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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q.1. With reference to the changing nature of anti-colonial politics in India during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, consider the following statements:

1. The emergence of extremist nationalism was solely a consequence of the failure of constitutional agitation adopted by the moderates.
2. The partition of Bengal acted not merely as a territorial reorganization but also as a catalyst for the transformation of political methods and mass participation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) Neither
- (d) Cannot be determined from the available historical evidence

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct. The rise of extremist nationalism cannot be attributed solely to the failure of moderate methods. Economic distress, cultural revivalism, international influences, dissatisfaction with British policies, and assertive leadership also contributed.

Statement 2 is correct. The partition of Bengal in 1905 transformed Indian nationalism by encouraging Swadeshi, boycott, national education, and wider political participation.

Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q.2. Which one of the following ecological processes is primarily responsible for maintaining species diversity in tropical ecosystems by preventing the long-term dominance of a single species?

- (a) Competitive exclusion
- (b) Resource partitioning
- (c) Ecological succession
- (d) Biomagnification

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Resource partitioning allows different species to utilize different ecological niches, food sources, or habitats. This reduces direct competition and enables coexistence, thereby maintaining high biodiversity.

Competitive exclusion reduces diversity, ecological succession refers to community changes over time, and biomagnification concerns accumulation of pollutants.

Q.3. Consider the following statements regarding the relationship between economic development and structural transformation:

1. An increase in the share of the service sector in GDP necessarily implies a proportional increase in employment in the same sector.
2. Structural transformation may occur even when the agricultural workforce remains relatively large.

3. A rise in productivity in one sector can induce resource shifts across other sectors of the economy.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. The service sector may contribute a large share to GDP without generating proportionate employment, leading to jobless growth.

Statement 2 is correct. Many developing economies experience structural transformation despite retaining a large agricultural workforce.

Statement 3 is correct. Productivity growth in one sector changes wages, demand, and investment patterns, causing resource shifts.

Therefore, two statements are correct.

Q.4. Consider the following statements regarding constitutional governance and institutional accountability:

1. Constitutionalism necessarily requires the existence of a written Constitution.
2. Separation of powers in India operates through a system of functional overlap rather than absolute division.
3. Judicial review forms one of the institutional mechanisms for maintaining constitutional supremacy.
4. Parliamentary sovereignty in India is unrestricted in the same manner as in the United Kingdom.

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 incorrect. Constitutionalism can exist even with an unwritten constitution, as seen in the United Kingdom.

Statement 2 is correct. India follows a system of checks and balances with functional overlap among organs.

Statement 3 is correct. Judicial review enables courts to examine legislative and executive actions for constitutional validity.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Parliament in India is limited by the Constitution and the Basic Structure doctrine.

Thus, only two statements are correct.

Q.5. Assertion (A): River systems originating in mountainous regions often display significant seasonal variation in discharge despite being fed by glaciers.

Reason (R1): Glacier-fed rivers receive additional water from snowmelt and monsoonal precipitation, producing variations in flow.

Reason (R2): The discharge of rivers depends exclusively upon tectonic activity in their drainage basins.

- (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct, and both explain A.
- (b) R1 is correct but R2 is not correct.
- (c) R1 is not correct but R2 is correct.
- (d) Neither R1 nor R2 is correct.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The assertion is correct because even perennial rivers originating in mountainous regions exhibit seasonal fluctuations due to variations in snowmelt, rainfall, and monsoonal inputs.

Reason R1 is correct because glacier melt and seasonal precipitation together influence river discharge.

Reason R2 is incorrect. Tectonic activity may influence river courses and gradients, but river discharge depends primarily on precipitation, snowmelt, catchment characteristics, and climatic conditions rather than exclusively on tectonic activity.

Therefore, R1 is correct, whereas R2 is incorrect.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q.1. With reference to the recently launched *Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra*, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first nationwide AI-enabled advisory platform developed exclusively for oilseed farmers through a familiar social media interface.
2. The initiative seeks to reduce India's dependence on edible oil imports by improving productivity through real-time, multilingual crop advisories.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra is an AI-enabled advisory system operating through WhatsApp to provide instant assistance to oilseed farmers.

Statement 2 is also correct. One of its major objectives is reducing edible oil import dependence by improving domestic oilseed productivity and dissemination of scientific advisories.

The question becomes difficult because the platform is not merely a digital extension service; it is intended as an import-substitution and productivity-enhancement tool.

