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# DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM**

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Consider the following statements regarding Indian bronze sculptural traditions:

1. The *lost-wax technique* used in classical Indian bronze casting generally allows repeated use of the same mould for producing identical sculptures.
2. Chola bronze images, especially the *Nataraja* form, symbolically integrate metaphysical ideas with artistic dynamism.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) None of the statements
- (b) Only one statement
- (c) Both statements
- (d) Neither statement can be conclusively assessed

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. In the *lost-wax* (cire perdue) method, the mould is usually destroyed after casting; hence, each bronze image is unique and the same mould **cannot** ordinarily be reused.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Chola bronzes, particularly *Nataraja*, combine artistic excellence with philosophical symbolism—creation, preservation and destruction represented through cosmic dance. Therefore, **only one statement is correct**.

2. Which one of the following is the most appropriate characteristic of an *in-situ* conservation strategy?

- (a) Conservation of species within their natural habitat
- (b) Preservation of endangered species exclusively through captive breeding
- (c) Long-term storage of seeds and tissues under controlled conditions
- (d) Artificial multiplication of species in botanical and zoological facilities

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

*In-situ* conservation refers to protection of organisms **within their natural ecosystems**—for example, biosphere reserves, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Options (b), (c) and (d) represent **ex-situ conservation**, where protection occurs outside the natural habitat through captive breeding, seed banks or controlled facilities.

3. Consider the following statements regarding unemployment:

1. Disguised unemployment may exist even when the marginal productivity of some workers is nearly zero.
2. Seasonal unemployment occurs only in agriculture and cannot arise in other sectors.
3. Structural unemployment is associated with a mismatch between skills and employment opportunities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) All three
- (c) Only two
- (d) None

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is **correct**. In disguised unemployment, removal of some workers does not reduce output significantly; hence their marginal productivity may be negligible or zero.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. Seasonal unemployment is not confined to agriculture; it may also occur in tourism, construction and other season-dependent sectors.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Structural unemployment results from changes in the economy leading to mismatch between labour skills and available jobs.

Therefore, **two statements are correct**.

**4.** Consider the following statements regarding legislative procedures in India:

1. An Ordinary Bill may originate in either House of Parliament.
2. A Money Bill can be introduced in the Rajya Sabha with prior approval of the President.
3. A joint sitting of Parliament is presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
4. A Constitutional Amendment Bill may be resolved through a joint sitting of Parliament in case of disagreement between the two Houses.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is **correct**. Ordinary Bills can originate in either House.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. A Money Bill can be introduced **only in the Lok Sabha**.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Joint sittings are presided over by the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha**.

Statement 4 is **incorrect**. Constitutional Amendment Bills are **not** subject to joint sitting; each House must separately pass them with the required majority.

Hence, **only two statements are correct**.

**5.** Consider the following:

**Assertion (A):** Regions with fertile alluvial soils invariably possess the highest population density.

**Reason 1 (R1):** Fertile soils support agricultural productivity and may encourage settlement concentration.

**Reason 2 (R2):** Industrialisation, transport connectivity and urban economic opportunities can also strongly influence population concentration.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) Assertion is true and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of the Assertion
- (b) Assertion is true, but only one of R1 and R2 is a correct explanation
- (c) Assertion is false, but both R1 and R2 are true
- (d) Assertion is true, but neither R1 nor R2 is a correct explanation

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

The **Assertion is false** because fertile alluvial soils do not *invariably* possess the highest population density. While fertile plains often attract dense populations, many highly populated regions owe their concentration to industrialisation, trade, services and urbanisation.

**R1 is true** because fertile soils promote agriculture and settlement.

**R2 is also true** since economic opportunities, transport networks and urban growth are major determinants of population concentration.

