

**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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