

2025 Edition

UPSC-CSE MAINS PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

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

**Essay, GS1, GS2, GS3 & GS4 (Ethics)
Since New Pattern (2013-2024)**



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UPSC-CSE Mains PYQ Book (2013-2024)

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UPSC MAINS SYLLABUS DISCUSSION

It is important to take note the syllabus for examination before beginning your preparation. **As provided in the UPSC Notification:**

“The main Examination is intended to assess the overall intellectual traits and depth of understanding of candidates rather than merely the range of their information and memory. The nature and standard of questions in the General Studies papers (Paper II to Paper V) will be such that a well-educated person will be able to answer them without any specialized study. The questions will be such as to test a candidate’s general awareness of a variety of subjects, which will have relevance for a career in Civil Services. The questions are likely to test the candidate’s basic understanding of all relevant issues, and ability to analyze, and take a view on conflicting socio-economic goals, objectives and demands. The candidates must give relevant, meaningful and succinct answers.” - (UPSC-CSE Notification 2024)

Following is the paper-wise syllabus provided in the UPSC notification. We’ve done further breakup of the syllabus into standard subjects.

PAPER 1 – ESSAY

There is no syllabus provided by the UPSC for Essay. However, the notification does mention the following:

“Essay: Candidates may be required to write essays on multiple topics. They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay to arrange their ideas in orderly fashion, and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.”

PAPER II - GENERAL STUDIES 1

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

A] 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 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.
- 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.

B] SOCIETY & SOCIAL ISSUES

- 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, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

C] GEOGRAPHY

- 10] Salient features of world's physical geography.
- 11] Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); 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.

PAPER III - GENERAL STUDIES 2

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

A] CONSTITUTION AND 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.
- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- 5] Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and
- 6] 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.

B] GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

- 10] Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- 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 neighborhood- 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.

PAPER IV - GENERAL STUDIES 3

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

A] INDIAN ECONOMY

- 1] Indian Economy and issues relating 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 & TECHNOLOGY

- 11] Science and Technology- 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] ENVIRONEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

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

D] DISASTER MANAGEMENT

15] Disaster and disaster management.

E] INTERNAL 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.

PAPER V - GENERAL STUDIES IV

Ethics, integrity and aptitude.

“This paper will include questions to test the candidates’ attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem-solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects.”

The following broad areas will be covered:

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.

Case Studies on above issues.

MAKING BEST USE OF THIS BOOK

The final ranking in UPSC-CSE largely depends on the marks secured in UPSC Mains. Unfortunately, even at this stage, the preparation of students seems to lack a good strategy.

This book tries to address this issue. It does two things: First, it classifies the Official UPSC Syllabus into various subjects and second, the book divides the previous year questions (PYQs) into these various subjects and topics.

This classification brings all the PYQs under one subject/topic together. This gives a better insight into what UPSC expects from that particular subject and particular topic. It additionally also provides plenty of practice questions when we're studying the subject topic-by-topic.

Further, the book makes use of graphs to help us better understand the relative weightage of each subject/topic. These graphs also compare the last twelve years (2013-2024) weightage with last four years (2021-2024). This will help us understand the changing trend of UPSC in recent past.

Also note that each question is accompanied with a code which denotes, in given order, i) the year in which question was asked ii) question no. in official question paper iii) maximum marks and iv) word limit. For example [2021/Q2/10m/150w] denotes a 2nd question from year 2021, which was asked for 10 marks, to be written in 150 words.

Along with topic-wise questions, PART II of the book contains year-wise papers from 2013 onwards. This is provided so that you can have a look at entire question paper(s) at once.

So, do make use of all that the book provides and accordingly strategize your preparation. We really wish that your efforts do not go waste and you are able to systematically cover all of GS syllabus within stipulated time.

Have a wonderful and educational journey!

PRACTICES ADOPTED IN THIS BOOK

1] The exam pattern of UPSC-CSE changed drastically in 2013. Hence, the book contains questions only from 2013. Considering old question papers is not just unnecessary but also misleading. Further, twelve years is a sufficient time to trace out a new pattern and provide plenty of practice questions.

2] For GS 4 (ethics), only section A has been considered for topic-wise classification, since there is no specific pattern or syllabus to case studies. All case study questions can be found in PART 2: Year Wise Question Papers of this book

