

Insights Mains Offline Test Series 2015General Studies Paper – 2

Mock Test – 22

18 November 2015

Duration: 3 Hours

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. Each question carries 12.5 Marks. (12.5 x 20 = 250)

1. Instead of re-ploughing the well-worked terrain which ranges justiciability against non-justiciability, the real challenge is to formulate a democratically justifiable role for the courts. Do you think Indian judiciary has been successful in this regard? Critically analyse. (200 Words)
2. “While the idea of democracy has taken firm root and indeed grown into a sturdy sapling, federalism is a late starter and is only now beginning to come into its own in India.” Discuss. (200 Words)
3. In India, the legislatures' power to punish a member is derived from the powers and privileges conferred on the legislatures by the Constitution. If Parliament expels members for their unethical, corrupt and devious conduct inside or outside the house, will it be an unconstitutional and a step against the rights of members? Critically examine. (200 Words)
4. “While organised events of conversion can incite violence and hatred, the enforcement of a national anti-conversion law, as some advocate, is not the panacea. Besides inflicting greater damage, it would render our rights to freedom of conscience and religion valueless, and derail efforts at achieving a peaceful, democratic society.” In the light of government’s recent efforts to enact a new anti-conversion law, critically comment on the statement. (200 Words)
5. Is it correct to say that Social media is playing an important new role in Indian democracy and it is changing the face of Indian general elections? Critically comment. (200 Words)
6. If the government decides to allow 100% FDI in news media, will it be a good step? Critically examine. (200 Words)
7. Recently the union government imposed a 0.5 per cent Swachh Bharat cess on all services. Do you think such cess would help both the scheme and citizens? Critically discuss. (200 Words)
8. Analyse the importance of the Fourteenth Finance Commission’s recommendations regarding the grant and utilization of fund to rural and urban local bodies. (200 Words)
9. “If companies investing in India have the right to raise capital abroad, so should civil society organizations.” Do you agree? Critically comment. (200 Words)
10. Evaluate the contribution of poverty alleviation programmes towards reducing poverty in India in the post-economic reform era. (200 Words)
11. “What matters is how the poor are identified, not how they are counted.” In the light of various estimates of poverty levels in India, critically comment on the statement. (200 Words)
12. The problems that confront education in India today are low rates of enrolment, unequal access, poor quality of infrastructure and lack of relevance. The goals remain the same — expansion with

inclusion and ensuring quality and relevant education. Discuss and offer suggestions to overcome these challenges. (200 Words)

13. "In post-liberalised India, the All-India Services (AIS) are ordained the role of a facilitator, and not necessarily one of a regulator." Elaborate and comment if this has rendered civil services less attractive to youth today. (200 Words)
14. Explain what the Constitution expects the Government of India to do in education and critically examine what government is actually doing in education. (200 Words)
15. "The Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal is another nail in the coffin of a multilateral global trade system that brought the world together in the past six decades." Discuss. (200 Words)
16. "India's "hands-off" approach has suited India's traditional non-aligned and non-interference foreign policy, which in turn boost its reputation in the Middle East. Yet major changes in global, regional, and even internal Middle Eastern politics call for a new interpretation of the strategic importance of the Middle East to India and vice versa." In the light of these statements, examine what are India's broad interests in the Middle East apart from oil and suggest how should India go about securing these interests. (200 Words)
17. In economic circles it is a cliché to observe that the South Asian region is the least economically integrated region in the world. Is there an opportunity to change the disconnected character of the region, creating political opportunities to match the economic ones? What is the role of India in it? Analyse the problem and offer solutions. (200 Words)
18. The United States and India have historically had a difficult time working together in multilateral institutions. Do you think this has affected their bilateral relations? Critically examine. (200 Words)
19. The growing partnership between India and Japan is one of the most keenly observed developments of the Asian Century. While the pressures of a changing security environment have played a vital role, India and Japan have become closer primarily through what Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has termed 'value-oriented diplomacy', or the shared democratic ideals that create a foundation for mutual understanding. But, has this relationship been transformed into tangible benefits to both countries? Critically analyse. (200 Words)
20. Although Delhi and Yangon have a tacit understanding on insurgency, ground realities must govern Indian operations. What are these ground realities? What is the role that should be played by India and Myanmar in dealing with insurgency without affecting their bilateral relations? Discuss. (200 Words)