

SHERLOCKING SIMULATOR · FULL-LENGTH TEST

General Studies — Paper II

SET B

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 B

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.** Women's reservation in legislatures is tied to the first delimitation after the next Census. 10
Discuss how this linkage shapes its timing, and the federal concerns a population-based delimitation raises for the southern States.
- Q2.** "Public perception of the integrity of civil servants is now as decisive for democratic 10
governance as their actual conduct." Comment.
- Q3.** "Simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies wound federalism and the 10
basic structure far more than they serve cost-saving and stable governance." Examine.
- Q4.** Compare and contrast a Union Territory having a legislature with a full-fledged State, and 10
locate this within India's asymmetric federalism.
- Q5.** Explain why Speaker-led adjudication of Tenth Schedule disqualifications breeds partisan 10
delay, and why an independent tribunal is proposed instead.
- Q6.** "A steady decline in multidimensional poverty need not narrow the rich-poor gap." Assess, 10
and in its light weigh the case for targeted welfare against universal provisioning.
- Q7.** "India's protection for those who expose corruption exists largely on paper, not in 10
practice." Do you agree? Justify with reference to the gaps in safeguarding disclosers, and
suggest what would make it real.
- Q8.** Analyse the limits of after-the-fact competition enforcement against large digital platforms 10
acting as gatekeepers, such as self-preferencing or barring sellers from steering users to
cheaper options. What is the case for advance, rule-based regulation of digital markets?
- Q9.** After Operation Sindoor, India has kept the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, tying its 10
revival to Pakistan ending cross-border terrorism. Why has India linked water-sharing to a
security demand, and what risks does this carry?
- Q10.** "India's multi-alignment offers a durable hedge for its strategic autonomy even under 10
sustained trade and tariff coercion by the United States." Critically evaluate.

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QUESTIONS 11–20 · 15 MARKS EACH

- Q11.** After the striking down of the National Judicial Appointments Commission, judicial appointments to the higher judiciary still draw criticism for opacity. Discuss the reforms needed to build accountability without compromising judicial independence. 15
- Q12.** What is the nature and constitutional status of the Fundamental Duties under Part IVA? With reference to Article 51A(g), examine how these duties can be made operational without rendering them legally enforceable. 15
- Q13.** The cooperative-federalism machinery, namely the Inter-State Council, the Zonal Councils and the NITI Aayog Governing Council, remains largely advisory. Explain how these bodies differ in composition and role, and what would make the machinery more effective. 15
- Q14.** "Judicial interpretation has made Article 21 an open-ended reservoir of new socio-economic and digital rights." Elaborate, with its limits. 15
- Q15.** How does a CAG performance audit differ from its traditional legality-and-regularity audit, and where does the audit-to-PAC follow-up fall short? 15
- Q16.** "The State may regulate the secular administration of a religious endowment but cannot redraw a denomination's right to manage its own affairs of religion under Articles 25 and 26." Comment in the light of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 and its judicial scrutiny. 15
- Q17.** India's high out-of-pocket health expenditure pushes households into poverty despite expanding insurance cover. Evaluate the State's effort to strengthen public primary healthcare, and suggest measures to curb catastrophic spending and advance universal health coverage. 15
- Q18.** Nearly a decade after the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 replaced welfare with a rights-based mandate, its entitlements have not delivered real inclusion of Divyangjan. Examine why its implementation falls short of its promise. 15
- Q19.** Narrow sea routes such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab-el-Mandeb carry much of India's energy and trade, making the security of sea lines of communication central to its Indo-Pacific strategy. Elaborate how India weaves these chokepoints into its maritime posture, and the instruments it relies on. 15
- Q20.** "Even under Western sanctions, India's defence and discounted-energy partnership with Russia remains a sustainable bilateral pillar, not a growing liability." Discuss, keeping in view defence dependence, secondary-sanctions risk, and the deepening Russia-China alignment. 15

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Q1. Women's reservation in legislatures is tied to the first delimitation after the next Census. Discuss how this linkage shapes its timing, and the federal concerns a population-based delimitation raises for the southern States. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. "Public perception of the integrity of civil servants is now as decisive for democratic governance as their actual conduct."
Comment. (10 marks)

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Q3. "Simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies wound federalism and the basic structure far more than they serve cost-saving and stable governance." Examine. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. Compare and contrast a Union Territory having a legislature with a full-fledged State, and locate this within India's asymmetric federalism. **(10 marks)**

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Q5. Explain why Speaker-led adjudication of Tenth Schedule disqualifications breeds partisan delay, and why an independent tribunal is proposed instead. **(10 marks)**

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Q6. "A steady decline in multidimensional poverty need not narrow the rich-poor gap." Assess, and in its light weigh the case for targeted welfare against universal provisioning. **(10 marks)**

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Q7. "India's protection for those who expose corruption exists largely on paper, not in practice." Do you agree? Justify with reference to the gaps in safeguarding disclosers, and suggest what would make it real. **(10 marks)**

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Q8. Analyse the limits of after-the-fact competition enforcement against large digital platforms acting as gatekeepers, such as self-preferencing or barring sellers from steering users to cheaper options. What is the case for advance, rule-based regulation of digital markets? **(10 marks)**

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Q9. After Operation Sindoor, India has kept the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, tying its revival to Pakistan ending cross-border terrorism. Why has India linked water-sharing to a security demand, and what risks does this carry? **(10 marks)**

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Q10. "India's multi-alignment offers a durable hedge for its strategic autonomy even under sustained trade and tariff coercion by the United States." Critically evaluate. **(10 marks)**

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Q11. After the striking down of the National Judicial Appointments Commission, judicial appointments to the higher judiciary still draw criticism for opacity. Discuss the reforms needed to build accountability without compromising judicial independence. **(15 marks)**

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Q14. "Judicial interpretation has made Article 21 an open-ended reservoir of new socio-economic and digital rights." Elaborate, with its limits. **(15 marks)**

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Q18. Nearly a decade after the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 replaced welfare with a rights-based mandate, its entitlements have not delivered real inclusion of Divyangjan. Examine why its implementation falls short of its promise. **(15 marks)**

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Q19. Narrow sea routes such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab-el-Mandeb carry much of India's energy and trade, making the security of sea lines of communication central to its Indo-Pacific strategy. Elaborate how India weaves these chokepoints into its maritime posture, and the instruments it relies on. **(15 marks)**

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