

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 300

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

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

All the questions are to be attempted.

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

Word limit in questions should be adhered to.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Answers must be written in ENGLISH only.

1. (a) Describe the Roman trade with India during post-Mauryan period with emphasis on main ports, internal trade routes and commodities. (200 words) 15
- (b) Trace the rise of Bhakti Movement. Discuss its nature with reference to Dvaita and Advaita Vada. (200 words) 15
- (c) Discuss administrative policies of king Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara empire. (125 words) 10
- (d) Elaborate the main tenets of Samrat Ashoka's Dhamma. (125 words) 10

2. (a) What is meant by recession? What steps has the Government of India taken so far to tackle the current ongoing recession in the country? (200 words) 15
- (b) What are the major environmental policies till the date in India to address the problem of environmental pollution and degradation? Do you think these policies are sufficient to resolve the environmental pollution and degradation in India? (200 words) 15
- (c) What do you mean by Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the public sector banks in India? What steps has the Government of India adopted in recent time to reduce the NPAs of the public sector banks? (125 words) 10
- (d) Do you think that Paris Agreement on Climate Change is loaded against the developing countries like India? (125 words) 10

3. (a) To what extent has the asymmetrical federal scheme offering differential autonomy for territorially concentrated ethnic groups helped in protecting the rights of minorities within these sub-units, or the rights of inter-state migrants in India? Critically analyze. (200 words) 15
- (b) While civil-political rights merely ask the state to refrain from acting in a certain way, the satisfaction of social rights requires the state to act affirmatively. Comment while assessing the success and limitations of state's affirmative actions in providing social and economic justice in India. (200 words) 15
- (c) Comment on the nature of ordinance-making power of the President of India. Also discuss the various safeguards which can help to prevent possible misuse of such a power. (125 words) 10
- (d) While contextualizing the Panchayats in their larger institutional and functional framework, outline the critically important role they play in ensuring democratic decentralization in India. (125 words) 10

4. (a) "Sustainable management of tropical rainforest ecosystem is difficult." Examine the statement in the light of recent forest fires of Amazon. (200 words) 15
- (b) India wants to become a global hub of manufacturing of electric vehicles. Do we have the competitive advantage to become a global leader? (200 words) 15
- (c) Explain the topographical and structural characteristics of Western Ghats. (125 words) 10
- (d) Infant mortality rates in India are still one of the highest in the world with significant regional variations. Elaborate. (125 words) 10
5. (a) What are the sources of plant fibres? Describe the classification of fibres based on nature, use and structure. (200 words) 15
- (b) Write an account on household insects affecting human health and also mention briefly on prevention and control. (200 words) 15
- (c) How has golden rice been developed? Write a note on its importance in human nutrition. (125 words) 10
- (d) What is phytoremediation? Discuss its importance. (125 words) 10
6. (a) What are liquid crystals? Discuss in brief the characteristic useful features of liquid crystals and their great range of applications in diverse fields. (200 words) 15
- (b) In what ways are laser light and starlight similar? In what ways are they different? Explain the usefulness of laser in barcode scanners, laser printers and cautery instruments. (200 words) 15
- (c) What is the idea of neurocomputing? What are the biological inspirations of the neuromorphic technology? (125 words) 10
- (d) Why was the south pole of the Moon chosen for landing of the Chandrayaan-2's lander? Highlight one of the key objectives of Chandrayaan-2 Mission which will demonstrate the advancement of technologies in Indian space research. (125 words) 10

