

UPSC Mains 2019 — All GS Questions

66 Questions across GS Paper I-IV

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GS-I

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art. (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. The 1857 Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity. (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples. (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology. (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Medium

Q6. Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India? (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indian coasts, citing specific examples. (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. "Empowering women is the key to control population growth." Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism? (Answer in 150 words)

2019 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q11. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. (Answer in 250 words)

2019 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q12. Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. (Answer in 250 words)

2019 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q14. What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India? (Answer in 250 words)

2019 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism? (Answer in 250 words)

2019 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q16. How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India? (Answer in 250 words)

2019 GS-I 15M • 250W

Hard

Q17. How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and coastal environment? Give suitable examples. (Answer in 250 words)

2019 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

Q17. Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to an environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of a region. (Answer in 250 words)

2019 GS-I 15M • 250W

Hard

Q18. Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples. (Answer in 250 words)

2019 GS-I 15M • 250W

Hard

Q20. Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

GS-II

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. Do you think that Constitution of India does not accept principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain.

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. "The Central Administrative Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority." Explain.

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. What are the methods used by the farmers' organisations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods?

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain.

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism?

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. Despite Consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on non-food essential items squeezing their food-budget. — Elucidate.

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects/Programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors, and suggest measures for their effective implementation.

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. 'The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment.

2019 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'.

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q11. On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q12. "Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power." In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power?

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q13. "The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process." Comment.

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q14. "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India." Discuss.

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. Individual Parliamentarian's role as the national law maker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss.

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q16. 'In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages.' — Discuss.

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q17. The need for cooperation among various service sectors has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges the gap among the sectors. It also sets in motion a culture of 'collaboration' and 'team spirit'. In the light of statements above examine India's development process.

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q18. Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process. — Discuss.

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q19. 'The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order.' Elaborate.

2019 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

Q20. 'What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's national self-esteem and ambitions.' Explain with suitable examples.

GS-III

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3. How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4. Elaborate the impact of National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5. How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively?

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q6. What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q8. Vulnerability is an essential element for defining disaster impacts and its threat to people. How and in what ways can vulnerability to disasters be characterized? Discuss different types of vulnerability with reference to disasters.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q9. The banning of 'Jamaat-e-Islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize influence of OGWs.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q10. What is CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q11. It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement.

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q12. The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in the context of budget making during the post-liberalization period. Clarify it.

2019 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q13. What are the reformative steps taken by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective?

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q14. Elaborate the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. How is the Government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies?

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q16. How can biotechnology help to improve the living standards of farmers?

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q18. Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help disaster mitigation in the case of landslides.

2019 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q19. Indian Government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations.

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q20. Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.

GS-IV

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1(a). What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(b). "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2(a). Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3(a). What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality? (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3(b). What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain? (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4(a). Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4(b). There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(b). "Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you". Do you agree with this view? Discuss. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(a). What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government. (150 words)