



PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

Test 9

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

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Test Submission Date: 21/July/2023

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Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. All questions are for **15 marks** each.
3. Word limit for each question is **200 words**.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

Q. No.	Marks	Q. No.	Marks
Q1		Q5	
Q2		Q6	
Q3		Q7	
Q4		Q8	
Total Marks:		Evaluator Code:	

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	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Understanding of Questions					
Structure & Flow					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Conclusion					
(c) Overall					
Subject Knowledge					
Presentation					
(a) Underline					
(b) Paragraph					
(c) Overall					

Overall Remarks:

Dear Student,



Que.1

The quasi-judicial nature of ECI's functions makes it especially important that the integrity of the institution remains beyond doubt.
Comment. (200 words, 15 Marks)

'Elections are the gold standards in India'
— Hillary Clinton.

After independence, when scholars were skeptical of the success of democracy in a diverse, illiterate and backward society like India, Election Commission proved success of democracy

Powers of Election Commission

Article 324 establish ECI and RPA 1950 & 1951 empowers it —

- 1) Administrative :- Divide territorial areas for election, prepare

electoral rolls, time and dates of election schedule and appoint officers for smooth functioning of elections.

2) Quasi Judicial:- Power to confer status of National and state party, deciding in case of dispute over election symbol, take actions against MCC violation

Thus, varied powers of ECI makes it important to maintain its integrity otherwise, democracy will be poisoned at the source (H.N. Kunjru).

It's said that "Caesar's wife should be above suspicion". In the recent



time various allegations over ECI's functioning were highlighted -

- 1) Inaction over PM's violation of MCC
- 2) Ineffective in controlling money expenditure
- 3) Criminalisation of politics continuing
- 4) Independency of members doubtful.
- 5) Laxity to enforce COVID rules during west bengal elections
- 6) Doubts over EVMS. VVPAT etc

These criticisms are not healthy for the functioning of democracy. In the era of single party dominance, ECI should rise over partisan politics and work for safeguard of people's trust on democracy.

Que.2

How do you define the minorities in context of the international law and under Indian Constitution? What constitutional safeguards exist in India for the protection of minorities? (200 words, 15 Marks)

Minorities are defined under international laws such as UDHR as the group of people who are numerically lower than majority in terms of unique culture, language, religion etc.

Constitution of India don't explicitly define minority but Article 29 and 30 recognise religious and linguistic minorities and ensure safeguard of their cultural rights.

Constitutional Safeguards —

- 1) The preamble of India strives to ensure equality - liberty and justice for all, not discriminating between any.
- 2) Fundamental Rights :- aims to protect civil and political rights.
 - > Article 14 - establish equality before law
 - > Article 15 - prohibit discrimination on the basis of caste, class, religion, race.
 - > Article 24 - 28 :- freedom of religion, to ensure their unique culture is safeguarded.
 - > Article 29 & 30 :- Right to est. educational institutions.

Other provisions such as DPSP, Fundamental Duty also protect minorities.

3) National Commission of Minority established by parliament.

Powers and functions

- a) look into complaints of deprivation of safeguards to minorities.
- b) Monitor safeguards available
- c) Report to government about working of these measures.

In the era of majoritarianism and rising intolerance, there is a greater need to protect minorities to safeguard unity in diversity

ue.3

Critically evaluate the effectiveness of National Commission for Scheduled Castes towards addressing the atrocities on the community. What powers and functions have been assigned to the commission to fulfil its mandate? (200 words, 15 Marks)

"Democracy is that form of government where the strongest and weakest have equal powers" — Gandhi

National Commission of Scheduled Caste was established under A 32b to ensure above ideal of Gandhi.

It's a constitutional body having varied power & functions :-

1) Power :- It enjoys power of a civil court to carry out its mandate and has power to summon affidavit, records from all over

India. It can also take help of investigative agencies to ensure complete justice.

2) functions

- i) Investigate and monitor safeguards available to SCs
- ii) Report to President over functioning of these safeguards
- iii) Inquire into complaints of deprivations.
- iv) Participate in socio-econ. progress of SC.

Critical evaluation

Positive

- 1) Acted against atrocities against SCs.

- 2) Participated in formulation of laws to protect SC. Eg - SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act).
- 3) Take suo moto cognisance of crimes and monitor investigation by police.

Limitations

- ↳ Reports are not regular, neither they are tabled or discussed in parliament
- ↳ Elitist behavior - focus on elites among SCs
- ↳ Recommendations only suggestions
- ↳ favouring government
- ↳ Atrocities continues. (Eg) Death of Kid in Rajasthan over drinking water.

Nr SC has to act as shield of SC and empowered to act as watchdog of their rights



Que.4

What is the Constitutional mandate of UPSC and evaluate its role towards it? (200 words, 15 Marks)

Union Public Service commission

Is the independent constitutional body to ensure conduct of exams for recruitment in centre and all India Services.

Constitutional Mandate

- 1) Conduct all India Service exams with utmost impartiality and trust.
- 2) Advise President in formulation of rules for ^{joint} ~~central~~ recruitment.
- 3) Also conduct exams for Central Services like IRS, IFS.

- 4) Can conduct exam at state level if President recommend.
- 5) Advisory role to President in matters related to service condition.

Evaluation

Positive

- 1) Ensured exams are conducted in independent & transparent manner.
- 2) Maintained integrity of recruitment process, defending against political pressure
- 3) Continuously improved exam process in order to make it holistic
- 4) Advised states and guided them in their recruitment process.

