

UPSC 2018

GENERAL STUDIES - PAPER II

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 250

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions :

- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**.
- All questions are compulsory.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QUA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.
- **Answers to questions no. 1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to questions no. 11 to 20 should be in 250 words.**
- Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Contents of the answers are more important than their length.

- Q1.** In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q2.** Whether National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q3.** Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q4.** Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Q5.	“The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play.” Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise. (Answer in 150 words)	10
Q6.	“Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate ‘protection and prevention of degradation to environment.” Comment with relevant illustrations. (Answer in 150 words)	10
Q7.	Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve ‘Health for All’ in India. Explain. (Answer in 150 words)	10
Q8.	E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about critical importance of the ‘use value’ of information. Explain. (Answer in 150 words)	10
Q9.	“India’s relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.” Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)	10
Q10.	A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India’s joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 2018. (Answer in 150 words)	10
Q11.	Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine. (Answer in 250 words)	15
Q12.	How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India. (Answer in 250 words)	15
Q13.	Indian and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based. (Answer in 250 words)	15
Q14.	How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)	15
Q15.	Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing developmental projects? (Answer in 250 words)	15

- Q16.** Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q17.** How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q18.** The Citizen's Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q19.** What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q20.** In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? (Answer in 250 words) 15