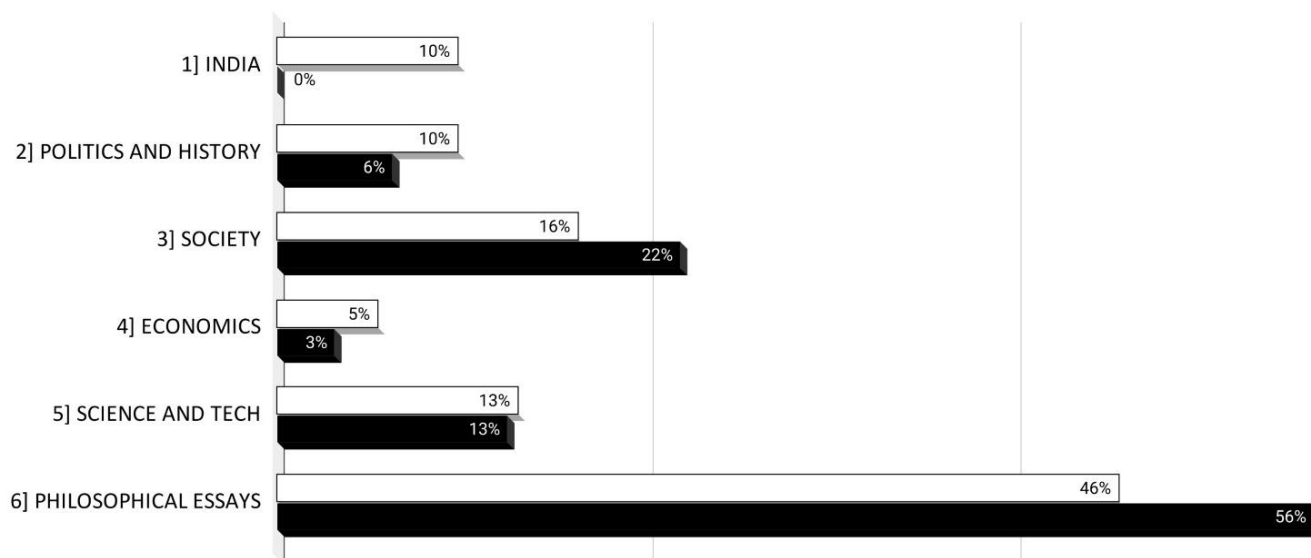
3] GS 4 (Ethics) is more like an open-ended subject. So, some questions could not be categorized strictly in one or another topic. Some questions are apparently not from the syllabus provided by UPSC. All such questions have been included under 1st topic, i.e., Ethics and Human Interface.

PART I - TOPIC-WISE QUESTIONS

PAPER 1 – ESSAY

PAPER 1: ESSAY

□ 2013-2024 ■ 2021-2024



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. Fulfilment 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 & HISTORY

1. History is a series of victories won by the scientific man over the romantic man. [2022/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
2. History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as a farce. [2021/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Technology as the silent factor in international relations [2020/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy [2019/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Has the Non- Alignment Movement (NAM) lost its relevance in a multipolar world. [2017/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]

6. Water disputes between states in federal India [2016/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Cooperative federalism: Myth or reality [2016/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Was it the policy paralysis or the paralysis of implementation which slowed the growth of our country? [2014/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
9. Is sting operation an invasion on privacy? [2014/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]

3] SOCIETY

1. Forests precede civilizations and deserts follow them. [2024/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Social media is Triggering 'Fear of Missing Out' amongst the youth, precipitating depression and loneliness. [2024/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Girls are weighed down by restrictions, boys with demands- two equally harmful disciplines. [2023/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
4. A society that has more justice is a society that needs less charity. [2023/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school. [2023/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world. [2022/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. [2021/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Culture is what we are, civilization is what we have [2020/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
9. There can be no social justice without economic prosperity but economic prosperity without social justice is meaningless [2020/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
10. Patriarchy is the least noticed yet the most significant structure of social inequality [2020/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
11. South Asian societies are woven not around the state, but around their plural cultures and plural identities [2019/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]

12. Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere [2018/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
13. If development is not engendered, it is endangered [2016/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
14. Is the growing level of competition good for the youth? [2014/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
15. Are the standardized tests good measure of academic ability or progress? [2014/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]

4] ECONOMICS

1. Forests are the best case studies for economic excellence [2022/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Impact of the new economic measures on fiscal ties between the union and states in India. [2017/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Near jobless growth in India: An anomaly or an outcome of economic reforms [2016/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Can capitalism bring inclusive growth? [2015/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
5. 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. The Empires of the future will be the empires of the mind. [2024/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
2. The doubter is a true man of science. [2024/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Mathematics is the music of reasons. [2023/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
4. What is research, but a blind date with knowledge! [2021/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Rise of Artificial Intelligence: the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling [2019/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Alternative technologies for a climate change resilient India [2018/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]

7. Social media is inherently a selfish medium. [2017/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Innovation is the key determinant of economic growth and social welfare [2016/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
9. Cyberspace and internet: Blessing or curse to the human civilization in the long run [2016/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
10. Digital economy: A leveller or a source of economic inequality [2016/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
11. Technology cannot replace manpower. [2015/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
12. Science and technology is the panacea for the growth and security of the nation. [2013/Q4/250m/2500w]

6] PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAYS

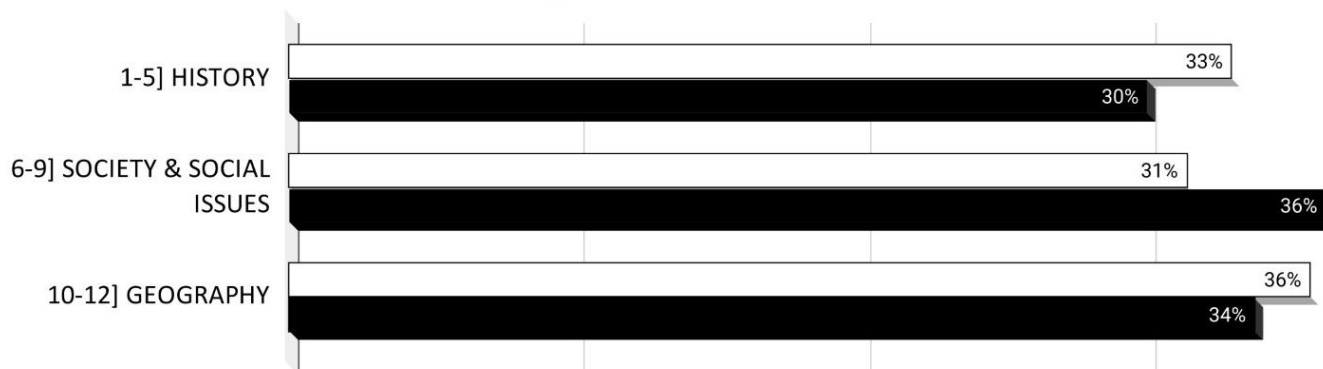
1. There is no path to happiness; Happiness is the path. [2024/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Nearly all men can stand adversity, but to test the character, give him power. [2024/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
3. All ideas having large consequences are always simple. [2024/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
4. The cost of being wrong is less than the cost of doing nothing. [2024/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Thinking is like a game; it does not begin unless there is an opposite team. [2023/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Visionary decision-making happens at the intersection of intuition and logic. [2023/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Not all who wander are lost. [2023/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Inspiration for creativity springs from the effort to look for the magical in the mundane. [2023/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
9. A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ship is for. [2022/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
10. The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining? [2022/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
11. You cannot step twice in the same river. [2022/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
12. A smile is the chosen vehicle for all ambiguities. [2022/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
13. Just because you have a choice, it does not mean that any of them has to be right. [2022/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
14. There are better practices to “best practices”. [2021/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
15. The process of self-discovery has now been technologically outsourced. [2021/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
16. Your perception of me is a reflection of you; my reaction to you is an awareness of me. [2021/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
17. Philosophy of wantlessness is Utopian, while materialism is a chimera. [2021/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
18. The real is rational and the rational is real. [2021/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
19. Life is long journey between human being and being humane [2020/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
20. Mindful manifesto is the catalyst to a tranquil self [2020/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
21. Ships do not sink because of water around them, ships sink because of water that gets into them [2020/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
22. Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication [2020/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
23. Wisdom finds truth [2019/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
24. Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be [2019/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
25. Best for an individual is not necessarily best for the society [2019/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
26. Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success [2019/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
27. A good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge [2018/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
28. Customary morality cannot be a guide to modern life [2018/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]

29. "The past' is a permanent dimension of human consciousness and values [2018/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
30. A people that values its privileges above its principles loses both [2018/Q B3/125m/1200w]
31. Reality does not conform to the ideal, but confirms it [2018/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
32. Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms. [2017/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
33. Joy is the simplest form of gratitude. [2017/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
34. We may brave human laws but cannot resist natural laws. [2017/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
35. Need brings greed, if greed increases it spoils breed [2016/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
36. Lending hands to someone is better than giving a dole. [2015/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
37. Quick but steady wins the race. [2015/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
38. Character of an institution is reflected in its leader. [2015/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
39. Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man more clever devil. [2015/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
40. With greater power comes greater responsibility. [2014/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
41. Words are sharper than the two-edged sword. [2014/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
42. "Be the change you want to see in others" – Gandhiji [2013/Q1/250m/2500w]

GENERAL STUDIES 1

GENERAL STUDIES 1

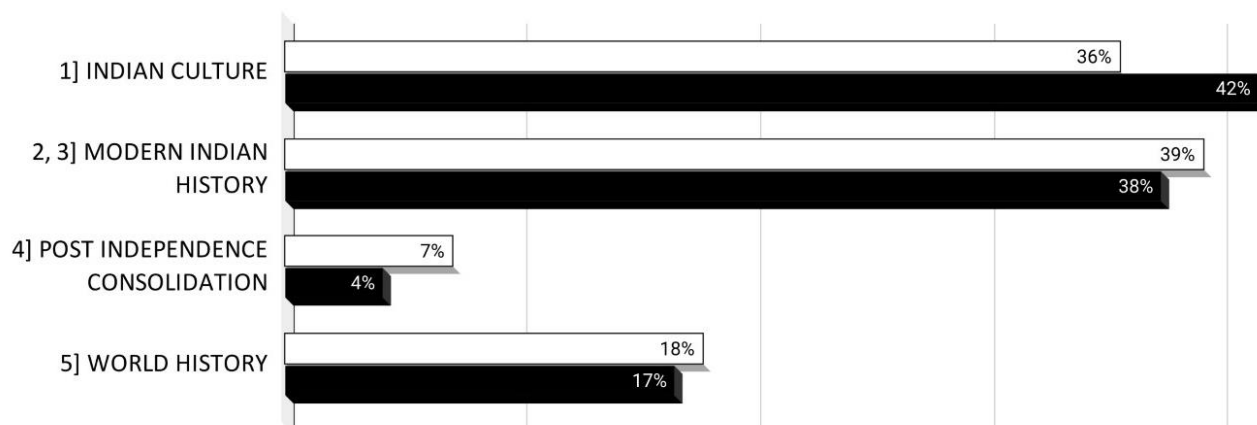
□ 2013-2024 ■ 2021-2024



1-5] HISTORY

GS 1: HISTORY

□ 2013-2024 ■ 2021-2024



1] INDIAN CULTURE:

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. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. [2024/Q2/10m/150w]
2. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. [2021/Q1/10m/150w]
3. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. [2020/Q12/15m/250w]
4. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. [2018/Q2/10m/150w]
5. 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]
6. 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]
7. 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. "Though the great Cholas are no more, yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of art and architecture". Comment. [2024/Q11/15m/250w]
2. How will you explain that medieval India temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? [2022/Q1/10m/150w]
3. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our

knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. [2020/Q1/10m/150w]

4. Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. [2020/Q11/15m/250w]
5. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. [2016/Q1/12.5m/200w]
6. 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]
7. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. [2014/Q1/10m/150w]
8. Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. [2013/Q2b/5m/100w]

1.4] CULTURE AND RELIGION

1. Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period. [2024/Q1/10m/150w]
2. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. [2023/Q1/10m/150w]
3. What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? [2023/Q11/15m/250w]
4. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society? [2023/Q12/15m/250w]
5. Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. [2022/Q13/15m/250w]
6. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. [2022/Q12/15m/250w]

PART II - YEAR WISE QUESTION PAPERS

YEAR 2013

2013 Essay

Write an essay on any of the following topics in not more than 2500 Words (250m)

1. "Be the change you want to see in others" – Gandhiji
2. Is the colonial mentality hindering India's success?
3. GDP (gross domestic product) along with GDH (gross domestic happiness) would be the right indices for judging the well-being of a country.
4. Science and technology is the panacea for the growth and security of the nation.

2013 Mains GS 1

Answer all the following questions.

1. 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. (200w/10m)
2. (a) Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. (100w/5m)
(b) Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. (100w/5m)
3. Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. (200w/10m)
4. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. (200w/10m)
5. In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate. (200w/10m)
6. Critically discuss the objectives of Bhodan and Gramdan movements initiated by

Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. (200w/10m)

7. Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan". (200w/10m)
8. Discuss the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre-and post-independent India. (200w/10m)
9. Analyse the circumstances that led to Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the agreement. (200w/10m)
10. Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the emergence of Bangladesh. (200w/10m)
11. "Latecomer" Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had experience. (200w/10m)
12. Africa was chopped into states artificially created by accident of European competition. Analyse. (200w/10m)
13. American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate. (200w/10m)
14. What policy instruments were deployed to contain the great economic depression? (200w/10m)
15. Discussion the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India. (200w/10m)
16. Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organization free from gender bias. Comment. (200w/10m)
17. Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India. (200w/10m)
18. Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss. (200w/10m)
19. (a) What do you understand by the theory of continental drift? Discuss the prominent evidences in its support. (100w/5m)

- (b) The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called "Phailin". How are the tropical cyclones named across the world? Elaborate. (100w/5m)
20. (a) Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world. (100w/5m)
(b) What do you understand by the phenomenon of temperature inversion in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place? (100w/5m)
21. Major hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located between 20-30 degree north and on the western side of the continents. Why? (200w/10m).
22. (a) Bring out the causes for more frequent landslides in the Himalayas than in Western Ghats. (100w/5m)
(b) There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the Western Ghat. Why? (100w/5m)
23. (a) Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in the Southern states of India? Discuss with justification. (100w/5m)
(b) Analyse the factors for highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India. (100w/5m)
24. With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, the atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world. (200w/10m)
25. It is said the India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resources doesn't appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved. (200w/10m)

2013 Mains GS 2

Answer all the following questions.

1. The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years and as a result healthy constructive debates

- on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law, which was legislated but with a different intention? (200w/10m)
2. Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. (200w/10m)
3. 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. (200w/10m)
4. The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution. Discuss critically. (200w/10m)
5. Many State Governments further bifurcate geographical administrative areas like Districts and Talukas for better governance. In light of the above, can it also be justified that more number of smaller States would bring in effective governance at State level? Discuss. (200w/10m)
6. Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss. (200w/10m)
7. Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances. (200w/10m)
8. The product diversification of financial institutions and insurance companies, resulting in overlapping of products and services strengthens the case for the merger of the two regulatory agencies, namely SEBI and IRDA. Justify. (200w/10m)
9. The concept of Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates and success. (200w/10m)

10. Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India. (200w/10m)
11. The legitimacy and accountability of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the micro-finance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss. (200w/10m)
12. The Central Government frequently complains on the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate. (200w/10m)
13. Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment. (200w/10m)
14. The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment. (200w/10m)
15. Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same. (200w/10m)
16. Though Citizen's charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyse.
17. 'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs. Discuss. (200w/10m)
18. The proposed withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests. (200w/10m)
19. What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this. (200w/10m)
20. Economic ties between India and Japan while growing in the recent years are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth. (200w/10m)
21. The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India? (200w/10m)
22. Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India? (200w/10m)
23. In respect of India — Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy. (200w/10m)
24. What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss. (200w/10m)
25. The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. (200w/10m)

2013 Mains GS 3

Answer all the following questions.

