

VAJIRAM & RAVI

MAIN EXAM TEST SERIES (June 2022)

GENERAL STUDIES

Focused Test - 3 (GS Paper 2)

Sectional Paper - 3

Time allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

ADMIN. NO.:

2 9 0 0 6 5 9

STUDENT ID:

2 1 V R 3 1 7 8 9

NAME:

CHAITANYA AWASTHI

MOBILE NO.

(compulsory)

EMAIL:

(compulsory)

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

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

There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**. All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever 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.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	3 /10	Q8	3 /10	Q15	4.5 /15
Q2	4 /10	Q9	2 /10	Q16	5.5 /15
Q3	3 /10	Q10	2.5 /10	Q17	6.5 /15
Q4	3 /10	Q11	5.5 /15	Q18	4.5 /15
Q5	— /10	Q12	4.5 /15	Q19	6.5 /15
Q6	— /10	Q13	— /15	Q20	4 /15
Q7	4 /10	Q14	5 /15	Total	72 /250

Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –

1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call 96672-73133 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

VAJIRAM & RAVI
IAS STUDY CENTRE LLP
14 JUL 2022
FOR EVALUATION

SDK-160.

VAJIRAM & RAVI
IAS STUDY CENTRE LLP
23 JUL 2022
REVIEWED
PMK 110

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language and Articulation	✓					
Structure and Presentation			✓			
Conceptual clarity and Content		✓				
Number of Attempted questions		✓				

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions

Dear chaitya awasthi,

Strong Point → your conceptual clarity and content are very.

⊙ you are good command over the subject matter.

⊙ you have fair understand of topic.

⊙ you used intro-body-conclusion approach in your answer which is really appreciated.

Area of improvement

→ you can use some data fact in your introduction.

→ intro should be brief and to the point don't explain too much.

→ divide your answer in subpart under suitable heading according to the demand of question.

→ if conclusion is demanding way forward then write some way forward.

→ practice more and you will improve your self all the best.

(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

1. Do you think that the Preamble is just a preface to the Indian Constitution and serves no other significant purpose?

(10 marks, 150 words)

Preamble is like a preface to our Constitution which serves as an introduction to it. While some argue of its quintessence, another section of scholars believe it serves no more a purpose than a decorative prelude.

The reasons behind their belief are:

- ① No power conferred by Preamble
- ② Not justiciable in the Court of law
- ③ No rights / duties conferred.

As the US Supreme Court, this school also prescribes mere ornamentational value to it.

However, even the Supreme Court of India has declared preamble to be an integral part of our Constitution with immense value.

Introduction can be improved you can simply define what is Preamble.
 ~~Spoke~~
 ~~this part~~
 ~~from the~~
 ~~Introduction~~

You can skip this especially in 10 marks

The Preamble serves the following functions:

- ① Key to unravel the mind of constitutional makers to guide in times of ambiguity.
- ② Reveals the objectives, aspirations and principles of the Constitution
- ③ Tells us about the source of authority i.e., the People
- ④ Reveals the date of adoption along with the nature of Indian state.

As N. Palkhivala rightly said, "Preamble is the ID card of our Constitution."

you can write in separate subheading

⊙ Preamble as the preface I

⊙ Other than Preface I

⊙ Provide insight

⊙ utility for common man

⊙ source of Authority

⊙ Nature of Indian state

⊙ objective

⊙ date of Adoption

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	0.5	Suggestions:
Body	2	
Conclusion	0.5	
Presentation		
Marks:	3	

2.

The Right to be Forgotten is an integral part of individual autonomy and forms a basic pillar of the right to privacy. Comment.

(10 marks, 150 words)

In K.S. Puttaswamy Case, Supreme Court of India recognized Right to Privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21. The Court observed that privacy is in qua non for a dignified life and serves both normative as well as descriptive functions.

good info could make it only

Right to be Forgotten (RTBF) entails removal of information pertaining to one's self from public records, documents, internet etc. RTBF has been recognized as a statutory right under EU's General Data Protection Regulation. However, in India it has not such status.

good According to the demand

Why RTBF:

① Opportunity for a fresh start for people acquitted from Courts etc., to avoid prejudices.

② Be in control of one's data as a feature of true consent.

Right to be forgotten is good but link to individual autonomy and right to privacy

- ③ Courts also observed that privacy includes deciding and having control over one's information.

CONCERNS

- ① Public character of judgements and internet
 ② Necessary for administrative, law and order matters to retain records
 ③ Internet like an infinite multiplier, difficult to remove once posted.

make this statement more clear

National security & criminal justice system

Justice BN Srikrishna has acknowledged the RTBF in Personal Data Protection Bill.

However, any such recommendation ought to pass the litmus test of fine balance between individual rights and social obligations.

Conclusion can be improved
RTBF

is not a common law or a statutory right

If enforced properly will go a long way in addressing growing case where people want removal of Personal information from internet

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1	Suggestions:
Body	2.5	
Conclusion	0.5	
Presentation		
Marks:	4	

3. Analyze the significance of the office of the speaker in improving the legislative quality of the Parliament.

(10 marks, 150 words)

The proceedings of Lok Sabha are headed by a presiding officer called Speaker.

The office can be traced back to Government of India Act, 1919.

Speaker plays an unmatched role in improving the legislative quality of Parliament in the following ways:

① The Speaker presides over and conducts business in the House.

