

# UPSC MAINS

# PREVIOUS

# YEAR

# QUESTIONS

**Topic-wise Classification &  
Year-wise Papers**

**Since New Pattern [2013-2020]**



## INTRODUCTION

UPSC Mains is the most important part of CSE preparation. The final ranking depends mostly on the marks secured at this stage. However, surprisingly even at this stage the preparation of students seems to lack a good strategy.

To give an example, when you ask someone what GS 1 consists of, the answer would be Modern Indian History, World History, Geography and so on... But, this is not the story of the question paper. Analysis of previous year papers suggests that Social issues and Geography together occupy two third of the questions. And a little room is left for history and other subjects.

Hence, to prepare without proper understanding and strategy is a sheer waste of time. This is also the reason many students get stuck at Mains, and don't understand why their marks are not improving.

This book tries to address this most important issue. Based on the syllabus provided by UPSC, we've divided subjects into sections and subsections and classified all the questions since new pattern (2013) into these. Then, we've also analysed the weightage of each section, and illustrated using graphs.

This knowledge, helps you prioritize areas of preparation. It saves a lot of time, and also provides a question bank for practice.

We highly recommend this book to anyone who is planning to give UPSC-CSE. It is said that *a goal without plan is just a wish*, our book will certainly help you in better planning.

Best wishes for your preparation.

Warm regards,  
Politics for India

## PRACTICES ADOPTED

1] We've decided to consider question papers only from 2013. Considering old question papers is not just un-necessary but also misleading. The exam pattern and the type of questions has changed drastically in 2013. 8 years is also a sufficient time to trace out a new pattern and provide plenty of practice questions.

2] Only section A of GS 4 have been considered for topic-wise classification. There is no specific pattern to case studies, nor does UPSC provides detailed syllabus for that.

3] GS 4, it is more like an open ended subject. So, some questions could not be categorized strictly in one or other topic. Some questions were even difficult to accommodate in syllabus. All such questions have been included under 1st topic i.e. Ethics and Human Interface.

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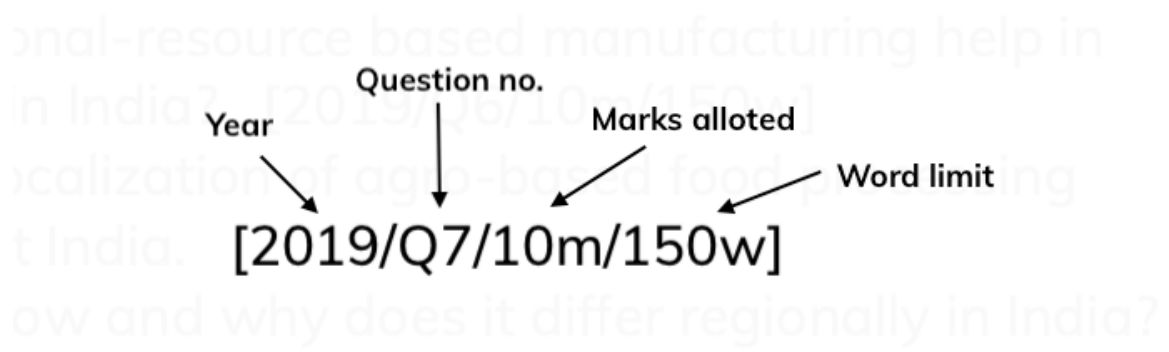
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## UNDERSTANDING QUESTION CODE



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# UPSC Mains Syllabus.

## General Studies 1

### Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

#### **A] Indian Culture & History**

- 1] Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- 2] Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century (1750) until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- 3] The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- 4] Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

#### **B] World History**

- 5] History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.

#### **C] Society**

- 6] Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- 7] Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- 8] Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- 9] Social empowerment, (Dalit - Casteism), communalism, regionalism & secularism.

