

# SHIVOM ERA IAS ACADEMY

Excellence in Civil Services Preparation · Agra, Uttar Pradesh

## UPSC CIVIL SERVICES MAINS EXAMINATION

### GENERAL STUDIES — PAPER I

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

Total Questions: 20

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. There are 20 questions printed in English.
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. Marks carried by each question are indicated against it.
4. Section A: 10 questions × 10 marks = 100 marks (Answer in ~150 words).
5. Section B: 10 questions × 15 marks = 150 marks (Answer in ~250 words).
6. Word limits should be strictly adhered to.
7. Do not write anything outside the answer box.

#### SECTION A — SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (10 Marks each | ~150 words)

**Q1.**

The Revolt of 1857 was simultaneously a sepoy mutiny, a feudal reaction, and a popular uprising. Critically examine this multi-dimensional character and explain why it failed to become a united national movement.

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

**Q2.**

"The partition of Bengal in 1905 was both an administrative blunder and a political masterstroke for the British." Analyze the dual impact of the Partition on Indian nationalism and communal politics.

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

**Q3.**

Examine how the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22) transformed the Indian National Congress from an elitist organization into a mass movement. What were the consequences of its sudden withdrawal?

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

**Q4.**

"Jawaharlal Nehru's foreign policy was idealistic in conception but pragmatic in compulsion." Evaluate this statement with reference to major foreign policy decisions taken between 1947–1964.

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

**Q5.**

The linguistic reorganization of states in 1956 was a necessary concession to regional aspirations but carried seeds of future conflicts. Discuss with relevant examples.

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

**Q6.**

Assess the role of the Congress Socialist Party and Left forces within the Indian National Congress in radicalizing the freedom movement during the 1930s.

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

**Q7.**

"The First World War destroyed empires, redrew maps, and gave birth to modern ideologies." Examine the political and territorial consequences of WWI with special focus on the Middle East and Europe.

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

**Q8.**

The Cold War was not merely a geopolitical rivalry but an ideological contest that shaped the post-colonial world. Examine with reference to Asia and Africa.

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

**Q9.**

Explain the demographic dividend and its double-edged nature for India. What structural reforms are necessary to convert this potential into actual growth?

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

**Q10.**

The Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats differ significantly in their geomorphology, climate, and biodiversity. Compare and contrast their ecological significance and vulnerability.

*(10 Marks | 150 words)*

## **SECTION B — LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (15 Marks each | ~250 words)**

**Q11.**

"Ambedkar and Gandhi agreed on the goal of uplifting the depressed classes but differed fundamentally on the method." Critically analyze this assertion in the context of the Poona Pact (1932) and their broader ideological differences.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

**Q12.**

The decolonization of Africa after World War II was rapid but left deep structural legacies of underdevelopment, ethnic conflict, and authoritarian governance. Examine the causes and consequences of this pattern.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

**Q13.**

India's caste system has been simultaneously described as a source of social cohesion and the most persistent form of structural discrimination. Evaluate the changing nature of caste in contemporary India with reference to urbanization, education, and political mobilization.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

**Q14.**

Disaster risk in India is not merely a natural phenomenon but is deeply embedded in social vulnerability and governance failure. Critically examine this statement with reference to at least two recent disasters.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

**Q15.**

The Indian monsoon is the lifeline of the subcontinent, yet its increasing variability poses existential challenges to agriculture and water security. Analyze the factors responsible for monsoon variability and suggest adaptive strategies.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

**Q16.**

"Women's empowerment in India remains a paradox — improving on indices but retreating in practice." Examine this paradox with reference to workforce participation, political representation, and gender-based violence trends.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

**Q17.**

The Green Revolution transformed India's food security but created region-specific prosperity, ecological degradation, and agrarian distress simultaneously. Critically evaluate its long-term socio-economic and environmental impact.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

**Q18.**

The rise of Fascism and Nazism in interwar Europe was not an aberration but a product of systemic failures of democracy, economic collapse, and the psychology of humiliation. Examine.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

**Q19.**

Internal migration in India — both distress-driven and aspiration-driven — is reshaping urban spaces and rural societies. Analyze the push-pull dynamics of migration and evaluate the adequacy of existing policy frameworks.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

**Q20.**

India's Himalayan ecosystem is under simultaneous stress from climate change, infrastructure development, and demographic pressure. Critically examine the ecological and strategic implications of Himalayan degradation.

*(15 Marks | 250 words)*

---

— END OF QUESTION PAPER —

---

## MODEL ANSWER OUTLINES (Selected Questions)

### Q11 — Gandhi vs Ambedkar (15 marks)

- Context: Communal Award 1932, Gandhi's fast unto death, Poona Pact outcome
- Ideological divergence: Gandhi — moral reform within Hinduism; Ambedkar — structural annihilation of caste
- Separate electorates debate: political representation vs. Hindu unity argument
- Long-term legacy: Poona Pact's impact on Dalit political representation
- Conclusion: Both sought justice, but Ambedkar's structural critique proved more analytically durable

### Q16 — Women's Empowerment Paradox (15 marks)

- Paradox defined: improving literacy/sex ratio vs. declining FLFPR (from 26% to ~19%)
- Political representation: 33% reservation in Panchayats vs. only ~15% in Parliament
- GBV data: NCRB trends, conviction rates, structural impunity
- Urban-rural divide in empowerment outcomes
- Policy critique: schemes addressing symptoms, not patriarchal structures
- Conclusion: Need to shift from welfare to rights-based approach

### Q14 — Disasters and Social Vulnerability (15 marks)

- Distinguish natural hazard vs. disaster (disaster = hazard + vulnerability)
- Case 1: Uttarakhand floods 2013/2021 — unplanned construction, governance failure
- Case 2: Odisha cyclones — contrast with improved preparedness post-1999
- Social vulnerability: poor, women, tribals disproportionately affected
- Sendai Framework 2015–2030 and India's alignment
- Conclusion: Risk reduction requires social equity, not just early warning systems

## EXAMINER'S NOTE — What Earns 7+ / 10

- ◆ A clear INTRODUCTION that directly addresses the question's core tension or theme.
- ◆ MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS — at least 2–3 angles (political, social, economic, or geographic).
- ◆ SPECIFIC EXAMPLES, DATA, or NAMES — not vague generalities.
- ◆ A FORWARD-LOOKING CONCLUSION that goes beyond summarizing the body.
- ◆ Answers that show CRITICAL THINKING — not just information recall.
- ◆ Proper use of DIRECTIVE WORDS: 'Examine' requires analysis; 'Discuss' requires balanced treatment; 'Critically analyze' requires evaluation of strengths and weaknesses.