② No member can speak until he/she has the attention of Speaker.

③ The Speaker acts as a guardian of rights and privileges of the members.

④ The Speaker strengthens democracy by providing a level field to opposition and ample opportunities of discussion.

⑤ The Speaker ensures discipline and decorum in House for smooth functioning of parliamentary business.

- ⑥ The Speaker is the final interpreter of Constitutions, Rules etc. within the House.
- ⑦ Speaker decides on the nature of Bill, DQ of Member, Quorum of House and also votes in case of deadlock. *relevant*
- ⑧ Most of the devices of parliamentary procedures gain sanction for him.
- ⑨ The Speaker constitutes various Parliamentary Committees to enrich the legislative process.

Recent conclusion
Given the immense importance, the Constitution provides various safeguards to ensure independence. Yet, apprehensions of bias persist. It is up to the occupant to live up to the expectations of non-partisanship.
can't improve by giving suggestion to improve performance of office.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	0.5	Suggestions: <i>Address the demand of the question</i>
Body	2	
Conclusion	0.5	
Presentation	1	
Marks:	3	

4. Ordinance making by the executive is violative of the Principle of Separation of Power. Do you agree that the constitutional and Judicial safeguards have been successful in preventing the misuse of such powers?

(10 marks, 150 words)

good use of Articles
in 123 and 213 of the Indian Constitution empower the President and Governor respectively. Such power is to be exercised on the aid and advice of Council of Ministers. info is good but you can also start with explaining the separation of power

Ordinance is a temporary legislation to meet an exigency when both or one of the House is not in session. It is not a parallel power of legislation and has to be passed within 6 weeks of reassembly by the Parliament/State Legislature. Don't explain it is similar to ordinance

Given its controversial nature, a number of safeguards have been provided:

- ① Rules of Lok Sabha mandate laying of a demand memo explaining the circumstances that warranted the ordinance. this is not the actual demand

Some extra point → An ordinance is subject to the same constitutional limitations as an Act of Parliament. good

② In RC Cooper Case, Supreme Court allowed Judicial review on limited grounds

③ In Krishnakumar Case, Judicial Review was extended to consider:

Ⓐ Sufficient Cause Ⓑ Oblique Motive

However, despite these checks, the executive ~~breaches~~ the practices such as

good Repromulgation of Ordinances raise

serious concerns about accountability and Separation of Power. (In DC Wadhwa

Case, Supreme Court too criticized the above practice and called for restraint,

reform and respect of functions by each organ of government.

Conclusion Missing

Reform needed to restrict the maximum limit of ordinance all stakeholders act responsibly

Students should not write anything inside the box

Judicial Safeguards	Constitutional Safeguards
① —	① —
② —	② —
③ —	③ —

Introduction	0.5	Suggestions:
Body	2.5	
Conclusion	—	
Presentation	—	
Marks:	3	

(Q. No.)

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(Don't write
Anything in
this part)

5. Provide a brief comparison of Constitutional scheme of South Africa with that of India.

(10 marks, 150 words)

(Q. No.)

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(Don't write
Anything in
this part)

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body.	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

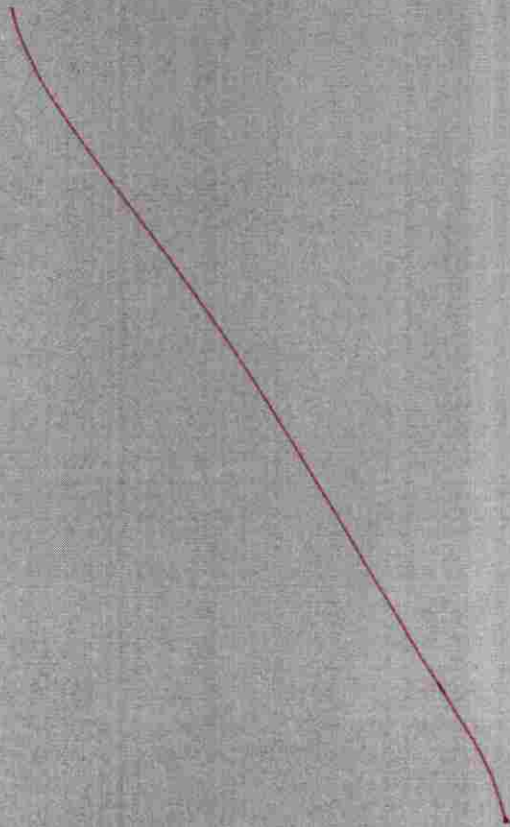
(Q. No.)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write
Anything in
this part)

6. Defiance in the current regulatory system stem from deeper rooted problems in the regulatory structure. In this context, highlight the need of a principles based regulatory system in India.

(10 marks, 150 words)



(Q. No.)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write
Anything in
this part)

rite
g ir
rt)

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

7. What do you understand by the principle of subsidiarity? Explain how the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act strives to achieve this principle.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Principle of Subsidiarity relates to ~~at~~ decentralized decision making and allowing governance as close to the grassroots as possible.

The 73rd CAA, 1993 was a landmark moment in this endeavour. The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and their constitutionality cemented a new chapter in history of Indian democracy.

The formation of Gram Sabhas ushered a new epoch in empowerment. 73rd CAA added the 11th Schedule to the Constitution. It contained a list of 27 subjects which the PRI were empowered to govern upon.

Minor Irrigation

Electricity/Road

Farm, Forestry etc.

