

Test Code: 21095

FIAS – 2019 – GS2G/6E/18C/26B

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MGPQ13244

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ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	KEVIN TOMS SKARIA		
Email Id.		Roll No.	1900
Mobile No.		Date:	17-08-2019

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:			Start Time 2:00pm	End Time 5:00pm
			Mode Of Examination :	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
			ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date:

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS



Q.1) The Anti-Defection law is against the principles of representative democracy and needs to be reformed. Evaluate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

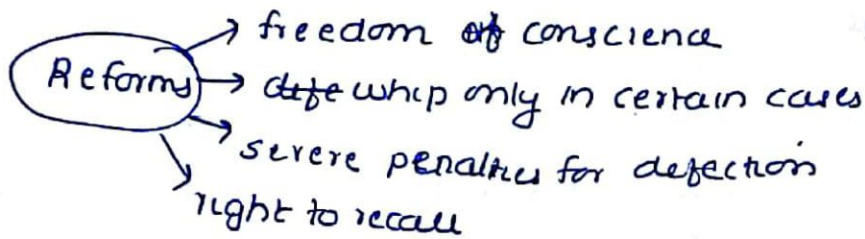
Anti-defection law was added by 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act under Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. This provision had many positives but recent incidents like defection in Goa, Karnataka points to a crisis.

- Positives →
- (1) It protects the government stability
 - (2) It prevents unethical horse trading of representatives
 - (3) It ensures people's mandate is respected.

Anti-defection law is against the principles of representative democracy because,

- (1) It ~~and~~ doesn't allow the freedom of expression & opinion of the legislator.
- (2) Legislators will have to obey party whip in all cases leading to lack of democratic decision making.
- (3) Recent cases have shown that parties are using loopholes of the law to continue with horse trading. Eg. 10 Goan opposition MLAs changing sides without 'defection' disqualification.

Reforms are needed.



- (1) Freedom of conscience through conscience votes on issues can be promoted in legislatures.
- (2) Whip must be used only in cases where government faces threat to its continuity e.g. Confidence motion.
- (3) Penalties on anti defection can be increased so that only ⁱⁿ genuine cases does legislators choose to leave party.
- (4) 'Right to recall' option to people can restrict horse trading.

Anti-defection law certainly needs some reform to ensure ^{growth of} democracy in our country.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

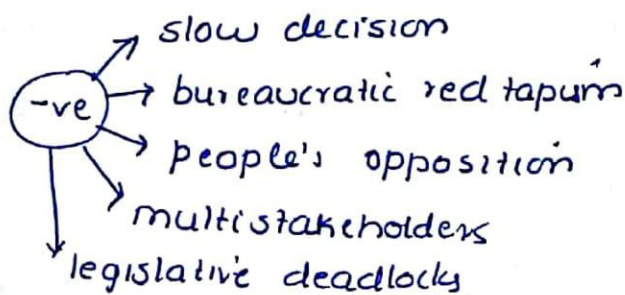
Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.2) Do you agree that democracy and development do not go hand in hand? Substantiate your answer with relevant examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Democracy and development in my opinion does go hand in hand. But in the short term it may not, in long term it can.

Democracy, opposed to development:



(1) The decisions taken in democracy are rather slow.

This can impede taking steps at faster rate for development of regions eg. Slow liberalization in India

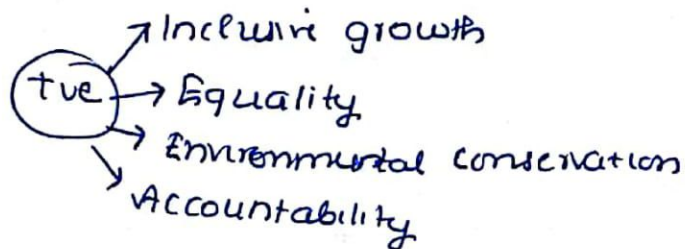
(2) Bureaucratic control can lead to redtapism and further slow action. It can also lead to corruption.

(3) People's opposition to development projects can also delay development eg. Mining in Tribal areas

(4) Multiple stakeholders need to be consulted in each case. This further delays. eg. In case of J&K various communities need to be taken care of.

(5) Legislative deadlocks can lead to no action in some areas eg. Brexit.

But these are major challenges democracy offers long term solutions for development.



- (1) Inclusive growth of all sections can be done.
eg. India unlike China has more options to go for inclusive development
- (2) Equality among people can be ensured since democracy let less represented and marginalized sections to air their voice. eg. US has representation of Indian tribes.
- (3) Environmental conservation can be ensured just like in case of Niyamgiri in Odisha
- (4) Accountability of government checks corruption and wasteful use of resources.

Thus democracy is important for development.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.3) Political theatre, similar to "surgical strikes" are more important and effective response to Pakistan asymmetrical warfare. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Surgical strikes are conducted to attack non military non-civilian targets in another country's territory to address security threat to the nation. Surgical strikes are a good way to respond to Pakistan's asymmetrical warfare.

It is Asymmetrical warfare because there is no conventional armed conflicts but Pakistan is providing safe havens to terrorists, training to local militants and encouraging terrorists groups to send arms and terrorists across the LOC.

Surgical strike targets such non state actors who engage in attacking Indian interests.

Aim → It attacks and neutralize terrorists
→ since no ~~casualties~~ casualties for military and civilians occur no large scale war will break out
It ensures that adequate actions can be taken against terrorist attacks and imminent security threats against India.

In recent case India has done surgical strike in Pakistan against attack on our Uri base and also the Balakot airstrike against Pulwama ^{terrorist} attack on Indian forces.

It is effective because

(1) India gets International support.

(2) It penalizes terrorism

(3) It makes Pakistan to answer ^{for} its hospitality towards India centered terrorism

Though surgical strikes are important and effective they are highly risky as it can easily escalate to full scale war. ~~and~~ Besides they are not answer to the root cause of terrorism ~~is~~ which is the alienation that some sections face in our country.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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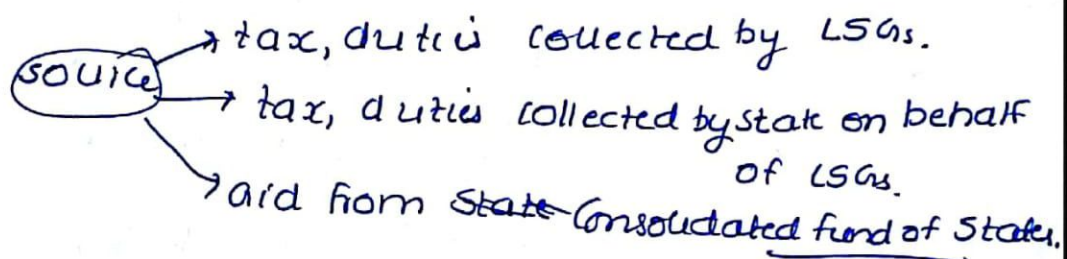


Q.4) Local self-governance in India is suffering from "AID CURSE". Examine.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Local self governments in India came into prominence after the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts of 1993. This provided for financial powers and authority for LSGs. But they suffer from AID curse.

The financial sources for LSGs in recent times are,



But in current situations the taxes and other duties are not enough for the functioning of LSGs. This makes them overdepended on State aid for functioning.

Why so?

- (1) It is mainly due to low level of taxation eg. Land tax is very low.
- (2) Panchayats in several states do not collect many types of taxes.
- (3) Urban LSGs may be better positioned but

still they have low avenues to raise funds but high requirement for funds.

(4) Low man power & capability to collect revenue
 To do?

(1) Increase the capacity of revenue collection of LGs by computerizing the process and penalizing non payment of taxes.

(2) Man power needs to be augmented.

(3) More areas can get taxed without affecting efficiency of economy.

(4) The lands under panchayat can be leased to find funds.

(5) the Municipal bonds idea can help Urban areas to raise private funds. It can also be extended to rural LGs.

Aid curse affects the democratic decentralization of power and this ^{adversely} affects grass root democracy in our country.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

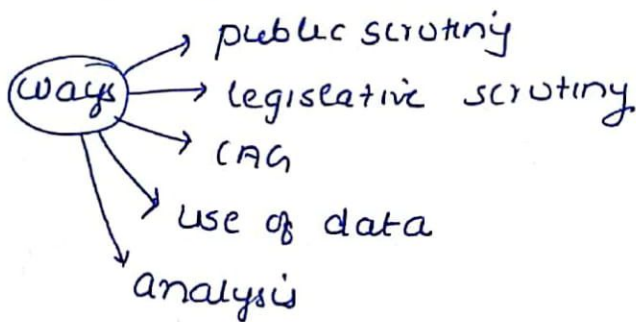
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Q.6) Discuss with examples of how open data can improve transparency and accountability in governance? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Open data refers to providing access and transparency to government related data (in case of governance) and also that of different institutions at national and international levels.

Open data improves transparency and accountability in multiple ways.



(1) CAG can look into the various aspects of the economic use of resources.

(2) Legislative scrutiny of public expenditure ensures accountability.

(3) More importantly open data enables public to access and verify the government expenditure, government's progress in implementation.

(4) The legislative and public scrutiny acts as a constant check on actions of the government.

Making them more accountable.

(5) The data in public sphere can be used by public for various purposes.

For eg. the open data about MNREGA programs has enabled people to check the effectivity of the programme in providing meaningful employment & thus economic growth in drought hit areas.

(6) Analysis of data by ^{International} ~~Open~~ International Institutions and National institutions like NITI Aayog helps to make indices and reports which helps in comparing and contrasting the working of governments, eg. Corruption Index by TI.

Thus open data is very useful to promote transparency & accountability.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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Q.7) India's stand towards Afghan Peace process has no takers among the Quad Grouping. Elaborate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Afghan peace process is now being led by major stakeholders in the region which include US, Pakistan, Taliban, China, Russia etc. India is not included in this group.

India's stand:

(1) Afghan led Afghan owned peace process must take place.

But in reality, it is now a discussion between US and Taliban and Pakistan acting as the intermediary, Afghan government is not involved

(2) Terror outfits must not have strong positions to discuss with.

In reality Taliban is now in strong position.

(3) Ceasefire must be a precondition for talks.

But, Taliban continues to attack Afghan government and security forces during the talks.

(4) Development oriented Afghan involvement of India.

But countries like US are asking India to send boots

on the ground

(2) Holding of elections in September.

Quad countries' position:

(1) US wants to immediately withdraw from the Quagmire owing to domestic ~~and~~ political compulsion.

This has weakened their standpoint.

(2) Pakistan's strong geopolitical position and involvement has necessitated limited role for India even ~~by~~ ^{agreed by} Quad countries.

(3) Ceasefire ~~is~~ ^{is} not a precondition as the attack ^{directly} is not against American interests.

(4) US doesn't seem to be keen to ensure elections in September as the negotiations may reveal a very different outcome.

Thus Indian interests in Afghanistan is not being considered by Quad countries. Though Japan, Australia do prefer India to have a role in it.

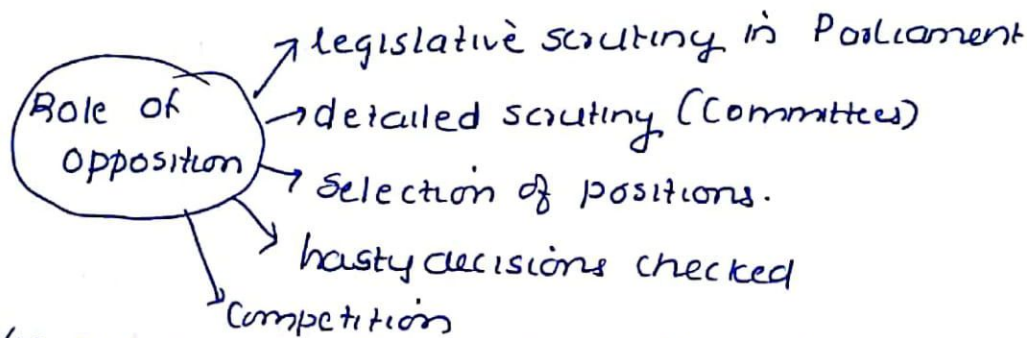
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Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.8) Strength of a democracy can be judged, not by the strength of the government, but by the strength of the opposition. Elaborate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Democracies around the world work on the basis on political dialogue and accountability among different stakeholders in a society. The nation might elect a government for particular tenure but opposition ensures that they work in accordance with the rules & thus strengthen democracy.



(1) Opposition ensures that the actions of Executive are well within constitutional limits and ~~within~~ question the excesses of the government in Parliament & legislature.

(2) The Committees in Parliament enable opposition to scrutiny the executive and legislative actions thoroughly.

(3) Selection of different Authorities under Constitution require recommendation of leader

of opposition also. This includes positions like Lokpal, CVC etc.

(4) Opposition prevents hasty decisions by the ruling-party in Parliament.

eg. Opposition to Citizenship amendment Bill in 16th Lok Sabha.

(5) It ensures competition among ruling and opposition parties to take decisions and actions which ^{are} demanded by public.

(6) The opposition can act as the moral face of society in case of ~~using~~ government using the brute majority to get ^{15 Bills} through in Parliament.

eg. Opposition to RTI Amendment Bill in ~~17th~~ 17th Lok Sabha.

Thus opposition ensures democracy in a society and it is not the strength of the government.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.9) For maintaining social stability and public tranquility, governance has to go beyond the daily dose of crisis management and administration has to rise above merely a "holding the fort". Elaborate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Governance has many aspects. Crisis management and administration is just one part of it. Governance to be maintain stability & tranquility has to embrace multiple aspects.



Rule of Law has to be ensured by good governance. This helps in holding the fort. But to make the fort to stand stable and to ensure tranquility governance should include,

- (1) Participation of all stakeholders.
- (2) Transparency in decision making by the government and different authorities
- (3) The Responsiveness of governance infrastructure should be quick enough to ensure everyone is

benefitted and everyone's concerns are addressed

(4) Governance should concentrate on consensus building. If one party accumulates power and enjoys it, other sections can become restless and it disturbs peace.

(5) Governance should be effective and efficient. If their actions are not effective the problems will persist.

(6) Governance should be inclusive. All people have equal stake on governance. If it is not inclusive it can lead to unrest.

(7) Accountability is a must. If it is not there it can lead to corruption, some ^{making} gains over others etc.

Thus governance should be multipronged rather than being centred on crisis management and administration.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.10) The concurrent list incorporates fields that require collective wisdom of both the states and the centre and should not become another way of the centre's interference into state affairs. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Concurrent list under 7th schedule was created to ensure that there is some level of uniformity as well as flexibility in laws in certain areas.

It ensures collective wisdom of the state & centre by various provisions.

- (1) States can make laws in this regard and their laws can get precedence based on presidential order (Art 254)
 - (2) Centre can give a basic model law which ensures some level of uniformity. But at the same time there is scope for flexibility to meet the local needs.
 - (3) State laws will be based on the requirements of the state.
 - (4) Centre can make laws based on the needs of the entire country. Here the national importance will come into picture.
- At the same time, Concurrent list can cause

Centre's interference in state affairs.

(1.) Central laws might be in conflict with state laws.

(2.) Centre can purposefully override state laws for political opportunism.

(3.) States are not consulted when this is done.

(4.) Centre has increased the scope of concurrent list. It can do so again. These actions erode power of states.

2nd ARC, Sarkaria Commission etc have called for consultation before law making on concurrent list subjects by the Centre. State's consultation is important to ensure federalism.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	