



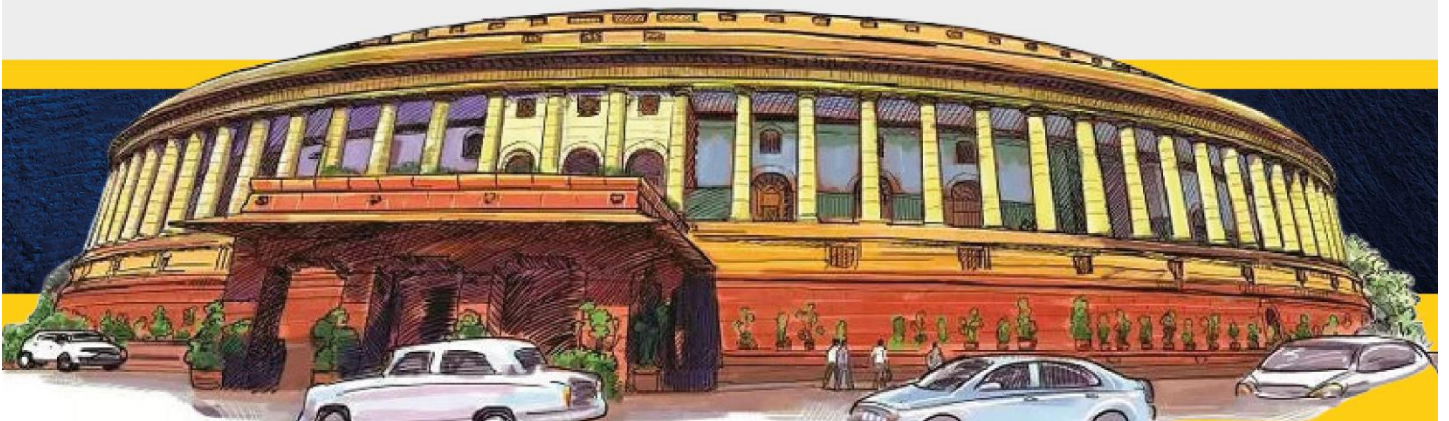
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- Detailed Syllabus
- Paper Wise Sources
- Thematic Compilation of PYQs (2013-2024)













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Detailed syllabus of Political Science and International Relations Optional

For any aspirant to crack an optional, it is important that they understand and memorise minute details of the syllabus and prepare according to its requirements. Political Science and International Relations has its detailed syllabus listed out by the UPSC. There are two Papers of PSIR Optional- Paper 1 and Paper 2. Both Papers can also be broadly divided into two parts- Part A and B with specific syllabus of each of these components.

PAPER 1

Paper 1 Part A:

Political Theory and Political Thought:

1. **Political theory:** meaning and approaches.
2. **Theories of the state:** Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, Post-colonial and feminist.
3. **Justice:** Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques.
4. **Equality:** Social, political and economic; relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.
5. **Rights:** Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; concept of Human Rights.
6. **Democracy:** Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy-representative, participatory and deliberative.
7. **Concept of power:** hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.
8. **Political Ideologies:** Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism.
9. **Indian Political Thought:** Dharamshastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M.K. Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, M.N. Roy.
10. **Western Political Thought:** Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.

Paper 1 Part B

Indian Government and politics

- **Indian Nationalism:**

- Political Strategies of India's Freedom struggle : constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience ; militant and revolutionary movements, Peasant and workers' movements.
- Perspectives on Indian National Movement: Liberal, Socialist and Marxist; Radical humanist and Dalit.
- Making of the Indian Constitution: Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.
- Salient Features of the Indian Constitution: The Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles; Parliamentary System and Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine.
- a) Principal Organs of the Union Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and Supreme Court.
- b) Principal Organs of the State Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and High Courts.
- Grassroots Democracy: Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroot movements.
- Statutory Institutions/Commissions: Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Finance Commission, Union Public Service Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women; National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Minorities, National Backward Classes Commission.
- Federalism: Constitutional provisions; changing nature of centre-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.
- Planning and Economic Development : Nehruvian and Gandhian perspectives; role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land reforms and agrarian relations; liberalization and economic reforms.
- Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.

- Party System: National and regional political parties, ideological and social bases of parties; patterns of coalition politics; Pressure groups, trends in electoral behaviour; changing socio- economic profile of Legislators.
- Social Movements: Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements

PAPER 2

Paper 2 Part A

Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics

- Comparative Politics: Nature and major approaches; political economy and political sociology perspectives; limitations of the comparative method.
- State in comparative perspective: Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies, and, advanced industrial and developing societies.
- Politics of Representation and Participation: Political parties, pressure groups and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.
- Globalisation: Responses from developed and developing societies.
- Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.
- Key concepts in International Relations: National interest, Security and power; Balance of power and deterrence; Transnational actors and collective security; World capitalist economy and globalisation.
- Changing International Political Order:
 - (a) Rise of super powers; strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and Cold War; nuclear threat;
 - (b) Non-aligned movement : Aims and achievements;
 - (c) Collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world.
- Evolution of the International Economic System: From Bretton-Woods to WTO; Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); Third World demand for new international economic order; Globalisation of the world economy.

- United Nations: Envisaged role and actual record; specialized UN agencies-aims and functioning; need for UN reforms.
- Regionalisation of World Politics: EU, ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, NAFTA.
- Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice, terrorism, nuclear proliferation.

Paper 2 Part B

India and the World

- Indian Foreign Policy: Determinants of foreign policy; institutions of policy-making; continuity and change.
- India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement: Different phases; current role.
- India and South Asia:
 - Regional Co-operation: SAARC-past performance and future prospects.
 - South Asia as a Free Trade Area.
 - India's "Look East" policy.
 - Impediments to regional co-operation: river water disputes; illegal cross-border migration; ethnic conflicts and insurgencies; border disputes.
- India and the Global South: Relations with Africa and Latin America; leadership role in the demand for NIEO and WTO negotiations.
- India and the Global Centres of Power: USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia.
- India and the UN System: Role in UN Peace-keeping; demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council.
- India and the Nuclear Question: Changing perceptions and policy.
- Recent developments in Indian Foreign policy: India's position on the recent crisis in Afghanistan, Iraq and West Asia, growing relations with US and Israel; vision of a new world order.

UPSC Mains - Political Science and International Relations Booklist

UPSC exams has three stages for an aspirant to become an officer- Prelims, Mains and Interview. In UPSC Mains Exam, students have to choose from 48 optionals. PSIR Optional is one of the most popular and scoring Optionals for UPSC Mains. It has produced a number of UPSC top rankers including Tina Dabi, Ria Dabi, Navneet Mann, Chandrima Attri, Trupti Dodhmishe, Ravinderpreet Kaur, Rupesh Kumar, Mirant Parikh and more.

- However, one thing common to the UPSC strategy of UPSC Toppers is having a consolidated booklist of PSIR Optional which includes basic sources to cover both papers of PSIR. Political Science and International Relations has two papers with respective syllabus- Paper 1 Part A deals with Western Political Thought, Indian Political Thought, Political Theory and Paper 1 Part B deals with Indian Government and Politics. PSIR Paper 2 Part A deals with Comparative Politics and International Relations and paper 2 Part B deals with India's foreign Policy.
- Here are basic and additional books and sources to use to cover Paper 1 and Paper 2 of PSIR Optional that are recommended by UPSC Toppers as well.
- **Paper 1 Part A- Western Political Thought, Indian Political Thought and Political Theory**
- **Essential Chapters + Sources**
- Western Political Thought
 - Plato
 - Aristotle
 - Machiavelli
 - Thomas Hobbes
 - John Locke
 - J.S. Mill
 - Karl Marx
 - Antonio Gramsci
 - Hannah Arendt
- **Sources to cover**
 - Paper 1 Part B- Indian Government and Politics
 - IGNOU- MPSE 003- Unit 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 15
 - MPS-001 Political Theory- Unit 18
 - Chapters- 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14



- **Indian Political Thought**

- Dharamshastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist traditions
- Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
- Sri Aurobindo
- M.K. Gandhi
- B.R. Ambedkar
- M.N. Roy

- **Sources**

- IGNOU MPSE 004
- Units 1, 3, 6 (Only Sri Aurobindo Ghosh), 8 (Only Sir Syed), 10, 12, 14 (Only M. N. Roy)
- V.R. Mehta- Foundations of Indian Political Thought- Chapters 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11

- **Political theory:**

- Meaning and approaches

- **Theories of the state:**

- Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, Post-colonial and feminist

- **Justice:**

- Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques

- **Equality:**

- Social, political and economic; relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.

- **Rights:**

- Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; concept of Human Rights.

- **Democracy:**

- Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy-representative, participatory and deliberative.

- **Concept of power:**

- Hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.

- **Political Ideologies:**

- Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism.
- **Sources**
 - IGNOU- MPS 001-
 - Book 1- Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
 - Book 2- Units 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28
 - O.P. Gauba (5th Edition)- Chapters 1- 10, 13, 15- 20, 22, 23

Paper 1 Part B

- Indian Nationalism:
 - Political Strategies of India's Freedom struggle:
 - constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience; militant and revolutionary movements, Peasant and workers' movements.
 - Perspectives on Indian National Movement:
 - Liberal, Socialist and Marxist; Radical humanist and Dalit.
- **Sources**
 - IGNOU- MHI-09 Indian National Movement
 - Strategies:
 - Block 3- Units 9-13
 - Block 4- Units 15, 16
 - Perspectives:
 - Block 1- Units 3, 4
 - Bipan Chandra- India's Struggle for Independence
- Making of the Indian Constitution:
 - Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.
- Salient Features of the Indian Constitution:
 - The Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles; Parliamentary System and Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine.