Q.2. The recent issuance of the world's first carbon credits under the Paris Agreement was associated with:

- (a) Afforestation projects under Article 6.2 in Brazil
- (b) A clean-cooking project under Article 6.4 in Myanmar
- (c) Methane reduction projects under the Kyoto Protocol in Indonesia
- (d) Renewable energy projects under the Clean Development Mechanism in Kenya

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The first credits issued under the Paris Agreement framework were approved under the Article 6.4 mechanism and were linked to a clean-cooking project in Myanmar. These credits represent the operationalization of the new UN-supervised carbon market mechanism.

Q.3. With reference to flamingos found in the Indian subcontinent, consider the following statements:

1. Flamingos derive their characteristic pink coloration primarily from carotenoid pigments obtained through their diet.
2. The decline of saline and mudflat ecosystems directly affects flamingo breeding and feeding grounds.
3. Flamingos are considered ecological indicators because their population dynamics often reflect changes in wetland health.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Their pink coloration comes from carotenoid-rich algae and crustaceans.

Statement 2 is correct. Flamingos depend upon saline wetlands, lagoons, mudflats, and shallow water ecosystems.

Statement 3 is correct. Because flamingos respond quickly to habitat changes, pollution, salinity variations, and food availability, they function as wetland health indicators.

The UPSC trap lies in confusing coloration with genetics rather than diet and treating flamingos merely as migratory birds rather than ecological indicators.

Q.4. Consider the following statements regarding the *Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)*:

1. AFSPA can be applied only after a State Legislature passes a resolution declaring an area disturbed.
2. The expression "disturbed area" may be notified by the Central Government or the Governor of a State.
3. The immunity provided under AFSPA is absolute and excludes judicial scrutiny.
4. AFSPA presently extends to all areas notified as disturbed irrespective of whether they lie in the Northeast or Jammu and Kashmir.

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 incorrect. A State Legislature resolution is not necessary.

Statement 2 is correct. The Governor or the Central Government may declare an area disturbed.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Though prior sanction is required for prosecution, judicial review remains available.

Statement 4 is correct. AFSPA operates wherever disturbed-area notifications are in force; its application is not constitutionally restricted to any one region.

Thus, only Statements 2 and 4 are correct.

The analytical aspect lies in distinguishing statutory protection from absolute immunity.

Q.5. Consider the following statements regarding the Kirthai-II Hydroelectric Project:

1. The project is proposed on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It is designed as a run-of-river hydropower project.
3. The project forms part of the broader hydropower development strategy within the Indus basin.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Kirthai-II project is proposed on the Chenab River in the Kishtwar region of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is a run-of-river project with limited storage characteristics.

The project assumes strategic significance because the Chenab is part of the Indus basin and hydroelectric development on its tributaries has acquired renewed policy attention.

The difficulty arises because candidates often confuse Kirthai-II with other Chenab basin projects such as Pakal Dul or Ratle.

Q.6. Consider the following statements regarding the Article 6 mechanism of the Paris Agreement:

1. Article 6.2 provides for cooperative approaches involving internationally transferred mitigation outcomes.
2. Article 6.4 establishes a centrally supervised international carbon crediting mechanism.
3. Carbon credits issued under Article 6.4 may contribute toward achieving nationally determined climate targets.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Article 6.2 permits bilateral or multilateral cooperation among countries.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 6.4 establishes a UN-supervised mechanism.

Statement 3 is correct. Such credits may assist countries in meeting their NDC commitments.

The question is analytical because candidates frequently confuse Article 6.2 and Article 6.4 mechanisms.

Q.7. On the outline map of Europe, Slovakia is correctly identified by which one of the following locations?

- (a) The landlocked country situated between Austria and Ukraine, north of Hungary and south of Poland.
- (b) The country situated between Romania and Bulgaria with direct access to the Black Sea.
- (c) The Baltic country lying between Latvia and Poland.
- (d) The Alpine country located between Switzerland and Italy.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Slovakia is a landlocked Central European country bordered by:

- Czech Republic to the northwest,
- Austria to the southwest,
- Hungary to the south,
- Ukraine to the east,
- Poland to the north.

The Danube River forms part of its southern boundary.

This question tests map orientation and neighboring countries rather than direct factual recall.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS–1)

Q.1 “The agrarian structure of Mughal India represented a complex relationship between the state, zamindars and peasants.” Examine the nature of this relationship and evaluate its impact on rural society. (15 Marks)

Answer: The agrarian economy formed the backbone of Mughal India. The relationship among the state, zamindars, and peasants was not merely economic but also social and political. The Mughal state depended heavily upon land revenue, which constituted the principal source of income.

