

Test Code: 11073

FIAS - 2018 - GS 8E

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GENERAL STUDIES

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Email Id.	[REDACTED]	Roll No.	[REDACTED]
Mobile No.	[REDACTED]	Date:	14-AUG-2018

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained		
1			1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile). 2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. 3. All questions are compulsory. 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. 5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.	
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Total Marks:				
Remarks:			Start Time 13:15	End Time 16:15
			Mode Of Examination :	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date:

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Innovation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

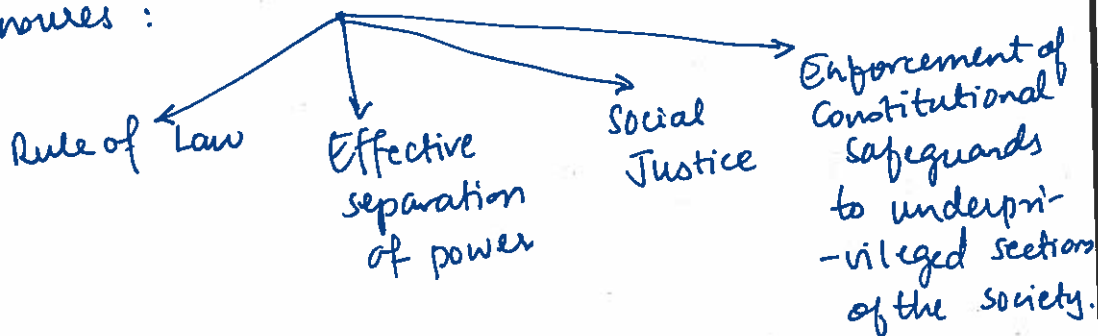


Q.1) "Though Supreme Court's use of its vast powers under the Article 142 has done tremendous good to many deprived sections, however, it is time to institute checks and balances". Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

⇒ Under A-142 of the Constitution the Supreme Court is empowered to issue any order or decree, that is necessary to do justice to all sections of the society. It is also empowered to offer punishment for the contempt of the court.

The vast powers under this provision enforces :



However, with unfettered use of the provision of "punishment for the contempt of court" has muzzled meaningful debates and constructive criticisms of the judiciary.

The Judiciary has also interpreted the provision in its widest meaning, and therefore, has encroached upon the territory of

legislature and Executive.

For. eg. a recent case of JA the Supreme Court 'diluting' the provisions of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989.

Need for Checks & Balances:

- to have separation of power in letter and spirit
- to create a vibrant, participatory and progressive democracy.

Given a lot of the unclear and ambiguous provisions in the Constitution, it is necessary that effective checks & Balances be instituted.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
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Q.2) Is there a need for a balance between Fundamental Rights and Parliamentary Privileges to be re-examined? Discuss giving suitable arguments in support of your answer.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

→ Fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution protects citizens from arbitrary authority of state.

Parliamentary privileges are provided to the members of parliament to enable them:

① Voice their opinions effectively → Freedom of speech.

② Effectively participate in policy making of the government.

At times, Fundamental rights and Parliamentary Privileges come in clash.

For eg. a member of parliament can't be ordered to provide jury

2. Economic: Iran is our doorway to Central Asia and is an important partner in Chabahar port, International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

3. Energy security: We import crude oil & natural gas from Iran. Also, the project of a gas pipeline from Iran is important for our energy security.

Measures to buffer consequences:

1. Maintain neutrality and not taking sides in such cases → following non-alignment.
2. Secure our economic and political interests by strengthening relationship by using economic aid, cultural relationship and our soft power.

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Q.6) How can NGOs have an impact, on women capacities and their empowerment? Discuss with suitable examples. Also, in brief, explain some of the major roadblocks confronted by NGOs in India.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

⇒ Non-Government organisations (NGOs) are formal groups of people dedicated towards a public cause and working on either a profit or non-profit basis.

NGOs can have a big impact on women capacities and their empowerment by enabling:

1. Organised self-help groups for women to secure economic interests, and eradicate poverty. eg. SEWA by Ila Bhat (Papad-making)
2. Alternative means of incomes to poor households, education and awareness of government schemes. eg. Kudumbashree in Kerala.
3. Women safety camps and training.
4. Can secure self-respect to women by making them aware of menstrual

health.

eg. The Pioness Club's NGO works for women education on health issues.

Major Roadblocks:

1. Issue of funding → do not have sufficient funds to run independently.
2. Trust deficit between government & NGOs. eg. FCRA Act ~~pro~~ keeps a check on foreign donation to NGOs.
3. No social audit of the outcomes, and
4. No convergent interests of the involved members.

NGOs, as the fourth tier of public service delivery hold immense potential to make lives of people better → Need to be strengthened.

