

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate AYUSH VENKAT VATS

Roll No.

Date:

9/12/21

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE

INSTRUCTION

Q. No. Max. Marks Marks Obtained

Q.1

Q.2

Total Marks:

Remarks:

1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.

2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part

3. One question in each part is 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.

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

For Student Only

Start Time | 11:00 am

End Time | 2:00 pm

Mode Of Examination:

Online ☒ Offline ☐

For Office Use Only

ECN CODE:

EG:

Evaluation Date:

MARKING SCHEME

<i>Parameter/Criteria</i>	<i>Aspects Considered</i>	<i>Total Marks</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
Basic Format	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
Content	Data/Facts/Interpretation/ Analysis	25		
Organisation	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
Language Skills	Punctuation/Grammar/ Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
Examiner's Discretion	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

<i>Parameters</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>
120 and above	100-120	Below 100

Section A

Q3 "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan", was the mantra given by Lal Bahadur Shastri in the crisis year of 1965. India was looking at an agrarian crisis that year after 2 consecutive crop failures. What followed was a miraculous transformation of Indian agriculture under Green Revolution. 56 years later, has India overcome its agricultural problems? or is reinventing agriculture the need of the hour?

Today, more than 43% of Indian population is engaged in agriculture, however they earn only 13% of the national income. Every year India faces shortages of at least one horticultural crop. Oilseeds and Pulses contribute a lot to the import bill. Almost 86% of land holdings are smaller than 2Ha.

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In the following essay, we will explore the status of Indian agriculture and why is there an urgent need to reinvent it. Then we will throw light ~~of~~ on the solutions.

Agriculture in India

Agriculture has historically been the traditional occupation of Indian People.

After the British conquest of India, the status of peasants greatly deteriorated. Food shortages became common and millions of people perished in famines.

Post Independence, the Indian govt. made a determined push to transform agriculture 3rd FYP onwards. High-Yielding variety of seeds were introduced and irrigation facilities were expanded. These efforts bore fruit and India declared itself self-sufficient in 1991.

Today India is the 2nd largest producer of agricultural commodities overall, with an output of 305 MT of food grains.

Although the total food production has definitely increased, Indian agriculture largely remains an unremunerative activity, with some of the lowest incomes. Farmer suicides are increasing and distress migration from rural areas is a widespread phenomenon.

PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURE

There is no shortage of problems in Indian agriculture. The basis of farming anywhere in the world is seeds. Although green revolution introduced HYV seeds in India but they were introduced only in rice & wheat production. Subsequently many other crops also were brought within the ambit of HYV, but it has largely eluded oilseeds, pulses and horticulture. Even the seed replacement

State in India is one of the lowest in the world.

Seeds then need ample amount of water to germinate and grow. However only 52% of agricultural area in India is covered by irrigation facilities. It means that almost half of the agricultural area in India is indeed a "gamble in monsoons".

Not only this, irrigation projects especially canals in India are infamous for cost overruns, poor planning and decades of delay.

Crops also require machines such as tractors, harrows, ploughs to efficiently carry out agricultural activities. Agriculture mechanisation in India is only 46%, even though India is the largest

producer of tractors in the world. This is a fancy from western countries where agricultural mechanisation is more than 90%.

Credit is also an extremely important input, especially from the standpoint of long term growth.

About 25% of the credit in

agriculture comes from informal sources such as moneylenders and families of the farmers. This is more than twice the credit coming through agricultural co-operatives.

Fertilisers, especially urea played a significant role in transforming the face of Indian agriculture during the Green revolution.

However, due to irrational ambiguous fertiliser subsidy policies, the ratio of nutrients has drastically deteriorated

to 8:3:1 in many places. This comes with many adverse health consequences.

Perhaps the most important problem of agriculture in India is the unremunerative size of the land holdings. The average Majority of farm land in India is either small or marginal. This is a significant impediment to agriculture mechanisation & investment. It also leads to big no large diseconomies of scale.

Many other problems are also facing agriculture. Land reforms were never fully completed, the subsidy bill is ever increasing, agricultural indebtedness is high, power consumption per hectare is low. In recent years a new

problem of feminisation of agriculture has also emerged.

All this have ultimately imparted the agriculture productivity and farmer income. Productivity of agriculture in India is much below the world average and in many cases less than 20% of that in OECD countries. The average income of a farmer was hardly ₹9000/month in 2015.

SOLUTIONS

"Where there is a will, there is a way"

World Development Report 2007 said that a 1% increase in agriculture income is 2-3 times more effective in poverty removal than a similar growth in any other sector of the economy for BRICS nations.

This explains the urgent need to reinvigorate agriculture in India.

In the short term, there are many low hanging fruits in Indian agriculture. If the Dalwai Committee said that if a farmer shifts only 1 Ha of land from foodcrops to horticultural crops, then he can increase his annual income by ₹1 lakh. There agricultural diversification must be encouraged, especially in the field of horticulture.

Agricultural marketing can also be improved through initiatives such as e-NAM. Allowing private sectors in agriculture marketing should also be tried, after consultation with all stakeholders.

Eastern India had remained untouched by Green revolution. Through better seeds and irrigation facilities east India ~~to~~ and North

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East India have the potential to become the next Punjab.

Agriculture exports can also be a source of improving farm income. Exports of organic foods which are in great demand in USA and Western Europe should be encouraged. Organic certification and crop Insurance should be encouraged.