1. With a consideration towards the strategy of inclusive growth, the new companies bill, 2013 has indirectly made CSR a mandatory obligation. Discuss the challenges expected in its implementation in right earnest. Also

discuss other provisions in the bill and their implications. (200w/10m)

2. What are the reasons for introduction of Fiscal responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness. (200w/10m)
3. What is meaning of the term tax-expenditure? Taking housing sector as an example, discuss how it influences budgetary policies of the government. (200w/10m)
4. Food security bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO (200w/10m)
5. What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and state levels? Critically analyze the agriculture subsidy regime with the reference to the distortions created by it. (200w/10m)
6. India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in food industry for better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement. (200w/10m)
7. Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indian. Are they competing with the MNCs satisfactorily? (200w/10m)
8. Establish the relationship between land reform, agriculture productivity and elimination of poverty in Indian Economy. Discuss the difficulty in designing and implementation of the agriculture friendly land reforms in India. (200w/10m)
9. (a) Discuss the impact of FDI entry into multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in commodity trade pattern of the economy. (100w/5m)
(b) Though India allowed foreign direct investment (FDI) in what is called multi brand retail through joint venture route in September 2012, the FDI even after a year,

has not picket up. Discuss the reasons. (100w/5m)

10. Discuss the rationale for introducing Goods and services tax in India. Bring out critically the reasons for delay in roll out for its regime. (200w/10m)
11. Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problems of conventional energy. (200w/10m)
12. Adaptation of PPP model for infrastructure development of the country has not been free from criticism. Critically discuss the pros and cons of the model. (200w/10m)
13. Bring out the circumstances in 2005 which forced amendment to section 3(d) in the Indian Patent Law, 1970. Discuss how it has been utilized by Supreme court in its judgment rejecting Novartis' patent application for "Glivec." Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision. (200w/10m)
14. What do you understand by fixed dose drug combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits. (200w/10m)
15. What do you understand by Umpire decision review in cricket? Discuss its various components. Explain how silicon tape on the edge of a bat may fool the system? (200w/10m)
16. (a) What is digital signature? What does its authentication mean? Give various salient built-in features of a digital signature. (100w/5m)
(b) How does the 3D printing technology work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the technology. (100w/5m)
17. (a) What is an FRP composite material? How are they manufactured? Discuss their applications in aviation and automobile industry (100w/5m)
(b) What do you understand by run of the river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project? (100w/5m)
18. How important are vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management. As an administrator, what are key areas

that you would focus in a disaster management. (200w/10m)

19. What are the consequences of illegal mining? Discuss the ministry of environment and forests' concept of "GO AND NO GO" zones for coal mining. (200w/10m)
20. Enumerate the National Water Policy of India. Taking river Ganges as an example, discuss the strategies which may be adopted for river water pollution control and management. What are the legal provisions for management and handling of hazardous wastes in India? (200w/10m)
21. Money laundering poses a serious threat to country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace? (200w/10m)
22. What are social networking site and what security implications do these sites present? (200w/10m)
23. Cyber warfare is considered by some defense analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same. (200w/10m)
24. Article 244 of Indian Constitution relates to Administration of Scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyze the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of fifth schedule on the growth of Left-Wing Extremism. (200w/10m)
25. How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management, particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar? (200w/10m)

2013 Mains GS4: Ethics

Section A

1. What do you understand by 'values' and 'ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? (150w/10m)

2. (a) What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? (250w, 5x3=15m)

1. Integrity
2. Perseverance
3. Spirit of service
4. Commitment
5. Courage of conviction

(b) Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer. (100 words, 10 marks)

3. Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification. (150w/10m)
4. What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions? (150w/10m)
5. (a) What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience? (150w/10m)
(b) What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. (150w/10m)
6. Given below are three quotations of great moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these quotations, bring out what it means to you in the present context: (150w each, 10 x 3= 30m)
(a) "There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed." Mahatma Gandhi.
(b) "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."—Abraham Lincoln
(c) "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies."—Aristotle.
7. "The good of an individual is contained in the good of all." What do you understand

by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life? (150w/10m)

8. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics' do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations. (150w/10m)

Section B

9.

A Public Information Officer has received an application under RTI Act. Having gathered the information, the PIO discovers that the information pertains to some of the decisions taken by him, which were found to be not altogether right. There were other employees also who party to these decisions were. Disclosure of the information is likely to lead to disciplinary action with possibility of punishment against him as well as some of his colleagues. Non-disclosure or part disclosure or camouflaged disclosure of information will result into lesser punishment or no punishment.

The PIO is otherwise an honest and conscientious person but this particular decision, on which the RTI application has been filed, turned out to be wrong. He comes to you for advice.

The following are some suggested options. Please evaluate the merits and demerits of each of the options:

- (i) The PIO could refer the matter to his superior officer and seek his advice and act strictly in accordance with the advice, even though he is not completely in agreement with the advice of the superior.
- (ii) The PIO could proceed on leave and leave the matter to be dealt by his successor in office or request for transfer of the application to another PIO.
- (iii) The PIO could weigh the consequences of disclosing the information truthfully, including the effect on his career, and reply in a manner that would not place him or his career in jeopardy, but at the same time a little

compromise can be made on the contents of the information.

