TEST CODE	8	1	2	4	2	6			MGP 2025

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Time Allowed : Three Hours समय : तीन घंटे		Maximum Marks : 250 अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Gaurav Chopra		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910111207	Medium/माध्यम	English ✓ हिंदी ☐
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1901	Date/दिनांक	09-08-2025

*Center Code : For Online – 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh – 1901, ORN – 1902, Mukharji Nagar – 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. – 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar – 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका		
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक
1		
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Total/कुल अंक	250	

Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता का विवेक :

Total Marks/कुल अंक :

*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.

मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

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

कृपया उत्तर–पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।

2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.

उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी / हिंदी में **बीस** प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

प्रत्येक प्रश्न / भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।

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.

उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।

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.

प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।

For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु	
Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 2:30 PM	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 5:30 PM
Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन ☐ Offline/ऑफलाइन ✓

For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु		
ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :

Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

Q.1) Examine the scope and significance of the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction under Article 143 of the Constitution.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 143 के तहत सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के परामर्शदात्री क्षेत्राधिकार के दायरे और महत्व का परीक्षण करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Article 143 of the Constitution provides Supreme Court with Advisory Jurisdiction related to a [presidential] reference.

Scope of Advisory Jurisdiction (Art 143)

① President can refer following types of cases to Supreme Court:

(i) interpretation of [Pre-constitution] treaty or agg agreement.

(ii) Any other matter.

② Supreme Court has to tender advise on (i) Matter, whereas it has discretion in matters of (ii).

③ Such cases must be heard by constitutional Bench of [5 judges]

Significance of Art.143 - Advisory Power

① Clarification on Pre-constitutional matters by Supreme court.

② Re-verification of judgements.
[Eg] Presidential reference on Governor Timeline Case (2025).

③ Voice of Executive : heard by Judiciary — Checks & Balances.

④ Expert Opinion on legal matters relevant to President.

Thus, Article 143's advisory jurisdiction is an important jurisprudence tool.

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Q.2) What is delimitation, and why is it important? What challenges are associated with the delimitation exercise in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

परिसीमन से क्या तात्पर्य है और यह क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है? भारत में परिसीमन प्रक्रिया से जुड़ी चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए?
(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Delimitation refers to the exercise of re-drawing of constituency boundary on the lines of population change

Timeline of Delimitation

1952	1962	1972	2002
First	Second	Third	Fourth
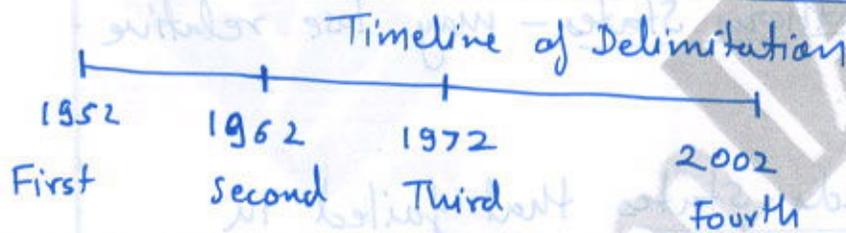
Importance of Delimitation

① Upholding Democratic principle of One person - One Vote.

② Takes Population change into consideration.

③ Constitutional requirement of undertaking Delimitation post census.

④ Ensure equality of votes.

⑤ Equal Representational power of each legislator.

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Post 2002 - Delimitation was paused till the first census after 2026 leading to certain [Concerns & Challenges:]

① Punishment for demographic control by Southern States — may lose relative seats.

② Rewards states that failed in controlling Population as per National Population Policy.

③ Dilutes representational power of Southern States — Gerrymandering

④ Politics of division → North vs South Issue.

To counter above issues

① Ensure Transparency in Process.
② Add other criterias beyond population.
③ Guarantees for minimum seats.
This will effectively counter the challenges.

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(Don't Write anything
in this Area / इस स्थान
पर कुछ न लिखें)

Q.3) How has asymmetric federalism helped India accommodate its diverse regional needs? Discuss
with suitable examples.
(10 Marks, 150 Words)

असममित संघवाद ने भारत को अपनी विविध क्षेत्रीय आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने में किस प्रकार मदद की है? उपयुक्त
उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।
(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Asymmetric Federalism refers to the
model of federalism where the Union is
stronger than the states. It is also known
as quasi-federal system of governance.

[Eg] Finance Commission by Centre → decides
finances for states.

Asymmetric ⟶ Accomodation of
Federalism   Diverse regional needs

① Article 3 : States' territorial reorganisation
is the power of centre.
[Eg] Formation of Linguistic States.

② All India Services : Appointment power
with Centre - state can transfer.
[Eg] Uniformity in Administration.

③ Financial Power : Union decides on
giving grants and finances.

Eg Special Category States Status.

④ Inter-State River Water Dispute → Parliament is empowered to make laws. Eg Krishna river dispute.

⑤ VII Schedule: Primacy to Union List but also gives State and Concurrent list for regional diversity.

⑥ Finance Commission: gave 42% devolution of funds for State expenses.

⑦ GST council: deciding on complaints and concerns of Industrialised states.

Flash points Remain → office of Governor
→ Cess 4 surcharge sharing.
→ VII Schedule Rationalisation.

Punchi Commission and Sarkaria Commission has given solutions to above.

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Q.4) Explain how the terms 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble embody specific meanings in the Indian context. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

स्पष्ट कीजिए कि प्रस्तावना में 'समाजवादी' और 'पंथनिरपेक्ष' शब्द भारतीय संदर्भ में किस प्रकार विशिष्ट अर्थ रखते हैं। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The terms 'socialist' and 'secular' were added to the Preamble by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976.

