INDEX TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q. No.</th>
<th>Maximum Marks</th>
<th>Marks Obtained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
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 that authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
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.

All the Best

This document is personalised for Amritpal Kaur (amritpalkaur10@gmail.com)
1. It has been argued that over the years there has been a steady decline in the efficacy of Parliament as an institution of accountability. Analyse and also suggest appropriate measures to address the relevant concerns.

(150 words) 10

This institution of accountability has seen a steady decline as seen in:

1) **Hardly 60 days of conduct of business per year by Parliament** (US has 130 days, UK 140)
2) **Anti-defection law suppresses genuine dissent of legislators**
3) **Schemes such as MPLADS has violated the doctrine of separation of powers**
4) **The politicisation of the office of**
the speaker reduces impartiality
(recently, the speaker refused to
admit no confidence motion as
there was no order in the house)

5) Delegated legislation, guillotine
  closure and passing of key
  bill (eg. Aadhaar) through
  money bill route further lowers
  accountability.

Some measures are:

1) Abolish schemes such as MPLADS
   (Law commission recommendation)

2) Limit use of anti-defection to no
   confidence motions

3) Cut daily allowance if business for
   the day not transacted.

These measures can help the parliament function as the true
representative of the people.
2. Panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) are simultaneously a remarkable success and a staggering failure, depending on the goalposts against which they are evaluated. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

The Panchayati Raj Institutions got constitutional status through the 73rd Amendment Act as a vehicle of democratic decentralization and subsidiarity.

Depending on the goalposts, the PRIs can be evaluated:

1. Ensuring representation of women through 33% quota with states such as Bihar providing 50%.

2. Inclusive governance structure through reservation for SCs and STs.


These factors show that PRIs have
been successful.

However, the following factors reveal otherwise:

1) Empowering lower the third tier of governance through taxation powers, functions, and funds has not happened except in a few states such as Kerala, Andhra Pradesh.

2) State Finance Commissions to devolve revenue share to PRIs are not even operational in some states.

3) Regular meetings of Gram Sabhas and coordination with bureaucracy for participatory governance is still a pipe dream.

It is only if these problems are overcome proactively by states that the 69% population living in rural areas can participate.
3. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is more than just the keeper of our national accounts; it is also a conscience-keeper and a watchdog. Examine the statement in light of making the auditing process more effective.

(150 words)

The Comptroller and Auditor General was called the most important office under the constitution by Dr. Ambedkar. The CAG is the keeper of national accounts as:

1) He/she prescribes the method of maintenance of records.
2) Audits the expenditure of various governmental bodies.
3) Verifies that the appropriated funds from the consolidated fund of India are spent as allowed for.

The CAG is also a conscience keeper and a watchdog because:

1) Audit process reveals any misappropriation of public funds.
2) He/she ensures public resources are not wasted or used for private interests (e.g., the 2G scam)

3) He/she assists the Public Accounts Committee, which is the watchdog of financial activities of the executive.

4) The audit of the Armed forces or the National Rural Health Mission by CAG revealed the underpreparedness and lack of institutional capacity respectively.

So, it becomes necessary to make the audit process more effective by:

1) More human and financial resources

2) Mandating penal action for suspected malfeasance

3) Deploying technology such as Big Data to reveal hidden misappropriation
4. The concern for transparency in political funding is at odds with the Electoral Bond Scheme notified by the government. Critically discuss.

(150 words) 10

Political funding encapsulates a lot of concerns such as level playing field, infusion of black money, buying of political favours by private bodies, influence of foreign parties and criminalization of politics.

It is for these reasons that transparency is paramount in political funding. The government introduced the Electoral Bond scheme under which:

1) Willing donors can buy electoral bonds;
2) of any amount of money;
3) from designated banks without having to disclose their identity.
in the bond:

1) which parties can deposit into their accounts.

This scheme of things militates against the cause of transparency because:

1) Now nobody will know the identity of the donor.

2) The election commission cannot

2) Political favours can be bought without public scrutiny

3) Any amount of money can be donated

Although the bonds were meant to reduce the influence of unaccounted money by necessitating KYC for buying bonds, the problem of lack of transparency in links with organisations of political parties still remains.
Lobbying is the process of rooting for particular interests and policy measures by entities, individuals or organizations, e.g., in the US, retail industry lobbies for friendly policies by funding candidates’ campaigns. It is legal there, illegal in India.

