

Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY
U P S C
MAIN EXAMINATION

GENERAL STUDIES – I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

2019

1. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco Bactrian elements in Gandhara art.
2. The 1857 uprising was the culmination of the recurrent, big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate.
3. Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity.
4. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate.
5. Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s.
6. Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French Revolutions.
7. How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development in India?
8. What makes Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss.
9. "Empowering women is the key to control population growth." Discuss.
10. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism? 4. Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples.
11. What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space?
12. Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss.
13. Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples.
14. Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology.
15. Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India?
16. Discuss the factors for localization of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India.
17. What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India?
18. How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism?
19. How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and the coastal environment? Give suitable examples.

1. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Comment.
2. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India.
3. Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times.
4. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss.
5. Discuss whether the formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India.
6. Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to their colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there?
7. "Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, the caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment.
8. 'Despite the implementation of various programmes for the eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons.
9. How the Indian concept of secularism different from the western model of secularism? Discuss.
10. 'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata.' Substantiate your view.
11. 'Globalisation is generally said to promote cultural homogenisation but due to these cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian society.' Elucidate.
12. 'Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation.' Argue by giving suitable illustrations.
13. Why is the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation?
14. Why is India taking a keen interest in the Arctic region?
15. Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics.
16. What are the consequences of spreading of 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystem?

17. "The ideal solution of depleting groundwater resources in India is a water harvesting system." How can it be made effective in urban areas? 6. Defining the blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India.
18. What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics.
19. Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success.

2017

1. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times?
2. Clarify how mid-eighteenth-century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity.
3. Why did the 'Moderates' fail to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century?
4. Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy.
5. Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian Independence since the twenties of the last century.
6. The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What are the major issues and debates concerning women in that period?
7. What problems are germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula?
8. In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint. 2. What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?
9. The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part in the present. Elaborate.
10. Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India.

11. "The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues of employment, but has also created new problems". Substantiate this statement with examples.
12. How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth?
13. "Despite the adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development". Discuss.
14. Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by United Nations.
15. How does the cryosphere affect global climate?
16. Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multidimensional effects.
17. Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oilproducing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications.
18. In what way can floods be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India?
19. What characteristics can be assigned to the monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 per cent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia?

2016

1. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate.
2. Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss.
3. Explain how the uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India.
4. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.
5. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.
6. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine.
7. Has the formation of linguistic states strengthened the cause of Indian unity?

8. To what extent globalisation has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.
9. "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation." Substantiate this statement with suitable examples.
10. Why are the tribals in India referred to as 'the Scheduled Tribes'? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment.
11. With a brief background of the quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme.'
12. What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on a regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer.
13. Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes.
14. "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.
15. The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce human miseries. Explain.
16. The South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment.
17. Major cities of India are becoming vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss.
18. Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations
19. Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India
20. In what way micro-watershed development projects help in water conservation in drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India?

2015

1. The ancient civilization in Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to the present day. Comment.
2. Mesolithic rock-cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment.

3. How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss.
4. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate.
5. It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years but for the experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935. Discuss.
6. Why did the industrial revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present?
7. To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically.
8. Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity.
9. Critically examine whether the growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.
10. How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes?
11. Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades
12. Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India.
13. Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for the assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste. 7. Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural-urban integration.
14. Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing and navigation?
15. India is well endowed with freshwater resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.
16. How far do you agree that the behaviour of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscape? Discuss.

17. What are the economic significances of the discovery of oil in the Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences?
18. Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three Megacities of the country but the air pollution is a much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so?
19. The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are reaching the limits of ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate.

2014

1. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss.
2. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain.
3. Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated several renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss.
4. Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu / Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment.
5. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat?
6. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from the mid-eighteenth century till independence.
7. In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India?
8. What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India?
9. What were the events that led to the Suez Crisis in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain's self-image as a world power?
10. The New Economic Policy – 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate.

11. How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India? 2. Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments.
12. The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss.
13. Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India. 5. How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West?
14. Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water?
15. Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shivaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain.
16. Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world.
17. Tropical cyclones are largely confined to the South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why?
18. Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree?
19. Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos.
20. Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub-continent.
21. Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of fold mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes.

2013

1. Though not very useful from a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment.

2. (a) Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. (b) Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss.
3. Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torchbearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss.
4. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom.
5. In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate.
6. Critically discuss the objectives of Bhoo dan and Gram dan movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success.
7. Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan "Jai Jawana Jai Kisan".
8. Discuss the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre-and postindependent India.
9. Analyze the circumstances that led to the Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the agreement.
10. Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the emergence of Bangladesh.
11. "Latecomer" Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had the experience.
12. Africa was chopped into states artificially created by the accident of European competition. Analyse.
13. American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate.
14. What policy instruments were deployed to contain the great economic depression?
15. Discussion the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India.
16. Male membership needs to be encouraged to make women's organization free from gender bias. Comment.
17. Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India.
18. The growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss 1. It is said that India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of the country for a quarter-century. However, tapping the

resource does not appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved.

19. With the growing scarcity of fossil fuels, atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and the world.
20. Analyse the factors for the highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India.
21. Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in the southern states of India? Discuss with justification.
22. Bring out the causes for the more frequent occurrence of landslides in the Himalayas than in the Western Ghats.
23. What do you understand by the phenomenon of 'temperature inversion' in meteorology? How does it affect weather and the habitats of the place?
24. Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world.
25. The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called 'Phailin'. How are the tropical cyclones named across the world? Elaborate.
26. There is no formation of deltas by rivers on the Western Ghats. Why?
27. Major hot deserts in the northern hemisphere are located between 20° 30° N latitudes and on the western sides of the continents. Why?
28. What do you understand by the theory of continental drift? Discuss the prominent evidence in its support.

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MAIN EXAMINATION

GENERAL STUDIES – II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

2019

1. Do you think that constitution of India does not accept the principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of ‘checks and balance’? Explain.
2. “The Central Administration Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority.” Explain.
3. What are the methods used by the Farmers organizations to influence the policymakers in India and how effective are these methods?
4. From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of legislative powers by the courts, ‘Principle of Federal Supremacy’ and ‘Harmonious Construction’ have emerged. Explain.
5. What can France learn from the Indian Constitution’s approach to secularism?
6. On what grounds a people’s representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also, mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.
7. “Parliament’s power to amend the Constitution is limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power.” In light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power?
8. “The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India.” Discuss.
9. Individual Parliamentarian’s role as the national lawmaker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss.

10. Implementation of information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects / Programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors, and suggest measures for their effective implementation.
11. Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.
12. There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on NonFood essential items squeezing their food – budget. Elucidate.
13. “The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self- the government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process.”
Comment.
14. In the context of the neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages.’- Discuss.
15. The need for cooperation among various service sector has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges bring the gap among the sectors. It also sets in motion a culture of ‘Collaboration’ and ‘team spirit’. In the light of statements above examine India’s Development process.
16. Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to the absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of the policy process – Discuss.
17. “The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its newfound role in the emerging global order.” Elaborate.
18. ‘The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.’ Comment.

19. 'Too little cash, too much politics, leave UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'.
20. "What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self- esteem and ambitions" Explain with suitable examples.

2018

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?
2. Whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Schedules Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine.
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?
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.
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.
6. Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine.
7. How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? Given the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India.
8. India and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based.
9. How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss.

