UPSC CSE Mains 2016 — Complete GS (1–4) + Essay Pack

All 5 Merit Papers from UPSC Mains 2016 (68 questions & essay prompts) with syllabus micro-topics and word limits. Free from preplord.com.

GS Paper 1 (History, Society & Geography) (20 Qs | Code: M-ESC-O-GSA)

1 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Early Buddhist Stupa-art folk motifs & Buddhist ideals

2 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Literature & Culture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Krishnadeva Raya as scholar and patron of learning & literature

3 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Uprising of 1857 as watershed in British colonial policies

4 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of women in freedom struggle especially Gandhian phase

5 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Differences between Subhash Chandra Bose & Mahatma Gandhi

6 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Post-Independence India [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Linguistic States strengthening Indian unity

7 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Anti-colonial struggles in West Africa led by Western-educated elite

8 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Globalization's influence on core of cultural diversity in India

9 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Population, Poverty & Development [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Eradicating poverty by liberating the poor from deprivation

10 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Explain | Current-Affairs Linked]
Why tribals are called Scheduled Tribes & Constitutional upliftment provisions

11 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Urbanization & Family [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Quality of urban life & Smart City Programme objectives and strategy

12 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Basis of regionalism & unequal distribution of development benefits

13 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Concept of air mass & role in macro-climatic changes

14 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Landslides in the Himalayas: causes & mitigation measures

15 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Effective management of land and water resources reducing human miseries

16 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Geopolitical significance of South China Sea

17 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Major Indian cities becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions

18 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Analyze | Current-Affairs Linked]
Indus Water Treaty ecological, economic & political implications

19 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Problems and prospects of inland water transport in India

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20 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Micro-watershed development projects in drought-prone & semi-arid India

GS Paper 2 (Polity, Governance, Social Justice & IR) (20 Qs | Code: M-ESC-O-GSB)

1 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
69th Constitutional Amendment Act & Delhi CM vs Lieutenant Governor conflicts

2 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Article 370 temporary provision & future prospects in Indian polity

3 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Governance → E-Governance & Citizen Charters [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Indian party system transition full of contradictions and paradoxes

4 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Article 149 CAG powers & auditing policy implementation vs overstepping jurisdiction

5 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Adjectives attached to 'Republic' in Preamble & their present defendability

6 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
I.R. Coelho case & judicial review among basic features of Constitution

7 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Did Government of India Act 1935 lay down a federal constitution?

8 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Quasi-judicial bodies with concrete examples

9 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Social Justice → Education & Skill Development [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Amartya Sen's reforms in primary education & primary health care

10 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of non-state actors in Indian governance system

11 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Inter-dependence of government effectiveness & people's participation

12 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Governance → Civil Services & Accountability [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Transparency International integrity index & decline of public morality in India

13 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Indian governmental system's response to 1991 LPG reforms

14 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Traditional bureaucratic structure & culture hampering socio-economic development

15 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Social Justice → Vulnerable Sections [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
National Child Policy provisions & implementation status

16 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Demographic dividend & government measures for employable manpower

17 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • International Relations → Global Institutions & Treaties [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
WTO Doha round impasse between developed & developing countries (Indian perspective)

18 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Economic & strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy post-Cold War

19 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • International Relations → India & Neighbourhood [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Cross-border terrorism, Pakistan's interference & future of SAARC

20 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • International Relations → India & Neighbourhood [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
UNESCO McBride Commission aims, objectives & India's position

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GS Paper 3 (Economy, Agri, S&T, Environment & Security) (20 Qs | Code: M-ESC-O-GSC)

1 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Globalization reducing formal sector employment & increased informalization

2 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Budgeting, Fiscal Policy & Taxation [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Gender budgeting requirements & status in India

3 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) for financial inclusion

4 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Smart Cities vs Smart Villages in light of PURA & RURBAN Mission

5 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Need for FDI, gap between MOUs signed & actual FDIs

6 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Challenges for inclusive growth & unproductive manpower in India

7 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Water-use efficiency & role of micro-irrigation

8 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Allelopathy & its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture

9 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Agriculture → Land Reforms [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of land reforms in agricultural development & success factors

10 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Need for crop insurance & Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

11 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Renewable energy current status/targets & National Programme on LEDs

12 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Science & Tech → Space & Defence Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
India's achievements in Space Science & Technology for socio-economic development

13 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Science & Tech → AI, IT & Emerging Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Nanotechnology & Indian Government's Mission on Nanoscience and Technology

14 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Rehabilitation of human settlements in major developmental projects

15 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Disaster Management [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Frequency of urban floods, reasons & preparedness mechanisms

16 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Disaster Management [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
NDMA guidelines to mitigate cloudbursts in Uttarakhand

17 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Strategic impact of 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes'

18 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Terrorism emerging as a competitive industry

19 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Internal Security → Border & Maritime Security [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Border management challenges & strategies in difficult terrain

20 • 12.5 Marks • 200 Words • Internal Security → Cyber Security & Money Laundering [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Misuse of Internet & social media by non-state actors for subversion

Essay Paper (Philosophical & Policy Prompts) (8 Qs | Code: M-ESC-O-ESY)

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

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If development is not engendered, it is endangered

A2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Need brings greed, if greed increases it spoils breed

A3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Governance, Ethics & Leadership [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Water disputes between States in federal India

A4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Innovation is the key determinant of economic growth and social welfare

B1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Cooperative federalism : Myth or reality

B2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Society, Gender & Inclusion [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Cyberspace and Internet : Blessing or curse to the human civilization in the long run

B3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Near jobless growth in India : An anomaly or an outcome of economic reforms

B4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Digital economy : A leveller or a source of economic inequality

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