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- Principal Organs of the Union Government:
 - Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and Supreme Court.
- Principal Organs of the State Government:
 - Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and High Courts.
- Grassroots Democracy:
 - Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroot movements.
- Statutory Institutions/Commissions:
 - ECI, CAG, Finance Commission, UPSC, NCSC, NCST, NCBC, NHRC, National Commission for Women; National Commission for Minorities.
- Federalism:
 - Constitutional provisions; changing nature of centre-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.
- Planning and Economic Development :
 - Nehruvian and Gandhian perspectives; role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land reforms and agrarian relations; liberalization and economic reforms.
- Identity based politics:
 - Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.
- Party System:
 - National and regional political parties, ideological and social bases of parties; patterns of coalition politics; Pressure groups, trends in electoral behaviour; changing socio- economic profile of Legislators.
- Social Movements:
 - Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements
- Sources:
 - IGNOU- EPS-12 Government And Politics in India- Block 2
 - MPSE 007- Units 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 16

- BPSC-132 Indian Government and Politics- Block-5 Religion and Politics
- Oxford Companion to Politics in India- Chapters 2- 10, 12, 16, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27
- Rethinking Public Institutions of India- Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10

Paper 2 Part A

- Comparative Politics:
 - Nature and major approaches; political economy and political sociology perspectives; limitations of the comparative method.
- State in comparative perspective:
 - Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies, and, advanced industrial and developing societies.
- Politics of Representation and Participation:
 - Political parties, pressure groups and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.
- Sources:
 - IGNOU- MPS 004
 - Book 1- Units 1-5, 7-10
 - Book 2- Units- 23, 24
- Globalisation:
 - Responses from developed and developing societies.
- Approaches to the Study of IR:
 - Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.
- Key concepts in International Relations:
 - National interest, Security and power; Balance of power and deterrence; Transnational actors and collective security; World capitalist economy and globalisation.
- Changing International Political Order:
 - Rise of super powers; strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and Cold War; nuclear threat;

- Non-aligned movement : Aims and achievements;
- Collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world.
- Evolution of the International Economic System:
 - From Bretton-Woods to WTO
 - Socialist economies and the CMEA
 - Third World demand for new international economic order and Globalisation of the world economy
- United Nations:
 - Envisaged role and actual record; specialized UN agencies-aims and functioning; need for UN reforms.
- Regionalisation of World Politics:
 - EU, ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, NAFTA.
- Contemporary Global Concerns:
 - Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice, terrorism, nuclear proliferation.
- Sources:
 - Andrew Heywood- Global Politics
 - Chapters- 1-9, 11-13, 15- 20

Paper 2 Part B

- Indian Foreign Policy:
 - Determinants of foreign policy; institutions of policy-making; continuity and change.
- India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement:
 - Different phases; current role.
- India and South Asia:
 - Regional Co-operation: SAARC-past performance and future prospects.
 - South Asia as a Free Trade Area.
 - India's "Look East" policy.

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- Impediments to regional co-operation: river water disputes; illegal cross-border migration
- Ethnic conflicts and insurgencies; border disputes.
- India and the Global South:
 - Relations with Africa and Latin America;
 - Leadership role in the demand for NIEO and WTO negotiations.
- India and the Global Centres of Power:
 - USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia.
- India and the Global Centres of Power:
 - USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia.
- India and the Nuclear Question:
 - Changing perceptions and policy.
- Sources
 - IGNOU- MPSE 001
 - Units 2, 3, 4, 5
 - MEA- Distinguished Lecture Series
 - Choices: Inside the Making of Indian Foreign Policy by Shivshankar Menon
 - Indian Foreign Policy: An Overview by Harsh Pant.
 - India's Foreign Policy- Surviving in a Turbulent World
 - India's Path To Power: Strategy In A World Adrift

Paper 1 - Part A

Western Political Thought

- **Western Political Thought:**

- Trace the evolution of western political thought from ancient to contemporary period. [2020]

- **Plato:**

- 'Plato was an enemy of the open society'. (Popper). Comment. [2015]
- Explain Aristotle's critique of Plato's Idealism. [2019]
- Critically examine Plato's theory of Forms. (15/2024)

- **Aristotle:**

- Central to Aristotle's political thought is his classification of the different types of political constitutions in the Politics. Evaluate. (15/2014)
- Comment on Aristotle's conception of equality. [2015]
- Explain the Aristotelian view of politics. To what extent do you think it has contributed to the developmental of modern day constitutional democracies? [2021]
- Explain Aristotle's critique of Plato's Idealism. [2019]
- 'Everywhere inequality is a cause of revolution'. (Aristotle). Comment. [2017]

- **Machiavelli:**

- Explain how Machiavelli's application of empirical method to human affairs marks an important stage in the evolution of political science. (20/2014)
- Compare and contrast the views of Kautilya and Machiavelli on statecraft. [2015]
- Critically examine Machiavelli's views on religion and politics. [2018]
- Comment on Machiavelli on secularism. [2020]

- **Thomas Hobbes and John Locke:**

- Covenants without swords are but words and of no strength to secure a man at all. (10/2013)
- Comment on the assertion of Laslett that Filmer and not Hobbes was the main antagonist of Locke. (15/2013)

- How would I and my fellow human beings behave if we were to find ourselves in a state of nature, and what does this behaviour tell us about our innate predispositions? Thomas Hobbes. Discuss. [2016]
- Comment on Hobbesian notion of political obligation. [2017]
- John Locke is a father of liberalism. Explain. [2018]
- Locke's Social Contract (10/2022)
- Individualism is inherent in Hobbes' absolutist ideology. Comment. (15/2022)
- State of Nature as State of War (Hobbes). (10/2023)
- Locke's views on Revolution (10/2024)
- **J.S. Mill:**
 - "All silencing of discussion is an assumption of infallibility." (J. S. Mill) (10/2014)
 - Representative democracy...means the people as a body must be able to control the general direction of government policy. (J.S. Mill) [2020]
 - John Stuart Mill is a 'reluctant democrat'. (CL Wayper), Comment. [2018]
 - J. S. Mill ideas on woman suffrage. [2021]
 - The legal subordination of one sex to another is wrong in itself, and now one of the chief hindrances to human development." (J. S. Mill). Comment. (15/2023)
- **Karl Marx:**
 - Discuss in what sense Marx's understanding of state can be considered as materialistic. (15/2013)
 - Discuss the relationship between base and superstructure in Marxist theory. [2015]
 - Explain Marx's understanding of human essence and alienation. [2016]
 - Differentiate between freedom and liberty. Discuss Marx's notion of freedom. [2017]
 - Discuss Karl Marx's concept of class. [2020]
 - Marx's concept of alienation is an essential part of the reality in capitalism.[2021]
- **Gramsci:**

- Explain, as per Gramsci, the distinction between hegemony and domination. (15/2013)
- Discuss Gramsci's notion of organic intellectuals. [2015]
- Comment on Gramsci's concept of hegemony. [2016]
- According to Gramsci, 'hegemony is primarily based on the organisation of consent.' Comment. [2019]

- **Hannah Arendt:**

- "Power is never the property of an individual; it belongs to a group and remains in existence only so long as the group keeps together." (Hannah Arendt) (10/2014)
- Discuss Hannah Arendt's analysis of the role of ideology in the modern totalitarian regime. [2016]
- Critically examine Hannah Arendt's conceptual triad of labour, work and action. [2019]

- **Political Theory:**

- " ... political theory is not an escape mechanism but an arduous calling." (John Plamanetz) (10/2014)
- Comment on the view that socialism in the 21st century may be reborn as anti-capitalism. (20/2014)
- Comment on the post behavioural approach. [2016]
- Comment on the decline of Political Theory. [2018]
- Comment on resurgence of political theory. [2019]
- Discuss the significance of normative approach to Political Theory. [2020]
- Examine the importance of behavioural approach in political theory. What led to its decline.[2021]
- Systems Approach. (10/2022)
- Normative approach in political science. (10/2023)
- Decline of political theory. (10/2023)

- 'Credo of Relevance' in post-behaviouralism advocates the importance of action science. Analyze. (15/2023)
- Eurocentrism is both the target and the motive force of the post-colonial political theory. Discuss. (15/2023)
- Behavioural approach to Political Science (10/2024)
- Elucidate the meanings inherent in the term 'political' with appropriate illustrations. (20/2024)

- **Theories of State:**

- Examine the conception of the State in the ideologies of Fascism and Marxism. (15/2014)
- Examine the challenges to sovereignty of the State in the contemporary world. [2015]
- Discuss the feminist theory of the State. [2016]
- Comment on neoliberal perspective of the State. [2017]
- Critically examine the neoliberal theory of State. [2018]
- Write a short note on pluralist theory of the State. [2019]
- Comment on Post Colonial theory of State. [2020]
- Feminist critiques of the state.[2021]
- Tools of legitimization of state. Comment [2021]
- Examine the liberal theory of State in contemporary politics. (20/2022)
- Pluralist theory of State (10/2024)

- **Justice:**

- Original Position. (10/2013)
- Explicate the conception of justice in the critiques of communitarian theorists. (20/2014)
- Comment on difference principle in the Rawls theory of justice. [2015]
- Critically examine John Rawls argument for democratic equality. [2016]
- 'Rawls' theory of justice is both contractual and distributive'. Examine. [2017]
- Comment on distributive justice. [2018]

- Analyse John Rawls' justification of discrimination to achieve the goals of justice. [2018]
- Examine communitarian perspectives on justice. [2019]
- Make a comparative assessment of Greek perspective of Justice and Rawlsian perspective of Justice. [2020]
- How has Rawls enriched the idea of justice in Liberalism.[2021]
- Dr. Ambedkar's idea of social justice leads to 'egalitarian justice' as compared to Rawls' 'justice as fairness' which aims at the notion of 'pure procedural justice'. Comment. (20/2022)
- Examine the entitlement theory of justice. (15/2022)
- Rawls' idea of the 'liberal self' is too individualistic. Explain, in this context, the communitarian critique of Rawls theory of justice. (15/2023)

