

UPSC Mains 2024 — All GS Questions

67 Questions across GS Paper I-IV

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GS-I

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period.

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India.

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results.

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones?

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries.

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. What is the phenomenon of 'Cloudbursts'? Explain.

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. What is the concept of a 'demographic winter'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate.

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation?

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss.

2024 GS-I 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive?

2024 GS-I 15M • 250W

Medium

Q11. "Though the great Cholas are no more yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of art and architecture." Comment.

2024 GS-I 15M • 250W

Medium

Q12. How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power?

2024 GS-I 15M • 250W

Medium

Q13. How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India?

2024 GS-I 15M • 150W

Medium

Q14. The groundwater potential of the gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India?

2024 GS-I 15M • 250W

Medium

Q15. What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered?

2024 GS-I 15M • 250W

Medium

Q16. What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico?

2024 GS-I 15M • 250W

Medium

Q17. What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India?

2024 GS-I 15M • 250W

Medium

Q18. Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, underprivileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment.

2024 GS-I 15M • 250W

Medium

Q19. Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family?

2024 GS-I 15M • 250W

Medium

Q20. Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities.

GS-II

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to the "one nation-one election" principle.

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases?

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. "The growth of cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalisation of the parliamentary supremacy." Elucidate.

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. "The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety." Comment.

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. Analyse the role of local bodies in providing good governance at the local level and bring out the pros and cons by comparing the rural local bodies with the urban local bodies.

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India's development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment.

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle?

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss.

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. "The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategy to counter China's political and economic dominance." Explain this statement with examples.

2024 GS-II 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics.

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q11. What are the aims and objects of the recently passed and enforced Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024? Whether University/State Education Board examinations, too, are covered under the Act?

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q12. Right to privacy is intrinsic to life and personal liberty and is inherently protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. Explain. In this reference discuss the law relating to DNA testing of a child in the womb to establish its paternity.

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q13. What changes has the Union Government recently introduced in the domain of Centre-State relations? Suggest measures to be adopted to build trust between the Centre and the States and for strengthening federalism.

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q14. Explain the reasons for the growth of public interest litigation in India. As a result of it, has the Indian Supreme Court emerged as the world's most powerful judiciary?

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q15. Discuss India as a secular state and compare it with the secular principles of the US Constitution.

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q16. The Citizens' Charter has been a landmark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them.

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q17. In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level.

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q18. e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance.

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q19. "Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security." Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level.

2024 GS-II 15M • 250W

Medium

Q20. Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India with a focus on global trade and energy flows. Further, also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition.

GS-III

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent has this been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth?

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. What are the causes of persistent high food inflation in India? Comment on the effectiveness of the monetary policy of the RBI to control this type of inflation.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Q4. Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India.

Easy

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Q5. What is the present world scenario of intellectual property rights with respect to life materials? Although India is second in the world to file patents, still only a few have been commercialized. Explain the reasons behind this less commercialization.

Easy

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Q6. What is the technology being employed for electronic toll collection on highways? What are its advantages and limitations? What are the proposed changes that will make this process seamless? Would this transition carry any potential hazards?

Easy

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Q7. Industrial pollution of river water is a significant environmental issue in India. Discuss the various mitigation measures to deal with this problem and also the government's initiatives in this regard.

Easy

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Q8. What role do environmental NGOs and activists play in influencing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) outcomes for major projects in India? Cite four examples with all important details.

Easy

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Q9. Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism.

Easy

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Q10. Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

Easy

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Q11. Discuss the merits and demerits of the four 'Labour Codes' in the context of labour market reforms in India. What has been the progress so far in this regard?

Medium

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Q12. What is the need for expanding the regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements.

Medium

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q13. What are the major challenges faced by Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q14. Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? Discuss.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q15. The world is facing an acute shortage of clean and safe freshwater. What are the alternative technologies which can solve this crisis? Briefly discuss any three such technologies citing their key merits and demerits.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q16. What are asteroids? How real is the threat of them causing extinction of life? What strategies have been developed to prevent such a catastrophe?

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q17. What is disaster resilience? How is it determined? Describe various elements of a resilience framework. Also mention the global targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030).

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q18. Flooding in urban areas is an emerging climate-induced disaster. Discuss the causes of this disaster. Mention the features of two such major floods in the last two decades in India. Describe the policies and frameworks in India that aim at tackling such floods.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q19. India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q20. Social media and encrypting messaging services pose a serious security challenge. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of social media? Also suggest any other remedies to address the problem.

GS-IV

2024 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) "Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it; do not become others." – Swami Vivekananda
- (b) "Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work." – Sardar Patel
- (c) "In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so." – Immanuel Kant

2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q7. There is a technological company named ABC Incorporated which is the second largest worldwide, situated in the Third World. You are the Chief Executive Officer and the majority shareholder of this company. The fast technological improvements have raised worries among environmental activists, regulatory authorities, and the general public over the sustainability of this scenario. You confront substantial issues about the business's environmental footprint. In 2023, your organization had a significant increase of 48 % in greenhouse-gas emissions compared to the levels recorded in 2019, mainly due to the surging energy requirements of your data-centres, fuelled by the exponential expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI-powered services need much more computational resources and electrical energy compared to conventional online activities. Although there is already a commitment and goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, the challenge of lowering emissions seems overwhelming as the integration of AI continues to increase. To achieve this goal, substantial investments in renewable energy use would be necessary. The difficulty is exacerbated by the competitive environment of the technology sector, where rapid innovation is essential for preserving market standing and shareholders' worth. To achieve a balance between innovation, profitability and sustainability, a strategic move is necessary that is in line with both business objectives and ethical obligations.