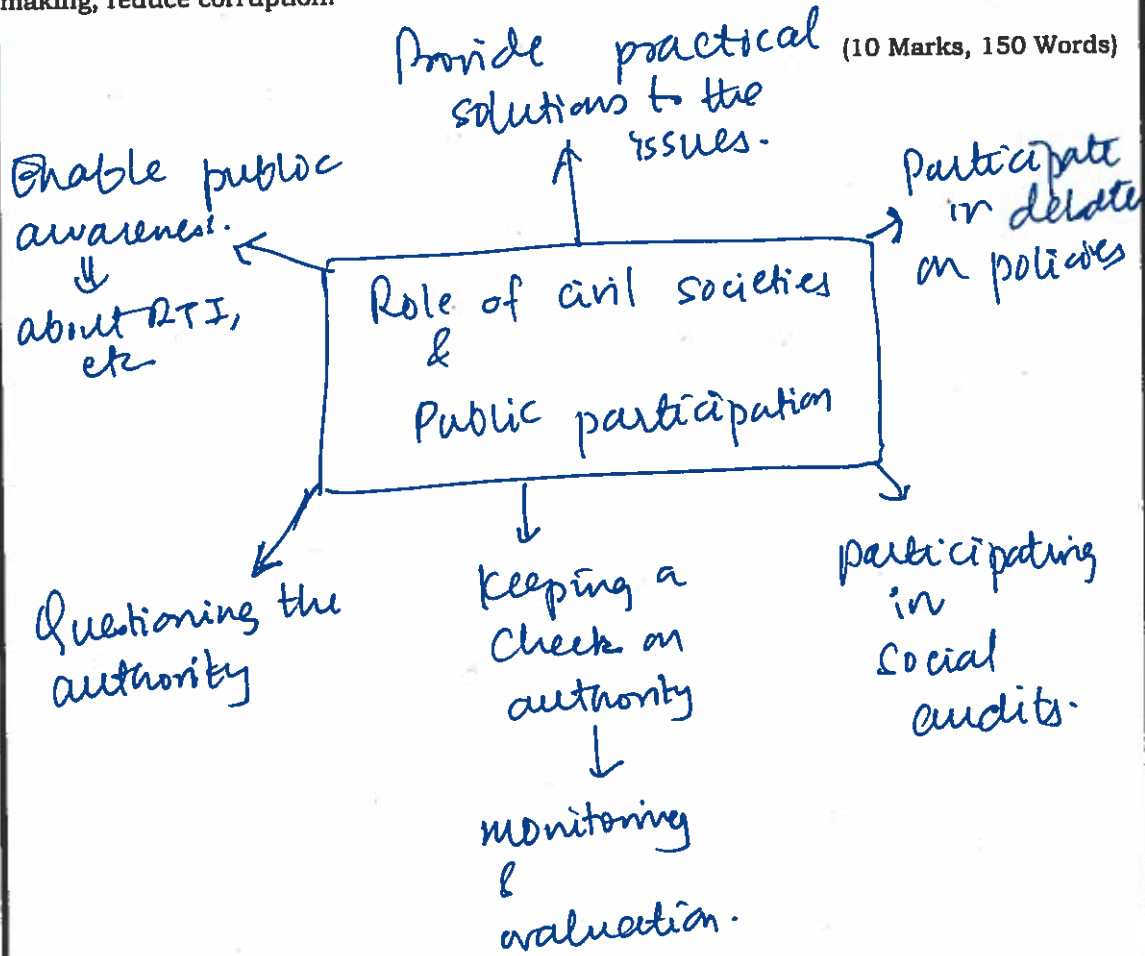
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Q.7) How can civil society activities and public participation in governments' decision-making, reduce corruption?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)



Thus, civil societies and public participation can reduce corruption

by →

① Increasing transparency, accountability & objectivity of the authority.

② Making public aware of their

rights.
eg. 'India against Corruption' successfully helped curb corruption in India by invoking people's participation in public decision making.

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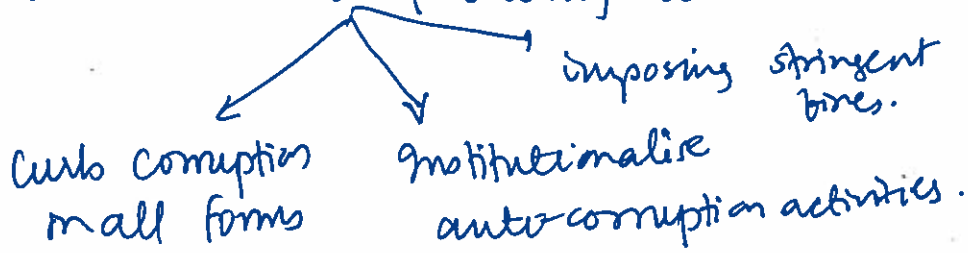
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Q.8) Evaluate the problems and prospects of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Prevention of Corruption Bill 2018 seeks to achieve ~~the~~ the following aims:



Problems:

- ① Corruption is more of a social & attitudinal problem → this needs to be changed.
- ② Corruption takes several forms → eg. crony capitalism, nepotism, → this should also be addressed.
- ③ Effective public participation & civic awareness is necessary for curbing corruption at its roots → the

bill does not address this effectively.

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Q.9) What do you understand by civil services' activism? Analyze its implications on the functioning of democracy?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

⇒ Civil services is a part of bureaucratic set up the country which is a group of professionals looking after the civil affairs of the state (~~apart~~ ~~for~~ different from judicial and military affairs) and get paid by the state.

Civil services are to operate with the basic tenets of neutrality (towards government), impartiality (towards citizens) and anonymity.

Civil Services activism is a part of pro-active initiatives of civil services to impart public services to the people in an efficient, effective and equitable manner. It involves, on part of civil servants:

1. Innovations
2. Effective monitoring & evaluation

of the schemes.

It also involves civil services taking active measures to reduce delays & inefficiencies in work of bureaucracy.

Implications on democracy:

- makes democracy more vibrant
- instils people's faith in institutions.
- strengthens democracy by enabling participation of people.
- 'Responsive' democracy where people's concerns are addressed

↓

"Good Governance"

Although Activism on part of Civil servants is a desirable thing, it should be guided by Civil Services Code of Conduct & Ethics.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Question Interpretation	
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Q.10) Technology helps in reducing discretion and thus brings in objectivity, but there are obstacles in use of modern technology in governance, which needs to be overcome. Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

⇒ The 2nd ARC recommended the use of technology in all possible ways to improve the public service quality and also the efficiency of service delivery. This, it recommended, would reduce discretion on part of bureaucrats which often leads to widespread societal injustice, corruption and opacity in governance.

However, while technology makes bureaucracy and governance systems objective, it suffers from many obstacles when it comes to adopting it:

1. Attitudinal problems of civil servants to remain attached to the older ways of doing things and a mental inertia to adopt new technology.

2. Lack of preparedness on part of the organisation to adopt new technology.
3. No sync. between technological systems and the business processes.
4. Lack of sufficient training, infrastructure to support.