Being illegal, lobbying in India is in a grey legal and policy arena because:

1) Corporations can still donate to political parties but do not openly spell out what they expect in return.
2) Policies might reflect interests.
of certain donors, but are dressed up as being for public good.

In this context, recognition of lobbying has been proposed to:

1) encourage transparency in policy formulation

2) openness, genuine discussion and opinions can be obtained once it is known what the political party will pursue as per lobbyists' interests.

But, in case of India, this can have deleterious impact because:

1) public infrastructure is still inadequate.

2) a large population of poor people cannot buy governments' interest.

So, it can be legalized once an acceptable level of development of what population is achieved.
6. More than a decade after it was passed, the implementation of the RTI Act leaves much to be desired. Comment. Also discuss the issues associated with the recent proposals to amend the RTI Act.

The RTI Act, 2005 ushered the era of information for securing accountability of government and access to entitlements and rights.

The Act mandates provision of information within 30 days and penalizes inaction. However, certain areas are found wanting, such as:

1) Vacant post of public information officer
2) Inadequate infrastructure eg. printers, scanners
3) Poor data maintenance practices
4) Non-forgiving voluntary disclosures by many organisations
5) Mistrust of lack of peoples' awareness to refuse information eg. asking reason
For instance, the RTI Assessment and Advocacy Group's survey showed that 60% of the information sought should have been proactively disclosed.

The recent amendment of the Rule 12 to deny information if the seeker is dead puts the life of activists in danger. Campaign for People's Right to Information shows that 69 RTI Activists have been killed in recent history.

In a country with 22% people living in poverty RTI is an empowering tool to attain what is legally promised. Thus such amendments should be avoided.
7. Critically discuss the evolving policy on reservation in promotions in India with special focus on its ability to meet the objectives of social justice.

(150 words) 10

The reservation policy is a tool of affirmative action in the form of access to education and job opportunities for ensuring social justice to the historically disadvantaged. It aids inclusion.

The evolving policy has maintained the reservations for SCs and STs as well as OBCs through Articles 16(4), 16(4A), 16(4B), 335 and 15(4). Due to lack of clarity in the Nagaraj judgement promotions have been stuck. Also, the government does not have adequate data to prove the lack of proportional representation.
Within this context, the achievement of social justice is still not a reality because:

1) SCs and STs represent minuscule percentage in the top echelons of bureaucracy.

2) The poorer sections are unable to access the benefits of reservations.

3) Inter caste marriages are few and far in between which shows entrenched discrimination despite promotions and higher economic status.

It will take more than action by state to dislodge discrimination. Value based education and ethical conditioning is a long but sure way.
8. India produces enough food for its people, but not all people get enough food to eat. Discussing this paradox, highlight some of the major interventions taken in the past few years in this regard. (150 words) 10

India produced 277 million metric tonnes of food grains in 2017-18, a record. However, 14.5% of the population is still undernourished and 34% under-5 children stunted as per Global Hunger Index.

This paradox is an outcome of many factors such as:

1) No documentation to access PDS shops especially among STs.
2) Over emphasis on cereals and less on micronutrients
3) Lack of sanitation hinders nutrient absorption
4) Maternal low weight causes undernourished babies
Interventions taken in the past few years are:

1) Fortification of cereals such as Vitamin A rich rice

2) Making milk, eggs available through ICDS.

3) National food security act, 2013 provided subsidised food grains to the 67+ population.

4) National nutrition strategy for convergence of interventions.

5) Matritva Vandana Yojana for institutional deliveries and healthy babies.

6) Mothers' absolute affection to encourage breastfeeding.

It is only true that India can put its demographic dividend to productive use.
9. India sees Indian Ocean as not just a water body, but a global stage for continued economic, social, and cultural dialogue. Elaborate. (150 words)

भारत, हिंद महासागर को मात्र एक जल निकाय के रूप में ही नहीं, बल्कि निरंतर आर्थिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक संबंध के एक वैश्विक मंच के रूप में भी देखता है। सबसे स्पष्ट वर्णन कीजिए।

**Indian Ocean** connects the major seacanes of the Atlantic and the Pacific and hosts more than 50% of global sea trade every year.

It is not just a water body for India as it serves a number of interests.

