s.	15 Marks
2023	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India.	15 Marks
2023	Polity	Federalism	Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism?	15 Marks
2023	Polity	Parliament	Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalization of Indian Parliament?	15 Marks
2023	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	"Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.	15 Marks
2023	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	Skill development programs have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement, analyze the linkages between education, skill and employment.	15 Marks

2023	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	'The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well in India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.	15 Marks
2023	Polity	Important International Institutions	'Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos'. Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security.	15 Marks
2022	Polity	Comparison - Indian Constitution with other countries	Critically examine the procedures through which the Presidents of India and France are elected	15 Marks
2022	Polity	Judiciary	"The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws.	10 Marks
2022	Polity	Fundamental Rights	"Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute. " Comment.	10 Marks
2022	Polity	Local Self Government	To what extent, in your opinion, as the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots?	10 Marks
2022	Polity	Parliament	Discuss the role of the Vice –Presidents of India as the chairman of the Rajyasabha	10 Marks
2022	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body.	10 Marks
2022	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss.	10 Marks

2022	Polity	Governance	The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.	10 Marks
2022	Polity	Governance	Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment.	10 Marks
2022	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement.	10 Marks
2022	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC ? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two ? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation ?	10 Marks
2022	Polity	Elections	Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision ? Refer to the case laws.	15 Marks
2022	Polity	State Executive	Discuss the essential conditions for exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature.	15 Marks
2022	Polity	Federalism	While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment.	15 Marks
2022	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct.	15 Marks
2022	Polity	Governance	Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve	15 Marks

			the poor and the underprivileged sections of the society. Discuss.	
2022	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process ? Justify your answer.	15 Marks
2022	Polity	Bills and Acts	The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse	15 Marks
2022	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	How will 12U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics?	15 Marks
2022	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	Clean energy is the order of the day.' Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics.	15 Marks
2021	Polity	Features of the Constitution	'Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions.	10 marks
2021	Polity	Judiciary	Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness.	10 marks
2021	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position?	10 marks
2021	Polity	Parliament	To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?	10 marks
2021	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	"Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies	10 marks

2021	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	"Besides being a moral imperative of Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development." Analyze.	10 marks
2021	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	"Earn while you learn' scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful." Comment.	10 marks
2021	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples.	10 marks
2021	Polity	International Relations	"If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years.	10 marks
2021	Polity	International Relations	"The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain	10 marks
2021	Polity	Federalism	The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probe within a particular state is being questioned by various States. However, the power of States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India.	15 Marks
2021	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analyzing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures.	15 Marks
2021	Polity	State Legislature	Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations.	15 Marks
2021	Polity	Parliament	Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control?	15 Marks

			Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples.	
2021	Polity	Governance	Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, couple with lack of Information and Communication Technology(ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification.	15 Marks
2021	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	“Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal.” Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?	15 Marks
2021	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model.	15 Marks
2021	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. what importance does it hold for India?	15 Marks
2021	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China’s ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario.	15 Marks
2021	Polity	Comparison - Indian Constitution with other countries	Analyze the distinguishing features of the notion of Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India.	15 Marks
2020	Polity	Elections	There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act.” Comment.	10 marks

2020	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	“Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission.” Discuss.	10 marks
2020	Polity	Federalism	How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer.	10 marks
2020	Polity	Comparison - Indian Constitution with other countries	The judicial systems in India and UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices.	10 Marks
2020	Polity	Parliament	Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker!’ Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India?	10 marks
2020	Polity	Governance	In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss.	10 marks
2020	Polity	Governance	“Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance.” In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy.	10 marks
2020	Polity	Governance	The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government.” Discuss.	10 marks
2020	Polity	Important International Institutions	Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic.	10 marks
2020	Polity	International Relations	Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries.’ Comment with examples.	10 marks
2020	Polity	Federalism	Indian Constitution exhibits centralising tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic	15 marks

			Diseases Act, 1897, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts.	
2020	Polity	Judiciary	Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities.	15 marks
2020	Polity	Local Self Government	The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funds' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality'. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times.	15 marks
2020	Polity	Parliament	Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible.	15 marks
2020	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons.	15 marks
2020	Polity	Important International Institutions	"The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone." In this context analyse the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report.	15 marks
2020	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	"Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India." Evaluate the role of the Self Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India.	15 marks
2020	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine this statement.	15 marks

