

General Studies Paper - 2

09 December 2014

Maximum Marks: 250

Time: 3 Hours

*There are **TWENTY FIVE** questions in this paper. Each question carries **10 Marks**. 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. "The disrepute into which the political process has fallen, and the widespread cynicism about the motives of India's politicians, can be traced directly to the flawed workings of the parliamentary system." Critically comment. (200 Words)

2. “The role of the governor of an Indian state is clearly political even if his office is constitutional.” Do you agree with this assessment? Critically comment. (200 Words)

3. “The process of appointment of the judges to the U.K. Supreme Court provides India a model to emulate to ensure an independent and accountable judiciary in India.”
Examine. (200 Words)

4. "Social and economic democracy is the foundation on which political democracy would be a way of life in the Indian polity." Critically examine how the Indian constitution ensures this. (200 Words)

5. The National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) proposal has faced much criticism from the Chief Ministers of various states who see this as a means of weakening India's federalism. Critically analyse the issue. (200 Words)

6. “The fathers of the Indian constitution preferred the American Doctrine of ‘limited government’ to the British doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty.” Elaborate. (200 Words)

7. Though the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) is a Union Territory (UT), it occupies a unique position among the UTs in the Constitution, especially in its power to legislate on various issues. In the light of recent controversy over a move made by Delhi government to legislate Lokpal Bill, examine the relations between NCTD and the Union government in the matters of former's legislation powers. (200 Words)

8. One of the key tests to real empowerment of Panchayats lies in the ability of local self-governing institutions to finance their own expenditures through internal generation of resources. In this regard, examine how Panchayats can generate their revenue within the framework of constitution. (200 Words)

9. In recent years, the provisions of Part XIV-A of the Indian constitution, which was added through an amendment in 1976, have given rise to conflict between courts and executive. Examine why. (200 Words)

10. Critically discuss the context in which the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012 was passed by the Parliament. Also examine why the parliament passed the bill despite public health and sanitation being items under the State List? (200 Words)

11. Critically examine how helpful have been government sponsored schemes in providing health insurance to the poor and weaker sections of the population. (200 Words)

12. Critically comment on the performance of India in achieving the targets of first goal of the Millennium Development Goals. (200 Words)

13. In 2013, a committee headed by Planning Commission member B K Chaturvedi suggested that the number of centrally sponsored schemes should be reduced and restructured. Examine the highlights of the report submitted by this committee and why is there a need for restructuring of schemes. (200 Words)

14. The Supreme Court, in July 2013 struck down Section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Explain the significance of this judgement to democracy in India. (200 Words)

15. The Global Hunger Index 2014 (GHI) has noted a significant improvement in the levels of hunger in India, especially among children, between 2005-06 and 2013-14. Examine the reasons for this development. Also throw light on measures that are required to improve India's rank further. (200 Words)

16. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced to cut carbon emission from existing power plants by 2030, which is the single largest source of carbon pollution in the US, by 30%. Examine the impact of this policy on India. (200 Words)

17. A recent report found that the number of students going to England for higher education purpose from India has reduced significantly. Examine the causes. (200 Words)

18. Government has taken several initiatives for engaging the Indian Diaspora around the world. Write a critical note on any three of them. (200 Words)

19. “A burgeoning strategic partnership with Israel matters more to India than reflexive solidarity with the Palestinian cause.” Critically comment. (200 Words)

20. Recently, the United States of America hosted 'U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit' in which over 45 of Africa's heads of states participated, signalling its intention to actively participate and benefit from engaging with resource rich African countries. Critically examine the implications of US entry for India's presence in the continent. (200 Words)

21. Discuss India's goals at the newly established BRICS bank. Do you agree with some analysts' apprehension that Chinese would dominate the bank sidelining India?
Comment. (200 Words)

22. The interplay between Delhi's foreign and security establishment and Tamil Nadu politics principally determine Indian policy towards its island neighbour Sri Lanka. In your opinion, is it a sound policy? Critically comment. (200 Words)

23. “Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) exist because governments fail.” In the light of the statement, critically discuss India’s policy towards and the importance of NGOs. (200 Words)

24. “Given the increasing role and significance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Eurasian region and beyond, India is likely to benefit more in the long-term by joining the organisation rather than staying out of it.” Examine. (200 Words)

25. “The Greater Mekong Subregion economic corridors initiative offers a model that could, and should, be duplicated in South Asia, another Asian sub-region waiting to emerge from its patch of darkness.” Examine. (200 Words)

