

**GENERAL STUDIES**

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

**INSTRUCTIONS**

*Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions.*

There are FOUR questions and all are to be attempted.

Candidates should attempt questions/parts as per the instructions given in the questions.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Candidates are required to write clear, legible and concise answers and to adhere to word limits wherever indicated. Failure to adhere to word limits may be penalized.

All parts and sub-parts of a question are to be attempted together in the answer-book.

Answers must be written in ENGLISH only.

1. Answer *all* of the following (in not more than 200 words each) : 5×5=25
  - (a) Discuss the reasons for the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization in the beginning of the 2nd Millennium BC. 5
  - (b) Discuss the contributions of Chandragupta Maurya in creating the first Indian empire. 5

- (c) Why is Bhakti Movement considered an important secularizing force in medieval India? 5
- (d) Should the era of the Great Mughals be considered as successful in creating a harmonious and strong empire in India? Discuss. 5
- (e) How was the controversial McMahon Line responsible for the Indo-China War of 1962? 5

2. Answer *all* of the following (in not more than 200 words each) : 5×5=25

- (a) If Himalayas were not there, what could have been the geographical/climatic conditions in northern part of India? 5
- (b) How do El Niño and La Niña affect the climate in different parts of the world? 5
- (c) Petroleum refineries in India are not necessarily located in the areas of production of crude oil. Discuss. 5
- (d) Discuss the ecological significance of mangroves on tropical estuaries. 5
- (e) Does climate change make India more vulnerable to natural disaster? 5

3. Answer *all* of the following (in not more than 200 words each) : 5×5=25

(a) Discuss critically the collegiums system for the appointment of the Higher Judiciary. 5

(b) Discuss the significance of the Fundamental Duty added with the 86th Amendment to the Indian Constitution. 5

(c) Should MPLAD be abolished? Critically examine. 5

(d) What is the significance of 'Zero Hour' in the proceedings in the Indian Parliament? 5

(e) Discuss how the Election Commission of India ensures smooth conduct of elections. 5

4. Answer *all* of the following (in not more than 200 words each) : 5×5=25

(a) How can genetic engineering help in India's struggle for food security? 5

(b) Despite of a poor public health care system in the country, India could achieve the distinction of a polio-free country. Discuss. 5

(c) What do you understand by sting journalism? What are its ethical and legal dilemmas? 5

- (d) Elucidate the significance and legal sanctity of DNA test/matching in determining the heredity. 5
- (e) What has/have been the objective(s) of Mark Zuckerberg in buying 'WhatsApp'? 5

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