



Mains Notes for IAS and PCS

GS-1 General and World Geography

Last year Question papers

1. Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro – climatic changes.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
2. “The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides.” Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
3. The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
4. South China Sea has assumed great geo – political significance in the present context. Comment.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
5. Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable of flood conditions. Discuss.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
6. Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
7. Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
8. In what ways micro – watershed development projects will help in water conservation in drought prone and semi – arid regions of India?
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
9. Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three mega cities of the country but the air pollution is much more a serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so?
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
10. India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
11. The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are reaching the limits of their ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate.(Civil Services Examination 2015)
12. How far do you agree that the behaviour of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscapes? Discuss.
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
13. What are the economic significance of discovery of oil in Arctic sea and its possible environmental consequences?
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
14. Most of the unusual climate happenings are explained as an outcome of the El – Nino effect. Do you agree?
(Civil Services Examination 2014)
15. Why are the world’s fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of fold mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes.
(Civil Services Examination 2014)
16. Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos.
(Civil Services Examination 2014)
17. Tropical cyclones are largely confined to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why?
(Civil Services Examination 2014)
18. Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub – continent.
(Civil Services Examination 2014)



19. Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shivaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain. **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
20. Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans, which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis of the world. **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
21. Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the Eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water? **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
22. How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa? **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
23. Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world. **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
24. (a) What do you understand by the theory of continental drift? Discuss the prominent evidences in its support. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
- (b) The recent cyclone on the East coast of India was called Phailin. How are the tropical cyclones named across the world? Elaborate. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
25. (a) Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitats of the world. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
- (b) What do you understand by the phenomenon of temperature inversion in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place? **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
26. Major hot deserts in Northern hemisphere are located between 20° – 30° North latitudes and on the Western side of the continents. Why? **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
27. (a) Bring out the causes for more frequent occurrence of landslides in the Himalayas than in Western Ghats. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
- (b) There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the Western Ghats. Why? **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
28. (a) Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in the Southern states of India? Discuss with justification. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
- (b) Analyse the factors for highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
29. With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, the atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
30. It is said that India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resources doesn't appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
31. Why have the resources rich African and South Asian countries remained poor for decades? Explain. **(Civil Services Examination 2012)**
32. Write short note on the impact of climate change on water resources in India. **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
33. "As regards the increasing rates of melting of Arctic Sea Ice, the interests of the Arctic Council nations may not coincide with those of the wider world". **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
34. "Strategic interests seem to be replacing commercial interests for the host country with regard to Cam Ranh Bay". Amplify. **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
35. Causes for dominant dendritic pattern of drainage in the Gangetic Plains. **(Civil Services Examination 2010)**
36. Write short note on Frontogenesis and Frontolysis. **(Civil Services Examination 2010)**
37. Write about Golden Revolution. **(Civil Services Examination 2010)**
38. Explain break of bulk towns. **(Civil Services Examination 2010)**



39. Explain sea – floor spreading. (Civil Services Examination 2010)
40. Write about Transhumance in India. (Civil Services Examination 2010)
41. List the significant local storms of the hot weather season in the country and bring out their socio – economic impact. (Civil Services Examination 2010)
42. Are the dedicated freight corridor railway project and the golden quadrilateral road project mutually complementary or competitive? (Civil Services Examination 2010)
43. Write brief note on Pastoralism in about 20 words. (Civil Services Examination 2010, 1997)
44. Elaborate the steps taken by the Government for regionally differentiated approach to increase crop production and diversification in the country. (Civil Services Examination 2009)
45. Assess the significance of coastal regions in the economic development of India. (Civil Services Examination 2009)
46. Bring out the significance of the various activities of the Indian Meteorological Department. (Civil Services Examination 2009)
47. Write about Fruit Production in India. (Civil Services Examination 2009)
48. Write about National Waterways. (Civil Services Examination 2009)
49. Mention about Ultra Mega Power Projects. (Civil Services Examination 2009)
50. Write about agricultural productivity in India remains low. Explain the reasons for this situation. (Civil Services Examination 2008)
51. Write short note on Terai Region. (Civil Services Examination 2008)
52. Bring out the special economic zone and its pros and cons. (Civil Services Examination 2008)
53. The winter rains in North India are largely related to Jet Streams and Western Disturbances. Bring out the relationship. (Civil Services Examination 2008)
54. Write short note on Norwesters. (Civil Services Examination 2008)
55. Write about Organic Farming. (Civil Services Examination 2008)
56. Write short note on Buckingham Canal. (Civil Services Examination 2008)
57. Write short note on Indira Point. (Civil Services Examination 2007)
58. Write short note on Inceptisols. (Civil Services Examination 2007)
59. Write causes of Chambal ravines. (Civil Services Examination 2007)
60. Explain how the Himalayan and the Tibetan highlands play an important role in the development of the South – West monsoon. (Civil Services Examination 2007)
61. Write short note on Jarawas. (Civil Services Examination 2007)
62. Write short note on New Moore Island. (Civil Services Examination 2006)
63. Write short note on Hussain Sagar Lake. (Civil Services Examination 2006)
64. Write short note on National Water Grid. (Civil Services Examination 2006)
65. Why do the rivers of West coast not form a delta? (Civil Services Examination 2006)
66. Write short note on winter rainfall in India. (Civil Services Examination 2006)
67. Bring out the prospects of development of alternative energy sources of India. (Civil Services Examination 2006)
68. What is rain harvesting? Describe its relevance in the Indian context.
- Or
- Elucidate the factors contributing to the growing need for rain water harvesting in India, both rural and urban.
69. Write short note on Karewas. (Civil Services Examination 2005)
70. Write short note on Regurs. (Civil Services Examination 2005)
71. Write causes of soil erosion and its control in India. (Civil Services Examination 2005)
72. Negative impact of Shifting Cultivation. (Civil Services Examination 2005)
73. Write short note on significance of Lake Chilka. (Civil Services Examination 2005)
74. Write short note on causes of droughts in India. (Civil Services Examination 2005)