1) **Economic**
   - Blue Economy: fisheries, shipping, seafaring, tourism
   - 70% of trade by value for India is 'sea based'
   - Opportunity to undertake coastal shipping and transport to North East states

2) **Social**
Coastal communities are linked by the commonality of the ocean. Fisher folks economic and social prosperity depends on it.

Cultural

- Historical linkages with maritime countries; e.g., India's MAUSAM initiative to connect maritime littoral states, apply for transnational UNESCO heritage sites.

Hence, Indian Ocean symbolizes India's economic potential, social relevance, and cultural connectivity with its diverse population as well as the world.
10. In the context of India taking greater responsibility in management of the global commons, there has been a shift in India’s climate change negotiation stance. In this context, analyze the evolution of India’s climate policy.

India has taken a lead in representing the urgency of conserving global commons while sustainably utilizing for development needs of the developing countries.

India’s climate policy has evolved in the following manner:

1) Participation is global fora and representing its needs eg. the Rio Summit 1992.
2) Pro-actively joining treaty treaties such as Convention on Biological Diversity.
3) Pressing for developed countries to give their due share in Kyoto.
Protocol and utilizing the clean development mechanisms.

4) Taking up voluntary ambitious climate change action such as the INDCs of 175 GW renewables by 2022 for 40% renewable installed capacity by 2030, 2.5 to 3 billion tonne carbon dioxide sink.

5) Setting up own mechanisms such as international solar alliance to collaborate with willing partners.

6) Initiating research and domestic National Action Plan on climate change.

Therefore it is visible in the abominable sequence that India moved from secondary to primary player.
11. Highlighting the constitutional role of the Finance Commission (FC), discuss the issues which are being debated w.r.t. terms of reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission.

The Finance Commission is said to balance the wheel of fiscal federalism. It is set up under the article 280 of Indian Constitution.

It consists of four members and a chairman who have experience in public administration and financial management, economics and accounts.

The finance commission:
1) Lays down principles governing the devolution of funds to states from the central pool and
distribution among the states.

2) Grants in aid of revenue to be given to states

3) Steps to augment the consolidated funds of states to supplement the resources of local bodies

4) Any other matter as referred to by the President.

The 15th Finance Commission’s terms of reference have been at the centre of debate because:

1) It has been asked to recommend principles of devolution in light of GST. This worries the states which want GST
to be handled *federally*
rather than unilaterally
by the centre through the
FC.

It is indispensable for *co-operative* federalism that such issues
are amicably resolved through mechanisms such as the
*Inter state council* so that
*collective interest* is served.
12. The spirit of the constitution of India represents a synthesis of Indian values, democratic and socialist movements in west and our independence movement. Elucidate.

The constitution represents the will of the people as a whole and thus synthesizes the various strands that exist in India’s history, society and aspirations.

This synthesis can be discussed as under:

1) **Indian Values**

   1) The secularism is of India’s Sarva Dharma Sambhava where state treats religions equally. Article 14, 15, 16, 25 to 28

   2) The diversity of India is sought to be preserved by protection of minority
interests through educational, linguistic rights.

Article 29, 30, 35DA, 350B,

3) Part IX and IX A represent the village and local body government of ancient India.

2) Democratic and socialist movements of West

1) Part IV A of fundamental duties derived from Soviet socialism

2) Parliamentary democracy from Britain Part IV

3) Part IV of Directive Principles represents the British Fabian socialism

4) Ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity of French revolution
3) Independence Movement

1) Accommodation of
   the preservation of Indian
   ethos such as special
   rights for disadvantaged
   sections - SC and STs
   Articles 338, 338 A, 341, 342

2) Respect of sovereignty of
   other nations and peace
   and justice in the world.
   Article 51

The Indian Constitution thus
serves as a guiding light for
the people to remember their
roots and pursue the ideals
set out thus.
13. What is the importance of an independent judiciary in a democracy? Highlight the safeguards in our political-constitutional setup to ensure the independence of judiciary.

The judiciary serves the purpose of checks and balances on the legislature and executive and upholds the rights of the citizens in line with the Constitution.

In a democracy, the importance of an independent judiciary is as below:

1) Promotion of collective good by preventing subversion of democratic institutions

2) Protect fundamental rights through writs (Art. 32)

3) Punish wrongdoings without...
fear or favour eg. cancellation of 2G licenses.

The following safeguards ensure judicial independence:

1) Salaries, allowances and pensions of Supreme Court judges are charged on consolidated fund of India and those of high court judges on funds of states.