#### **D] Geography**

- 10] Salient features of world's physical geography.
- 11] Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- 12] Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

## General Studies 2

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

### **A] Constitution & Polity**

- 1] Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- 2] Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- 3] Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- 4] Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- 5] Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- 6] Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- 7] Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
- 8] Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- 9] Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- 10] Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

### **B] Governance & Social Justice**

- 11] Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- 12] Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- 13] Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- 14] Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- 15] Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- 16] Role of civil services in a democracy.

### **C] International Relations**

- 17] India and its neighbourhood- relations.
- 18] Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- 19] Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- 20] Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

## **General Studies 3**

Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

### **A] Indian Economy & Development**

- 1] Indian Economy and issues related to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- 2] Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- 3] Government Budgeting.
- 4] Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- 5] Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- 6] Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- 7] Land reforms in India.
- 8] Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- 9] Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- 10] Investment models.

### **B] Science and Technology**

- 11] S & T - developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- 12] Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- 13] Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

### **C] Environnement & Biodiversity**

14] Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

### **D] Disaster Management**

15] Disaster and disaster management.

### **E] Security**

16] Linkages between development and spread of extremism.

17] Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

18] Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

19] Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

20] Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

## **General Studies 4**

### **Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude**

1] Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

2] Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.

3] Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.

4] Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

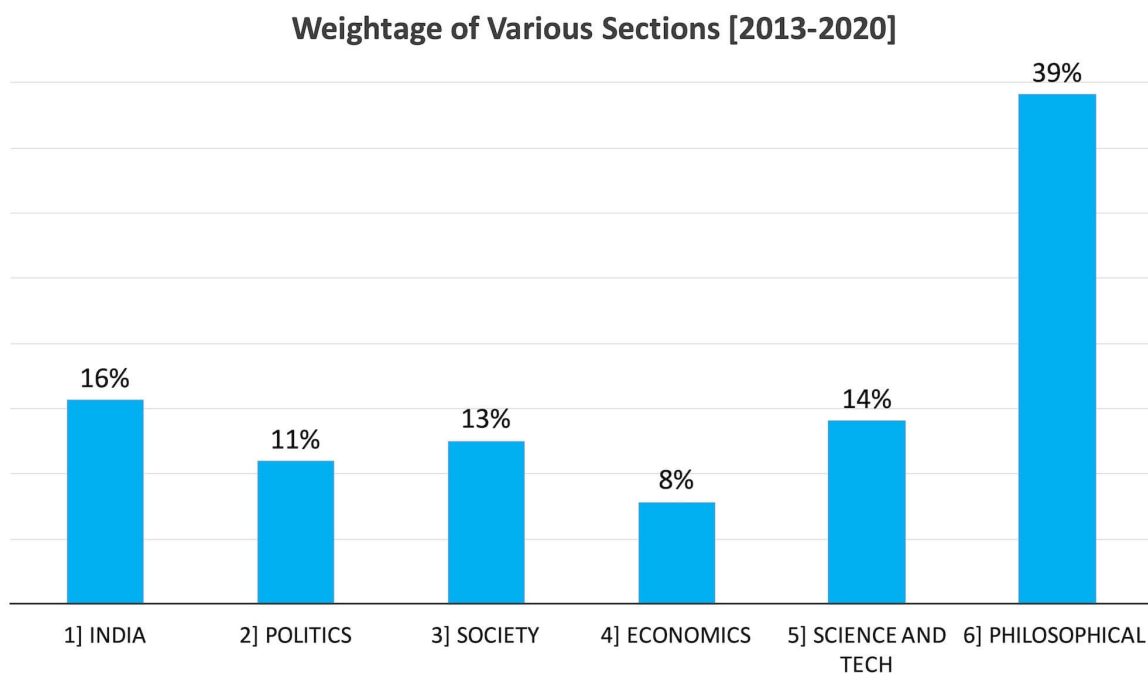
5] Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.

6] Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.

7] Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

8] Case Studies on above issues.