10. 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?
11. "Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate 'protection and prevention of degradation' to the environment." Comment with relevant illustrations.
12. E-governance is not only about the utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about the critical importance of the 'use-value' of information. Explain.
13. The Citizens' Charter is an ideal instrument of organizational transparency and accountability, but it has its limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizens' Charter.
14. Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieving 'Health for All' in India. Explain.
15. The multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society 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.
16. 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?
17. "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss.
18. Several 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.
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?
20. In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to this situation?

1. Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgment on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' regarding the appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India.
2. 'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people' Discuss.
3. Discuss the role of the Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people.
4. Explain the salient features of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, of 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough 'to remove the cascading effect of taxes and provide for the common national market for goods and services'?
5. Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy.
6. The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint session of the two houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reasons thereof.
7. To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful?
8. "The local self-government system in India has not proved to be an effective instrument of governance." Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation.
9. How do pressure groups influence the Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years?
10. Hunger and Poverty are the biggest challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement.

11. The emergence of Self Help Groups(SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the state from developmental activities'. Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs.
12. Initially, Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services? Comment.
13. To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs, the identification of beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes' Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme.
14. Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss.
15. Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer.
16. 'Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India remain mere show pieces until and unless they are backed by political will'. Discuss the performance of the major poverty alleviation programmes in India.
17. 'China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia', In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbour.
18. What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it.
19. The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyze India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian Countries.
20. Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South-East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South- East Asia in this context

2016

1. Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the

institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics?

2. To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing the marginal note “Temporary provision concerning the State of Jammu and Kashmir”, temporary? Discuss the prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity.
3. The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes.” Discuss.
4. Exercise of CAC’s powers concerning the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether an audit of the Government’s policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.
5. Discuss each adjective attached to the word ‘Republic’ in the preamble. Are they defensible in the present circumstances stances?
6. What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution?
7. Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss.
8. What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.
9. “In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal.” Critically examine this statement.
10. “Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people’s participation in the governance system are inter-dependent.” Discuss their relationship with each other in the context of India.
11. In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.
12. Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change?
13. “Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India.” Comment.

14. Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance?
15. Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.
16. "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative." What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?
17. "The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seems doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries." Discuss in the Indian perspective.
18. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario.
19. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable.
20. What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these?

2015

1. Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizens a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy.
2. The concept of cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasized in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and the extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings.
3. In absence of a well-educated and organized local level government system, 'Panchayats' and 'Samitis' have remained mainly political institutions and not effective instruments of

Governance. Critically discuss. 4. Khap Panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extraconstitutional authorities, often delivering pronouncements amounting to human rights violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, executive and the judiciary to set the things right in this regard.

4. Resorting to ordinances has always raised concern on violation of the spirit of separation of powers doctrine. While noting the rationales justifying the power to promulgate ordinances, analyze whether the decisions of the Supreme Court on the issue have further facilitated resorting to this power. Should the power to promulgate ordinances be repealed?
5. What are the major changes brought in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1990 through the recent Ordinance promulgated by the President? How far will it improve India's dispute resolution mechanism? Discuss.
6. Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulations on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and Judgement(s) of the Apex Court in this regard.
7. In the light of the Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in corporate governance to ensure transparency, accountability.
8. If the amendment bill to the Whistleblowers Act, 2011 tabled in the Parliament is passed, there may be no one left to protect." Critically evaluate.
9. "For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institutions remain independent and autonomous." Discuss in the light of the experiences in recent past.
10. Examine critically the recent changes in the rules governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976.
11. The Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP), which is India's innovation, has proved to be one of the most effective poverty alleviation and women empowerment programmes. Elucidate.
12. How can the role of NGOs be strengthened in India for development works relating to the protection of the environment? Discuss throwing light on the major constraints.

13. The quality of higher education in India requires major improvements to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of higher and technical education in the country? Discuss.
14. The public health system has limitations in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that the private sector could help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives would you suggest?
15. Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate a reduction in poverty levels over time. Do you agree? Critically examine urban and rural poverty indicators.
16. The increasing interest of India in Africa has its pros and cons. Critically examine.
17. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UN Security Council.
18. Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of the Indian Government to improve the relationship with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss.
19. Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India-Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchanges could help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples.

2014

1. Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy.
2. Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, but it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. Discuss.
3. The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-

enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed?

4. Instances of President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as to the denial of justice. Should there be a time limit specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse.
5. What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss.
6. The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far the efficacy of a government then is inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss.
7. Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organisation been the cause of slow change in India? Critically examine.
8. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of the above observation assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards.
9. Though 100 per cent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like a trade publication and general entertainment channel, the Government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.
10. The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for the obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways or the private container operators.
11. The penetration of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine.

12. Do the government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics?
13. An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state-sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement.
14. Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students? Discuss in light of the growing challenges.
15. Two parallel run schemes of the Government viz. the Adhaar Card and NPR, one as voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need run concurrently. Analyse the potential of the schemes to achieve developmental benefits and equitable growth.
16. To the South China Sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and overflight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China.
17. The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact should such agreements have on India's interests?
18. Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context.
19. India has recently signed to become a founding member of the New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the significance of these two Banks for India.

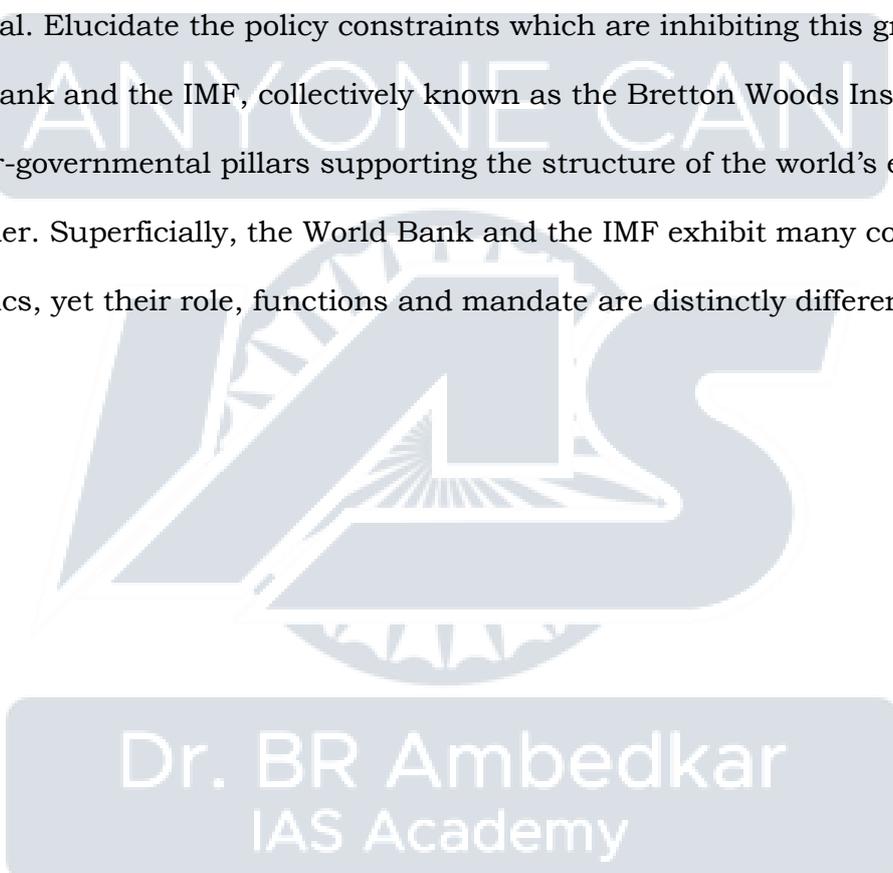
20. WTO is an important international institution where decisions profoundly are taken to affect countries. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security.