- (iv) The PIO could consult his other colleagues who are party to the decision and take action as per their advice.

Also please indicate (without necessarily restricting to the above options) what you would like to advise, giving proper reasons. (250w/20m)

10.

You are working as an Executive Engineer in the construction cell of a Municipal Corporation and are presently in-charge of the construction of a flyover. There are two Junior Engineers under you who have the responsibility of day-to-day inspection of the site and are reporting to you, while you are finally reporting to the Chief Engineer who heads the cell.

While the construction is heading towards completion, the Junior Engineers have been regularly reporting that all construction is taking place as per design specifications. However, in one of your surprise inspections, you have noticed some serious deviations and lacunae which, in your opinion, are likely to affect the safety of the flyover. Rectification of these lacunae at this stage would require a substantial amount of demolition and rework which will cause a tangible loss to the contractor and will also delay completion. There is a lot of public pressure on the Corporation to get this construction completed because of heavy traffic congestion in the area. When you brought this matter to the notice of the Chief Engineer, he advised you that in his opinion it is not a very serious lapse and may be ignored. He advised for further expediting the project for completion in time. However, you are convinced that this was a serious matter which might affect public safety and should not be left unaddressed.

What will you do in such a situation? Some of the options are given below. Evaluate the merits and demerits of each of these options and finally suggest what course of action you would like to take, giving reasons.

(i) Follow the advice of the Chief Engineer and go ahead.

(ii) Make an exhaustive report of the situation bringing out all facts and analysis along with your own viewpoints stated clearly and seek for written orders from the chief Engineer.

(iii) Call for explanation from the Junior Engineers and issue orders to the contractor for necessary correction within targeted time.

(iv) Highlight the issue so that it reaches superiors above the Chief Engineer.

(v) Considering the rigid attitude of the Chief Engineer, seek transfer from the project or report sick. (250w/20m)

11.

Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu is known for its manufacturing clusters on firecrackers and matches. The local economy of the area is largely dependent on firecrackers industry. It has led to tangible economic development and improved standard of living in the area.

So far as child labour norms for hazardous industries like firecrackers industry are concerned, International Labour Organization (ILO) has set the minimum age as 18 years. In India, however, this age is 14 years.

The units in industrial clusters of firecrackers can be classified into registered and non-registered entities. One typical unit is household-based work. Though the law is clear on the use of child labour employment norms in registered/non-registered units, it does not include household-based works. Household-based work means children working under the supervision of their parents/relatives. To evade child labour norms, several units project themselves as household-based works but employ children from outside. Needless to say that employing children saves the costs for these units leading to higher profits to the owners.

On your visit to one of the units at Sivakasi, the owner takes you around the unit which has about 10-15 children below 14 years of age.

The owner tells you that in his household-based unit, the children are all his relatives. You notice that several children smirk, when the owner tells you this. On deeper enquiry, you figure out that neither the owner nor the children are able to satisfactorily establish their relationship with each other.

(i) Bring out and discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.

(ii) What would be your reaction after your above visit? (300w/25m)

12.

You are heading a leading technical institute of the country. The institute is planning to convene an interview panel shortly under your chairmanship for selection of the post of professors. A few days before the interview, you get a call from the Personal Secretary (PS) of a senior government functionary seeking your intervention in favour of the selection of a close relative of the functionary for this post. The PS also informs you that he is aware of the long pending and urgent proposals of your institute for grant of funds for modernization, which are awaiting the functionary's approval. He assures you that he would get these proposals cleared.

(i) What are the options available to you?

(ii) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons. (250w/20m)

13.

As a senior officer in the Finance Ministry, you have access to some confidential and crucial information about policy decisions that the Government is about to announce. These decisions are likely to have far-reaching impact on the housing and construction industry. If the builders have access to this information beforehand, they can make huge profits. One of the builders has done a lot of quality work for the Government and is known to be close to your immediate superior, who asks you to disclose this information to the said builder.

- (i) What are the options available to you?
- (ii) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons. (250w/20m)

14.

You are the Executive Director of an upcoming InfoTech Company which is making a name for itself in the market.

Mr. A, who is a star performer, is heading the marketing team. In a short period of one year, he has helped in doubling the revenues as well as creating a high brand equity for the Company so much so that you are thinking of promoting him. However, you have been receiving information from many corners about his attitude towards the female colleagues; particularly his habit of making loose comments on women. In addition, he regularly sends indecent SMS' to all the team members including his female colleagues.

One day, late in the evening, Mrs. X, who is one of Mr. A's team members, comes to you visibly disturbed. She complains against the continued misconduct of Mr. A, who has been making undesirable advances towards her and has even tried to touch her inappropriately in his cabin. She tenders her resignation and leaves your office.

- (i) What are the options available to you?
- (ii) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option you would adopt, giving reasons. (250w/20m)

YEAR 2014

2014 Essay

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

Section A

1. With greater power comes greater responsibility.
2. Is the growing level of competition good for the youth?

3. Are the standardized tests good measure of academic ability or progress?
4. Words are Sharper than the two-edged sword.