SUBJECTS

Sanitation, Water

Public Health, wells

Vocational Education

very recent

introduction

could improve definition

should have a subsidiary function

performing only these tasks

cannot be performed at local level

good

Point

can skip this

Good
Relevant
Points

mention
this principle
of subsidiarity
is ensured by
women's
reservation

Conclusion
can be
improved
provide
some way
forward

Strengthen local governance
more autonomy in finance
more autonomy in administration

These subjects most directly affect the
every day life of citizens and thus
by ensuring they fall under the domain
of PRT, socio-economic and political
power devolution was ensured.

Further the power to make development
plans, social audits etc. enhanced political
participation and accountability.

Recent initiative like "Sabka Plan" ensure
responsive governance and demand-based
development.

However, many issues such as fiscal constraints,
politicization, corruption, pradhanpati culture
etc. plague the utopian panacea and a
lot needs to be done to strengthen
such democratic institutions.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1	Suggestions:
Body	2.0	
Conclusion	0.5	
Presentation		
Marks:	3.5	

8. India's engagement with the Taliban may or may not achieve much, but non-engagement will definitely hurt India's interests. Examine the statement in light of steps taken by the government of India.

(10 marks, 150 words)

The abrupt withdrawal of USA followed by a swift takeover by Taliban set in motion a new episode in "The Great Game" of Afghanistan. The transition saw immediate reactions from almost all key geopolitical players, each eyeing to secure its national interests and consolidate its influence.

However, India stands at diplomatic crossroads of dilemma on engagement with a terror outfit which had in past used its resources against India.

INDIA'S INTERESTS AND CONCERNS:

① SECURITY

- ↳ Prevent use of Afghan soil as breeding ground for anti-India outfits.
- ↳ Contain Pakistan's growing sphere of influence and proximity to regime in power
- ↳ Growing China-Pakistan-Afghanistan nexus may be harmful for India's geopolitical interests and quest for sub-continental hegemony

Points
are good
but
Please
Separate
the Issue
and benefit
in different
different
Subheading

② ECONOMIC

- India had invested in several infrastructure energy, transportation projects.
eg. Parliament, Salma Dam, Friendship Highway
- As part of Golden Crescent, Afghanistan holds key to curb arms and drug trafficking
- Afghanistan could connect India to Central and West Asia bypassing Pakistan
- Contain China's String of Pearls and OBOR

③ Political

- Non inclusion of India at the cost of Pakistan in important groupings like Trioka Plus hurts its quest to influence major global decisions.

MEASURES BY INDIA

- Keeping in mind the immense geopolitical, economic and strategic importance, India has actively started efforts to assert its presence.

① Resolution 2593 to prevent Afghan soil to harbour terrorist organizations

② Humanitarian Aid ③ Op Danti Shakti

④ Formal and Informal Engagement with Taliban

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	0.5	Suggestions: try to bring in keywords from the question in your subheadings so that you don't digress from the topic. beneficial for India and Afghan exploration
Body	2.5	
Conclusion	—	
Presentation	—	
Marks	3	

Missing
you can
provide
some way
forward

① → how they are.

9.

"Indian Diaspora is the true and permanent ambassadors of the country". In this context, bring out the significance of the Indian diaspora with (suitable examples).

②

(10 marks, 150 words)

The Indian diaspora comprises roughly 31 million people spread across different regions of the world. It has always been a strong pillar in the realm of international relations with their multi-faceted contributions.

good
Introduce
you can
write in
data or
example
for

explain
in brief
how
The diaspora is not just a crucial economic contributor (eg. China countries) but also technological contributions and import of best practices via people in important leadership roles.

They Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (2003), PTD-DCT are cards etc. gave a filip to the strong economic roots and engagement with their native land.

don't
give just
examples

↳ Operation Rashtra, Devi Shakti, Ganga etc. solidified India's resolve to leave "No Indian Behind."

not
asked
in the
question

↳ Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, Pravasi Bhartiya Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Merge of PTD-DCT etc. added to procedural simplification and gain of trust.

then
over
good
efforts

given examples
are good

but it does
the actual

demand

the demand

it how disperse

are significant

for 2 dia

like

ambassador

lobbying

for 2 dia

reputation

of country

prominence

foreign

investment

bilateralities

political influence

The diaspora has played role of enabler, facilitator, crisis manager in several politico-economic engagements of India

Twitter Diplomacy, know Your India program etc. have added to the strong relationship.

Growing interest in domestic affairs and reception to Indian leaders abroad is symbolic of India's growing global stature.

As true ambassadors of India's soft power, the diaspora holds immense potential which must be effectively channelized by the Government in sync with national interest.

This can be achieved by cultural exchanges, people to people contacts, constructive engagement with global talent (Satya Nadella) etc.

Conclusion is good but it can be improved. Provide some way forward - education, medical vis.

