UPSC CSE Mains 2019 — Complete GS (1–4) + Essay Pack

All 5 Merit Papers from UPSC Mains 2019 (87 questions & essay prompts) with syllabus micro-topics and word limits. Free from preplord.com.

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

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
1857 Uprising as culmination of recurrent local rebellions over preceding 100 years of British rule

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Linkages between 19th century 'Indian Renaissance' and emergence of national identity

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Impact of global warming on coral life system with examples

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Causes of depletion of mangroves & importance in maintaining coastal ecology

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Regional resource-based manufacturing strategy for promoting employment in India

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Factors for localisation of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
What makes Indian society unique in sustaining its culture

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Population, Poverty & Development [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Empowering women as key to control population growth

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Challenges to cultural practices in the name of secularism

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Many voices strengthening and enriching the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Role of British imperial power in complicating transfer of power during the 1940s

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → World History [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
How foundations of the modern world were laid by American and French Revolutions

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Water stress: meaning & how/why it differs regionally in India

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Restoring mountain ecosystem from negative impact of development initiatives and tourism

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Urbanization & Family [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Efficient and affordable urban mass transport as key to rapid economic development of India

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
How ocean currents and water masses differ in impacts on marine life and coastal environment

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Cultural pockets of small India all over the nation with examples

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Women & Social Empowerment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Continued challenges for women in India against time and space

PREPLORD.COM UPSC CSE MAINS PYQ PORTAL

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Are we losing our local identity for the global identity?

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

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Indian Constitution based on 'checks and balance' rather than strict separation of powers

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Central Administrative Tribunal exercising powers as an independent judicial authority

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → Pressure Groups, NGOs & Civil Society [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Methods used by farmers' organisations to influence policy-makers & their effectiveness

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' from court rulings on legislative powers

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
What France can learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Issues making balanced and inclusive development elusive despite consistent high growth

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Social Justice → Poverty & Welfare Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Growing divergence between poverty and hunger; shrinking social expenditure squeezing food budgets

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → E-Governance & Citizen Charters [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Vital factors affecting ICT-based projects/programmes & measures for effective implementation

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • International Relations → Bilateral & Global Groupings [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Building a strong contemporary global and strategic India-Japan partnership

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • International Relations → Bilateral & Global Groupings [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
US withdrawal from UNESCO & accusations of 'anti-Israel bias' ('Too little cash, too much politics')

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Grounds for disqualification under Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 & remedies available

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Parliament's limited amending power under Article 368 vs Basic Structure of the Constitution

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Limited impact of women's seat reservation in local self-government on patriarchal Indian politics

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Attorney-General as chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Decline of individual Parliamentarian's role as national law maker & impact on debates/outcomes

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → Civil Services & Accountability [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Multi-level planning in neo-liberal development paradigm for cost-effectiveness & removing blockages

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → Civil Services & Accountability [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Cooperation and partnership among service sectors in India's development process

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Social Justice → Poverty & Welfare Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections less effective due to lack of awareness & active involvement

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • International Relations → Global Institutions & Treaties [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Disappearance of India's image as leader of oppressed/marginalised nations due to new global role

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → E-Governance & Citizen Charters [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Friction in India-US ties due to Washington's inability to satisfy India's national self-esteem & ambitions

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

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Budgeting, Fiscal Policy & Taxation [Analyze | Current-Affairs Linked]
Indirect taxes subsumed in GST & revenue implications since July 2017

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Budgeting, Fiscal Policy & Taxation [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Integrated Farming System (IFS) in sustaining agricultural production

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Impact of National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production in water-stressed areas

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Science & Tech → Biotechnology & Health Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya (water engineering) and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan (agricultural science)

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Science & Tech → Space & Defence Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
India's plan to have its own space station & benefits to space programme

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Conservation, Biodiversity & Pollution [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Impact of legal/illegal coastal sand mining along Indian coasts with examples

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Disaster Management [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Characterizing vulnerability to disasters & different types of vulnerability

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Banning of Jamaat-e-Islami in J&K, role of Over-Ground Workers (OGWs) & measures to neutralize them

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Internal Security → Cyber Security & Money Laundering [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
CyberDome Project & usefulness in controlling internet crimes in India

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Strategy of inclusive growth intended to meet inclusiveness and sustainability together

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Budgeting, Fiscal Policy & Taxation [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Public expenditure management as a challenge in post-liberalization budget making

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → Food Processing & PDS [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Reformative steps by Government to make food grain distribution system more effective

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → Food Processing & PDS [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Policy taken by Government of India to meet challenges of food processing sector

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Science & Tech → AI, IT & Emerging Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Science & Tech → Biotechnology & Health Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
How biotechnology can help improve living standards of farmers

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Carrying capacity of an ecosystem & its vital importance in sustainable regional development

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Disaster Management [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Disaster preparedness & how hazard zonation mapping helps mitigate landslides

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Amendments to UAPA 1967 and NIA Act — security context & reasons for opposition by human rights groups

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Internal Security → Border & Maritime Security [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Security challenges emanating across India-Myanmar border (beyond insurgents) & counter-steps

GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: SDF-G-GSF)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Basic principles of public life; illustrate any three with examples

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Meaning of 'public servant' & expected role of public servant

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Analyze | Current-Affairs Linked]
Reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds & implications

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Non-performance of duty by a public servant as a form of corruption

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Meaning of 'constitutional morality' & how one upholds it

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Meaning of 'crisis of conscience' & how it manifests in the public domain

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Basic principles of citizens charter movement & its importance

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Official Secrets Act as an obstacle to implementation of Right to Information Act

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Probity in governance & measures for ensuring probity in government

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Emotional Intelligence as ability to make emotions work for you instead of against you

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Socrates quote: An unexamined life is not worth living

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
M. K. Gandhi quote: A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes

6(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam quote: Righteousness in heart -> beauty in character -> harmony in home -> order in nation -> peace in world

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Heading rescue operations in severe natural calamity where angry locals assault team members & team pleads to stop

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
Honest civil servants implicated/prosecuted for bonafide mistakes — impact on civil services & protective measures

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Apparel company offering hefty sum to woman employee to withdraw sexual harassment complaint & FIR against star marketing executive

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Politicization of bureaucracy — changing relationship between political and permanent executive & consequences

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Woman IPS officer appointed SP in frontier district with rampant narcotics, poppy farming, arms smuggling & suspected political/police patronage

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Institutional measures to internalize civil service ethics: anticipating threats, ethical competence & ethical administrative processes

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

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

A2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be

A3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Society, Gender & Inclusion [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Best for an individual is not necessarily best for the society

A4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success

B1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Governance, Ethics & Leadership [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
South Asian societies are woven not around the state, but around their plural cultures and plural identities

B2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Governance, Ethics & Leadership [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Neglect of primary health care and education in India are reasons for its backwardness

B3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Governance, Ethics & Leadership [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy

B4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Education, Science & Knowledge [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Rise of Artificial Intelligence : the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling

PREPLORD.COM
UPSC CSE MAINS PYQ VAULT