

ANANTAM IAS · PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION PAPER

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Geography Optional

Paper II · Geography of India

2025

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. Rushikulya River | 6. Neyyar |
| 2. Datar Hill | 7. Uttarlai |
| 3. Kikruma | 8. Sri Vijayapuram |
| 4. Choritand Tillaya | 9. Dharwas |
| 5. Byalalu | 10. Gitabitan |

- (b) Referring to the location and physical formation of karewas, highlight their economic significance. **10**
- (c) How does Himalayan ecosystem regulate the cropping pattern and agricultural activities in Himalayan region of India? Discuss. **10**
- (d) Write a critically argued essay on nautical tourism and its infrastructure in India. **10**

Q2.

- (a) Explain the factors which contribute to the growth of India's pharmaceutical industry with specific reference to its concentration in western region of India. **20**
- (b) Why are coral reefs in India most important with respect to its dynamic ecosystem? Explore. **15**

- (c) How does the agricultural sector of India confront with the contemporary physical and politico-economic changes in the different regions of the country? Elucidate. 15

Q3.

- (a) Why is the pattern of population distribution of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes different in India? Compare their socio-economic problems with examples. 20
- (b) Highlight the characteristics of land utilisation in Eastern Ghats region of India. What are the recent threats to land utilisation method in the region? 15
- (c) What are the challenges of dairy sector in India? Describe the contribution of bovine population. 15

Q4.

- (a) "Socio-political landscape in India is a result of regional consciousness creating inter-state disputes." Discuss with region specific examples. 20
- (b) Why cottage industries in India are an integral part of Indian socio-economic structure? Assess this with reference to different types of cottage industries in rural India. 15
- (c) "The rural settlements in India are highly diversified due to both physical and cultural factors." Justify the statement with examples. 15

SECTION B

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

- (a) How can rural-urban fringe be delineated? Explain with suitable examples from India. 10
- (b) "Spatial distribution of religious groups in India does not show any specific pattern." Illustrate with arguments. 10
- (c) "Watershed is the most appropriate spatial unit for planning." Comment. 10
- (d) Is North East India a geo-political or geo-cultural region? Justify your answer. 10
- (e) Discuss the necessary conditions for the cultivation of fox nuts and describe the areas of its production in India. 10

Q6.

- (a) Describe the causes of the phenomenon of 'urban heat island'. What are the effective measures to deal with this phenomenon in India? 20
- (b) With reference to the transport and communication network of India, critically discuss the Sagarmala project. 15
- (c) What are the key features of sex-ratio of population in India? Evaluate the impacts of child sex-ratio on general sex-ratio in the country. 15

Q7.

- (a) Explain the factors that contribute to droughts in India with specific reference to food production, distribution and availability. Can Indian agricultural policies resolve the issue? 20

- (b)** What are the causes and consequences of land degradation due to desertification in India? Examine with reference to various regional issues. **15**
- (c)** Examine the validity of Blue Economy initiatives of India. Elaborate the impacts of this economy on country's development. **15**
- Q8.**
- (a)** While defining the green architecture, discuss its principles and challenges in response to climate change in India. **20**
- (b)** With reference to typical examples, assess why regional planning in India is important for island territories for their sustainable development. **15**
- (c)** With reference to international boundaries of India, discuss the related issues, giving suitable examples. **15**