- **Equality:**

- How is liberty a precondition for equality? Explicate the relationship between equality and liberty. (15/2014)
- Comment on affirmative action. [2016]
- Equality means fair treatment rather than equal treatment. Comment. [2018]
- Comment on equality of opportunity. [2020]
- Equality of outcome. Comment [2021]
- Affirmative action. Comment [2021]
- Affirmative action policies draw as much strong criticism as strong support. Analyze this statement in the context of equality. (15/2023)
- The nature of relationship between equality of democratic citizenship and liberty of citizens is influenced by economic equality. Comment. (15/2024)

- **Rights:**

- Analyse the relation between natural rights and human rights. (20/2013)
- Comment on the idea of Natural Rights. [2015]
- The implementation of human rights is regarded as a matter of changing the conduct of states. Comment. [2016]

- What do you understand by multiculturalism? Discuss Bhikhu Parekh's views on multiculturalism. [2017]
- What do you understand by three generation of human rights? [2018]
- Discuss the doctrine of 'rights as trump'. [2019/15m/200w/4b]
- Assess the significance of right to property in political theory. [2020]
- Can there be universal conception of human rights? Give your arguments. [2021]
- Cultural Relativism. (10/2022)
- Human Rights are complex and contested social practice that organises relations between Individuals, Society and the State. Comment. (15/2022)
- Multicultural perspective on rights. (10/2023)
- The debate on human rights is caught between the limitations of both universalism and cultural relativism. Comment. (20/2024)
- **Democracy:**
 - Explicate the features of deliberative democracy. (15/2014)
 - Elaborate the difference between participatory and deliberative democracy. [2015]
 - Explicate the features of representative democracy. [2016]
 - Deliberative democracy does not have its salience without participation and Participatory democracy does not have its credence without deliberations. Comment. [2017]
 - Comment on Substantive democracy. [2018]
 - Critically examine MacPherson's views on democracy. [2018]
 - Write a short note on Deliberative democracy. [2019]
 - Free and fair deliberation is key to the foundation of democracy. Explain [2021]
 - Elitist theory of democracy denies the possibility of democracy as 'rule of the people'. Elucidate. (15/2022)
 - Success of contemporary democracies lies in the state limiting its own power. Explain. (20/2023)
 - Deliberative democracy seeks to promote democratic decision-making about public issues among the citizens. Discuss. (15/2024)

- **Power:**

- Examine the conditions that are required for the maintenance of legitimacy in modern societies. (15/2014)
- Distinguish between power and authority. [2015]
- Discuss the 'crisis of legitimacy' in capitalist societies. (Habermas). [2015]
- Explain the relationship between power, authority and legitimacy. [2018]
- Political ideology is primarily concerned with the allocation and utilization of power. Comment. [2021]
- Examine the nature and meaning of power. [2020]
- Bases of Power. (10/2022)
- "Equality of estates caused equality of power, and equality of power is liberty." Comment. (15/2022)
- Foucault's concept of power. (10/2023)
- Linkage between Power and Hegemony (10/2024)
- Legitimacy adds positive value to political authority and obligation. Discuss. (20/2024)

- **Ideologies:**

- Personal is Political. (10/2013)
- Discuss the communitarian critique of liberalism. (20/2013)
- Explain Berlin's notion of value pluralism. (20/2013)
- Discuss the key features of pre-Marxist socialist theory. [2015]
- The political ideology of Globalisation is neoliberalism. Comment. [2016]
- Comment on Ecofeminism. [2017]
- Comment on Postmodernism. [2017]
- Liberalism as a revolutionary idea. [2020]
- Define socialism. Discuss the salient features of Fabian socialism. [2017]
- 'Nothing against the state, nothing over it, nothing beyond it'. (Mussolini). Comment. [2018]

- Compare negative and positive concepts of liberty. [2019]
- What is the contemporary relevance of Marxism? [2019]
- Distinguish between liberal feminism and radical feminism. [2019]
- Revolution in Permanence. (10/2022)
- Factors like community, culture and nation weaken the hegemony of neo-liberalism today. Discuss. (20/2022)
- Fascism displays an ambivalent stance towards parliamentary democracy. Explain. (20/2023)
- Decline of Liberalism (10/2024)
- Marxism is a political theory of action demanding strict compliance with its core principles. Comment. (15/2024)

- **End of Ideology:**

- Discuss the end of Ideology debate. [2019]
- Write a brief note on the End of History. [2017]

Indian Political Thought

- **Ancient thought and Kautilya:**

- Examine the significance of Dharma in ancient Indian political thought. (15/2013)
- Analyse, as per Kautilya, the Saptanga theory of the state. (15/2013)
- Compare and contrast the views of Kautilya and Machiavelli on statecraft. [2015]
- What do you understand by the notion of statecraft? Discuss the theory of statecraft as given by Kautilya. [2017]
- Discuss Kautilya's views on the elements of the State. [2019]
- Explain the sources of ancient Indian Political Thought. [2020]
- Dharmashastra presents a duty-centric worldview for individuals and communities. Comment. (15/2024)

- **Buddhist political thought**

- Evaluate the contributions of Buddhist tradition to Indian political thought. (15/2014)

- Do you think that the Buddhist traditions have lent greater ethical foundation to the ancient Indian political thought? Give your arguments. [2021]
- Buddhist thought on Dhamma facilitates the emancipation of political action. Explain. (20/2023)
- **Sri Aurobindo:**
 - Sri Aurobindo's "idea of freedom". (10/2013)
 - "Nationalism is not a mere political programme but a way of life like religion." (Aurobindo Ghose) (10/2014)
 - Discuss Sri Aurobindo's views on cultural nationalism. [2016]
 - According to Sri Aurobindo, Swaraj is a necessary condition for India to accomplish its destined goal. Comment. [2017]
 - When a nation becomes devoid of arts and learning, it invites poverty. In the light of this assessment, assess the role of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan as a reformer in modern India.[2021]
 - Sri Aurobindo's idea of Swaraj has deep significance in the Indian social, political and cultural history. Analyze. (15/2023)
- **M.K. Gandhi:**
 - Explain ideological components of Gandhism. [2020]
 - Comment on Gandhi's views on the state. [2015]
 - Examine Gandhi's critique of modernisation. [2016]
 - Discuss MK Gandhi's concept of Swaraj. [2019]
 - "The Panchayats with Gram Sabhas should be so organized as to identify the resources locally available for the development in agricultural and industrial sectors." Examine the statement in the context of Gram Swaraj. (15/2022)
- **B.R. Ambedkar:**
 - Examine Ambedkar's critique of Marxism. (15/2013)
 - Discuss Dr. BR Ambedkar's idea of state socialism. [2016]
 - 'Political democracy could not last unless social democracy lay at its base'. (BR Ambedkar). Comment. [2017]
 - Discuss Ambedkar's ideas on Annihilation of Caste. [2018]

- Comment on Ambedkar on Constitutionalism. [2020]
- **Syed Ahmed Khan**
 - Syed Ahmed Khan as a modernizer. (10/2013)
- **M N Roy**
 - Manabendra Nath Roy's political thought highlighted the humanistic aspects of Marxism. Discuss. (15/2024)

Sources and strategy for Paper 1 Part A

- Stick to your notes and revise them repeatedly.
- If possible, make mind maps and tables for thought and theory for quick revision.
- In case of lack of material, stick to IGNOU.
- Answer writing key for conceptual clarity, interlinkage and scholars to quote.



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Awakening Toppers

Paper 1 - Part B **Indian Government & Politics**

- **Political strategies in Freedom struggle:**
 - Explain how peasant movements promoted nationalist ideas during the struggle for Indian independence. (15/2014)
 - Comment on Satyagraha as a strategy in the Indian national movement. [2015]
 - The success of Mahatma Gandhi lay in transforming both political and non-political movements into a unified nationalist movement. Discuss. [2017]
 - Differentiate moderate nationalism from extremist / militant nationalism in terms of their objectives and means. [2017]
 - The Revolt of 1857 was a 'sepoy mutiny' or 'first war of independence'. Discuss. [2018]
 - National movement in India was anti-imperialist and increasingly radical in its socio-economic and political programmes. Discuss. [2019]

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- Trace the role of revolutionary and militant national movements in Indian national movement. [2020]
- Analyse the workers' movement in India in the pre-Independence period. (10/2022)
- Satyagraha and Indian Nationalism (10/2023)
- Discuss the contribution of the Dalit struggle to establish egalitarianism in Indian society during freedom movement. (20/2024)
- **Perspectives of Indian national movement:**
 - Marxist understanding of India's freedom movement. (10/2013)
 - Critically examine the Radical Humanist perspective on Indian National movement. [2016]
 - Discuss the Dalit perspective on Indian national movement. [2019]
 - Role of socialists in the Indian national movement. [2020]
 - Analyse the Marxist perspective of the nature of Indian national movement. [2021]
- **Making of the Constitution:**
 - Significance of the Preamble. (10/2013)
 - Indian constitution is a Lawyers Paradise. (Ivor Jennings). Discuss. [2018]
 - Unity and integrity of India was perhaps the single uppermost factor in the minds of the Constitution makers. Comment. [2019]
 - Indian Constitution makers concerns on social inequality. [2020]
 - The constitution of India is a product of a historical process, rich with constitutional antecedents. Comment. [2021]
 - The constitution makers faced the great task of forging a common national identity in the face of un-paralled social and cultural diversity in India. Comment [2021]
 - The Preamble of the Indian Constitution reflects itself as a 'social contract'. Elucidate. (10/2022)
 - The making of the Indian Constitution is described as an attempt towards 'social revolution'. Comment. (15/2022)
 - Imprint of the British Constitution on the Indian Constitution. (10/2023)
 - The Constitution of India is the 'cornerstone of a nation'. (Grenville Austin). Analyze. (15/2023)

