UPSC CSE Mains 2022 — Complete GS (1–4) + Essay Pack

All 5 Merit Papers from UPSC Mains 2022 (87 questions & essay prompts) with syllabus micro-topics and word limits. Free from preplord.com.

GS Paper 1 (History, Society & Geography) (20 Qs | Code: N/A (typeset PYQ))

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Medieval Indian temple sculptures representing the social life of those days

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Why British East India Company armies (mostly Indian soldiers) consistently defeated larger Indian armies

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Reasons for sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Characteristics and types of primary rocks

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone-prone areas given by IMD

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Natural resource potentials of 'Deccan Trap'

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Potential of wind energy in India & reasons for its limited spatial spread

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Urbanization & Family [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Urbanization & Family [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Growth of Tier 2 cities related to rise of a new middle class & culture of consumption

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Specific contexts in which diverse tribal communities in India should be considered a single category

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Post-Independence India [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Political and administrative reorganization of states/territories as continuous process since mid-19th century

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Significance of lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Forces influencing ocean currents & their role in the fishing industry of the world

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Distribution of rubber-producing countries & major environmental issues faced by them

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Significance of straits and isthmus in international trade

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Salient Physical Features [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Troposphere as a significant atmospheric layer determining weather processes

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Tolerance, assimilation and pluralism as key elements in Indian form of secularism

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20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Globalization & Social Change [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources (India)

GS Paper 2 (Polity, Governance, Social Justice & IR) (20 Qs | Code: N/A (typeset PYQ))

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Constitutionalization of environmental problems by Supreme Court with relevant case laws

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Right of movement and residence throughout India freely available but not absolute

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Extent to which decentralisation of power in India changed the grassroots governance landscape

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Social Justice → Vulnerable Sections [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of National Commission for Backward Classes after becoming a constitutional body

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → Civil Services & Accountability [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Gati-Shakti Yojana needing meticulous government-private coordination for connectivity

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Social Justice → Vulnerable Sections [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remaining legal document without intense sensitisation

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → E-Governance & Citizen Charters [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Reforming government delivery system via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) — progress & limitations

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • International Relations → India & Neighbourhood [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
India's role in the recent Sri Lanka crisis as an age-old friend

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • International Relations → India & Neighbourhood [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
BIMSTEC vs SAARC similarities/dissimilarities & Indian foreign policy objectives

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Election disputes under RPA 1951: procedures, grounds to declare election void, remedies & case laws

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Essential conditions for Governor's legislative powers & legality of re-promulgating ordinances

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
National political parties favouring centralisation vs regional parties favouring State autonomy

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Critically examine procedures through which Presidents of India and France are elected

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of Election Commission of India in light of evolution of the Model Code of Conduct

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Social Justice → Poverty & Welfare Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Deft management of inflation and unemployment besides welfare schemes for the poor

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → Pressure Groups, NGOs & Civil Society [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether increasing dependence on donor agencies reduces community participation in development

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Social Justice → Education & Skill Development [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
RTE Act, 2009 inadequate in promoting incentive-based schooling without awareness

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • International Relations → Bilateral & Global Groupings [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
How I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE, USA) grouping will transform India's position in global politics

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • International Relations → Global Institutions & Treaties [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
India's changing policy towards climate change in international fora in the context of geopolitics

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GS Paper 3 (Economy, Agri, S&T, Environment & Security) (20 Qs | Code: N/A (typeset PYQ))

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Why PPP is required in infrastructure & role of PPP model in redevelopment of Railway Stations

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether inclusive growth is possible under market economy & significance of financial inclusion

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → Food Processing & PDS [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) & making it effective and transparent

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → Food Processing & PDS [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Scope and significance of the food processing industry in India

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Science & Tech → Biotechnology & Health Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Increase in life expectancy leading to newer community health challenges & steps needed

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Science & Tech → Biotechnology & Health Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Natural processes plant cellulose undergoes on Earth's surface yielding CO2, water & other products

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Climate Change & Treaties [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Photochemical smog (formation, effects, mitigation) & 1999 Gothenburg Protocol

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Disaster Management [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Mechanism and occurrence of cloudburst in the Indian subcontinent with two recent examples

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Types of organised crimes & linkages between terrorists and organised crime (national/transnational)

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Internal Security → Border & Maritime Security [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Maritime security challenges in India & organisational, technical and procedural initiatives

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Economic growth led by labour productivity & growth pattern creating jobs without compromising productivity

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether India will meet 50% energy needs from renewables by 2030 & shifting fossil fuel subsidies

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → MSP, Subsidies & Marketing [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream marketing of agricultural products in India

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Integrated Farming System & how it helps small and marginal farmers in India

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Science & Tech → Space & Defence Tech [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
James Webb Space Telescope (Dec 25, 2021): unique features, key goals & potential human benefits

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Science & Tech → Biotechnology & Health Tech [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Basic principle of vaccine development, how vaccines work & Indian COVID-19 vaccine approaches

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Climate Change & Treaties [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Global warming, climate effects & GHG control measures in light of Kyoto Protocol, 1997

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Conservation, Biodiversity & Pollution [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Causes and effects of coastal erosion in India & available coastal management techniques

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Internal Security → Cyber Security & Money Laundering [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Elements of cyber security & India's progress on a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Naxalism as social, economic & developmental issue — emerging issues & multilayered strategy

GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: N/A (typeset PYQ))

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Bureaucratic preoccupation with periphery ignoring core issues leading to travesty of justice

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Attitude & Emotional Intelligence [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Empathy and compassion as vital attributes facilitating civil servants in critical decisions

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Positive-minded vs negative-minded officers interpreting the same Rules and Regulations

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
What ethics seeks to promote in human life & how ethical values resolve day-to-day conflicts

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Potter Stewart quote: Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam quote: Three key societal members for corruption-free nation — father, mother, teacher

3(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Dalai Lama quote: Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
'Good governance' & how recent State e-Governance initiatives have helped beneficiaries

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethical issues in online methodology (administration, education, telemedicine) for vulnerable sections

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Russia-Ukraine war: crucial ethical issues in launching war and its continuation

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Five 30-word short notes (2×5=10M): Constitutional morality, Conflict of interest, Probity in public life, Challenges of digitalization, Devotion to duty

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Policy measures to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard whistle-blowers

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether CSR is efficient and sufficient amid corporate impact on climate & sustainability

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Prabhat (VP Marketing, Sterling Electric) under division-closure & financial stress offered rival's stolen MoD bid papers by candidate Subhash Verma

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Ramesh (Director, Home Dept in border state) exposes illegal migration & forged IDs with border staff connivance; ordered to withdraw report or lose posting/promotion

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Investigative journalist Ashok exposes MLA-police-stone mafia nexus behind Aravalli SP's murder; TV CMD offers promotion & ■10L loan adjustment to bury story

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Shoe company Inspection Team member ordered (under termination threat) to clear defective Europe-rejected consignment for domestic market

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Joint Commissioner Rakesh handling 10-day drivers' union strike demanding full extra compensation & job for family of deceased bus driver who started road-rage fight

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
Pollution Control Board officer enforcing fresh EC compliance on polluting SMEs employing migrant workers amid backlash from owners, politicians & workers

Essay Paper (Philosophical & Policy Prompts) (8 Qs | Code: N/A (typeset PYQ))

A1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Environment & Nature [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Forests are the best case studies for economic excellence

A2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Education, Science & Knowledge [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world

A3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Education, Science & Knowledge [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
History is a series of victories won by the scientific man over the romantic man

A4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ship is for

B1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining

B2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
You cannot step twice in the same river

B3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
A smile is the chosen vehicle for all ambiguities

B4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Just because you have a choice, it does not mean that any of them has to be right

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