- (a) What is your immediate response to the challenges posed in the above case?
- (b) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.
- (c) Your company has been identified to be penalized by technological giants. What logical and ethical arguments will you put forth to convince about its necessity?
- (d) Being a conscience being, what measures would you adopt to maintain balance between AI innovation and environmental footprint?

2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q8. Raman is a senior IPS officer and has recently been posted as D.G. of a state. Among the various issues and problems/challenges which needed his immediate attention, the issue relating to recruitment of unemployed youth by an unknown terrorist group, was a matter of grave concern. Unemployment was relatively high in the state, especially among graduates and those with higher education, making them vulnerable and soft targets. Intelligence inputs suggested that a new global terrorist group had launched a drive to recruit such youth through social-media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, spreading secessionist ideology and extremist propaganda. The need of the hour is to act swiftly before the situation assumes serious proportions.

- (a) What are the options available to Raman to tackle the above situation?
- (b) What measures would you suggest for strengthening the existing set-up to ensure that such groups do not succeed in penetrating and vitiating the atmosphere in the state?
- (c) In the above scenario, what action plan would you advise for enhancing the intelligence-gathering mechanism of the police force?

2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q9. In the last few years, the coordinated strategy of the Central and State governments has substantially reduced the menace of Naxalism in many affected regions. However, in several remote districts the Naxal problem continues to pose the main internal-security threat. Recently, in one such district, a spate of violent incidents involving explosives and killings has taken place and reliable intelligence points to renewed activities of over-ground workers and foreign extremists in the area.

2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q10. Sneha is a Senior Manager working for a big (reputed) hospital chain in a mid-sized city. She has been made in-charge of the new super speciality center that the hospital is building with state-of-the-art equipment and world-class medical facilities. The building has been reconstructed and she is starting the process of procurement for various equipment and machines. As the head of the committee responsible for procurement, she has invited bids from all the interested reputed vendors dealing in medical equipment. She notices that her brother, who is a well-known supplier in this domain, has also sent his expression of interest. Since the hospital is privately owned, it is not mandatory for her to select only the lower bidder. Also, she is aware that her brother's company has been facing some financial difficulties and a big supply order will help him recover. At the same time, allocating the contract to her brother might bring charges of favouritism against her and tarnish her image. The hospital management trusts her fully and would support any decision of hers.

(a) What should be Sneha's course of action?

(b) How would she justify what she chooses to do?

(c) In this case, how is medical ethics compromised with vested personal interest?

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(b) How would she justify what she chooses to do?

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2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q11. With the summer heat being exceptionally severe this year, the district has been facing severe water shortage. The District Collector has been mobilizing his subordinate officials to conserve the remaining water reserves for preventing the district from plunging into acute drinking water crisis. Along with an awareness campaign for conserving water, strict measures have been taken for stopping the over-exploitation of ground-water. Vigilance teams have been deployed to the villages and find the farmers who are drawing water from deep borewells or from the river reservoir for irrigation. The farmers are agitated by such action. A delegation of farmers meets the District Collector with their issues and complains that while they are not being allowed to irrigate their crops, big industries located near the river are drawing huge amounts of water through deep borewells for their industrial processes. The farmers allege that their administration is anti-farmer and corrupt, being bribed by the industry. The district needs to placate the farmers as they are threatening to go on a prolonged protest. At the same time, the District Collector has to deal with the water crisis. The industry cannot be closed as this would result in a large number of workers being unemployed.

(a) Discuss all options available to the District Collector as a District Magistrate.

(b) What suitable actions can be taken in view of mutually compatible interests of the stakeholders?

(c) What are the potential administrative and ethical dilemmas for the District Collector?

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(b) What suitable actions can be taken in view of mutually compatible interests of the stakeholders?

(c) What are the potential administrative and ethical dilemmas for the District Collector?

Q12. Dr. Srinivasan is a senior scientist working for a reputed biotechnology company known for its cutting-edge research in pharmaceuticals. Dr. Srinivasan is heading a research team working on a new drug aimed at treating a rapidly spreading variant of a new viral infectious disease. The disease has been rapidly spreading across the world and the cases reported in the country are increasing. There is huge pressure on Dr. Srinivasan's team to expedite the trials for the drug as there is significant market for it, and the company wants to get the first-mover advantage in the market. During a team meeting, some senior team members suggest some shortcuts for expediting the clinical trials for the drug and for getting the requisite approvals. These include manipulating data to exclude some negative outcomes and selectively reporting positive results, foregoing the process of informed consent and using compounds already patented by a rival company, rather than developing one's own component. Dr. Srinivasan is not comfortable taking such shortcuts, at the same time he realises meeting the targets is impossible without using these means.

(a) What would you do in such a situation?

(b) Examine your options and consequences in the light of the ethical questions involved.

(c) How can data ethics and drug ethics save humanity at large in such a scenario?

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