Thus, bringing in technology should be preceded with other important reforms in Governance like:

1. Training,
2. Capacity Building.
3. Business Process Reengineering.

4. Sufficient finances to adopt a wholesale system of technology.

Thus, 'citizen-centricity' is what is necessary for overcoming the obstacles.

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

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Question Interpretation	
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Q.11) "Feminism" has evolved as a movement with agenda, organization and means to protest. Comment. How far do you think "Draft National Policy for Women, 2016" will strengthen the cause of women empowerment in India?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

→ Feminism is referred to as the a social cause or philosophy in which female/ women rights are fought for and advocated.

In a patriarchal society, women have been widely discriminated against since historic times. Thus, the need for reviving the conditions of women, in a society where crimes against women have been rising, has become the prime agenda for all feminist movements.

Reason for Feminist movements:

> Women in 21st century have become more assertive, self-dependent & economically independent.

> Crimes against women have been only rising.

> Safety of women not given sufficient attention.

> Low participation of women in economic activities, politics, and

> poor health and education levels leaving women at the mercy of their families.

Thus, Feminism has evolved as a means to secure ~~above~~ rights of the women as the agenda, by organising groups advocating the cause, and also protesting for their rights.

The Draft National Policy for Women 2016

has the following provisions:

1. Educational and health of women to be given the utmost priority.
2. Providing women with sufficient economic

and financial support to make them independent.

3. Address safety concerns of women by strengthening institutional mechanisms to protect women from crimes like sexual violence, domestic violence, homicide and molestation. eg. National Comm. for women to be strengthened

However, the draft policy does suffer from the following drawbacks:

1. No mention of any special budgetary or packages for women development.

2. No mention of ~~sexual~~ political representation of women in the legislatures.

Thus, to safeguard the interests of women, we need changes in mindset, institutions, and most importantly - our ~~social~~ ~~stere~~ attitudes.

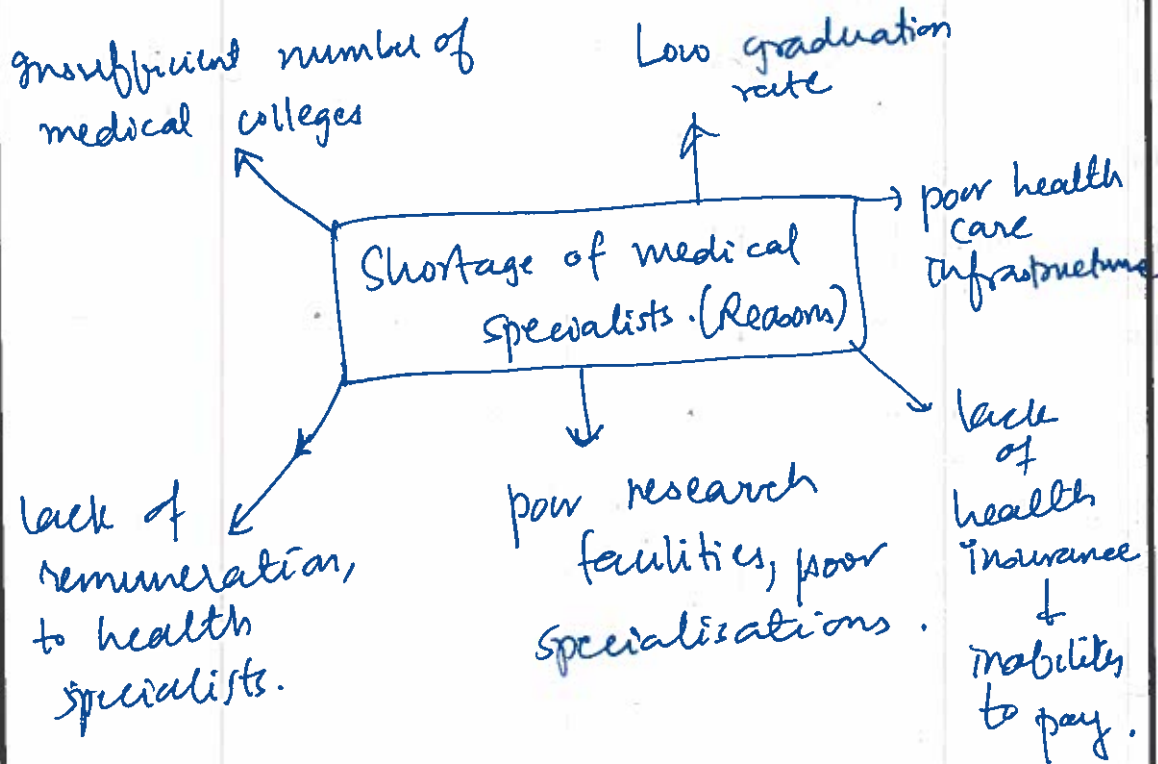
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Q.12) Explain why India faces a severe shortage of medical specialists both for its rural and urban health services. Do you think 'National Medical Commission Bill, 2017' could help plug critical gaps of the health sector of India? Give suitable arguments in support of your answer.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)



The National Medical Commission Bill can help plug critical gaps as it envisages the following:

1. Autonomy to medical institutions.
2. More number of medical institutes can be set up

3. Encouragement of Research & Development in medical field.

A. Enable medical institutions to attract foreign talent in medical specialisations.

However, the Bill still suffers from many loopholes and may not be as successful & due to the following reasons:

- ① Lack of funding for new institutes
- ② No Budgetary promises for setting up medical institutes and health care centres.

Thus, while the NMC Bill 2017 envisages transforming health sector in India, unless the financial assistance is provided, it will not be

so much successful is plugging the
existing gaps.