Students should not write anything inside the box

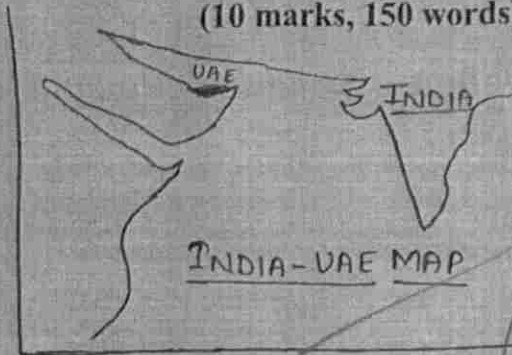
Introduction	0.5
Body	1.
Conclusion	0.5
Presentation	
Marks:	2

Suggestions:

10. Comment upon the evolving nature of India-UAE relations with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

India has key geo-strategic interests in West Asia. In the last few decades, UAE has emerged as a key

player in Middle East. It has thus attracted traction not just from India but Western Nations given its relatively ~~the~~ softer socio-economic outlook. (eg. Israel-USA-UAE Abraham Accords)



INDIA'S INTERESTS

① Geo-political

- ↳ Key part of India's attempt at greater influence in Middle East. eg. I2U2 (aka 2nd Quad, India-Israel-USA-UAE)
- ↳ Being a port country, countering Chinese influence.

Crucial for balance between Iran, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

② Economic

- ↳ UAE looking to diversify beyond hydrocarbon.
- ↳ India, a lucrative destination.
- ↳ Top 3 trading partner of India
- ↳ Huge Remittance from UAE to India

Points
are
done
just
write
Point
explain
that
show
the
nature

- Recent India- UAE CEPA to intensify the economic relationship which is the backbone of India-UAE ties.
- Sovereign Fund of UAE invests in Startups and FDI for India.

③ Socio-Cultural

- Large Diaspora, Expos and Cultural Programs.
- State Head Visits
- Cricket and Bollywood events.

④ Security

- Combat anti-India radicalism
- secure Indian interests in the Persian Gulf given its strategic location
- Energy security for India.

energy
Security

main
challenge

In view of its importance, India has intensified its engagement with UAE keeping in mind its strategic autonomy and multialignment policy.

Conclusion is good

can be improved both country look

at the challenges that exists in the

Common Path to Prosperity

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	0.5	Suggestions: Read question properly to understand the demand of the question Should work together to resolve
Body	1.5	
Conclusion	0.5	
Presentation		
Marks:	2.5	

11. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms have the potential to change the judicial landscape, however, their outcomes are very limited in scope. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

(15 marks, 250 words)

ADR refers to a set of mechanisms enabling settlement of disputes outside Courts. These involve a neutral third party mostly and are primarily based on the principles of consent.

They are of various types:

- ① Arbitration → Mostly a binding adjudication by an arbitrator.
- ② Conciliation → Non binding procedure wherein a conciliator helps parties arrive at an agreed settlement.
- ③ Negotiation → Non binding process wherein parties try to reach an amicable solution without 3rd party intervention.
- ④ Mediation → Mediator helps parties reach a consensual resolution of dispute.
- ⑤ Lok Adalats → Informal Hearing in presence of judicial officer. Final and Binding.

good
it is
consider
it with
judiciary
to set
the context

Arbitration
not
the
Actual
settlement
of the
question

Why ADR

6 ADR can help address several legacy issues plaguing our judicial systems.

- ① Decrease Pendency in Courts → A.
- ② Less Time Consuming
- ③ Cost Effective
- ④ Citizen Centric with simplified and non technical procedures.
- ⑤ Informal setting encourages introduction of several facts
- ⑥ Non-adversarial nature, ^{good} abating feeling of enmity thus decreasing potential future litigation.
- ⑦ Complements India's vision of free legal aid and accessible justice ✓ A-39-A.

Concerns with ADR

- ① Non binding nature encourages further litigation
- ② Imbalance in party powers in absence of uniformity of regulations
- ③ Cultural, Linguistic, Socio economic barriers
- ④ Lack of compulsion may lead to party withdrawal and wastage of resources thereto dispensed

⑤ Binding nature makes it un-appealable and may deny rights.

⑥ Lack of Awareness.

Explain in brief

Given the potential, Indian Government and Judiciary has nudged the adoption of various ADR Mechanisms. Some efforts are:

- ① e Courts Mission - Permanent Lok Adalats
- ② Pre litigation referral by Judiciary
- ③ Awareness workshops, seminars etc.
- ④ SAMADHAAN portal for MSME
- ⑤ ODR Policy, Mediation Bill etc.

Other Points
 O Legal service Authority Act was passed in 1987

However, even in such initiatives concerns like digital divide, privacy, accessibility ought to be addressed sufficiently.

to encourage out of court settlement

Conclusion can be improved

it is a excellent tool to unburden the judiciary and fulfill the constitutional responsibility of fast and fair justice

① New Arbitration and Conciliation Act (1996)

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1	Suggestions:
Body	4	
Conclusion	0.5	
Presentation	—	
Marks	5.5	

12. There seems to be no end to the debate surrounding the nature and extent of parliamentary privileges. In this regard, assess the need for codification of Parliamentary Privileges. Also, highlight the judicial pronouncement in the direction of bringing clarity to parliamentary privileges.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Parliamentary Privileges are a set of rights/immunities/exemptions enjoyed by the members of parliament collectively as well as individually. In the absence of codification, they are drawn from a variety of sources like Constitution, Rules of House, Conventions etc. ^{A-194} A-105 explicitly provides for freedom of speech and right of publication.

Collective Privileges

- ↳ Regulate own procedure
- ↳ Held "Secret Sitting"
- ↳ Prohibit Courts from inquiring into proceedings
- ↳ Punish members/outside for breach/contempt
- ↳ Order inquiries/call witnesses
- ↳ Call for information on arrest/conviction of members.
- ↳ Publish reports, debates etc and prohibit others
- ↳ No arrest within precincts without Presiding Officer's Consent.