Nature of Relationship

1. State and Peasants

- The state claimed a share of agricultural produce as land revenue.
- Revenue assessments were systematized under Akbar through the **Zabt system**.
- Peasants possessed customary rights over land cultivation.

2. Role of Zamindars

- Zamindars acted as intermediaries.

- They collected revenue and maintained local order.
- Many possessed military power and social authority.

3. Peasant Society

- Peasants belonged to diverse social groups.
- Village communities often functioned collectively.
- Agricultural expansion took place through forest clearance and settlement.



Impact on Rural Society

Positive Effects

- Expansion of cultivation.
- Growth of market-oriented agriculture.
- Development of irrigation and rural markets.

Negative Effects

- Heavy revenue demands.
- Peasant indebtedness.
- Frequent agrarian rebellions.

Historiographical Perspective

Historians such as Irfan Habib describe the Mughal agrarian system as a highly extractive structure, whereas others emphasize the flexibility of local institutions.

Conclusion

The Mughal agrarian order represented an interdependent relationship among the state, zamindars, and peasants. While it contributed to agricultural expansion and imperial prosperity, excessive revenue extraction often generated rural tensions and resistance.

(GS-2)

Q.2 “The Indian Constitution is a living document capable of adapting to changing social and political realities.” Discuss with suitable examples. (15 Marks)

Answer: The Constitution of India was framed to provide stability while retaining sufficient flexibility for future changes. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar emphasized that no Constitution can remain static.

Why is it a Living Document?

1. Amendment Procedure

Article 368 allows constitutional amendments.

Examples:

- 42nd Amendment.
- 44th Amendment.
- 73rd and 74th Amendments.
- 101st Amendment (GST).

2. Judicial Interpretation

The Supreme Court has expanded constitutional meanings.

Examples:

- Right to Privacy.
- Environmental rights under Article 21.
- Right to Education.

3. Basic Structure Doctrine

The judiciary balances flexibility and constitutional identity.

Important features protected:

- Democracy.
- Federalism.
- Judicial review.
- Secularism.

4. Changing Social Realities

- Reservations for weaker sections.
- Local governance reforms.
- Gender justice measures.

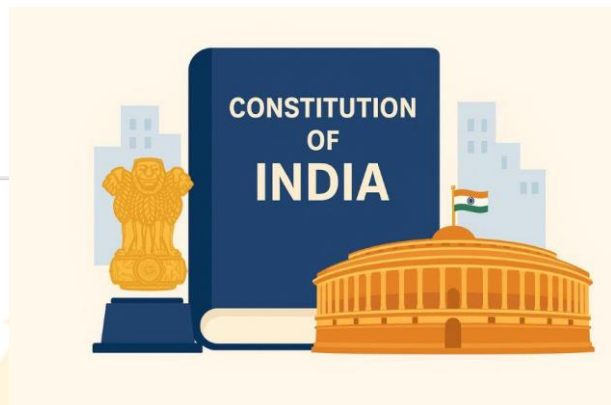
Challenges

- Excessive amendments.
- Judicial activism debates.
- Centre-state tensions.

Significance

The Constitution has survived political crises, economic reforms, coalition politics, and technological changes.

Conclusion



The Constitution remains dynamic because institutions, Parliament, and courts continuously interpret and adapt its provisions according to contemporary needs while preserving its fundamental values.

(GS-3)

Q.3 *“Human capital formation is both a means and an end of economic development.” Examine the role of education and health in India’s development process. (15 Marks)*

Answer: Human capital refers to the stock of skills, education, health, and abilities possessed by individuals. Investment in human capital enhances productivity and promotes economic growth.

Education and Economic Development

1. Skill Formation

- Improves labour productivity.
- Encourages innovation.

2. Employment Generation

- Expands opportunities.
- Promotes entrepreneurship.

3. Technological Advancement

- Supports industrialization.
- Facilitates digital economy growth.