2013

1. The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years and as a result, healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law, which was legislated but with a different intention?
2. Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, regarding its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution.
3. Recent directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the State. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution.
4. The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on the arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution. Discuss critically.
5. Many State Governments further bifurcate geographical administrative areas like Districts and Talukas for better governance. In light of the above, can it also be justified that more number of smaller States would bring in effective governance at State level? Discuss.
6. Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss.
7. Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances.
8. The product diversification of financial institutions and insurance companies, resulting in overlapping of products and services strengthens the case for the merger of the two regulatory agencies, namely SEBI and IRDA. Justify.
9. Through Citizen's charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyze.

10. 'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs'. Discuss.
11. Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India.
12. The legitimacy and accountability of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the microfinance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss.
13. The concept of Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates and success.
14. The Central Government frequently complains about the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate.
15. Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment.
16. The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment.
17. Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same.
18. The proposed withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine-in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its strategic interests.
19. What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this.

20. The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India?
21. Discuss the political developments in the Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India?
22. In respect of India — Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy.
23. What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss.
24. Economic ties between India and Japan while growing in recent years are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth.
25. The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate.



Dr. BR Ambedkar
IAS Academy

Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY
U P S C
MAIN EXAMINATION

GENERAL STUDIES – III

**Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and
Disaster Management**

2019

1. Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the goods and services tax (GST) in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017.
2. Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments.
3. How far is the Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?
4. Elaborate on the impact of the National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas.
5. How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively?
6. It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement.
7. The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in the context of budget-making during the post-liberalization period. Clarify it.
8. What are the reformative steps taken by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective?
9. Elaborate on the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.
10. What is India's plan to have its space station and how will it benefit our space programme?
11. How is the Government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies?

12. Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indian's coasts, citing specific examples.
13. How can biotechnology help to improve the living standards of farmers?
14. Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to an environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of a region.
15. Vulnerability is an essential element for defining disaster impacts and its threat to people. How and in what ways can vulnerability to disasters be characterized? Discuss different types of vulnerability to disasters.
16. Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help disaster mitigation in the case of landslides.
17. The banning of 'Jammāt-e-Islāmī' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of overground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs.
18. What is the CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.
19. Indian Government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations.
20. Cross-Border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.

1. "Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". Comment on the progress made in India in this regard.
2. Comment on the important changes introduced in respect of the Long term Capital Gains Tax (LCGT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the Union Budget for 2018-2019.
3. What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low-income trap?
4. Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate the number of intermediaries?
5. How are the principles followed by NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile planning commission in India?
6. How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade effect macroeconomic stability of India?
7. Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers?
8. How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in the recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption.
9. Discuss the work of 'Bose-Einstein Statistics' done by Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose and show how it revolutionized the field of Physics.
10. With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy.
11. Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma?
12. With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy.

13. What are the impediments in disposing of the huge quantities of discarded solid wastes which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment?
14. What is a wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India.
15. Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economical benefits of Organic State?
16. Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing 'Sendai Framework for DRR (20152030)'. How is this framework different from 'Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005'?
17. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same.
18. Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE.
19. Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cybercrimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to the protection of personal data in cyberspace?
20. India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What countermeasures should be taken to prevent the same?

1. Among several factors for India's potential growth, the savings rate is the most effective one. Do you agree? What are the other factors available for growth potential?
2. Account for the failure of the manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports rather than capital-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive exports.
3. Examine the developments of Airports in India through Joint Ventures under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard?
4. Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?
5. What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost-effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers?
6. One of the intended objectives of Union Budget 2017-18 is to 'transform, energize and clean India'. Analyse the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective.
7. "Industrial growth rate has lagged in the overall growth of Gross Domestic-Product (GDP) in the post-reform period" Give reasons. How far the recent changes in Industrial Policy are capable of increasing the industrial growth rate?
8. What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyze and suggest measures for inclusive growth.
9. What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crop in the system?
10. How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers?

11. Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including Leukaemia, Thalassemia, damaged cornea and several burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments?
12. India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics? Explain critically
13. Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of the fast breeder reactor programme in India?
14. Not many years ago, river linking was a concept but it is becoming reality in the country. Discuss the advantages of river linking and its possible impact on the environment.
15. 'Climate Change' is a global problem. How India will be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change?
16. On December 2004, tsunami brought havoc on 14 countries including India. Discuss the factors responsible for the occurrence of Tsunami and its effects on life and the economy. In the light of guidelines of NDMA (2010) describe the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.
17. Discuss the potential threats of Cyberattack and the security framework to prevent it.
18. The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region.
19. Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyse the causes and consequences of such violence.
20. The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding?

1. How globalization has led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalization detrimental to the development of the country?
2. Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?
3. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poor section of the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion.
4. What are 'Smart Cities'? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for 'Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission.
5. Justify the need for FDI for the development of the Indian economy. Why there is a gap between MOUs signed and actual FDIs? Suggest remedial steps to be taken for increasing actual FDIs in India.
6. Comment on the challenges for inclusive growth which include careless and useless manpower in the Indian context. Suggest measures to be taken for facing these challenges.
7. Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India.
8. Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
9. Give an account of the current status and the targets to be achieved about renewable energy sources in the country. Discuss in brief the importance of National Programme on Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).
10. Discuss India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How the application of this technology has helped India in its socio-economic development?

11. Why is nanotechnology one of the key technologies of the 21st century? Describe the salient features of Indian Government's Mission on Nanoscience and Technology and the scope of its application in the development process of the country.
12. What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture.
13. Rehabilitation of human settlements is one of the important environmental impacts which always attracts controversy while planning major projects. Discuss the measures suggested for mitigation of this impact while proposing major developmental projects.
14. What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing water-use efficiency.
15. The frequency of urban floods due to high-intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods, highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.
16. Regarding the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, discuss the measures to be adopted to mitigate the impact of recent incidents of cloudbursts in many places of Uttarakhand.
17. The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions.
18. "Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades." Analyse the above statement.
19. Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management.
20. Use of internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major security concern. How have these been misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat.

2015

1. The nature of economic growth in India in recent times is often described as jobless growth. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer.

2. Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sector in India.
3. Given the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture nonviable for a majority of farmers, should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.
4. How can the 'Digital India' programme help farmers to improve farm productivity and income? What steps has the Government taken in this regard?
5. In what way could replacement of price subsidy with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) change the scenario of subsidies in India? Discuss.
6. What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming these bottlenecks?
6. The craze for gold in Indians has led to a surge in import of gold in recent years and put pressure on the balance of payments and external value of the rupee. Given this, examine the merits of the Gold Monetization Scheme.
7. "Success of 'Make in India' programme depends on the success of 'Skill India' programme and radical labour reforms." Discuss with logical arguments.
8. To what factors can the recent dramatic fall in equipment costs and tariff of solar energy be attributed? What implications does the trend have for the thermal power producers and the related industry?
9. There is a clear acknowledgement that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a tool of industrial development, manufacturing and exports. Recognizing this potential, the whole instrumentality of SEZs requires augmentation. Discuss the issues plaguing the success of SEZs to taxation, governing laws and administration.
10. What do you understand by 'Standard Positioning Systems' and 'Precision Positioning Systems' in the GPS era? Discuss the advantages India perceives from its ambitious IRNSS programme employing just seven satellites.
11. What are the areas of prohibitive labour that can be sustainably managed by robots? Discuss the initiatives that can propel research in premier research institutes for substantive and gainful innovation.

12. Discuss the advantages and security implications of cloud hosting of servers vis-à-vis in-house machine-based hosting for government businesses.
13. India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), which has a database containing formatted information on more than 2 million medicinal formulations is proving a powerful weapon in the country's fight against erroneous patents. Discuss the pros and cons of making this database publicly available under open-source licensing.
14. Discuss the Namami Gange and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) programmes and causes of mixed results from the previous schemes. What quantum leaps can help preserve the river Ganga better than incremental inputs?
15. The frequency of earthquakes appears to have increased in the Indian subcontinent. However, India's preparedness for mitigating their impact has significant gaps. Discuss various aspects.
16. Human rights activists constantly highlight the view that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human rights abuses by the security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists? Critically evaluate the requirement regarding the view held by the Apex Court".
17. Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What are ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous for the internal security of our country?
18. The persisting drives of the Government for the development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. With Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth.
19. Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a "Digital Armed Force" to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation.

1. Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the huge growth of services vis-a-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base?
2. While we found India's demographic dividend, we ignore the dropping rates of employability. What are we missing while doing so? Where will the jobs that India desperately needs come from? Explain.
3. The right to fair compensation and transparency land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement act, 2013 has come into effect from 1 January 2014. What implication would it have on industrialization and agriculture in India?
4. Capitalism has guided the world economy to unprecedented prosperity. However, it often encourages shortsightedness and contributes to wide disparities between the rich and the poor. In this light, would it be correct to believe and adopt capitalism driving inclusive growth in India? Discuss.
5. Foreign direct investment in the defence sector is now set to be liberalized. What influence this is expected to have on Indian defence and economy in the short and long-run?
6. Explain how private-public partnership agreements, in longer gestation infrastructure projects, can transfer unsuitable liabilities to the future. What arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that successive generations' capacities are not compromised?
7. National urban transport policy emphasizes on moving people instead of moving vehicles. Discuss critically the success of various strategies of the government in this regard.
8. There is also a point of view that agriculture produce market committees (APMCs) set up under the state acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine.
9. "In the villages itself no form of credit organisation will be suitable except the cooperative society." – All Indian rural credit survey. Discuss this statement in the

background of agriculture finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions face supplying agricultural finances? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients?

10. Can overuse and the availability of antibiotics without doctor's prescription be contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved.
11. Scientific research in Indian universities is declining, because a career in science is not as attractive as our business operations, engineering or administration, and the universities are becoming consumer-oriented. Critically comment.
12. In a globalised world, intellectual property rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms – copyrights, patents and trade secrets.
13. Should the pursuit of carbon credit and clean development mechanism set up under UNFCCC be maintained even though there has been a massive slide in the value of carbon credit? Discuss concerning India's energy needs for economic growth.
14. Environmental impact assessment studies are increasingly undertaken before the project is cleared by the government. Discuss the environmental impacts of coal-fired thermal plants located at Pitheads.
15. Drought has been recognized as a disaster given its spatial expanse, temporal duration, slow onset and lasting effect on various vulnerable sections. With a focus on the September 2010 guidelines from the National disaster management authority, discuss the mechanism for preparedness to deal with the El Nino and La Nina fallouts in India.
16. The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which has been in her neighbourhood. Discuss along with the strategies to be adopted to counter this environment.
17. International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above the territory. What do you understand by airspace? What are

the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggests ways to contain the threat.

18. How illegal transborder migration does pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bring out the factors which give impetus to such migration.

19. In 2012, the longitudinal marking of the high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65° East to 78° east in the Arabian Sea by International Maritime organisation. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns?

20. China and Pakistan have agreed in development of an economic corridor. What threat does it dispose of India's security? Critically examine.

2013

1. With consideration of the strategy of inclusive growth, the new companies bill, 2013 has indirectly made CSR a mandatory obligation. Discuss the challenges expected in its implementation in right earnest. Also, discuss other provisions in the bill and their implications.
2. What are the reasons for the introduction of Fiscal responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness.
3. What is the meaning of the term tax-expenditure? Taking the housing sector as an example, discuss how it influences budgetary policies of the government.
4. Food security bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO
5. What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and state levels? Critically analyze the agriculture subsidy regime with the reference to the distortions created by it.
6. India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in the food industry for better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement.

7. Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indian. Are they competing with the MNCs satisfactorily?
8. Establish the relationship between land reform, agriculture productivity and elimination of poverty in Indian Economy. Discuss the difficulty in designing and implementation of the agriculture friendly land reforms in India.
9. (a) Discuss the impact of FDI entry into the multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in commodity trade pattern of the economy.

(b) Though India allowed foreign direct investment (FDI) in what is called multi-brand retail through joint venture route in September 2012, the FDI, even after a year, has not picked up. Discuss the reasons.
10. Discuss the rationale for introducing Goods and services tax in India. Bring out critically the reasons for the delay in roll out for its regime.
11. Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problems of conventional energy.
12. Adaptation of the PPP model for infrastructure development of the country has not been free from criticism. Critically discuss the pros and cons of the model.
13. Bring out the circumstances in 2005 which forced an amendment to section 3(d) in the Indian Patent Law, 1970. Discuss how it has been utilized by Supreme court in its judgment rejecting Novartis patent application for "Glivec". Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision.
14. What do you understand by fixed-dose drug combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits.
15. What do you understand by Umpire decision review in cricket? Discuss its various components. Explain how silicon tape on the edge of a bat may fool the system?
16. (a) What is the digital signature? What does its authentication mean? Give various salient built-in features of a digital signature.

(b) How does the 3D printing technology work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the technology.

- 17.(a) What is an FRP composite material? How are they manufactured? Discuss their applications in aviation and automobile industry
- (b)What do you understand by the run of the river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project?
- 18.What are the consequences of illegal mining? Discuss the ministry of environment and forests' concept of "GO AND NO GO" zones for coal mining.
- 19.Enumerate the National Water Policy of India. Taking river Ganges as an example, discuss the strategies which may be adopted for river water pollution control and management. What are the legal provisions for management and handling of hazardous wastes in India?
- 20.How important is vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management? As an administrator, what are key areas that you would focus on disaster management?
- 21.Money laundering poses a serious threat to the country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace?
- 22.What are the social networking site and what security implications do these sites present?
- 23.Cyberwarfare is considered by some defence analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyberwarfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same.
- 24.Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to the Administration of Scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyze the impact of nonimplementation of the provisions of the fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing Extremism.
- 25.How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management, particularly given the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar?

Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY
U P S C
MAIN EXAMINATION

GENERAL STUDIES – IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

2019

TERM/ DEFINITION

1. (a) What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples.
- (b) What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of the public servant.
2. (a) Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and misutilization of public funds and their implications.
- (b) "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
3. (a) What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality?
- (b) What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain?
4. (a) Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance.
- (b) There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of the Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss.
5. (a) What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government.

(b) “Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you”. Do you agree with this view? Discuss.

2018

1. (a) State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance.

(b) Distinguish between “Code of Ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples.

2. (a) What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by civil servants in the public interest?

(b) “The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens’ empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability. Discuss.

3. What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest.

4. About the morality of actions, one view is that means is of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.

1. (a) Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bonded by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies?

(b) Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration.

2017

1. Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (a) Transparency (b) Accountability (c) Fairness and justice (d) Courage of conviction (e) Spirit of service

2. (a) How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices?

(b) Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate.

3. (a) The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss.

(b) Increased national wealth did not result in the equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some “enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority.” Justify.

4. (a) Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss.

(b) Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in contemporary times.

1. Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest is taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example.

2. Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward.

3. (a) One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain about a real-life example.

(b) Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse.

2016

1. Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being.

(b) Why should impartiality and non-partisanship be considered as foundational values in public services, especially in the present day sociopolitical context? Illustrate your answer with examples.

2. (a) What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'?

(b) Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's concept of seven sins.

(c) Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission.

3. Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct to make it conducive to civilized social existence.

(a) Discuss how they achieve this objective.

(b) Giving examples, show how the two differ in their approaches.

1. How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?

2. Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society. (a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated India.

(b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socio-ethical values considered necessary in public services be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants? 3. Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours.

(b) How can it be managed and controlled?

4. "Max Weber said that it is not wise to apply to public administration the sort of moral and ethical norms we apply to matters of personal conscience. It is important to realise that the State bureaucracy might possess its independent bureaucratic morality." Critically analyse this statement.

2015

1. (a) What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics.

(b) Differentiate between the following (i) Law and Ethics (ii) Ethical management and Management of ethics (iii) Discrimination and Preferential treatment (iv) Personal ethics and Professional ethics

(c) How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples.

2. Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as the bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude.

(a) Distinguish between these two terms and write their merits and demerits.

(b) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country?

1. (a) "A mere compliance with the law is not enough, the public servant also has to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties." Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples, where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically. (b) Some recent developments such as the introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc., are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyze this situation in detail and suggest how this dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimized.

2. Today we find that despite various measures like prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanisms, corrupt practices are not coming under control. (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications. (b) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace. 3. At the international level, the bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tensions between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples.

4. Public servants are likely to confront the issues of 'Conflict of Interest'. What do you understand by the term 'Conflict of Interest' and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation, how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples.

2014

1. (a) In the context of defence services, 'patriotism' demands readiness to even lay down one's life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer.

(b) What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practising it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome?

2. What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants?

1. (a) All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples. (b) What does ethics seek to promote human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration?

2. (a) Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings giving specific examples, describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your ethical development. (b) There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have a wide-ranging impact on society and the environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility?

3. (a) The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy? (b) It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples.

4. What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent in many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes?

5. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace.

2013

1. What do you understand by 'values' and 'ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent?

2. (a) What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? a. Integrity b. Perseverance c. Spirit of serviced. Commitment e. The courage of conviction

(b) Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer.

3. What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions?

4. (a) What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience?

(b) What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. Personal Experience

1. Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification. 2. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics' do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations.

QUOTES

2019

1. "An unexamined life is not worth living". – Socrates
2. "A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes." – M.K. Gandhi.
3. "Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is the order in the nation. When there is the order in the nation, there is peace in the world" – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

2018

1. "In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you." – Warren Buffett. What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain.
2. "In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication". Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties.
3. What does each of the following quotations mean to you in the present context? (a) "The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject anything, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost everything, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded." Abraham Lincoln. (b) "Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding." – Mahatma Gandhi. (c) "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in the unblemished common good." – Tirukkural

2017

1. (a) "Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them." – Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country. (b) "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. they are father, the mother and the teacher." – A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse.

2016

Analyse John Rawls's concept of social justice in the Indian context. (b) "Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national development." Discuss Kautilya's views.

2015

1. Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these, bring out what it means to you in the present context : (a) "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." (150 words) (b) "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."

2. (a) "Social values are more important than economic values." Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation.

2014

1. (a) "Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context.

2. "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'." Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society.

2013

1. Given below are three quotations of great moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these quotations, bring out what it means to you in the present context: (a) "There is enough on this earth for everyone's need but no one's greed." Mahatma Gandhi. (b) "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."— Abraham Lincoln (c) "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies."— Aristotle

2. "The good of an individual is contained in the good of all." What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life?

CASE STUDIES

2019

1. You are heading the rescue operations in an area affected by severe natural calamity. Thousands of people are rendered homeless and deprived of food, drinking water and other basic amenities. Rescue work has been disrupted by heavy rainfall and damage to supply routes. The local people are seething with anger against the delayed limited rescue operations.

When your team reaches the affected area, the people there heckle and even assault some of the team members. One of your team members is even severely injured. Faced with this crisis, some team members plead with you to call off the operations fearing threats to their life. In such trying circumstances, what will be your response? Examine the qualities of a public servant which will be required to manage the situation.

2. Honesty and uprightness are the hallmarks of a civil servant. Civil servants possessing these qualities are considered as the backbone of any strong organization. In the line of duty, they take various decisions, at times some become bonafide mistakes. As long as such decisions are not taken intentionally and do not benefit personally, the officer cannot be said to be guilty. Though such decisions may, at times, lead to unforeseen adverse consequences in the longterm. In the recent past, a few instances have surfaced wherein civil servants have been implicated for bonafide mistakes. They have often been prosecuted and even imprisoned. The instances have greatly rattled the moral fibre of the civil servants. How does this trend affect the functioning of the civil services? What measures can be taken to ensure the honest civil servants are not implicated for the bonafide mistakes on their part? Justify your answer.

3. An apparel manufacturing company having a large number of women employees was losing sales due to various factors. The company hired a reputed marketing executive, who increased the volume of sales within a short period. However, some unconfirmed reports came up regarding his indulgence in sexual harassment at the workplace. After some time a woman employee launched a formal complaint to the management against the marketing executive about sexually harassing her. Faced with the companies' indifference, in not taking cognizance of her grievances, she lodged an FIR with the police. Realizing the sensitivity and gravity of the situation, the company called the woman employee to negotiate. In that, she was offered a hefty sum of money to withdraw the complaint and the FIR and also give in writing that the marketing executive is not involved in the case. Identify the ethical issues involved in this case. What options are available to the woman employee?

4. In a modern democratic polity, there is a concept of the political executive and permanent executive. Elected people's representatives form the political executive and bureaucracy forms the permanent executive. Ministers frame policy decisions and bureaucrats execute these. In the initial decades after independence, the relationship between the permanent executive and the political executive was characterized by mutual understanding, respect and cooperation, without encroaching upon each other's domain. However, in subsequent decades, the situation has changed. There are instances of the political executive insisting upon the permanent executive to follow its agenda. Respect for and appreciation of upright bureaucrats has declined. There is an increasing tendency among the political executive to get involved in routine administrative matters such as transfers, posting etc. Under this scenario, there is a definitive trend towards 'politicization of bureaucracy'. The rising materialism and acquisitiveness in social life have also adversely impacted upon the ethical values of both the permanent executive and the political executive. What are the consequences of this 'politicization of bureaucracy'? Discuss.

