

Test Code: 21076

FIAS - 2019 - GS5D

ForumIAS

ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

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Mobile No.		Date:	27 July 2019

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE**INSTRUCTION**

Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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- Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
- There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- 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.
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.

Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.

Total Marks:

Remarks:

Start Time | 5.00PM

End Time | 8.00PM

Mode Of Examination :

Online Offline

ECN CODE:

Evaluation Date:

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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS



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Q.1) With respect to E-pharmacies, the Centre has before it a tough balancing act between legitimate concerns of abuse versus the stated digital roadmap ahead for the country. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

E-pharmacies refer to chemists who sell medicines online which eases the customer as the medicines get delivered to his doorstep. Though they increase the availability of essential medicines to individual even in remote corners of the country, there are some concerns regarding them: -

- (1) Sale of spurious medicine - It is likely that e-pharmacies may sell unauthentic medicines, putting the lives of many at risk.
- (2) Addiction issues - Sometimes people may fake their prescriptions and get access to addictive

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medication, creating a drug menace.

(3) Anti-microbial resistance - As individuals buy medication with false prescriptions, they may create cases of AMR in the country as medicines may eventually stop being effective against diseases.

(4) Health information - Online suppliers may create a database of the health information, which can be used against them.

Therefore, the government needs stricter checks and balances such as ensuring authenticity of medicines as well as prescription and; security of health information before allowing the rollout of e-pharmacies.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.2) It is wrong to assume that globalisation has purely economic dimensions, just as it would also be mistaken to assume that it is a purely cultural phenomenon.
Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The phenomena of globalisation has led to increasing interconnectedness across the globe through reduced control over movement of goods, services, capital and individuals. Globalisation has political, economic and cultural dimensions.

Economic dimensions

- Easing of trade barriers ← Tariffs, Quotas
- Allowing foreign capital to invest in the economy.
- Outsourcing of jobs to countries with cheaper labour.
- Free Trade Agreements within blocs such as EU, ASEAN

Cultural dimensions

- Spread of the dominant culture. Eg- Westernisation

of clothes.

- McDonaldisation as food preferences have also change with spread of Western culture.
- Celebration of Western holidays such as Halloween, Valentine's Day etc.

Political dimensions

- Spread of free market values.
- Spread of the ideas of democracy, human rights, secularism etc.
- Limiting of state's role to mostly welfare & not the economy.

Thus, one notes that globalisation permeates political, social, ~~cultural~~ & economic spheres to create an all round change in a country.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.3) Secular fabric of Indian society is stained by a variety of factors. Discuss. What measures can be taken to strengthen peace and harmony in Indian society.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Secularism in India means treating each religion equally and intervening in religious matters only to remove social evils. However, over time secularism in India has been adversely affected due to the following factors:-

(1) Vote bank politics - As religious groups are seen as vote banks, some political parties tried to polarise the voters while others try to pander to the demands of the minority community.

(2) Menace of social media - False information is often spread on WhatsApp groups which has led to lynching of many Muslim men. Similarly, terror groups try to radicalise youth through Facebook & Twitter.

(3) Judicial overreach - Sometimes while trying to pronounce socially progressive judgments, the judiciary often delves too deep into the religious sphere. Eg - Sabarimala case led to huge protests as people saw it as a threat to their religion.

(4) Governmental & bureaucratic apathy in dealing with communal issues
Steps for decreasing communal feelings :-

- Increasing awareness about other faiths through education
- Organising national integration camps.
- Preventing spread of fake news by setting up helplines to check the veracity of the news.
- Disqualifying candidates who use communal language to gain votes

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.4) Decriminalizing of begging is a long awaited step in the direction of social transformation. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

In our country, at every red light, we stop our cars to see beggars knocking on our doors. As victims of their social situation, beggars need to be not seen as criminals. This is necessary because of the following reasons:-

(1) Failure of government policies - The inability to find steady jobs is a result of failure of government policies which not educated & skilled these individuals. Recognizing this will allow the government to rectify its errors and ensure better policy making.

(2) Marginalised sections - More often than not, these beggars come from marginalised communities and are often transgenders who have been disowned by their families.

Thus, better laws need to be framed to protect these marginalised sections.

(3) Better childcare - Children are often forced into begging or are kidnapped to do the same. Decriminalising begging will allow the government to frame better policies for child rights & safety.

(4) Setting up homeless shelters - If they are seen as victims, the government can set up homeless shelters, where they are given basic amenities - food, drinking water and opportunities to work.

Therefore, decriminalization of begging is a step in the right direction. Keeping them off the streets just because we are hosting an international event (CCVG) is not the right step. Rather, they should be made productive citizens of the country.

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Q.5) Despite implementation of various affirmative policies by the government of India, some regions and social groups remain extremely poor and vulnerable. Explain by giving reasons. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The government has instituted policies of affirmative action such as reservation in educational institutions and jobs to ensure progress of vulnerable social groups. Yet, many regions and groups have not been able to enjoy the benefits of the same due to the following reasons:-

(1) Domination of certain caste groups while seeking reservation certain caste groups tend to dominate by sheer strength of numbers and others from different vulnerable communities remain far behind.

(2) Lack of caste certificates - Many nomadic tribes (NT) and denotified tribes (DNT) do have the requisite documents to prove their caste status to avail of the benefits. While others are not aware of the same.

(3) Government policies - Certain tribes of Andaman & Nicobar islands (eg. Sentinelese) like to stay away from civilisation. Yet, allowing tourism to nearby islands leads to an interest in their lives. It can threaten them as they have no resistance to modern diseases & leads to wiping away of their culture.

(4) Historic deprivation - Generations of deprivation perpetuates a vicious cycle. As a result, they are not able to aspire to higher positions. Eg- Most of manual scavengers belong to lower caste groups.

Way forward

- Providing caste certificates to the vulnerable groups
- Separate welfare board as in the interim budget.
- Banning certain caste practices.
- Better policy making by recognising the needs of specific communities.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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Q.6) Feminization of old age is an emerging issue in India's current stage of demographic transition. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Feminization of old age means increasing no. of women in the age group above 60 years.

Causes -

- 1) Less work stress due to low female labour force participation rate of less than 27%.
- 2) Low percentage of non-communicable diseases due to such as coronary vascular diseases which occur mostly due to smoking and drinking. In general, these habits are more prevalent in men.
- 3) Overall healthier lifestyle as men spend numerous hours at their desk at work while household chores, which are seen as preserve of women, keep females healthier.

This leads to women being more dependent on their children during old age. Lack of adequate care and companionship may affect their physical & mental health.

As a result, the government needs to have a forward looking geriatric policy as well as develop gerontology as a science. Technology can be used to keep regular checks on old people. Eg - The CARE+U app made by students of IIT allows caregivers to keep tabs on the people under their care.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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Q.7) Do you think communalism in India is more political than social? Justify.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Communalism refers to the idea that people of the same religion have similar political, social & economic interests while those of different religions have interests that are not only different but mutually antagonistic.

Communalism as a political phenomena -

- Political leaders see different religions as their vote banks.
- As a result, many minority appeasement policies / actions are undertaken. Eg - In the Shah Bano case, the government chose to side with the hardliners and brought out an act to provide only mahr at the time of divorce & no alimony.
- Similarly, other political parties conduct rath yatra to unify

their co-religionists under a common banner.

→ Political leaders often make insensitive statements in the face of a communal riot or remain apathetic to lynching.

Social aspects

→ For years, Indians have lived together in religious harmony with people of different religions celebrating festivals of other religions.

→ Though people may have certain biases against certain religions, greater association with each other has succeeded in removing these prejudices.

Therefore, today as a phenomenon, communalism has become more political & less social.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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Q.8) Critically analyse the role of Lokpal in bringing about transformational change in anti-corruption architecture in Indian polity. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Lokpal is an office created at the central level to look into allegations of corruption against the Prime Minister, Council of Ministers and Group A, B, C, D officers.

Positives of the institution

- It enables a check on the activities of the executive & public servants, which was earlier not possible.
- It allows the Lokpal to keep a check on officers of CBI conducting the enquiry as well as their transfer.
- It allows for attachment of assets gained through corrupt means.
- It provides the Lokpal with powers of a civil court.
- Time bound conduction of preliminary enquiry, investigation & trial.

→ It can also ensure the transfer of a corrupt public servant.

Drawbacks

→ It is not free from political influence as the selection committee consists of the PM, Leader of Opposition & Speaker.

→ The judiciary has been kept out of the act.

→ The PM cannot be investigated in matters of security, national interest atomic energy etc.

→ To institute an inquiry against PM, one needs 2/3rd majority of the Lokpal members & if the enquiry is inconclusive then the records are to be destroyed.

Therefore, while Lokpal envisages a new path in the anti-corruption investigation there are several loopholes that need to be rectified.

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Q.9) Discuss the impediments in creating a culture of transparency and accountability in the voluntary sector. Also, suggest measures for resolving the same.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The voluntary sector mostly includes Non-government organisations which are independent of the government as well as international organisations. Examples - Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Child Rights and You etc.

Impediments in ensuring transparency :-

(1) Under the RTI Act, the request for information can only be filed if an organisation has sufficient public/govt. financing. As this is not the case with these organisations, it is difficult to ensure answerability.

(2) Lack of an independent agency in India keeping a check on the activities of voluntary sector.

(3) NGOs themselves have difficulty in ensuring funding therefore

they also accept money from unclassified sources.

(4) Many NGOs lack proper governance due to lack of trained professionals in administration.

Measures for resolution of problems -

(1) Independent audit of NGOs must be made compulsory.

(2) There must be an accreditation agency for NGOs.

(3) Provision of administrative guidance from private & public sector.

(4) Attracting the private sector through CSR & tax rebates to donate money.

(5) Strict implementation of Foreign Contribution Regulatory Act (FCRA)

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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Q.10) Linguistic regionalism is emerging as a serious challenge to national unity. Discuss by giving suitable examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Linguistic regionalism refers to pride in one's language and the language becoming a unifying factor in a region. It can sometimes take extreme forms as secession movements. Challenge to national unity -

→ Prevalence of son of soil doctrine wherein native speakers are preferred over immigrants in jobs. Eg- Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh have brought about reservations in job recently.

→ Immigrants' rights are not paid heed to as politicians pandee to locals. As a result, their rights under Art. 29 and 30 are infringed upon; creating disaffection -

→ Language as inheritance - As a transmitter of culture has emotional links with the

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people who wish to pass on their traditions to future generations. As a result, they are easy to mobilise.

→ Fear of dominance - The southern states fear an imposition of Hindi & feel they will lose out on education & government jobs.

Therefore, there is a need to stem the feeling of linguistic regionalism by providing security of education & employment to all & non-imposition of any language.

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Q.11) Access to and availability of funds is one of the biggest problems for social enterprises and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Critically analyse the role of social exchange in this regard. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

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Q.12) Higher education needs significant improvement, especially as India seeks to join the ranks of the world's premier economies. To what extent are the current policies and initiatives able to meet this challenge? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Higher education is of increasing significance as India ~~now~~ needs innovations in the field of science as well social policy making to bolster its socio-economic growth.

The current policies provide the following opportunities to meet the challenge:-

- Creating a nurturing environment through policies such as Atal Innovation Mission and Scheme for Promotion of Academic & Research Collaboration (SPARC). This provides opportunities for creative thinking & solutions to ~~a~~ real life problems in India.
- Social policy making has been pushed through Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS) which seeks to

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Reduce societal tensions and make our democracy more effective.

→ Foreign collaboration has been bolstered through SPARC and Institutes of eminence which allow collaboration with top foreign universities & accepting foreign teachers & students. This will enable transfer of best practices —

→ Autonomy in deciding syllabus has been given to institutes of eminence which means they can choose to teach newly emerging courses such as AI as well as economically beneficial ones on renewable energy.

→ Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) has been proposed by the government

So as to better accredit higher educational institutions & Shut down fake universities.

→ NIRF and ARIIA ranking enable higher educational institutions to become more competitive and improve their pedagogical methods

Therefore, through its policies government is focusing on overall development of higher education in India.

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Q-13) In spite of constitutional provisions and laws such as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, Manual Scavenging is a reality in modern India.

Examine the reasons. Also, suggest various measures to eradicate the problem of manual scavenging with emphasis on behavioural change.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Manual scavenging refers to cleaning of dry latrines as well as sewer drains by individuals who mostly belong to the lower caste.

Reasons for prevalence of manual scavenging :-

- (1) Presence of large number of dry latrines and very few proper toilets in rural areas
- (2) Lack of skills amongst manual scavengers as they are condemned to follow their ancestral profession.
- (3) Lack of other employment opportunities.
- (4) Poor legal enforcement of the

Manual scavengers Act.

⑤ Prevalence of casteist mindset amongst people as a result of which people from lower castes are not able to rise up. They feel that their 'position' in society is to clean toilets.

Measures to eradicate the problem :-

→ Political methods - The Act must be strictly enforced. Those engaging in manual scavenging must be rehabilitated by giving them a one time grant and those forcing the profession on others must be punished.

→ Social methods - Education to remove casteist mindset of people.

→ Economic methods - Skilling in other vocations must be specifically taken up for ex-manual scavengers so that they can be employed.

→ Technology - BANDICOOT has been created to clean sewer drains. This must be further adopted.

→ Behavioural change - (i) People must be asked to shift to proper toilets by creating it as an ideal.

(ii) The idea of cleaning one's own toilet must be emphasised by giving Gandhiji's example at whose ashram everyone cleaned their own toilets.

Therefore, manual scavenging can be eradicated through concerted efforts of the government & society.

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Q.14) The government's preparation for increasing urbanisation has been ill-planned and woefully short to the extent that the problems plaguing the urban areas may in fact get intensified in the years to come. Analyse.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)



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Q.15) The approach of government to the problem of poverty has been to initiate schemes which are palliative in nature and do not address the root cause of the problem. Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words)



Q.16) There has been a growing debate about institutionalising the "Minimum Income guarantee" for the poor and marginalised to ensure their empowerment. In this light critically examine the need and feasibility of the idea. Also distinguish it with universal basic income. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Minimum Basic Income refers to the provision a basic amount of monetary assistance to the targetted sections of population.

Need and feasibility of MBI

→ As opposed to subsidies, MBI gives freedom to the people to choose where to spend their income. Thus, they become active agents in their own socio-economic growth.

→ As MBI is provided to each individual, women have access to their own resources, giving them a degree of economic freedom.

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- Pilot surveys in Madhya Pradesh have shown that spending on education and nutrition increased through a minimum income.
- Many people are forced to accept low paying jobs but if they have an income guarantee they will seek jobs which more suited for them.
- Detractors of the idea argue that this will cause huge fiscal burden on the government.
- They also argue that socially undesirable activities may spread such as drugs, drinking, smoking.
- People may also become less productive as they are already assured of a minimum income.

→ Since MBI is targeted, there is difficulty of identifying beneficiaries and fear of leakages

Difference with Universal Basic Income

- ① UBI provides a basic income to all irrespective of income levels
- ② It is not targeted ∴, it does not require identification
- ③ However, it may lead to further financial burden & depress people's productivity

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Structure		Content	
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30105210761910049782 (2019-07-27 22:09:06) Discuss the nature of women's movement in India in Pre-Independence and Post-Independence era with suitable examples. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Women have always played an ^{important} role in social, economic and political struggles in our nation.

The nature of women's movement differed in the pre- and post- Independence period as can be seen from the following examples:—

1) Pre- Independence

- Most women's movements were political in nature.
- They were aimed at securing the nation's independence.
- The advent of Gandhiji and his ideals of suffering & sacrifice carried a niche for women's participation.
- Sarojini Naidu became the 1st Indian female President

of Congress. She also led boycott of foreign goods, bonfire & picketing of shops

→ Usha Mehta ran the Underground radio to coordinate freedom fighters' work during Quit India while Aruna Asaf Ali hoisted the Indian flag.

→ In the sphere of revolutionary activities, Pritilata Waddedkar & Kalpana Dutt took part in the Chittagong armoury raid

Post-Independence struggle

→ Most of women's movements are now social in nature

→ The movement against dowry death lead to addition of Section 498A into the IPC leading to criminalization & punishment for seeking dowry.

→ Many of them are environmental in nature such as the Chipko movement against felling of trees, its counterpart in Andhra Pradesh, the Appiko movement.

→ Movements against alcohol and for its prohibition have been led by women in Andhra Pradesh & Bihar

Thus, females have remained at the ~~fore~~ front of national struggles and continue to do so.

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Q.18) Subnationalism can be a tool for social welfare but it can also breed social conflict. Comment. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Subnationalism refers to feeling of patriotism for a particular region. It is both a boon & a bane :-

1) Tool for social welfare

→ Many regions feel neglected as a part of a larger state.

Subnationalism leads to movements for state formation ~~so~~ that demands of the backward region can be focused upon.

Eg- Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand.

→ Many of these 'backward' regions have large population of tribals. Their demands are different & need special focus.

- It can also provide opportunities for competitive federalism
- The Deodavida movement in Tamil Nadu was also against caste oppression.

2) Conflicts due to sub nationalism

- Many states, especially Maharashtra, have seen backlash against immigrants.
- Movements of secession in Punjab & Nagaland.
- It may lead to xenophobia against settlers from outside.
Eg - In Assam, there is ^{Bangladeshi} xenophobia against Muslims.

Thus, it is important to counter
tendencies of subnationalism
if they become extreme &
threaten the unity of the
nation state.

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Q.19) India has entered a new stage of demographic transition where population growth is set to slow markedly with a significant increase in the share of working age population. Explain its implications. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

According to UN reports, India has one of the largest populations in the working force. At the same time, its Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen below the world average to 2.1.

This has great implications for our economy & society :-

- 1) A large working age population needs to be skilled so as to turn them into human resources.
- 2) This means government needs to increase its spending on education as well as vocational skilling.

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- 3) A large working age population also requires creation of jobs. Unemployment is at a 15 year high. This needs to be countered as otherwise they may become subversive elements.
- 4) A declining TFR means that over the years the population above 60 years will increase.
- 5) They need special care therefore government needs to focus on gerontology & geriatric clinics.

b) It also means that government will need to spend on social security & pensions. They will also be dependent on the working population, which high paying jobs are urgent.

Way forward

- Educating & skilling the population
- Creation of jobs in public & private sector
- Increasing retirement age to 65 or 70 years so that people are productive for longer.
- Improving health care

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Q.20) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 is a long way off from becoming a social reality. Critically examine.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

The Right to Education Act was a landmark legislation to promote basic human rights in the country. It provided for compulsory education for children between the ages of 6 & 14 years.

Following are some of its positive outcomes:-

- Increasing access to education as can be seen at nearly full gross enrolment ratio at the primary level while drop out rate has stabilized
- ASER Survey on school children revealed significant progress in writing, reading & arithmetic skills.

→ Socially progressive government policies such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan have

increased student enrollment as well as teacher training.

→ The reservation of Economically weaker sections has allowed children of poor socio-economic strata to access education.

Drawbacks

→ Child labour in India is still at an all time high. Male children are usually forced to dropout to add to family's income.

→ Female children are still not sent to school and forced to take care of domestic responsibilities.

→ The government's reversal of no detention policy may further push students away from schools.

→ Lack of vocational education reduces utility of education especially for those with meagre resources who cannot afford higher education.

Thus, the RTE needs to be tweaked appropriately to make it more useful for those who are the most backward.

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