Individual Privileges

- ↳ Freedom from arrest during / 40 days before or after the Session.
- ↳ Freedom of Speech
- ↳ Exemption from giving evidence / appear as witness during session.

Although these privileges were provided to strengthen legislative process and encourage parliamentarians to act freely without coercion, ^{their} ~~they~~ utility has often been eclipsed by misuse.

Why Codification:

- ① Abate ambiguity
- ② Wide discretion to self regulate needs to be curbed
- ③ Accountability and Responsible Behaviour
- ④ Rampant misuse to settle political scores
- ⑤ Codification would eventually mean recourse to Judiciary being available.

Further, other democratic countries like UK, USA seem to be working well without such wide arbitrary powers conferred upon their

Points are good but write in brief don't make separate point for individual and collective Privilege

instead write reasons for need to debate surround the nature and extent of Parliamentary Privilege

good point to make demand of Justice

explain this point with examples

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(Don't write
Anything in
this part)

lawmakers.

Following acts of vandalism within the Kerala legislative assembly by lawmakers, Supreme Court took a stringent view towards the situation and remarked:

↳ No criminal exemption in garb of parliamentary privileges as that would amount to breach of democratic trust.

A 105 and 194 provide protection to acts related to discharge of their duties and not all acts

↳ Codification of privilege in clear terms ~~was~~ ^{is} the need of the hour.

↳ Searchlight case (1958)

↳ Keshavn Singh case (1965)

↳ Rao Ram Pal case (2007)

then conclude properly with some way forward.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1	Suggestions:
Body	3.0	
Conclusion	0.5	
Presentation		
Marks:	4.5	

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Q. No.)

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Anything in
this part)

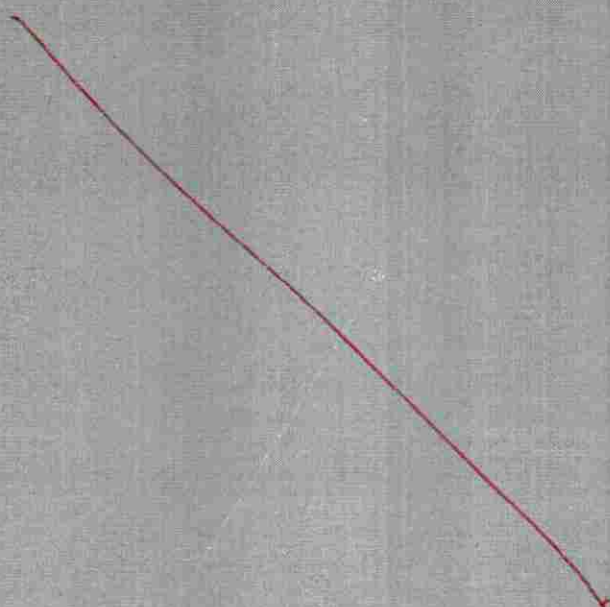
13. Highlight the need for the creation of an independent umbrella authority for central investigation agencies. Do you think it will solve the concerns associated with the status of 'Caged Parrot' of CBI?

(15 marks, 250 words)

(Q. No.)

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(Don't write
Anything in
this part)



No.)

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(Don't write
Anything in
this part)

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

14. The recent Russia-Ukraine war has deepened the Sino-Russian engagement. Analyze its geopolitical implications for India?

(15 marks, 250 words)

The diplomatic failure and threat exchanges between Russia and the West finally culminated into physical warfare with Russia invading Eastern Ukraine under the banner of liberating it.

CAUSES

- ① Eastward expansion of NATO
- ② Attempts of economic integration with EU
- ③ Russia's Warm Water Policy (Black Sea and Sevastopol)
- ④ Failure of diplomatic channels (Minsk process)
- ⑤ Separatist movements in East Ukraine.
- ⑥ Security concerns for Russia if buffer state

SINO - RUSSIAN BONHOMIE

Following stringent politico-economic sanctions from the West, Russia has tilted towards China as its natural ally given the polarising status quo.

↳ Russia seems to be taking after the "Wolf Warrior" Diplomacy of China, standing its ground against international backlash.

↳ Russia looks for legitimacy in China and has received favourable response.

↳ Like China, Russia is using the energy and economic dependence of West upon it to its advantage - Weaponising Supply Chain (eg. Nord Stream).

↳ China has actively backed Russia and has opposed various resolutions condemning Russia at international platforms.

↳ Russia's aggressive assertiveness plays well with China's current image.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

① Russia's proximity to China is a big blow to India's attempts at containing China.

② The war shifts the international backlash to Russia which hitherto was mounting on China.

③ Russia-China-Pakistan nexus is catastrophic for India's neighbourhood ambitions and security.

④ India is stuck between an all weather friend in Russia and an indispensable partner in US.

- Points are
good but
for the
better
Presentation
you can
devote
the
implication
for India
in positive
and
negative
this will
help you
to gain
some
extra mark
- ⑤ S-400 deal v. CAATSA considerations
⑥ India's energy and defence reliance upon Russia.

India has repeatedly advocated for a nonviolent peaceful resolution and respect of international law. At the same time India has abstained from voting upon anti-Russian sanctions and continues to engage in economic relations (eg. cheap oil). India has reiterated that its stance is neither for nor against any nation, but in line with its strategic autonomy and national interests. This diplomatic tightrope is necessary since India can't justify Russia's aggression given its implications upon its border issues, nor can it desert its trusted ally Russia.