5. In one of the districts of a frontier state, narcotics menace has been rampant. This has resulted in money laundering, mushrooming of poppy farming, arms smuggling and near stalling of education. The system is on the verge of collapse. The situation has been further worsened by unconfirmed reports that local politicians, as well as some senior police officers, are providing surreptitious patronage to the drug mafia. At that point of time a woman police officer, known for her skills in handling such situations is appointed as superintendent of police to bring the situation to normalcy. If you are the same police officer, identify the various dimensions of the crisis. Based on your understanding, suggest measures to deal with the crisis.

6. In recent times, there has been an increasing concern in India to develop effective civil service ethics, code of conduct, transparency measures, ethics and integrity systems and anti-corruption agencies. Given this, there is a need being felt to focus on three specific areas, which are directly relevant to the problems of internalizing integrity and ethics in civil services. These are as follows: 1. Anticipating specific threats to ethical standards and integrity in the civil services, 2. Strengthening the ethical competence of civil servants and 3. Developing administrative processes and practices which promote ethical values and integrity in civil services. Suggest institutional measures to address the above three issues.

2018

1. Rakesh is a responsible district level officer, who enjoys the trust of his higher officials. Knowing his honesty, the government entrusted him with the responsibility of identifying the beneficiaries under a health care scheme meant for senior citizens. The criteria to be a beneficiary are the following: (a) 60 years of age or above. (b) Belonging to a reserved community. (c) Family income of less than 1 Lakh rupees per annum. (d) Post-treatment prognosis is likely to be high to make a positive difference to the quality of life of the beneficiary. One day, an old couple visited Rakesh's office with their application. They have been the residents of a village in his district since their birth. The old man is diagnosed with a rare condition that obstructs the large intestine. As a consequence, he has severe abdominal pain frequently that prevents him from doing any physical labour. The couple has no children to support them. The expert surgeon whom they contacted is willing to do the surgery without charging any fee. However, the couple will have to bear the cost of incidental charges, such as medicines, hospitalization, etc., to the tune of rupees one lakh. The couple fulfils all the criteria except criterion 'b'. However, any financial aid would certainly make a significant difference in their quality of life. How should Rakesh respond to the situation?

2. As a senior officer in the Ministry, you have access to important policy decisions and upcoming big announcements such as road constructions projects before they are notified in the public domain. The Ministry is about to announce a mega road project for which the drawings are already in place. Sufficient care was taken by the planners to make use of the government land with the minimum land acquisition from private parties. The compensation rate for private parties was also finalized as per government rules. Care was also taken to minimize deforestation. Once the project is announced, it is expected that there will be a huge spurt in real estate prices in and around that area. Meanwhile, the Minister concerned insists that you realign the road in such a way that it comes closer to his 20 acres farmhouse. He also suggests that he would facilitate the purchase of a big plot of land in your wife name at the prevailing rate which is very nominal, in and around the proposed mega road project. He also tries to convince you by saying that there is no harm in it as he is buying the land legally. He even promises to supplement your savings in case you do not have sufficient funds to buy the land. However, by the act of realignment, a lot of agricultural lands has to be acquired, thereby causing a considerable financial burden on the government, and also the displacement of the farmers. As if this is not enough, it will involve cutting down a large number of trees denuding the area of its green cover. Faced with this situation, what will you do? Critically examine various conflicts of interest and explain what your responsibilities are as a public servant.

3. It is a State where prohibition is in force. You are recently appointed as the Superintendent of Police of a district notorious for illicit distillation of liquor. The illicit liquor leads to many death, reported and unreported, and causes a major problem for the district authorities. The

approach till now had been to view it as a law and order problem and tackle it accordingly. Raids, arrest, police cases, and criminal trials – all these had only limited impact. The problem remains as serious as ever. Your inspections show that the parts of the district where the distillation flourishes are economically, industrially and educationally backwards. Agriculture is badly affected by poor irrigation facilities. Frequent clashes among communities gave a boost to illicit distillation. No major initiatives had taken place in the past either from the government's side or from social organizations to improve a lot of the people. Which new approach will you adopt to bring the problem under control?

4. A big corporate house is engaged in manufacturing industrial chemicals on a large scale. It proposes to set upon the additional unit. Many states rejected its proposal due to the detrimental effect on the environment. But one state government acceded to the request and permitted the unit close to a city, brushing aside all opposition. The unit was set up 10 years ago and was in full swing till recently. The pollution caused by the industrial effluents was affecting the land, water and crops in the area. It was also causing serious health problems to human beings and animals. This gave rise to a series of agitation thousands of people took part, creating a law and order problem necessitating stern police action. Following the public outcry, the State government ordered the closure of the factory. The closure of the factory resulted in the unemployment of not only those workers who were engaged in the factory but also those who were working in the ancillary units. It also very badly affected that industry which depended on the chemicals manufactured by it. As a senior officer entrusted with the responsibility of handling these issues, how are you going to address it?

5. Dr X is a leading medical practitioner in a city. He has set up a charitable trust through which he plans to establish a super-speciality hospital in the city to cater to the medical needs of all sections of the society. Incidentally, that part of the State had been neglected over the years. The proposed hospital would be a boon for the region. You are heading the tax investigation agency of that region. During an inspection of the doctor's clinic, your officers have found out some major irregularities. A few of them are substantial which had resulted in considerable withholding of tax that should be paid by him now. The doctor is cooperative. He undertakes to pay the tax immediately. However, there are certain other deficiencies in his tax compliance which are purely technical. If these technical defaults are pursued by the agency, considerable time and energy of the doctor will be diverted to issues which are not so serious, urgent or even helpful to the tax collection process. Further, in all probability, it will hamper the prospects of the hospital coming up. There are two options before you: 1) Taking a broader view, ensure substantial tax compliance and ignore defaults that are merely technical. 2) Pursue the matter strictly and proceed on all fronts, whether substantial or merely technical. As the head of the tax agency, which course of action will you opt and why?

6. Edward Snowden, a computer expert and former CIA administrator, released confidential Government documents to the press about the existence of Government surveillance programmes. According to many legal experts and the US Government, his action violated the Espionage act of 1971, which identified the leak of State secret as an act of treason. Yet, although he broke the law, Snowden argued that he had a moral obligation to act. He gave a justification for his "whistleblowing" by stating that he had a duty "to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them." According to Snowden, the Government's violation of privacy had to be exposed regardless of legality since more substantive issues of social action and public morality were involved here. Many agreed with Snowden. Few argued that he broke the law and compromised national security, for which he should be held accountable. Do you agree that Snowden's actions were ethically justified even if legally prohibited? Why or why not? Make an argument by weighing the competing values in this case.

1. You are an honest and responsible civil servant. You often observe the following: (a) There is a general perception that adhering to ethical conduct one may face difficulties to oneself and cause problems for the family, whereas unfair practises may help to reach the career goals. (b) When the number of people adopting unfair means is large, a small minority having a penchant towards ethical means makes no difference. (c) Sticking to ethical means is detrimental to the larger developmental goals (D) While one may not involve oneself in large unethical practices, but giving and accepting small gifts makes the system more efficient. Examine the above statements with their merits and demerits.

2. You are aspiring to become an IAS officer and you have cleared various stages and now you have been selected for the personal interview. On the day of the interview, on the way to the venue, you saw an accident where a mother and child who happen to be your relatives were badly injured. They needed immediate help. What would you have done in such a situation? Justify your action.

3. You are the head of the Human Resources department of an organisation. One day one of the workers died on duty. His family was demanding compensation. However, the company denied compensation because it was revealed in an investigation that he was drunk at the time of the accident. The workers of the company went to strike demanding compensation for the family of the deceased. The Chairman of the management board has asked for your recommendation. What recommendation would you provide the management? Discuss the merits and demerits of each of the recommendations.

4. You are the manager of a spare parts company A and you have to negotiate a deal with the manager of a large manufacturing company B. The deal is highly competitive and sealing the deal is critical for your company. The deal is being worked out over a dinner. After dinner, the manager of manufacturing company B offered to drop you to the hotel in his car. On the way to the hotel, he happens to hit motorcycle injuring the motorcyclist badly. You know the manager was driving fast and thus lost control. The law enforcement officer comes to investigate the issue and you are the sole eyewitness to it. Knowing the strict laws about road accidents you are aware that your honest account of the incident would lead to the prosecution of the manager and as a consequence the deal is likely to be jeopardised, which is of immense importance to your company. What are the dilemmas you face? What will be your response to the situation? (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS hint: Subject: Ethics and Human Interface (Essence, Determinants, Consequences of Ethics in Human Actions); Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics in Public & Private Relationships. Human life vs opportunity)

5. You are a Public Information Officer (PIO) in a government department. You are aware that the RTI Act 2005 envisages transparency and accountability in administration. The act has functioned as a check on the supposedly arbitrarily administrative behaviour and actions. However, as a PIO you have observed that there are citizens who filed RTI applications not for themselves but on behalf of such stakeholders who purportedly want to have access to information to further their interests. At the same time, there are these RTI activists who routinely file RTI applications and attempt to extort money from the decision-makers. This type of RTI activism has affected the functioning of the administration adversely and also possibly jeopardises the genuineness of the applications which are essentially aimed at getting justice. What measures would you suggest to separate genuine and non-genuine applications? Give the merits and demerits of your suggestions. (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS hint: Subject: Information (Sharing & Transparency in Government); RTI;)

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venue, you saw an accident where a mother and child who happen to be your relatives were badly injured. They needed immediate help. What would you have done in such a situation? Justify your action. (Ethics and Human Interface (Essence, Determinants, Consequences of Ethics in Human Actions); Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics in Public & Private Relationships. Human life vs opportunity)

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2016

1. Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being. (Dr B. R. AMBEDKAR IAS hints: Ethics and Human Interface (Essence, Determinants, Consequences of Ethics in Human Actions); Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics in Public & Private Relationships.)

2. Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective. (b) Giving examples and show how the two differ in their approaches (Dr B. R. AMBEDKAR IAS hints: Ethics and Human Interface (Essence, Determinants, Consequences of Ethics in Human Actions); Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics in Public & Private Relationships.)

3. Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours. (b) How can it be managed and controlled? (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS hint: Subject: Emotional Intelligence (Concepts, Utility & Application in Administration & Governance))

4. Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's concept of seven sins. (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hint; Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators)

5. Analyse John Rawls's concept of social justice in the Indian context. (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hints: Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators)

6. Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national development. Discuss Kautilya's views. .(Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hints: Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators)

7. Max Weber said that it is not wise to apply to public administration the sort of moral and ethical norms we apply to matters of personal conscience. It is important to realise that the State bureaucracy might possess its independent bureaucratic morality. Critically analyse this statement. (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hints: Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators)

8. Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of modern democratic and egalitarian society. (a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians. (b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socioethical values be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants? (Subject: Role of Family, Society, Educational Institutions in Inculcating Values;)

9. How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan? (Subject: Social Influence and Persuasion)

10. Land needed for mining, dams and other large-scale projects is acquired mostly from Adivasis, hill dwellers and rural communities. The displaced persons are paid monetary compensation as per the legal provisions. However, the payment is often tardy. In any case, it cannot sustain the displaced families for long. These people do not possess marketable skills to engage in some other occupation. They end up as low paid migrant labourers. Moreover, their living is destroyed. Thus, the benefits of traditional ways of community development go to industries, industrialists and urban communities whereas the costs are passed on to these poor helpless people. This unjust distribution of costs and benefits is unethical. Suppose you have been entrusted with the task of drafting a better compensation-cum-rehabilitation policy for such displaced persons, how would you approach the problem and what would be the main elements of your suggested policy? (Subject: Attitude(Content, Structure, Function, Influence &Relation with Thought &Behaviour); Moral and Political Attitudes)

11. Saraswati was a successful IT professional in the USA. Moved by the patriotic sense of doing something for the country she returned to India. Together with some other like-minded friends, she formed an NGO to build a school for a poor rural community. The objective of the school was to provide the best quality modern education at a nominal cost. She soon discovered that she has to seek permission from several Governments agencies. The rules and procedures were quite confusing and cumbersome. What frustrated her most was the delays, callous attitude of officials and constant demand of bribes. Her experience and the experience of many others like her has deterred people from taking up social service projects. A measure of Government control over voluntary social work is necessary. But it should not be exercised in a coercive or corrupt manner. What measures can you suggest to ensure that due control is exercised but well meaning, honest NGO efforts are not thwarted? (Subject: Attitude(Content, Structure, Function, Influence &Relation with Thought &Behaviour); Moral and Political Attitudes)

12. ABC Ltd. is a large transnational company having diversified business activities with a huge shareholder base. The company is continuously expanding and generating employment. The company, in its expansion and diversification programme, decides to establish a new plant at Vikaspuri, an area which is underdeveloped. The new plant is designed to use energy efficient technology that will help the company to save production cost by 20%. The company's decision goes well with the Government policy of attracting investment to develop such underdeveloped regions. The Government has also announced tax holiday for five years for the companies that invest in underdeveloped areas. However, the new plant may bring chaos for the inhabitants of Vikaspuri region which is otherwise tranquil. The new plant may result in increased cost of living, aliens migrating to the region, disturbing the social and economic order. The company sensing the possible protest tried to educate the people of Vikaspuri region and the public in general that how its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy would help overcome the likely difficulties of the residents of Vikaspuri region. Despite this, the protests begin and some of the residents decided to approach the judiciary as their plea before the Government did not yield any result.

(a) Identify the issues involved in the case.

(b) What can be suggested to satisfy the Company's goal and to address the resident's concern.

