

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT MAINS TEST SERIES 2025

GENERAL STUDIES

Subjective Assessment

GS2 | Polity-1

Test - 1 | Test Code VR112331

Evaluator Code:

Date of Assignment:

CQ:

NAME:

UTKARSH

Time allowed: 90 Minutes

ADMIN. NO.:

Email:

MOBILE NO.:

Submission Date:

18 - Nov - 2024

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

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

There are **TEN** 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
Q1	/10	Q6	/15
Q2	/10	Q7	/15
Q3	/10	Q8	/15
Q4	/10	Q9	/15
Q5	/10	Q10	/15
Subtotal	/50	Subtotal	/75
Penalty			
Total marks			/125

Instructions:-

- Legible Scanning:** Exercise due diligence in scanning your scripts for clear legibility
- Submissions** marred by poor scanning, notably those with illegible sections or blackened pages due to improper scanning, risk being excluded from the evaluation process.
- Non-Adherence Consequences:** Failure to comply with the aforementioned instructions may lead to the disqualification of your submission.

For Student Only

Start Time - 6:00 pm

End Time - 7:39

Mode of Examination online

Online

Offline

Receiving date -

Dispatch date -

Parameters		Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding				
Understanding Demand of Question				
Structure	Introduction			
	Body			
	Conclusion			
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.				
Language and Handwriting				
No. of Questions Attempted				
Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No				

Mentor's Feedback

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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



(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. Provisions related to federalism in the Indian Constitution are mainly inspired from the Government of India Act, 1935. Critically examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

Federalism is a system of government in which the powers are divided between two units of federation i.e. Center and States.

In India, Schedule VII provides for division of such powers.

- Federal features include
- ① Real polity
 - ② Constitutional Division of powers between Center & State
 - ③ Independence of Judiciary

Federalism inspired from Government of India Act, 1935 →

- ① The division of powers into union list, concurrent list, state list was present in ~~1955~~ 1935 act
- ② Institution of Governor as agent of

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Center was also present.

③ A federal Supreme Court for dispute resolution was set up by GoI, 1935.

However, not all federal features are from GoI, 1935 Act. They are →

① GoI, 1935 provided provincial autonomy and strong states.

↳ Indian Constitution gave more powers to center.

② Residuary powers were vested with provinces in GoI, 1935 but Indian Constitution gave to union.

③ while Federal Court was set up, independence was provided by Constitution to safeguard federalism.

Thus, while 1935 act formed the base, many new features were added and federalism stands as part of

Basic Structure today (SR Bommai case).

2. Discuss the challenges pertaining to the devolution of powers and finances to local levels in India. Suggest measures for effective decentralisation. (10 marks, 150 words)

Schedule XI and Schedule XII of Indian Constitution inserted via 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment call for devolution of powers and finances to local level.

Challenges in devolution of powers and finance →

① unwillingness of state to empower local bodies.

↳ only Kerala has devolved all 29 subjects of Schedule XI.

② State Finance Commissions not constituted on time.

↳ ②.1 They lack capacity and recommendation often ignored (Q^uAnc)

③ Inability of local bodies to raise own revenue.

↳ Study by RBI found only 1% of revenue from local sources.

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- ④ Lack of social and other auditing mechanism → ineffective fund utilisation
- ⑤ Poor property tax collection → lowest among OECD nations.

Measures of effective decentralisation

① Amitava Ray Committee → allocation of 10% share of income tax to urban local bodies

② 2nd ARC → defining criteria for appointment of state finance Commission

③ training and capacity building
↳ Gram Sadak Abhiyan

Other steps → ④ social auditing
→ ⑤ Municipal bonds
→ ⑥ Gram Sabha empowerment via People's Plan Campaign

This will help achieve objectives enshrined in Article 40 of effective decentralisation.

