

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** of the following (in not more than 200 words each) :

5×5=25

- (a) Write a critical note on the findings of science and technology in ancient India. Could it get appropriate recognition in modern period?
- (b) The art and architecture of Mughal period was a mix of Muslim and Hindu art traditions and elements. Discuss with suitable examples.
- (c) The emergence of new social classes in India was the direct consequence of the establishment of the British rule in India. Discuss.
- (d) "The Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946 created more issues than solutions in the transfer of power." Analyse the statement in the context of independence of India.
- (e) Critically explain that Gandhiji's ideas and philosophy are relevant and practicable in the 21st century.

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

5×5=25

- (a) Give reasons for desertification in Rajasthan and highest rainfall on the windward side of Meghalaya Plateau in India.
- (b) Comment on ambient air quality in Megacities of India especially during the winter months.
- (c) Why is literacy considered as the best contraceptive in view of differential rates of population growth in various States of India?
- (d) "Poor people have not been excluded from the process of urbanisation in India." Elucidate.
- (e) Suggest suitable measures for controlling hunger and malnutrition to assure food security in India.

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

5×5=25

- (a) "The nationwide Goods and Services Tax (GST) reaps the benefit of common market India offers." Examine, in the light of the statement, how GST is beneficial for the Indian economy.
- (b) In what ways are the terms of reference of the Fifteenth Finance Commission different from that of all the previous Union Finance Commissions?

- (c) Is India ready for universal basic income (UBI)? Discuss, in the context of Indian economy, the pros and cons of UBI.
- (d) "Degree of fiscal decentralisation varies from one State to another." Examine, in the light of this statement, devolution to Panchayats across States after the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act.
- (e) Why is credit deposit (CD) ratio of scheduled commercial banks low in low income States in India?

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

- (a) Critically examine the role of pressure groups in Indian politics.
- (b) Discuss some of the major controversies surrounding the proposed Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016. Why did the Bill evoke sharp criticisms in Assam?
- (c) In the light of a looming threat of a nuclear conflict, discuss the long-term implications of the recent military flare-ups on the bilateral relations between India and Pakistan.
- (d) Critically analyse the present electoral system in India and suggest possible reforms to bring about fairness, accountability and transparency.
- (e) Highlight the major differences between judicial review and judicial activism. Do you agree that the tilt towards judicial activism has become far more pronounced in the recent past?

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