- Objective Resolution of the Constituent Assembly (10/2024)
- **Salient features of the Constitution:**
 - Comment on secularism in Indian constitution. [2015]
 - The purpose of the 42nd constitutional amendment was to make the economic and social democracy explicitly visible. Discuss. [2016]
 - Underline the significance of the first constitutional amendment. [2021]
 - Mention the founding principles that define Indian constitution. [2021]
 - Constitutional morality in the Indian Constitution. (10/2024)
- **Fundamental Rights, DPSPs and duties:**
 - Analyse the significance of Article 32 of the Indian Constitution. (15/2013)
 - Examine the significance of the verdicts of the Supreme Court in the Golaknath and Keshavananda Bharati cases for an understanding of the scope of Article 368 in regard to Fundamental Rights. (20/2013)
 - Increasingly higher focus on Directive Principles of State Policy (10/2014)
 - What are the provisions for constitutional protection of right to freedom of religion and how far have they succeeded in promoting secularism in India? (15/2014)
 - Discuss the right to education and the concerns raised by it. [2015]
 - Right to privacy is an intrinsic part of the right to life. Comment. [2017]
 - Right to constitutional remedies in India. [2020]
 - Constitutionally reconciling the Fundamental rights with the DPSPs has led to frequent amendments of the constitution and judicial interventions. Comment. [2021]
 - The main goal of the Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution is to generate civic responsibility among the citizens. Explain. (15/2023)
 - Legal remedies in Part III of the Constitution of India (10/2024)
 - How far do you agree that the Directive Principles of State Policy are more fundamental than the Fundamental Rights in meeting socio-economic justice as mentioned in the Preamble of the Constitution? (20/2024)
- **Parliamentary system:**

- Decline of Indian Parliament. (10/2013)
- Analyse the position of the Prime Minister of India in a coalition regime. (15/2013)
- Differentiate parliamentary supremacy from parliamentary sovereignty. Would you consider the Indian parliament as a sovereign parliament? Examine. [2017]
- **Amendment procedure, judicial review and basic structure doctrine:**
 - Discuss the efficacy of judicial review in India. [2015]
 - Article 368 does not enable parliament to alter the basic structure or framework of the constitution. Comment. [2016]
 - "The basic structure doctrine is implicit in the Indian Constitution; the Supreme Court has only given it an explicit form." Comment. [2019]
 - The Doctrine of Basic Structure of the Constitution has enhanced the power of judicial review of the Supreme Court. Examine. (15/2022)
- **Principle Organs of Government:**
 - Examine the role of Supreme Court as the final interpreter of the Indian Constitution. (15/2013)
 - "India has thrown up a form of judicial democracy that has no parallel anywhere else, and has nurtured a kind of civil society that is uniquely its own." (Bhikhu Parekh) (10/2014)
 - Examine the debates on the appointment procedure of judges to the higher judiciary in India. (15/2014)
 - Comment on the 99th amendment of the Indian constitution. [2015]
 - Critically analyse the discretionary powers granted to the governor by the Indian constitution. [2015]
 - Critically examine the role of governor in recent times. [2016]
 - Judiciary has acquired the role of both, legislature and an executive in recent years. Examine with suitable examples. [2017]
 - How is the President of India elected? Outline the salient characteristics of the electoral college of the Indian President. [2017]
 - Do the lieutenant governors have more power than the governor of the states? Explain. [2018]

- Whether judicial activism has undermined or strengthened parliamentary democracy in India? Discuss. [2018]
- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has emerged as the most powerful institution in India. Discuss. [2019]
- The changing socio-economic profile of our legislators does not augur well for the health of Indian democracy. Comment. [2019]
- Has the thrust of government tilted towards the executive in contemporary Indian politics. Given your arguments. [2020]
- Judicial overreach in India. [2020]
- Examine the evolution of the jurisdiction of the SC of India as a constitutional court.[2021]
- The role of the president of India becomes more significant during a minority government and a coalition government. Explain. [2021]
- Legislative Council is a house without any effective powers. Comment. (10/2022)
- The Speaker represents the freedom and dignity of the House. Examine. (15/2022)
- Do you agree that over the years the Supreme Court has become a forum for policy evolution? Justify your answer. (15/2023)
- Relevance of the Legislative Council (10/2024)

- **Grassroot democracy**

- Examine the changing structure of Panchayati Raj institutions with special reference to the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act. (15/2013)
- Explain how the participation of women impacted the functioning of rural local bodies in India. (15/2014)
- Examine the role of Panchayat raj institutions and urban local bodies in deepening of democracy in India. [2015]
- The goal of good governance will be achieved only by strengthening the grass root level democracy. Comment. [2016]
- Has the 73rd constitutional amendment empowered women in Panchayat in India? Discuss. [2017]

- New Panchayat Raj is an effective instrument for women empowerment. Discuss. [2018]
- Examine the provisions of Panchayat Extension Services Act (PESA) 1996. [2018]
- Political decentralisation has not been matched by administrative decentralisation at the grass roots level. Explain. [2019]
- To what extent has 73rd and 74th amendment acts enhanced women's empowerment?
- Do you think that despite having significant limitations the PRIs have strengthened the process of democratic decentralization? Give your views. [2021]
- Examine the unique features of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. Do you think this Amendment would contribute in achieving the goal of empowerment of marginalized sections of the society? (20/2022)
- Discuss the main provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. Do you think this Act is a 'unfulfilled dream'? Argue your case. (20/2023)
- The blueprint of Gram Swaraj is the key to understand the Gandhian perspective on planning. Discuss. (15/2024)
- Gram Sabha in the Panchayati Raj system is a forum which gives expression to the collective wisdom, aspirations and the will of the people. Comment. (15/2024)

- **Federalism:**

- "Cooperative federalism produces a strong central, or general government, yet it does not necessarily result in weak provincial governments that are largely administrative agencies for central policies. Indian federation has demonstrated this." (Granville Austin) Examine the uniqueness of Indian federalism in the light of the above statement. (20/2013)
- Comment on cooperative federalism in India. [2015]
- Identify the contested areas in centre state relations in India. [2015]
- The philosophy and administration of distribution of powers between the centre and states needs to be re-assessed. [2016]
- Indian federation has moved from cooperative federation to competitive federation. Discuss. [2017]
- Implementation of GST and NEET is a major challenge to Indian federalism. Comment. [2018]
- Discuss asymmetrical federalism in India. [2018]

- Despite constitutional mandate the Inter-State Council has not come of age. Discuss. [2019]
- Mechanisms for settling interstate disputes. [2020]
- Does the functioning of federalism in India tend to make it appear unitary in practice. [2020]
- Do you think that there has been a gradual shift in the basis on which the demands for the creation of new states have been raised in different regions of India. Explain [2021]
- Discuss the composition and functions of the Inter-State Council. To what extent has this body been successful in achieving its objectives? (15/2022)
- Does the actual working of Indian federalism conform to the centralizing tendencies in Indian polity? Give reasons for your answer. (20/2023)
- **Constitutional and Statutory institutions / commissions:**
 - The role of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in promoting good governance. (10/2014)
 - Discuss the working of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to curb violence against Dalits. (20/2014)
 - Examine the objectives and role of the National Human Rights Commission. [2016]
 - Examine the role of the National Commission for Minorities in preserving, promoting and protecting the rights of minorities in India. [2017]
 - Analyse the arguments in favour and against the lateral entry into higher civil services in India. [2018]
 - The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India enhances the accountability of the Government and serves as the watchdog of the finances of the Government. Explain. [2019]
 - Discuss, in brief, the role of the National Commission for Women. Do you think it is a toothless organization? [2019]
 - The success of electoral democracy can partly be attributed to the status and role of ECI. Explain. [2021]
 - Examine the role and functioning of the ECI and CAG in last two decades. [2020]
 - How far is the National Commission for Backward Classes an empowered body? Assess its role in the context of rising demand for backwardness among dominant communities. (10/2022)

- Discuss the policy initiatives of the Fourteenth Finance Commission aimed towards promoting and strengthening agricultural development in India. (15/2022)
- National Commission for Minorities (10/2023)
- Explain the structure and functions of the National Commission for Women. (15/2024)

- **Development and Economic Planning:**

- Gandhian perspective of development and its contemporary relevance. (10/2013)
- Comment on the structure and function of NITI Aayog. [2015]
- Compare the Nehruvian and Gandhian models of development. [2015]
- Critically examine the politics of economic growth in India. [2016]
- Land reforms have failed in the eradication of rural poverty. Comment. [2016]
- In the post liberalisation era, Indian politics is moving from ascriptive politics to developmental politics. Comment. [2017]
- What do you understand by green revolution? Do you think that a second green revolution is needed to adequately address the agrarian challenge in contemporary India? Examine. [2017]
- Examine the various causes of agrarian crisis in India. [2018]
- What has been the political fallout of the Green Revolution in India? Explain. [2019]
- Liberalisation of Indian economy has not been accompanied by adequate reforms. [2020]
- What explains India's modest improvements in social development outcomes even as the rate of growth has accelerated since the initiation of economic reforms. [2021]
- Functions of District Planning Committee (10/2023)
- How does NITI Aayog as a 'policy think tank with shared vision' visualize the restructuring of planning in India? Justify your answer. (15/2023)
- The legacy of the Planning Commission still has a bearing on India's development policies. Discuss. (15/2024)