## PAPER 1 – ESSAY



### 1] INDIA

1. Neglect of primary health care and education in India are reasons for its backwardness [2019/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Management of Indian border disputes – a complex task [2018/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India. [2017/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Fulfillment of 'new woman' in India is a myth. [2017/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Crisis faced in India – moral or economic. [2015/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Dreams which should not let India sleep. [2015/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Fifty Golds in Olympics: Can this be a reality for India? [2014/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Tourism: Can this be the next big thing for India? [2014/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
9. Is The Colonial Mentality Hindering India's Success? [2013/Q2/250m/2500w]



## 2] POLITICS

1. Technology as the silent factor in international relations [2020/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy [2019/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Has the Non- Alignment Movement(NAM) lost its relevance in a multipolar world. [2017/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Water disputes between states in federal India [2016/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Cooperative federalism: Myth or reality [2016/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Was it the policy paralysis or the paralysis of implementation which slowed the growth of our country? [2014/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Is sting operation an invasion on privacy? [2014/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]

## 3] SOCIETY

1. Culture is what we are, civilization is what we have [2020/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
2. There can be no social justice without economic prosperity but economic prosperity without social justice is meaningless [2020/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Patriarchy is the least noticed yet the most significant structure of social inequality [2020/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
4. South Asian societies are woven not around the state, but around their plural cultures and plural identities [2019/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere [2018/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
6. If development is not engendered, it is endangered [2016/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Is the growing level of competition good for the youth? [2014/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Are the standardized tests good measure of academic ability or progress? [2014/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]

## 4] ECONOMICS

1. Impact of the new economic measures on fiscal ties between the union and states in India. [2017/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Near jobless growth in India: An anomaly or an outcome of economic reforms [2016/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Can capitalism bring inclusive growth? [2015/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]

4. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) Along with GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) Would Be The Right Indices For Judging The Well-being Of A Country [2013/Q3/250m/2500w]

## 5] SCIENCE AND TECH

1. Rise of Artificial Intelligence: the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling [2019/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Alternative technologies for a climate change resilient India [2018/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Social media is inherently a selfish medium. [2017/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Innovation is the key determinant of economic growth and social welfare [2016/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Cyberspace and internet: Blessing or curse to the human civilization in the long run [2016/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Digital economy: A leveller or a source of economic inequality [2016/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Technology cannot replace manpower. [2015/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Science and Technology Is The Panacea For The Growth and Security Of The Nation. [2013/Q4/250m/2500w]

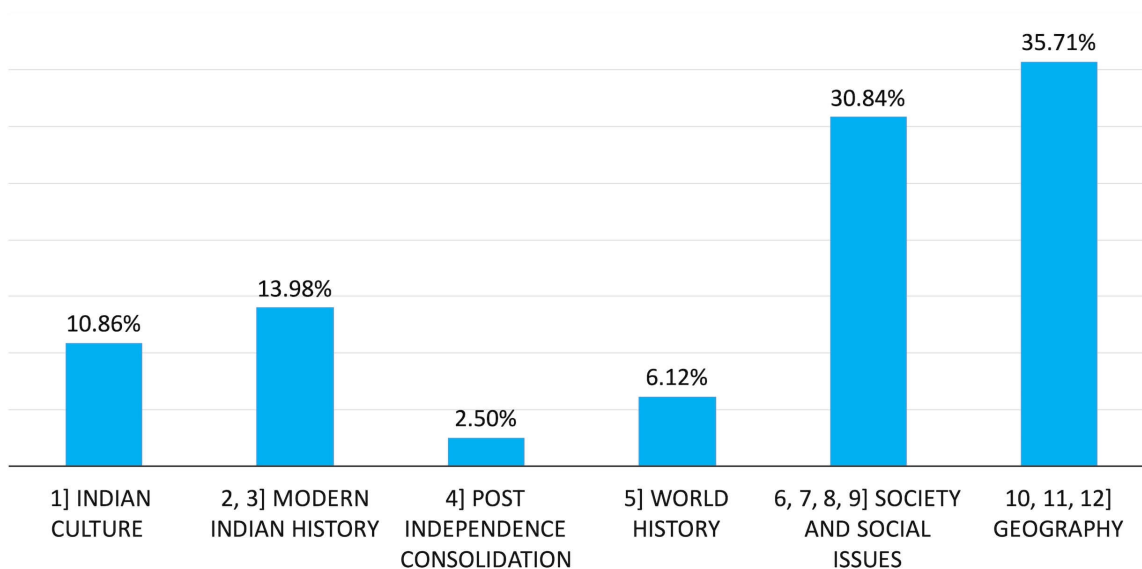
## 6] PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAYS

1. Life is long journey between human being and being humane [2020/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Mindful manifesto is the catalyst to a tranquil self [2020/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Ships do not sink because of water around them , ships sink because of water that gets into them [2020/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication [2020/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Wisdom finds truth [2019/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be [2019/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Best for an individual is not necessarily best for the society [2019/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success [2019/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
9. A good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge [2018/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
10. Customary morality cannot be a guide to modern life [2018/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]

11. "The past' is a permanent dimension of human consciousness and values [2018/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
12. A people that values its privileges above its principles loses both [2018/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
13. Reality does not conform to the ideal, but confirms it [2018/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
14. Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms. [2017/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
15. Joy is the simplest form of gratitude. [2017/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
16. We may brave human laws but cannot resist natural laws. [2017/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
17. Need brings greed, if greed increases it spoils breed [2016/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
18. Lending hands to someone is better than giving a dole. [2015/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
19. Quick but steady wins the race. [2015/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
20. Character of an institution is reflected in its leader. [2015/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
21. Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man more clever devil. [2015/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
22. With greater power comes greater responsibility. [2014/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
23. Words are Sharper than the two-edged sword. [2014/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
24. "Be The Change You Want To See In Others" – Gandhiji [2013/Q1/250m/2500w]

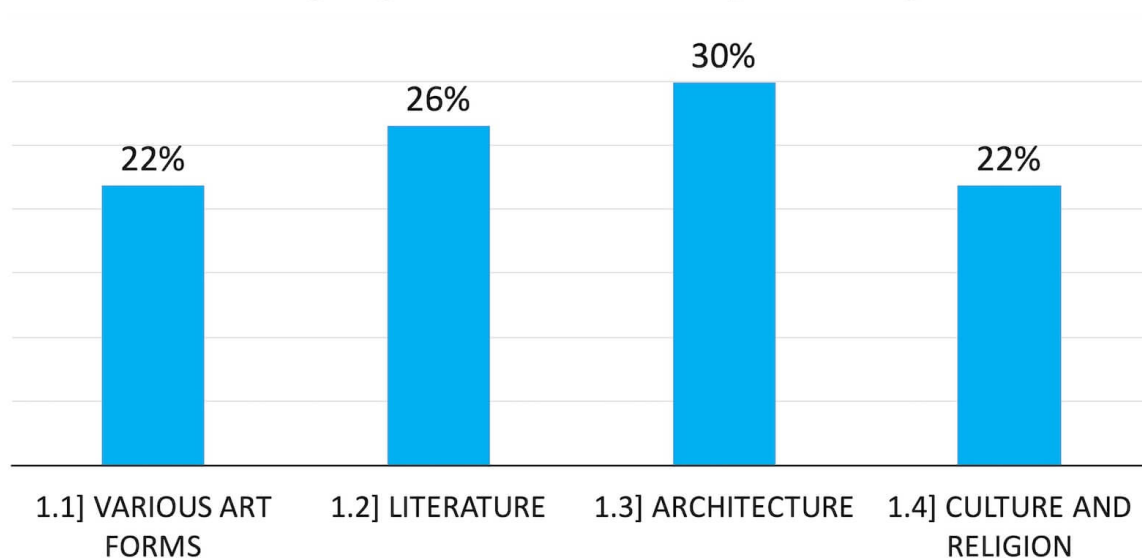
## GENERAL STUDIES 1

**Weightage of Various Sections [2013-2020]**



### 1] INDIAN CULTURE :

**Weightage of Various Sections [2013-2020]**



### 1.1] VARIOUS ART FORMS

1. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco -Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. [2019/Q1/10m/150w]
2. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Comment [2018/Q1/10m/150w]
3. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? [2017/Q1/10m/150w]
4. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. [2014/Q2/10m/150w]
5. Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. [2013/Q2a/5m/100w]

### 1.2] LITERATURE

1. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. [2020/Q12/15m/200w]
2. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. [2018/Q2/10m/150w]
3. Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. [2016/Q2/12.5m/200w]
4. Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss. [2014/Q3/10m/150w]
5. Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment. ([2013/Q1/10m/200w])

### 1.3] ARCHITECTURE

1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. [2020/10m/150w/Q1] [2020/Q1/10m/150w]
2. Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. [2020/Q11/15m/200w]
3. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. [2016/Q1/12.5m/200w]
4. Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. [2015/Q2/12.5m/200w]

## YEAR 2020

### 2020 ESSAY

Write two essays, choosing ONE from each of the Sections A & B, in about 1000-1200 words each. 125 x 2 = 250

#### Section A

1. Life is long journey between human being and being humane
2. Mindful manifesto is the catalyst to a tranquil self
3. Ships do not sink because of water around them, ships sink because of water that gets into them
4. Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication

#### Section B

1. Culture is what we are, civilization is what we have
2. There can be no social justice without economic prosperity but economic prosperity without social justice is meaningless
3. Patriarchy is the least noticed yet the most significant structure of social inequality
4. Technology as the silent factor in international relations

### 2020 Mains GS 1

Answer all the following questions.

1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)
2. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. (150 words, 10 marks)
3. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long term implications on the national movements. (150 words, 10 marks)
4. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone. (150 words, 10 marks)
5. The process of desertification does not have climate boundaries. Justify with examples. (150 words, 10 marks)
6. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India? (150 words, 10 marks)
7. Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. (150 words, 10 marks)
8. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations. (150 words, 10 marks)
9. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. (150 words, 10 marks)

10. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. (150 words, 10 marks)
11. Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)
12. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. (250 words, 15 marks)
13. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)
14. The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. (250 words, 15 marks)
15. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. (250 words, 15 marks)
16. India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate. (250 words, 15 marks)
17. Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change. (250 words, 15 marks)
18. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)
19. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? (250 words, 15 marks)
20. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)

## **2020 Mains GS2**

Answer all the following questions.

1. "There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act." Comment. (150 words, 10 marks)
2. "Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission." Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)
3. How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer. (150 words, 10 marks)
4. The judicial systems in India and UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices. (150 words, 10 marks)

5. 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker!' Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India? (150 words, 10 marks)
6. In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)
7. "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance." In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy. (150 words, 10 marks)
8. "The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government." Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)
9. Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic. (150 words, 10 marks)
10. 'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries.' Comment with examples. (150 words, 10 marks)
11. 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. (250 words, 15 marks)
12. Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities. (250 words, 15 marks)
13. The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funds' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality'. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. (250 words, 15 marks)
14. Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible. (250 words, 15 marks)
15. Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons. (250 words, 15 marks)
16. "The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone." In this context analyse the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report. (250 words, 15 marks)
17. "Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India." Evaluate the role of the Self Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India. (250 words, 15 marks)



18. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine this statement. (250 words, 15 marks)
19. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)
20. What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (250 words, 15 marks)

### **2020 Mains GS 3**

Answer all the following questions.

1. Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development. (150 words, 10 marks)
2. Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP? (150 words, 10 marks)
3. What are the main constraints in transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India? (150 words, 10 marks)
4. What are the challenges and opportunities of food processing sector in the country? How can income of the farmers be substantially increased by encouraging food processing? (150 words, 10 marks)
5. What do you understand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in health sector? (150 words, 10 marks)
6. How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by the science-based technologies? (150 words, 10 marks)
7. How does the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006? (150 words, 10 marks)
8. What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched by the Government of India for water conservation and water security? (150 words, 10 marks)
9. Discuss different types of cybercrimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace. (150 words, 10 marks)
10. For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals. (150 words, 10 marks)
11. Explain the meaning of investment in an economy in terms of capital formation. Discuss the factors to be considered while designing a concession agreement between a public entity and a private entity. (250 words, 15 marks)

12. Explain the rationale behind the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act of 2017. How has COVID-19 impacted the GST compensation fund and created new federal tensions? (250 words, 15 marks)
13. What are the major factors responsible for making rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success how has this system become bane in India? (250 words, 15 marks)
14. Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario. (250 words, 15 marks)
15. COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crisis. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid management of the pandemic. (250 words, 15 marks)
16. Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to the conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our Government for this purpose? (250 words, 15 marks)
17. What are the key features of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) initiated by the Government of India? (250 words, 15 marks)
18. Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach. (250 words, 15 marks)
19. What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (250 words, 15 marks)
20. Analyse internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. (250 words, 15 marks)

## **2020 ETHICS**

### **SECTION A**

1. (a) Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies) and social harmony. (150 words, 10 marks)
- (b) "Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all round development of an individual and social transformation". Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement. (150 words, 10 marks)

2. (a) "Hatred is destructive of a person's wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation's spirit.' Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (150 words, 10 marks)
  
- (b) What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)
  
3. (a) What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)
  
- (b) "The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty.' Examine this statement in the context of international relations. (150 words, 10 marks)
  
4. (a) Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them (150 words, 10 marks)
  
- (b) A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in a person? (150 words, 10 marks)
  
5. (a) What are the main factors responsible for gender inequality in India? Discuss the contribution of Savitribai Phule in this regard. (150 words, 10 marks)
  
- (b) "The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are often in conflict with traditional values.' Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)
  
6. What do each of the following quotations mean to you?
  
- (a) "Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If not, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way." – Swami Vivekanand (150 words, 10 marks)
  
- (b) "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." – Mahatma Gandhi (150 words, 10 marks)
  
- (c) "A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true." – Socrates (150 words, 10 marks)

## SECTION B

7. Rajesh Kumar is a senior public servant, with a reputation of honesty and forthrightness, currently posted in the Finance Ministry as Head of the Budget Division. His department is presently busy in organising the budgetary support to the states, four of which are due to go to the polls within the financial year.

This year's annual budget had allotted 78300 crores for National Housing Scheme (NHS), a centrally sponsored social housing scheme for the weaker sections of society. 775 crores have been drawn for NHS till June.

The Ministry of Commerce had long been pursuing a case for setting up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in a southern state to boost exports. After two years of detailed discussions between the centre and state, the Union Cabinet approved the project in August. Process was initiated to acquire the necessary land.

Eighteen months ago, a leading Public Sector Unit (PSU) had projected the need for setting up a large natural gas processing plant in a northern state for the regional gas grid. The required land is already in possession of the PSU. The gas grid is an essential component of the national energy security strategy. After three rounds of global bidding the project was allotted to an MNC, M/s XYZ Hydrocarbons. The first tranche of payment to the MNC is scheduled to be made in December.

Finance Ministry was asked for a timely allocation of an additional 6000 crores for these two developmental projects. It was decided to recommend re-appropriation of this entire amount from the NHS allocation. The file was forwarded to Budget Department for their comments and further processing. On studying the case file, Rajesh Kumar realized that this re-appropriation may cause inordinate delay in the execution of NHS, a project much publicized in the rallies of senior politicians. Correspondingly, non-availability of finances would cause financial loss in the SEZ and national embarrassment due to delayed payment in an international project.

