

UPSC Mains 2016 — All GS Questions

64 Questions across GS Paper I-IV

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GS-I

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W Easy
Q1. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W Easy
Q3. Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W Easy
Q4. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W Easy
Q5. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W Easy
Q6. Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity?

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W Easy
Q7. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W Easy
Q8. To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W Easy
Q11. With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme'.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q12. What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q13. Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q15. The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q16. South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q17. Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q18. Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q19. Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India.

2016 GS-I 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q20. In what way micro-watershed development projects help in water conservation in drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India?

GS-II

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q1. Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics?

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q2. To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note "Temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir", temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q3. "The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q4. Exercise of CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government's policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q5. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the 'Preamble'. Are they defensible in the present circumstances?

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q6. What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution?

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q7. Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q8. What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q9. Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance?

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q9. "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation." Substantiate this statement with suitable examples.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q10. "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q11. "Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people's participation in the governance system are inter-dependent." Discuss their relationship in the context of India.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q12. In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q13. Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change?

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q14. "Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India." Comment.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q15. Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q16. "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative." What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q18. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post Cold War international scenario.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q19. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable examples.

2016 GS-II 12.5M • 150W

Q20. What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these?

Easy

GS-III

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Q1. How globalization has led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalization detrimental to the development of the country?

Easy

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Q2. Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?

Easy

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Q3. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poorer section of the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion.

Easy

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Q4. What are 'Smart Cities'? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for 'Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission.

Medium

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Q5. Justify the need for FDI for the development of the Indian economy. Why there is gap between MOUs signed and actual FDIs? Suggest remedial steps to be taken for increasing actual FDIs in India.

Easy

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Q6. Comment on the challenges for inclusive growth which include careless and useless manpower in the Indian context. Suggest measures to be taken for facing these challenges.

Easy

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Q7. What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency.

Medium

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Q8. What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture.

Medium

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q9. Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q10. Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q11. Give an account of the current status and the targets to be achieved pertaining to renewable energy sources in the country. Discuss in brief the importance of National Programme on Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q12. Discuss India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How the application of this technology has helped India in its socio-economic development?

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q13. Why is nanotechnology one of the key technologies of the 21st century? Describe the salient features of Indian Government's Mission on Nanoscience and Technology and the scope of its application in the development process of the country.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q14. Rehabilitation of human settlements is one of the important environmental impacts which always attracts controversy while planning major projects. Discuss the measures suggested for mitigation of this impact while proposing major developmental projects.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q14. "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q15. The frequency of urban floods due to high intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods, highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q16. With reference to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, discuss the measures to be adopted to mitigate the impact of the recent incidents of cloudbursts in many places of Uttarakhand.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q17. The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q18. "Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades." Analyze the above statement.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q19. Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q20. Use of Internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major security concern. How have these been misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat.

GS-IV

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1(a). Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being. (150 words)

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(a). What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'? (150 words)

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3(b). Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission. (150 words)

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4(b). How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan? (150 words)

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective. (b) Giving examples, show how the two differ in their approaches. (150 words)

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society. (a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians. (b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socio-ethical values considered necessary in public services be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants? (150 words)

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours. (b) How can it be managed and controlled? (150 words)