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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

Indian Constitution — GS-II

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

23 Questions

Year range: 2013–2025

Verbatim from official UPSC papers

"Master Mains with PYQs — consistency is key"

— Neil Sir, Founder, UnlockIAS

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Table of Contents

23 Questions across 4 Sections

1. Historical underpinnings and evolution	1Q
2. Features and significant provisions	13Q
3. Amendments	3Q
4. Basic structure	6Q

Historical underpinnings and evolution

2016 GS-II 12.5M · 150W

Q6. Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss.

Features and significant provisions

2024 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q1. 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 D.N.A. testing of child in the womb to establish its paternity.

2023 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q3. Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws.

2022 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q1. "Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute." Comment.

2020 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q1. 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.

2018 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q1. Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force?

2017 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q2. Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy.

2016 GS-II 12.5M · 150W

Q1. To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note "temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir", temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity.

2016 GS-II 12.5M · 150W

Q2. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the 'Preamble'. Are they defensible in the present circumstances?

2015 GS-II 12.5M · 150W

Q1. Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizen a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy.

2015 GS-II 12.5M · 150W

Q2. Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulations on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and Judgement(s) of the Apex Court in this regard.

2014 GS-II 12.5M · 200W

Q1. What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss.

2013 GS-II 10M · 200W

Q2. Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution.

2013 GS-II 10M · 200W

Q3. Recent directives from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the State. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution.

Amendments

2025 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q6. Indian Constitution has conferred the amending power on the ordinary legislative institutions with a few procedural hurdles. In view of this statement, examine the procedural and substantive limitations on the amending power of the Parliament to change the Constitution.

2023 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q5. Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism?

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2017 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q1. Explain the salient features of the constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough 'to remove cascading effect of taxes and provide for common national market for goods and services'?

Basic structure

2025 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q1. Constitutional morality is the fulcrum which acts as an essential check upon the high functionaries and citizens alike..."In view of the above observation of the Supreme Court, explain the concept of constitutional morality and its application to ensure balance between judicial independence and judicial accountability in India.

2023 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q2. "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.

2021 GS-II 10M · 150W

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.

2019 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q1. "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?

2016 GS-II 12.5M · 150W

Q3. What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution?

2013 GS-II 10M · 200W

Q4. 'The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution.' Discuss critically.

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