Therefore, **the Assertion is false but both reasons are true.**

## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Consider the following statements regarding *Hantavirus infection*:

1. Hantaviruses are primarily transmitted to humans through exposure to infected rodent excreta and aerosols.
2. Human-to-human transmission is the dominant mode of spread for all known hantavirus species.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both statements
- (c) Neither statement
- (d) Cannot be determined from the given information

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is **correct**. Hantaviruses are generally transmitted through contact with infected rodents, especially via urine, saliva and droppings that become aerosolized.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. Human-to-human transmission is **not** the dominant route for all hantaviruses. Most hantaviruses spread through rodents. Limited human transmission has been reported only in certain strains such as Andes virus.

Hence, **only one statement is correct.**



2. With reference to *The Apnoea Test*, recently seen in medical and ethical discussions, consider the following:

The test is primarily conducted to:

- (a) Assess pulmonary fibrosis through oxygen diffusion capacity
- (b) Determine neurological responsiveness as part of brain-stem death evaluation
- (c) Diagnose obstructive sleep apnoea through overnight monitoring
- (d) Evaluate cardiac rhythm abnormalities during assisted ventilation

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

The **Apnoea Test** is a crucial component in the determination of **brain-stem death**. During the test, ventilatory support is temporarily adjusted while oxygenation is maintained to assess whether the patient initiates spontaneous breathing in response to rising carbon dioxide levels.

Absence of respiratory effort despite elevated CO<sub>2</sub> supports loss of brain-stem respiratory function.

Options (a), (c) and (d) relate to different medical assessments and are unrelated to the brain-death apnoea test.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the *Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act* in India:

- 1. The amended legal framework permits termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks solely on the request of any adult woman without medical opinion.
- 2. Certain categories of women may seek termination up to 24 weeks subject to prescribed medical opinion.
- 3. Disclosure of the identity and particulars of a woman undergoing termination is generally restricted under the law except in legally authorised circumstances.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) All three
- (c) Only two
- (d) None

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. Termination under the MTP framework is not based merely on unilateral request without medical opinion. Medical practitioners' opinion remains central to legality.

Statement 2 is **correct**. The amended regime allows termination up to **24 weeks** for specified categories such as survivors of sexual assault, minors and other notified categories, subject to medical conditions and opinion.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Confidentiality provisions prohibit disclosure of a woman's identity except to persons legally authorised.

Therefore, **two statements are correct**.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the *Model Code of Conduct (MCC)*:

- 1. The MCC comes into force immediately after the Election Commission announces the election schedule.

2. The MCC is a statutory code enacted by Parliament under the Representation of the People Act.
3. Violation of the MCC automatically leads to disqualification of a candidate.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) None
- (c) All three
- (d) Only two

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is **correct**. The MCC becomes operational from the date on which the **Election Commission announces the election schedule**.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. The MCC is **not a statutory law** enacted by Parliament; it is a consensual code evolved and enforced by the Election Commission.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. Violation of MCC does not automatically cause disqualification. Action depends on the nature of violation and may involve warnings, FIRs, censure or proceedings under relevant laws.

Hence, **only one statement is correct**.

**5. Consider the following statements regarding *Project Deepak*:**

1. Project Deepak is one of the projects functioning under the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
2. It is primarily associated with construction and maintenance of strategic roads in parts of the western Himalayan region.
3. The project functions exclusively in border areas adjoining Pakistan and has no role in interior Himalayan connectivity.
4. Strategic road projects under BRO may have both military and socio-economic significance.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All four
- (d) Only three

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is **correct**. Project Deepak is a project under the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.

Statement 2 is **correct**. It has historically been associated with road infrastructure in the **western Himalayan region**, especially Himachal Pradesh and adjoining strategic sectors.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. BRO projects are not restricted only to immediate international border belts; they also strengthen interior and strategic connectivity.

Statement 4 is **correct**. Such roads serve both **defence logistics** and civilian purposes including tourism, trade, disaster response and regional development.

Hence, **three statements are correct**.

**6. Consider the following regions:**

1. Manali
2. Rohtang sector
3. Shimla region
4. Leh

Which of the above are more closely associated with the operational and strategic road-development sphere of *BRO's Project Deepak*?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 4 only

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

*Project Deepak* of the **BRO** has traditionally been linked with infrastructure development in **Himachal Pradesh**, including strategic and mountainous road sectors associated with **Manali, Rohtang and Shimla-region connectivity**.

While **Leh** is strategically connected through Himalayan road networks and BRO activities, its core operational association lies under other BRO project jurisdictions rather than Project Deepak specifically. Therefore, the correct answer is **1, 2 and 3 only**.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### GS-1

**Source:** Class 12 Geography – *India: People and Economy*  
**Chapter 5 – Land Resources and Agriculture**

#### Question 1

**Discuss the major challenges facing Indian agriculture and evaluate the need for sustainable agricultural practices in India.**

#### Introduction

Agriculture occupies a central position in India's economy and society. It not only contributes to food security but also supports the livelihoods of millions of rural households. Despite technological progress and policy interventions, Indian agriculture continues to face several structural, environmental, and economic

challenges. These challenges have intensified due to climate change and ecological degradation, making sustainable agriculture an urgent necessity.

### **Body**

Indian agriculture is confronted with numerous interrelated problems that affect both productivity and farmer welfare. One of the foremost concerns is the fragmentation of landholdings. Due to population growth and inheritance practices, agricultural land has become increasingly divided into smaller plots, reducing economies of scale and limiting mechanisation. Small and marginal farmers often struggle to adopt modern technologies and remain dependent on traditional methods of cultivation.

Another major challenge is the continued dependence on monsoon rainfall. A substantial proportion of cultivated land still lacks assured irrigation facilities. Consequently, irregular rainfall, droughts, and floods directly influence crop output and rural income. Climate change has further aggravated this vulnerability by increasing the frequency of extreme weather events and altering cropping patterns.

Ecological degradation also poses serious threats to agricultural sustainability. The Green Revolution undoubtedly enhanced foodgrain production, but its excessive reliance on chemical fertilisers, pesticides, and groundwater extraction created environmental imbalances. Soil fertility has declined in many regions, groundwater tables have fallen, and biodiversity has suffered. Water-intensive crops such as rice and sugarcane cultivated in unsuitable agro-climatic regions have accelerated resource depletion.

Farmers additionally face economic uncertainties arising from fluctuating market prices, inadequate storage infrastructure, post-harvest losses, and dependence upon intermediaries. Access to institutional credit and agricultural insurance remains uneven, increasing indebtedness and financial insecurity.

In this context, sustainable agricultural practices have become essential. Sustainable agriculture aims to ensure productivity while preserving ecological balance and natural resources. Practices such as crop diversification, organic farming, integrated pest management, and micro-irrigation reduce environmental stress and enhance long-term productivity. Climate-resilient farming and promotion of millets and pulses can strengthen food and nutritional security while reducing water dependence.

### **Conclusion**

The future of Indian agriculture depends not merely on increasing production but on ensuring ecological sustainability and farmer welfare. Sustainable agricultural practices provide a balanced path that integrates productivity, environmental protection, and rural development. Therefore, sustainability should become the guiding principle of agricultural policy in India.

### **GS-2**

**Source:** Class 12 Political Science – *Politics in India Since Independence*

### **Chapter 3 – Politics of Planned Development**

#### **Question 2**

**Critically examine the role of planned development in post-independence India and its relevance in the contemporary era.**

### **Introduction**



At the time of independence, India inherited an economy marked by poverty, low industrialisation, unemployment, and regional disparities. The national leadership considered planned development necessary to direct scarce resources toward nation-building and socioeconomic transformation. Consequently, India adopted a planned economic model in which the state assumed a leading role in development.

### **Body**

Planned development played a foundational role in shaping modern India. Through the Planning Commission and Five-Year Plans, the state sought to accelerate industrialisation and strengthen economic self-reliance. Significant investments were made in heavy industries, power generation, irrigation projects, and transportation networks. Public sector enterprises became instruments for industrial growth and infrastructure expansion. Institutions such as steel plants, dams, and scientific establishments created the economic base for future growth.

Planning also contributed substantially to agricultural development. Early agricultural policies and later the Green Revolution increased foodgrain production and reduced dependence on imports. This achievement enhanced food security and strengthened national confidence.

Another important contribution of planned development was its commitment to social justice and balanced regional growth. The state attempted to reduce inequality through land reforms, rural development programmes, and public investment in backward regions. Education, healthcare, and welfare initiatives reflected broader developmental objectives extending beyond economic growth.

However, planned development was not without limitations. The excessive bureaucratic control associated with the license-permit system often generated inefficiency and corruption. Public enterprises in several sectors suffered from low productivity and financial losses. Economic growth remained modest during the initial decades, leading critics to argue that excessive state intervention constrained innovation and private enterprise.

Economic liberalisation after 1991 introduced market-oriented reforms and reduced direct state control. Nevertheless, the relevance of planning has not disappeared. Contemporary challenges such as climate change, infrastructure deficits, public health, urbanisation, and regional inequalities require coordinated policy intervention. Institutions such as NITI Aayog represent a shift from centralised planning to cooperative and strategic planning.

### **Conclusion**

India's developmental experience demonstrates that planning and markets should not be viewed as mutually exclusive. While markets promote efficiency and innovation, planning remains essential for social justice, sustainability, and long-term national priorities. Therefore, planned development continues to retain relevance in an evolving form.

### **GS-3**

**Source:** Class 12 Economics – *Introductory Macroeconomics*

**Chapter 4 – Government Budget and the Economy**

### **Question 3**

**Explain the significance of government budgeting in economic development. How can fiscal policy balance growth and welfare objectives?**

**Introduction**

A government budget is not merely a financial statement of receipts and expenditure but a powerful instrument of economic governance. Through fiscal policy, governments influence growth, employment, inflation, and income distribution. In developing economies like India, budgeting assumes particular significance as a tool for inclusive and sustainable development.

**Body**

Government budgeting contributes to economic development in several ways. Public expenditure on infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, and energy systems creates productive assets and stimulates economic activity. Such investment generates multiplier effects by encouraging private investment and expanding employment opportunities.

Budgetary policy also plays an important redistributive role. Progressive taxation and welfare expenditure enable governments to address socioeconomic inequality and support vulnerable populations. Spending on education, healthcare, nutrition, and social security contributes to human capital formation and enhances long-term productivity.

Another important function of budgeting is macroeconomic stabilisation. During economic slowdowns, expansionary fiscal policy involving increased expenditure and reduced taxation can stimulate demand and support employment. Conversely, during inflationary periods, governments may adopt contractionary measures to maintain economic stability.

However, budgeting involves difficult trade-offs. Excessive fiscal deficits may increase public debt, inflationary pressures, and interest burdens. Revenue deficits arising from high non-productive expenditure can reduce the scope for developmental investment. Similarly, untargeted subsidies and inefficient spending reduce fiscal efficiency.

Balancing growth and welfare therefore requires prudent fiscal management. Greater emphasis should be placed on productive capital expenditure and targeted welfare programmes. Technology-driven mechanisms such as Direct Benefit Transfer can reduce leakages and improve subsidy efficiency. Fiscal transparency, accountability, and outcome-based budgeting can ensure that public expenditure delivers measurable developmental outcomes.

**Conclusion**

Government budgeting serves as a vital developmental instrument capable of promoting both growth and social justice. A balanced fiscal strategy that combines developmental investment with fiscal prudence can create sustainable and inclusive economic progress.

**GS-4**

**Source:** Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

**Question 4**

**‘Integrity in public life is more important than mere efficiency.’ Discuss with suitable examples.**

**Introduction**

Public administration functions most effectively when it combines competence with ethical conduct. Efficiency refers to the ability to achieve goals quickly and with optimum utilisation of resources, while

integrity signifies adherence to moral values, honesty, and ethical principles. Although both qualities are essential for good governance, integrity occupies a more fundamental position because public institutions derive legitimacy not merely from performance but from ethical and lawful conduct.

### **Body**

Integrity is the moral foundation upon which public administration rests. In democratic governance, citizens entrust public officials with authority and resources expecting them to act in the public interest. If administrators are efficient but lack integrity, governance may become vulnerable to corruption, favouritism, and misuse of power. Such conduct damages institutional credibility and weakens public trust.