- **Caste, religion and ethnicity in Indian politics:**

- Explain the phenomenon of ethnic politics in India in recent times. (20/2013)
- Relation between ethnicity and democracy in India (10/2014)

- Comment on the emergence of backward classes in Indian politics. [2016]
- Cultural and regional differences are the enduring bases on which politics is played out in India. Discuss. [2016]
- Religion is still an important factor in Indian politics. Discuss. [2017]
- Critically examine the ethnic conflicts in North East India. [2018]
- Development has overshadowed the influence of caste in electoral behaviour in recent elections. Discuss. [2019]
- Examine the role of religion in Indian electoral politics in contemporary times. [2020]
- Explain how caste as a social category is also becoming a political category in the democratic politics of India. [2021]
- Ethnicity is the underlying cause which poses a great challenge in the resolution of the problems in the North-East region of India. Comment. (20/2022)
- The rise of caste politics is to be attributed to both regional aspirations and electoral manifestations, Comment. (20/2023)
- "Relative deprivation is a major source of ethnic conflict". Elaborate the statement with relevant examples. (15/2024)

• **Party system:**

- Explain to what extent the concept of "one-party dominance" (W.H. Morris-Jones) model is relevant in Indian politics today. (15/2013)
- Marginalization of the left ideology in India (10/2014)
- Explain how pressure groups have been influencing public policy-making with suitable illustrations. (20/2014)
- India has moved from one party dominance system to one party-led coalition. Discuss. [2017]
- Political personalities are more significant than political parties in India. Discuss. [2018]
- Explain the increasing role of regional political parties in national politics. [2018]
- To what extent has inadequate intra-party democracy impacted Indian democracy? [2020]
- The Indian party system is shaped by a complex interaction of the country's federal structure, electoral system, and social cleavages. [2021]

- How far is it correct that the regional parties have strengthened Indian democracy and federal system? Substantiate your answer with suitable examples. (15/2022)
- The decade 1989–1999 has created an epochal shift in the Indian party system at the national level. Identify the major national trends in the party system during this era. (15/2023)
- Critically assess the role of pressure groups in the decision-making process of the government. (15/2024)

- **Electoral behaviour:**

- Discuss the nature of reforms of the electoral process in India and explain the further scope for reforms. (20/2014)
- Account for the changes in the socio-economic profile of legislators during last one decade in India. (15/2014)

State subvention / funding may be an effective instrument in strengthening electoral democracy in India. Discuss. [2017]

- Electoral behaviour of voters is governed more by the social and economic factors than the political factors. Explain. (20/2022)

- **Social Movements:**

- Compare and contrast Chipko Movement with Narmada Bachao Andolan. (10/2013)
- Point out and comment on the historic importance of the document 'Towards Equality (1974)', for women's movement in India. (15/2013)
- The dilemmas of the human rights movements in India (10/2014)
- Examine the scope and limitations of women's movements in India. (15/2014)
- Discuss the Right to Information and underline challenges being posed before it. [2016]
- Critically analyse the environmentalist movement in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. [2018]
- Write short note on the significance of Chipko Movement. [2019]
- Examine the nature of civil liberty movement in India. [2020]
- High concentration of economic activities and consumption patterns in post-liberalisation period has led to the failure of environmental movements in India. Elucidate. (10/2022)
- Environmentalism of the poor (10/2023)

- Dr. Ambedkar's clarion call, "Educate, Agitate and Organize", strategizes the Dalit movement towards achieving civil liberty. Discuss. (15/2023)
- Women's role in anti-arrack movement (10/2024)
- Discuss the role of environmental movements in shaping the environmental governance in India. (20/2024)

Sources and strategy

- Clarity of basic concepts and need to analyze them above and beyond to make them Optional and not GS.
- Add from editorials and oxford companion to politics in India.
- Add contemporary examples and interlink with theories where possible.



Paper 2 - Part A
Comparative Politics

- **Comparative Politics:**

- Compare and contrast social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies. (20/2013)
- Discuss the main factors that have contributed to the gradual transformation of the world from 'Billiard Ball Model' to 'Cobweb Model'. (15/2014)
- Which are the major approaches of comparative politics? Explain in brief, the Political Economy approach to the study of comparative inquiry. [2015]
- Discuss David Easton's model of systems analysis. [2015]
- Critically examine the Marxist aspect of Political Economy approach to the study of comparative politics. [2016]
- Explain the Political-Sociological approach in the field of comparative politics and discuss its limitations. [2017]
- Describe the changing nature of comparative politics. Briefly explain the Political Economy approach to the study of comparative politics. [2018]
- Examine the significance of the comparative method in political analysis. Discuss its limitations. [2019]
- Discuss subject matter of comparative politics. Outline limitations of comparative political analysis. [2020]
- Discuss the political economy approach to the comparative analysis of politics. [2021]
- Discuss the main limitations of the comparative method to the study of Political Science. (10/2022)
- Discuss the commonalities between the Marxist and Realist approach to the study of International Politics. (10/2022)
- What are the crucial functions of empirical political theory in comparative politics. (10/2023)
- Discuss the interpretive approach to the study of comparative politics (10/2024)

- **State in comparative perspective:**

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- Examine major principles of State centric world views. (20/2013)
- 'A minimal State ensures maximum of Individual Liberty.' Examine the concept of Minimal State. (15/2013)
- Do you subscribe to the view that the modern constructs of the state and politics are pre-eminently Eurocentric and not indigenous and appropriate for the analysis of non-western societies? [2015]
- A combination of internal pressure (ethnic and regional forces) and external threats (EU, UN, TNC, global market etc.) has produced what is commonly referred to as a crisis of nation state. Elaborate. [2016]
- Describe the changing nature of state in the developing societies in the context of inclusive growth in the 21st century. [2018]
- Analyse the contribution of liberal democratic principles in democratisation of Indian polity. [2020]
- The post-colonial state was thought of an entity that stood outside and above society as an autonomous agency. Explain [2021]
- What is the realist prescription to the States to ensure their survival in an anarchical world? (15/2022)
- What are the difficulties faced by political theorist in comparing the States? (10/2023)
- What are the distinctive features of the post-modern state in the advanced capitalist economies? Analyse. (15/2024)

● **Politics Of Representation and Participation:**

- Is the rise of social movement a sign of opening up of popular space in political process or decline of representative politics? Examine. (20/2013)
- Party system in India is neither western nor indigenous. Explain. (10/2014)
- In what respect is the new social movement new in nature? Discuss. (10/2014)
- Give the difference between interest groups and pressure groups? Are the pressure groups in India in a position to fully protect or promote the interest of their members? [2015]
- Struggle for democracy has been marked by bitter strife and tribulations. Examine the statement illustrating the cases of Pakistan, Nepal and Myanmar. [2015]

- Comment on the decline of political parties and examine whether new social movements shall be alternative strategies for establishing link between government and society. [2016]
 - Do interest groups help promote democracy or undermine it? Give your opinions. [2016]
 - Examine the LGBT (lesbian gay bisexual and transgender) movement in developed societies and how it is affecting the political participation in developing societies. [2017]
 - How big a role does identity play in determining political participation in the developing countries? Discuss your answer with suitable illustrations. [2018]
 - Explain the reasons for low voter turnout in democratic countries with suitable examples. [2019]
 - Write an essay on 'The New Social Movements' in developing countries. [2019]
 - Is democracy promotion in developing countries a feasible idea? [2019]
 - Has increased participation of underprivileged strengthened democracy in developing societies or created political chaos and conflict. Comment. [2020]
 - The modernization thesis asserts that affluence breeds stable democracy. How do you explain the success of India being the world's largest democracy as an exceptional case. [2021]
 - Explain the impact of electoral systems and cleavages in shaping party systems with reference to developing countries. [2021]
 - Political parties and pressure groups are sine-qua-non of democracy. Comment [2021]
 - Discuss the role of social movements in strengthening the democratic processes in developing societies. (15/2022)
 - How has the electoral democracy augmented the participation of people in the democratic process? (20/2022)
 - How does democratic politics construct citizenship? (10/2023)
 - Critically examine the role of political parties in sustaining and stabilising democracies in the developing societies. (15/2024)
- **Globalisation:**
 - What is 'global village'? Elaborate its main characteristics and also the factors that contributed to its growth. (15/2014)
 - Is globalisation essentially a process of 'universalisation of capitalist modernity'? [2015]

- How is it that economic and neoliberal globalisation is being interrogated from inside even in developed countries? What are the economic consequences of such globalisation? [2015]
- Discuss the impact of globalisation on the internal functioning of the state. [2016]
- Critically examine the globalisation in the past 25 years from the perspective of the Western world. [2017]
- Critically examine the process of globalisation from the perspective of countries of Global South. [2020]
- What is globalisation? Why is there an intense debate about globalisation and its consequences.[2021]
- What are the main challenges faced by the developing countries in the era of globalization? (10/2022)
- Critically examine the impact of globalization on the developing countries of the world. (20/2023)
- . "Deglobalisation is displacing globalisation." Comment. (20/2024)



International Relations

- **Approaches to IR:**

- **Liberal/ Idealism:**

- What according to Joseph Nye, are the major sources of a country's soft power? Discuss its relevance in contemporary world politics. [2018]
- What are the core assumptions of Idealism as an approach to study IR. Explain its continuing relevance in peace building. [2020]
- Explain the various facets of the idealist approach to the study of international relations. Comment on its contemporary relevance. (10/2024)