2015

1. What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. (Dr B. R. AMBEDKAR IAS hints: Ethics and Human Interface (Essence, Determinants, Consequences of Ethics in Human Actions); Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics in Public & Private Relationships.)
2. Differentiate between the following: a) Law and Ethics; b) Ethical management and Management of ethics; c) Discrimination and Preferential treatment; d) Personal ethics and Professional ethics. (Dr B. R. AMBEDKAR IAS hints: Ethics and Human Interface (Essence, Determinants, Consequences of Ethics in Human Actions); Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics in Public & Private Relationships.)
3. "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hints: Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators)
4. We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light. (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hints: Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators)
5. Social values are more important than economic values. Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. (Subject: Role of Family, Society, Educational Institutions in Inculcating Values;)
6. There is a disaster-prone State having frequent landslides, forest fires, cloudbursts, flash floods and earthquakes, etc. Some of these are seasonal and often unpredictable. The magnitude of the disaster is always unanticipated. During one of the seasons, a cloudburst caused devastating floods and landslides leading to high casualties. There was major damage to infrastructure like roads, bridges and power generating units. This led to more than 100000 pilgrims, tourists and other locals trapped across different routes and locations. The people trapped in your area of responsibility included senior citizens, patients in hospitals, women and children, hikers, tourists, ruling party's regional president along with his family, additional jail. As secretary State and prisoners in jail. As a civil services officer of the State, what would be the order in which you would rescue these people and why? Give justifications. (Subject: Attitude (Content, Structure, Function, Influence & Relation with Thought & Behaviour); Moral and Political Attitudes)
7. One of the scientists working in the R & D laboratory of a major pharmaceutical company discovers that one of the company's best-selling veterinary drugs, B has the potential to cure a currently incurable liver disease that is prevalent in tribal areas. However, developing a variant of the drug suitable for human beings entailed a lot of research and development having a huge expenditure to the extent of 50 crores rupees. It was unlikely that the company would recover the costs as the disease was rampant only in the poverty-stricken area having

very little market otherwise. If you were the CEO, then— (a) Identify the various actions that you could take; (b) Evaluate the pros and cons of each of your actions.

2014

1. Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'. Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society. (Dr B. R. AMBEDKAR IAS hints: Ethics and Human Interface (Essence, Determinants, Consequences of Ethics in Human Actions); Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics in Public & Private Relationships.)

2. All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples. (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS hint: Subject: Emotional Intelligence (Concepts, Utility & Application in Administration & Governance))

3. Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings giving specific examples; describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your ethical development. (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hints: Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators)

4. In the context of defence services, 'patriotism' demands readiness to even lay down one's life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer. (Subject: Attitude (Content, Structure, Function, Influence & Relation with Thought & Behaviour); Moral and Political Attitudes)

5. The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and societal wellbeing? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy? (Subject: Role of Family, Society, Educational Institutions in Inculcating Values)

6. What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent in many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes? (Subject: Role of Family, Society, Educational Institutions in Inculcating Values)

7. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. (Subject: Role of Family, Society, Educational Institutions in Inculcating Values)

8. Rameshwar successfully cleared the prestigious civil services examination and was excited about the opportunity that he would get through the civil services to serve the country.

However, soon after joining the services, he realized that things are not as rosy as he had imagined. He found several malpractices prevailing in the department assigned to him. For example, funds under various schemes and grants were being misappropriated. The official facilities were frequently being used for personal needs by the officers and staff. After some time, he noticed that the process of recruiting the staff was also not up to the mark. Prospective candidates were required to write an examination in which a lot of cheating was going on. Some candidates were provided external help in the examination. Rameshwar brought these incidents to the notice of his seniors. However, he was advised to keep his eyes, ears and mouth shut and ignore all these things which were taking place with the connivance of the higher-ups. Rameshwar felt highly disillusioned and uncomfortable. He comes to you seeking your advice. Indicate various options that you think are available in this situation. How would you help him to evaluate these options and choose the most appropriate path to be adopted? (Subject: Emotional Intelligence (Concepts, Utility & Application in Administration & Governance))

9. In our country, the migration of rural people to towns and cities is increasing drastically. This is causing serious problems both in the rural as well as in the urban areas. Things are becoming unmanageable. Can you analyze this problem in detail and indicate not only the socioeconomic but also the emotional and attitudinal factors responsible for this problem? Also, distinctly bring out why— 1. Educated rural youth are trying to shift to urban areas; 2. Landless poor people are migrating to urban slums; 3. Even some farmers are selling off their land and trying to settle in urban areas taking up petty jobs. What feasible steps can you suggest which will be effective in controlling this serious problem in our country? (Concepts, Utility & Application in Administration & Governance)

2013

1. What do you understand by 'values' and 'ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? (Dr B. R. AMBEDKAR IAS hints: Ethics and Human Interface (Essence, Determinants, Consequences of Ethics in Human Actions); Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics in Public & Private Relationships.)

2. Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification. (Dr B. R. AMBEDKAR IAS hints: Ethics and Human Interface (Essence, Determinants, Consequences of Ethics in Human Actions); Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics in Public & Private Relationships.)

3. What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions? (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS hint: Subject: Emotional Intelligence (Concepts, Utility & Application in Administration & Governance))

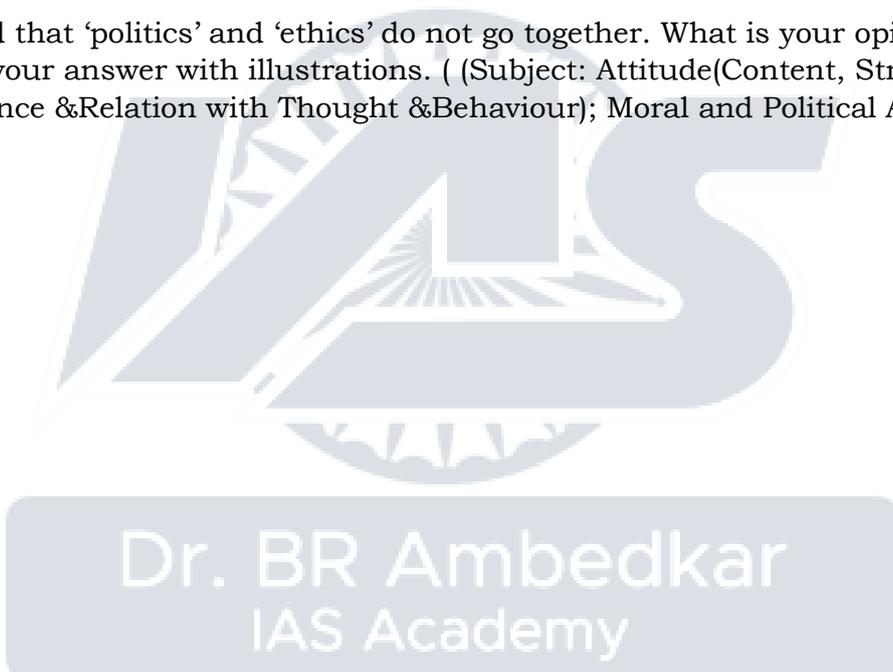
4. What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience? (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS hint: Subject: Emotional Intelligence (Concepts, Utility & Application in Administration & Governance))

5. What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS hint: Subject: Emotional Intelligence (Concepts, Utility & Application in Administration & Governance)

6. There is enough on this earth for everyone's need but no one's greed. Mahatma Gandhi. (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hints: Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators)

7. Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.—Abraham Lincoln (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hints: Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators) 8. I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies.— Aristotle (Dr B R AMBEDKAR IAS ACADEMY hints: Contributions of Moral Thinkers & Philosophers from India and World; Human Value Lessons from great leaders, Reformers & Administrators)

9. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics' do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations. ((Subject: Attitude(Content, Structure, Function, Influence & Relation with Thought & Behaviour); Moral and Political Attitudes)



Dr. BR Ambedkar
IAS Academy