'Socialism' - Meaning in Indian Content

① Socialist does not mean 'No' private Property or complete govt ownership.

② Rather, it is a form of Gandhian Socialism or Fabian Socialism.

③ Protection to Private Property (Article 300A) while ensuring their use for material benefit of community (Article 31 A).

④ LPG reforms → giving state support to social sector.

⑤ Indian Socialism → gives Right to Food (<u>NFSA</u>), to education (<u>RTE, 2009</u>) and subsidies to the poor.

'<u>Secularism</u>' — meaning in Indian Context

① Not Western model — 'Laicite' - strict Separation of State and Religion.

② Rather a $\boxed{principled\ separation.}$

can reform

$\boxed{State}$ → $\boxed{Religion}$

X ← cannot interfere.
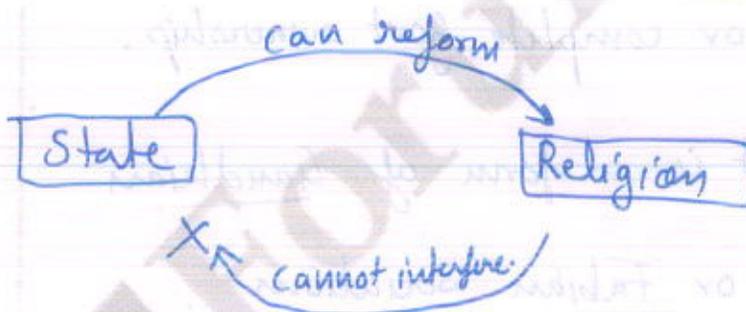
③ $\boxed{Article\ 25\text{-}29:}$ protection of Right to Religion of every citizen.

④ Based on '<u>Sarva Dharma Sambhav</u>' and '<u>Sarva Dharma Sadbhav</u>'.

Thus, India has moulded both terms to its needs.

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Q.5) The role of State Finance Commissions in building regional equity and strengthening the federal link has largely been underutilized. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

क्षेत्रीय समानता के निर्माण और संघीय संबंध को मजबूत करने में राज्य वित्त आयोगों की भूमिका का व्यापक स्तर पर अल्प उपयोग किया गया है। चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment led to the formation of State Finance Commissions in every state (Article 243).

Role in Building Regional Equity
→ Transfer of Funds to Local Bodies
→ Strengthen State Finances
→ Setting the guidelines for devolution of Funds.

SFC - Strengthen Federal Link
→ 3 Levels of Govt → Centre, State, Local Bodies.
→ Connect Union with Local Governance
→ Strengthen self-rule and governance.
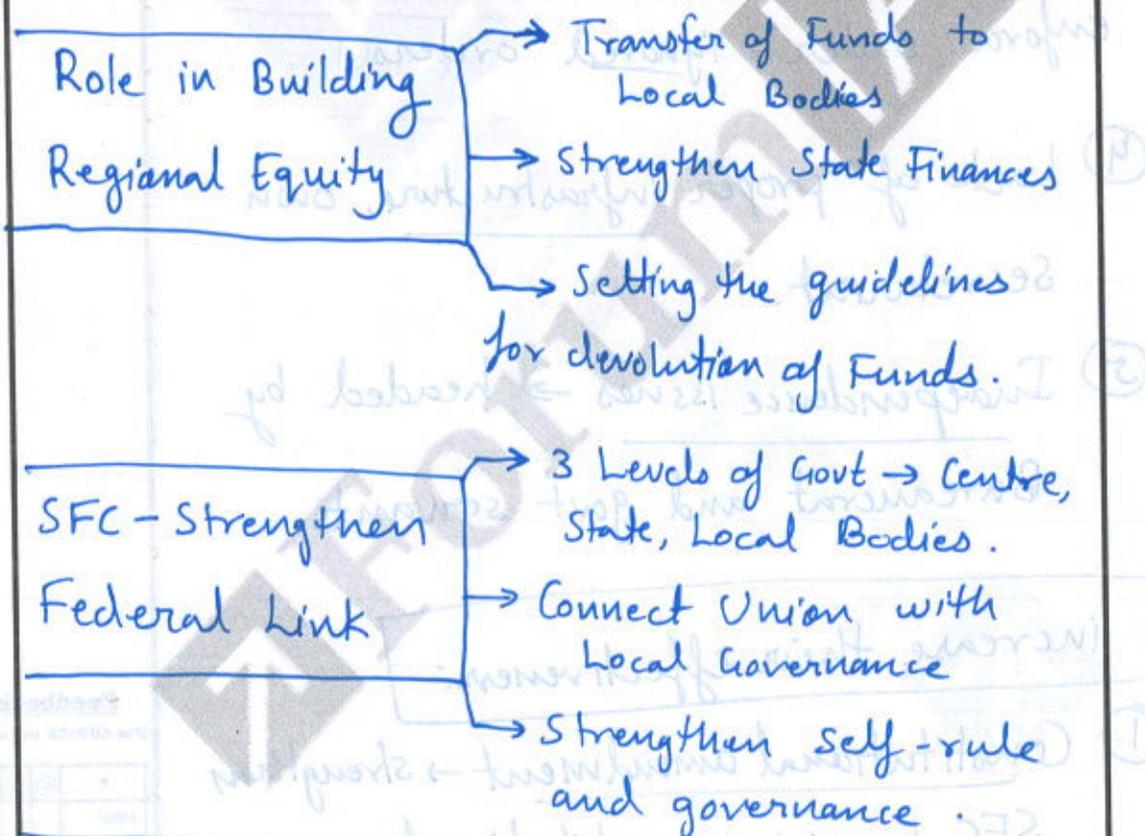
SFC → Largely Underutilised
① States have not formed: only functional in ~14 states.

