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GENERAL STUDIES COMMENT SHEET **1418**

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Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	974747
Center		Date	

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
			1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
			3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
			4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
			5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
			6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
			7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Q1
Article 338 provides for the
Constitution of National Commission
for Scheduled Castes by the
President

Reasons to strengthen

- * Despite affirmative action,
SCs continue to lag
behind the general
population
- A dalit women will live
14.6 yrs lesser than woman
from another caste (UN report)
- Low representation of SCs
in higher bureaucracy
- Lack of groundlevel data
for specific interventions
- Untouchability still continues
in rural pockets
despite Article 17
- More criminals belong to SCs
than their proportion in

population .

- GER at tertiary level continues to be low
- Political empowerment (representation in LS) hasn't led to social and economic empowerment

Way Forward

Reforms like increasing institutional strength through

- * giving penal powers
- * mandating its report discussion in parliament
- * autonomous functioning by reducing role of govt in appointment process

Q2

There is an increasing trend of money and muscle power in Indian politics. ADR report points that 43.5% of MPs elected in 2019 have criminal cases against them.

RPA Act, 1951

Though it provides a legal backing for clean politics, it is hardly enforced.

* Article 123(3A) disallows asking for votes on the basis of caste, religion etc.

yet hardly any MP has action taken against him/her

* Election Commission (Article 324) can stop convicted from contesting elections but not under trials

* Culture of apathy amongst voters has led to normalization of criminalization

of politics.

Way Forward

* Empowering ec to derigister
political parties, fasttracking

criminal trials against MLs/MLAs,

partial state funding in
kind (Indrajit Gupta Comm)

can be possible solutions

* RPA Act as a law can be
effectual only when the
institutions that enforce it ~~are~~
are effective & powerful.

Q3

Gram Nyayalayas were established under Gram Nyayalas act, 2008 to ensure accessible justice at the ground level.

Challenges

- * lack of Gram Nyayalayas
 - not being set up state govts
- * irregular nature of this institution
 - no strictness in schedule, number of sessions, timings etc leading to laxity of procedure
- * lack of popularity of this means
- * Jurisdictional problems:
 - It is allowed jurisdiction in civil and

compoundable criminal cases but
grey areas exist.

* Questions of proficiency and
upholding legal character

→ often grassroot level
justice is plagued with
power dynamics * because
of influence of locals.

Way Forward

* Strict supervision by district
court, adoption of technology
in monitoring, disposing
cases can be adopted.

Q4

Indian executive is often referred to as cabinet form of government due to concentration of power in such groups

Other manifestations of 'Alternate Mechanisms' include Empowered group of ministers, secretaries under Govt Business rules 1961

Rationale

* Low number of stakeholders
participants

↓
faster decision making

* de-politicized nature
away from compulsions of electoral politics

* Bureaucratic style →
efficiency in policy making

* Streamlines policy making
- avoids fragmentation

- * Uses domain knowledge extensively
- * Technocratic style of governance

Conclusion

While 'Alternate Mechanisms' are efficient and fast, they bypass parliamentary scrutiny undermining popular sovereignty.

Balance and consultation is key to multistakeholder approach.

Q5 Bureaucracy is the steel
frame of India that enables
the functioning and
administration of democracy.

* Paradoxical nature
democracy is based on the
idea of representation
reflecting popular sovereignty
whereas bureaucracy works
behind curtains as

professionals
* This leads to essential
difference between
bureaucratic governance
administration and
democratic governance

* Democracy involves
multiple stakeholders while
bureaucracy is often
seen as an ivory tower

Complementary nature

Both - democracy and bureaucracy are
the cogs of the wheel that
govern the country.

* Political leaders take
decisions with domain
expertise from bureaucracy.

* Bureaucracy implements
and administers policies

* Bureaucracy provides solidity
and continuity (fixed term)
whereas democracy is
based on the principle of
change.

