

UPSC Mains 2017 — All GS Questions

66 Questions across GS Paper I-IV

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GS-I

2017 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? (150 words)

2017 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. Why did the 'Moderates' fail to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? (150 words)

2017 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. What problems were germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula? (150 words)

2017 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth? (150 words)

2017 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations. (150 words)

2017 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. How does the cryosphere affect global climate? (150 words)

2017 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint. (150 words)

2017 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q11. The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate. (250 words)

2017 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q12. Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. (250 words)

2017 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q13. Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian independence since the twenties of the last century. (250 words)

2017 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q14. Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects. (250 words)

2017 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications. (250 words)

2017 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q16. In what way can floods be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India? (250 words)

2017 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q17. What characteristics can be assigned to monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia? (250 words)

2017 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q19. Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India. (250 words)

2017 GS-I 15M • 250W

Hard

Q20. "The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues of employment, but has also created new problems." Substantiate this statement with examples. (250 words)

GS-II

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1. "The local self-government system in India has not proved to be effective instrument of governance." Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation. (Answer in 150 words)

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2. Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. (Answer in 150 words)

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3. "Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people." Discuss.

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as more powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years?

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. Discuss the role of Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people. (Answer in 150 words)

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

Q6. "To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs the identification of the beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes." Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme.

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss.

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. Hunger and poverty are the biggest challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement.

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

Q9. "China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia." In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbour.

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

Q10. What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence, addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?

2017 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it.

2017 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q11. Explain the salient features of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough "to remove cascading effect of taxes and provide for common national market for goods and services"?

2017 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q12. Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. (Answer in 250 words)

2017 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

Q13. The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint session of the two Houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reason thereof. (Answer in 250 words)

2017 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q14. To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful? (Answer in 250 words)

2017 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

Q15. Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer.

2017 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

Q16. "The emergence of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the State from developmental activities." Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs.

2017 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

Q17. "Poverty alleviation programmes in India remain mere showpieces until and unless they are backed up by political will." Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation programmes in India.

2017 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q18. Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services? Comment.

2017 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

Q19. The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyze India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries.

2017 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q20. Indian diaspora has an important role to play in South-East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian diaspora in South-East Asia in this context.

GS-III

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1. Among several factors for India's potential growth, savings rate is the most effective one. Do you agree? What are the other factors available for growth potential?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2. Account for the failure of manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive exports.

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. Examine the development of Airports in India through joint ventures under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost-effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including Leukaemia, Thalassemia, damaged cornea and severe burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space missions. What are the main obstacles to launching a manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics? Examine critically.

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q9. Discuss the potential threats of Cyber attack and the security framework to prevent it.

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q10. The North-East region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region.

2017 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q11. One of the intended objectives of the Union Budget 2017-18 is to 'transform, energise and clean India'. Analyse the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective.

2017 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q12. "Industrial growth rate has lagged-behind in the overall growth of Gross-Domestic-Product (GDP) in the post-reform period." Give reasons. How far the recent changes in Industrial-Policy are capable of increasing the industrial growth rate?

2017 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q13. What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyse and suggest measures for inclusive growth.

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q14. What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilise the yield of the crops in the system?

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers?

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q16. Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of fast breeder reactor programme in India?

2017 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q19. On December 2004, tsunami brought havoc on fourteen countries including India. Discuss the factors responsible for occurrence of tsunami and its effects on life and economy. In the light of guidelines of NDMA (2010) describe the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q19. Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence.

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q20. The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding?

GS-IV

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1. Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (a) Transparency (b) Accountability (c) Fairness and justice (d) Courage of conviction (e) Spirit of service (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4(b). Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(b). "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher." — A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6(a). How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices? (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6(b). Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7(b). Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some "enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority." Justify. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7(a). The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8(b). Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8(a). Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss. (150 words)