

ANANTAM IAS · PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION PAPER

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Geography Optional

Paper II · Geography of India

2024

Time allowed: **Three hours** Maximum marks: **250**

Typeset from the question paper published by the Union Public Service Commission. English text of all 27 printed questions, with marks and section as printed.

Question Paper Specific Instructions

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS.
2. Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
3. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each Section.
4. The number of marks carried by a question or 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 the Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
7. Illustrate your answers with suitable sketches, maps and diagrams wherever considered necessary. These shall be drawn in the space provided for answering the question itself.
8. Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
9. **Question 1(a) is a compulsory map question. Candidates are required to mark the given locations on the outline map of India supplied with the paper and write the significance of each in the QCA Booklet.**

SECTION A

Q1.

- (a)** On the outline map of India provided to you, mark the location of all of the following. Write in your QCA Booklet the significance of these locations, whether physical / commercial / economic / ecological / environmental / cultural, in not more than 30 words for each entry: **20**

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Lunkaransar | 6. Babina |
| 2. Gua | 7. Tatipaka |
| 3. Raidak River | 8. Along Airport |
| 4. Ekta Nagar | 9. Karaikal |
| 5. Chandanwari | 10. Panna |

- (b)** Discuss the basis of various explanations for the formation of Shiwalik. **10**
- (c)** Conservation and breeding centres are important components of the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation, 2020–2025. Why? **10**
- (d)** North-Eastern States of India are geopolitically sensitive and strategically significant. Explain. **10**

Q2.

- (a)** Institutional factors are playing a dominant role in controlling the agricultural prosperity in India. Justify with evidences. **20**
- (b)** The Indian Space Policy, 2023 supports the commercial presence in space. In what ways will it benefit the socio-economic development and security of India? **15**

(c) Discuss the process of formation of conurbations in India and describe their problems. 15

Q3.

(a) India has wide-ranging regional disparities in economic development. Explain the patterns, implications and challenges. 20

(b) Discuss the variations in nature of glaciers in India and the emerging issues due to climate change. 15

(c) Domestic tourism in India has immense local resource potential. Discuss the reasons and its various dimensions. 15

Q4.

(a) Migration is the reflection of regional disparities. What socio-economic and demographic consequences are experienced at the place of origin and destination? 20

(b) In spite of various tribal area development programmes in India, tribal areas still lag behind. Discuss critically with examples. 15

(c) Water scarcity is an important cause of disputes and conflicts in India. Suggest innovative methods for location-based solutions. 15

SECTION B

Q5. Answer the following in about 150 words each. **10×5=50**

(a) How are geographic factors influencing the distribution of high annual rainfall in certain parts of India? 10

(b) Indian population belongs to large number of races. Discuss the spatial distribution of major races. 10

(c) Examine the transitional role of technology on Indian agriculture sector. 10

(d) Describe the area-specific strategies for the development of drought-prone areas in India. 10

(e) Examine the relationship between seaports and regional development in India. 10

Q6.

(a) Industrial waste is diversified. Discuss the potentials and challenges associated with it. 20

(b) How is cultural background of States of India reflected in the attributes of sex and age structure? 15

(c) Discuss the targets of focused interventions of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain, 2024 in rural and urban areas. 15

Q7.

(a) India is playing a very significant role in world affairs. Examine the stands taken by India in important global and regional summits. 20

- (b)** The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act devolved functions, finances and functionaries for planning of rural areas in India. Discuss the major achievements with examples. **15**
- (c)** How do small and fragmented landholdings affect the agro-ecological system in rural India? What are the resilient steps needed to overcome this issue? **15**
- Q8.**
- (a)** How can morphology of Indian towns be described historically? Discuss the major features of the first planned city in India after independence. **20**
- (b)** Health is the outcome of interaction between physical setting, cultural traits and ecological connection. Explain. **15**
- (c)** What are the major regional rapid transit systems developed in India? How are urban problems being addressed by them? **15**