

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.

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) What were the main features of the townships of the Harappan Civilization?
(200 words) 15
- (b) In their essence, the Upanishads were completely different from the rest of the body of Vedic literature. Comment.
(200 words) 15
- (c) What were the principal tenets (Arya Satyani) of the teachings of Lord Buddha?
(125 words) 10
- (d) What was the immediate cause behind the Great Revolt of 1857?
(125 words) 10

2. (a) In view of 'globalized inflation', examine the effectiveness of the monetary policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to control current inflation in India.
(200 words) 15
- (b) Discuss the main features and the expected outcomes of the Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme launched by the Government of India. (200 words) 15
- (c) Explain the meaning and advantages of introducing the Reserve Bank of India's 'digital rupee' named as Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
(125 words) 10
- (d) What are the reasons for depreciation of the Indian rupee in recent times? What impact would it have on the economy?
(125 words) 10

3. (a) "A continental sized polity, carved out of the socio-cultural and ethno-geographic diversities is best governed and strengthened by the principle and practice of federalism in India." Explain. (200 words) 15
- (b) How do coalition governments, being formed after fiercely contested elections on diametrically opposed political ideologies, strengthen and deepen democracy in India?
(200 words) 15
- (c) Why is Indian secularism regarded as an exemplary model of inter-faith coexistence and peace?
(125 words) 10
- (d) How is independence of Indian judiciary ensured in the Indian Constitution?
(125 words) 10

4. (a) What are the effects of climate change on the sea level? How would these impact coastlines and coastal communities?
(200 words) 15
- (b) Enumerate the factors causing biodiversity loss and describe the characteristics of a biodiversity hotspot.
(200 words) 15

- (c) Write a note on 'tropical cyclones'. Discuss the genesis and impact of cyclone 'Amphan' on India. (125 words) 10
- (d) What is an aquifer? Discuss the main causes of depletion of groundwater. (125 words) 10
5. (a) What are 'non-timber forest products'? How do they ensure sustainable livelihoods of forest-dependent population in India? (200 words) 15
- (b) What are the main features of the 'Forest Conservation Rules, 2022' of India? Why were they considered to be more liberal towards developmental activities in the forested areas in India? (200 words) 15
- (c) 'Geographical Indication' tag for agricultural and horticultural products provides value addition. Write a note on it. (125 words) 10
- (d) Green Revolution helped India to achieve food security, but it is considered unsustainable. Why? (125 words) 10
6. (a) What is additive manufacturing (also called 3D printing)? Explain its usefulness in diverse fields. (200 words) 15
- (b) Which are the relevant technologies that may become part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and impact the future of work? (200 words) 15
- (c) What are 'dark matter' and 'dark energy'? How do we know that dark matter exists in nature? (125 words) 10
- (d) What are atomic clocks? Why do atomic clocks measure time more accurately as compared to mechanical clocks? (125 words) 10

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