

!! 27 MAINS QUESTIONS FROM IQRA TEST SERIES !!

GS 1

Test 2

Q9. A recent study highlighted that frequency of cyclones in Arabian Sea increased by 52% and number of very severe cyclone has risen by 150% between 1982 to 2019. Discuss India's vulnerability to cyclones and what are the major components of National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project?

5. Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological department. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Test 2

Q13. According to the Economic Survey (2020-21), demographic transition of India is unique as well as prolonged. What are the opportunities and challenges offered by India's demographic transition?

The increase in life expectancy in the country has led to newer health challenges in the community. What are those challenges and what steps need to be taken to meet them? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Comprehensive

Q9. Ocean currents flows at the surface as well as thousands of meters below the earth surface called the thermohaline circulation. What are the factors responsible for each of these types of movement of ocean water? Critically mention the impacts of the ocean currents.

What are the forces that influence ocean currents? Describe their role in fishing industry of the world. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Q20. Why India is referred to as the hotspot of diversity in the world? Discuss the factors that have helped in maintaining the 'unity in diversity' and what are the threats to this unity in contemporary times?

Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer. (Answer in 250 words) 15

GS PAPER 2**Test 3**

Q13: 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act conferred constitutional status to the erstwhile statutory body National Commission for Backward Classes. Discuss the changes in power and functions of NCBC as a result of changed status? Also mention the issues raised by States against the amendment and how the Union Government seeks to redress the same. (250 Words)

Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body.

Q15: What are the constitutional provisions dealing with the representation of the people of India? Write small notes on the purpose and the features of Representation of the People Act 1950, and Representation of the People Act 1951. (250 Words)

Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to the case laws.

Test: 4

Q7. The failure of SAARC to nurture cooperation in South Asia has pushed regional players to search for an alternative. In light of this statement identify the reasons for failure of SAARC. In your views how workable is BIMSTEC as an option for pursuing regional cooperation? (10 Marks, 150 WORDS)

Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation?

Q8. Political stability and India friendly regime in India's island neighbour are of strategic significance for India. Illustrate this statement in light of the crisis in Sri Lanka. Also mention steps taken by Government of India to pacify the crisis in Sri Lanka? (10 Marks, 150 WORDS)

India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement.

Q14. Persons with disabilities already struggle for equitable access to education, healthcare, transportation, and economic opportunities. In this context discuss the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. Also highlight the steps taken by Government of India for their empowerment. (15 Marks, 250 WORDS)

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.

Test 5

Q8. PM Gati Shakti Scheme is expected to boost investment in infrastructure as well as enhance the competitiveness of Indian Economy. Discuss the salient features of the scheme and how will it benefit Indian economy? Also explain the challenges that may arise in its execution?

The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss.

GS PAPER 3**Comprehensive**

Q3. Critically analyze the significance of 'One Nation One Ration Card scheme' in ensuring food security in India? Also describe some of the recent technological measures that are adopted to improve the Public Distribution System.

What are the major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? How can it be made effective and transparent? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Q14. e-NAM is a pan India e-trading platform intended to create unified national market for agricultural commodities. Critically analyze the success of e-NAM in transforming agricultural marketing? Also suggest some reformative measures to improve the e-NAM scheme.

What are the main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Q18. While explaining the working of vaccines, list out the types of vaccine available today along with their uses?

What is the basic principle behind vaccine development? How do vaccines work? What approaches were adopted by the Indian vaccine manufacturers to produce COVID-19 vaccines? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Test 4

Q1. 'E-governance and Digital interventions helps better service delivery and products'. Discuss how these initiatives may lead to surveillance by authorities. Also suggest some measures and safeguards with special reference to Data Protection Law.

19. What are the different elements of cyber security? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Test 6

Q5. The James Webb Space Telescope (Webb) is stated to be the next great space science observatory following Hubble. What are the unique features of James Webb telescope and how will it impact the study of astronomy?

