UPSC CSE Mains 2024 — Complete GS (1–4) + Essay Pack

All 5 Merit Papers from UPSC Mains 2024 (87 questions & essay prompts) with syllabus micro-topics and word limits. Free from preplord.com.

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

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Changes in society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi to art and literature of South India

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Events that led to the Quit India Movement & its results

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Sea surface temperature rise & how it affects formation of tropical cyclones

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Urbanization & Family [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Why large cities attract more migrants than smaller towns in developing countries

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Population, Poverty & Development [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Concept of 'demographic winter' & whether the world is moving towards it

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Women & Social Empowerment [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Distinguish gender equality, gender equity & women's empowerment; gender concerns in programmes

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Women & Social Empowerment [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Intercaste marriages increasing among socio-economically equal castes vs interreligious marriages

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Most productive collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector for development

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Great Cholas remembered with pride for highest achievements in art and architecture

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → World History [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether First World War was fought essentially for preservation of balance of power

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of Industrial Revolution in England in decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Serious decline of groundwater potential in Gangetic valley & impact on India's food security

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
What are aurora australis and aurora borealis & how they are triggered

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
What is a twister & why majority of twisters are observed around the Gulf of Mexico

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Regional disparity vs diversity & seriousness of regional disparity in India

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Population, Poverty & Development [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Underprivileged sections not yet getting full benefits of constitutional affirmative action

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Women & Social Empowerment [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Globalization increasing urban migration of skilled, young, unmarried women — freedom & family impact

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20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Population, Poverty & Development [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities

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

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Need for electoral reforms with particular reference to 'one nation – one election'

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Distinguish Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals & whether they hear civil and criminal cases

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Growth of cabinet system practically resulting in marginalisation of parliamentary supremacy

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Duty of CAG not merely to ensure legality of expenditure but also its propriety

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of local bodies in good governance & pros/cons of merging rural and urban local bodies

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → Pressure Groups, NGOs & Civil Society [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Potential of public charitable trusts to make India's development more inclusive

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Social Justice → Health & Nutrition [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Vicious cycle of poverty and malnutrition affecting human capital formation & steps to break it

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → Civil Services & Accountability [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Doctrine of Democratic Governance & positive public perception of civil servants' integrity

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • International Relations → Bilateral & Global Groupings [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
West fostering India as alternative to China's supply chain & strategic ally with examples

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • International Relations → Bilateral & Global Groupings [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
India's evolving diplomatic, economic & strategic relations with Central Asian Republics (CARs)

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → Civil Services & Accountability [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 — aims, objects & coverage of Univ/State exams

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Right to privacy under Article 21 & law relating to DNA testing of child in womb for paternity

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Recent Union Government changes in Centre-State relations & measures to build federal trust

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Reasons for growth of PIL in India & whether Indian Supreme Court is world's most powerful judiciary

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
India as a secular state compared with secular principles of the US Constitution

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → E-Governance & Citizen Charters [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Citizens' Charter: factors hindering its promise & measures to overcome them

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Social Justice → Health & Nutrition [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Indian State containing adverse impact of marketisation of healthcare & expanding public grassroots reach

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → E-Governance & Citizen Charters [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance for transparency and accountability

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • International Relations → Global Institutions & Treaties [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Effectiveness of UN Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and associated bodies

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • International Relations → India & Neighbourhood [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Geopolitical/geostrategic importance of Maldives for India (trade, energy, maritime security)

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

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services post-reforms & inclusive growth

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Budgeting, Fiscal Policy & Taxation [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Causes of persistent high food inflation in India & effectiveness of RBI monetary policy

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → Land Reforms [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Factors responsible for successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of India

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Science & Tech → AI, IT & Emerging Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
World IPR scenario for life materials & reasons for low commercialization despite India's high patent filings

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Electronic toll collection technology on highways — advantages, limitations, seamless shift & hazards

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Conservation, Biodiversity & Pollution [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Industrial pollution of river water — mitigation measures & government initiatives

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Conservation, Biodiversity & Pollution [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of environmental NGOs and activists in influencing EIA outcomes with four examples

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Emergence of narco-terrorism as serious threat across India & counter-measures

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Science & Tech → AI, IT & Emerging Tech [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Merits, demerits, and progress of the four 'Labour Codes' in India

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Need for regional air connectivity in India & government's UDAN Scheme achievements

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Major challenges of Indian irrigation system & government measures for efficient irrigation

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → MSP, Subsidies & Marketing [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices & storage challenges

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Conservation, Biodiversity & Pollution [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Alternative technologies to solve acute freshwater shortage — three technologies with merits/demerits

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Science & Tech → Space & Defence Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Asteroids: real threat of extinction of life & strategies developed to prevent catastrophe

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Disaster Management [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Disaster resilience, resilience framework elements & global targets of Sendai Framework (2015–2030)

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Disaster Management [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Urban flooding as climate-induced disaster — causes, two major floods in last 2 decades & Indian policies

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Internal Security → Border & Maritime Security [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Conflicting issues & security challenges along China and Pakistan borders + BADP and BIM Scheme

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Internal Security → Cyber Security & Money Laundering [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Security challenges of social media and encrypted messaging services — measures & remedies

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

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethical examination of Artificial Intelligence as dependable input for administrative decision-making

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Key dimensions of ethics influencing human actions & shaping professional ethical decision-making

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Weapon industries of developed nations fuelling wars — ethical considerations to stop conflicts

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Global warming and climate change as outcomes of human greed — restoring equilibrium with environment

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Swami Vivekananda quote: Learn everything good from others, absorb in your own way, do not become others

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Sardar Patel quote: Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength; both are essential

3(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Immanuel Kant quote: In law a man is guilty when he violates rights; in ethics if he only thinks of doing so

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Concept of Just and Unjust is contextual — scrutinizing changing context to prevent miscarriage of justice

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Mindless addiction to Form ignoring Substance renders injustice; perceptive civil servant carries out true intent

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Suggest a suitable model for Code of Ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS): shift from doctrine of punishment to justice based on Indian ethos

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants & measures to boost efficiency and probity

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Mission Karmayogi: empowering civil servants for productive efficiency and grassroots service delivery

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
CEO of ABC Inc. (2nd largest global tech company in Third World) balancing 48% AI data-center GHG surge since 2019 against 2030 Net Zero pledge

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Senior IPS officer Raman (State DG) countering global terrorist group recruiting unemployed educated youth via social media & communal networks

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
SP (Special Ops) Rohit captures 10 hardcore Naxalites (2 with ■10L bounty), surrounded by 500+ aggressive tribal women while communications fail

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Senior Manager Sneha heading equipment procurement for private hospital's super-speciality center notices her financially struggling brother has bid

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
District Collector during severe summer water shortage facing angry farmers protesting borewell crackdowns while nearby industries pump groundwater

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Biotech scientist Dr. Srinivasan pressured to expedite viral drug trials via data manipulation, skipping informed consent & using rival's patented compounds

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

A1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Society, Gender & Inclusion [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Forests precede civilizations and deserts follow them.

A2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
The empires of the future will be the empires of the mind.

A3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
There is no path to happiness; Happiness is the path.

A4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Education, Science & Knowledge [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
The doubter is a true man of science.

B1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • GS / Policy-Driven → Governance, Ethics & Leadership [Essay | Current-Affairs Linked]
Social media is triggering 'Fear of Missing Out' amongst the youth, precipitating depression and loneliness.

B2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Nearly all men can stand adversity, but to test the character, give him power.

B3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
All ideas having large consequences are always simple.

B4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
The cost of being wrong is less than the cost of doing nothing.

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