Introduction

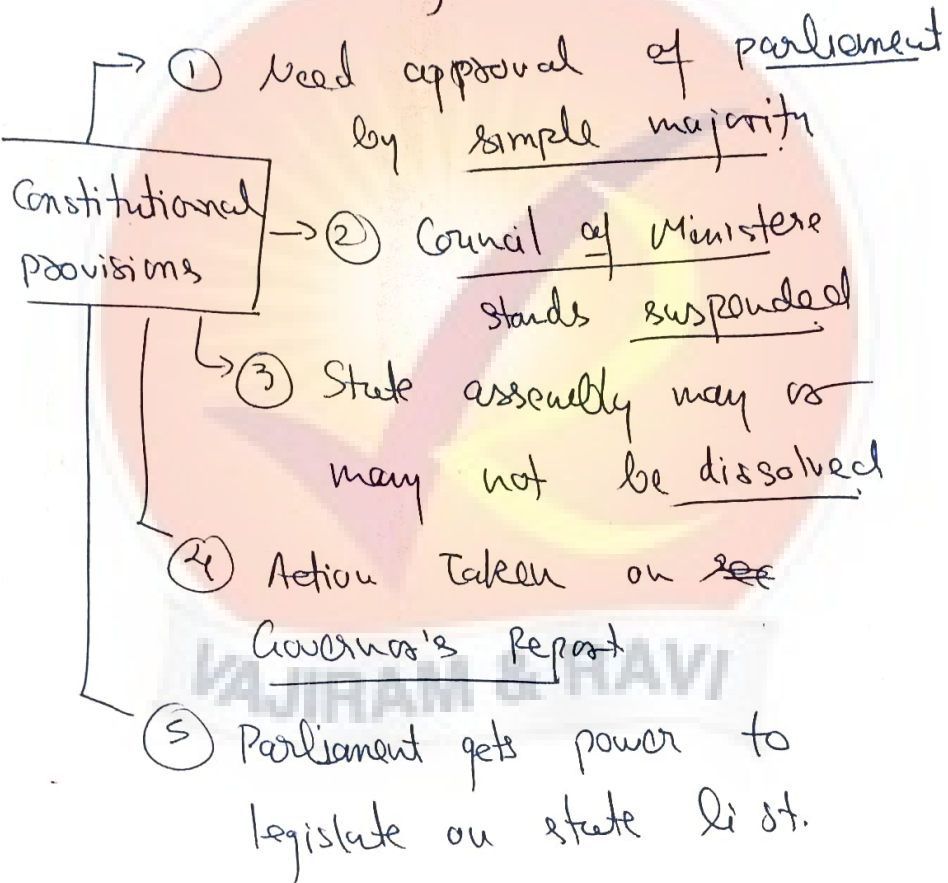
Conclusion

Presentation

is:

3. Examine the constitutional provisions regarding the imposition of President's Rule under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution. Explain the judicial safeguards imposed by the Supreme Court in the S.R. Bommai case to prevent the misuse of this provision. (10 marks, 150 words)

Article 356 a.k.a. President's Rule is imposed in case of failure of Constitutional Machinery in the state functioning.



Need of Article 356

- ① To ~~en~~ prevent Constitutional breakdown
- ② Ensure unity and integrity of

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India in case of internal security threats.

③ Deal with hung assembly.

Criticism → ① Misuse and overuse of Article 356

② often used by Central Government in past to topple governments.

③ Impacts stability of government

④ Impacts federalism.

Safeguards in SR Bommai Case

① If decision to impose Article 356 is found to be malafide → liable to be stuck down.

② Loss of majority be decided on floor of house.

③ Adequate time for forming government be given.

④ Act like corruption, mis-governance do not constitute breakdown of constitutional machinery.

Supreme Court intervention has played a key role in preventing misuse of Article 356.

Conclusion

Conclusion

Conclusion

Conclusion

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4. Analyze the impact of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) on the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution. (10 marks, 150 words)

Citizenship Amendment Act was recently passed by parliament in 2019 to make it simpler for people from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan belonging to set of religious communities and facing persecution to acquire Indian citizenship.

Impact of Citizenship Amendment Act

① on Justice

→ the act promotes justice by providing citizenship status to those facing religious persecution.

→ strengthens India's humanitarian image at global stage.

② on liberty :

→ by providing citizenship, they

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will enjoy same freedom and liberty as any other Indian citizen.

③ on equality : → Article 14 to 18 calls for equality and non-discrimination on various grounds. However, CAA provides for religion as criteria for seeking citizenship which is seen as alleged violation of equality under Article 14.

④ Fraternity : By giving equal political rights to persecuted people seeking refuge, CAA upholds principle of fraternity.

Thus, CAA impacts various principles of Preamble in above mentioned ways.

Introduction	
Conclusion	
Representation	
Signature	

5. Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to the Cabinet System of government. (10 marks, 150 words)

British and India both follow the cabinet system of government ~~however~~ where the cabinet of ministers is collectively responsible to the parliament.

Comparison of two systems

- ① India does not have shadow cabinet which is present in Britain.
- ② UK has system of once a speaker always a speaker, not found in India.
- ③ Similarity: Both countries follow principle of collective responsibility to the legislature.
- ④ In India Constitution is supreme, whereas in Britain, parliament is supreme.