15. Launched on 25th December, 2021, James Webb Space Telescope has been much in the news since then. What are its unique features which make it superior to its predecessor Space Telescopes? What are the key goals of this mission? What potential benefits does it hold for the human race? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Q16. With a coastline of over 7500 kms, Maritime security is an important aspect of national security of India. Describe, with examples, the security challenges emerging from India's coastline? Also elaborate the measures adopted by the Government to strengthen coastal security architecture.

10. What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security. (Answer in 150 words) 10

GS PAPER IV ETHICS**Test 7**

Q6. (a) Do you think Compassion is better for humanity than empathy? Justify your answer. 10 Marks (150 WORDS)

1(b) Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion are some of the other vital attributes that facilitate the civil servants to be more competent in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations. (Answer in 150 words)

10

5 (b) "All persons ought to endeavor to follow what is right, and not what is established." Examine the statement with reference to ethical issues involved in establishing a just society. 10 Marks (150 WORDS)

3.(a) Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do.'-Potter Stewart. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Test 8

Q3. (a) In the past our actions were involuntarily constrained by our weakness, now new technologies have given us more power to act, which means that we have to make choices we didn't have to make before. In the light of the statement elaborate how ethics play an important role in this technological age. 10 Marks (150 WORDS)

4.(b) Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to vulnerable section of society. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Q6. (a) How Corporate Social Responsibility helps a company to be socially accountable to itself, its stakeholders and the public? 10 Marks (150 WORDS)

6.(b) In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate work mandated? Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10

CASE:3 Recently you have posted as Superintendent of Police in a district which has been infamous for illegal stone quarrying. Heightened activities of stone mafia gangs have been noticed of late. These gangs are illegally extracting stones from rivulet bed in areas that are near eco-sensitive zones. This particular river falls very close to a Wildlife Sanctuary. Stone quarrying is strictly prohibited in these areas due to the presence of nearby eco-sensitive zones. Also, there are no government-authorized stone quarries in this region due to the same reasons.

Allegations were levelled against the forest department for its indirect involvement in these mafia operations. Also, a close aide of local ex-MLA is allegedly involved in these illegal stone quarrying operations in the rivulet. It has also been claimed that ex-MLA at his own will recruits many laborers to extract stones, which are then carried to different places in his truck.

Police had taken action against ex-MLA many times before, his truck was also forfeited, and he was fined as well, but nothing could stop his misconduct.

In the given context, answer the following questions:

- (a) Highlight different course of actions you have in the above case and also discuss merits and demerits of each action.
- (b) What steps will you take to stop such illegal activity?
- (c) Can development and environment be in harmony? Justify your answer.

9. The Supreme Court has banned mining in the Aravalli Hills to stop degradation the forest cover and to maintain ecological balance. However, the stone mining is still prevalent in the border district of the affected State with connivance of certain corrupt forest officials and politicians. Young and dynamic SP who was recently posted in the affected district promised to himself to stop this menace. In one of his surprise checks with his team, he found loaded truck with stone trying to escape the mining area. He tried to stop the truck but the truck driver overran the police officer, killing him on the spot and thereafter managed to flee. Police filed FIR but no breakthrough was achieved in the case for almost three months. Ashok who was the Investigative Journalist working with leading TV channel, suo moto started investigating the case. Within one month, Ashok got breakthrough by interacting with local people, stone mining mafia and government officials. He prepared his investigative story and presented to the CMD of the TV channel. He exposed in his investigative report the complete nexus of stone mafia working with blessing of corrupt police and civil officials and politicians. The politician who was involved in the mafia was no one else but local MLA who was considered to be very close to the Chief Minister. After going through the investigative report, the CMD advised Ashok to drop the idea of making

the story public through electronic media. He informed that the local MLA was not only the relative of the owner of the TV channel but also had unofficially 20 percent share in the channel. The CMD further informed Ashok that his further promotion and hike in pay will be taken care of in addition the soft loan of 10 lakhs which he has taken from the TV channel for his son's chronic disease will be suitably adjusted if he hands over the investigative report to him.