2) Removal from office can be only through super procedure given in constitution Art. 124.

3) Appointment is with consultation of the Supreme Court.
4) The apex court appoints its own staff and handles the conditions of service.

These provisions ensure independence of the judiciary, a part of the basic structure of constitution.
14. Even though Indian federalism has matured quite a bit, with states having far greater control of their economic and political management, serious structural problems still remain. Discuss. (250 words)

Indian federalism is a basic structure of the constitution, with states having significant autonomy. Indian federalism is derived from the dual levels of government, each deriving its existence from the constitution.

Indian federalism has matured quite a bit:

1) Co-operative federalism with states having much greater say in how to execute development programmes e.g. state irrigation plans under PM Krishi Sinchayi Yojana.
2) Competitive federalism among states to use competitive edge for attracting capital eg. Investor summits

3) Choosing delegation of powers to lower tiers as per need under 13th and 14th amendment acts.

4) Greater devolution of 42% from central pool by 14th Finance Commission.

Despite these instances, certain structural problems remain, such as:

1) Inequality in development status due to historical problem or low resource base eg. Bihar is much backward than Maharashtra in human development or ease of doing business.
2) Provisions such as Article 356 and powers of governor have can be used to skew political structure in states e.g. the Karnataka elections, Uttarakhand.

3) Lack of co-ordination between state and centre is still there as seen in fiasco over 15th Finance Commission, Dam safety bill or international policy issues such as Teesta seven water sharing.

A number of mechanisms such as zonal councils, inter-state councils, GST Council can be used to resolve issues. Scheme such as 
aspirational district programme seek to reduce the developmental disparities. Federalism, thus, is a continuous journey, rather than a destination.
15. The recent amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 strike a balance between enforcement overzealousness and the need for stringent action against corrupt public servants. Discuss.

The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is the primary legal weapon to tackle and penalize corruption in the public sector.

The recent amendments seek to curb enforcement overzealousness by mandating...
16. Identifying the various issues plaguing the voluntary sector in India, discuss the need for a national accreditation agency to overcome them. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

The National policy on voluntary organisations recognizes the role that the voluntary sector can play in ensuring equitable development and inclusive growth.

The sector suffers from various issues which not only taint the reputation of the entire sector because of some NGOs, but also raise questions about their desirability. These issues are:

1) Unaccounted contribution from foreign contributors that can subvert national interest, e.g., Home Ministry recently
Cancelled FCRA licenses of some NGOs.

2) Funneling of black money.

3) Malpractices' prevalence eg. the Muzaffarpur rape case.

4) Support to left wing extremist as per recent ED reports.

5) Opposition of national projects at the behest of foreign interests eg. in 2012 Kudankulam protests were blamed on foreign NGOs by government.

6) Insufficient accounting practices.

7) Lack of data on outcomes of programmes eg. evening schools run by NGOs have no data on learning outcomes.

8) Promotion of private interests or publicity.
These issues can be addressed through an accreditation agency to:

1) Rate the NGOs based on performance.

2) Review their activities and recommend closure or funding continuity accordingly.

3) Prepare standards for record keeping and auditing.

4) Monitor the flow of funds from donors to prevent money laundering or antimicrobial activity.

5) Reward and encourage good performance.

6) Remove government’s interference or influence for these sectors to flourish.

Effective regulation can balance the interests of the poor with the donors.
17. Given the importance of a teacher in affecting the learning outcomes of children, discuss the problems in the present system of teacher training in India. How can these be addressed?

The teacher is the channel of education for children. The importance of a teacher in affecting learning outcomes is visible from:

1) Children spend major portion of day at school.
2) There is a difference between conceptual understanding and rote learning.
3) Children are impressionable and follow the teacher’s example.
4) Balancing of academics and extracurriculars is in teachers’ hands for holistic development.

The problems ailing teacher
Training in India are:

1) Dilapidated infrastructure of DIETs in the districts

2) Substandard B.Ed. colleges have popped up in the country

3) Lack of focus on training in new methods of teaching and use of digital aids.

4) Overemphasis on academic knowledge rather than hands on capability development

5) Specialisation is not purposefully encouraged for subject excellence

6) Instructor’s and teachers’ posts are vacant in training institutes.

These problems can be addressed by:
1) Upgradation of infrastructure and accreditation of DIETs.

2) Providing resources for learning such as Parshikshak Portal.
   Siksha Portal.