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5) Judicial Review in Britain is narrow whereas very wide in India.

6) In Britain, courts can review only ~~leg~~ executive action as per procedure established by law whereas in India, courts can review both legislative and executive judicial action as per due process of law (Menka Gandhi case).

7) Similarity: In both countries, head of state i.e. President and monarch are symbolic heads.

Thus, cabinet system of India and Britain have similarities and differences.

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6. Critically examine the role of tribunals as dispute redressal mechanisms in India. What steps can be taken to enhance their effectiveness? (15 marks, 250 words)

Tribunals in India are set up under Article 323A and 323B of Constitution which was inserted via 42nd Constitutional amendment Act.

Role of Tribunals in dispute redressal

- ① Reduces the pendency and justice delays from regular courts.
- ② As per National Judicial Data Grid, 4.7 cr cases are pending in lower courts. \hookrightarrow tribunals can thus ensure speedy justice.
- ③ Specialisation: Tribunals consist of expert members \rightarrow aid in resolving technical cases.
Ex \triangleright National Companies Law Tribunal handling commercial cases.
- ④ Simplified procedure as they abide by principles of natural justice.

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⑤ Reduces overall cost of seeking legal aid.

① Tribunalisation of Justice → excessive delegation of to tribunals

② Compromise on authority of Constitutional Courts

However, Tribunals face numerous challenges →

↳ Initially, Tribunal laws provided exclusion of High Court appellate jurisdiction

③ Concerns over separation of powers as tribunals contain administrative members from executive

④ Rising pendency and delays.

⑤ Executive interference in appointments & transfers → compromise judicial independence.

Steps to enhance effectiveness

- ① Autonomy and independence via proper SOPs for appointments.
- ② Judicial primacy in appointments via Search-cum-selection committee.
- ③ Providing regular financing and infrastructure, enhancing number of benches to ensure speedy justice.
- ④ Training and capacity building of tribunal members to handle complex technical cases.
- ⑤ Promoting other Alternative Dispute Resolution like mediation, Arbitration, etc

Thus, while tribunals are key to justice delivery, the issues highlighted must be addressed in a speedy manner to ensure last mile justice delivery.

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7. Evaluate the effectiveness of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act in fulfilling the objectives of Articles 15 and 16 regarding promoting equality and reducing discrimination. (15 marks, 250 words)

The 103rd Constitutional amendment Act provided for 10% reservation to Economically weaker sections (EWS) of society in educational institutions and matters of public employment.

Objectives of Article 15 & 16

① Article 15 provides for non-discrimination on grounds of sex, race, caste, religion, etc.

② Article 15 also mentions that state can make special provisions for weaker sections like SC, STs, OBC, EWS.

③ Article 16: equality of opportunity in matters of public employment

④ Article 16(4): provision of reservation for backward classes not adequately represented in services of state.

Effectiveness of 103rd amendment in fulfilling these objectives →

- ① provides for educational opportunities to EWS category students by reserving 10% seats.
- ② provides for stable employment under state via reservation → aiding in poverty alleviation.
- ③ will open up avenues for social mobility for economically weaker sections of society.
- ④ In line with the goal of No Poverty (SDG 1).
- ⑤ upholds ideals of welfare state enshrined in Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)

Issues raised include →

- ① Breach of the 50% ceiling

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Limit of reservation (Jindal Sawhney case)

- ② Creamy layer cut off set very high above poverty line.
- ③ Excludes existing weaker sections like SC, ST, OBC from EWS quota.
- ④ Misuse of provision by weaker sections to claim fake income certificates.

Way forward

- ① Proper monitoring of issue of income certificates.
- ② Strict punishment for those using fake certificates to create deterrence.
- ③ Other measures towards upliftment are needed →
 - ① Employment Generation
 - ② Promoting ease of Doing Business (Startup India)

While 103rd amendment is welcome step, it should be followed with broad based empowerment to achieve real purpose.

8. The Basic Structure doctrine is a North Star which ensures that constitutional sanctity remains intact in India. Elucidate. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Basic Structure Doctrine
was pronounced by the Supreme Court in Kesavananda Bharti Case (1973) overturning its earlier judgement in Golak Nath Case (1967).

The Basic Structure Doctrine

- ① It states that while parliament can amend any part of Constitution including Fundamental Rights, it cannot amend its Basic Structure.
- ② The basic structure comprises of the core essential features of constitution without which constitution will lose its significance.
- ③ Examples of Basic Structure include Federalism, Secularism, Parliamentary democracy, etc.

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④ what constitutes Basic Structure is decided by courts from time to time

A worth star ensuring Constitutional sanctity remains intact →

① It prevents Constitution from losing its very essence.

② It preserves the independence of judiciary.

③ It protects people's fundamental right and rule of law.

④ It has ensured that democracy sustains and thrives and constitution stands supreme.

Examples of Application

① In Minerva Mills case → Supreme Court struck down amendments to [368] citing limited amending power as part of Basic Structure.

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② SR Bommai Case: Federalism was declared as part of Basic Structure. SC restricted misuse of Article 356.

③ NJAC case: In SC struck down NJAC act citing judicial independence as part of Basic Structure.

④ IR Coelho Case ⇒ SC brought 9th schedule under purview of Judicial Review citing Judiciary's review power as part of Basic Structure.

Some Issues → ① Basic Structure remains undefined.
→ ② May lead to policy uncertainty and judicial overreach.

But despite limitations, Basic Structure has been key in preserving sanctity of Indian Constitution and as a result democracy has thrived in India.

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9. Explain the relevance of the Directive Principles of State Policy in upholding socio-economic justice in India. How have recent government policies and judicial pronouncements contributed to the realisation of these principles? (15 marks, 250 words)

The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) are enshrined in Part - IV of Indian Constitution from Article 36 to 51.

Relevance of DPSPs in upholding socio-economic justice →

- ① Article 37: states that DPSPs are fundamental to the Governance of the country.
- ② They act as policy prescriptions to the government of the day.
- ③ They establish a welfare state.
- ④ While fundamental rights promote political democracy, DPSPs promote socio-economic democracy.
- ⑤ They aid ~~its~~ people in holding the government accountable for

its actions.

- Examples of DPSPs
- ① Article 40: organisation of village Panchayats
 - ② Article 39(b) & 39(c): preventing concentration of wealth.
 - ③ Article 51: promoting international peace.
 - ④ State duty to look after welfare of weaker sections like SCs, STs (Article 46).

Realisation of these principles

→ By Government policies:

- ① Policy of reservation ~~the~~ for SC, STs, and provisions like Schedule V and Schedule VI protect welfare of weaker sections (Article 38) & 46.
- ② Good and ~~the~~ Constitutional amendment helped realise vision of Article 40.
- ③ Formation and institutionalisation of co-operatives (Part IX-B) led to

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realisation of Article 43B.

④ Schemes like MANREGA, DAY-NRLM etc promote Right to dignified life, women empowerment which are part of DPSPs.

→ By Judicial Pronouncement

① Navej Tokra Case: protecting rights of trans community (weaker section) by decriminalisation of homosexuality

② Vishakha guidelines: protects dignity of women by framing guidelines against sexual harassment.

③ Mohini Jain Case: Right to education

④ Mc Mehta Case: Right to clean environment

Thus, although, non justiciable, various policies and judgements have upheld the spirit of DPSPs.

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10. The principle of separation of powers in India is not an absolute division but a system of checks and balances to ensure that power is not concentrated in one branch of the government. Discuss with the help of relevant examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

Separation of Powers concept proposed by Montesquieu is 'Spirit of Laws' suggests that three organs of state i.e. legislature, judiciary and executive should work in their respective domains to avoid concentration of powers.

While USA has rigid separation, Indian Constitution is based on checks and balances instead of absolute division.

System of checks and balances is not absolute division →

① Article 75 provides for Council of Ministers to be responsible to Lok Sabha.

↳ Thus, executive is kept in check

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by legislature.

② Executive too gets some legislative function by →

↳ ① Article 123 & 213 : ordinance making power

↳ ② Power of sub-ordinate legislation

③ Judiciary keeps check on executive and legislature via Judicial Review under Article 13, 32, 226 and Basic Structure.

④ Executive exercise control over judiciary via appointments and transfers.

⑤ Legislature control of over judiciary is by process of removal of judges.

⑥ To keep legislature and judiciary separate, Constitution

Provides for →

↳ ① Ban on discussion on conduct of judges.

② Expenditure of High Courts & Supreme Court as charged expenditure not voted upon.

③ fixed service conditions

④ Article 50 further provides for separation of judiciary from executive as directive principle of state policy.

Thus, in order to ensure smooth functioning, co-ordination along with accountability of three organs, Indian Constitution provided checks and balance instead of absolute separation of power.

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