(a) What are the options available with Ashok to cope up with the situation?

(b) Critically evaluate/examine each of the options identified by Ashok.

(c) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Ashok?

(d) Which of the options, do you think, would be the most appropriate for Ashok to adopt and why?

(e) In the above scenario, what type of training would you suggest for police officers posted to such districts where stone mining illegal activities are rampant? (Answer in 250 words) 20

Comprehensive Test

(b) Often you encounter the question "why one should behave ethically?". What answer will you give and why?

2.(b) It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Q2. (a) 'Compassion and empathy can make government policies more effective.' Justify with suitable examples.

1(b) Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion are some of the other vital attributes that facilitate the civil servants to be more competent in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Q3. (a) Recently, various instances of whistle blowing have been witnessed. Give your opinion about ethicality of whistle blowing.

6.(a) Whistle blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would

you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle blower? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Q5. (a) Do you agree that global market forces will sort out those companies that do not have sound corporate governance?

6.(b) In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate work mandated? Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Q6. (a) Discuss the significance of role model in shaping an individual's personality and character? Also mention who is your role model and what values of your role model you like the most and have therefore adopted them.

3.(b) "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher." – Abdul Kalam. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Case3. In a village X few influential people in the collusion with Village local self-government representatives illegally filled few of the wetlands. These wetlands were used as garbage dumping yards by some of the villagers and were very rarely cleaned. Subsequently they were in a very bad state. Many water-borne diseases, especially those affecting the children, were emerging from the polluted waters. Once the wetland was filled, the area thus reclaimed was used for agricultural activity. Filled wetlands provided opportunity for community forestry and therefore employment for women.

However, this has irked few peoples of the villages and they were not happy with it. They raised the issue of water logging on the main road of the village as the natural sink i.e., the wetlands, were no more there to contain and soak it. They complained to the Village Headman, and he assured them that he will get proper drainage system built very soon. However, the Headman refused to rebuild the wetlands. He argued that various economic benefits arising out of the reclaimed land is critical for village's development.

You have been recently posted as the Sub-divisional Magistrate. Few villagers came to you with the complaint and sought your help in rebuilding the wetlands. 20 Marks (250 WORDS)

(a) Identify the stakeholders in the above situation? Also enumerate the ethical issues involved in the above case.

(b) Discuss the steps you would take in the given scenario and why?

(c) What values can be inculcated among the citizens to avoid re-emergence of such scenario?

12. You are appointed as an officer heading the section in Environment Pollution Control Board to ensure compliance and its follow-up. In that region, there were large number of small and medium industries which had been granted clearance. You learnt that these industries provide employment to many migrant workers. Most of the industrial units have got environmental clearance certificate in their possession. The environmental clearance seeks to curb industries and projects that supposedly hamper environment and living species in the region, But in practice, most of these units remain to be polluting units in several ways like air, water and soil pollution. As such, local people encountered persistent health problems.

It was confirmed that majority of the industries were violating environmental compliance. You issued notice to all the industrial units to apply for fresh environmental clearance certificate from the competent authority. However, your action met with hostile response from a section of the industrial units, other vested interest persons and a section of the local politicians. The workers also became hostile to you as they felt that your action would lead to the closure of these industrial units, and the resultant unemployment will lead to insecurity uncertainty in their livelihood. Many owners of the industries approached you with the plea that you should not initiate harsh action as it would compel them their units, and cause huge financial loss, shortage of their products in the market. These would obviously add to the sufferings of the labourers and the consumers alike. The labour union also sent you representation requesting against the closure of the units. You simultaneously started receiving threats from unknown corners. You however received supports from some of your colleagues, who advised you to act freely to ensure environmental compliance. Local NGOs also came to your support and they demanded the closure of the polluting units immediately.

(a) What are the options available to you under the given situation?

(b) Critically examine the options listed by you.

(c) What type of mechanism would you suggest to ensure environmental compliance?

(d) What are the ethical dilemmas you faced in exercising your option?

(Answer in 250 words) 20