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② Lack of devolution of power or mandate to State Finance Commission — [Paper bodies]

③ Role is merely advisory → cannot enforce order — ignored orders.

④ Lack of proper infrastructure, own Secretariat.

⑤ Independence issues → headed by Bureaucrat and govt servants.

To increase their effectiveness:

① Constitutional amendment → strengthen SFC by giving constitutional power.

② Institutionalise Action Taken Report on SFC's advice.

Above steps will fulfill the SFC's mandate

Q.6) How far do you think has the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) been successful in protecting and promoting child rights in India? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

आपके अनुसार राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग (NCPCR) भारत में बाल अधिकारों के संरक्षण और संवर्धन में कितना सफल रहा है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NCPCR is a statutory body responsible for securing the rights of the child.

Four Pillars of Children Rights
→ Right to Protection
→ Right to Development
→ Right to Participation
→ Right to Security.

Contribution of NCPCR

① Conducting Research and Publishing Report on the state of Children.

② Suggesting law reforms and legal Changes to Government.

③ Oversee the implementation of POCSO, Juvenile Justice Act, RTE Act, etc.

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④ Investigate into the issues of violence against children.

Limitations of NCPCR (ineffectiveness)

① Mere advisory role → not binding on the government.

② Lack of Suo-moto power to punish or award relief.

③ Funding issue - infrastructure, etc.

④ Huge Child Labour → 10 Million (NFHS).

⑤ Low POCSO conviction → 30% (NJDG).

⑥ Crumbling state of school infrastructure
[Eg] School collapse in Rajasthan.

NCPCR Act must be overhauled to strengthen the powers of NCPCR.

Q.7) Outline the salient features of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 related to school education. What does it state about the medium of instruction in schools? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

विद्यालयी शिक्षा से संबंधित नई शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 की मुख्य विशेषताओं को रेखांकित करें। यह विद्यालयों में शिक्षा के माध्यम के बारे में क्या उद्धृत करती है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Promises to overhaul the educational system of India away from the Macaulay's minute.

Salient Features of NEP 2020 - School Education

① Focus on Foundational and Literal Numeracy (FLN) by grade 3.

② Mandating Experential Learning → 10 day bag-less school

③ Inculcate new subjects and diverse material. [Eg] Environment.

④ Learning in Mother Tongue till age 5.

⑤ Monitoring learning outcomes via PARAKH.

⑥ Teacher Training → inculcating by 2030 only B.Ed Teachers.

Medium of Instruction

① Favors mother tongue at foundational level.

② 3 Language Policy → choosing atleast 2 Indian Language.

Concern → Imposition of Hindi
  ↳ Lack of required infrastructure, teachers vacancy.

NEP 2020 promises to bring India's education system in modernity and update it as per the needs of the time.

Q.8) Throw light on the legal frameworks that are in place to ensure women's safety in India. What further steps are needed to enhance their safety and well-being? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

भारत में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए मौजूद विधिक ढाँचों पर प्रकाश डालें। उनकी सुरक्षा और कल्याण को बढ़ाने के लिए और क्या कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India's female Labour force participation has risen to 39% backed by stringent legal frameworks ensuring women's safety.

Legal Frameworks for Women's Safety

① Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act (POSH Act) → based on Vishakha Guidelines.

② Domestic Violence Act, 2005 → to safeguard women in enclosed familial spaces.

③ Dowry Prohibition Act → to protect Women from dowry violence.

④ Sati Prohibition Act → to eradicate the evil practice of Sati

⑤ BNS, 2024 → contains stringent regulation for rape, etc.

⑥ Protection of Children from Sexual offences Act (POCSO) : Protecting the safety of Children.

⑦ PCPNDT act : criminalises informing parents about the sex of the child →
Protects from female Infanticide

Further Steps needed to ensure safety

Strong Criminal Justice System
→ Fasttrack disposal of case
→ increase convictions
→ Special Fast Track Courts.
→ Specialised law and order.

Social Steps
→ Information, education, awareness
→ Attitudinal change
→ Dismantling patriarchy at workplace

Above steps, with gender-sensitive law enforcement will go a long way in ensuring safety of women.

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Q.9) "A multipolar world order is not merely an option but a necessity". Elaborate. How can India leverage its position to strengthen multipolarity in the global arena? (10 marks, 150 words)

"एक बहुध्रुवीय विश्व व्यवस्था केवल एक विकल्प नहीं बल्कि एक आवश्यकता है। विस्तार से चर्चा कीजिए। वैश्विक क्षेत्र में बहुध्रुवीयता को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत अपनी स्थिति का लाभ कैसे उठा सकता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Multipolar World Order refers to the world without unilateral pole of influence and based on rules-based world order.

Not merely Option — but a necessity.

① <u>Post cold war period (1990s)</u> → saw hegemony of USA and decades of unilateral decisions. [Eg] Invasion of Afghanistan.

② <u>Rise of Asian Century</u> → rising powers of China and India.

③ <u>Growing significance of Africa</u> → inclusion in G20 - significant resources.

④ <u>Decline in Unity of West</u>: fracture between USA and ~~Europe~~ EU due to Trump presidency.

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The above changes in the global world order ensures the necessity of a multi-polar world.

India — Strengthen Multipolarity

① Linking Pin between → Global North : G7
→ Global South : NAM.

② Strategic alignment — multipolarity, no complete partnership with any 1 country.

③ Fourth largest economy, 3rd largest (in PPP), largest democracy → credentials

④ Voice of Global South → Vaccine Maitri, HADR, Climate Negotiations.

⑤ Deep partnership with Japan, Russia, US, EU and Africa.

Thus, a multi-lateral world with free and open indo-pacific would ensure peace and stability in world order.

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Q.10) "ASEAN is the cornerstone of India's Act East Policy and its Indo-Pacific vision." Elucidate.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

"आसियान भारत की एक्ट ईस्ट नीति और उसके हिंद-प्रशांत दृष्टिकोण की आधारशिला है।" स्पष्ट करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

ASEAN refers to the multi-lateral organisation formed in 1967 with Bangkok agreement.

Vietnam   Singapore   Brunei   → Myanmar

Cambodia ← ┌─────────────┐ → Laos
           │ 10 Members │
           │ of ASEAN   │
Phillipines └─────────────┘ → Thailand
        Malaysia Indonesia
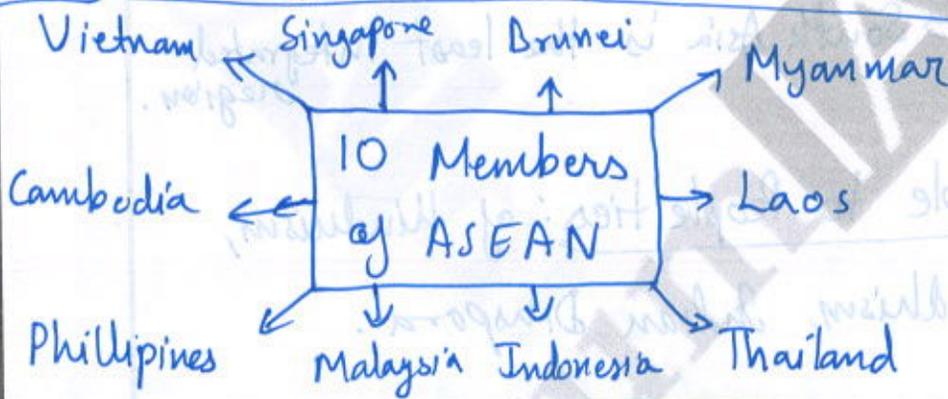
ASEAN → Cornerstone of India's Act East Policy and Indo-pacific vision

① Boosting Connectivity : [eg] IMT Trilateral highway.

② Strategic Partnership with Indo-pacific Countries : [eg] Export of BRAHMOS to Phillipines.

③ Strengthen Trade Relationship in region → E9 44 Billion Trade with ASEAN Members.

④ Regional Integration : E9 World Bank Report → South Asia is the least integrated region.

⑤ People to People ties : of Hinduism, Buddhism, Indian Diaspora.

⑥ Securing investment and FDI : Singapore is one of the top 10 investor in India.

⑦ Freeing Sea Lanes of Communications : India's support to Phillipines in South China Sea Issue.

Thus, India must strengthen and deeper its relations with ASEAN through updating India-ASEAN FTA.

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(Don't Write anything
in this Area / इस स्थान
पर कुछ न लिखें)

Q.11) Discuss the various administrative challenges faced by local self-governments (LSGs). What measures do you suggest for devolving administrative powers to LSGs, enabling them to function as institutions of genuine self-governance? (15 marks, 250 words)

स्थानीय स्वशासन (LSGs) के सामने आने वाली विभिन्न प्रशासनिक चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। स्थानीय स्वशासन को प्रशासनिक शक्तियाँ सौंपने के लिए आप क्या उपाय सुझाते हैं, जिससे वे वास्तविक स्वशासन की संस्थाओं के रूप में कार्य कर सकें? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment of 1992 gave Local Self-governments (LSGs) their Constitutional status.

Administrative Challenges faced by LSG

① Functional issues

→ Lack of devolution of functions by majority states (MoPR Report).

→ Lack of proper Infrastructure — no digital connectivity.

→ Parastatal Bodies : Eg Haryana Block Development Authority.

② Functionary Issues

→ High illiteracy and lack of training.

→ huge vacancy in Panchayat Secretaries.

→ Lack of cadre based management and professional Human Resource mgmt.

→ 'Sarpanch Pati' Syndrome

③ Funding Issues

→ Non-formation of State Finance Commission.

→ Lack of devolution of funds.

→ Dependence on tied funds and grants (90%).

Measures for Devolving Admin Power

① Amendment to Article 243 → State 'may' devolve to 'shall' devolve.

② Professional Cadre based management- On boarding on Mission Karmayogi'.

③ Functional Audit : regular ranking based on devolution of administrative power.

④ Finance Commission Incentives : additional grants for devolution of power by states.

⑤ Best Practice : China Model → devolves 20% of Total Budget

⑥ Learning from state best practices— by NITI Aayog → Kerala devolved 26 out of 27 function.

⑦ Activity Mapping and implementation of Shri Ramkrishna Report on fund devolution.

Local self governance has the ability to realise the Gandhian dream of 'Swarajya'- self governance.

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Q.12) In light of recent developments, the Collegium system and the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014 have once again come under scrutiny. Do you think that a NJAC-like body can make judicial appointments more transparent, broad-based, and accountable? Justify your answer. (15 marks, 250 words)

हाल के घटनाक्रमों के मद्देनजर, कॉलेजियम प्रणाली और राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ति आयोग (NJAC) अधिनियम, 2014 को रद्द करने का सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का फैसला एक बार फिर जांच के दायरे में आ गया है। क्या आपको लगता है कि NJAC जैसा कोई निकाय न्यायिक नियुक्तियों को अधिक पारदर्शी, व्यापक और जवाबदेह बना सकता है? अपने उत्तर का औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

In its 2015 NJAC Judgement, Supreme court declared NJAC as unconstitutional on the grounds of Judicial Independence.

Features of NJAC, 2014 → Gave Executive ~ say in appointment to higher judiciary.
→ Deciding the transfers and Punishments of higher judges.

In recent light of events of Justice Verma - 'Cash at Home' Case and his impeachment proceedings, NJAC has once again come into limelight.

NJAC-like → Appointments transparent,
Body   broad-based and accountable

① Ensure Checks and Balance → by
giving executive say in appointment → accountable.

② Ensure broad-based acceptance of
recommendations → Collegium's advice are
sometimes ignored.

③ Uphold Democracy → puts the elected
over the selected.

④ Greater Transparency → Collegium is
relatively 'opaque' about proceedings.

⑤ Will counter criticisms of Collegium – 'Uncle
Judge syndrome', nepotism & corruption.

⑥ Enforce Judicial accountability to
the parliament (will of the people).

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⑦ Ensure hearing of executive Concerns over Judicial appointment

⑧ All party support → NJAC Act 2014 & was passed by consensus - broad-based.

Concerns with NJAC Like Body

① Threatens Judicial independence — part of Basic Structure.

② Against Principle of Natural Justice by giving Executive say in Judiciary appointment as govt itself is a major litigant.

③ May lead to 'Committed Judiciary'.

④ Against Federalism and Constitutionalism which require independent Judiciary.

Thus, an NJAC like body must be amended so as to ensure that there shall be no 'Executive supremacy'.

Q.13) Differentiate between the clemency powers of the Presidents of India and the USA. Also, critically examine the vesting of clemency power in the executive. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

भारत और अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपतियों की क्षमादान शक्तियों के बीच अंतर बताइए। साथ ही, कार्यपालिका में क्षमादान शक्ति के निहित होने की आलोचनात्मक जांच कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Clemency powers or Pardoning Powers means ability of executive to lift the punishment as well as the conviction on the grounds of empathy or 'corrective' justice.

Indian President	President of USA
① Pardoning power relate to Union Laws and Death Penalty.	① Pardoning Power related to only Federal crime.
② On the advise of Council of ministers	② President himself empowered.
③ Judicial review on the grounds of being 'malafide'	③ No Judicial review. [Eg] Joe Biden pardoned his son Hunter Biden.

President of India	President of USA
④ Broader power — Can lift Death penalty of State Law.	④ Narrower — only related to Federal crimes.
⑤ Procedure set by Council of ministers and Judiciary.	⑤ No set procedure — on Presidential will

However, both of them have the power of pardon, reprieve, respite and clemency.

Reasons behind Vesting of Clemency power

① To enforce 'corrective' or reformational justice.

② To correct the mistakes of judiciary as the law is rigid and blind.

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③ To show empathy and compassion as a state virtue.

④ Historical basis → UK King has clemency power, 'fountain of justice' during Mughals.

⑤ Human centric approach in governance.

Arguments against vesting of clemency power

① Violates separation of power → executive encroaching on judicial space.

② Executive Malafide → may use it for vested interest.

③ Clemency petition cause [delays] in judgements.

④ Use for political purpose. Eg Afzal Guru Case.

Thus, any exercise of clemency power must be backed by transparency and accountability to uphold 'spirit' of justice.

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Q.14) What constitutes corrupt practices under the Representation of the People Act, 1951? Also, discuss the challenges in curbing such malpractices and suggest remedial measures.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत भ्रष्ट आचरण क्या है? साथ ही, ऐसे कुप्रथाओं को रोकने में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें और उपचारात्मक उपाय सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Section 8, 8A and 9 of the Representation of People Act (RPA, 1951) contains schedule of corrupt practices and electoral malpractices.

Following are Corrupt Practices under RPA, 1951

(i) Booth Capturing → by force.

(ii) Use of bribes to affect voting.

(iii) Not furnishing required information in election application.

(iv) Taking weapon inside electoral voting area.

(v) Not filing expenditure report.

Challenges in curbing such malpractices

① Rising Criminalisation of Political System → [Eg] 46% of MP have Criminal cases.

② Rising use of Money power in election— [Eg] Electoral Bond - Quid Pro Quo.

③ Nexus of Criminals - politicians and law enforcement → highlighted by [Vohra] Committee

④ Cumbersome procedure under RPA, 1951 — use of election petitions, etc.

⑤ Independence of ECI → since 2004, no election commissioner has completed 6 year term.

⑥ Slow Criminal Justice System → 2009 Faizal Khan Case got judgement in 2022.

Remedial Measures to curb corrupt practices

① Simplification of RPA 1951 → election petition procedures.

② Strict timelines for judgements, investigation in political crimes.

③ Creation of Special Fast Track courts for political criminals.

④ Electoral Funding → Goswami Committee suggested partial state funding.

⑤ SY Qureshi → suggested Electoral Trust.

⑥ Safeguarding the independence of ECI → spirit of 'Anoop Baranwal Judgement.'

   A clean political and election process is sine qua non for effective democracy.

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Q.15) Discuss the role of the Vice-President as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Also describe the procedure for his/her removal from office. (15 marks, 250 words)

राज्य सभा के सभापति के रूप में उपराष्ट्रपति की भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। साथ ही, उनके पद से हटाए जाने की प्रक्रिया का भी वर्णन करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 89 of the Constitution says that there shall be a Vice-President of India. He is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Role of VP — as Chairman of Rajya Sabha

① Oversees the functioning of the house.

② Suspends the house in case Quorum is not there.

③ Convenes and prorouges the house.

④ Acceptance and denial of motions.

⑤ Choose the members and heads of the Rajya Sabha committees.

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⑥ Head of the Rajya Sabha Committee

(i) Rules Committee

(II) General Purpose Committee

⑦ Disciplines the house → guardian of the privileges within the house.

⑧ Decides punishment to on violation of Parliamentary procedure.

Procedure for Removal from VP's office

① Notice of removal of Vice president given with 14 days notice.

② Acceptance or denial of the motion by the presiding officer of Rajya Sabha, other than the Vice President.

③ Once the motion is accepted, removal will require special majority – effective majority of Rajya Sabha.

④ Vice-President, though present in the proceedings, cannot vote in it.

⑤ After passing of motions by the Rajya Sabha with Effective majority, the motion is forwarded to Lok Sabha

⑥ Lok Sabha must accept the motion with simple majority.

⑦ After this, Vice-presidents stands removed from his post as well as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

This necessitates election of a new Vice-President in line of President and Vice-President Elections Act.

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Q.16) "Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a viable solution to eradicate extreme poverty in India." Critically discuss the statement.

(15 marks, 250 words)

"भारत में अत्यधिक निर्धनता को मिटाने के लिए सार्वभौमिक बुनियादी आय (UBI) एक व्यवहार्य समाधान है।" इस कथन का आलोचनात्मक वर्णन करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

As per World Bank, Extreme poverty in India is ~3% as per $3 PPP poverty line (2024).

Universal Basic Income means cash transfer to all the citizens of a nation regularly. This is similar to

[PM Kisan] ~ transfer of ₹6000 annually.

UBI → Viable Solution to eradicate poverty

① Simple Administration : as compared to the multiplicity of schemes, and initiatives.

② Free from the issues of Inclusion and Exclusion error. [Eg] As per Shanta Kumar committee — 40%.

③ Eradication: extreme poverty is based on an income-based poverty line. UBI above that line will ensure eradication of Extreme poverty itself.

④ Financially Viable: as per CEA, UBI requires around 8% of GDP, which is the present outlay of social sector scheme.

⑤ Boost Consumption: Cash transfer to all will increase expendable income → increase in consumption → economic growth → viable.

UBI → Unviable Solution

① Not politically feasible: to stop other social sector schemes.

② Extreme Poverty is an income-line method: Amartya Sen's poverty is based on Capabilities and multiple rights.

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(Don't Write anything
in this Area / इस स्थान
पर कुछ न लिखें)

③ Cannot eradicate multi-dimensional poverty.

④ Requires huge cash outlay at once → fiscal deficit increase & crowding out of private investment → slow growth.

⑤ Disincentives hardwork and capital accumulation.

⑥ Increases inflation in economy due to sudden influx of high purchasing power.

Thus, rather than UBI, govt can:

① Give DBT transfer to Antyodaya.
② Promote Social sector building → expenditure in Health, education and skill.
③ Transfer of goods in kind → food subsidies.

'Poverty anywhere is threat to Prosperity everywhere'.

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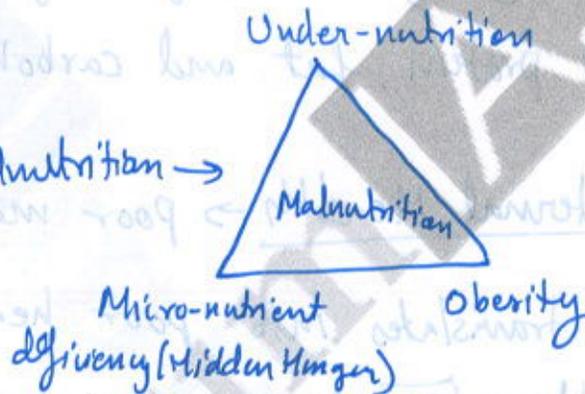**Q.17)** What are the key determinants of malnutrition among under-five children in the country? Also, elaborate on the role of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in addressing this issue.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

देश में पांच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों में कुपोषण के मुख्य निर्धारक क्या हैं? साथ ही, इस मुद्दे को संबोधित करने में पोषण-विशिष्ट और पोषण-संवेदनशील हस्तक्षेपों की भूमिका पर विस्तार से चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

As per NFHS-5, stunting in Under-five (U5) children is 35% in the Country.

Triple evil of Malnutrition →

Under-nutrition

Malnutrition

Micro-nutrient deficiency (Hidden Hunger)

Obesity

Key Determinants of Malnutrition (U5 Kids)

① Poor nutrition absorption capacity due to hunger → < 1300 Kcal.

② Accessibility of nutritious food : secure supply chain. Eg Mid Day meal.

③ Affordability of nutrition : high price of food. Eg PMGKAY.

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④ Unhealthy Food — sugar and calorie rich, containing Transfats — food swamps.
   [Eg] Weight gain and Obesity.

⑤ Quality of Food : fresh fruits, cereals.
   [Eg] protein, fat and carbohydrates.

⑥ Maternal Health → poor maternal health translates into poor health of children. [Eg] PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan.

⑦ Access to Milk, cereals, oil, etc necessary for development of nutrients.

Role of Nutrition-specific interventions

① Food Fortification → using biotech.
   [Eg] Golden Rice → Beta Carotene.

② Trasfer of nutrient rich food →
   [Eg] fortified Kernel Rice — Iron, folic acids.

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③ Protein rich food in Mid day meal

[Eg] Eggs in Mid Day Meal of Tamilnadu, Cereals and Pulses in Rajasthan.

④ Use of Locational nutrition : [Eg] Millet and Ragi Based meals at Anganwadi (MP).

Role of Nutrition-sensitive intervention

① Increasing health outcomes → to increase absorption capacity of children.

② Increase in educational → Aanganwadi to teach mothers about requirement

③ Awareness generation ~~cap~~ campaigns. [Eg] Eat Right campaign.

④ Ensuring food quality. [Eg] FSSAI.

Right to Food is a fundamental right under [Article 21] and necessary for achievement of [SDG-2] : Zero hunger.

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Q.18) "Data is the raw material of Artificial Intelligence." In this context, discuss the need for transparent and accountable data governance frameworks in India. What steps has the government taken in this regard? (15 marks, 250 words)

"डेटा आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस की आधारभूत सामग्री है।" इस संदर्भ में, भारत में पारदर्शी और जवाबदेह डेटा गवर्नेंस ढाँचे की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा करें। सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाए है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Model requires huge amounts of data to be trained on. These models are called Large Language Models (LLM) are who are fed available data to generate new content.

Need for Transparent Data Governance framework

① Black Box System of AI: trained on opaque algorithms - making decision on non-transparent basis.

② Data Privacy → use of AI collected data may violate privacy under Article 19 and 21. [Eg] ChatGPT saves chats and can generate them.

③ Biasness in Data : publically available data is full of biases ~ thus need transparent governance to ensure they do not percolate in decision making.

④ Growth of Industry : AI is able to increase 8-10 % of GDP (NASSCOM) - needs transparent governance.

Need for Accountable Data Governance framework

① IPR protection : AI is trained on copyrighted content such as articles, books → may violate IPR regulation.

② Ensuring Fair Use : Accountable framework will prevent misuse and ensure fair use of AI frameworks.

③ Prevent Monopoly of MNC or data collection
[Eg] Cambridge Analytica - facebook collusion.

Steps taken by Government for Data regulation.

① National Digital Data Protection Act, 2023 - on suggestion of Srikrishna Committee.

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② Data Protection Rules — ensure responsibilities of digital platform and data fiduciaries.

③ Mandated consumer grievance redressal cell in digital companies.

④ Negative List of Countries → where Indian data cannot be exported.

⑤ Global Partnership on AI - GPAI Declaration → data governance framework.

⑥ Signed Bleetchey Park Declaration.

⑦ Co-chaired Global AI summit, 2025 with France.

Government must bank on agile and flexible approach in ensuring correct regulation of digital data for AI use.

Q.19) Critically examine the role of International Monetary Fund (IMF) in addressing debt distress in the Global South. How can India use its post-G20 presidency momentum to push IMF reforms?

(15 marks, 250 words)

वैश्विक दक्षिण में ऋण संकट से निपटने में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) की भूमिका का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। भारत G20 की अध्यक्षता के बाद अपनी प्रस्थिति का उपयोग IMF सुधारों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए कैसे कर सकता है?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the global multi-lateral institution for ensuring transparency in currency exchange and international Debt.

Positive Role of IMF in addressing Debt Distress

① Apex Institution : IMF is the apex institution for handling International debt.

② Ensuring Transparency in Debt conditions and agreements.

③ Aid to debt-ridden countries to manage their payments

④ Collective action → IMF Board contains plural influential countries like USA.

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Limited Role in addressing Debt Distress

① Limited ability to control Debt Trap Diplomacy of China. [Eg] Sri Lanka Crisis of 2022.

② External imposition of Washington Consensus on countries → impact Sovereignty. [Eg] India's 1991 BOP crisis - LPG.

③ Inability to mandate structural Change. [Eg] IMF gave bailout to Pakistan 21 times → though no change.

④ Hegemony of Global North → USA and western countries using it for their economic system.

⑤ Slow work towards the needs of Global South vis-a-vis North [Eg] expedited relief package for Greece.

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India → post G20 momentum to push
Reforms in IMF

① Push towards Global Consensus :
Collectively use NAM as the voice of
global south.

② Use its ability of being connector
of Global North to Global South. [Eg] Invited
to G7.

③ Use synergy to push for reforms in
all multilateral bodies like IMF, world
Bank, UNSC.

④ Find like-minded partners. [Eg] G4 for
UNSC reforms.

⑤ Leverage its HADR credentials — [Eg] Vaccine
Maitri and helping Sri Lanka during debt
crisis.

   Above steps will go long way in reforming
IMF

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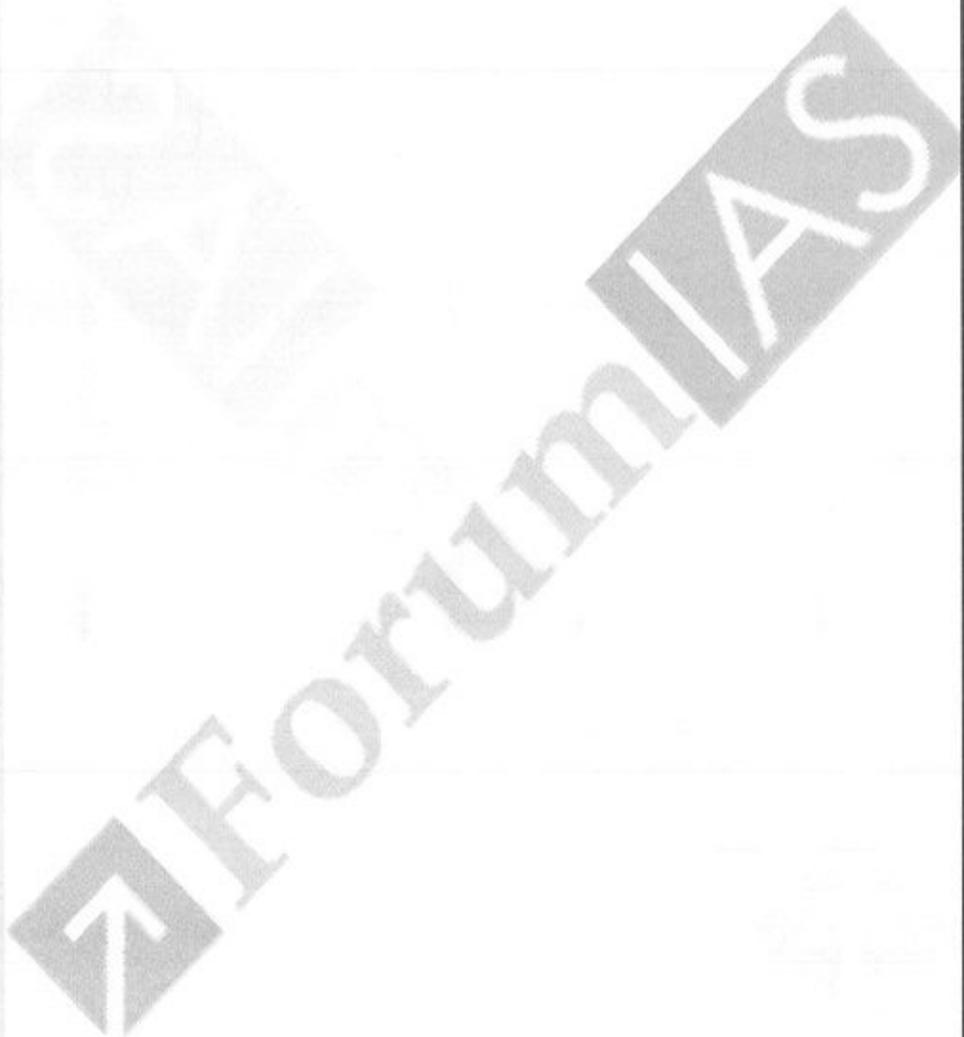Blog : blog.forumias.com
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Q.20) "In a fluid geopolitical arena, engagement without formal endorsement is a pragmatic middle path." Do you agree? Explain in the context of India's current approach towards the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.
(15 marks, 250 words)