2020	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	'Quadilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss.	15 marks
2020	Polity	International Relations	What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region.	15 marks
2020	Polity	Comparison - Indian Constitution with other countries	The judicial systems in India and UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices.	10 marks
2019	Polity	Features of the Constitution	Do you think Constitution of India does not accept principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain.	10 marks
2019	Polity	Judiciary	The Central Administrative 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.	10 marks
2019	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	What are the methods used by the farmer's organizations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods?	10 marks
2019	Polity	Features of the Constitution	From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain.	10 marks
2019	Polity	Forms of Government	What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism?	10 marks
2019	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	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	10 marks

2019	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	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.	10 marks
2019	Polity	Governance	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.	10 marks
2019	Polity	International Relations	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.	10 marks
2019	Polity	Important International Institutions	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’.	10 marks
2019	Polity	Elections	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.	15 Marks
2019	Polity	Doctrine of Basic Structure	“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?	15 Marks
2019	Polity	Local Self Government	“The reservation of seats for women in the institution of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian political process”.	15 Marks
2019	Polity	Union Executive	“The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India.”	15 Marks
2019	Polity	Parliament	Individual parliamentarian’s role as the national law maker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely	15 Marks

			impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss.	
2019	Polity	Governance	'In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of developmental planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages'- Discuss	15 Marks
2019	Polity	Governance	The need for cooperation among various service sectors has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges 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.	15 Marks
2019	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	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	15 Marks
2019	Polity	International Relations	"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	15 Marks
2019	Polity	International Relations	What introduces friction into the ties between India and 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.	15 Marks
2018	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	In 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?	10 Marks
2018	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	Whether National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine.	10 Marks
2018	Polity	Emergency Provisions	Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India?	10 Marks

			What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force?	
2018	Polity	Parliament	Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee.	10 Marks
2018	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	“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	10 Marks
2018	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	“Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate ‘protection and prevention of degradation to environment.’ Comment with relevant illustrations.	10 Marks
2018	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve ‘Health for All’ in India. Explain.	10 Marks
2018	Polity	Governance	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.	10 Marks
2018	Polity	International Relations	“India’s relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.” Discuss.	10 Marks
2018	Polity	International Relations	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.	10 Marks
2018	Polity	Judiciary	Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine.	15 Marks
2018	Polity	Judiciary	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.	15 Marks

2018	Polity	Comparison - Indian Constitution with other countries	Indian and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based.	15 Marks
2018	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss.	15 Marks
2018	Polity	Local Self Government	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?	15 Marks
2018	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	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.	15 Marks
2018	Polity	Governance	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?	15 Marks
2018	Polity	Governance	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.	15 Marks
2018	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	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?	15 Marks
2018	Polity	International Relations	In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation?	15 Marks
2017	Polity	Local Self Government	The local self government system in India has not proved to be effective instrument of governance".	10 Marks

			Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation.	
2017	Polity	Judiciary	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.	10 Marks
2017	Polity	Elections	'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.	10 Marks
2017	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	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?	10 Marks
2017	Polity	Parliament	Discuss the role of Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people.	10 Marks
2017	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	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.	10 Marks
2017	Polity	Bills and Acts	Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss	10 Marks
2017	Polity	Governance	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.	10 Marks
2017	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	'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 neighbor.	10 Marks

2017	Polity	Important International Institutions	What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it.	5+5 Marks
2017	Polity	Amendment to the Constitution	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'?	15 Marks
2017	Polity	Fundamental Rights	Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy.	15 Marks
2017	Polity	Parliament	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.	15 Marks
2017	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	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?	15 Marks
2017	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	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.	15 Marks
2017	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	'The emergence of Self Help Groups (SHGs) 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.	15 Marks
2017	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	'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.	15 Marks

2017	Polity	Governance	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	15 Marks
2017	Polity	International Relations	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.	15 Marks
2017	Polity	International Relations	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	
2016	Polity	Federalism	Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics?	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Federalism	To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note "temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir", temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Forms of Government	"The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	Exercise of CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government's policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Preamble	Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the 'Preamble'. Are they defensible in the present circumstances?	12.5 Marks

2016	Polity	Judiciary	What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution?	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Historical Background	Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Judiciary	What is quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Governance	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?	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Governance	“In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal.” Critically examine this statement.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Governance	“Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people’s participation in the governance system are inter-dependent.” Discuss their relationship in the context of India.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Governance	In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Governance	Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change?	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Governance	“Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India.” Comment.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	“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	12.5 Marks

			enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?	
2016	Polity	Important International Institutions	“The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries.” Discuss in the Indian perspective.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	International Relations	Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India’s Look East Policy in the context of the post Cold War international scenario.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	“Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).” Explain with suitable examples.	12.5 Marks
2016	Polity	International Relations	What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India’s position on these?	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Directive Principles of State Policy	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.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Federalism	The concept of cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasized in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Local Self Government	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.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Local Self Government	Khap panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extra – constitutional authorities, often delivering pronouncements amounting to human	12.5 Marks

			right violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, executive and judiciary to set the things right in this regard.	
2015	Polity	Judiciary	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?	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Union Executive	What are the major changes brought in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 through the recent ordinance promulgated by the President? How far will it improve India's dispute resolution mechanism? Discuss.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Fundamental Rights	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.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	Examine critically the recent changes in the rule governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	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.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	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.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Governance	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.	12.5 Marks

2015	Polity	Governance	Public health system has limitation in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that private sector could help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives do you suggest?	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Governance	Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate reduction in poverty levels over time. Do you agree. Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Governance	In the light of Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in the corporate governance to ensure transparency and accountability.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Bills and Acts	If amendment bill to the Whistleblowers Act 2011 tabled in the Parliament is passed, there maybe no one left to protect. Critically Evaluate.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Governance	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.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pro and cons. Critically Examine.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	Important International Institutions	Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UNSC.	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of the Indian government to improve relationship with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss	12.5 Marks
2015	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	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.	12.5 Marks

2014	Polity	Judiciary	Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Federalism	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 Center, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. Discuss.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Union Executive	The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed?	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Fundamental Rights	What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Union Executive	Instances of President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time limit specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Union Executive	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.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	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	12.5 Marks

			for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.	
2014	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways or the private container operators.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	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 the above observation assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and the judiciary and other institutions. In promoting and protecting human rights standards.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	The penetration of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing sociocultural hurdles. Examine.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economies?	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Governance	An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Governance	Should the premier institutes like IITs/ IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing course and also decide mode/ criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges.	12.5 Marks

2014	Polity	Governance	Has the Cadre based Civil Services organization been the cause of slow change in India? Critically examine.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	Two parallel run schemes of the Government, viz the Adhaar Card and NPR, one as voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need run concurrently. Analyse the potential of the schemes to achieve developmental benefits and equitable growth.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests?	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the India context.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Important International Institutions	India has recently signed to become founding member of New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India.	12.5 Marks
2014	Polity	Important International Institutions	WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security.	12.5 Marks

2013	Polity	Union Executive	The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years and as a result healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law which was legislated but with a different intention?	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Fundamental Rights	Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Scheduled and Tribal Areas	Recent directives from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the State. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Judiciary	'The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution.' Discuss critically.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Local Self Government	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.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Federalism	Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Local Self Government	Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Governance	The product diversification of financial institutions and insurance companies, resulting in overlapping of products and services strengthens the case for the merger of the two regulatory agencies, namely SEBI and IRDA. Justify.	10 Marks

2013	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	The concept of Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates and success.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups	The legitimacy and accountability of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the micro-finance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	The Central Government frequently complains on the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms Comment.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity Comment.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Government Schemes and Policies	Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Governance	Though Citizens' charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided Analyse.	10 Marks

2013	Polity	Constitutional and Non-constitutional bodies	'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs.' Discuss.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	The proposed withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Economic ties between India and Japan while growing in the recent years are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India?	10 Marks
2013	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India?	10 Marks
2013	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	In respect of India-Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss.	10 Marks
2013	Polity	Important International Institutions	The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate.	10 Marks

2012	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	Do you think that China's emergence as one of the largest trading partners of India has adversely against the settlement of the outstanding border problem?	25 Marks
2012	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	Discuss the contentious issues that have caused the prolonged constitutional logjam in Nepal.	25 Marks
2012	Polity	International Relations	'The situation today is far different to that prevalent fifty years back when the Indus Water treaty was seined.' Highlight the complexity of the current challenges on both sides of the border in this regard. Do you think that a review of the Treaty is in India's best interests?	25 Marks
2012	Polity	International Relations	Write a short analytical note on Indian Diaspora. How is the "New Diaspora" different from the "Old Diaspora"?	15 Marks
2012	Polity	International Relations	Why have the resource rich African and South Asian countries remained poor of decades? Explain.	15 Marks
2012	Polity	International Relations	Does Putin's return as President of Russian mark a shift to a confrontationalist stance in international diplomacy towards the West?	15 Marks
2012	Polity	Important International Institutions	Compare the significance of IBSA and BRICS in the context of India's multilateral diplomacy.	10 Marks
2012	Polity	International Relations	How have the US sanctions against Iran affected India's bilateral relations with Iran?	10 Marks
2011	Polity	International Relations	List the Central Asian Republics and identify those of particular strategic and economic importance to India. Examine the opportunities and bottlenecks in enhancing relations with these countries.	20 Marks
2011	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	Critically examine the security and strategic implications of the so-called 'string of pearls' theory for India.	20 Marks
2011	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	"Compared to the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Area (BIMSTEC FTA) seems to be more promising " Critically evaluate	20 Marks

2011	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Subsequent to the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) waiver in 2008, what are the agreements on nuclear energy that India has signed with different countries?	12 Marks
2011	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	Trace the progress of India's efforts for a joint. counter-terrorism strategy with China. What are the likely implications of the recent Xinjiang violence on these efforts?	12 Marks
2011	Polity	International Relations	What are the salient features of the political and economic relationship between India and South Africa?	12 Marks
2011	Polity	Important International Institutions	"As regards the increasing rates of melting of Arctic Sea ice, the interests of the Arctic Council. nations may not coincide with those of the wider world." Explain.	12 Marks
2011	Polity	International Relations	Is there still a role for the concept of balance of power in contemporary international politics ? Discuss.	12 Marks
2011	Polity	International Relations	"Strategic interests seem to be replacing commercial interests for the host country with regard to Cam Ranh Bay." Amplify.	12 Marks
2011	Polity	International Relations	To what extent has the withdrawal of al-Shabab from Mogadishu given peace a real chance in Somalia? Assess.	12 Marks
2010	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Critically examine the implications of the disintegration of the Soviet Union on India's security and strategic perspectives. What further responses would you suggest in India's foreign policy to accommodate these implications.	20 Marks
2010	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	How far have Japan's principles of Hikaku San Gensoku impacted bilateral ties with India?	12 Marks
2010	Polity	International Relations	Assess the contributions of Indian diaspora in the Caribbean.	12 Marks

2010	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	Do you agree with the view that Israel is a 'natural ally' of India?	12 Marks
2010	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	Examine the recent developments towards the solution of the Bangladesh-Myanmar maritime boundary dispute. What implications do these have for India?	12 Marks
2010	Polity	India and its Neighborhood	What are the major capacity-building and reconstruction projects being undertaken by Indian in Afghanistan?	5 Marks
2010	Polity	International Relations	Comment on the reason for the recent hike in visa processing fees for certain categories of US visas. What is the likely impact of this hike on India?	5 Marks
2010	Polity	International Relations	Highlight the role of the Indian peacekeeping contingent as part of MONUSCO.	5 Marks
2010	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	List the salient features of the Riyadh declaration and the bilateral agreements between India and Saudi Arabia signed earlier this year.	5 Marks
2010	Polity	International Relations	Examine the opportunities for a lasting West Asia peace solution in the context of the 'historic' talks started in September 2010.	2 Marks
2010	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Has the February agreement between the Sudanese government and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) been more successful in ending the strife in Darfur than the Abuja peace agreement of 2006? Evaluate.	2 Marks
2010	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Comment on the present status of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). What important issues, do you think, need to be taken up at the seventh review conference of the BWC scheduled for 2011?	2 Marks
2010	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Comment on the Significance of the Kampala declaration of the International Criminal Court (ICC)	5 Marks

2010	Polity	Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	Comment on the Trial chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and its recent verdict.	5 Marks
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