Section B

1. Was it the policy paralysis or the paralysis of implementation which slowed the growth of our country?
2. Is sting operation an invasion on privacy?
3. Fifty Golds in Olympics: Can this be a reality for India?
4. Tourism: Can this be the next big thing for India?

2014 Mains GS 1

Answer all the following questions.

1. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. (150w/10m)
2. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. (150w/10m)
3. 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. (150w/10m)
4. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? (150w/10m)
5. Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu / Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. (150w/10m)
6. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence. (150w/10m)
7. In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? (150w/10m)

8. What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? (150w/10m)
9. What were the events that led to the Suez Crisis in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain's self-image as a world power? (150w/10m)
10. The New Economic Policy – 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. (150w/10m)
11. How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India? (150w/10m)
12. Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments. (150w/10m)
13. The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss. (150w/10m)
14. Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India. (150w/10m)
15. How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West? (150w/10m)
16. Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree? (150w/10m)
17. Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of fold mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes. (150w/10m)
18. Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos. (150w/10m)
19. Tropical cyclones are largely confined to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why? (150w/10m)
20. Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub-continent. (150w/10m)
21. Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shivaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain. (150w/10m)
22. Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water? (150w/10m)
23. Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world. (150w/10m)
24. Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world. (150w/10m)
25. How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa? (150w/10m)

2014 Mains GS 2

Answer all the following questions.

1. Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy. (200w/12.5m)
2. Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, but it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. (200w/12.5m)
3. The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed? (200w/12.5m)
4. What do 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. (200w/12.5m)

5. Instances of President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse (200w/12.5m)
6. The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far is the efficacy of a government then inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss. (200w/12.5m)
7. Though 100 percent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like a trade publication and general entertainment channel, the government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons. (200w/12.5m)
8. The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways or the private container operators. (200w/12.5m)
9. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of above observation assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards. (200w/12.5m)
10. The penetration of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine. (200w/12.5m)

11. Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economies? (200w/12.5m)
12. An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement. (200w/12.5m)
13. Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges. (200w/12.5m)
14. Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organization been the cause of slow in India? Critically examine. (200w/12.5m)
15. Two parallel run schemes of the Government, viz the Aadhar card and NPR, one of voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need run concurrently. Analyse the potential of the schemes to achieve development benefits and equitable growth. (200w/12.5m)
16. With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affaire the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and ever flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China. (200w/12.5m)
17. The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on Information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests? (200w/12.5m)

18. Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and it, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. (200w/12.5m)
19. India has recently signed to become founding member of New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India. (200w/12.5m)
20. WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security. (200w/12.5m)

2014 Mains GS 3

Answer all the following questions.

1. Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the huge growth-services vis-a-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base? (200w/12.5m)
2. "While we flaunt India's demographic dividend, we ignore the dropping rates of employability." What are we missing while doing so? Where will the jobs that India desperately needs come from? Explain. (200w/12.5m)
3. There is also a point of view that Agricultural Produce Market Committees (200w/12.5m) APMCs set up under the State Acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine. (200w/12.5m)
4. "In the villages itself no form of credit organization will be suitable except the cooperative society." – All India Rural Credit Survey. Discuss this statement in the background of agricultural finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finance face? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients? (200w/12.5m)
5. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 has come into effect from 1st January, 2014. What are the key issues which would get addressed with the Act in place? What implications would it have on industrialization and agriculture in India? (200w/12.5m)
6. Capitalism has guided the world economy to unprecedented prosperity. However, it often encourages short-sightedness and contributes to wide disparities between the rich and the poor. In this light, would it be correct to believe and adopt capitalism for bringing inclusive growth in India? Discuss. (200w/12.5m)
7. Explain how Private Public Partnership arrangements, in long gestation infrastructure projects, can transfer unsustainable liabilities to the future. What arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that successive generations' capacities are not compromised? (200w/12.5m)
8. National Urban Transport Policy emphasises on 'moving people' instead of 'moving vehicles.' Discuss critically the success of the various strategies of the Government in this regard. (200w/12.5m)
9. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the defence sector is now set to be liberalized: What influence this is expected to have on Indian defence and economy in the short and long run? (200w/12.5m)
10. Scientific research in Indian universities is declining, because a career in science is not as attractive as are business professions,

- engineering or administration, and the universities are becoming consumer-oriented. Critically comment. (200w/12.5m)
11. Can overuse and free availability of antibiotics without Doctor's prescription, be contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved. (200w/12.5m)
 12. In a globalized world, Intellectual Property Rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms—Copyrights, Patents and Trade Secrets. (200w/12.5m)
 13. Should the pursuit of carbon credits and clean development mechanisms set up under UNFCCC be maintained even though there has been a massive slide in the value of a carbon credit? Discuss with respect to India's energy needs for economic growth. (200w/12.5m)
 14. Drought has been recognized as a disaster in view of its spatial expanse, temporal duration, slow onset and lasting effects on vulnerable sections. With a focus on the September 2010 guidelines from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), discuss the mechanisms for preparedness to deal with likely El Nino and La Nina fallouts in India. (200w/12.5m)
 15. Environmental Impact Assessment studies are increasingly undertaken before a project is cleared by the Government. Discuss the environmental impacts of coal-fired thermal plants located at coal pitheads. (200w/12.5m)
 16. "The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which is seen in her neighbourhood? Discuss along with strategies to be adopted to counter this environment. (200w/12.5m)
 17. International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory. What do you understand by 'airspace' What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggest ways to contain the threat. (200w/12.5m)
 18. How does illegal transborder migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration. (200w/12.5m)
 19. In 2012, the longitudinal marking for high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65 degrees east to 78 degrees east in the Arabian Sea by the International Maritime Organisation. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns? (200w/12.5m)
 20. China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for development of an economic corridor. What threat does this pose for India's security? Critically examine. (200w/12.5m)