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

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Q.13) Higher education in India has expanded very rapidly in the last seven decades yet it is not equally accessible, available and affordable to all. Elucidate. Also, analyse the significance of 'Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2018' in transforming the higher education of India.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

⇒

Higher or Tertiary education in India has expanded in the past several decades, especially in technical and management fields. Yet, our educational system suffers from the problems of:

1. Accessibility by all
2. Availability on demand
3. Affordability.
4. Outdated syllabus.

This is because of the following reasons:

1. Inadequate capacity building - both human capital and infrastructural development are insufficient (lack of funds)
2. State-run institutes are few and most of the institutes run by private sector which charge exorbitant fees.

3. Concentration of educational centres in a few cities and that too in big metro cities where living costs are high.

4. Focus only on engineering and management related fields. Neglect of humanities, arts, social sciences, pure sciences, life sciences, etc.

Above issues have been, time and again, addressed by the government but only with limited successes. The proposed 'Higher Education Commission' (HEC) would help in transforming the higher education in the following way:

1. It will address problem of strict control of the 'University Grants Commission' on universities and make them independent to decide on courses and the syllabus.

2. It will enable financial autonomy in

the institutes which will enable them to invest in physical and human capital.

3. It will put equal focus on all fields of studies, enable research & development and invite and attract foreign talent.

4. It will cut the multiplicity of regulators and will give educational institutes a way to make decisions without much bureaucratic hindrances.

Conclusion:

To realise the dream of having our universities in top 200 of the world, we need structural and fundamental reforms in our educational institutes, which the HECI promises to give.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Q.14) Giving a brief comparative analysis of Fifth and Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, examine major issues that render provisions of both the schedules inefficient and less effective. Do you think that Sixth Schedule must now be replaced with 'Panchayati Raj Institutions'? Justify

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

⇒ Our Constitution has special provisions for protection of rights and interests of Scheduled Tribes and other tribal groups in the country. These provisions are contained in P. Schedule V and Schedule VI of the constitution.

Sch. V

This contains special provisions for scheduled areas in ten states - Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, M.P., Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Jharkhand, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Under the provisions of this schedule, there shall be a 'Tribal Advisory Council' in each of these states to be headed by the Chief Minister which will look into

policy matters for development of scheduled Tribes in the state.

- The Governor of the state is given the power to identify such scheduled areas and constitute a committee to hear developmental initiatives for such areas.

Sch VI :

- This contains provisions for some special areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- These states have tribal districts which are ~~also~~ given autonomous status and relationship between these districts and the state government is special.
- The Panchayati Raj institutions ~~do~~ are not present in areas under Sch. VI. as the PESA act was only for areas under Sch. V.

Major Issues

1. Lack of complete autonomy even though constitutional provisions ~~at~~ ^{Command} SO.
2. C.M. as the head of T.A.C. in Sch. V areas give the people less say in developmental issues.
3. Self-recognition and traditional rights have not been adequately safeguarded.

The Areas under sixth schedule must now have Panchayati-Raj institutions to bring them in the mainstream of Indian polity. PRIs will ensure:

- self-government but support from the state & the centre
- Protection of rights of tribal groups - like the provisions in PESA for Sch. V areas.

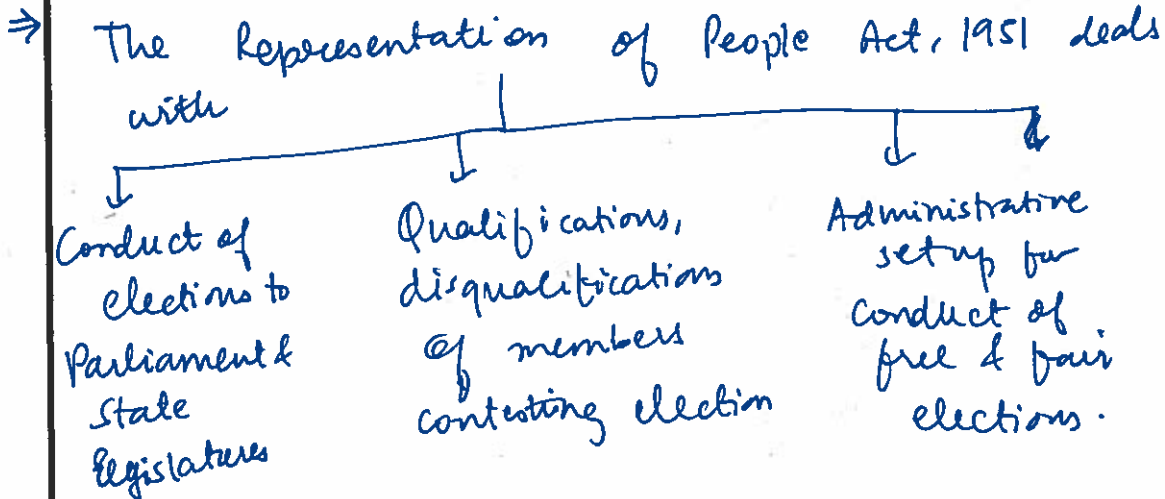
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Q.15) "Representation of People Act in its original form does not meet the changing needs to conduct elections". Examine the major judicial pronouncements made in relevance to RPA in recent years. Also, discuss the need to further amend the act if any.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)



The Election Commission of India is entrusted with the responsibility to conduct the free and fair elections which are necessary for the functioning of a vibrant democracy.

~~However~~ The Model Code of Conduct as prescribed under Section 126 of the RPA, 1951 prohibits:

↳ any public meetings, rallies or display of election matters in print form or media, 48 hours before elections.

However, the provisions under the Act are insufficient in the to meet the changing needs like:

1. Technology proliferation leading to misconduct on part of political parties in the form of 'psychological targetting' of an public and changing their views and opinions.

eg. The recent Cambridge Analytica case where political parties allegedly used services of this company to manipulate election outcomes.

2. Democratisation of internet and social media → virtually impossible for ECI to curb display of election materials 48 hours before the elections.

Recent Judicial Pronouncements:

1. NOTA - citizens to be given right to reject

1. a candidate.
2. Bars criminals from contesting elections
3. MPs and MLAs to be disqualified on the date of ^{criminal} conviction if the punishment is more than 2 years in jail. (Lily Thomas case).
4. EVM with VVPAT- indispensable for a democracy.

The need to further amend the Act:

1. Make 'NOTA' an assertive and valid vote to discourage criminals from contesting.
2. Include social media into the section 126 of the Act so as to curb misuse.
3. Bring in stringent provisions for disqualifications.
4. Make funding of polls transparent, ~~and~~

In a democracy, it is necessary that elections are conducted in the free and fair way. Thus, all loopholes with changing times need to be plugged.

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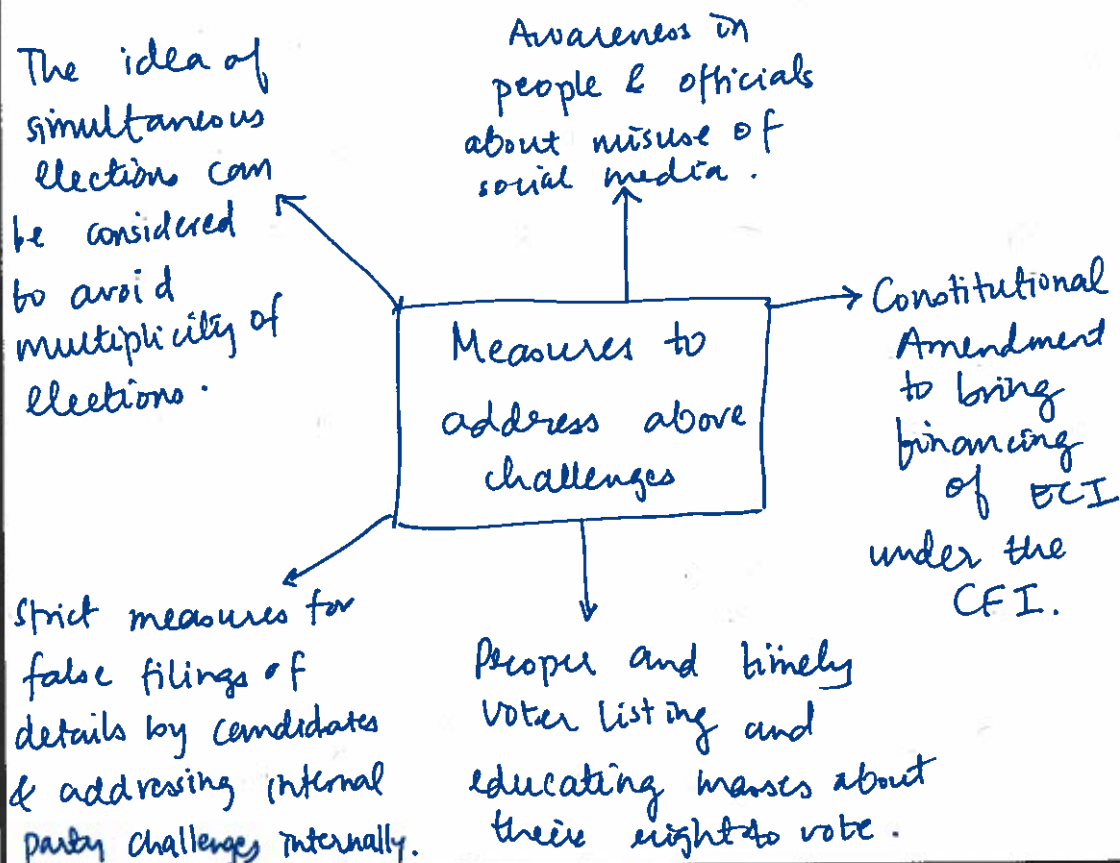
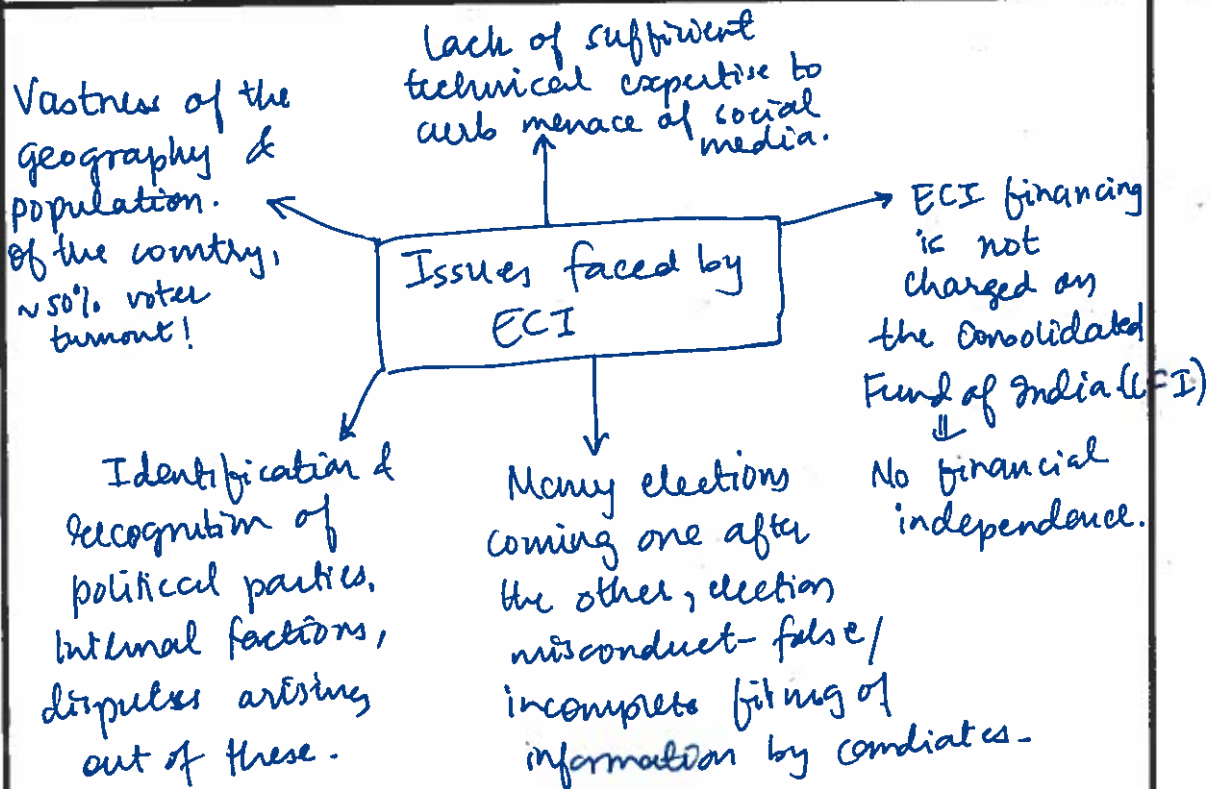


Q.16) "Maintaining the purity and transparency of election process is a very challenging job and involves a lot of inherent complexities." In this context, discuss the major existing issues and challenges faced by ECI while suggesting measures to make ECI more robust and effective.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

⇒ The sanctity of democracy is preserved when elections conducted in the country are free from and fair. Thus, maintaining the purity and transparency of election process is of utmost significance. For this, our Constitution has mandated the Election Commission of India (ECI) with the job to ensure the sanctity of election process.

However, many challenges and issues surface up when it comes to achieving a free and fair election process due to inherent complexities faced by the ECI.



Also, Election Commission suffers from the issues like:

- No qualification for the chief Election Commissioner mentioned.
- No ~~detour~~ bar on the Election Commission members from further appointment by the government \Rightarrow possibility of favour to the ruling party.

Way Ahead

Election Commission, as an important keeper of the democracy needs sufficient independence and capacity to meet the new challenges. There must be a political will to bring in necessary amendments to make this body ~~as~~ more autonomous and impartial.

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Q.17) What is the significance of Parliamentary committees? Highlighting their major limitations, suggest measures to make them more meaningful, citing recent examples.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

⇒ Parliamentary committees are the groups of the members of Parliament to look into specific matters of the parliamentary scrutiny. eg. Public Accounts Committee, Estimate Committee.

Significance:

1. It provides efficient scrutiny.
2. Saves time and provides effective scrutiny reports.
3. Checks Executive actions and critically analyse their functioning.
4. Ensure financial, political and ethical & accountability of the executive.

The Parliamentary committees are of two types: Standing Committees and Ad hoc committees. They work under the control and supervision of the Speaker/Chairman and hence ensure transparency & impartiality in their working.

Major limitations faced by the Parliamentary Committees:

- ① Most committees do not have the power to question the policy of the government. They merely look into the technical & mechanical aspects of the policy and cannot question the philosophy of the policy.
- ② The committees perform work of a 'post-mortem'. They do scrutiny after the work has been done. eg. public Accounts committee (PAC) scrutinises Appropriation Account after the expenditure has been done.
- ③ Their ^{recommendations} ~~advises~~ are only advisory in nature and not binding.
- ④ They lack sufficient expertise to analyse CAG reports and other technical aspects.

Take Measures to make them more meaningful:

- ① Involve technical experts into the committees or allow the committees to take expert opinions & advice in scrutinising the government reports, works and reports.
- ② Institutionalise the system of choosing members ~~for~~ in the committees to enable appropriate members becoming a member of an appropriate committee.
eg- Committee on women & child development must involve a woman & if possible a doctor, health specialist.
- ③ Their recommendations must be taken seriously and given sufficient time for discussion & deliberation.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Q.18) "Parliament should be a space for Policy and not for Politics". Comment. Also, suggest reforms needed to make Parliament more productive, efficient and responsive.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

→ The Parliament is a central institute where representatives of people make laws, discuss issues of national importance, raise concerns over them and ensure political accountability of those in power.

In recent years, however, the parliament has suffered from the following problems:

1. Inadequate sittings and sessions (120 days in 1980s against only 70 days in 2016).
2. Deteriorating quality of debates → no or meagre discussion on policies & more political mudslinging. → Effectively turned the Parliament into a space for politics.
3. The deteriorating quality of members and their conduct → violent protests, shouting and clamouring inside the parlia-

-ment have led to frequent adjournments.

4. The office of whip has been used to suppress free voice of the members, threatening anti-defection proceedings.

5. The office of Speaker has ~~be~~ not been non-partisan and ~~showed~~^{made} political decisions. ⑤ Lack of debates: 16 bills in 20 minutes passed in 2009.

eg. Aadhar Act was passed as a money bill, bypassing the Upper House.

7. Insufficient research support - library, etc. Thus, there is a need to bring in Parliamentary Reforms to make it more productive, efficient, and responsive to changing needs:

① Make it constitutionally mandatory for a minimum number of days, like United Kingdom.

② Members must be penalised for their unparliamentary conduct by imposing

monetary fines.

③ Anti-defection law must be amended to enable members to effectively voice their opinions.

④ Office of speaker - post-holder must be asked to resign from the political party or only an independent candidate be chosen speaker. (eg - in UK.)

⑤ Sufficient time for debates and investment in parliamentary library and research staff.

Parliament must be a space for policies and not politics - with rising aspirations of people of India, parliament must deliver on its mandate.

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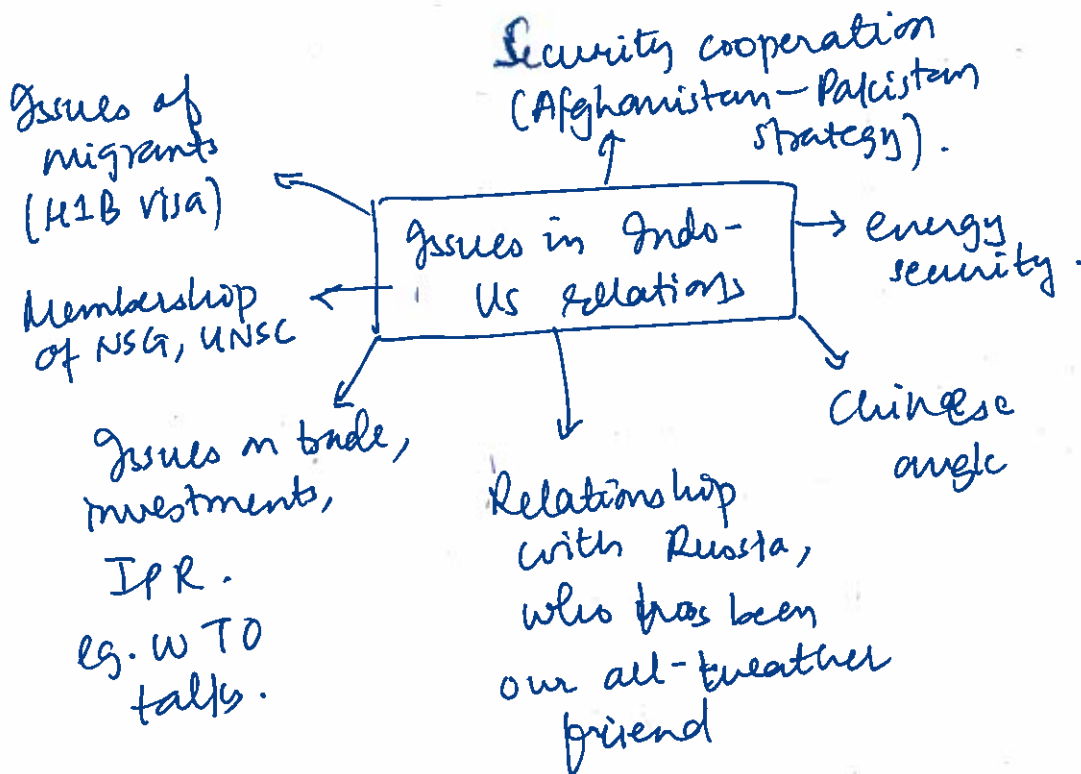
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Q.19) Today, the India-US relationship encompasses a large variety of activities, from information sharing and joint exercises to emerging industrial cooperation. Despite this convergence, India-U.S relations have been the subject of constant criticism, a combination of unrealistic expectations and doubt. Analyse.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

⇒ Indo-US relationship has seen a swinging trajectory. Today, it encompasses a large variety of activities, but still the relationship has been subject to constant criticisms:



Despite several convergent interests like defence cooperation, many issues

Remain unresolved.

Cooperation in Afghanistan security.

Cut in agricultural subsidies.

What US wants from India

Bring in strict IPR policies & protect US investments

To cut ties with hostile nations to US: eg. Iran, N. Korea, USSR

Training, but no boots on ground in Afghanistan

Food security & a permanent solution to WTO AoA subsidies.

What India can offer & what are India's interests.

To cut ties with Pakistan

Protect indigenous industries & health care concerns.

Maintain diplomatic ties with all countries & have a non-aligned posture.

Thus, India and US relationship has been with unrealistic expectations and full of doubts.

It is in India's interests to abide by the rules of the international order and be composed on its non-alignment philosophy.

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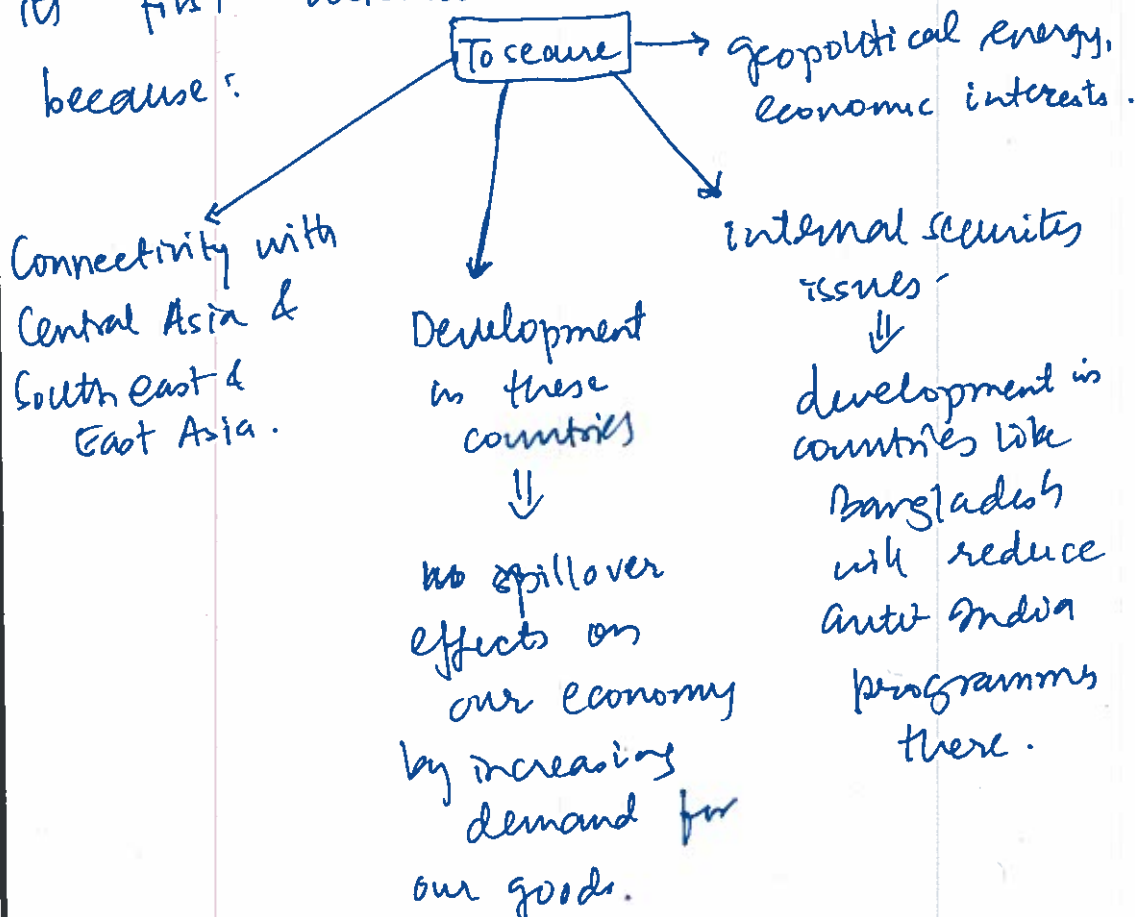
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Q.20) While other geopolitical issues are important, India must give South Asia its fullest attention. Do you agree? Discuss in light of the problems and prospects of Neighbourhood First Policy of India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

⇒ India has always been guided by the Neighbourhood First Policy. South Asia is the subcontinent which shares historical, cultural, political and economic ties.

It is in India's interests to give its first attention to the region because:



Problems faced in the Neighbourhood:

- ① Pakistan Issue: hampers our connectivity projects; cross border terrorism, narcoterrorism, etc.
- ② Porous borders leading to illegal immigration.
- ③ Fishermen issue with Sri Lanka
- ④ Lack of trust \Rightarrow Nepal and Sri Lanka & Maldives.
- ⑤ Chinese influence has been drifting our neighbours away from us.

There lie huge prospects in the region:

- India can share its developmental experience in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, disaster management, and Information Technology.

- These countries can become market for Indian goods.
- Development of Tourism and hospitality sector.
- Secure each others energy and economic needs by providing connectivity,
- Curb menace of cross-border terrorism.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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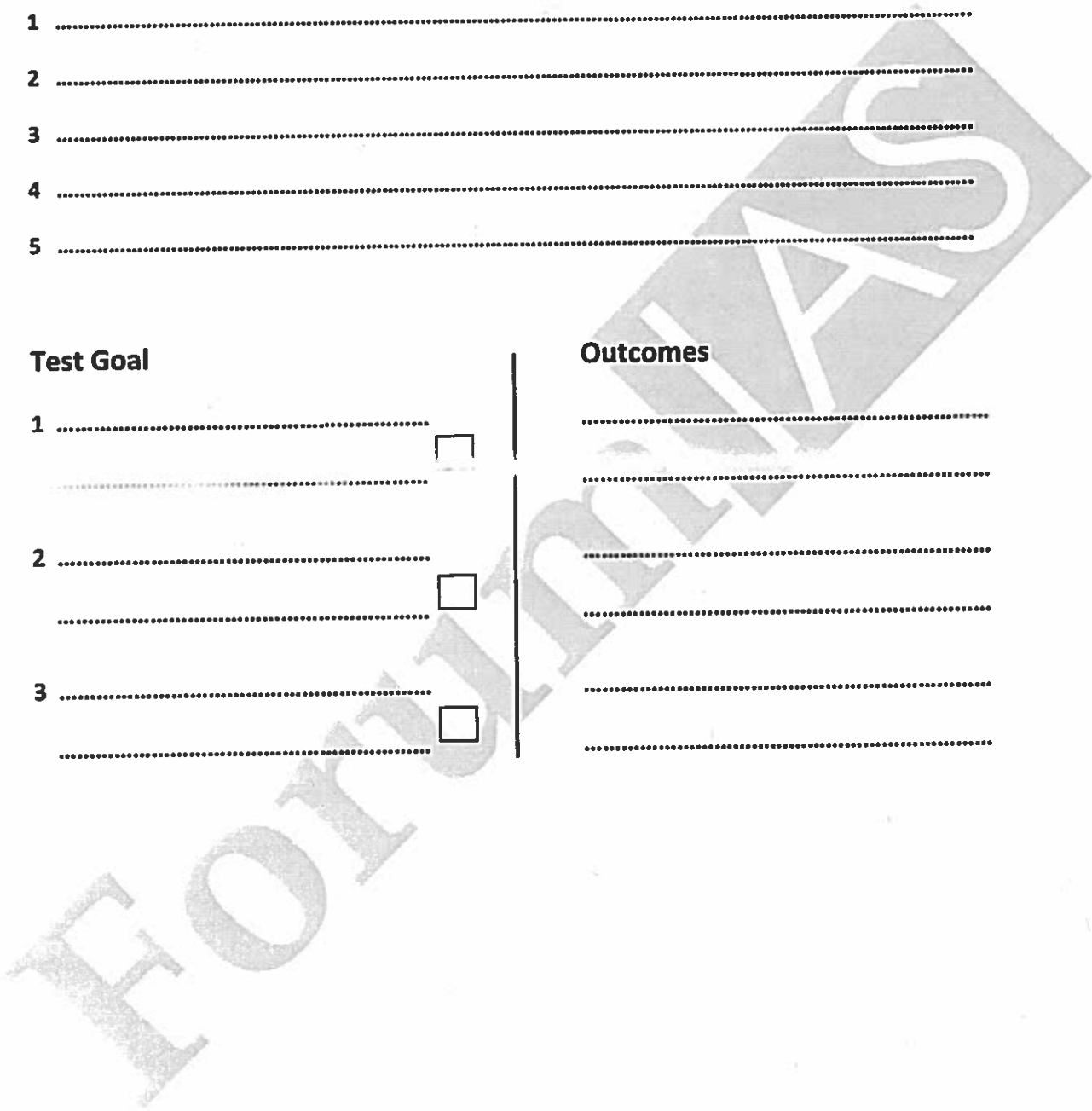
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Test Goal

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Outcomes

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