"एक अस्थिर भू-राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में, औपचारिक समर्थन के बिना जुड़ाव एक व्यावहारिक मध्यम मार्ग है।" क्या आप सहमत हैं? अफ़ग़ानिस्तान में तालिबान शासन के प्रति भारत के वर्तमान दृष्टिकोण के संदर्भ में व्याख्या करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)
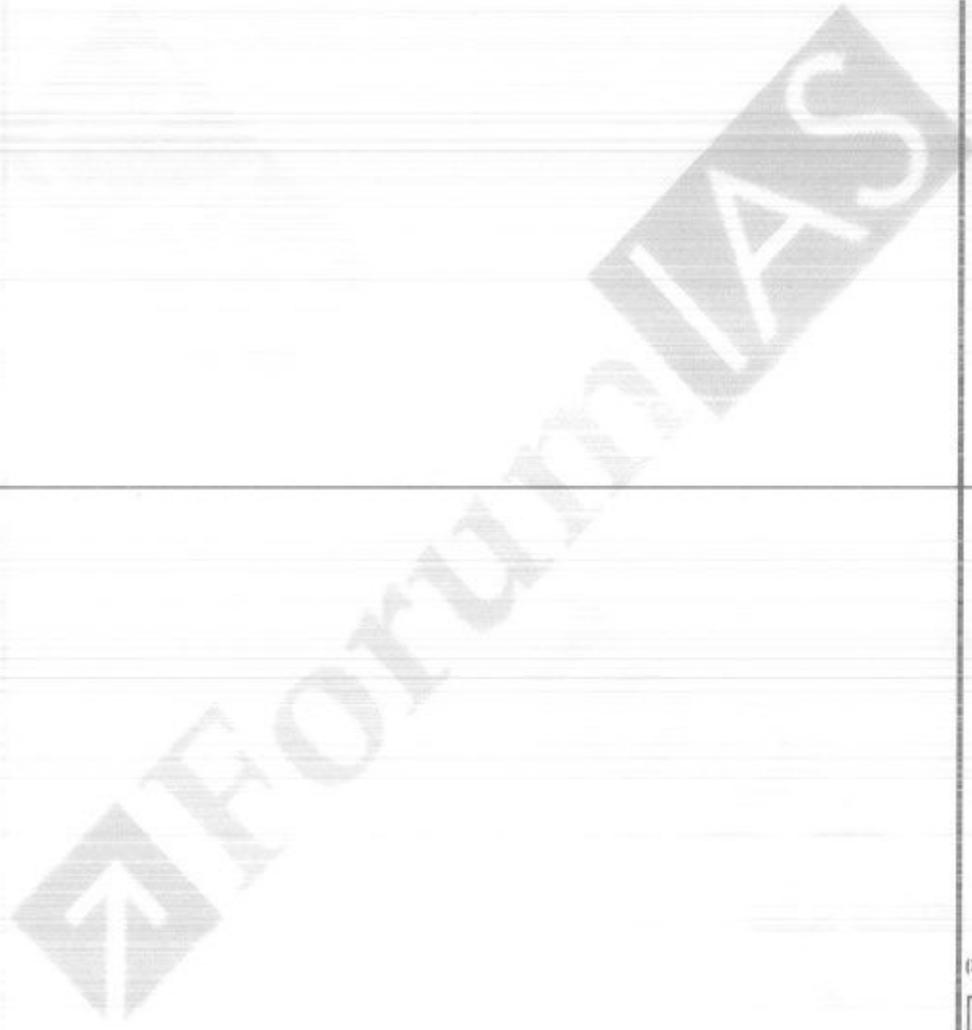
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Mentor Feedback Questions

1 ....

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Test Goal		Outcomes
1	☐	....
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3	☐	....
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Marking Scheme

Mark	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
20 Marker	7.75 – 10	6 - 7.5	< 6
✔✔	Key / Relevant Point		
✖	Vague / Irrelevant		

* Subject to change without prior notice.

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