

Test Code: 31034

FIAS – 2020 – GS Paper 2

ForumIAS

ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

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Mobile No.

Date:

3/11/2020

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION						
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory.</p> <p>3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>4. 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.</p> <p>5. 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.</p> <p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>						
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Remarks:			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Start Time 6:00</td> <td>End Time 8:57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mode Of Examination :</td> <td>Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ECN CODE:</td> <td>Evaluation Date: 3/11/2020</td> </tr> </table>	Start Time 6:00	End Time 8:57	Mode Of Examination :	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>	ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date: 3/11/2020
Start Time 6:00	End Time 8:57								
Mode Of Examination :	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>								
ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date: 3/11/2020								

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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS



Q.1) Electoral fraud and malpractice present threats to a free and fair election process. Do you think that legalization of Model Code of Conduct can be successful in checking these? Argue giving suitable examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a non-legal code which kicks in from the date of announcement of elections. It enumerates the practices which candidates and political parties can and can not do.

Electoral malpractices due to non legal MCC:

- 1) There is no legal action on violation of MCC.
- 2) Lack of adequate means with the Election Commission to enforce the MCC.
- 3) Flouting of MCC guidelines by the candidates. For eg: Seeking of vote on communal basis.

Legalising MCC :

- (i) Punitive actions are possible for violation.
- (ii) It can be enforced through the help of judiciary.
- (iii) Proportionate punishments can be handed out.

However, MCC is something which is needed to be enforced immediately. A delay in enforcement can hamper free and fair elections. So, the way forward should be :

- (i) Willingness on part of candidates to adhere to MCC.
- (ii) Use of Article 324 by the Election Commission which grants it with wide ranging auxiliary powers to ensure free and fair elections. For eg: Election Commission putting restrictions on campaigning for flouting MCC norms.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.2) National Council for Transgender Persons is a much-needed step in order to prevent further marginalization of the Transgender community in India. Critically Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP) is a statutory body under the Transgender Act, 2019.

Marginalisation of Transgender Community:

Currently, it is seen in:

- (i) No equality in case of personal laws.
- (ii) Limited employment avenues
- (iii) Trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- (iv) Discrimination and ostracization by the society.

NCTP: A much needed step:

- (i) It will ensure representation of transgender community.

(ii) The problems of the community will be better visible to the government.

(iii) The council can make comprehensive plans for the all-round development of the community.

(iv) A study can be conducted to identify their backwardness. This will allow for adequate reservation to transgender community as envisaged in the Supreme Court's NALSA judgement.

However, the long term benefit of transgender community also requires a reform in society which encourages the society to respect their dignity.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.3) 'The dropping of the Question Hour goes against the grain of Democracy'.

Comment.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The legislative rules in Indian Parliament designate the first hour of each session as the Question Hour (QH).

However, the recent session has seen the dropping of Question Hour owing to the covid-19 pandemic.

Against the grain of democracy:

- (i) It is an important mechanism to hold the executive accountable.
- (ii) The matters of national importance can be discussed in Parliament.
- (iii) It helps the members ~~to~~ to present the ground level problems before the House.
- (iv) The opposition parties exercise their role in the process of

governance through Question Hour and this is the essence of democracy.

However, the dropping of Question Hour was undertaken to allow the Parliament to deliberate upon legislative and executive issues in a limited social interaction.

Ideally, such a decision should be taken after a broad-base consultation.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.4) Parliamentary committees play a key role in preserving the foundational pillars of representativeness, responsiveness, and accountability in a parliamentary democracy. In this light, discuss the issue of marginalization of parliamentary committees in recent times. Suggest reforms to strengthen them.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Parliamentary Committees consist of the members from either or both Houses of Parliament. They are essential because:

Representativeness: Allow for opposition parties to discuss governance issues

Responsiveness: They can seek public opinion and even summon people related to a governance issue.

Accountability: Suggest reforms to the bills and acts presented by the Executive.

Marginalisation of Committees:

- (i) Not all bills are referred to them.
- (ii) Voting along party lines even in parliamentary committees.

- (iii) Lack of expertise to deal with increasing technical nature of governance.
- (iv) Not all reports of committees are deliberated in Parliament.

Reforms to strengthen them:

- (i) The nature of discussion should be to form consensus on an issue.
- (ii) Their reports should be tabled and discussed in Parliament.
- (iii) Expert assistance can be provided to the committees. Members can be allowed to consult experts through a dedicated budget.
- (iv) Senior and well-experienced members should be encouraged to join Parliamentary Committees to ensure their effective functioning.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.5) The Indian Constitution does not envisage the President of India to be a power centre, leave alone set himself up as a rival power centre (to the Prime Minister). Yet, there is always considerable wiggle room for a President to have his presence felt. In light of this statement discuss that Indian President is not merely a rubber stamp. Give arguments in support of your answer. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The President of India is the 'Head of the Executive', NOT the 'Head of the Government'. This means he is the de-jure head of the country with the Prime Minister being the de-facto head.

Indian President not a "Rubber Stamp" :

1) Oath of the President : The President takes an oath to "Preserve, Protect and Defend" the constitution which clearly shows his role is not merely that of a rubber stamp.

2) Article 78 : This allows the President to seek governance and

administration information from the Prime Minister.

(iii) Article 74: The President can return the Council of Minister's advice for reconsideration.

(iv) Veto Power: The President has both suspensive as well as pocket veto.

(v) The faith of the people: The acts of President like "returning a bill for reconsideration" become a matter of national debate and have a moral foundation on the government.

Rubber Stamp President

Well functioning President as envisaged by the Indian Constitution.

Activist President

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.6) The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light some of the fundamental flaws in India's healthcare system. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

A good health care system is of utmost importance during the time of a pandemic such as COVID-19.

Fundamental flaws in Indian healthcare:

(i) Access: Lack of access to healthcare has led to suffering of people. For e.g. People facing difficulty in getting COVID-tests done.

(ii) Quality: Not all hospitals are well equipped to deal with the pandemic. For e.g. Reports of hospitals being short on oxygen cylinders.

(iii) Overburdening: According to WHO, the doctor to population ratio of India is less than optimal. This has further increased during COVID-19.

(iv) Weak Primary Health Care: Pandemics
require effective handling at the primary stage. India's primary healthcare is weak and hence the problems have increased.

(v) Expensive: The private hospitals have been reported to charge exorbitant prices for access to beds.

Thus, the COVID-19 has only shown that we need to invest and improve the quality of our health care. The initiatives like National Digital Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat are a step in the right direction.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.7) Media has now reincarnated itself into a 'public court' (Janta Adalat) and has started interfering in to court proceedings. Analyse the statement in the light of frequent instances of media trials. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

A democratic society thrives on the separation of powers. Media trial refers to the process by which the media aspires judgement on incidents. This results in doing away with the jurisprudence of "innocent until proven guilty".

Media as public court :

- (i) The identity of suspect is revealed.
- (ii) Social boycott of the suspect starts even before the guilt is proved.
- (iii) There is a public pressure on the judiciary to declare the suspect as guilty.

Interference in court proceedings :

- (i) It results in social pressure on

lawyers to take up the case of suspects, which is their right.

(ii) The jurisprudence of "innocent until guilty" is not followed.

(iii) There is a public pressure on the courts to pass quick judgements without properly hearing the case.

(iv) Even if the accused is acquitted later, his Right to Reputation, which is a fundamental right under Article 21 is violated.

Such examples were seen frequently in the Arushi Talwar murder case

and more recently in the Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide case. Media, as a fourth pillar of democracy, should behave more responsibly.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.8) The sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution plays a vital role in preserving tribal autonomy. Discuss in the light of recent demands from Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh for inclusion in the schedule. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The sixth schedule of Indian Constitution applies to the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Role in preserving tribal autonomy:

(i) The sixth schedule allows for the establishment of "Autonomous District Councils" (ADCs). These

ADCs are empowered with:

(i) Legislative

(ii) Executive

(iii) Judicial powers, which

helps them preserve tribal autonomy.

(ii) Both the President and the Governors of the respective states have special responsibilities in deciding the extent of existing laws applicable here.

(iii) Constitution to District Funds and power to levy taxes also aims to make them self-sufficient.

(iv) They also receive royalty from grant of mineral licenses. This ensures that the mineral wealth is not utilised without providing for tribal development.

That is why, both Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh wish to be included under the ambit of the sixth schedule.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.9) "Changing to a presidential system is the best way of ensuring a democracy that works." Critically analyse the statement in the light of issues in the current setup of our parliamentary democracy. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Presidential System of governance is one in which the President is both the de-jure and de-facto head of the Government. This is, in contrast with the Parliamentary form where President is the de-jure head.

Advocacy for Presidential system:

The advocates support it because:

- (i) The Parliamentary democracy needs the support of the legislature and so, it can be slow.
- (ii) It is difficult to fix direct accountability in Parliamentary Democracy. In Presidential form of government, accountability lies with the President.
- (iii) The executive which implements the policy in form of civil servants is

permanent in Parliamentary democracy. The President in Presidential democracy can appoint whom ever he deems fit.

However, it would be incorrect to say that Presidential system is the only system that works. In fact, Presidential system has degenerated into autocracy in many nations. The Parliamentary system offers many advantages in India:

- (i) Accountability to Lok Sabha
- (ii) Lack of arbitrary power.
- (iii) Flexibility like the provisions for ordinance making.
- (iv) Uniformity in government policies as the civil servants remain the same.

Parliamentary form of government is also a part of "Basic feature" of Indian Constitution and has by and large, worked well.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.10) 'In order to ensure impeccable accountability, the need is to strengthen the RTI Act, not dilute or evade it'. Elucidate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Accountability implies absence of arbitrary exercise of powers. It means the authority exercising power is answerable for its actions.

Right to Information (RTI) and accountability: The RTI Act

provides the citizens the right to seek information from the government.

It encourages accountability by:

(i) Empowering the citizens.

(ii) Encouraging voluntary disclosure of information (Section 4 of RTI Act)

(iii) Appointment of statutory officers i.e. Central Information Commissioners (CIC) and State Information Commissioners (SIC) to enforce the act.

(iv) Penalties in case of non-disclosure of information.

(v) More effective public scrutiny of public expenditure.

Various scams like the Coal Block & Scam have come to light thanks to the RTI Act and hence the need of the hour is to strengthen the act.

It is for this reason that the recent amendments to the RTI Act :

(i) Ending the status equivalence with Election Commissioners in-kare

(ii) Salaries and conditions of service to be decided by the Central govt.

have been criticised for diluting the RTI Act.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.11) UAPA, an anti-terror legislation intended for exceptional circumstances, is becoming routinized. Comment in the light of amendments and repeated invocations of UAPA in recent times. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) is an anti-terror legislation.

Earlier, it aimed to declare "Unlawful" ~~the~~ organisations which were associated with terror activities. For y: SIMI.

Recent amendments to UAPA :

- (i) Individuals can now be designated as terrorists.
- (ii) People providing funds for terrorist activities are also included within the ambit of UAPA.
- (iii) Anyone propagating literature which encourages terrorism is also covered under UAPA.

(iv) Giving shelter to terrorists is also included within the ambit of the act.

Repeated Invocation of UAPA :

UAPA, which was earlier exclusively used for terrorist organisations is now routinely being used to designate individuals as terrorists.

Issues with such invocation :

Experts have criticized such routine usage of UAPA due to :

(i) Declaring individuals as terrorist has wide-spread impact on the life of person concerned like social boycott.

(ii) An individual is declared as terrorist even before the due

process of law with the judiciary
has been completed.

(iii) Provisions like propagating
terrorist literature have been
criticised for being vague.

The experts have suggested that
the existing mechanisms before UAPA
could have been used against
individuals suspected of terrorist
links. UAPA, indeed is a law
which should be used as a
mechanism of last resort.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.12) Autonomous bodies are a major stakeholder in the government's functioning. However, they face a number of issues which need to be reviewed and dealt with. Identify these issues and suggest suitable measures to streamline these bodies.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Autonomous bodies are those which enjoy a certain degree of independence in the exercise of their power for service delivery. Some examples of such bodies include :

- (i) The Union Public Service Commission
- (ii) The Reserve Bank of India .
- (iii) Central Administrative Tribunals etc.

Issues faced by autonomous bodies :

- (1) Independence : The independent decision making of autonomous bodies is often questioned.

(ii) Accountability: While the elected members of Parliament are accountable to the people, the autonomous bodies are not. They are indirectly accountable to Parliament.

(iii) Appointment: They are often based at the will of the Executive.

(iv) Qualification of members: The members of such bodies are often ~~not~~ experts in the related field.

(v) Corruption: The example of Medical Council of India (MCI) is one where corruption was seen.

Measures to streamline:

(i) The extent of powers should be clearly defined.

- (ii) Their functioning can be discussed in the Parliamentary Committees.
- (iii) Broad-based ~~to~~ consensus while appointing the members.
- (iv) The qualifications of members can be specified in a statute.

The above steps should be taken to ensure autonomous bodies serve the purpose they were intended for.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.13) The rising tensions between the U.S and China indicate the re-emergence of a New Cold War (Cold War 2.0). Do you agree? How is it different from the earlier one? What role should India play in the Cold War 2.0? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The recent times have seen an increase in the tension between the US and China. Some recent examples of tensions include the "Trade War" and the handling of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Difference from Cold War 1.0 :

(i) Economic : The Soviet Union was militarily powerful but the economy of Soviet Union was much weak as compared to present China.

(ii) Dimensions of conflict :

Cold War 1.0
 • Primarily military, space and ideology

Cold War 2.0
 • Scope has increased further:
 (i) Ideology
 (ii) Trade barriers

(ii) Environment: For eg:
USA accusing China of not reducing pollution.

(iii) Geographical extent of conflict:

Cold war 1.0
• European Nations saw most of the conflict. For eg:
NATO and Warsaw Pact

Cold war 2.0
• It extends to a much larger area. For eg: China's Belt and Road Initiative, USA's Pivot to Asia etc.

(iv) Technological: The current technologies are much more advanced and more encompassing. For eg: Elements like cyber-warfare are available now.

Role of India: India has institutional arrangements with both USA and China. For eg: Quad and BRICS.

- (i) India has a commitment to a Rules based global order and India can encourage both the countries to ~~the~~ follow the same.
- (ii) India's policy of enlightened self interest will be ~~most~~ useful in this phase as India seeks to balance the relations between these two powers.
- (iii) India can also play a part in resolving their disputes in multilateral fora like the United Nations and World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.14) "The corruption begins not after coming to power but before it." Elucidate in the light of opacity in electoral funding. Suggest practical steps to deal with the issue.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

As per an Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), about 50% of the electoral funding in India came from unknown sources. This shows the extent of opacity in electoral funding.

Corruption before coming to power:

(i) Quid Pro Quo: The unknown funding to a political party may be a form of quid pro quo to get favourable policies after coming to power.

(ii) Electoral malpractices: The opaque funding also needs to electoral malpractices. Incidents like bribing of voters has been observed.

(iii) No level playing field: It takes away the Right to Equality of opportunity from the smaller political parties and it can be considered as a form of corruption.

(iv) Criminalization of politics: This is also an example of corruption before coming to power. The opaque funding encourages such criminalization.

Practical steps to deal with the issue:

The recommendations of the Election Commission of India are useful to deal with this issue:

(i) Sharing the details of money received below Rs 20,000 with Election Commission. Currently, only amount above Rs 20,000 needs to be disclosed.

(ii) Corporate Funding: Such funding should be discussed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) instead of being approved by Board of Directors.

(iii) Increasing the quantum of disclosure punishment for non-disclosure of funds under the RPA, 1951.

Other suggestions :

(i) Encouraging the civil servants to act against improper electoral funding.

(ii) Manifesto during election to be accompanied with the manner in which funds for the same would be raised.

Some recent steps like putting a cap of Rs 2000 on political donations are a step in the right direction.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.15) With US announcing its plans to leave Afghanistan, the politics in the region has becomes unstable with the involvement of the various super powers in the region. In this context, should India align with other actors or tread its path of strategic autonomy. Give arguments to support your answer. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The US has announced its plan for a gradual retreat from Afghanistan after a deal with the Taliban. This means that the politics of this region can become unstable again.

India's current stand:

India has been an advocati of an Afghan led, Afghan owned and Afghan controlled peace process.

Future course of action:

India has to balance two interests :
(1) Stabilizing the ~~Af~~ Afghanistan region since it is close to the Indian subcontinent.

(ii) The policy of non-interference and strategic autonomy which might be challenged on aligning with other powers.

The correct strategy should ideally be a combination of the two because:

(i) Negotiations with Taliban are already happening formally now. India's stand of not recognising Taliban has also started to change. That is why India attended the USA - Taliban peace talks at Qatar.

(ii) Maintaining lasting peace in Afghanistan is essential for India to preserve its own security and preserve the security of our development works in Afghanistan.

(iii) Having elements of strategic autonomy is essential for India to follow its multi-vectorised foreign policy.

The ideal way forward would be to engage with all the actors in Afghanistan, including the Taliban, while not formally forming an alliance with any super-power. This would allow India to play an active ~~role~~ role in the region without giving up on strategic autonomy.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.16) "The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 heralds the beginning of a new era of consumer rights in India that are in sync with new-age consumer expectations."

Elucidate while enumerating the provisions of the new Consumer Protection Act.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

The range of options available with consumers has significantly increased. But there also exists an information mismatch between the producers and the consumers. That is why, Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted. It was amended in 2019 to deal with the new challenges.

Provisions of the 2019 Act:

(1) Increase in the financial jurisdiction of the District, State and National Consumer Protection Authorities: The National Authority can now hear cases up to the limit of Rs 10 crore.

(i) Role of Consumer Protection Councils:

These councils have been recast as advisory bodies to the government

(iii) A new body named National Consumer Protection Authority :

It has been formed to litigate on the behalf of consumers.

(iv) Penalties for fake advertisements :

The act provides for penalties in case of fake and misleading advertisements.

The new-age consumer expectations have changed significantly as compared to ~~the~~ 1986, when the original act was enacted.

That is why these amendments have been brought in.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.17) NGOs have a long history of providing and enabling access to social services for those in need. However, their repeated and over-regulation is gradually sounding death knell for them. Comment in the light of the recent amendments to the FCRA Act.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

The NGOs have become an important aspect of service delivery in the Indian model of governance. The National Policy on Voluntary Sector, 2007 also recognises the same.

The NGOs access to foreign funding is regulated under the FCRA Act, 2010. Recently, some amendments have been introduced which have been criticised as a death knell for NGOs.

Amendments

i) Public servants have been brought into the ambit of FCRA.

Criticism

It will reduce the altruistic opportunities available to them, as a member of NGO

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(Don't Write
anything in this Area)

(ii) Funds can't be transferred from one NGO to another

This is likely to harm the small NGOs which can't ~~access~~ access these foreign funds directly

(iii) Limit on the foreign contribution which can be used for administrative expenses.

Criticised for micro. ~~and~~ managing the NGOs.

(iv) Accounts need to be opened at SBI Delhi branch for receiving funds

Reduction in the options available to NGOs

(v) Increased penalties for violation

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(Don't Write
anything in this Area)

According to home ministry, while the funding to NGOs has increased substantially, their compliance under the FCRA Act, 2010 has not.

However, the implementation of these amendments must ensure that the genuine and well functioning NGOs are not harassed.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.18) "Capacity of Civil Services plays a vital role in rendering a wide variety of services, implementing welfare programs and performing core governance functions." In this light, comment on the importance and utility of 'Mission Karmayogi'.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

The Civil Servants are a part of the permanent executive in India who are tasked with implementing the government policies. The Capacity Building of civil servants is an important aspect recognised by the 2nd ARC as well as the NITI Aayog report on "India at 75".

Importance and Utility of Mission Karmayogi:

(a) Features

(i) Consistent training throughout the career.

Importance

It is important in this era of changing technologies and the changing role expected from a civil servant.

(ii) Competency
Framework
Code

Better organised
training and
learning framework.

(iii) Rules based to
role based
training

It will encourage
the increase in
efficiency and
reduce red-tapism.

(iv) Encourage
domain
competency

It will
encourage
specialization.

(v) Establishment of
a HR
Council

Better monitoring
of
training imparted
to civil servants.

The changing times imply the
role which is expected from a
government servant keeps changing

as well. In this light, Mission
Karmayogi which focusses on :

- (i) Domain competency
- (ii) Consistent training throughout
the career.

is a step in the right direction.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.19) In the recent years, there is a renewed vigour in the Indo-Japan relationship. This partnership can promote stability and security in the South Asian region. Elucidate. Also discuss some key challenges associated with Indo- Japan relation.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

The India - Japan relationship ~~have~~ has renewed vigour in recent times. This relationship has the potential to shape prosperity of the entire South Asian region including the Indo-Pacific.

Renewed vigour :

(i) Participation in Quad : India and

Japan are both the members of Quad Security Dialogue which aims to establish a Rules based global order. This is specially important with the increasing Chinese assertiveness in the Indian Ocean.

(ii) Military co-operation : India and Japan are both the members of

Malabar Exercise.

(iii) Energy co-operation: India has signed a Civil Nuclear cooperation agreement with Japan. This can reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and increase energy security in South Asia.

(iv) Infrastructure: India and Japan have proposed:

(a) Asia-Africa Growth Corridor

(b) Participation in the Blue Dot Network certification.

Improved infrastructure will increase stability and security in South-Asia.

Challenges in India-Japan relationship:

(1) The economic trade between India and Japan is still quite low.

(ii) Japanese investment in India are mostly concentrated in the infrastructure projects like the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train. A broad-based range of involvement and co-operation is still absent.

India and Japan enjoy complimentary capabilities and an increase in co-operation is good for both the countries along with the entire South Asian region.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.20) "The exemplary friendship between India and Nepal has been recently put to test." Comment while suggesting a roadmap to reinvigorate the bilateral relations.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

India and Nepal have had exemplary friendship since the time India became independent. The two countries have a "Friendship Treaty" which respects the shared geography, social and cultural connect that the two nations have.

Recent impediments to the friendship:

(i) Role of China: Chinese investment into Nepal have increased and so the relationship between Nepal and China has improved. This has had an impact on its relationship with India.

(ii) Territorial dispute: The territorial dispute over the "Kala Pani"

territory has arisen from a differing interpretation of Treaty of Sugauli.

(iii) The new map of Nepal which included Indian territories has further increased the differences.

(iv) Public sentiment in Nepal against India which is often the result of internal politics in Nepal.

Reinvigoration of Bilateral Relations :

The following steps can be taken :

(1) Increasing engagement in the economic sector ; India is already the largest trading partner of Nepal but this trade can be further increased.

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- (ii) Broad-based consultation with all the political parties in Nepal.
- (iii) Quickly finishing the lingering infrastructure projects in Nepal.
- (iv) Increasing public support for India in Nepal by ensuring that Nepalese citizens working in India are well-treated.

The shared geography, economy and socio-cultural relations between India and Nepal means ~~an~~ a reinvigorated relations are ideal for both the countries.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
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Test Goal

- 1
- 2
- 3

Outcomes

-
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Marking Scheme

Marks	Good	Average	Below Average
10 Marker	3.75 – 5.0	3.0 – 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 – 7.0	4.0 – 5.5	< 4.0

*Subject to change without prior notice.