- **Realism:**

- Write a note on Intellectual precursors of Realism. (15/2013)
- Identify the major differences between the classical Realism of Hans J Morgenthau and the Neorealism of Kenneth Waltz. Which process is the best suited for analysing international relations after the cold war? [2015]

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- Is Realism the best method to understand international relations? Examine this in the context of classical Realism. [2017]
- Bring out the major differences between classical Realism of Hans Morgenthau and Neorealism of Kenneth Waltz. [2018]
- Discuss the emergence of neo-realism and its basic tenets. [2021]
- What do you mean by offensive and defensive realism? (15/2023)
- **Marxist:**
 - How does Marxist approach explain contemporary International Relations? (15/2013)
 - Explain the relevance of the Marxist approach in the context of globalization. [2019]
 - Marxist approach to the study of international relations has lost its relevance in the post-cold war era. Comment [2021]
- **Functions and Systems Theory:**
 - 'Building ' peace by pieces' is the basis of functionalism.' Elaborate. (15/2013)
 - "Morton A. Kaplan's system theory is contrary to the fundamental precepts of systems approach." Comment. (15/2014)
 - "The Feminist approach to international politics is biased." Comment. (10/2014)
 - Critically examine the Functional and System approaches to the study of international relations. [2016]
 - Examine the World Systems approach as developed by Immanuel Wallerstein [2017]
 - Critically examine the Functionalist approach to the study of international relations. [2018]
 - In what ways does the functionalist approach in International relations help in maintaining peace and order, in global politics? (15/2023)
 - Explain the central tenets of the World-Systems Theory. (10/2024)
- **Key concepts in IR:**
 - National Interest:
 - 'National Interests are Dynamic'. Identify the dynamic nature of National Interests in the contemporary world politics with suitable examples. (15/2013)

- Explain the instruments and methods devised for the promotion of national interest. [2016]
- Russian-Ukraine crisis has cast a dark shadow on the energy needs of the member states of the European Union (EU). Comment. (15/2022)
- National Interest is an essentially contested concept. Comment. (10/2022)
- National Security
 - Critically assess the changing nature of the concept of national security. (15/2014)
- **Balance of power:**
 - "Ukraine crisis is a product of power politics and geo-politics." Comment. (10/2014)
 - 'The notion of balance of power is notoriously full of confusion'. In the light of this quotation do you think that the concept of balance of power is relevant? [2016]
 - Identify the benefits of a multi-polar world. [2019]
 - Explain the concept of Balance of Power? What are the various techniques for maintaining Balance of Power? [2020]
- **Deterrence:**
 - Discuss the theory of Nuclear Deterrence. Did nuclear deterrence prevent a superpower war? [2015]
 - Discuss the utility of Nuclear Deterrence theory in the context of the recent stand-off between India and Pakistan. [2019]
- **Transnational Actors**
 - 'Transnational actors have become driving forces of global politics.' Elaborate. (20/2013)
 - How do you explain the growing importance of multi-national corporations (MNCs) and civil society in contemporary international politics? (20/2014)
 - Discuss the changing nature of modern state with reference to transnational actors. [2017]
 - Some feel that multinational corporations (MNCs) are a vital new road to economic growth, whereas others feel they perpetuate underdevelopment. Discuss. [2018]
 - What is complex inter-dependence? Discuss the role of transnational actors in the international system. [2021]

- **Collective Security**

- 'Collective Security and Collective Defence are the institutional and State mechanisms to sustain the domination of powers that be in International politics.' Elaborate. (15/2013)
- Discuss the conceptual dimensions of collective security. (15/2022)

- **Rise of superpowers:**

- Identify the challenges to American hegemony in post-Soviet world. (10/2013)
- Who was Mr. 'X' in international politics? Elaborate his approach to foreign policy. (15/2014)
- Discuss the collapse of the Soviet Union and impact on international politics. [2015]
- Examine in brief the rise and fall of the Cold War. [2016]
- Discuss the positive and negative impacts of Soviet Union's disintegration on developing nations. [2016]
- Discuss the consequences of Trump's 'America first' and Xi Jinping's 'Chinese dream' on world politics. [2018]
- Critically analyse the implications of Sino-American strategic rivalry for South and South East Asian region. [2020]
- Critically examine the decline of the USA as a hegemon and its implications for the changing international political order. [2021]
- Critically examine the rise of People's Republic of China (PRC) as a great power and its implications of Asian Political order. (20/2022)
- Bipolar structure of the world is more stable than the multipolar one. Comment. (10/2022)
- Discuss the various constraints on American hegemony today. Which of these are likely to become more prominent in the future? (15/2023)
- The expansionist tendencies of the current Russian regime indicate its intentions for the realisation of a Greater Russia on the lines of the Soviet era. Comment. (10/2024)
- Do you agree with the view that the USA uses NATO as a traditional tool of strategy to perpetuate its hegemony in the world? (15/2024)
- The Gramscian theory of hegemony provides many valuable insights into the nature of global power." Comment. (20/2024)

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- **NAM:**

- Highlight the major features of Non-alignment 2.0 document. (15/2013)
- Do you endorse the view that the end of bipolarity and the rise of multiple regional organisations has made non-aligned movement (NAM) more or less irrelevant? [2017]
- Discuss the significance of Non-Aligned Movement as a unique contribution of the non-western world to world politics. [2018]
- Write a brief note on the 17th NAM Summit in Venezuela. [2019]
- Discuss the ways to strengthen NAM to enable it to address the challenges faced by developing countries. [2020]
- Discuss the relevance of the normative ethos of the Not-Aligned Movement in magnifying India's soft power in pursuit of her national interest. (20/2023)
- "During the Cold War, the Non-Aligned Movement tried to become a 'Third force' in World Politics, but failed because it was too large and unwieldy." Discuss. (20/2023)

- **International Economic system:**

- Substantiate APEC as a regional economic and trade arrangement. (15/2013)
- Identify the major changes in the International Political economy in post-Cold War period. (15/2013)
- Sketch the journey of global political economy from Washington consensus to the present. (10/2013)
- How far is the world governance mechanism dominated by the IMF and World Bank legitimate and relevant? What measures do you suggest to improve their effectiveness in global governance? [2015]
- The IMF, World Bank, G7, GATT and other structures are designed to serve the interest of TNCs, banks and investment firms in a 'new imperial age'. Substantiate with examples of governance of new world order. [2016]
- How has the development of Global Capitalism changed the nature of Socialist economies and developing societies? [2017]
- How are the rising powers challenging the USA and Western dominance in the IMF and the World Bank? [2019]

- Critically evaluate the role of USA in WTO dispute settlement mechanism and its implication for future of WTO. [2020]
- Identify and evaluate the reasons for deadlock in the WTO negotiations on fisheries between the developing and developed countries. (20/2022)
- Explain the significance and importance of the demand raised by developing countries for a New Economic Order (NIEO). Are they likely to achieve the objectives of NIEO in the foreseeable future? [2020]
- The return of trade barriers and economic sanctions has diminished the spirit of GATT. In this context, discuss the factors contributing to the decline of WTO in recent times. (15/2024)

• **UN:**

- Do you agree that the U.N. has failed to contain transnational terrorism? Elaborate your answer with examples. (10/2014)
- Argue a case for U.N. reform in the context of changing global milieu. (20/2014)
- Has the reform of the economic and social arrangements of the United Nations been effective? [2015]
- Do you endorse that the United Nations needs major changes in its structure and functioning? Suggest changes for efficient improvements. [2016]
- Do you agree with the view that despite the limitations in the functioning of the UN, it has distinguished and unique achievements to its credit? [2017]
- Discuss the relevance of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on the security of women in conflict zones. [2018]
- In what way does the predominance of the USA in the UN funding affect its decision-making? [2019]
- Evaluate the role of the International Court of Justice in inter-State disputes. [2019]
- Enumerate the challenges in principles related to collective security in the UN Charter. [2020]
- Discuss the significance and urgency of the UNSC reforms. Explain the relevance of reform proposals by UN Sec Gen Antonio Guterres for developing countries. [2020]
- What measures have been undertaken by the UN for its reforms?[2021]

- Describe the composition of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Discuss its voluntary jurisdiction. (15/2022)
- What is the structure and functions of International Court of Justice? (10/2023)
- Discuss the structure and functions of UN Security Council. (10/2023)

- **Regionalisation, Regional Organisations:**

- Give reasons for Regionalisation of world politics. (15/2013)
- The European Union has become the most politically influential, economically powerful and demographically diverse regional entity in the world. Discuss. [2015]
- How does regionalism shape world politics? Explain with examples. [2016]
- American President Donald Trump's proposal to withdraw from NAFTA would bring unforeseen consequences to the regionalisation of world politics. Elaborate. [2017]
- Has the BREXIT affected the regionalisation process initiated by European Union? And what could be its likely impact in the regionalisation process of world politics? [2017]
- Since its inception the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has failed to deliver on its promise. What initiatives should be taken to reinvigorate the organisation? [2018]
- Evaluate the role of BIMSTEC in multi-sectoral technical and economic cooperation. [2019]
- Critically analyse the role of ASEAN in the promotion of regional peace and security through economic cooperation and trade. [2020]
- Explain India's relations with the European Union in the context of Brexit. [2021]
- Explain the success of ASEAN as a regional organisation. [2021]
- How does the regime change and political crisis in Myanmar threaten regional security and peace? (15/2023)
- Account for the rise of European Union as a highly influential regional organisation. (15/2023)
- What were the limitations of NAFTA? How did its replacement by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement counter them? Explain. (15/2024)
- Do you agree with the view that the EU has thus far proved to be the most successful experiment in the regional integration processes? Account for its successes and also some of the recent challenges that it is faced with. (15/2024)

