

UPSC Civil Services Mains Exam – 2018:

General Studies Paper – 2

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

- (Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions)
- There are TWENTY questions
- All questions are compulsory.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.
- No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off

Questions:

1. In the light of recent controversy regarding the **use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM)**, what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India? (10 Marks, 150 Words)
2. Whether **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
3. Under what circumstances can the **Financial Emergency** be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? (10 Marks, 150 Words)
4. Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the **Estimates Committee**. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
5. “The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** has a very vital role to play.” Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
6. “**Policy contradictions** among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate ‘protection and prevention of **degradation to environment**.” Comment with relevant illustrations. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
7. Appropriate **local community level healthcare** intervention is a prerequisite to achieve ‘Health for All’ in India. Explain. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
8. **E-governance** is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about critical importance of the ‘use value’ of information. Explain. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
9. “**India’s relations with Israel** have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.” Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)
10. A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India’s joining the **Ashgabat Agreement, 2018**. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

11. Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the **political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi**? Examine. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
12. How far do you agree with the view that **tribunals** curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
13. **India and USA** are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the **two political systems** are based. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
14. How is the **Finance Commission of India** constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
15. Assess the importance of the **Panchayat system in India** as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing developmental projects? (15 Marks, 250 Words)
16. Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella **Human Rights Commission**? Argue your case. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
17. How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from **ineffective human development policies in India**? (15 Marks, 250 Words)
18. The **Citizen's Charter** is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters. (15 Marks, 250 Words)
19. What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of '**Trade War**', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (15 Marks, 250 Words)
20. In what ways would the ongoing **US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy** affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

For all previous year UPSC CSE Question Papers and Solutions, Please [Click Here](#)