

SHERLOCKING SIMULATOR · FULL-LENGTH TEST

General Studies — Paper III

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 III — 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.** Assess the banking reforms India needs, covering bank capital, public sector bank governance, bad-loan resolution under IBC, and MSME credit. 10
- Q2.** India's Digital Public Infrastructure stack is built around UPI, the Open Network for Digital Commerce and the Account Aggregator framework. How does it drive economic growth and financial inclusion? Examine the systemic risks of market concentration, data misuse and digital exclusion it carries. 10
- Q3.** Discuss the potential of gene-edited crops for food and climate security and the biosafety and intellectual property concerns involved. 10
- Q4.** Examine how stronger food processing can cut post-harvest losses, raise farm incomes, and create non-farm manufacturing jobs. 10
- Q5.** India is pursuing a "sovereign AI" model, controlling its own AI compute, data and models. Examine the case for this approach. How should India regulate frontier technologies and counter the growing menace of deepfakes and AI-generated fake audio and video? Discuss. 10
- Q6.** Account for why fabrication depth and home-grown chip design, not assembly alone, are essential for India's semiconductor self-reliance. 10
- Q7.** Heat waves increasingly threaten Indian cities and the urban poor. Explain how Heat Action Plans reduce this toll, and examine the gaps that limit their effectiveness on the ground. 10
- Q8.** COP30 urged tripling adaptation finance and mobilising USD 1.3 trillion yearly. Assess how adequate these outcomes are for India, and how the just transition principle shapes its adaptation-finance and climate-ambition concerns. 10
- Q9.** Crypto-asset-based money laundering and terror financing test India's PMLA-FATF framework. Examine measures needed to strengthen it against these threats. 10
- Q10.** India's maritime frontier in the Indian Ocean Region, vital to its trade and energy, faces growing threats. Discuss these. How far have the coastal-security grid and maritime-domain awareness strengthened India's response? 10

General Studies — Paper III — Set A

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QUESTIONS 11–20 · 15 MARKS EACH

- Q11.** Examine the rationale for a two-rate GST. Does it pit revenue buoyancy against States' revenue security post-compensation? 15
- Q12.** India's manufacturing push boosted assembly, not value-addition or MSME integration into GVCs. Account for this gap and reorient PLI accordingly. 15
- Q13.** India stays heavily import-dependent for edible oils and pulses despite cereal self-sufficiency. What factors explain this dependence, and how can a cropping-pattern shift towards oilseeds and pulses build self-reliance in these commodities? 15
- Q14.** How can AgriStack, the farmer-data registry, and e-NAM strengthen agricultural marketing and improve price realisation for farmers? Why is the convergence of schemes at the district level, as attempted under the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, important for lifting farm incomes? Discuss. 15
- Q15.** Assess the significance of India's shift to IN-SPACE-led private space activity for the space economy and technological self-reliance. 15
- Q16.** India aims for 100 GW nuclear power by 2047 via private investment and SMRs. Can these scale India's baseload clean energy? Examine the hurdles, including those in the fuel cycle. 15
- Q17.** Can EIA balance development with ecological protection? Comment, suggesting reforms to the clearance process, environmental governance and precautionary-principle adherence. 15
- Q18.** How can the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme lower decarbonisation costs in hard-to-abate industries like steel and cement, and how does CCUS fit in? Assess both's contribution to India's climate goals. 15
- Q19.** Armed drones, loitering munitions, and layered air defence are altering warfare on India's borders. Analyse how they reshape modern conflict, and why indigenising defence technology is now a strategic necessity. 15
- Q20.** Compare the people-centric Vibrant Villages Programme with the infrastructure-and-technology approach of border roads, tunnels and surveillance in strengthening border security. How do they together build a holistic border-management strategy? 15

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Q1. Assess the banking reforms India needs, covering bank capital, public sector bank governance, bad-loan resolution under IBC, and MSME credit. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. India's Digital Public Infrastructure stack is built around UPI, the Open Network for Digital Commerce and the Account Aggregator framework. How does it drive economic growth and financial inclusion? Examine the systemic risks of market concentration, data misuse and digital exclusion it carries. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Discuss the potential of gene-edited crops for food and climate security and the biosafety and intellectual property concerns involved. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. Examine how stronger food processing can cut post-harvest losses, raise farm incomes, and create non-farm manufacturing jobs. **(10 marks)**

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Q5. India is pursuing a "sovereign AI" model, controlling its own AI compute, data and models. Examine the case for this approach. How should India regulate frontier technologies and counter the growing menace of deepfakes and AI-generated fake audio and video? Discuss. **(10 marks)**

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Q6. Account for why fabrication depth and home-grown chip design, not assembly alone, are essential for India's semiconductor self-reliance. **(10 marks)**

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Q7. Heat waves increasingly threaten Indian cities and the urban poor. Explain how Heat Action Plans reduce this toll, and examine the gaps that limit their effectiveness on the ground. **(10 marks)**

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Q8. COP30 urged tripling adaptation finance and mobilising USD 1.3 trillion yearly. Assess how adequate these outcomes are for India, and how the just transition principle shapes its adaptation-finance and climate-ambition concerns. **(10 marks)**

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Q9. Crypto-asset-based money laundering and terror financing test India's PMLA-FATF framework. Examine measures needed to strengthen it against these threats. **(10 marks)**

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Q10. India's maritime frontier in the Indian Ocean Region, vital to its trade and energy, faces growing threats. Discuss these. How far have the coastal-security grid and maritime-domain awareness strengthened India's response? **(10 marks)**

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Q11. Examine the rationale for a two-rate GST. Does it pit revenue buoyancy against States' revenue security post-compensation? **(15 marks)**

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Q12. India's manufacturing push boosted assembly, not value-addition or MSME integration into GVCs. Account for this gap and reorient PLI accordingly. **(15 marks)**

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Q13. India stays heavily import-dependent for edible oils and pulses despite cereal self-sufficiency. What factors explain this dependence, and how can a cropping-pattern shift towards oilseeds and pulses build self-reliance in these commodities? **(15 marks)**

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Q14. How can AgriStack, the farmer-data registry, and e-NAM strengthen agricultural marketing and improve price realisation for farmers? Why is the convergence of schemes at the district level, as attempted under the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, important for lifting farm incomes? Discuss. **(15 marks)**

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Q15. Assess the significance of India's shift to IN-SPACe-led private space activity for the space economy and technological self-reliance. **(15 marks)**

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Q16. India aims for 100 GW nuclear power by 2047 via private investment and SMRs. Can these scale India's baseload clean energy? Examine the hurdles, including those in the fuel cycle. **(15 marks)**

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Q17. Can EIA balance development with ecological protection? Comment, suggesting reforms to the clearance process, environmental governance and precautionary-principle adherence. **(15 marks)**

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Q18. How can the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme lower decarbonisation costs in hard-to-abate industries like steel and cement, and how does CCUS fit in? Assess both's contribution to India's climate goals. **(15 marks)**

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Q19. Armed drones, loitering munitions, and layered air defence are altering warfare on India's borders. Analyse how they reshape modern conflict, and why indigenising defence technology is now a strategic necessity. **(15 marks)**

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Q20. Compare the people-centric Vibrant Villages Programme with the infrastructure-and-technology approach of border roads, tunnels and surveillance in strengthening border security. How do they together build a holistic border-management strategy? **(15 marks)**

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