

# UPSC Mains 2023 — All GS Questions

76 Questions across GS Paper I-IV

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## GS-I

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q1. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India.**

Easy

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q2. What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism?**

Easy

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q3. Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world.**

Easy

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q4. Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries.**

Easy

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q5. Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources?**

Easy

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q6. How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world?**

Easy

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q7. Why is the South-West Monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?**

Easy

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q8. Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in Modern India?**

Easy

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q9. Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society.**

Easy

2023 GS-I 10M • 150W

**Q10. Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children.**

Easy

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q11. What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society?**

Medium

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q12. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society?**

Medium

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q13. How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression?**

Medium

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q14. Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas.**

Medium

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q15. Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rain forest regions of India.**

Medium

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q16. Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India?**

Medium

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q17. From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons.**

Medium

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q18. Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises?**

Medium

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q19. Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static?**

Medium

2023 GS-I 15M • 250W

**Q20. Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism.**

Medium

## GS-II

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

**Q1. "Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy." Comment.**

Easy

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

**Q2. Who are entitled to receive free legal aid? Assess the role of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in rendering free legal aid in India.**

Easy

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

**Q3. "The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially." Comment.**

Easy

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

**Q4. Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty.**

Easy

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

**Q5. Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices.**

Easy

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

**Q6. The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy.**

Easy

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

**Q7. Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions.**

Easy

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q8. e-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features?**

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q9. 'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO.' In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems.**

2023 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q10. Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India.**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q11. "The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society." Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty.**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q12. Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws.**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q13. Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid 1990s.**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q14. Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India.**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q15. Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism?**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q16. Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalisation of Indian Parliament?**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q17. "Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q18. Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyse the linkages between education, skill and employment.**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q19. 'The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.**

2023 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q20. 'Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos' Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security.**

## GS-III

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q1. Faster economic growth requires increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the Government in this regard.**

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q2. What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements.**

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q3. How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it.**

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q4. State the objectives and measures of land reforms in India. Discuss how land ceiling policy on landholding can be considered as an effective reform under economic criteria.**

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q5. Introduce the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How does AI help clinical diagnosis? Do you perceive any threat to privacy of the individual in the use of AI in healthcare?**

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q6. Discuss several ways in which microorganisms can help in meeting the current fuel shortage.**

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q7. Dam failures are always catastrophic, especially on the downstream side, resulting in a colossal loss of life and property. Analyze the various causes of dam failures. Give two examples of large dam failures.**

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q8. What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is oil pollution particularly harmful for a country like India?**

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q9. Winning of 'Hearts and Minds' in terrorism-affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss the measures adopted by the Government in this respect as part of the conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir.**

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q10. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat.**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q11. Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements.**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q12. Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can care economy be brought into monetized economy through women empowerment?**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q13. Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions.**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q14. What are the direct and indirect subsidies provided to farm sector in India? Discuss the issues raised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in relation to agricultural subsidies.**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q15. The adoption of electric vehicles is rapidly growing worldwide. How do electric vehicles contribute to reducing carbon emissions and what are the key benefits they offer compared to traditional combustion engine vehicles?**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q16. What is the main task of India's third moon mission which could not be achieved in its earlier mission? List the countries that have achieved this task. Introduce the subsystems in the spacecraft launched and explain the role of the 'Virtual Launch Control Centre' at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre which contributed to the successful launch from Sriharikota.**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q17. Comment on the National Wetland Conservation Programme initiated by the Government of India and name a few India's wetlands of international importance included in the Ramsar Sites.**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q18. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted a global sea level rise of about one metre by AD 2100. What would be its impact in India and the other countries in the Indian Ocean region?**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q19. What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats.**

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

**Q20. Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and the efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the 'No Money for Terror (NMFT)' Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022.**

## GS-IV

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q1(a). What do you understand by 'moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency' in the context of corporate governance in India? Illustrate with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)**

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q1(b). 'International aid' is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)**

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q2(b). In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)**

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q2(a). Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in society. In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in society?**

2023 GS-IV 30M • 150W

Hard

**Q3. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?**

(a) "The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." — Mahatma Gandhi

(b) "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves." — Jawaharlal Nehru

(c) "Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle." — Swami Vivekananda

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q4(a). "What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills — your EQ — not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by conventional IQ tests." Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer. (Answer in 150 words)**

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q4(b). Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)**

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q5(a). Explain the term social capital. How does it enhance good governance? (Answer in 150 words)**

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

**Q5(b). 'Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.' Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)**

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

**Q6(b). Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision-making? Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)**

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

**Q7. You are working as an executive in a nationalised bank. A colleague secretly uses ₹10 lakh from a dormant account, facilitated by the bank manager, for her father's heart surgery and is repaying it.**

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved?
- (b) Evaluate the behaviour of the bank manager from an ethical point of view.
- (c) How would you react to the situation?

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

**Q8. As District Magistrate, you face a dilemma over immediate blood transfusion for a pregnant landslide victim, where only unbanked blood is available.**

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- (b) Evaluate the options available to you, being District Magistrate of the area.

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

**Q9. Rashika, a Joint Secretary, struggles to balance demanding office work with her family responsibilities and personal well-being.**

- (a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.
- (b) Briefly describe at least four laws enacted by the Government for providing a healthy, safe and equitable working environment for women.
- (c) Imagine you are in a similar situation. What suggestions would you make to mitigate such working conditions?

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

**Q10. Vinod, Managing Director of a State Road Transport Corporation, receives evidence of the Chairman's alleged bribery and must decide how to act amid political pressures.**

- (a) As a conscientious civil servant, evaluate the options available to Vinod.
- (b) In the light of the above case, comment upon the ethical issues that may arise due to the politicization of bureaucracy.

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

**Q11. Seema, a talented new architect, faces continuous harassment from the soon-to-retire Chief Architect who fears loss of credit for an important project.**

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in the above case?
- (b) What are the options available to you in order to complete the project as well as to retain Seema in the organization?
- (c) What would be your response to Seema's predicament? What measures would you institute to prevent such occurrences from happening in your organization?

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

**Q12. You are a medical officer in a Government hospital. You receive reports of your 11-year-old son's behavioural issues at school, including purchasing chocolates from a vendor against rules and being mocked by classmates.**

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- (b) What steps would you take to ensure justice for your son while maintaining fairness to the school?
- (c) How will you counsel your son to cope with the bullying he faces?