"War does not determine who is right, only who is left."

- Bertrand Russell.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	0.5
Body	4
Conclusion	0.5
Presentation	
Marks:	5

Suggestions:

work on making
introduction more
contextual.

negative implication
for India

15. "BIMSTEC lies at the crossroads between SAARC and ASEAN, drawing its energy from the natural convergence of the countries around the Bay of Bengal". Discuss.

(15 marks, 250 words)

BIMSTEC is a regional multilateral organization established in 1997 via Bangkok declaration.

Its members include

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Thailand.

It is a multi sectoral technological and economic partnership wherein the member states allocate several areas of cooperation to each other.

With the current geopolitical discourse, the organization has assumed unprecedented importance especially for India.

Why BIMSTEC

① Key role in Neighbourhood First and Act East Policy

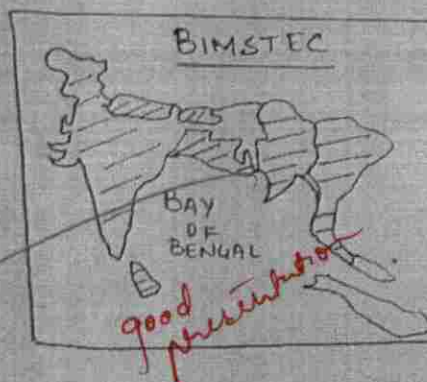
② Crucial Doctrine and attempt of India to be clearly the net security provider of the region.

③ Like minded neighbours, harness potential to develop the entire region.

④ Bridge between South and Southeast Asia

⑤ Inclusion of Regional Power

⑥ India-Regional cooperation



good

method

but

can

start

answer

by

mention

Recent

article &

with BIM

Point are

good but

it does

not show

clearly

has BIM

at the

crossroad

between

SAARC and

ASEAN

like

UNited India

- Some points are good but it does not show BIMSTEC draw its energy from natural resources of countries around the Bay of Bengal.
- ④ Isolate Pakistan and make SAARC less relevant so as to exclude Pakistan.
 - ⑤ With Indian Ocean Region becoming the new global theatre for power struggle, BIMSTEC states are geostrategically located close to choke points like Malacca.
 - ⑥ Contain China's Maritime Silk Road and boxing up of India.
 - ⑦ At crossroads of global SLOCs, BIMSTEC states have immense potential to influence geopolitics.
 - ⑧ Inter regional connectivity and doorway to East Asia (eg. BBIN, IMT etc.)

CHALLENGES & CONCERNS :

- ① Socio-cultural barriers
② Free connectivity
③ effective regional growth
- ① China's growing influence. Many BIMSTEC states are part of China's BRI.
 - ② Minimal trade between BIMSTEC nations.
 - ③ Inter regional disputes and differences. (Indo-Nepal, Bangladesh-Myanmar)
 - ④ Dormant organization with few conferences.
 - ⑤ Divergent political outlooks (eg. Myanmar coup)
- briefly explain how give an answer
- Good Point

Way Forward :

Given the importance of the region, India has intensified its engagement and revived BIMSTEC as a priority organization.

- good
valuable
Point
- ① Invitation to BIMSTEC leaders for Indian PM's swearing in ceremony 2019
 - ② BIMSTEC Conference to mark 25th Anniversary
 - ③ Focus on BIMSTEC meets and IDRA conferences to isolate Pakistan and render SAARC defunct.
 - ④ Impetus to economic relations via BIMSTEC FTA
 - ⑤ Extension of credit lines, currency swaps and fiscal support to prevent Debt Traps
 - ⑥ Push to infrastructure and connectivity projects.

these
are
good
initiatives
in this
regard

these
points
could
be
way
forward

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1	Suggestions:
Body	2.5	
Conclusion	1.0	
Presentation		
Marks:	4.5	

16. The Rajya Sabha is not only a House for second thoughts but is also a guardian of a state's interests. In this context, critically examine if Rajya Sabha has lived up to its expectations.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Rajya Sabha (Upper House) was established following the introduction of bicameralism by Government of India Act, 1919. It has a sanctioned strength of 250 members. Currently a total of 245 (233 elected + 12 nominated) members constitute Rajya Sabha. It is a permanent House with $\frac{1}{3}$ rd members retiring every 2 years. States are given proportional representation and members are elected indirectly by MLAs.

The opinion seems to be divided with respect to Rajya Sabha with one section considering it to be an indispensable element of Indian Polity while the other rejecting it as redundant.

Rajya Sabha as a Guardian of State's interests:

- ↳ It plays an essential role in the election of President
- ↳ It symbolizes Indian Federalism acting as a safety valve against power usurping legislations. *→ how?*
- ↳ It is a deliberative and evaluative body which gives a platform to raise states' concerns and check hasty legislation. *could be checked*
- ↳ Its consent is mandatory for creation of All India Services or legislating upon a State subject u/A-249. *good use of Article*
- ↳ It provides representation to vulnerable sections which cannot compete in direct elections as well attracts talent and expertise via Presidential nomination.
- ↳ It needs to approve Emergency and other unitary measures.

