

# UPSC Mains 2020 — All GS Questions

64 Questions across GS Paper I-IV

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## GS-I

2020 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q2. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q3. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long term implications on the national movement. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q4. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q5. The process of desertification does not have climatic boundaries. Justify with examples. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q6. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India? (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q7. Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q8. What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched by the Government of India for water conservation and water security? (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q10. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q11. Indian philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q12. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q13. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q15. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q16. India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its development. Elaborate. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q17. Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q18. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q19. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? (Answer in 250 words)**

## GS-II

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q1. "There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act". Comment. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q2. "Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q3. How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q4. The judicial systems in India and UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices. (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q5. 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India? (Answer in 150 words)**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q6. In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss.**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q7. "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance". In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy.**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q8. "The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government". Discuss.**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q9. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment.**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q9. Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

2020 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q10. 'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples.**

2020 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q11. Indian Constitution exhibits centralising tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q12. Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q13. The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funds' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality'. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q14. Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible. (Answer in 250 words)**

2020 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q15. Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons.**

2020 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q16. "The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyse the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report.**

2020 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q17. "Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India". Evaluate the role of the Self Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India.**

2020 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q18. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement.**

2020 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q19. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times - Discuss.**

2020 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q20. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer.**

2020 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q20. What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region.**

## GS-III

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q1. Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development.**

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q2. Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP?**

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q3. What are the main constraints in transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India?**

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q4. What are the challenges and opportunities of food processing sector in the country? How can income of the farmers be substantially increased by encouraging food processing?**

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

**Q5. What do you understand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in health sector?**

Easy

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

**Q6. How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by the science-based technologies?**

Easy

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

**Q9. Discuss different types of cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace.**

Medium

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

**Q10. For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals.**

Easy

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

**Q11. Explain the meaning of investment in an economy in terms of capital formation. Discuss the factors to be considered while designing a concession agreement between a public entity and a private entity.**

Easy

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

**Q12. Explain the rationale behind the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act of 2017. How has COVID-19 impacted the GST compensation fund and created new federal tensions?**

Easy

2020 GS-III 15M • 250W

**Q13. What are the major factors responsible for making rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success how has this system become bane in India?**

Hard

2020 GS-III 15M • 250W

**Q14. Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario.**

Hard

2020 GS-III 15M • 250W

**Q15. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures.**

Hard

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q15. COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crisis. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid management of the pandemic.**

2020 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q16. Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to the conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our Government for this purpose?**

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q18. Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach.**

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q19. What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas?**

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q20. Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard.**

## GS-IV

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q1(a). Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies) and social harmony. (150 words)**

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q1(b). "Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all round development of an individual and social transformation". Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement. (150 words)**

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q2(b). What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? Discuss. (150 words)**

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q3(b).** 'The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty.' Examine this statement in the context of international relations. (150 words)

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q4(b).** A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in a person? (150 words)

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q4(a).** Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them.

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q5(b).** 'The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are often in conflict with traditional values.' Discuss. (150 words)