

General Studies - 2 (2013 -2023)

Polity

Theme - 1 (Executive and Judiciary & Separation of Powers)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	"Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy." Comment.	Judiciary	2023
2	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.	Judiciary	2023
3	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. (Answer in 150 words) 10 mark	Judiciary	2022
4	Discuss the essential conditions for the 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.	State Executive	2022
5	Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness. (Answer in 150 words) 10	Judiciary	2021
6	To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10	Union Legislature	2021
7	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. (Answer in 250 words)	Separation of powers	2020
8	Do you think the Constitution of India does not accept the principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain. (10 Marks)	Separation of powers	2019
9	"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)	Tribunal	2019
10	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)	Judiciary	2019
11	Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with	Judiciary	2017

	reference to the appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. (150 words)		
12	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?	Judiciary	2016
13	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.	Miscellaneous	2015
14	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?	Separation of powers	2015
15	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.	Judiciary	2014
16	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	Union Executive	2014
17	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	Union Executive	2014
18	The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution. Discuss critically.	Judiciary	2013

Theme - 2 (Basics of Constitutional Framework (FR, DPSP,FD etc))

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	The Constitution 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.	Philosophy of Constitution	2023
2	Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute. Comment (Answer in 150 words) 10 mark	Fundamental Rights	2022

3	The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting an incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	Fundamental Rights	2022
4	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. (Answer in 150 words) 10	Philosophy of the Constitution	2021
5	"Parliament's power to amend the constitution is limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power". In 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)	Philosophy of the constitution	2019
6	Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. (250 words)	Fundamental Rights	2017
7	Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the 'Preamble'. Are they defensible in the present circumstances?	Preamble	2016
8	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.	DPSP	2015
9	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.	Fundamental Rights	2015
10	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.	Fundamental Rights	2014
11	Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution.	Fundamental Rights	2013

Theme - 3 (Federal Structure and Local Bodies)

S. No.	Question		Year
1	The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially." Comment.	Local Bodies	2023
2	Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid 1990s.	Emergency Provisions	2023

3	Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism?	Centre State Financial Relations	2023
4	To what extent in your opinion has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots? (Answer in 150 words) 10 mark	Local Bodies	2022
5	The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probes 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. (Answer in 250 words) 15	Centre State Executive	2021
6	Indian Constitution exhibits centralising tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts. (Answer in 250 words)	Centre State Executive Relations	2020
7	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. (Answer in 250 words)	Local Bodies	2020
8	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)	Local Bodies	2020
9	"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". Comment. (15 marks)	Local Bodies	2019
10	Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine. (15)	Centre State Relations	2018
11	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)	Local Bodies	2018
12	Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? (10)	Emergency Provisions	2018
13	"The local self-government system in India has not proved to be an effective instrument of governance". Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation. (150 words)	Local Bodies	2017

14	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 a common national market for goods and services'? (250 words)	Centre State financial relations	2017
15	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?	Special provisions in Federalism	2016
16	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.	Special provisions in Federalism	2016
17	Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss.	Historical Background	2016
18	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.	Local bodies	2015
19	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.	Cooperative Federalism	2015
20	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.	Nature of Indian Federalism	2014
21	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.	Special provisions in federalism	2013
22	Many State 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.	Miscellaneous	2013
23	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.	Inter state relations	2013

Theme - 4 (RPA , Legislature and Elections)

S. No.	Question		Year
1	Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalisation of Indian Parliament?	Parliamentary Committees	2023
2	Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices.	Presiding officers	2023
3	Discuss the role of the Vice President of India as the chairman of Rajya Sabha. (Answer in 150 words) 10 mark	Presiding officers	2022
4	Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or a State Legislature under the Representation of 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 (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	Salient features of RPA	2022
5	"While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of state autonomy." Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	Political Parties	2022
6	Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct. (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	Elections	2022
7	Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations. (Answer in 250 words) 15	Legislative Councils	2021
8	Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples. (Answer in 250 words) 15	Parliamentary Committees	2021
9	'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 implication for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India? ((Answer in 150 words)	Presiding officers	2020
10	Rajyasabha has been transformed from a 'useless Stepney tire' to the most useful supportive organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as areas in which this transformation could be visible. (Answer in 250 words)	Rajya Sabha	2020
11	"There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act". Comment.	Salient Features of RPA	2020

12	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)	Salient Features of RPA	2019
13	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. (15 marks)	Issues of Parliament	2019
14	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)	Elections	2018
15	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)	Parliamentary Committees	2018
16	'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)	Electoral Reforms	2017
17	The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding a 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. (250 words)	Basics of Parliament	2017
18	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? (250 words)	Electoral Reforms	2017
19	"The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss.	Political parties	2016
20	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?	Parliamentary Privileges	2014
21	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?	Anti Defection	2013

Theme - 5 (Comparison of Constitutions)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty.	India and Britain	2023
2	Critically examine the procedures through which the presidents of India and France are elected. (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	India and France	2022
3	Analyze the distinguishing features of the notion of Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India. (Answer in 250 words) 15	India and USA	2021
4	The judicial system 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. (Answer in 150 words)	India and UK	2020
5	What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism? (10 Marks)	India and France	2019
6	Indian and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based.	India and USA	2018

Theme - 6 (Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Bodies)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	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.	Statutory Commissions	2023
2	Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. (Answer in 150 words) 10 mark	Constitutional Bodies	2022
3	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. (Answer in 250 words) 15	Statutory Bodies	2021
4	How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position? (Answer in 150 words) 10	Constitutional Bodies	2021
5	"Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)	Statutory bodies	2020
6	"The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India." Discuss (15 Marks)	Constitutional bodies	2019

7	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)	Constitutional bodies	2018
8	“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)	Constitutional Bodies	2018
9	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)	Constitutional Bodies	2018
10	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)	Constitutional Bodies	2018
11	The 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)	Statutory Commissions	2018
12	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. (250 words)	Statutory Commissions	2017
13	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.	Constitutional Bodies	2016
14	What is quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.	Generic	2016
15	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.	Statutory Commissions	2015
16	For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institutions remain independent and autonomous. Discuss in the light of experiences in recent past.	Generic	2015
17	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	Statutory Commissions	2014

	institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards.		
18	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.	Statutory Commissions	2014
19	Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances.	Constitutional bodies	2013
20	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.	Statutory Commissions	2013
21	'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs'. Discuss.	Statutory Commissions	2013

General Studies - 2 (2013 -2023)

Governance

Theme - 1 (Pressure Groups, Formal/Informal associations, Development Processes and Development Industry)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy.	Development process and Industry	2023
2	Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India.	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2023
3	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. (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	Development Process and Industry	2022
4	"Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policymaking in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. (Answer in 150 words) 10	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2021
5	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. (Answer in 250 words) 15	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2021
6	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)	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2019
7	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)	Development process and Industry	2019
8	'In the context of the neo-liberal paradigm of developmental planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages' - Discuss (15 marks)	Development process and Industry	2019
9	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)	Development process and Industry	2019
10	"Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate 'protection and prevention of degradation to the environment.'" Comment with relevant illustrations.	Development process and Industry	2018

11	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)	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2017
12	'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. (250 words)	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2017
13	"In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement.	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2016
14	"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?	Development process and Industry	2016
15	Examine critically the recent changes in the rule governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976.	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2015
16	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.	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2015
17	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.	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2015
18	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.	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2014
19	What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.	Development process and Industry	2014
20	The penetration of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine.	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2014
21	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.	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2013
22	The legitimacy and accountability of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the micro-finance outfits, need	NGO/VO/SHG/ MFI/Pressure groups	2013

systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss.

Theme - 2 (Concept of Governance, E governance, transparency and accountability, Role of Civil Services in Democracy)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	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 ?	E governance	2023
2	“Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance”. In this context, suggest reforms in Civil Service for Strengthening Democracy. (Answer in 150 words)	Civil Services	2020
3	“The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of the government”. Discuss (Answer in 150 words)	E governance	2020
4	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)	E governance	2019
5	E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology but also much about the critical importance of the ‘use value’ of information. Explain. (10)	E governance	2018
6	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)	Basics of Governance	2018
7	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 (250 words)	Civil Services	2017
8	“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.	Basics of Governance	2016
9	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.	Basics of Governance	2016
10	Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and	Miscellaneous	2016

	Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change?		
11	"Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India." Comment.	Civil Services	2016
12	If amendment bill to the Whistleblowers Protection Act 2011 tabled in the Parliament is passed, there maybe no on left to protect. Critically Evaluate.	Transparency and accountability	2015
13	In the light of Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in the corporate governance to ensure transparency and accountability.	Transparency and Accountability	2015
14	Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organization been the cause of slow in India? Critically examine.	Civil Services	2014
15	Though Citizen's 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.	Basics of Governance	2013

Theme - 3 (Government Policies and Schemes for Vulnerable Sections)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.	Generic	2023
2	Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyse the linkages between education, skill and employment.	Skill Development	2023
3	The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10 mark	Gati shakti yojana	2022
4	The rights of persons with disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of Government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10 mark	Persons with Disabilities	2022
5	Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has limitations too. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10 mark	DBT	2022
6	Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of society. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	Generic	2022

7	“‘Earn while you learn’ scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful.” Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10	Earn while you learn	2021
8	“Microfinance as an anti-poverty vaccine is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India”. Evaluate the role of Self Help Groups in achieving twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India. (Answer in 250 words)	Poverty Alleviation	2020
9	National Electronic Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals-4 (2030). It intended to restructure and re-orient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement. (Answer in 250 words)	Electronic Policy	2020
10	Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to the absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of the policy process. Discuss (15 marks)	Generic	2019
11	‘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)	WASH	2017
12	Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure an effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss (150 words)	Persons with disabilities	2017
13	Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.	National Child policy	2016
14	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?	Generic	2014
15	Two parallel run schemes of the Government, viz the Adhar card and NPR, 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.	Aadhar	2014
16	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.	Mid Day Meal	2013
17	The Central Government frequently complains on the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society.	Generic	2013

	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.		
18	Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment.	DBT	2013
Theme - 4 (Social Justice, Poverty, hunger, health and nutrition, Education, Vulnerable Sections)			
S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	"Besides being a moral imperative of Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development." Analyze. (Answer in 150 words) 10	Health	2021
2	Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through the microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10	Poverty	2021
3	Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification. (Answer in 250 words) 15	Digital india	2021
4	"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? (Answer in 250 words) 15	Women	2021
5	In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss (Answer in 150 words)	Health	2020
6	"Incidence and intensity of poverty are most important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyze the latest United Nations Multi Poverty Index report.	Poverty	2020
7	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)	Poverty and Hunger	2019
8	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	Poverty and hunger	2017

	humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement. (150 words)		
9	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.	Education	2015
10	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?	Health	2015
11	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.	Poverty	2015
12	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.	Education	2014

Theme - 5 (Miscellaneous)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	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.	Sports	2014
2	The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment.	N/A	2013
3	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.	N/A	2013

General Studies - 2 (2013 -2023)

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Theme - 1 (Hard, Soft & Smart Power)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India.	Diaspora in West	2023
2	'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. (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	International Forum	2022
3	"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)	Diaspora in Europe	2020
4	"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)	India's role in New world order	2019
5	Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UNSC.	India and UNSC	2015

Theme - 2 (International Organizations)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.	NATO	2023
2	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.	IMO	2023
3	Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Answer in 150 words)	WHO	2020
4	'Too little cash, too much politics, leave 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)	UNESCO	2019
5	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)	WTO	2018

6	What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. (150 words)	ECOSOC	2017
7	“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.	WTO	2016
8	What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India’s position on these?	UNESCO	2016
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 should such agreements have on India’s interests?	ITA	2014
10	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.	NDB AND AIIB	2014
11	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.	WTO	2014
12	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.	BRETTON WOODS TWINS	2013

Theme - 3 (Central Asia)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	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 the problems.	SCO	2023
2	How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India’s position in global politics? (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	I2U2	2022
3	Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. what importance does it hold for India? (Answer in 250 words) 15	SCO	2021
4	A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the	Ashgabat Agreement	2018

implications, in this context, of India's joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 2018. (10)

Theme - 4 (India's Neighbourhood)

S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	'India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka'. Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in light of the preceding statement. (Answer in 150 words) 10 mark	Sri Lanka	2022
2	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 realised by forming this new organisation? (Answer in 250 words) 15 mark	BIMSTEC	2022
3	'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)	China	2017
4	"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.	SAARC	2016
5	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	Project Mausam	2015
6	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.	Pakistan	2015
7	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.	Afghanistan	2013
8	What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this.	China	2013
9	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?	Bangladesh	2013
10	Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India?	Maldives	2013

11	In respect of India – Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy.	Sri Lanka	2013
12	What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss.	Gujral Doctrine	2013
Theme - 5 (India- Africa)			
S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	“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. (Answer in 150 words) 10	N/A	2021
2	Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pro and cons. Critically Examine.	N/A	2015
Theme - 6 (India & World)			
S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	“The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union.” Explain. (Answer in 150 words) 10	USA China Cold war	2021
2	What is the significance of Indo-US deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region (Answer in 250 words)	India - USA	2020
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. (15 Marks)	India-USA	2019
Theme - 7 (Act East)			
S. No.	Question	Sub Theme	Year
1	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. (Answer in 250 words) 15	AUKUS	2021
2	Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is transforming itself into a trade block from the military alliance, in present times. Discuss (Answer in 250 words)	QUAD	2020
3	‘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)	India - Japan	2019

4	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 (250 words)	India- ASEAN	2017
5	Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post Cold War international scenario.	Look East	2016
6	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.	South China Sea	2014
7	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.	India - Japan	2013

Theme - 8 (Look West)

S. No.	Question	Sub themes	Year
1	"India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. (10)	India- Israel	2018
2	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)	US -Iran -India	2018
3	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. (250 words)	India-West Asia	2017