2014 Mains GS4: Ethics

Section A

1. (a) All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with answers. (150w/10m)
(b) What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in Public Administration? (150w/10m)
2. (a) In the context of defence services, 'patriotism' demands readiness to even lay down one's life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer. (150w/10m)
(b) What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome? (150w/10m)
3. (a) "Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from modern day context. (150w/10m)

(b) "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as 'means.'" Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society. (150w/10m)

4. (a) Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the Gist of his/her teachings. Giving specific examples describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development. (150w/10m)

(b) There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility? (150w/10m)

5. (a) The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and for societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy? (150w/10m)

(b) It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples. (150w/10m)

6. What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent about many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes? (150w/10m)

7. What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants? (150w/10m)

8. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. (150w/10m)

Section B

9.

Now-a-days, there is an increasing thrust on economic development all around the globe. At the same time, there is also an increasing concern about environmental degradation caused by development. Many a time, we face a direct conflict between development activity and environmental quality.

It is neither feasible to stop or curtail the developmental process, nor it is advisable to keep degrading the environment, as it threatens our very survival. Discuss some feasible strategies which could be adopted to eliminate this conflict and which could lead to sustainable development. (250w/20m)

10.

Suppose one of your close friends, who is also aspiring for civil services, comes to you for discussing some of the issues related to ethical conduct in public service. He raises the following points: -

(i) In the present times, when unethical environment is quite prevalent, individual attempts to stick to ethical principles may cause a lot of problems in one's career. It may cause hardship to the family members as well as risk to one's life. Why should we not be pragmatic and follow the path of least resistance, and be happy with doing whatever good we can?

(ii) When so many people are adopting wrong means and are grossly harming the system, what difference would it make if only a small minority tries to be ethical? They are going to be rather ineffective and are bound to get frustrated.

(iii) If we become fussy about ethical considerations, will it not hamper the economic progress of our country? After all in the present age of high competition we cannot afford to be left behind in the race of development

(iv) It is understandable that we should not get involved in grossly unethical practices, but giving and accepting small gratifications and doing small favours increases everybody's motivation. It also makes the system more efficient. What is wrong in adopting such practices?

Critically analyze the above viewpoints. On the basis of this analysis, what will be your advice to your friend? (250w/20m)

11.

You are a no-nonsense, honest officer. You have been transferred to a remote district to head a department that is notorious for its inefficiency and callousness.

You find that the main cause of the poor state of affairs is the indiscipline of a section of employees. They do not work themselves and also disrupt the workings of others. You first warned the troublemakers to mend their ways or else face disciplinary action. When the warning had little effect, you issued a show cause notice to the ringleaders.

As a retaliatory measure, these troublemakers instigated a woman employee amongst them to file a complaint of sexual harassment against you with the Women's Commission. The Commission promptly seeks your explanation. The matter is also publicized in the media to embarrass you further. Some of the options to handle this situation could be as follows:

- (i) Give your explanation to the Commission and go soft on the disciplinary action.
- (ii) Ignore the commission and proceed firmly with the disciplinary action.
- (iii) Brief your higher-ups, seek directions from them and act accordingly. Suggest any other possible option(s).

Evaluate all of them and suggest the best course of action, giving your reasons for it. (250w/20m)

12.

Suppose you are the CEO of a company that manufactures specialized electronic equipment used by a government department. You have submitted your bid for the supply of this equipment to the department. Both the quality and cost of your offer are better than those of the competitors. Yet the concerned officer is demanding a hefty bribe for approving the tender. Getting the order is important both for you and your company.

Not getting the order would mean closing a production line. It may also affect your own career. However, as a value-conscious person, you do not want to give bribe. Valid arguments can be advanced both for giving the bribe and getting the order, and for refusing to pay the bribe and risking the loss of the order.

What those arguments could be? Could there be any better way to get out of this dilemma? If so, outline the main elements of this third way, pointing out its merits. (250w/20m)

13.

Rameshwar successfully cleared the prestigious civil services examination and was excited about the opportunity that he would get through the civil services to serve the country. However, soon after joining the services, he realized that things are not as rosy as he had imagined.

He found a number of malpractices prevailing in the department assigned to him. For example, funds under various schemes and grants were being misappropriated. The official facilities were frequently being used for personal needs by the officers and staff.

After some time, he noticed that the process of recruiting the staff was also not up to the mark. Prospective candidates were required to write an examination in which a lot of cheating was going on. Some candidates were provided external help in the examination.