3) Online monitoring of the performance of training schools e.g. Parshikshak Portal.

4) Giving opportunities to get specialisation.

5) Recently, proposal for integrated B.Ed courses has been made. It will ensure holistic teaching expertise.

Since, 50% of school-going students do not meet the benchmarks of their learning levels (ASTER report), it is essential that the component of teaching is strengthened.
18. The implementation of a scheme with such scale and benefit as Ayushman Bharat is likely to face many obstacles. Critically discuss. (250 words) 15

Ayushman Bharat aims to make healthcare accessible to all in a country where out of pocket expenditure on health hovers at around 70%.

"It has two components."

- Health and Wellness centres (HWCs)
- National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS)

- NHPS aims to provide 5 lakh insurance covers to 10 crore poor households for secondary and tertiary treatment.
- HWCS will bring primary healthcare and wellness at the nearest...
health centre.

These initiatives face the following obstacles:

NHPS

1) unreliable data for beneficiary identification
2) hospitals doing unnecessary procedures for insurance money
3) hospitals taking in patients without having sufficient facilities
4) misuse in collusion with false beneficiary and hospital by richer people.
5) Ghost patients
6) converting OPD patients to IPD.

HWCs

1) the current status of district hospitals is poor—infrastructurally and manpower wise.
2) Lack of wellness professionals
3) Availability of medicines is low
4) Diagnosis and testing facilities are absent in many centres
5) It would be tough to attract private players in low population and remote areas.

The following steps can relieve the obstacles:

1) Information technology coupled with推开 and random inspections to curb malpractices
2) Incentivising private players through tax incentives
3) Enhancing availability of healthcare personnel by expediting hiring

These steps can help Ayushman Bharat to serve the needs of the people.
19. Given the fact that India cannot match China’s financial clout, it is seen to be diversifying the ways in which it can enhance cooperation and promote its diplomatic profile in Africa. Discuss.

India’s economy is 1/5 th the size of China’s. This restrains its ability to match China’s financial clout.

In these circumstances, Asia has sought to diversify its ways to enhance cooperation and promote diplomatic profile through:

1) **ITEC programme to train**
   African youth for goodwill enhancement.

2) **Asia Africa Growth Corridor** with **Japanese cooperation** to provide sustainable and
financially viable infrastructure

3) Encouraging Indian businesses to invest in African countries e.g. Airtel in Nigeria, ONC Videsh

4) Information technology expertise is shared through software companies such as TCS

5) An African e-network project to provide tele-education and tele-health facilities

6) Capacity building of the countries e.g. parliamentary building to Burkina Faso, 2GTA factory in Ghana

7) Regular meetings and the India Africa Summit
8) Coordination on international forums on issues such as climate change, trade (WTO)

9) Collaboration for sustainable energy through international solar alliance

10) Lines of credit amounting to USD 10 billion

Besides these steps, India needs to:

1) Ensure safety of African residents in India.
2) Pro-actively deliver the aid, loans and infrastructural projects,

Africa has 60% of the world’s arable land and immense growth potential. Its food security and resource needs as well as international leadership potential can be bolstered by Africa’s relationship.
20. Discuss how American sanctions on its adversaries affect India. Taking the example of CAATSA, analyse how India can shield its strategic interests in face of such sanctions.

American sanctions on its adversaries have raised concerns about affects on India. These can be discussed under following heads:

1) Iran

India’s energy security may not suffer much due to alternate suppliers but Iran accepted payment in rupees. Besides, Chabahar project for access to central Asian economies may suffer due to any negative fallout of cutting off oil supply.
- from Iran. China's continued support may tilt Iran towards China at the cost of Indian interests.

2) Russia,
   a) India's 60% armory is Russian,
   b) India has invested in Russian oil fields
   c) Special strategic partnership

All these necessitate India's dealing with Russia which would become tough due to sanctions.

Countering America's adversaries through sanctions (CAATSA) is the enabling legislation for the sanctions discussed above. It squeezes the banking and payment channels of the sanctioned countries and lays down...
India can protect its strategic interests by:

1) Engaging in better coherence, if possible.
2) Enabling strengthening of alternative financial channels in the long term. e.g., BRICS' bank can be strengthened.
3) Encouraging peaceful and transparent resolution through the United Nations.
4) Developing indigenous defence capabilities to reduce dependence.

A comprehensive approach from all aspects can minimize negative impact and protect future problems.