In the long run, India needs to boost its expenditure on research and development and extension services in agriculture. Agriculture universities should be opened even in remote areas.

The irrigation network of Indian agriculture needs to increase. Irrigation cover both public and private has to be

encouraged. The network of bank branches in rural India should also increase.

Farmers should be encouraged to form co-operatives and Farmer Producer Companies. This will increase their bargaining power. A rationalisation of agricultural subsidies should also be on the agenda. Rural electrification needs to be encouraged. All this requires considerable political will.

Mahatma Gandhi had once remarked that "India lives in the villages" and agriculture is at the core of village life. Any kind of inclusive growth policy must include agriculture. If the India of 21st century wants to realise Shastri

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It's vision, then agricultural
reform is a must. $\frac{7}{6}$

India was looking at record grain shortages that year, after 2 consecutive droughts. What followed was a substantial transformation of Indian agriculture under the banner of Green Revolution. 56 years later, has India overcome the challenges in agriculture? or is there reinventing Indian agriculture the need of the hour?

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading

Section B

"~~A country where~~

1/ PEACE IS NOT ABSENCE OF WAR,
BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE

"A country should not only be worth
dying for in a war, but worth
living in during peace."

Young Ambedkar belonged to a
low class Mahar community. Although
the society he lived in was largely
peaceful, throughout his childhood he
had to face many discriminations.
He was one of the many victims
of an unjust society. Eventually,
he grew up to be the great
Dr B R Ambedkar who led a
"war" for annihilation of caste
injustice.

Peace is never an option
when injustice is prevalent in
the society. Like Ambedkar, there

have been among such "revolutionaries" for this cause, such as Mahatama Grandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and so on. In this essay we will examine how Justice is the sin-qua-non for a peaceful society, and what can be done to make our society Just.

PEACEFUL SOCIETY

Traditionally, peace has been defined as an absence of war or conflicts.

However history is filled with examples of periods of absence of conflict, but without "peace".

Peace in reality is a state of mind. True peace is achieved "when the mind is without fear, and the head is held high", as remarked Tagore.

Peaceful societies are characterised by equality of all. People have liberty and freedom to achieve their goals. Speech is not censored on. Inequalities of income and social status are absent. A sense of brotherhood prevails in the society.

To achieve a peaceful society with equality and liberty for all, Justice is necessary. The values of Social, Political and Economic Justice have been enshrined by the makers of our constitution in the preamble. Without Just institutions and a Just society, "matsyayana" would prevail and the big fish would swallow the small fish. Peaceful merely by absence of war is fickle and not long lasting.

PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE

Pr. India before Independence was a colony of an unjust British government. The British with their immense military might had subjugated whole of Indian Subcontinent.

Earlier, India was characterised by small states engaged in constant warfare, but the British conquest brought 150 years of "peace" for India.

However the society and government was unjust. Racial injustice was prevalent. Social injustice was perpetuated by caste system. Thus society was plunged into constant turmoil. Leaders like Grandhi Ji, J Nehru, Subhash Bose and Bhagat Singh discarded the British notion for peace and brought a just society.

Similar examples are common even in other parts of the world.

The American society of ~~1760s & 70s~~ 19th century was plagued by grave racial injustice, even after the peace ushered by the American Revolution. This peace as well was broken by the American Civil war for greater racial justice and abolition of slavery. Even [^]the modern American society faces turmoil due to movements like "Black Lives Matter" for greater racial Justice.

In the South African society, the Apartheid regime perpetuated racial injustice through official policies. Nelson Mandela led a determined struggle to bring about a change even at cost of the peace in society.

In the 21st century world also, ~~society~~ marginalised sections choose to shun the peace in society and bring greater Justice.

"Feminist movement", "me too" movement and LGBTQ+ movements are all examples of demands for greater justice in society.

The Taliban, government which recently seized power in Afghanistan is being shunned by the world at large. This is largely because of the unjust policies towards women and minority communities that is infamous for.

Therefore, history and even contemporary society are filled with stories which all

eventually establish the fact that a peaceful society not only requires the absence of war but prevalance of ~~peace~~ Justice

HOW TO CREATE A JUST SOCIETY?

John Rawls was a medieval thinker who gave many ideas on creating a Just society.

The essence of Justice lies in ensuring maximum standards of minimum liberties for all in the society. This way, even the marginalised sections in a society will be able to progress.

The ~~art~~ 14, 15, 19, Part III of the constitution that ensures fundamental rights to every citizen serves this Purpose.

In addition in a just society, there are equality of

opportunity for all. Even people from marginalised section who have ability should be able to progress.

Inequalities in a society should be tilted in the favor of marginalised section so as to reduce their disadvantage. The reservation policy in India is a good example of such a policy.

The PDS also positively discriminates in favour of marginalised people.

In addition to this Income inequalities should be reduced. In India the top 1% of population

earns more than 25% of income. The poor & weaker sections are thus pushed to a life of theft and crime which disturbs peace in society.

Gender Justice is also a very important factor. Patriarchal tendencies of a society have to be attacked through an appropriate education system.

Therefore, although India and the world have travelled a long way, many injustices are still prevalent in the society. To ensure peace & harmony, governments around the world need to work together. Revolutionaries

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like Ambedkar are created
by Injustice. The world has
to make sure that Justice
prevails and "revolutionaries" like
Ambedkar and Grandhi have
their dreams realised.

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility
(5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading