

UPSC 2020-21 GENERAL STUDIES – 1

I. Question 1-10 carry 10 marks each. Answer in 150 words.

1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss.
2. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate.
3. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long-term implications on the national movements.
4. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum- Pacific Zone.
5. The process of desertification does not have climate boundaries. Justify with examples.
6. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far- reaching impact on the water resources of India?
7. Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples.
8. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi- cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.
9. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment.
10. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue.

II. Questions 11-20 carry 15 marks each. Answer in 250 words.

11. Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss.
12. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment.
13. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss.
14. The interlinking of revivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine.
15. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures.

16. India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate.
17. Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change.
18. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer.
19. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree?
20. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer.