



General Studies II

Mains 2020

Polity and Governance

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Level of Question (Polity and Governance)	Number
Intense	4
Medium	7
Easy	5

GS 2

1. "There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of people act". Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

PCM Lec 1 and 1.2

Sec 8 of RPA deals with disqualification

Lok Prahari judgment, 170th LC, NCRWC and 2nd ARC as well as recommendation of EC- ease disqualification process, provide for fast track courts, drafting of legal provisions to disqualify candidates for offences with a minimum of five years' punishment on framing of charges, rather than on conviction. A working group had also suggested that the punishment for filing false affidavits be increased from six months to more than two years and that candidates found guilty of corruption, disloyalty and heinous crimes be permanently disqualified.

2. "Recent amendments to the Rights to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

Mains Crash Course Lec 2.1- Examine the RTI Amendment Act 2019 and its repercussions.

3. 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. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

PCM Lects 11.1 and 11.2 and FLT 6 Q 15

Subatra Mitra and three phases of federal relations in India and vertical and horizontal federlism: Phase 1 of Congress system based on cooperation and cooption (Granville Austin),

4. The judicial system in India and UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlights the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

UK- separate courts for England, Scotland, Wales- for the longest time lack of separation of powers due to Lord of Appeals. Since 2005, separate Supreme Court as highest Court of Appeal for entire UK, can talk of tribunal systems that both countries have. Procedure established by law and Parliamentary sovereignty for UK.

5. 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

PCM Lec 24.1- Convention in Britain- Can be re-elected as many times, Completely non-partisan

India follows British system but the speakers continue to retain party membership- may lead to stonewalling, complicated further by anti defection law and speaker's power of determining money bill

6. In order to the 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. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

FLT 2- Insufficient allocation for the health sector is pushing Indians below poverty line

Straightforward- Link it to SDG 3- Health care for all for all ages, 3.1- "By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births". The unequal status of women and girls, lack of decision-making powers, knowledge and finances remain underlying causes for the inability or delay in seeking health care which ends up increasing maternal mortality rates.

Various schemes and policies to aid the elderly (Varishta Pension Bima Yojana, Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, National Programme for the health care of elderly, impact of Covid19) and maternal health of women (Menstrual and reproductive schemes for adolescents, JSY, JSSK, provision for ASHAs and ANIs, Maternity benefit act)

7. "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance". In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

PCM Governance lecture- Lecture 3 Role of Civil Services in Democracy

Both for ensuring welfarism as well as ease of doing business, need to reform civil services to ensure flourishing political and economic democracy

Various reforms suggested by ARC and ARC II as well as advantages of lateral entry, Mission Karmayogi and The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building ('NPCSCB')

8. "The emergence of Fourth Industries Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government". Discuss. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

PCM Lec 4

9. Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

10. 'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

11. Indian Constitution exhibits centralizing tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897, The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

Mains Crash- Lec 4- COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the limitations of India's federal structure and practice, Lec 7.1 Disaster Management Act, Mains Test 2 Q 3 Farm Acts and increased linkages across country

12. Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the India Constitution. In this context justify the filling of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

PCM Lec 26, separation of powers as part of basic structure, examples of judicial legislations- vishakha guidelines, banning of alcohol shops, in case of environment and pollution- Various Reasons: Decline of trust in Parliament, increased activism and PIL, Faith in higher judiciary as responsible body, seen as guardian of constitution, evolution of due process, Increased awareness among people, ICT, Article 142 etc.

13. 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'. Highlights the critical challenges faced local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

Mains Crash Lec 7.3

What was the issue of functions, functionaries and funds. Challenges to functionality: Agencification, lack of expertise and technical staff, paucity of resources to fulfill the assigned tasks, corruption and red tapism

Ways to improve the same

14. Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in past few decades. Highlights the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

- Factors impacting transformation: Second Democratic upsurge, Growing relevance of regional parties even in Parliament, an era of coalition politics,
- Parliament not merely legislative but deliberative body- Rajya Sabha's role in constructive debate, Valerian Rodgrigues calls it platform of resistance against majoritarianism.
- Provides a wider platform for more talent and expertise as it complements the first chamber in securing greater executive accountability, sobering house.
- Permanent House: secure the representation of past as well as current opinion and help in maintaining continuity in public policy.
- represent the nation "as a differentiated whole": Bring coherence and congruence in national and state development policies

15. 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. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

Mains Test 2- Q 16

Constitutionalisation- Broad agreement among stakeholders and Passing of a Constitutional Amendment Act- e.g. NCBC- Yes and No

Yes- Greater autonomy, decrease in political selection of chairpersons, increased scrutiny, more power and greater limelight on gender and women issues, tabling reports in Parliament and greater discussion

No- Mere constitutional status will not be helpful, need for greater visibility of women in positions of power, more pro-active laws enabling and empowering women, Constitutionalisation has not necessarily led to reduced politicization or greater availability of funds.

16. "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. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

PCM Lec 5- Poverty and Development, Mains Test 10 Q 14

Varying ways to look at Poverty:

In 2011, Oxford University researchers Sabina Alkire and James Foster devised the **multidimensional poverty index (MPI)** to capture poverty using 10 indicators: nutrition, child mortality, years of schooling, school attendance, ownership of assets, and access to proper house, electricity, drinking water, sanitation, and clean cooking fuel. Poverty is measured in terms of deprivation in at least a third of these indicators. In 2015-16, 369.546 million (nearly 37 crore) Indians were estimated to meet the deprivation cut-off for three or more of the 10 indicators.

The MPI is a more comprehensive measure of poverty because it includes components that capture the standard of living more effectively. However, uses 'outcomes' rather than expenditure – the presence of an undernourished person in the household will result in it being classified as "poor", regardless of the expenditure on nutritious food.

The 2019 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) from the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative highlighted that India lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016, recording the fastest reductions in the multidimensional poverty index values during the period with strong improvements in areas such as "assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition."

In 2005-2006, the population in India living in multidimensional poverty stood at about 640 million people (55.1 per cent) and this reduced to 369 million people (27.9 per cent) living in poverty in 2015-16. India saw significant reductions in number of people who are multidimensionally poor and deprived in each of the 10 indicators over this time period.

India reduced deprivation in nutrition from 44.3 per cent in 2005-06 to 21.2 per cent in 2015-16, child mortality dropped from 4.5 per cent to 2.2 per cent, people deprived of cooking fuel reduced from 52.9 per cent to 26.2 per cent, deprivation in sanitation from 50.4 per cent to 24.6 per cent, those deprived of drinking water reduced from 16.6 per cent to 6.2 per cent.

The World Economic Forum's first ever **Global Social Mobility Report 2020: Equality, Opportunity and a New Economic Imperative** looks at persistence of poverty through social mobility. The Global Social Mobility Index assessed 82 countries / economies on five key indicators:

- Health

17. "Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed as assets 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. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

PCM Lec 2.2- Includes a detailed analysis of SHGs, FLT 2- Q 11

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through socio-economic empowerment of women, SHGs often create hope for gender equality within societies - Low financial investment through SHGs can ensure large economic benefits in return - SHGs build integrity among its members or people from more or less same socio-economic background, which often lead towards social integrity across rural villages - SHGs expand the horizons of livelihood opportunities for rural poor - SHGs are prone towards effective and optimum utilisation of existing community-resources for creation of new livelihood opportunities -Strong integrity and cohesion among SHG members sometimes lead to social movement against ill practices of the society -The ideology of SHGs encourages involvement and participation of people from lowest economic strata of the vulnerable section of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reluctance among SHG members to return loan taken from banks - Apathy of rural banks to provide fund to SHGs, keeping in view their failures to return bank loan in time -Lack of knowledge and proper orientation among SHG-members to take up suitable and profitable livelihood options - Lack of regular supervision and monitoring on SHG activities by the loan providing banks - Lack of awareness among SHG-members regarding their own community resources, often leaves them with limited options for income-generating activities which only produces marginal profits - There is growing need to organise suitable capacity building or orientation programs for the SHG members who have been provided loan so that they can go for a cost-benefit analysis before making financial investment

18. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure the reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statements. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

Mains Test 6- Q 7

SDG 4- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all-

Universal access to education, new Curricular and Pedagogical Structure, address poor literacy and numeracy outcomes as well as drop outs, increased ambit of the RTE to include children from the ages 3 to 18, multilingualism, teacher recruitment, increase spending to 6% of GDP over time

no comprehensive roadmap and coherent implementation strategy, Issues regarding funds, no answer to digital divide, increased privatization, NEP 2020 is silent on the RTE Act, mismatch with job market

19. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times-Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.
20. What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-pacific region. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.