



Mains Notes for IAS and PCS

GS-2

Last year Questions papers

1. Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics?
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
2. To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note “temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir”, temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
3. Exercise of CAG’s powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government’s Policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
4. Discuss each adjective attached to the word ‘Republic’ in the preamble. Are they defensible in the present circumstances?
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
5. What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
6. Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a Federal Constitution? Discuss.
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
7. Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizens a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy.
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
8. Khap Panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extra – constitutional authorities often delivering pronouncements amounting to human rights violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, executive and the judiciary to set the things right in this regard.
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
9. Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulations on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and judgment(s) of the Apex Court in this regard.
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
10. Instances of President’s delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time limit specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse.
(Civil Services Examination 2014)
11. Starting from inventing the ‘basic structure’ doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy.
(Civil Services Examination 2014)
12. Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, but it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong centre a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. Discuss.
(Civil Services Examination 2014)
13. The “Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members” as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un – codified and unenumerated privileges to



- continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'.
How can this problem be addressed? **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
14. What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression. Discuss. **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
15. The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for obligation to operate non – profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss of the proposed reforms is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railway or the private container operators. **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
16. Recent directives from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the state. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
17. Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
18. The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution. Discuss critically. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
19. What are the rights within the ambit of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution? **(Civil Services Examination 2012)**
20. "Essentially all that is contained in Part IVA of the Constitution is just a codification of tasks integral to the Indian way of life". Critically examine this statement. **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
21. "The exercise of executive clemency is not a privilege but is based on several principles and discretion has to be exercised in public considerations". Analyse this statement in the context of the judicial powers of the President of India. **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
22. Distinguish between 'departmental related parliament standing committees' and 'parliamentary forums'. **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
23. Evolution of 'green benches' in our judiciary. Comment. **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
24. What are the grounds of disqualification of a Member of Parliament from either House? Quote relevant provisions in your answer. **(Civil Services Examination 2010)**
25. Legislative powers assigned to the Rajya Sabha under Article 249 and Article 312 of the Constitution. **(Civil Services Examination 2010)**
26. Bring out the powers and responsibilities attached to the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. **(Civil Services Examination 2010)**
27. How is disagreement between the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of a state in passing of an Ordinary Bill, resolved? **(Civil Services Examination 2010)**
28. Significance of 26th November in the country's polity. **(Civil Services Examination 2009)**
29. What is Pocket Veto? **(Civil Services Examination 2009)**
30. 'As we live in a plural society, we need the greatest freedom to express our opinions even if others find it offensive' – Do you agree? Discuss with reference to some recent incidents in the Indian context. **(Civil Services Examination 2009)**
31. Distinguish between a starred question and an unstarred one asked in the Parliament. **(Civil Services Examination 2008)**
32. What is contempt of Parliament? **(Civil Services Examination 2008)**
33. Distinguish between the auditing and accounting functions of the CAG of India. **(Civil Services Examination 2008)**
34. What were the Major Considerations to have the Governor appointed and not elected? **(Civil Services Examination 2008)**