Limitations

- 1) It has no power in reservation matter
- 2) No role in short term central government vacancies (> 1 year)
- 3) No role in service condition of selected officers — can't suggest promotion or demotion
- 4) Limited powers in terms of disqualification of candidates/selected officers
- 5) Manpower and resource crunch.

Civil services in India are suffering from colonial legacy. In this case, UPSC role to ensure best aspirants are recruited, is extremely important.

Que.5

Women movement in India has a chequered history. Discuss. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Women Movements in India
have a long history, starting in British times by educated and progressive Indian men like Raja Ram Mohan Roy (Sati), Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (widow remarriage) and others.

Swami Vivekanand held,
'A bird can't fly with one wing. Similarly India can't progress without women empowerment.' Gradually, women organisation came up, fighting against evils present in society.

against women — Bharatiya Stree Mahamandal, Ladies Society, Arya Mahila Samaj (Ramabai), Women Social conference etc.

Gandhian Movement in 1920s and onwards, broke the isolation of women from participation in civil society, and women took active part in National Movement — Sarojini Naidu, Aruna Asaf Ali etc.

After independence, the constitution of India and our founding fathers ensured basic rights to women — universal adult franchise, fundamental

rights and also special protections in the form of reservation.

1950s & 60s were thus grey years of women movement. In 1970s, it revived over the issues of price rise, dowry deaths, rapes. The report of 'Towards Equality' had profounding impact over these movements. from 90s onwards, these movements got aligned with international movements. (e.g) MeToo

But, feminist scholars point out that these movements have not achieved substantial results on ground level.

Que.6

Environmental movement in India is rich and vibrant which has taken various forms. Analyse. (200 words, 15 Marks)

'When the history of 21st century would be written down, most important issue would be environment.'

Due to destructive forces of industrialisation, environmental degradation is continuing at fast pace. In this scenario, environmental movements emerged in India.

Ramchandra Guha analysed these movements in post independent India in his book 'Unquiet woods.' He categorised them into different phases each showing its own nature & forms.

- 1) 1970s - Chipkoo Movement was a defining moment of environmentalism in India. It's stage of environmental innocence when people ~~were~~ started to realise destructions of their nature.
- 2) 1980s - Stage of environment consciousness - growth of activism for environment and various initiatives were taken up - Water Act, Project Tiger, Forest Conservation Act etc.
- 3) 1990s! - Phase of environmental dillusion. India adopted LPG reforms and took a resource



intensive path to growth (Vandana Shiva). This led to destruction of environment by forces of growth.

At the same time, rise in no. of advocacy group & civil society participation led to increased movements such as Narmada Bachao, conserve Aarey forest.

RamChandra Guha points out that environmental movement in India are 'empty stomach' as people struggle to protect both - livelihood & nature. These movements are 'Utilitarian'.

Que.7

Analyse the context and nature of emergence of human rights movement in India post-independence. What are the major contemporary concerns and challenges of the movement? (200 words, 15 Marks)

'Rights are those conditions without which no man can seek to be at his best' — Laski

Human Rights are based on ideas of John Locke (Theory of Natural Rights) and Immanuel Kant's dignity principle.

Indian National Movement was itself a human rights movement demanding equal political rights and socio-economic justice for all.

Post-independence, in 50s & 60s,

human rights movements were not very active as it was expected that state will take care of it.

1970s saw the emergence of human rights movement due to rise in economic hardships, regional movements, state atrocities (emergency) and various reports like 'Towards Equality' pointing towards degrading condition of women.

These movements got further flip after 1990s, as advocacy group & civil society participation increased, got aligned with global movements.

Contemporary concerns & challenges

- 1) Police atrocities :- fake encounters, death of undertrials due to police torture (custodial deaths). (Eg) - fake encounter of gangsters in UP.
- 2) State's atrocities - Internet Shutdowns (J&K), repression on media, political use of sedition law.
- 3) Socially structured violence - Rape cases (Hathras), rising ethnic violence (Manipur), dalit oppression etc.
- 4) Judicial reforms for speedy justice.

India need a strong movements for protection of vulnerable & marginalised sections.

Que.8

Explain the origin and the constitutional provisions related to the institution of CAG. Critically evaluate the role of CAG in strengthening the Indian democracy. (200 words, 15 Marks)

CAG is the guardian of public purse and controls the entire financial transactions of the country. It's an independent constitutional body, empowered to ensure financial accountability of the government.

Origin:- It emerged in British Raj, following UK's tradition of appointing a person to check financial expenditures of government. GOI Act 1935 established this office.

Constitutional provision:- article —

provides for the office of CAG to act as Parliament's organ of ensuring fiscal propriety and value for citizens money.

Functions

- 1) Audit Centre's expenditures out of consolidated funds of India, Public account and contingency fund.
- 2) Audit State's expenditure out of CF1, Public account.
- 3) Act as friend, philosopher & guide to Public Account Committee.

In the past, CAG has done tremendous work to ensure accountability,

exposing various scams like 2G scam, Coal bloc scam, Commonwealth etc.

Its property report ensures economy, efficiency of government expenditure.

But it suffers from various limitations

- 1) It performs only the role of auditor general, not comptroller.
- 2) Its reports has seen decline in recent times (70% reduction)
- 3) Issues in appointment process — partisan interest
- 4) Post mortem audit.

CAG is called as most important office by Dr. Ambedkar and the bulwark of democracy in India.