Health as Human Capital

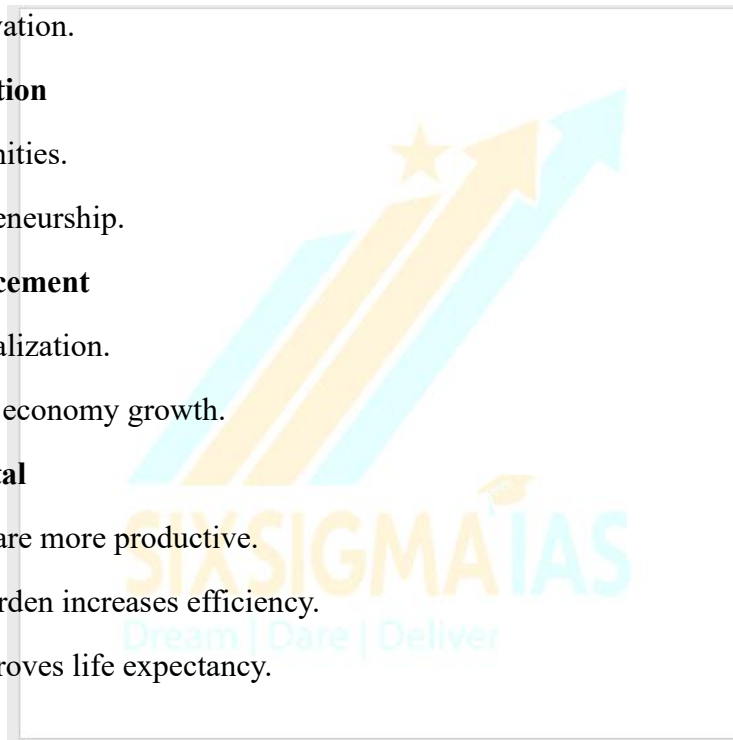
- Healthy workers are more productive.
- Lower disease burden increases efficiency.
- Better health improves life expectancy.

India's Challenges

- Regional disparities.
- Learning outcomes.
- Malnutrition.
- Inadequate healthcare infrastructure.

Government Initiatives

- National Education Policy.
- Ayushman Bharat.
- Skill India.
- PM Poshan.



Economic Importance

Countries with better human capital experience:

- Higher GDP growth.
- Better demographic dividend utilization.
- Reduced poverty.

Conclusion

Human capital formation is both an instrument and an objective of development because it increases productivity while simultaneously improving human welfare and quality of life.

(GS-4 Ethics)

Q.4 “Integrity in public life is tested not during routine administration but during situations involving conflict between personal interest and public duty.” Discuss. (10 Marks)

Answer: Integrity refers to consistency between values, principles, and actions. In public administration, integrity ensures that officials place public interest above personal gain.

Situations Testing Integrity

1. Political Pressure

Officials may face pressure to take illegal decisions.

2. Corruption Opportunities

Access to public resources creates ethical dilemmas.

3. Conflict of Interest

Personal relationships may influence decisions.

4. Career Considerations

Fear of transfers or punishment may compromise neutrality.

Importance of Integrity

- Builds public trust.
- Improves governance.
- Ensures accountability.
- Prevents corruption.

Ethical Values Required

- Courage.
- Objectivity.
- Accountability.



- Transparency.

Example

An officer refusing illegal land allotment despite political pressure demonstrates integrity.

Measures to Strengthen Integrity

- Ethics training.
- Transparency mechanisms.
- Whistleblower protection.
- Strong institutions.

Conclusion

Integrity is revealed when officials choose public duty over personal interest. Ethical governance ultimately depends upon such principled conduct.

(Current Affairs)

Q.5 Discuss the nature of China's Hukou system. Examine its socio-economic implications and evaluate the recent reforms undertaken by China. (15 Marks)

Answer: The Hukou system is China's household registration mechanism introduced in 1958. It classifies citizens primarily as rural or urban residents and determines access to welfare, education, healthcare, housing, and employment benefits.

Features of the Hukou System

- Residence-based registration.
- Rural and urban classification.
- Welfare benefits linked to registration.
- Restrictions on migration benefits.

Objectives

- Control internal migration.
- Maintain social stability.
- Support planned economic development.

Socio-Economic Implications**Positive Effects**

- Managed urban growth.
- Better allocation of public resources.
- Administrative control.

Negative Effects

1. Rural-Urban Inequality

Migrants often lack access to urban services.

2. Social Exclusion

Migrant families face educational and healthcare barriers.

3. Labour Market Segmentation

Workers may experience unequal wages and opportunities.

4. Demographic Challenges

Aging populations and declining workforce create pressure for reforms.

Recent Reforms

China has relaxed Hukou restrictions in smaller cities and encouraged urban settlement.

However, major metropolitan areas continue to impose stringent conditions.

Lessons for India

- Balanced urbanization is essential.
- Migrant welfare systems require portability.
- Inclusive cities support economic growth.

Conclusion

The Hukou system contributed significantly to China's economic transformation but also generated inequalities between rural and urban populations. Recent reforms indicate a gradual shift toward a more flexible and inclusive urbanization model.