Q6

E-governance involves leveraging the digital space to improve service delivery and admin-citizen interface

Empowering citizens

: sites like mygov.in provide data as a public mood enabling better monitoring of funds

* PRAGATI : leverages geo-spatial technology, video conferencing for grievance redressal.

It makes governance more accessible

* e-governance ensures that physical barriers are overcome.

This fosters social inclusivity by including

marginalized sections like SCs,
STs in the digital
paradigm

* Faster delivery and targetted
delivery is expedited.

example: ordering of AADHAR
reprint online

* re-emphasizes the role of
consumer/citizen experience

* Enables service delivery through
innovative methods
eg: medicines through
drones.

Shillong Declaration has
affirmed the centrality of
e-governance in ensuring
inclusive development.

Technology ought to be
leveraged for Sabka
Saath Sabka Vikas

Q1

NALSA judgement provided with the right to self determination, upholding human dignity and choice

The Transgender Person's Act, 2019 suffers from shortcoming

① Certification by district magistrate dilutes the essence of SC judgement

② Makes self-identification into a judicial process, violating right to privacy (Puttaswamy)

③ Question of consent about sex-reassignment surgeries on trans-gender children is problematic

④ Moreover, inadequate safeguards i.e. less

punishment for the violators
as compared to protection
provided under other laws.

eg: Assault is punishable
2 months to 6 yrs

whereas
in other laws assault
against women can lead
to life imprisonment

(50)

Conclusion

SC Judgement in NALSA 2014
recognized "third gender" but
the actualization of their
rights has a long way
to go

Q8

Health is a holistic idea that harmonizes aspects like social, physical and emotional well being.

UHC through the welfare state apparatus can transform social capital (human resources) to achieving the potential of the demographic dividend

Right to health as FR

- * would help giving symbolic significance and centralize health into development discourse
- * could lead to health expenditure raising to 2.5% of GDP (National health policy recommendation)
- * Kerala's example of high HDI due to health

investment and community
participation can be right cited.
* When health becomes legal
right, state will be
obligated to respond and
make Article 46 - (raise
health standards) a
reality

* Will allow approaching the
courts in case of violation
(Article 32, 226)

Conclusion

Declaring UHC requires a
legal mandate backed by
political will. Ayushman

Bharat is a step in
the right direction.

"Health is national
wealth"

Q9

India has the largest diaspora amounting to 17.5 million (UN).

The Gulf has a significant proportion

Asset

- * Send remittances amounting to 2.9% of GDP (World Bank report)
- * Soft power enable projection of Indian national interest and help foster goodwill
- * Ease unemployment strain of the government as they do jobs in foreign countries
- * help political relations

Challenges

- * Most of them engage in unskilled, manual labour

- and belong to poor sections of society.
- They are exploited by Kafala system
 - * Movements for nationalization of workforce in Gulf.
eg: Saudization rhetoric
 - * are deprived of citizenship and welfare rights.
 - * Can cause fr. foreign relations issues for the nation.
eg: tension between Gulf countries and India during MRES outbreak.

Conclusion

Harnessing the diaspora for strategic dividends requires balancing of their rights and economic potential. Political relations with Gulf are crucial for India.

Q10

The World Food Programme is a UN organization formed in 1961.

* It's main functions include assuring food and nutrition security in the developing world as well contributing to poverty eradication.

* It is funded by government contributions as well as from private sector.

* It leverages technology, local governance structures and inter-country co-operation.

* It serves around 100 million people in 80 countries.

* works as an emergency responder.

Contribution to India

* PDS system :
It is helping India
make it more inclusive
and accessible by
employing automation
and e-technology

* has encouraged food
fortification

Q11

Civil society groups are an intrinsic part of democracy. They ensure civic participation and generate interest in social work and public welfare.

* Recent incidents involving regulatory crackdown on Amnesty India and the use of FCRA, 2010 to prevent funding of NGOs attracts attention

Shrinking space

* 'Protest and dissent' are important. SC termed 'dissent' as the safety valve of democracy.

* Foreign contributions help build trans-national unity on issues like climate change, poverty, environment protection etc

* NGO and other civil society often hold government accountable by giving voice to the voiceless.

eg: Narmada Bachao Andolan.

↳ amplify voices of marginalized

like forest dwellers

↓
deepen democracy and

make it inclusive

* Citizen mobilization ensures that those in power rule accordingly to honour popular sovereignty

↳ Mazdoor Kisan Shakti

Sangathan (MKSS helped

bring in the RTI, Act

through their agitation in Rajasthan

The other side

* An IB report comments that often protests against developmental activities are motivated

by foreign interests.
→ Koondakulum protests received
money from Western/American
donors

→ Such agitations cost us growth in
GDP as development activities
are halted

→ Funds are often used to
further 'political' activities i.e.
influence electoral politics

conclusion

* Balancing the imperatives
of dissent and regulatory
propriety is key in ensuring
civil society groups function
to deepen democracy

Q12

The Prime Minister is the head of the Government. His office has become the centre of policy making due to various factors

- Parliament being sidelined
- ↳ Brute majority of ruling party in the lower house
- ↳ the parliamentary form becoming executive form of governance

Implications

- ↳ Policy making becomes a technical and regulatory exercise. Does not take into account different views due to lack of involvement of MP's of different parties

- Opposition role is diminished
- power is given to non-elected
bureaucracy subverting
popular sovereignty on which
our republic is based.
- leads to tension between
bureaucratic and democratic
models of leadership
- Concentration of power leads
to an institute becoming
an ivory tower that
functions without checks
and balances
- can lead to authoritarianism
- Bureaucracy ^{sole control of} might mean
policy that is out of
touch with common man
- Positive sides

- ① Efficiency in policy making
because less stakeholders
are involved
- ② Will bring in policies bereft
of populist measures
eg: farm loan waiver

Conclusion

Guillotine, Ordinance (Article 123),
making have further sidelined the
role of Parliament in policy
making. PMO is primarily a
bureaucratic office that should
aid the legislative process rather
than dominating it.

Q13

Since the 1980s, under the guidance of PN Bhagwati PILs became an intrinsic part of judiciary.

- Judiciary has brought in
 - Vishakha guidelines (1998)
(women protection)
 - Prakash Singh guidelines (2006)
(police reforms)
 - pushing executive to adopt witness protection scheme

Because of these reasons, Judicial activism is seen as encroaching the legislative and executive policy making sphere

Positives

- Judiciary is not bound by electoral politics and can give policy directives without populist pressures

- * Pushes reforms in critical areas that haven't been made by legislative due to slow pace and lack of political will
- * upholds the interests of the most marginalized
- * human rights are given legal meaning → empowerment of citizens
- * pro-active judiciary keeps executive on its toes making it more efficient

Negatives

- * Policy making is the function of elected representatives as mandated by constitution.
- * Separation of Powers (Article 50) is violated
- * Judicial overreach reduces faith in parliament as a democratic institute

* Judiciary's directives eg:
Prakash Singh guidelines do
not translate into reality due
to lack of political consenses
↓
undermines effectiveness of
judiciary

Conclusion

* NN Palkhevala said that
the Judiciary should function
as an alarm clock and
not a time keeper.

* Judiciary's role as gaurdean
of constitution comes foremost
and judicial activism to that
end is justified as long as
it adheres to the limits of
separation of powers

Q14

The court plays a central role in the administration of rule of law and justice. It is a democratic institute that carries public faith and requires trust and credibility in the eyes of the citizens

Contempt of Courts Act 1971 governs the contempt process. It has come under critique

Positives

- * ensures judicial process is smooth and there is no obstruction of justice due to false news
- * ensures public trust in court of law
- * maintains trust in outcomes
- * undue criticism lowers credibility credibility

* Right to freedom of speech
(Article 19) is balanced
with reasonable restrictions

* malafide speech expressions
lowers the dignity of the
institute

Negatives of contempt

* goes against democratic
spirit of free speech

* Criticism ensures those in
power follow rules and
do their duty

* might make judiciary an
ivory tower

* will lead to unnecessary
prosecution of journalists

* Taking criticism is a sign
of strength

* Judiciary is not infallible
and should evolve through
incorporating and addressing
concerns

* Integrity of institution should
not be enforced through
silence and secrecy - openness
should be the norm.

Only an open judiciary can
adapt with the times & make
constructive criticism a strength

Conclusion

Judiciary as a public institution
has the responsibility to
uphold the ethos of democracy
while maintaining institutional
integrity. "Truth" as a defense
under Contempt Act 1971 is
a step in the right direction

Q15

Custodial violence is a spectre that surks in Indian Policing system. Recently, death of two in Tamil Nadu has brought attention to this issue. Death, rape and violence in police and judicial custody undermines due procedure of law ^(Article 21) and human dignity.

Legal concerns

- ① Right to life (Article 21) is endangered
- ② False confessions because of threat of violence
- ③ lack of access to legal Aid (Article 39A) despite it being recognized as fundamental right
- ④ Violates international norms (UN convention against torture), UDHR, ICCPR

⑤ lack of accountability on
part of officers ↓

function with
impunity

⑥ lack of law against custodial
violence

Challenges

* CDS/hokniti report : * A significant
number of policemen think
violence can be used to

extract confession

* ~~st.~~ killing people
accused of heinous
crimes is not
wrong

All this leading to
culture of 'encounter'

eg: Hyderabad
encounter 'ret'
case

* Creating attitude change
where violence is the
norm.

- ③ separating bringing political will to bring Police Reforms (Prakash Singh guidelines 2006)

Way Forward

- ① Strict implementation of DK Basu guidelines
- ② Regular health check up people under custody
- ③ legal aid accessibility to be increased through domestic district committees and NGOs linkage
- ④ Increase inspection by NHRC and SHRC
- ⑤ Use of technology to ensure rules are being followed.

Q16

Civil society participation enhances public participation in the public sphere and makes government responsive

- ⑥ [RTI] Act, 2009 was assured in part due to efforts of [MKSS] that demanded records in Rajasthan
- ⑦ Access to information empowers and enables citizens to take full membership of political community
- ⑧ Studies by [ADR] have pointed towards the trend of increasing criminalization of politics,
- ⑨ media coverage of the anti corruption movement in 2011 put pressure on fourth pillar

on govt to enact the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013, encouraging oversight of executive/legislative actions

② Movements like 'Save Western ghats, Narmada Bachao have led to mainstreaming EIA in development discourse

③ POCL used the judicial route that led to recognition of "third" gender, expanding accountability for their development and protection

④ Protests after 2012 Delhi gangrape led to the Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013.

Public pressure makes the government responsive to marginalized

community.

civil society acts a check on the powers of the government, ensuring that public good is preserved.

Increased gout - civil society interface (eg: Niti Agyog Portal Darpan) ensures communication that makes gout responsive ensuring accountability and transparency

Q17 India's food stock with FCI is 2.5 times more than required. Our food production has expanded by 6 times since Independence. Yet India has the highest number of stunted and wasted children.

This is the paradox of plenty.

① ^{Solving} Hunger ^{issue} is multi dimensional that covers issues of balanced diet, issues of micronutrient deficiency (or "hidden hunger") and environmental ~~top~~ sustainability of food production.

Suggestions

- ① Universalizing the PDS to resolve exclusion errors
- ② Including culturally and regionally specific deficiency

by letting states decide local
PDS mix

- ③ Including milk - (India largest producer) in ICDS
- ④ Strengthening and technologically monitoring Anganwadis to ensure 100% penetration
- ⑤ Rebranding millets as nutri-millets and including them in PDS
- ⑥ Fortification of Rice, wheat, oil etc under FSSAI guidelines
- ⑦ Empowering PRIs and ULBs to identify vulnerable population and ensuring targetted delivery
- ⑧ involving citizen groups like NGOs to increase gont-civil society interface
- ⑨ local solutions and bottom up approach. eg: Eat Right

Movement of FSSAI should be publicized in conjunction with local authorities

(i) Instituting Grievance Redressal measures at district level

(ii) IEC activities at schools, community centres to propagate healthy eating habits (balanced diet) to prevent hidden hunger

Conclusion

To achieve goal of SDG-2 (zero hunger) and the constitutional promise under Article 48, India needs a comprehensive health management framework.

Q18

MNREGA was enacted in 2005. It was done in pursuit of Grandhi's goal of sustaining the village economy.

Role of wage employment

→ provides disposable income that provides

income security

operationalizes right to decent work under

~~DPSP~~ DPSP
(Article 41)

Increased investment in human capital formation
i.e. education and health

psychologically assuring

→ wage employment generates jobs that can help in economic mobility enabling escape from the poverty trap

→ It ensures money in liquid

form can meet immediate needs
like hunger.

Hence wage employment is
linked to poverty alleviation.

MNREGA -

- ① This act makes right to work
a LEGAL RIGHT
- ① The state has obligation
to provide unskilled
work to, or pay
unemployment allowance
- ① Scheme is universal in
rural areas, regardless of
class, caste status
- ① It is demand based
rather than supply based
- ① concept of household security
one [↓] adult member
is guaranteed
employment

366848

- ① Jobcards are issued and jobs are to be provided within 15 days within 5 km radius
- ② Social Audit is mandatory
- ③ 50% of works approved to be executed by the Gram Panchayat

Conclusion

MNREGA aside from providing income security to rural households has also led to creation of usable public assets like community health centre, roads etc.

Q 19

Increasing confrontation with the ~~dog~~ ~~dog~~ dragon on our shoulder in the continent (~~Doklam~~ ^{depsang} - 2013, Chumar - 2014, Doklam - 2017), the recent LAC clashes and China's militarization of Indian Ocean through string of pearls strategy, has given India opportunity to recalibrate approach.

Opportunities

Domestic : ⊙ Make India aatmanirbhar in strategic areas.

eg: scheme of bulk drug parks to reduce API dependence

- ⊙ Protect Indian manufacturing from chinese dumping
- ⊙ Chinese aggression has provided India a strategic way out of RCEP, safeguarding

domestic industries while protecting from Chinese predatory economics

- ① Self sufficiency in terms of defence manufacturing and R&D

↳ eg: following Shankar committee recommendations

- ② boosting Indian morale by standing upto china

International sphere

- ① India is presenting itself as a more reliable source country for relocation of CVCs

- ② Increasing international co-operation with QUAD countries for balance of power in the subcontinent

↓
contributing to regional credibility i.e. India as a security provider

- ① India's strategic position in the Indo-pacific can be leveraged for maritime security surveillance
- ② Using multilateral institutions to challenge and bring to attention chinese aggression

The way India leverages international political opinion and domestic capabilities will prove key to India's superpower aspirations

Q20

Intra-regional trade in South Asia as compared to increased trade connectivity in South-East Asia (through ASEAN) is very less

India should leverage Act-East and Neighbourhood first policy to yield economic and strategic dividends

Opportunities

- ↳ Ganga-Mekong Cooperation treaty 2000 can increase interconnection with 5 ASEAN countries
- ↳ ~~for~~ Inland Waterway Protocol signed with Bangladesh can aid in increasing connectivity to the other side of the "chicken neck" (North east).
- ↳ The connected from north (Myanmar) to Myanmar and Thailand through

trilateral highway is good
step forward

* There is a lot of scope to
leverage regional institutions
like BIMSTEC, BBIN to
increase linkages

* ~~Border talks~~ Recent criticism
of China, presents India an
opportunity to India

* can lead to the
development of the region
as a whole

Challenges

* border challenges and
national security inhibits

SAFTA, 2009 to be fully
operationalized

* Trust and stable relations
is key to trade
connectivity

- * India's increasing protectionism might deter economic co-operation
- * Cross border terrorism needs to be checked

Way Forward

Developing regional value chains can be beneficial for the region as a whole but requires consensus building amongst stakeholders