

# UPSC Mains 2021 — All GS Questions

62 Questions across GS Paper I-IV

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## GS-I

2021 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q1. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti literature and its contribution to Indian culture. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q2. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q3. Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q5. Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q6. Explain the purpose of the Green Grid Initiative launched at World Leaders Summit of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November, 2021. When was this idea first floated in the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-I 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q8. Why is India considered as a subcontinent? Elaborate your answer. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-I 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q9. Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q10. Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q11. To what extent did the role of the Moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q12. Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q13. "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q14. Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q15. How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q16. Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q17. Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference? (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q18. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-I 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q20. How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it. (Answer in 250 words)**

## GS-II

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q1. 'Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q2. Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q3. How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the States to improve their fiscal position? (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q4. To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India? (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q5. "Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies.**

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q6. "Besides being a moral imperative of a Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development." Analyze.**

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q7. "'Earn while you learn' scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful." Comment.**

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q8. Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples.**

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q9. "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years.**

2021 GS-II 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q10. "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain.**

2021 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q11. The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probe within a particular State is being questioned by various States. However, the power of the States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q12. Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analyzing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q13. Analyze the distinguishing features of the notion of Right to Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q14. Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q15. Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples. (Answer in 250 words)**

2021 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q16. Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification.**

2021 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q17. "Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and feminist movement has been patriarchal." Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?**

2021 GS-II 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q18. Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model.**

2021 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q19. Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India?**

2021 GS-II 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q20. The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario.**

## GS-III

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q1. Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015.**

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q2. Distinguish between Capital Budget and Revenue Budget. Explain the components of both these Budgets.**

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q3. How did land reforms in some parts of the country help to improve the socio-economic conditions of marginal and small farmers?**

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q4. Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats.**

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q5. How is S-400 air defence system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world?**

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q7. Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment.**

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q8. Discuss about the vulnerability of India to earthquake related hazards. Give examples including the salient features of major disasters caused by earthquakes in different parts of India during the last three decades.**

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q9. Discuss how emerging technologies and globalisation contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels.**

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q10. Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks.**

2021 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q11. Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer.**

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q12. "Investment in infrastructure is essential for more rapid and inclusive economic growth." Discuss in the light of India's experience.**

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q13. What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013? How has the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India?**

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q14. What are the present challenges before crop diversification? How do emerging technologies provide an opportunity for crop diversification?**

2021 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q15. What are the research and developmental achievements in applied biotechnology? How will these achievements help to uplift the poorer sections of the society?**

2021 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q16. The Nobel Prize in Physics of 2014 was jointly awarded to Akasaki, Amano and Nakamura for the invention of Blue LEDs in 1990s. How has this invention impacted the everyday life of human beings?**

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q18. Describe the various causes and the effects of landslides. Mention the important components of the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy.**

2021 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

**Q19. Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors, to the internal security of India. Also discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats.**

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

**Q20. Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism.**

## GS-IV

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q1(b). Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in the public servants. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q2(a). Impact of digital technology as reliable source of input for rational decision making is a debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable example. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q2(b). Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q4(a). Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human being. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant? (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q4(b). In case of crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical or moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q5(a). "Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face persecution or human right violation." Examine the statement with reference to ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with open society. (Answer in 150 words)**

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q6(a). An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate. (Answer in 150 words)**