

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.

Attempt of a part / question shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a part / 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.*

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- Q1.** (a) Attempt an account of cultural influence of India in the Indo-China Peninsula. (200 words) 15
- (b) Shershah established a reputation for being a military genius as great as Babar and also for being an administrative genius as great as Akbar. Explain. (200 words) 15
- (c) For King Ashoka, sacredness meant ruling through moral example. Analyse. (125 words) 10
- (d) Highlight the contribution of Dadabhai Naoroji to the early phase (1885 – 1905) of India's freedom struggle. (125 words) 10

- Q2.** (a) What is twin balance sheet problem ? Explain how a State-sponsored bad bank will deal with this problem ? (200 words) 15
- (b) “Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP26), 2021 proposes accelerated action towards Paris Agreement.” Explain elaborating actions suggested on temperature control and transfer of funds from developed to less developed (developing) countries. (200 words) 15
- (c) “Human Poverty Index (HPI) is a better measure of human development than Human Development Index (HDI).” Explain. (125 words) 10
- (d) What is retail direct scheme of RBI for investment in Government securities ? What are the advantages of this scheme ? (125 words) 10
- Q3.** (a) ‘Despite undergoing many amendments, the Constitution of India has remained intact and the basic premises have not changed.’ Comment. (200 words) 15
- (b) ‘Indian Constitution is founded on a nice balance of power among the three wings of the State, namely the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary.’ Explain. (200 words) 15
- (c) ‘Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles are complementary and supplementary to one another.’ Comment. (125 words) 10
- (d) While India’s Constitutional framework has an elaborate set of mechanisms that govern and control the electoral process well, still there are some regulatory aspects that need improvement. Identify them and suggest electoral reforms. (125 words) 10
- Q4.** (a) In India, an increasing rate of soil erosion is a cause of concern. Suggest some remedial measures to control it. (200 words) 15
- (b) Overpopulation in India is considered a bane. Describe some relevant strategies to make it a boon. (200 words) 15
- (c) The frequency and intensity of lightning in India is escalating. Discuss the causes and consequences of this phenomena. (125 words) 10
- (d) Energy transition is considered the best measure to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality. Explain. (125 words) 10

- Q5.** (a) What are features of Zero-budget farming ? How is it different from organic farming ? (200 words) 15
- (b) What is Genetic Modification (GM) of crops and how is it done ? How does GM differ from conventional plant breeding ? Discuss the environmental impacts of GM crops. (200 words) 15
- (c) Ozone is useful only where it belongs. Explain. (125 words) 10
- (d) Herbicide Tolerant (HT) Bt Cotton adds another layer of modification. Elaborate. (125 words) 10
- Q6.** (a) Which year was declared by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Year of Light and why ? (200 words) 15
- (b) How can nuclear technology be used for power generation ? (200 words) 15
- (c) World community has reservations about Indian satellite launching vehicles as these can be easily converted to deliver nuclear warheads to long distances. How will you argue for India to dispel these fears ?
(125 words) 10
- (d) Name any two Indians who have got the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, for their contributions to the field of science and technology. Write briefly about their work. (125 words) 10

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