



IAS Mains 2015- Basic Themes

G S Paper 1

Q. 1: Ancient Civilisation differed from Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece, preserved culture and tradition

- The ancient civilisation was Indus Valley Civilisation.
- Answer revolves around salient features or uniqueness of Indus Civilisation – Drainage, Town planning, Secular character, script etc
- Continuity of culture – Fire worship, Bull worship, Pottery, Social character, Assimilation and accommodative nature etc

Q. 2: Mesolithic rock art: cultural life and aesthetic sense

- Depiction of animals, hunting scenes, the Mesolithic sites have also painting of social life, sexual activity, child birth, rearing of children and burial ceremony.
- The symmetry of artifacts, evidence of attention to the detail of tool shape, activities etc

Q.3: Independence without Gandhi

- Philosophy and ideological difference
- Change in pattern of Mass participation
- Multipolar Movement
- Silent revolution in village would have not happened
- Reforms within congress organisation would be different

Q.4: Gandhi and Ambedkar: ameliorations of Downtrodden

- Gandhi methods: centered around untouchability abolition, social accommodation
- Ambedkar: Social political and economic empowerment, social recognition and participation, democratisation of empowerment

Q.5: GOI 1935 Experience

- Autonomy in Provinces, complete responsibility to Indians, Dyarchy in centre, Relation with Governors and Viceroy, Execution of powers by Indians, Role of Parliamentarians



Q.6: Industrialisation in England, Social status, Indian context

- Capital, merchandise, geography, raw materials, scientific revolution, agrarian revolution, commercial revolution. Changes in position of women, child labours, urbanisation, family structure, migration

Q.7: Germany responsible for world wars

- First World War: Support Austrian aggression, Balkan crisis, Morocco crisis, militarisation etc
- Second World War: Invasion into Czech and Poland, Violation of Treaty of Versailles, Guns for butter, steel pacts etc

Q.8: Four Cultural diversity

- Linguistic, Religious, Customs and traditions, social identity etc
- Arguments lies in relating this concept with nation building
- Pluralism concept builds national identity
- Understanding each other unique cultural identity leads to cherishing culture thereby building national identity

Q.9 Growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the mains cause of population increase

- It's both.
- Those who think population growth causes poverty advocate programs in family planning and population education.
- Those who think poverty causes population growth favour direct economic aid, jobs, capital investment. Take care of development, they say, and the birth rate will take care of itself.

Q.10 Sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes

- Better sex ratios among tribals could reflect a combination of positive and negative factors; cultural gender parity as well as lack of access to pre-natal diagnostic technology.
- Similarly, the female work participation rate – the proportion of women who are in the workforce – which is considered an indicator of female empowerment, is highest among STs, followed by SCs



Q.11 Changes in the trends of labour migration

- Decline in male migration, increasing interstate mobility among male in urban area, steady increase of urban migrants in lower economic class and decline in labour force participation especially among females

Q.12 Positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India

- It provides opportunities for not only working men, but also women, who are becoming a larger part of the workforce.
- With new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher pay, which raises self-confidence and brings about independence.
- This, in turn, can promote equality between the sexes, something that Indian women have been struggling with their entire lives.
- Globalization has the power to uproot the traditional treatment towards women to afford them an equal stance in society.
- For working women, this discrimination is extended to the workplace also. The improper and insufficient dietary intake along with the heavy workload results in nutritional disorders.

Q.13 Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste

- The essence of caste, it may be seen, is not an identity but a hierarchy. Under exogenous pressure, caste feigns as identity but once the pressure is removed, it seeks hierarchy within and begins splitting.
- This in part explains why the ethnic identities constructed on the basis of caste in the emancipation project have not worked.
- The Dalit constructed by the Ambedkarite movement as a pan-Indian identity of the ex-untouchables appeared viable at one time, but in reality failed to bring all the untouchables together.
- Now it is getting further splintered along sub-caste lines. All the ethnic identities, both earlier and now, which used caste as their basis have met or will meet the same fate.

14. Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence climate, fishing and navigation?

- Rotation of the earth, wind, landscapes and gravity influence ocean currents. Currents: cold and warm currents influence the climate, fishing and navigation like the following.



- Fog occurs where cold and warm currents meet. Warm currents in some regions extend up to temperate coasts (e.g- Eastern U.S, Western Europe) and moderate weather conditions prevail even in winter.
- Water does not freeze in North Sea due to the temperature extension of Gulf Stream.
- Currents bring the algae from tropics to subtropics coast and the confluence of warm and cold currents enhances the fish resources. It helps to navigate in a particular direction especially for small boats and ships.

15. Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three mega cities of the country but the air pollution is much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so?

- Major reasons for air pollution: Highly concentrated automobiles especially two wheelers, poor road networks, dry air conditions and other urban developmental activities.
- Delhi has high concentration of vehicles relatively than other cities. Due to the location factor (Delhi is located far away from coast and subtropical zone) it has more dust and other air pollutants.
- High relative humidity reduces the concentration of dust and other pollutants by depositing the particles in the surface.
- Humidity absorbs this. Problem is serious in Delhi than in other cities.
- Because of population density is a major problem in the city. In winter season, it may cause smog.

16. India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.

- Even India has many perennial Rivers in the northern parts, Central peninsular part, western part, North western part and some urban centres suffer due to water scarcity.
- Especially in South India, all rivers are non-perennial and monsoon dependent. Lack of rain water harvesting methods enhances the problems of water scarcity. River pollutant is other one reason for the scarcity issue.
- Over exploitation of sand in the rivers due to rapid urbanisation causes less water flow in the rivers.
- Over exploitation of ground water is an issue here.
- Availability of water is enough to feed the people but unregulated utilisation causes the problem of scarcity.



17. The states of J&K, H.P and Uttarakhand are reaching the limits of their ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate.

- The places having the ideal conditions to develop tourism industry. But the problem is developmental activities due to tourism.
- The consequences of development activities cause ecological imbalance.
- Sustainability is not maintained in those regions.
- The upper course of Ganga has many pilgrimage centres and attracts pilgrims from various parts of the country and causes the issues like solid waste, pollutants, and environmental damages.
- The problems can be managed.
- Unless the proper regulation measures are taken, ecological imbalance will be caused.

18. How far do you agree that the behaviour of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscapes? Discuss.

- Urbanisation by destroying a healthy ecosystem, agricultural activities by destroying forests cause change in behaviour of Indian monsoon.
- For e.g. Clear cutting in hills and mountains causes severe deforestation and reduces the condensation capacity of moisture in the air.
- Urban heat island enhances the convection process and fringe zones are affected severely.
- Recent urban flooding in India was caused not by the regular monsoon but due to humanizing landscapes.

19. Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration.

- Smart cities in India are developed by choosing existing cities.
- Smart cities are eco-friendly and is planned to keep sustainability. Sustainability can be maintained by balancing both rural and urban centres. Rural zone's natural capital is utilized for urban development.
- There are interdependencies between rural and urban zones in regional development.
- So without smart village, we cannot create smart cities.
- Only economic services by the rural regions are considered for development.
- Ecological services provided by the rural should be considered to develop the region even the urban also.
- It can be achieved only through smart villages.



20. What are the economic significances of discovery of oil in Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences?

- Oil resources in the regions like West Asia and in other major exporter countries, resource will be over within 50 to 100 years.
- A next largest reserve of Natural Gas and Oil is available in Arctic.
- New reserves have been explored in the equatorial forests regions also.
- Consequences: To exploit oil reserves, we have to break the ice cover.
- It will increase the mean sea level.
- The pollutants originated due to mining of these resources severely will damage the Arctic ecosystem like extinction of species.
- The consequent impact will be felt in other parts the world also like destruction of fertile land, salt water intrusion, submergence of many islands.

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