

## GENERAL STUDIES

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

**QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS**

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

There are FOUR questions and **all** are to be attempted.

Candidates should attempt questions/parts as per the instructions given in the questions.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Candidates are required to write clear, legible and concise answers and to adhere to word limits, wherever indicated. Failure to adhere to word limits may be penalized. The answers must be written within the space provided in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Answers must be written in ENGLISH only.

1. Answer *all* the following (in not more than 200 words each) : 5×5=25

- (a) Elucidate the main aspects of the policy of Dhamma as propounded by Ashoka. To what extent are they relevant to present-day India?
- (b) Underlining the chief characteristics of the Mansabdari system, discuss the way it organized the Mughal administration.
- (c) Critically examine those developments in the second half of the nineteenth century which led to the emergence of modern Indian nationalism.
- (d) It can be said that the Non-Cooperation Movement proved to be a stage from which India's freedom struggle entered in a new trajectory. Give reasons for your argument.
- (e) When and where was the Quit India Resolution passed? Analyze the causes and nature of this movement.

2. Answer *all* the following (in not more than 200 words each) : 5×5=25

- (a) A greening and browning of the Himalaya and the Arctic is occurring. What drivers are causing such a phenomenon and is there any way to minimize this trend?
- (b) Is India overpopulated? Provide arguments to substantiate your answer.
- (c) Forests play a vital role in providing a wide range of ecosystem services and benefits to humans. Summarize these in brief and assess the state of India's forests in the past decade.
- (d) Most Indian cities are beset with a number of problems. Offer suggestions to tackle these in a multipronged manner.
- (e) The recent wildfires that swept across eastern Australia are unmatched in terms of severity and intensity. Explain why the 2019–2020 Australian bushfire was so severe and its fallout on various species of flora and fauna.

3. Answer *all* the following (in not more than 200 words each) : 5×5=25

- (a) What are the risks posed to the flexible inflation targeting in India under the Monetary Policy Committee? Should India as a developing country tolerate a certain degree of inflation to ensure growth? Discuss.
- (b) Is the ongoing trade war between China and the United States an opportunity for India to replace China as a major exporter of manufactured goods? Discuss.

- (c) How do you think that Covid-19 pandemic and rural distress can be seen as prominent reasons behind the current slowdown in the Indian economy? Give reasons in support of the argument.
- (d) Analyze the reasons of declining female labour force participation rate in India and suggest appropriate measures to tackle the situation.
- (e) Do you think that the banking industry has come full circle since the Nationalization of Banks in India? Critically assess the success of Indian public sector banks in this context.

4. Answer *all* the following (in not more than 200 words each) :

5×5=25

- (a) "73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts completed twenty-five years of their existence, however, a lot is yet to be achieved." Discuss the statement in the light of devolution of powers enshrined in the Constitution.
- (b) "Political values of Indian society are derived from the Preamble of the Indian Constitution." Comment on the statement in the context of political socialization of 'socialist' and 'secular' values in the Preamble.
- (c) Critically examine the role of the Supreme Court as the guardian of the Indian Constitution.
- (d) Comment on the Legislative controls over administration.
- (e) Goal-2 of the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030 aspires to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". In order to achieve this, the National Livelihood Mission can be an interventionist strategy. Discuss.

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