Efficiency without integrity may produce immediate results but can have harmful long-term consequences. An officer may complete infrastructure projects rapidly or clear files quickly, but if decisions are influenced by bribery or personal interest, the benefits of efficiency become morally compromised. Corruption in public procurement, recruitment, or welfare delivery demonstrates how efficient systems can still produce unjust outcomes when integrity is absent.

Integrity also strengthens the rule of law and ensures fairness in decision-making. Ethical administrators resist external pressures, uphold constitutional principles, and make impartial decisions. Their actions reinforce public confidence in institutions and promote social cohesion. The importance of integrity becomes especially evident during crises such as disaster management, law enforcement, or welfare distribution, where misuse of authority can seriously harm vulnerable populations.

However, integrity should not be interpreted as a substitute for efficiency. Honest but inefficient governance may delay public services and reduce welfare outcomes. Citizens require both ethical and competent administration. Therefore, the ideal public servant combines professional efficiency with moral responsibility.

Several institutional mechanisms can encourage integrity in public life. Transparency laws, social audits, whistle-blower protection, ethical training, and accountable leadership create conditions that discourage corruption and promote ethical conduct. Most importantly, leadership by example plays a decisive role in shaping administrative culture.

### **Conclusion**

Efficiency enhances the capacity of governance, but integrity determines whether that capacity is exercised for public welfare and justice. In public life, integrity is therefore more fundamental than mere efficiency because it sustains democratic legitimacy, public trust, and constitutional morality. The most effective governance emerges when efficiency operates under the guidance of integrity.

### **Current Affairs**

**Topic:** Das Adam Smith Problem

#### **Question 5**

**What is 'Das Adam Smith Problem'? Analyse its relevance to contemporary debates on capitalism and morality.**

#### **Introduction**

Das Adam Smith Problem refers to an intellectual debate concerning the apparent contradiction between the ideas presented by Adam Smith in his two major works—*The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and *The Wealth of Nations*. While one work emphasises sympathy, morality, and ethical conduct, the other highlights self-interest and market behaviour. This debate has generated important discussions regarding the relationship between economics and ethics.

### Body

The controversy emerged primarily among nineteenth-century German scholars who argued that Adam Smith presented two inconsistent views of human nature. In *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Smith described human beings as guided by sympathy, moral judgement, and concern for social approval. Individuals were seen as moral actors whose conduct was shaped by conscience and social norms. In contrast, *The Wealth of Nations* explained economic exchange through self-interest, arguing that individuals pursuing personal gain contribute to overall economic prosperity through market mechanisms.

At first glance, these two perspectives appeared contradictory. Critics claimed that Smith moved from moral philosophy to economic individualism, thereby creating an intellectual inconsistency. However, later scholarship largely rejected this interpretation and argued that no real contradiction existed. Smith never advocated selfishness without restraint. Instead, he recognised that while self-interest motivates economic activity, moral sentiments and institutions regulate human behaviour and prevent exploitation.

This interpretation holds significant relevance in contemporary debates surrounding capitalism and morality. Modern economies depend heavily upon competition, profit motives, and market incentives. These mechanisms have contributed to innovation, wealth creation, and poverty reduction across societies. However, unregulated pursuit of profit has also produced inequality, environmental degradation, labour exploitation, and corporate misconduct. Financial crises and corporate scandals reveal the limitations of markets operating without ethical responsibility and institutional oversight.

Current discussions on corporate social responsibility, Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) frameworks, stakeholder capitalism, and sustainable business models echo Smith's broader moral philosophy. Increasingly, businesses are expected not merely to maximise shareholder profits but also to uphold social and environmental responsibilities.

### Conclusion

Das Adam Smith Problem reminds us that economics and morality are not separate spheres but interconnected dimensions of social life. Adam Smith's thought suggests that markets function most effectively when supported by ethical norms, justice, and responsible institutions. Therefore, contemporary capitalism must balance economic freedom with moral responsibility to ensure sustainable and equitable development.