However, despite these essential roles, Rajya Sabha has drawn a lot of criticism and questions over its utility due to the following issues:

Point are good but for the better Presentation you can divide your answers in Subheading like How Rajya Sabha is a house for Second thought and how Rajya Sabha as a guardian of State Intty!

ISSUES :

- ① Non Representative → Unequal seats to States
No domicile criteria
- ② Bypassed → Important legislations as Money Bill (eg. Aadhar Act)
- ③ Spoils System → Indirect election and nomination are undemocratic
- ④ Low Attendance and Declining Productivity
- ⑤ House of Delay → Important legislations are stalled to settle political scores.
- ⑥ Repromulgation of Ordinances → Rajya Sabha rendered ineffective.

Conclusion
can be
improved

As the touch bearer of Indian Federalism, Rajya Sabha needs to reinvent itself to effectively discharge its duty as the Guardian of states' rights.

You can
provide
some way
forward too

→ like → equality in Representation
→ more Power to Rajya Sabha
→ increased the number of members

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1	Suggestions:
Body	4	
Conclusion	0.5	
Presentation		
Marks:	5.5	

17. The vital role envisaged for the office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) necessitates its independence. Comment.

(15 marks, 250 words)

A 148 provides for an independent office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). He is the head of Indian Audit and Accounts Department. He is the guardian of public purse for both Centre as well as States.

very good
Introduction

ROLE OF CAG :

As per A-149, Parliament determines the duties. Accordingly CAG Act, 1971 provided:

① Audit all expenditure from consolidated fund, public account and contingency fund of both Centre and State

good
valid
Point

② Audit
 → substantially govt. financed body
 → Government company
 → Other body as required by law

③ Any other body on request of President/Governor (eg. local bodies)

frame sentence
more clearly

④ Report to President/Governor who lay these reports before parliament/legislative assembly

- ⑤ 3 Reports
- Appropriation Accounts
 - Finance Accounts
 - Public Undertakings

These reports are examined by PAC.

- ⑥ Ensure financial accountability of Executive

- ⑦ Guide, Friend, Philosopher to CAG PAC.

- ⑧ 'Proprietary Audit' at his discretion

Given the significance of his office in holding Executive accountable, he has been provided with a number of safeguards to ensure independence.

INDEPENDENCE OF CAG :

- ① Appointed by President by warrant under his hand and seal.

- ② Security of tenure, not at President's discretion

- ③ Cannot be employed under Centre/state after stint as CAG

- ④ Salaries/Allowances determined by Parliament (equivalent to SC Judge) and can't be varied to his disadvantage.

⑤ Expenditure is charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and hence can't be voted upon.

Critics point out the limitations such as:

- ① Limited role w.r.t. Government Corporations
- ② Post Mortem Accountability
- ③ Discourages quick decision making etc.

explaining
in brief
about the
challenges

Yet, CAG remains one of the pillars supporting democracy and holding governments accountable to the citizenry.

NO
Criteria
of Appoint

Dr. Ambedkar rightfully called it the most important office in Constitution.

does not
have power
to release
the Report

good conclusion

but you can write some suggestion like
there is a need for the institutionalized
Process of selection of CAG.

No power
of enforcement

Framing a transparent selection process

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1	Suggestions:
Body	4.5	
Conclusion	1	
Presentation	—	
Marks:	6.5	

18. How do the provisions of the recently passed Election Laws Amendment Act, 2021 helpful in addressing the issue of duplicate voting? Also, highlight the concerns associated with the Act.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Elections are the bedrock of democratic foundations. It is a tool of empowerment making participative democracy meaningful.

In order to strengthen the electoral system,

Government recently passed Election Laws Amendment Act, 2021 which amends RPA, 1950 and RPA, 1951.

FEATURES :

- ① Linking electoral roll data with Aadhar
 ↳ for authentication of entries in electoral roll
 ↳ addresses issues of duplicity and multiple entries at different places.
 ↳ However, it may not be mandatory and no name would be cut off if "adequate reasons" are given or alternate documents provided.

- ② Gender Neutral Terminology
 ↳ replacing "wife" with "spouse" in Service notes.

③ Cut Off Dates

- ↳ 4 (Apr. 1, July 1, Oct 1, Jan. 1) instead of 1
- ↳ increase participation and accessibility

explanatory
features
about the
Provision

④ Requisition of Premises

- ↳ expands the purposes for such requisition
- ↳ for administrative ease and efficient management.

~~focus on~~
an Ho.
It will
help to
address
voting

However, the Act has raised severe concerns being voiced by some sections of population.

CONCERNS :

like
"Linkage" of Aadhar
will remove multiple
enrolment

① Privacy

- ↳ Linking with Aadhar may lead to political profiling

good
valued
Points

② Discretion

- ↳ wide discretion to electoral officers to decide "sufficient cause"

as per the
demand

③ Burden of Proof

- ↳ unjustly shifted to citizens adding to cumbersome nature of elections.

for
proof

good
points

④ Aadhar Inconsistency

- ↳ mere ID proof, not of residence
- ↳ even Aadhar has duplication

⑤ ECT control

- ↳ ECT has no control over Aadhar

⑥ Hasty legislation

- ↳ passed without consultations.

Elections are a significant tool for citizens to express their sovereignty. As such to allay apprehensions, Government ought to take everyone in confidence with due stakeholder consultations, publicity, committee scrutiny etc. Faith in electoral process is *sine qua non* for democracy and all efforts should be made to strengthen this faith.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1
Body	2.5
Conclusion	1
Presentation	—
Marks:	4.5

Suggestions:

law to ensure
the safety of
data

19. "Our Constitution would be both unitary as well as federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances." Discuss. Highlight the challenges faced by Indian federalism in the present times and circumstances.

(15 marks, 250 words)

The above statement by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar aptly describes the nature of Indian polity. Federalism refers to the constitutional division of powers between different levels of government (mostly Centre and State). Our Constitution makers did not opt for a strictly federal (USA) or unitary (UK) constitution given India's unique needs and polity.

To make it a dynamic document adaptable to the needs of the day, Our Constitution envisages a polity "federal in form, unitary in spirit".

UNITARY FEATURES

- ① During Emergencies (A-352, 356, 360), Parliament can legislate upon subjects in State list.
- ② Centre can give executive orders to states which they ought to honour (A-355)

good
introduction

Please
make
short
intro

③ Under A-360, President can direct states to observe canons of financial propriety.

④ U/A 249, Rajya Sabha "in national interest" can ask Parliament to legislate upon a State subject.

⑤ Parliament can also make laws to enforce international treaties which states are bound by.

⑥ Single Citizenship

⑦ Planning and Fiscal Centralization

⑧ Governor acts as "Agent of Centre" and reserves Bills for Presidential assent.

⑨ All India Services

⑩ Residuary Powers under Sch. 7.

Parliament can also unilaterally change dimensions, name etc. of states. India has thus been termed as "Indestructible Union of Destructible States."

FEDERAL FEATURES

④ Bicameralism

⑤ Rigidity in Amendment

⑥ President's Recommendation for Bills affecting state interests

① Constitution Supremacy

② Independent Judiciary

③ List 2, 3 in Sch. 7

⑦ Scheme implementation

CHALLENGES :

- ① Role of Governor → Appointment
→ interference in state polity in
- ② Centralization → List 1 ↑, List 3 ↑, List 2 ↓
→ AIS
→ Planning

③ Regionalism →

- ④ Fiscal Mismatch → States not allowed to
borrow externally
→ Dependent upon Centre

- ⑤ Narratives → One Nation One Language
→ GST
→ Central Agencies misuse

Prof. KC Wheare remarked that India is

like Quasi-federal. However, Supreme Court in

SR Bommai Case held Federalism to be

Basic Structure.

As Sarkaria Commission noted, Centralization
will lead to (BP) at Centre and anaemia

at periphery thereby paralysing administration.

It is of utmost importance to safeguard and
strengthen our federal character.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1	Suggestions: Keep a note of your word limit
Body	305	
Conclusion	1	
Presentation	5	
Marks:	60	

20. Though Public Interest Litigation (PIL) were instruments for the common man to reach higher judiciary, with vested interests, it has turned into Personal Interest Litigation". In this context, provide a critical account on the performance of PIL in India.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Introduction
in good
as per
the demand
of question
PIL originated in 1960s in USA to represent the unrepresented. In India, PN Bhagwati, J. and Krishna Iyer, J. ushered the practice through their judicial pronouncements in 1980s.

don't
explain
PIL too
much
just
briefly
explain
PIL entails a relaxation of traditional locus standi to enable any public spirited citizen/organization with sufficient interest to raise concerns of a section of society who are unable to do so due to poverty/ignorance / socioeconomic backwardness.

The SP Gupta Case attributed the following virtues to PIL:

- ① Vindication of Rule of Law
- ② Effective Access to Justice
- ③ Meaningful realization of Fundamental Rights.

PRINCIPLES OF PTL :

- ① Strategic Aim of Legal Aid
- ② 1998 SC guidelines for Scope of PTL
- ③ Relaxed procedure to empower those who can't knock on Court's door
- ④ Collective rights - private realm only when necessary.
- ⑤ Prima facie satisfaction of Courts necessary.

- good Point but don't explain too much add this Position

However, SC itself observed the worrying trends in PTL misuse and remarked

that it is not a panacea for all wrongs.

Supreme Court asserted that it should not be allowed to become "Personal Interest

Litigation or Publicity Interest Litigation"

to settle private enmity, harass administrative officials, stall developmental work etc.

To prevent abuse of PTL, Supreme Court in Balwant Singh case formulated Misuse

Guidelines for PTL :

- ① Encourage genuine petitions, curb vested interests.

→ Provide voice to voiceless

→ Safeguard fundamental Right

→ ensure affordable Justice

→ increase accountability of govt

that turn PTL in Personal Interest Litigation

good Q valid pay forward

Issue associated with PIL

- ② Each High Court to formulate rules
- ③ Prima facie verification of Petitioner's credentials.
- ④ Substantial Public Interest ought to be involved.
- ⑤ Impose exemplary costs to curb frivolous and motivated petitions.
- ⑥ Observe judicial restraint and restrict to matters within competence.

Interest litigation

↓

① Polarization of PIL

② Tool of harassment

③ Publicly stunt

④ Increase of Envoles Case

PIL is an empowering tool to infuse equality in judicial accessibility. However, as Dr. Ambedkar rightfully said, "Character of an institution (or process) is only as strong as that of the person occupying it."

Conclusion seems incomplete

good valid way forward

good conclusion but don't just leave it is, substantiate it in brief

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	1	Suggestions:
Body	2	
Conclusion	1 ✓	
Presentation		
Marks:	4	