- **Human Rights:**

- Why does global human security need to be emphasised along with economic security? Explain with examples. [2016]
- Critically examine the notion of Asian values in the context of the ongoing debates on human rights. [2018]
- Discuss the importance of personal data protection in the context of human rights. [2019]

- **Environment:**

- Compare and contrast Sino-India approaches to global Environmental concerns. (15/2013)
- 'Global commons belong to global society and requires global attention.' Comment. (10/2013)
- Critically evaluate the approaches of global south towards addressing environment concerns. (15/2014)
- Examine the main problems and challenges involved in looking after environmental concerns in world politics. [2016]
- Recent move of the USA to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement is a setback in the consensus achieved on protecting the world environment. In this context, assess the future prospects on climate control. [2017]
- Would you agree that the ongoing debates on international environmental politics continue to be marred by a new North-South ideological divide over historical responsibility and developmental model? Illustrate your answer with suitable examples. [2018]
- Do you think that sustainable development goals are really attainable by 2030? [2019]
- Examine the role of UNFCCC and other major efforts by UN to address the global environmental crisis. [2020]
- Discuss the five proposals made by India in the recent COP-26 conference held in Glasgow. [2021]
- Narrate the various ways in which rapid environmental degradation is posing a serious threat to human security. Illustrate your answer with suitable examples. (15/2023)

- **Gender Justice:**

- Identify the role and place of Gender in the global economy. (15/2013)
- State the place of Gender Justice in global political agenda. (10/2013)

- Do you endorse that the conventional discourse on human rights has failed to include women's rights? Explain in the context of feminist theories. [2015]
- Give an assessment of the feminist critique of contemporary global issues. [2017]
- Discuss the major recent social movements related to the physical rights of women in various countries of the world. (20/2024)

- **Terrorism and Nuclear Proliferation:**

- Discuss the evolution of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the post-Cold War period. [2016]
- Development of advanced missile technology and nuclear threat by North Korea is a challenge to the American hegemony in South East Asia. evaluate the above statements in the context of recent developments in the region. [2017]
- Discuss the implications of the Trump Kim Singapore summit on the prospects of denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. [2018]
- Discuss the efficacy of global conventions to combat international terrorism. (15/2022)
- The changing global order and ongoing regional conflicts, with the global powers taking sides, have jeopardised the progress made towards disarmament in the past. Comment. (10/2024)

Sources and Strategy

- Stick to your notes for the theoretical parts. Spend only a limited amount and don't go too deep into Comparative Politics- time input- marks output analysis.
- Elements of political theory have significance for comparative approach.
- For IR, prepare short tables/mind maps to remember the theories and conceptual parts. Always try to interlink.

Paper 2 Part B

India's Foreign Policy

- **Determinants of IFP; Institutions of policy making:**

- Identify the elements of change in India's foreign policy. (10/2013)
- 'The economic content of India's foreign trade is increasingly growing.' Substantiate the statement with economic diplomatic engagements of India in the last decade. (20/2013)

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- The social structure of a country influences its foreign policy making. How does the social structure of India impact the course and direction of its foreign policy? [2015]
- Economic interest has emerged as the main component of India's foreign policy. Discuss the statement in the light of India's initiative to improve relations with China, Japan and the Central Asian republics. [2015]
- Which determinant factors play an important role in making India's foreign policy? Illustrate with examples. [2016]
- Examine the Indian National movement and geographical location of India as determinants of India's foreign policy. [2017]
- Do you agree with the view that the Indian foreign policy is increasingly being shaped by the neoliberal outlook? Elaborate. [2018]
- India is often said to have a rich strategic culture. Discuss. [2018]
- India's current foreign policy marks a significant qualitative shift from that of the previous regimes. Discuss. [2018]
- Examine the increasing significance of maritime security in India's foreign policy. [2019]
- Describe the structure and function of National Security Council in India. What role does it play in IFP?
- How do the constituent states influence the foreign policy making process in India?[2021]
- Explain the philosophical foundation of India's foreign policy.[2021]
- Critically examine the major factors responsible for a turnaround in the trajectory of India's foreign policy in the post-cold war period. (15/2022)
- Discuss the role of public diplomacy in the enhancement of India's global standing. (10/2022)
- Peaceful co-existence remains the cornerstone of India's foreign policy. Comment. (10/2022)
- Explain the major features of India's Foreign Policy in the 21st century. (10/2023)
- What are the external determinants of the Foreign Policy of the state? (20/2023)
- Discuss the rationale behind replacing the "Asia-Pacific" strategy with the new term "Indo-Pacific" strategy. (10/2024)

- Would you concur with the view that of late, India's foreign policy has been in a transition mode from Nehruvianism to Neoliberalism? Support your answer with the help of suitable examples. (920/2024)

- **India and NAM:**

- "India's policy of non-alignment has been guided by the genius of the Indian people and their interests." Explain. (15/2014)
- Non alignment has been the basic principle of India's foreign policy since independence. Discuss its relevance in the contemporary context. [2015]
- Comment on India's contribution to non-alignment movement and its contemporary relevance. [2016]
- Compare and contrast non-alignment 1.0 with non-alignment 2.0. [2019]
- Non-Alignment was little more than a rational strategy on the part of a materially weak India to maximise its interests with a bipolar distribution of global power.[2021]
- "India has of late, chosen to debunk non-alignment in its pursuit of multi-alignment." Comment. (15/2024)

- **India and South Asia:**

- "Despite so many agreed areas of cooperation, innumerable institutional mechanisms and a permanent secretariat, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has not taken off as a meaningful regional grouping." Discuss. (20/2014)
- Identify the constraints / challenges to the regional cooperation in South Asia. [2015]
- Sometimes we visualise that SAARC's effort comes to halt because of various impediments to regional cooperation. Elaborate with reasonable examples of impediments. [2016]
- What are the impediments in the development of the South Asian free trade area (SAFTA)? [2017]
- Outline the reasons for low volumes of trade in SAARC region. [2020]
- How does cross-border terrorism impede the achievement of peace and security in South Asia? [2020]

- The war in Afghanistan is crucial from point of view of India's national security. If Americans withdraw and Jehadis emerge with a sense of triumph India will witness an onslaught of terrorism. [2020]
- Why is South Asia considered as the world's politically and economically least integrated region? Explain [2021]
- Discuss the ways and means to release greater economic co-operation among the Member States of South Asia. (10/2022)
- What are the reasons for the lack of 'regionness' in South Asia? (10/2023)
- Why do ethnic conflicts and insurgencies continue to remain major impediments to regional co-operation in South Asia? (10/2023)
- Discuss the future of SAARC in the light of India's increased focus on other regional groupings like ASEAN and BIMSTEC. (20/2024)
- **India- Pakistan:**
 - River water disputes are emerging as a major source of irritation between India and its neighbours. Identify sources of conflicts and suggest remedial measures. [2015]
 - Discuss the shift of India's foreign policy towards Pakistan in light of Pathankot incident. [2016]
 - Despite the differences between India and Pakistan on various issues, Indus water treaty has stood the test of times. In the light of this statement, discuss the recent developments over the issue. [2017]
- **India -Nepal and Bhutan:**
 - River water disputes are emerging as a major source of irritation between India and its neighbours. Identify sources of conflicts and suggest remedial measures. [2015]
 - The treaty of perpetual peace and friendship between India and Bhutan needs to be revised with more pragmatic, realistic obligations and responsibilities. Comment. [2017]
 - Discuss the future prospects of India Nepal relations in context of the recent publication of new Nepalese map claiming Indian territory. [2020]
 - Bhutan has historically been an ally of India, but the China-Bhutan border-related issues have become a security issue for India. Discuss. (10/2024)
- **India -Bangladesh:**

- “Federal units are critical in the making of India’s foreign policy.” Examine this statement with reference to the role of West Bengal vis-à-vis Bangladesh. (15/2014)
- Ethnic conflicts and insurgency in North East India can be better managed by improving relations with neighbouring countries. Substantiate the statement with suitable examples. [2015]
- Analyse the impact of hydro politics in Indo-Bangladesh relations. [2020]
- Write a brief analysis of the ethnic conflicts and cross-border migrations along India-Myanmar and India-Bangladesh borders.[2021]
- Discuss the steps required to realise ‘hydro-co-operation’ between India and Bangladesh. (10/2022)

- **India-Sri Lanka**

- Despite deep ties, India's relations with Sri Lanka have seen strains due to China's growing influence in Sri Lanka through investments and economic dominance. Analyse. (10/2024)

- **India- South East Asia:**

- Ethnic conflicts and insurgency in North East India can be better managed by improving relations with neighbouring countries. Substantiate the statement with suitable examples. [2015]
- Ethnic conflicts and insurgency in North East India can be better managed by improving relations with neighbouring countries. Substantiate the statement with suitable examples. [2015]
- What are the hopes and aspirations of 'Look East policy' of India? Explain.[2016]
- Evaluate India's stand on the recent Rohingya refugee issue. [2018]
- Analyse the significance of India's Look East policy in the light of concerns of the indigenous peoples of North East India. [2018]
- How is India responding to the idea of Indo-Pacific? [2019]
- Discuss the strategic implications of India’s Look East Policy transforming into Act East Policy.[2021]
- Discuss the consequences of illegal cross-border migration in India’s north-eastern region.(15/2022)
- What are the implications of ‘Look-East’ Policy on the north-eastern region of India? (15/2022)

- Discuss the implications of the scrapping of the Free Movement Regime with Myanmar by the Indian Government on the complex ethno-political dynamics of the north-eastern region. (15/2024)
- **India and the Global South:**
 - India Research and Information System (RIS) for developing countries is a major initiative in the area of South-South Cooperation. Discuss. [2018]
 - What diplomatic steps has India taken to articulate the interests of the Global South in international politics? (10/2023)
 - Discuss the potential role that India could play as the leader of the Global South in realising the goal of establishing a new international economic order in the 21st century. (15/2024)
- **India-Africa and Latin America:**
 - Discuss factors for the decline of India's presence in Latin America. [2015]
 - Suggest measures so that India's partnership with Africa becomes a true symbol of South-South Cooperation, delivering clear cut economic and political divisions to both sides of the equation. [2017]
 - India's capacity building programs under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) has earned much Goodwill for it in Africa. Discuss. [2018]
 - How is India pursuing her foreign policy objectives through the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Dialogue Forum? [2019]
 - How do the guiding principles of India-Africa relations seek to increase the harmony and mutual cooperation between India and Africa? [2020]
 - Identify the drivers of India's new interest in Africa. [2021]
 - Discuss the major drivers of India's interests in Africa. (15/2023)
- **NIEO and WTO Negotiations:**
 - Sketch the leadership role of India in WTO negotiations. (10/2013)
 - Explain the concept of the North South divide and suggest how structural inequalities between the high wage, high investment industrial North and low wage, low investment predominantly rural South can be reduced. [2016]

- Analyse the stalled progress of the Doha round of WTO negotiations over the differences between the developed and developing countries. [2017]
- India's coalition diplomacy with WTO has earned it wide appreciation. What accounts for the success of India's coalition diplomacy? [2018]
- Explain India's position on the waiver of intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines in WTO. [2021]
- Discuss the relevance of the demand for New International Economic Order (NIEO) in the present era of globalization. (20/2022)
- Why is the compromise reached at WTO regarding the Covid-19 vaccine manufacturing not a Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver? (10/2023)
- "Nothing is going to move within the WTO negotiations unless India is on board." Discuss the main reasons behind India's increased clout in the WTO. (10/2024)

- **India-USA:**

- Do you agree with the view that the USA is of late willing to treat India as a partner rather than merely a camp-follower? Give reasons for your answer. (10/2014)
- Before the year 2000, the Indo-US relationship had been marked more with estrangement than cordiality. Why? [2015]
- Comment on India's growing relationship with the USA in the background of constrained relations between India and China. [2016]
- The natural behaviour of India and the United States is likely to serve each other's interests. Hence a deliberate strategy of dovetailing their efforts will obviously benefit both. Elaborate. [2017]
- Discuss the role of Indian diaspora in promoting Indo-US relations. [2018]
- How is the current stand-off between the USA and Iran affecting India's energy security? [2019]
- Discuss the significance of Indo-US partnership and its implications for India's security and national defence. [2020]
- Explain the significance of Basic Exchange and Co-operation Agreement (BECA) Indo-US strategic relations. (10/2022)

- "India and USA have become such strong strategic partners that they need not become formal allies." Comment. (15/2024)
- **India-EU:**
 - "EU – India relations have a long way to go before they can purposely be termed strategic." Discuss. (10/2014)
 - Explain Britain's ouster from the EU and bring out its consequences on the world economy in general in India in particular. [2016]
- **India-China:**
 - "Some of the major changes that occurred in India's foreign policy after the Sino – India war in 1962 were within the larger framework of continuity." Discuss. (15/2014)
 - Illustrate the main causes of tension between India and China. Suggest the possibilities of improving relationships. [2016]
 - How is the belt and road initiative of China going to affect India- China relations? [2017]
 - Critically assess the evolving convergence of India and China in the areas of trade and environment. [2018]
 - Describe briefly China's 'One Belt One Road (OBOR)' Initiative and analyse India's major concerns. [2019]
 - What are the current issues in Brahmaputra River water sharing between India and China? [2019]
 - Critically examine India's position on South China Sea Dispute. [2019]
 - Explain the defence and foreign policy options of India to address the challenges emerging out of the current India-China stand-off at LAC. [2020]
 - Examine the geo-strategic points of contention in the bilateral relationship between India and China. [2021]
 - Quadrilateral security dialogue (QUAD) performs an important role in India's strategic balancing act to withstand the dominance of China in Asia. Discuss. (15/2023)
 - Does the idea of the 21st century as 'Asian century' continue to remain feasible given the growing friction between India and China? (15/2024)
- **India-Japan:**

- Examine the recent developments in India-Japan relationship. (10/2013)
- Evaluate the recent changes in Indo – Japan relations. (20/2014)
- Do you subscribe to the idea that in the new evolving Asian dynamics Japan and India have not only moved closer in economic cooperation, but also in strategic partnership? [2017]
- Do you agree that the growing assertiveness of China is leading to multi layered Indo Japan relations? Comment. [2018]
- What are the notable features of the recently concluded act ACSA between India and Japan? How is it likely to address security concerns of India? [2020]
- What are the main drivers of India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership? (20/2022)
- **India-Russia:**
 - Analyse the drivers of Indo – Russian relations in the post-Cold-War era. (20/2014)
 - The recent differences between India and Russia are the result of misconceptions rather than facts. Elucidate. [2017]
 - Relations between India and Russia are rooted in history, mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation. Discuss [2021]
 - Arms trade, economic ties and congruent geo-political interests are no longer the three pillars of India-Russia relationship in the emerging strategic context. Comment. (20/2023)
- **India and UN system:**
 - Bring out the objectives of India seeking permanent seat in Security Council. (10/2013)
 - Is India's quest for a permanent seat in the Security Council a possibility or just a pipedream? Elaborate with reasons. (10/2014)
 - Evaluate India's participation in United Nations peace-keeping operations over the years. (15/2014)
 - Critically analyse China's role in international politics against India's demand for permanent seat in UNSC. [2016]
 - India has been the largest and consistent country contributing to the UN peacekeepers worldwide. Examine India's role in this perspective. [2017]

- Uniting for Consensus also known as Coffee Club has opposed the claims of India and other countries for permanent membership of the UN security council. Point out their major objections. [2017]
- Discuss the various impediments in India's way to a permanent seat in the Security Council. [2018]
- Analyse the recent trends in India's role in the UN peacekeeping operations. [2019]
- Explain the importance of India's claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. [2020]
- Explain the factors which justify India's claim for a permanent seat at the UN security council. (15/2022)
- Discuss the importance of India's role in UN peacekeeping operations as a ground for its claim to a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. (15/2023)
- India must strive to become a semi-permanent member of the UNSC, rather than a permanent member without the right to veto." Comment. (10/2024)
- **India and the Nuclear Question:**
 - Is India's Nuclear doctrine a viable one? (10/2013)
 - Discuss the grounds for India's opposition to NPT. (10/2014)
 - In 1998, India declared itself a nuclear weapons state. India refuses to sign NPT and CTBT. What would be the implications for India's nuclear policy in case it signs both the treaties? [2015]
 - Critically analyse India's nuclear policy. [2016]
 - Explain the socio-economic impacts of arms race and identify the obstacles in the way of disarmament. [2016]
 - Nuclear non-proliferation treaty - NPT, has failed to achieve the ultimate objective of global nuclear disarmament. Discuss the deficiency in the provisions of NPT. [2017]
 - Given the recent developments in the region, do you think that there is a need to change India's 'No First Use (NFU)' nuclear policy? [2019]
 - Discuss the efficacy of India's No First Use Policy in the context of the evolving strategic challenges from its neighbours. [2020]
 - Examine the evolution of India's role in the global nuclear order. [2021]

- Discuss the reasons behind India's refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). (15/2022)
- "India's nuclear policy is deeply influenced by its cultural beliefs and its pragmatic approach to foreign policy". Discuss. (20/2023)
- Critically examine India's persistent refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) despite being recognized as a de facto nuclear power. (15/2024)

• **Recent developments in IFP:**

- "Afghanistan is a litmus test for India's ascendance as a regional and global power." Discuss. (10/2014)
- Examine the implications of turmoil in Iraq and West Asia for India's security and foreign policy concerns. (15/2014)
- Vision of the new world order has emerged as the major objective of India's foreign policy. Discuss the policy initiative taken by India in this regard and challenges faced by it. [2015]
- Discuss the realistic foreign policy initiatives taken by India to balance its relations between Israel and Arab world. [2015]
- Has the recent Indo Israeli relationships given a new dynamic to India's stand on Palestinian statehood? [2017]
- "The growing closeness between India and Israel will strengthen the cause of Palestine." Comment. [2019]
- Write a brief note on India's interests in West Asia. [2019]
- Evaluate India's vision of a new world order. [2019]
- Identify the key sectors of cooperation between India and Israel since 2014. Examine their significance in strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries. [2020]
- Critically examine the role of India in shaping the emerging world order. [2020]
- Discuss the sustainable developments goals as set by UN. [2021]
- How does the recent takeover of Afghanistan by Taliban impact India's strategic interests.? [2021]
- Write about the growing significance of QUAD. [2021]

- Discuss India's vision of a New World order in the 21st century. (15/2022)
- How does India-Israel bilateral ties reflect the autonomy of India's foreign policy choices? (20/2022)
- What steps has India taken to regain its foothold in Afghanistan since the Taliban has taken over the country in August 2021? (15/2023)
- What are the challenges and limitations in India-Iran relations? (15/2023)
- Discuss the significance of "West Asia Quad" in the light of India's Look West' policy. (15/2023)
- Critically examine the continuity and change in India's Palestine policy in the wake of the ongoing Israel-Hamas War. (20/2024)

Sources and strategy

- Read any one current book on IFP to get a broad idea and easy quotes for IFP questions.
- Dynamic issues and developments with countries and groupings- updates available on PIB and MEA sites.
- Distinguished lecture series- MEA
- Important sites like ORF, VIF and Diplomat to quote scholars and theorists on specific topics to make it more optional oriented.