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Q1. Three decades after the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act banned sex determination, the child sex ratio remains skewed, and worsens in several prosperous, highly literate districts. Comment on why rising prosperity and literacy have not dissolved son preference. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Dowry in India shows that legal prohibition alone cannot eliminate a practice rooted in patrilineal inheritance and hypergamous marriage norms. Critically evaluate the claim that law is therefore a weak agent of social change. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. In the light of women navigating the Indian city around fear, avoiding streets, hours and routes that men use without a thought, discuss what this unequal access to public space costs Indian society and what would make the city belong equally to women. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. India's demographic dividend yields growth only when matched by jobs and skills, and its window is already closing in the ageing south even as it stays open in the north. Critically analyse whether India is equipped to seize the dividend before it passes. **(15 marks)**

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Q3. Advertising and social media place the lifestyles of the rich and of the West before India's young every day, lifting their wants well beyond their means. What is this widening gap between aspiration and means doing to their behaviour, from consumer debt to the pressure to migrate? **(10 marks)**

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Q4. A district's water, sanitation and housing schemes are run by state parastatals and special-purpose agencies, while the elected panchayat and municipality meant to deliver them look on. Discuss what this spread of parallel bodies does to local self-government. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. The one-third reservation of seats for women in panchayats reshaped local politics yet entrenched proxy rule through the 'sarpanch-pati.' Reserving seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will reproduce this proxy representation rather than transcend it. How far do you agree? **(10 marks)**

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Q2. As men move to non-farm work, women now perform most of India's farm labour, yet under 14% hold operational land titles and few are recorded as cultivators, denying them credit, inputs and scheme benefits. To what extent does invisibility in law and data, rather than effort, constrain the woman farmer? **(15 marks)**

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Q3. The statutory separation of kinship from property has turned the joint family from a property corporation into a domestic unit, severing the legal ties that once bound lineage to inheritance. Comment on the social costs and gains of this shift. **(15 marks)**

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Q4. "Communal conflict in India is less a clash of religious belief than a contest for political and economic power fought in the language of religion." Comment. **(10 marks)**

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Q5. The last full Census is now several years overdue and several large surveys stand delayed or disputed. Why does India keep framing far-reaching policy on so thin and dated an evidence base, and what does this cost the design and evaluation of public policy? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. Three decades of opening to global trade and capital have produced an India deeply connected to the world economy beside one largely shut out of its gains. Distinguish between globalisation having widened economic inequality in India and its having chiefly made an older inequality more visible, and analyse why the distinction matters. **(15 marks)**

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Q2. The Right to Education Act drove enrolment above 96 percent, yet surveys find nearly half of Class-5 children cannot read a Class-2 text. By measuring inputs and attendance rather than learning, the system optimised schooling over outcomes. Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q3. India's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has fallen sharply over the past decade, yet child undernutrition has barely improved and India's Global Hunger Index ranking remains poor. Discuss why a retreat of income poverty has not brought a matching retreat of hunger. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. "These people are the instruments. Remove them, and I see nothing but a picture of chaos all over the country." Sardar Patel defended a permanent civil service for its insulation from political change, yet every civil servant must loyally carry out the distinct agenda of each elected government in turn. Comment on the tension between the civil servant's permanence and political neutrality. **(10 marks)**

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