UPSC CSE Mains 2017 — Complete GS (1–4) + Essay Pack

All 5 Merit Papers from UPSC Mains 2017 (68 questions & essay prompts) with syllabus micro-topics and word limits. Free from preplord.com.

GS Paper 1 (History, Society & Geography) (20 Qs | Code: STH-G-GSO)

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Excellence of Gupta numismatic art vs later times

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Mid-18th century India beset with fragmented polity

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Why Moderates failed to carry conviction by end of 19th century

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → World History [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Problems in decolonization of Malay Peninsula

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
NASA Juno Mission & origin/evolution of Earth

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Coal mining still inevitable for development despite environmental impact

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Advantages of pulses cultivation & UN International Year of Pulses 2016

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
How cryosphere affects global climate

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Regions forming cultural units rather than States in India

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Post-Independence India [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Two major post-Independence legal initiatives against ST discrimination

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Spirit of tolerance and love in Indian society from ancient times to present

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Decline of traditional artisanal industry crippling colonial rural economy

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
New objectives added to vision of Indian independence since the 1920s

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Variations in oceanic salinity & multi-dimensional effects

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Location of petroleum refineries away from crude oil areas in developing countries

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Converting floods into sustainable irrigation & all-weather inland navigation

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Population, Poverty & Development [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Characteristics of monsoon climate feeding >50% of world population in Monsoon Asia

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Women's questions in 19th century social reform movement in India

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Distinguish religiousness/religiosity vs communalism in independent India

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20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Urbanization & Family [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Growth of cities as IT hubs: new employment avenues & new problems

GS Paper 2 (Polity, Governance, Social Justice & IR) (20 Qs | Code: STH-G-GSD)

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Local self-government system in India & ways to improve it

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Supreme Court judgment on NJAC Act 2014 & judicial appointments

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha & State Assemblies vs accountability

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → Pressure Groups, NGOs & Civil Society [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Informal vs formal pressure groups in Indian politics

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in government accountability

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Social Justice → Health & Nutrition [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Synchronizing beneficiary identification with outcomes in WASH scheme

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Social Justice → Vulnerable Sections [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 empowerment & inclusion

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Social Justice → Poverty & Welfare Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Hunger and poverty as biggest challenges for good governance in India

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
China using trade surplus & economic ties for military power in Asia & impact on India

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • International Relations → Global Institutions & Treaties [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Functions of UN ECOSOC & its functional commissions

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
101st Constitutional Amendment Act 2016 (GST) & common national market

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Scope of Fundamental Rights after Supreme Court Right to Privacy judgment (Puttaswamy)

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Joint session of Parliament: occasions when it happens & when it cannot

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Election Commission of India's 2016 electoral reforms proposals

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Social Justice → Vulnerable Sections [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Effectiveness of National Commission for Women in public & private spheres

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Social Justice → Poverty & Welfare Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
SHGs & withdrawal of State from developmental activities

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Social Justice → Poverty & Welfare Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Poverty alleviation programmes & role of political will

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → Civil Services & Accountability [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Neutrality & effectiveness of Civil Services and need for drastic reforms

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • International Relations → Bilateral & Global Groupings [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
India's energy security & energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • International Relations → Indian Diaspora [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of Indian diaspora in South-East Asia's economy & society

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GS Paper 3 (Economy, Agri, S&T, Environment & Security) (20 Qs | Code: STH-G-GST)

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Savings rate & other factors for India's potential growth

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Manufacturing sector failure in labour-intensive exports & measures

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
PPP joint venture development of Airports in India & challenges

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → Food Processing & PDS [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Post-independence agricultural revolutions, poverty alleviation & food security

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → Food Processing & PDS [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Poor acceptance of small food processing units & uplifting poor farmers

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Stem cell therapy & its advantages over other medical treatments

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Science & Tech → Space & Defence Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Technological & logistical obstacles to India's manned space mission

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Conservation, Biodiversity & Pollution [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
River linking advantages & environmental impacts

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Internal Security → Cyber Security & Money Laundering [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Potential threats of cyber attack & security framework to prevent it

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Reasons for survival of armed insurgency in North-East India

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Budgeting, Fiscal Policy & Taxation [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Union Budget 2017-18 measures to 'transform, energise and clean India'

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Lagging industrial growth rate in post-reform period & Industrial Policy changes

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Salient features of inclusive growth & measures for India

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Declining rice and wheat yield & role of crop diversification

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Subsidies effect on cropping pattern; crop insurance, MSP & food processing for small farmers

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Science & Tech → Nuclear & Clean Energy Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Nuclear science & technology in India and advantage of Fast Breeder Reactor programme

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Climate Change & Treaties [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Climate change impact on India's Himalayan and coastal states

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
2004 Tsunami factors, effects & NDMA 2010 preparedness guidelines

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Mob violence as law and order problem: causes & consequences

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Curbing terrorism & major sources of terrorist funding

Essay Paper (Philosophical & Policy Prompts) (8 Qs | Code: STH-G-ESSY)

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A1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Society, Gender & Inclusion [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India.

A2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Governance, Ethics & Leadership [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Impact of the new economic measures on fiscal ties between the union and states in India.

A3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Education, Science & Knowledge [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms.

A4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Governance, Ethics & Leadership [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Has the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) lost its relevance in a multipolar world?

B1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.

B2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Fulfilment of 'new woman' in India is a myth.

B3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Society, Gender & Inclusion [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
We may brave human laws but cannot resist natural laws.

B4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
'Social media' is inherently a selfish medium.

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