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75. Explain Sethusamudram Project. (Civil Services Examination 2005)
76. "Political boundaries and regional boundaries need to be co – terminus." Do you agree? (Civil Services Examination 2005)
77. Why are the Aravallis called a divide between Mewar and Marwar? (Civil Services Examination 2004)
78. Write short note on the Sambhar Lake. (Civil Services Examination 2004)
79. Write short note on Sabarkantha and Banaskantha. (Civil Services Examination 2004)
80. Write short note on El Nino, La Nina and Monsoon Rains. (Civil Services Examination 2004)
81. Write short note on the Sundarbans. (Civil Services Examination 2004)
82. Write short note on Pareechu Lake. (Civil Services Examination 2004)
83. Mention about Bombay High. (Civil Services Examination 2004)
84. Examine the distribution of oil refineries in India. (Civil Services Examination 2004)
85. What is Golden Quadrilateral? How will it help in the economic development of country? (Civil Services Examination 2004)
86. What is MRTS? Where is it in operation? (Civil Services Examination 2003)
87. Describe the major characteristics of rivers of peninsular India. (Civil Services Examination 2003)
88. Mention the areas of Shola forests in India. (Civil Services Examination 2003)
89. Account for the very high concentration of salt extraction industries in the Saurashtra and South Tamil Nadu Coast. (Civil Services Examination 2003)
90. Who are Todas and where do they live? (Civil Services Examination 2003)
91. Name any four principal languages of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. (Civil Services Examination 2003)
92. Write about Jhum cultivation process and its consequences. (Civil Services Examination 2002)
93. Discuss the distribution of winds and rainfall over India in the summer monsoon season. (Civil Services Examination 2002)
94. Write short note on Kaziranga National Park. (Civil Services Examination 2002)
95. Write briefly about Desert Development Programme. (Civil Services Examination 2002)
96. Give an account of the tea plantations of Assam and West Bengal and state the economic significance of these plantations. (Civil Services Examination 2002)
97. Write short note on Khetri Copper Project. (Civil Services Examination 2002)
98. Name the main petroleum producing areas in India. (Civil Services Examination 2002)
99. Define the concept of 'growth centres' and evaluate its relevance in regional planning in India. (Civil Services Examination 2002)
100. Write short note on Hirakud Project. (Civil Services Examination 2001)
101. Write short note on two prominent left bank tributaries of river Ganges. (Civil Services Examination 2001)
102. Had there been no Himalayas, what would have been the winter climate of North India? (Civil Services Examination 2001)
103. What are mangroves and in what way are they useful to us? (Civil Services Examination 2001)
104. Write about Glacier. (Civil Services Examination 2001)
105. Write short note on Equinox. (Civil Services Examination 2001)
106. Name the main physiographic divisions of India and give the salient features of each division. (Civil Services Examination 2000)
107. Write short note on Nagarjuna Sagar Project. (Civil Services Examination 2000)
108. Write short note on India's Laterite Soils. (Civil Services Examination 2000)
109. What is wasteland? Write a note on prospects of wastelands development in India. (Civil Services Examination 2000)
110. Write short note on Mango Showers. (Civil Services Examination 2000)

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111. Mention the agro – climatic regions of India stating the basis of classification. (Civil Services Examination 2000)
112. Explain the major racial groups of India. (Civil Services Examination 2000)
113. Write about Multi – level planning in India. (Civil Services Examination 2000)
114. What is the importance of Indian Ocean for India? (Civil Services Examination 1999)
115. How is deforestation of Himalayas disturbing the ecological balance of North India? (Civil Services Examination 1999)
116. What is dry farming? Discuss its relevance in augmenting the food supply in India? (Civil Services Examination 1999)
117. What constitute a Minor Irrigation Project? (Civil Services Examination 1998)
118. What do you know about the following? (Civil Services Examination 1998)
119. Write short note on Narmada Sagar Dam. (Civil Services Examination 1998)
120. Explain the causes of the Indian Monsoon. Or
- Discuss the origin of Monsoon in India. (Civil Services Examination 1997)
121. What are the objectives of social forestry? (Civil Services Examination 1997)