Rajesh Kumar discussed the matter with his seniors. He was conveyed that this politically sensitive situation needs to be processed immediately. Rajesh Kumar realized that diversion of funds from NHS could raise difficult questions for the government in the Parliament.

Discuss the following with reference to this case:

- (a) Ethical issues involved in re-appropriation of funds from a welfare project to the developmental projects.
- (b) Given the need for proper utilization of public funds, discuss the options available to Rajesh Kumar. Is resigning a worthy option?

8. The Chairman of Bharat Missiles Ltd (BML) was watching a program on TV wherein the Prime Minister was addressing the nation on the necessity of developing a self-reliant India. He subconsciously nodded in agreement and smiled to himself as he mentally reviewed BML's journey in the past two decades. BML had admirably progressed from producing first generation anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMS) to designing and producing state of the art ATGM weapon systems that would be the envy of any army. He sighed in reconciliation with his assumptions that the government would probably not alter the status quo of a ban on export of military weaponry.

To his surprise, the very next day he got a telephone call from the Director General, Ministry of Defence, asking him to discuss the modalities of increasing BML production of ATGMS as there is a possibility of exporting the same to a friendly foreign country. The Director General wanted the Chairman to discuss the details with his staff at Delhi next week.

Two days later, at a press conference, the Defence Minister stated that he aims to double the current weapons export levels within five years. This would give an impetus to financing the development and manufacture of indigenous weapons in the country. He also stated that all indigenous arms manufacturing nations have a very good record of international arms trade.

As Chairman of BML, what are your views on the following points?

- a. As an arms exporter of a responsible nation like India, what are the ethical issues involved arms trade?
  - b. List five ethical factors that would influence the decision to sell arms to foreign governments. (250 words, 20 marks)
9. Rampura, a remote district inhabited by a tribal population, is marked by extreme backwardness and abject poverty. Agriculture is the mainstay of the local population, though it is primarily subsistence due to the very small land holdings. There is insignificant industrial or mining activity. Even the targeted welfare programs have inadequately benefited the tribal population. In this restrictive scenario, the youth has begun to migrate to other states to supplement the family income. Plight of minor girls is that their parents are persuaded by labour contractors to send them to work in the Bt Cotton farms of a nearby state. The soft fingers of the minor girls are well suited for plucking the cotton. The inadequate living and working conditions in these farms have caused serious health issues for the minor girls. NGOS in the districts of domicile and the cotton farms appear to be compromised and have not effectively espoused the twin issues of child labour and development of the area.

You are appointed as the District Collector of Rampura. Identify the ethical issues involved. Which specific steps will you initiate to ameliorate the conditions of minor girls of your district and to improve the over-all economic scenario in the district? (250 words, 20 marks)

10. You are a municipal commissioner of a large city, having the reputation of a very honest and upright officer. A huge multipurpose mall is under construction in your city in which a large number of daily wage earners are employed. One night, during monsoons, a big chunk of the roof collapsed causing instant death of four labourers including two minors. Many more were seriously injured requiring immediate medical attention. The mishap resulted in a big hue and cry, forcing the government to institute an enquiry.

Your preliminary enquiry has revealed a series of anomalies. The material used for the construction was of poor quality. Despite the approved building plans permitting only one basement, an additional basement has been constructed. This was overlooked during the periodic inspections by the building inspector of the municipal corporation. In your enquiry, you noticed that the construction of the mall was given the green signal despite encroaching on areas earmarked for a green belt and a slip road in the Zonal Master Plan of the city. The permission to construct the mall was accorded by the previous Municipal Commissioner who is not only your senior and well known to you professionally, but also a good friend.