35. Enumerate the Fundamental Duties incorporated in the Constitution after the 42nd Amendment.
(Civil Services Examination 2008)
36. Do you think there is a need for a review of the Indian Constitution? Justify your view.
(Civil Services Examination 2008)
37. What is a Censure Motion?
(Civil Services Examination 2008)
38. What is meant by Judicial Activism? Evaluate its role in the context of the functioning of Indian Polity.
(Civil Services Examination 2008)
39. Discuss the composition and functions of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
(Civil Services Examination 2008)
40. MM Punchhi Commission.
(Civil Services Examination 2008)
41. What is a Constitution? What are the main sources of the Indian Constitution?
(Civil Services Examination 2007)
42. What is the common point between Articles 14 and 226 of the Indian Constitution?
(Civil Services Examination 2007)
43. What is casting vote?
(Civil Services Examination 2007)
44. Bring out the difference between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy. Discuss some of the measures taken by the Union and State Governments for the implementation of the Directive Principles of State Policy.
(Civil Services Examination 2007)
45. What is the importance of Right to Constitutional Remedies?
(Civil Services Examination 2007)
46. Under what circumstances, Parliament may legislate on State subjects?
(Civil Services Examination 2007)
47. How is the President of India elected?
(Civil Services Examination 2007)
48. What are the exceptions when the President of India is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers?
(Civil Services Examination 2007)
49. What is Protem speaker?
(Civil Services Examination 2007)
50. Bring out the issues involved in implementing compulsory primary education in India.
(Civil Services Examination 2006)
51. To what extent can the President withhold his assent to a Bill already passed by the Parliament?
(Civil Services Examination 2006)
52. What is Consolidated Fund of India?
(Civil Services Examination 2006)
53. Explain the following terms.
(Civil Services Examination 2006)
- (i) Dissolution of the House.
- (ii) Prorogation of the House.
- (iii) Adjournment of the business of the House
54. Is the High Courts power to issue 'writs' wider than that of the Supreme Court of India?
55. Give your view on the Right to Freedom of religion as enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Do they make India a secular state?
(Civil Services Examination 2005)
56. In what ways can the President of India ascertain the views of the Supreme Court on a particular Bill?
(Civil Services Examination 2005)
57. Who and what does the Indian Parliament consist of?
(Civil Services Examination 2005)
58. What is meant by 'double jeopardy'?
(Civil Services Examination 2005)
59. What are the steps that the Election Commission may take if a recalcitrant State Government wants to put off assembly elections?
(Civil Services Examination 2005)
60. What is the significance of a Preamble to a Constitution? Bring out the philosophy of the Indian Polity as enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?
(Civil Services Examination 2004)
61. Discuss how the Constitution of India provides equal rights?
(Civil Services Examination 2004)
62. What is Habeas Corpus?
(Civil Services Examination 2004)



63. What are the constitutional restrictions imposed upon the power of borrowing of the State Government? **(Civil Services Examination 2004)**
64. Discuss the meaning of breakdown of constitutional machinery. What are its effects? **(Civil Services Examination 2004)**
65. Define Money – Bill. Discuss how it is passed in the Parliament. **(Civil Services Examination 2004)**
66. How can a judge of the Supreme Court be removed? **(Civil Services Examination 2004)**
67. What is a Finance Commission? Discuss the main functions of the State Finance Commission. **(Civil Services Examination 2004)**
68. Highlight the significance of Forty Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of India. **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
69. Identify the major obstacles in the smooth functioning of Parliamentary democracy in India. **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
70. How is the Vice – President of India elected? **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
71. Discuss the question of death sentence and Presidential clemency **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
72. State the difference between the Council of Ministers and the Cabinet? **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
73. What is a point of order? When can it be raised? **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
74. What is the Privilege Motion? **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
75. What is meant by ‘sine – die’ adjournment? **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
76. Explain the discretionary powers of the Governor of a State? **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
77. What are the distinctive features of the Lokpal Bill introduced in the Parliament this year? **(Civil Services Examination 2003)**
78. Discuss the constitutional provisions related to non – justiciable directives binding upon the states. **(Civil Services Examination 2002)**
79. What is the import of the 84th Amendment Act of the Indian Constitution? **(Civil Services Examination 2002)**
80. How is the Constitution of India amended? Do you think that the procedure for amendment makes the Constitution a play thing in the hands of the Centre? **(Civil Services Examination 2002)**
81. Under what Article of the Constitution can the Union Government play its role in setting interests water disputes? **(Civil Services Examination 2002)**
82. Why does the Constitution of India provide different forms of Oaths for the President, the Minister, the legislators and the members of the judiciary? Discuss their significance. **(Civil Services Examination 2002)**
83. What is meant by the ‘Lame – duck session’ of the legislature? **(Civil Services Examination 2002)**
84. Describe the methods of delimiting Constituencies for Parliamentary elections in India. **(Civil Services Examination 2002)**
85. Explain the role of the Public Accounts Committee. **(Civil Services Examination 2002)**
86. What is the position of the Supreme Court under the Constitution of India? How far does it play its role as the guardian of the Constitution? **(Civil Services Examination 2002)**
87. What is the constitutional position of Directive Principles of State Policy? How has it been interpreted by the Judiciary after the emergency in 1975 – 77? **(Civil Services Examination 2001)**
88. Comment on the nature of ordinance making power of the President of India. What safeguards are there against possible misuse? **(Civil Services Examination 2001)**
89. What is Call Attention Motion? **(Civil Services Examination 2001)**



90. When is the device of joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament not available?
(Civil Services Examination 2001)
91. What is Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha?
(Civil Services Examination 2001)
92. What are the main differences between the passage of a Constitution Amendment Bill and other Legislative Bills?
(Civil Services Examination 2001)
93. Examine the role of the Estimates Committee.
(Civil Services Examination 2000)
94. What are the Constitutional limitations on the free movement of Indian throughout the country?
(Civil Services Examination 2000)
95. What constitutes the doctrine of 'basic features' as introduced into the Constitution of India by the Judiciary?
(Civil Services Examination 2000)
96. How does Parliament control the Union Executive? How effective is its control?
(Civil Services Examination 2000)
97. What according to the Supreme Court constituted 'The Basic Features' which it upheld in cases known as
(Civil Services Examination 1997)
- (i) Keshavananda Bharti vs State of Kerala (1973) and
(ii) Minerva Mills vs Union of India (1997)
98. Discuss the provisions of the Human Rights Protection Act (1993) relating to the following
(Civil Services Examination 2000)
- (i) Definition of human rights
(ii) Composition of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
(iii) Functions of the Commission
(iv) What suggestions have been made for amending the Act for making the role of the NHRC more effective?
99. Discuss the propositions laid down by the Supreme Court of India in the context of Torture in Prisons and Human Dignity.
(Civil Services Examination 2000)
100. Non – alignment is a need, not a creed. Elaborate.
(Civil Services Examination 2000)
101. Highlight the significance of the 24th Amendment to the Constitution of India.
(Civil Services Examination 1999)
102. What is the status of the Right to Property in the Indian Constitution?
(Civil Services Examination 1999)
103. What is the importance of Directive Principle of State Policy? Mention which Directive Principles of State Policy have got primacy over the Fundamental Rights? (Civil Services Examination 1999)
104. On what grounds does Article 15 of the Indian Constitution prohibit discrimination? Indicate the way the concept of 'Special Protection' has qualified this prohibition and contributed to social change.
(Civil Services Examination 1999)
105. In case of any dispute whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not whose decision is final?
(Civil Services Examination 1999)
106. Is there any provision to impeach the Governor of a State?
(Civil Services Examination 1999)
107. What is meant by 'Quality of Life'?
(Civil Services Examination 1999)
108. State the amplitude of Article 21 of the Constitution.
(Civil Services Examination 1998)
109. Which of the cases regarding disqualifications for membership of either House of parliament are decided by the President?
(Civil Services Examination 1998)
110. The Preamble to the Constitution is aimed to embody the fundamental values and the philosophy on which the Constitution is based. Elucidate.
(Civil Services Examination 1997)
111. How are the President and the Vice – President of India elected? What are the constitutional issues involved in their election?
(Civil Services Examination 1997)



112. How can reservation of seats for women in Parliament contribute to the establishment of a socially just society in India?
(Civil Services Examination 1997)

113. Comment on the financial relation between the Union and the States in India. Has post 1991, liberalisation in any way affected it?
(Civil Services Examination 1997)

114. What are the provisions regarding the protection of linguistic minorities in the constitution?
(Civil Services Examination 1997)

