

SHERLOCKING SIMULATOR · FULL-LENGTH TEST

General Studies — Paper II

SET A

Time Allowed : Three Hours | Maximum Marks : 250

Roll No. _____

Name _____

Date _____ Time _____

Medium of Writing _____

Signature of Candidate _____

INSTRUCTIONS

1. There are **TWENTY** questions in all. **All questions are compulsory.**
2. The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it. Questions 1–10 carry 10 marks each (answer in about 150 words); Questions 11–20 carry 15 marks each (answer in about 250 words).
3. Answers must be written in the medium authorized, which must be stated clearly in the space provided above. No marks will be given for answers written in an unauthorized medium.
4. Word limit, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
5. Any page or portion of the page left blank in this booklet must be clearly struck off.

**SCAN TO ENROL****Sherlocking Mains Comprehensive Module**unlockias.in/courses

General Studies — Paper II — Set A

TIME ALLOWED : THREE HOURS | MAXIMUM MARKS : 250

Note: All questions are compulsory. The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it. Answers must be written in the authorized medium. Q. 1–10 are to be answered in about 150 words each; Q. 11–20 in about 250 words each.

QUESTIONS 1–10 · 10 MARKS EACH

- Q1.** On a Bill under Article 200, the Governor may assent, withhold assent, or reserve it for the President. Examine the limits of this discretion and whether courts can remedy prolonged inaction without prescribing timelines. 10
- Q2.** "The Direct Benefit Transfer architecture built on the JAM trinity has turned welfare spending into leakage-free, targeted delivery." Comment. 10
- Q3.** The Supreme Court has upheld the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, including its power to examine citizenship. Discuss the basis of this power and the balance between roll purity and mass disenfranchisement. 10
- Q4.** "Tribunalisation expands citizens' access to remedies, yet repeated legislative reversal of judicial directions on tribunal appointments undermines the separation of powers." Assess. 10
- Q5.** Explain the scope and limits of the President's pardoning power under Article 72, and the grounds for its judicial review. 10
- Q6.** Analyse the gaps in India's social-security architecture for gig and platform workers, and how far the recently operationalised Labour Codes and related measures close them. 10
- Q7.** Compare and contrast the Lokpal, the State Lokayuktas and the Central Vigilance Commission on their jurisdiction over public servants and their powers to investigate, sanction and prosecute corruption. What does this reveal about why the anti-corruption ombudsman architecture under-delivers? 10
- Q8.** Discuss reforms to make the higher civil services both politically neutral and responsive, and how capacity-building can reconcile the two. 10
- Q9.** In February 2026 the United States set its reciprocal tariff on Indian goods at 18 percent, after threatening steeper rates. Analyse the impact of this shift on India's export economy and how India should respond. 10
- Q10.** "The India-EU Free Trade Agreement and the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement mark a shift towards using trade pacts as instruments of economic statecraft, hedging against rising protectionism." Elaborate. 10

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QUESTIONS 11–20 · 15 MARKS EACH

- Q11.** Apart from impeachment, accountability for the post-appointment conduct of higher-judiciary judges rests on a self-regulatory in-house mechanism rather than statute. Elucidate this mechanism, including its misconduct inquiry and the recent move to disclose judges' assets, and suggest how it can be made more credible without eroding judicial independence. 15
- Q12.** "The Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, now in force, tilt the balance towards the State's access to data and away from the citizen's right to privacy and to information." Evaluate. 15
- Q13.** Declining sittings and the growing tendency to pass Bills with little or no committee scrutiny have weakened Parliament's deliberative and law-making role. Discuss the consequences and suggest reforms to strengthen legislative scrutiny. 15
- Q14.** In the devolution of powers to local bodies, the transfer of functions has run ahead of the transfer of finances. Explain the reasons for this gap, and, with reference to Fifth Schedule areas and the PESA Act, 1996, how far it weakens tribal self-rule. 15
- Q15.** The NHRC, the NCBC and the National Commission for Women differ in their constitutional or statutory standing, the independence of their composition, and whether their orders bind or only recommend. What do these differences reveal about why such commissions struggle to protect the vulnerable? 15
- Q16.** "Social audits and outcome-based budgeting, meant to make welfare delivery answerable to beneficiaries, have largely become procedural rituals." Do you agree? Justify your answer. 15
- Q17.** Despite strong constitutional and statutory guarantees of gender equality, India's female labour-force participation remains low. Examine the reasons, with particular reference to the burden of unpaid care work and the design of social security provisions. 15
- Q18.** "India's education system produces degrees, not employability." Elucidate, and indicate how the National Education Policy, 2020 can narrow this gap. 15
- Q19.** "India's chairmanship of BRICS in 2026 offers it an opportunity to consolidate its leadership of the Global South." In view of the cohesion challenges of the expanded grouping, critically evaluate this claim. 15
- Q20.** "India's policy of engagement without recognition of the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan best serves its strategic interests." Examine. 15

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Q1. On a Bill under Article 200, the Governor may assent, withhold assent, or reserve it for the President. Examine the limits of this discretion and whether courts can remedy prolonged inaction without prescribing timelines. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. "The Direct Benefit Transfer architecture built on the JAM trinity has turned welfare spending into leakage-free, targeted delivery." Comment. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. The Supreme Court has upheld the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, including its power to examine citizenship. Discuss the basis of this power and the balance between roll purity and mass disenfranchisement. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. "Tribunalisation expands citizens' access to remedies, yet repeated legislative reversal of judicial directions on tribunal appointments undermines the separation of powers." Assess. **(10 marks)**

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Q5. Explain the scope and limits of the President's pardoning power under Article 72, and the grounds for its judicial review. **(10 marks)**

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Q6. Analyse the gaps in India's social-security architecture for gig and platform workers, and how far the recently operationalised Labour Codes and related measures close them. **(10 marks)**

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Q7. Compare and contrast the Lokpal, the State Lokayuktas and the Central Vigilance Commission on their jurisdiction over public servants and their powers to investigate, sanction and prosecute corruption. What does this reveal about why the anti-corruption ombudsman architecture under-delivers? **(10 marks)**

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Q8. Discuss reforms to make the higher civil services both politically neutral and responsive, and how capacity-building can reconcile the two. **(10 marks)**

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Q9. In February 2026 the United States set its reciprocal tariff on Indian goods at 18 percent, after threatening steeper rates. Analyse the impact of this shift on India's export economy and how India should respond. **(10 marks)**

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Q10. "The India-EU Free Trade Agreement and the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement mark a shift towards using trade pacts as instruments of economic statecraft, hedging against rising protectionism." Elaborate. **(10 marks)**

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Q11. Apart from impeachment, accountability for the post-appointment conduct of higher-judiciary judges rests on a self-regulatory in-house mechanism rather than statute. Elucidate this mechanism, including its misconduct inquiry and the recent move to disclose judges' assets, and suggest how it can be made more credible without eroding judicial independence. **(15 marks)**

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Q16. "Social audits and outcome-based budgeting, meant to make welfare delivery answerable to beneficiaries, have largely become procedural rituals." Do you agree? Justify your answer. **(15 marks)**

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Q18. "India's education system produces degrees, not employability." Elucidate, and indicate how the National Education Policy, 2020 can narrow this gap. **(15 marks)**

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Q19. "India's chairmanship of BRICS in 2026 offers it an opportunity to consolidate its leadership of the Global South." In view of the cohesion challenges of the expanded grouping, critically evaluate this claim. **(15 marks)**

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Q20. "India's policy of engagement without recognition of the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan best serves its strategic interests." Examine. **(15 marks)**

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