UPSC CSE Mains 2015 — Complete GS (1–4) + Essay Pack

All 5 Merit Papers from UPSC Mains 2015 (68 questions & essay prompts) with syllabus micro-topics and word limits. Free from preplord.com.

GS Paper 1 (History, Society & Geography) (20 Qs | Code: C-AVZ-O-FTTZ)

1 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Continuity of ancient Indian civilization vs Egypt, Mesopotamia & Greece

2 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Mesolithic rock-cut art of India & aesthetic sense

3 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi

4 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Gandhi & Ambedkar divergent approaches, common goal for downtrodden

5 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Constituent Assembly drafting Constitution & Government of India Act 1935

6 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → World History [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Why Industrial Revolution began in England & quality of life comparison with India

7 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → World History [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Germany's responsibility for the two World Wars

8 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Four cultural elements of diversity in India & national identity

9 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Population, Poverty & Development [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Population growth vs poverty causality in India

10 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
More favourable sex ratio in Tribes vs Scheduled Castes in India

11 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Trends of labour migration within and outside India (last 4 decades)

12 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Globalization & Social Change [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India

13 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Dalit identity assertion movements & annihilation of caste

14 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Origin of ocean currents & influence on climate, fishing & navigation

15 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Why air pollution is more severe in Delhi than Mumbai & Kolkata

16 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Why India suffers water scarcity despite freshwater endowment

17 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ecological carrying capacity limits due to tourism in J&K, HP & Uttarakhand

18 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Changing behaviour of Indian monsoon due to humanizing landscapes

19 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Smart cities cannot sustain without smart villages (rural-urban integration)

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20 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Economic significance & environmental consequences of Arctic oil discovery

GS Paper 2 (Polity, Governance, Social Justice & IR) (20 Qs | Code: C-AVZ-O-STBZ)

1 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Factors inhibiting Uniform Civil Code (DPSP)

2 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Cooperative federalism & drawbacks in existing structure

3 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Panchayats & Samitis as political institutions vs effective governance

4 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Khap Panchayats, human rights violations & legislative/executive/judicial actions

5 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Ordinances, separation of powers, SC decisions & whether power should be repealed

6 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 Ordinance changes

7 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Right to clean environment (Article 21) & Diwali firecracker regulations

8 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Governance → Pressure Groups, NGOs & Civil Society [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
FCRA 1976 rule changes on foreign funding of NGOs

9 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Social Justice → Poverty & Welfare Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) for poverty alleviation & women empowerment

10 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Governance → Pressure Groups, NGOs & Civil Society [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Strengthening NGOs in environmental protection & constraints

11 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Social Justice → Education & Skill Development [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Entry of foreign educational institutions & higher education quality

12 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Social Justice → Health & Nutrition [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Universal health coverage: public health limitations & private sector role

13 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Poverty estimates in India & urban/rural poverty indicators

14 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Satyam Scandal (2009) & corporate governance reforms

15 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Whistleblowers Protection Act 2011 Amendment Bill

16 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Independence and autonomy of regulatory institutions

17 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • International Relations → Bilateral & Global Groupings [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Increasing interest of India in Africa: pros & cons

18 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • International Relations → Global Institutions & Treaties [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Impediments to India's permanent seat in UN Security Council

19 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Project 'Mausam' foreign policy & strategic dimension

20 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • International Relations → India & Neighbourhood [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Soft power (sports & cultural exchanges) in India-Pakistan relations

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GS Paper 3 (Economy, Agri, S&T, Environment & Security) (20 Qs | Code: C-AVZ-O-TTDZ)

1 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Jobless growth in India

2 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Livestock rearing for rural non-farm employment & income

3 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Contract farming & land leasing in view of shrinking land holdings

4 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Digital India programme for farm productivity & income

5 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Agriculture → MSP, Subsidies & Marketing [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Replacing price subsidies with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

6 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Agriculture → MSP, Subsidies & Marketing [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Food processing supply chain bottlenecks & role of e-commerce

7 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Gold imports, BoP pressure & Gold Monetization Scheme

8 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Make in India dependence on Skill India & labour reforms

9 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Fall in solar equipment costs/tariffs & impact on thermal power

10 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Budgeting, Fiscal Policy & Taxation [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Issues plaguing SEZs (taxation, laws & administration)

11 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
GPS SPS vs PPS & advantages of India's 7-satellite IRNSS

12 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Robots for prohibitive labour & propelling R&D in premier institutes

13 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Cloud hosting vs in-house server hosting for government

14 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Science & Tech → AI, IT & Emerging Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) & open-source licensing pros/cons

15 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Namami Gange & NMCG vs previous Ganga schemes

16 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Disaster Management [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Earthquake frequency & India's mitigation preparedness gaps

17 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
AFSPA 1958 contested sections & Supreme Court view

18 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Digital radicalization, ISIS mission & internal security threat

19 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Industrial displacement & LWE corrective strategies (Malkangiri & Naxalbari)

20 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Internal Security → Cyber Security & Money Laundering [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Digital Armed Force & National Cyber Security Policy 2013

Essay Paper (Philosophical & Policy Prompts) (8 Qs | Code: C-AVZ-O-DRRX)

A1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]

Lending hands to someone is better than giving a dole.

A2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Quick but steady wins the race.

A3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Character of an institution is reflected in its leader.

A4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man more clever devil.

B1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Technology cannot replace manpower.

B2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Crisis faced in India – moral or economic.

B3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Dreams which should not let India sleep.

B4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Can capitalism bring inclusive growth?

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