Prima facie, the case appears to be of a widespread nexus between officials of the Municipal Corporation and the builders. Your colleagues are putting pressure on you to go slow in the enquiry. The builder, who is rich and influential, happens to be a close relative of a powerful minister in the state cabinet. The builder is persuading you to hush up the matter, promising you a fortune to do so. He also hinted that this matter is not resolved at the earliest in his favour there is somebody in his office who is waiting to file a case against you under the POSH Act.

Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case. What are the options available to you in this situation? Explain your selected course of action. (250 words, 20 marks)

11. Parmal is a small but underdeveloped district. It has rocky terrain that is not suitable for agriculture, though some subsistence agriculture is being done on small plots of land. The area receives adequate rainfall and has an irrigation canal flowing through it. Amria, its administrative centre, is a medium sized town. It houses a large district hospital, an Industrial Training Institute and some privately owned skill training centres. It has all the facilities of a district headquarters. A trunk railway line passes

approximately 50 kilometres from Amria. Its poor connectivity is a major reason for the absence of any major industry therein. The state government offers a 10 years tax holiday as an incentive to new industry.

In 2010 Anil, an industrialist, decided to take benefits to set up Amria Plastic Works (APW) in Noora village, about 20 km from Amria. While the factory was being built, Anil hired the required key labour and got them trained at the skill training centres at Amria. This act of his made the key personnel very loyal to APW.

APW started production in 2011 with the labour drawn fully from Noora village. The villagers were very happy to get employment near their homes and were motivated by the key personnel to meet the production targets with high quality. APW started making large profits, a sizeable portion of which was used to improve the quality of life in Noora. By 2016, Noora could boast of a greener village and a renovated village temple. Anil liaised with the local MLA to increase the frequency of the bus services to Amria. The government also opened a primary health care centre and primary school at Noora in buildings constructed by APW. APW used its CSR funds to set up women's self-help groups, subsidize primary education to the village children and procure an ambulance for use by its employees and the needy.

In 2019, there was a minor fire in APW. It was quickly extinguished as fire safety protocols were in place in the factory. Investigations revealed that the factory had been using electricity in excess of its authorized capacity. This was soon rectified. The next year, due to a nationwide lockdown, the requirement of production fell for four months. Anil decided that all employees would be paid regularly. He employed them to plant trees and improve the village habitat. APW had developed a reputation of high-quality production and a motivated workforce.

Critically analyse the story of APW and state the ethical issues involved. Do you consider APW as a role model for development of backward areas? Give reasons. (250 words, 20 marks)

12. Migrant workers have always remained at the socio-economic margins of our society, silently serving as the instrumental labour force of urban economics. The pandemic has brought them into national focus.

On announcement of a countrywide lockdown, a very large number of migrant workers decided to move back from their places of employment to their native villages. The non-availability of transport created its own problems. Added to this was the fear of starvation and inconvenience to their families. This caused the migrant workers to demand wages and transport facilities for returning to their villages. Their mental agony was

accentuated by multiple factors such as a sudden loss of livelihood, possibility of lack of food and inability to assist in harvesting their rabi crop due to not being able to reach home in time. Reports of inadequate response of some districts in providing the essential boarding and lodging arrangements along the way multiplied their fears.

You have learnt many lessons from this situation when you were tasked to oversee the functioning of the District Disaster Relief Force in your district. In your opinion what ethical issues arose in the current migrant crisis? What do you understand by an ethical care giving state? What assistance can the civil society render to mitigate the sufferings of migrants in similar situations? (250 words, 20 marks)

## **YEAR 2019**

### **2019 ESSAY**

Write two essays, choosing ONE from each of the Sections A & B, in about 1000-1200 words each. 125 x 2 = 250

#### **SECTION A**

1. Wisdom finds truth
2. Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be
3. Best for an individual is not necessarily best for the society
4. Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success

#### **SECTION B**

1. South Asian societies are woven not around the state, but around their plural cultures and plural identities
2. Neglect of primary health care and education in India are reasons for its backwardness
3. Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy
4. Rise of Artificial Intelligence: the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling