

Test Code: 21095

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FIAS - 2019 - GS2G/6E/18C/26B

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ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

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Maximum Marks: 250

Time Allowed: Three Hours

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> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
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Remarks:			Start Time 2:01 pm
			End Time 5:00 pm
			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						
Content						
Attempt						

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)

The 10th schedule of the Indian Constitution inserted in 1985 forms the basis of Anti-Defection law.

Against principles of representative democracy

- ① Curbs freedom of speech of the MPS / MLAs → Article 19(1)(a) violated
- ② Dictatorial tendencies of party high command.
- ③ Whip system enforces loyalty to party and not the public / electorate
- ④ Curbs debates and parliament's legitimacy
- ⑤ Lack of accountability and transparency in Speaker's office

Measures to reform

① Law Commission

1.1 Need to restrict application of law to cases of grave danger to government.
 Eg. No-Confidence motion.

② Dinesh Goswami Committee

2.1 Shift decision on defection (violation) from Speaker to President based on Election Commission advice.

However, anti-defection law has ensured curb in corruption in public life and instability. In Kihoto Hollohon case, S-C ruled that it's not against free speech and protects salience of representative democracy.

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 is a form of government or way of life based on human empowerment and motto "of the people, for the people and by the people".

Democracy against development

- ① Slows down decision making.
Eg) Scrutiny of bills by standing committees.
- ② Bureaucratic rigidity and procedural approach. Eg) Aadhaar leak deprived PDS of Shankland women.
- ③ Lack of outcome based performance
- ④ Centralized "chain of command" for implementing decision missing. Eg) Polit bureau in China.
- ⑤ Protests and movements stalling various projects
Eg) Kudankulam

- ⑥ NGOs and civil society activism
- ⑦ Criticism of government policies.

Both go together

- ① Human empowerment is at roots of development and democracy
- ② Debates and participation broad-base development.
- ③ right to Tribals via Forest Right Act, 2006
- ④ Activism by civil society acts as checks.
- ⑤ Narmada Bachao and Chipko movement
- ⑥ Human education and empowerment due to fundamental rights
- ⑦ Article 19 for press freedom.
- Thus, democracy is needed for sustainable development of all classes of citizens as seen in India.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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)

The pre-emptive non-military surgical strikes in Balakot air strike and earlier Usi strikes form part of political theatre to counter Pakistan's "policy of thousand cuts" (proxy wars).

Important and effective response

- ① Counter's nuclear umbrella as within nuclear threshold.
- ② Non-military nature doesn't aggravate the "deep state" of Pakistan.
- ③ Pre-emptive so offensive-defence strategy
- ④ International Community support as such strikes are in self-defence against terrorist launch-pads

⑤ More effective than Conventional War as minimal casualties

⑥ High deterrence ability to Pakistan.

Limitations

① Can evoke counter-moves such as Pakistan's airforce entered Kashmir post Balakot strikes.

② Conventional war can happen.

③ Nuclear instability in Pakistan

④ LOC cross border ceasefire violations
increase

Thus, need is for multi-pronged approach of deterrence via strikes, back channel diplomacy, support of international community.

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

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Economic Survey of India 2017-18 points out to the low → only 4% own revenues of local governments (Panchayati Raj) and over-dependence on AID from centre and State.

AID Curse

① < 4% own revenues of panchayati raj and < 50% own revenues of municipalities.

② Dependence of grant in aids from central and state governments

Impact

① "Low Equilibrium Trap" → Less own revenues via taxation weakens accountability

- ② Less of vested funds for spending on local priorities.
- ③ funds for local education, health infrastructure, roads etc missing.
- ④ AIDS lessen the substance of 73rd and 74th amendments.
- ⑤ Gram Sabha loses power over spending of aids.

Way forward

- ① Increase devolution of taxation powers from States.
- ② Implement State Finance Commission suggestions
- ③ More revenue collection by local bodies
- ④ Implementing Isher Judge Ahluwalia committee reforms for Municipalities.
This can help mitigate AID-Curse

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Q.5) Explain the concept of charter city. How it can help in tackling the problem of over-urbanization. Also highlight the challenges associated with it. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Charter City is a concept of developing counter-magnet towns and developed areas in and around peripheries of major urban centres.

Involves

- ① Increased housing and basic amenities
- ② Wide transport linkages with urban centres
E.g. Metro in Gurgaon to Delhi
- ③ Shift in workplaces and offices away from city centres.

Tackling over-urbanization

- ① 31% of population resides in urban areas today → Need to disperse!
- ② Decreased burden on transport and road, water, sanitation infrastructure.

③ Naya Raipur in Chhattisgarh.

③ Mitigates housing challenges and curbs the slum phenomena as 17% of urban population lives in slums (Kongerjan Report)

④ Sanitation and waste management, Education and health for all.

Challenges

- ① Lack of finances for Urban Local Bodies
- ② Land and environmental clearances
- ③ Lack of powers to authorities → Centralisation
- ④ Attitude of local population

Way forward

- ① PURA mission → Urban amenities in rural areas.
- ② RURBAN Mission to be financed.
- ③ AMRUT and Smart Cities

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Structure		Content	
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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 is a concept of making data points relating to governance, services, public data openly available for use.

Improvement in Transparency and Accountability

① My Gov - in provides data on progress of schemes like Svechh Bharat Mission

② Open data - gov provides latest data on varied services and numbers such as 2-wheelers and 3-wheelers in India for e-mobility companies to use.

③ Transport data of public buses in Bengaluru is public
↳ Increases time availability information to public and accountability

of transport departments

④ London's open data on tube
(metro services) improved transparency in delays / arrival times.

⑤ Data on schemes like Saubhaya Mission for rural electrification, Skill India, Make in India improves public knowledge. (E.g.) Prapti application for energy sector.

Thus, it leads to good governance.

Way forward

- Make available all public data points
- Balance privacy and use concerns.
- Citizen charters, e-governance, social audits to be used to promote open data.

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)

The Afghan Peace process is being brokered by U.S representative Zalmay Khalilzad, Taliban representatives, Afghan government, Pakistan, China, ~~U.S.~~ Europe, Japan and Australia.

India's Stand

1. Afghan led and Afghan owned peace process
2. No explicit talks with Taliban
3. No difference between "Good terrorist or Bad Terrorist"
4. Not to use Afghan for "Great Games" or as "terrorist launchpads"

Quad's lack of support

- ① USA is brokering withdrawal agreement

without including Afghan government and direct talks with Taliban.

② Japan is favouring U.S.A stand and doesn't restricts to Afghan led and Afghan owned process.

③ Australia is also differentiating between good (Taliban) and bad (Al-Qaeda) terrorist.

Ideal Indian response

① Maintain talks (covertly) with Taliban in case of future government led by them.

② Continue soft power building via developmental aid.

③ Activate all talks with power centres like Kabul, Beijing, Moscow and gain support for our stand this will help in strategically positioning India.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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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)

The demise of a strong opposition in the face of strong majority (consentive) by the ruling party has evoked debates on its relevance to democracy.

Strength of democracy based on strength of opposition

- ① Opposition's role in constructive criticism on government policies.
- ② raise public awareness on national issues.
 (E) Rafale deal
- ③ Checks and balances role salience of democracy.
- ④ Curbs majoritarianism and protects minority. (E) Triple Tally debate in parliament,

⑤ Mobilizes public and gives support to civil society activism

⑥ farmer's movements in 2017 by Swaraj Abhiyan

⑦ Upholds fundamental rights and brings pressure to implement directive of State policies. (DPSP)

⑧ financial accountability via PAC, estimates Committee etc.

⑨ role in appointing constitutional authorities like Lokpal.

Thus, there's need to strengthen the opposition's voice in a democracy for consociational and deliberative democracy rather than mere procedural democracy led by a strong government.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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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)

Good governance involves pro-active and preventive government decision making to maintain social stability and tranquility

Beyond crisis management and "holding fort"

① Pro-active decisions before even a protest or riots happen.

for Eg - Upgrade railway tracks before a rail incident.

② Pre-empt public goods need availability of food in stocks/buffer.

③ Curb tendencies / causal factors that lead to riots.

④ Minority protection → Article 29 and laws

⑤ Use of citizen charters, e-governance

to enhance social awareness and accountability.

- ⑤ Communication with public and Equity in services to maintain harmony.

Measures to take

- ① Pro-activeness in policies
 ② Economically weaker section prote.
 ② Minimum basic income pilots in face of 4th Industrial Revolution.
 ③ Finland and Brazil's Bolsa Familia.

Thus, one needs to rise above crisis management for pro-people governance in a "New India"!

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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