

GENERAL STUDIES - III

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INDIAN ECONOMY AND ISSUES RELATING TO PLANNING, MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES, GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

1. Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the *Goods and Services Tax (GST)* in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017. (150 words, 10 marks) (2019)
2. Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments. (150 words, 10 marks) (2019)
3. How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India? (250 words, 15 marks) (GS-1) (2019)
4. Despite Consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. (150 words, 10 marks) (GS-2) (2019)
5. 'In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages.' ---- Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks) (GS-2) (2019)
6. "Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. (150 words, 10 marks) (2018)
7. How are the principles followed by the NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission in India? (250 words, 15 marks) (2018)
8. How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India? (250 words, 15 marks) (2018)
9. Among several factors for India's potential growth, savings rate is the most effective one. Do you agree? What are the other factors available for growth potential? (150 words, 10 marks) (2017)
10. How globalization has led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalisation detrimental to the development of the country? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
11. What are 'Smart Cities'? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for 'Smart Villages' in the light of

- PURA and RURBAN Mission. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
12. The nature of economic growth in India in recent times is often described as jobless growth. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)
13. Craze for gold in Indians has led to a surge in import of gold in recent years and put pressure on balance of payments and external value of rupee. In view of this, examine the merits of the Gold Monetization Scheme. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)
14. Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the huge growth of services vis-à-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2014)
15. "While we flaunt India's demographic dividend, we ignore the dropping rates of employability." What are we missing while doing so? Where will the jobs that India desperately needs come from? Explain. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2014)
16. Discuss the rationale for introducing Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Bring out critically the reasons for the delay in roll out for its regime. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND ISSUES ARISING FROM IT

1. It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement. (250 words, 15 marks) (2019)
2. What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyse and suggest measures for inclusive growth. (250 words, 15 marks) (2017)
3. Comment on the Challenges for inclusive growth which include careless and useless manpower in the Indian context. Suggest measures to be taken for facing these challenges. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
4. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poorer section of the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
5. Capitalism has guided a world economy to unprecedented prosperity. However, it often encourages short sightedness and contributes to wide disparities between the rich and the poor. In this light, would it be correct to believe and adopt capitalism for bringing inclusive growth in India? Discuss. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2014)

6. With a consideration towards the strategy of inclusive growth, the new Companies Bill, 2013 has indirectly made CSR a mandatory obligation. Discuss the challenges expected in its implementation in right earnest. Also discuss other provisions in the Bill and their implications. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)

GOVERNMENT BUDGETING

1. The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in the context of budget making during the post-liberalization period. Clarify it. (250 words, 15 marks) (2019)
2. Comment on the important changes introduced in respect of the Long-term Capital Gains Tax (LCGT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the Union Budget for 2018-2019. (150 words, 10 marks) (2018)
3. One of the intended objectives of Union Budget 2017-18 is to 'transform, energize and clean India'. Analyse the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective. (250 words, 15 marks) (2017)
4. Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
5. What were the reasons for the introduction of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)
6. What is the meaning of the term 'tax expenditure'? Taking housing sector as an example, discuss how it influences the budgetary policies of the government. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)

MAJOR CROPS - CROPPING PATTERNS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY; DIFFERENT TYPES OF IRRIGATION AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS; STORAGE, TRANSPORT AND MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND ISSUES AND RELATED CONSTRAINTS; E-TECHNOLOGY IN THE AID OF FARMERS

1. Elaborate the impact of National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas. (150 words, 10 marks) (2019)
2. How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively? (150 words, 10 marks) (2019)
3. Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing

- the income of farmers? (250 words, 15 marks) (2018)
4. How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption. (250 words, 15 marks) (2018)
5. What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crop in the system? (250 words, 15 marks) (2017)
6. What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water use efficiency. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
7. What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
8. Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
9. How can the 'Digital India' programme help farmers to improve farm productivity and income? What steps has the Government taken in this regard? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)
10. There is also a point of view that Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) set up under the States Acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2014)
11. "In the villages itself no form of credit organisation will be suitable except the cooperative society" – All India Rural Credit Survey. Discuss this statement in the background of agricultural finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finance face? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2014)

ISSUES RELATED TO DIRECT AND INDIRECT FARM SUBSIDIES AND MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES; PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM - OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONING, LIMITATIONS, REVAMPING; ISSUES OF BUFFER STOCKS AND FOOD SECURITY; TECHNOLOGY MISSIONS; ECONOMICS OF ANIMAL-REARING

1. How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production? (150 words, 10 marks) (2019)
2. What are the reformative steps taken by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective? (250 words, 15 marks) (2019)
3. What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will (MSP) rescue the

- farmers from the low income trap? (150 words, 10 marks) (2018)
4. Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India? (150 words, 10 marks) (2017)
 5. How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers? (250 words, 15 marks) (2017)
 6. Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sector in India. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)
 7. In what way could replacement of price subsidy with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) change the scenario of subsidies in India? Discuss. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)
 8. Food Security Bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)
 9. What are the different types of agricultural subsidies given to farmers at the national and at state levels? Critically analyze the agricultural subsidy regime with reference to the distortions created by it. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)

FOOD PROCESSING AND RELATED INDUSTRIES IN INDIA - SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE, LOCATION, UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM REQUIREMENTS, SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

1. Elaborate the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector. (250 words, 15 marks) (2019)
2. Discuss the factors for localisation of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India. (150 words, 10 marks) (GS-1) (2019)
3. Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate number of intermediaries? (150 words, 10 marks) (2018)
4. What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers? (150 words, 10 marks) (2017)
5. What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming these bottlenecks? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)

6. India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in food industry for ensuring better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)
7. Discuss the impact of FDI entry into Multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in commodity trade pattern of the economy. (100 words, 5 marks) (2013)

LAND REFORMS IN INDIA

1. Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
2. In view of the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture non-viable for a majority of farmers, should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? Critically evaluate the pros and cons. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)
3. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 has come into effect from 1st January, 2014. What are the key issues which would get addressed with the Act in place? What implications would it have on industrialization and agriculture in India? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2014)
4. Establish relationship between land reforms, agriculture productivity and elimination of poverty in the Indian economy. Discuss the difficulties in designing and implementation of agriculture friendly land reforms in India. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)

EFFECTS OF LIBERALIZATION ON THE ECONOMY

CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND THEIR EFFECTS ON INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

1. Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India? (150 words, 10 marks) (GS-1) (2019)
2. What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics. (250 words, 15 marks) (GS-1) (2018)
3. Account for the failure of manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports rather than capital-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive exports. (150 words, 10 marks) (2017)
4. "Industrial growth rate has lagged behind in the overall growth of Gross-Domestic-Product (GDP) in the post-reform period" Give reasons. How far the recent changes in Industrial Policy are capable of increasing the industrial growth rate? (250 words, 15 marks) (2017)

5. "Success of 'Make in India' programme depends on the success of 'Skill India' programme and radical labour reforms." Discuss with logical arguments. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)
6. Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indians. Are they competing with the MNCs satisfactorily? Discuss. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)
7. year, has not picked up. Discuss the reasons. (100 words, 5 marks) (2013)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. How is the Government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies? (250 words, 15 marks) (2019)
2. India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), which has a database containing formatted information on more than 2 million medicinal formulations, is proving a powerful weapon in the country's fight against erroneous patents. Discuss the pros and cons of making this database publicly available under open-source licensing. (2015)
3. In a globalized world, intellectual property rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms copyrights, patent and trade secrets. (2014)
4. Bringing out the circumstances in 2005 which forced amendment to the section 3(d) in Indian Patent Law, 1970, discuss how it has been utilized by the Supreme Court in its judgment in rejecting Novartis' patent application for 'Glivec'. Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision. (200 words) (2013)

POVERTY & DEVELOPMENT ISSUES (GS 1)

ISSUES OF POVERTY & HUNGER (GS 2)

1. There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on non-food essential items squeezing their food-budget. -Elucidate. (150 words, 10 marks) (GS-2) (2019)
2. 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing.' Explain by giving reasons. (150 words, 10 marks) (GS-1) (2018)
3. How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India? (250 words, 15 marks) (GS-2) (2018)
4. 'Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India remain mere show pieces until and unless

they are backed by political will'. Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation programmes in India. (250 words, 15 marks) (GS 2)
(2017)

5. "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation". Substantiate this statement with suitable examples. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (GS 1)
(2016)
6. Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (GS 1)
(2015)
7. Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate reduction in poverty levels over time. Do you agree? Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (GS 2)
(2015)

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (GS 2) AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTERESTS (GS 2)

1. What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade war', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (250 words, 15 words) (GS-2)
(2018)
2. The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries. "Discuss in the Indian Perspective. (200 words, 12.5 marks)
(2016)
3. The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests? (200 words, 12.5 marks)
(2014)
4. India has recently signed to become founding member of New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two banks for India. (200 words, 12.5 marks)
(2014)
5. WTO is an important international institution were decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security. (200 words, 12.5 marks)
(2014)
6. Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing

equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exist a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2014)

The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)

ECONOMIC TOPICS IN ESSAY (2013-19)

1. Rise of Artificial Intelligence: the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling (Section B) (2019)
2. Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere. (Section A) (2018)
3. Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India. (Section A) (2017)
4. Innovation is the key determinant of economic growth and social welfare.(Section A) (2016)
5. Near jobless growth in India: An anomaly or an outcome of economic reforms. (Section B) (2016)
6. Digital economy: A leveller or a source of economic inequality.(Section B)(2016)
7. Can capitalism bring inclusive growth? (Section B) (2015)
8. Was it the policy paralysis or the paralysis of implementation which slowed the growth of our country? (Section B) (2014)
8. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) along with GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) would be the right indices for judging the well-being of a country.(250 marks) (2013)

INFRASTRUCTURE: ENERGY, PORTS, ROADS, AIRPORTS, RAILWAYS ETC

1. With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fear associated with nuclear energy. (250 words) 15 (2018)
2. Examine the developments of Airports in India through Joint Ventures under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard? (150 words, 10 marks) (2017)
3. To what factors can the recent dramatic fall in equipment costs and tariff of solar energy be attributed? What implications does the trend have for the thermal power producers and the related industry? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)
4. National Urban Transport Policy emphasizes on 'moving people' instead of 'moving vehicles'. Discuss critically the success of the various strategies of the Government in

this regard. (200 words, 12.5 marks)

(2014)

5. Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problem of conventional energy. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)

INVESTMENT MODELS

1. Justify the need for FDI for the development of the Indian economy. Why there is gap between MOUs signed and actual FDIs? Suggest remedial steps to be taken for increasing actual FDIs in India. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2016)
2. There is a clear acknowledgement that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a tool of industrial development, manufacturing and exports. Recognizing this potential, the whole instrumentality of SEZs requires augmentation. Discuss the issues plaguing the success of SEZs with respect to taxation, governing laws and administration. (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2015)
3. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the defence sector is now set to be liberalized. What influence this is expected to have on Indian defence and economy in the short and long run? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2014)
4. Explain how public-private partnership arrangements, in long gestation infrastructure projects, can transfer unsustainable liabilities to the future. What arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that successive generations' capacities are not compromised? (200 words, 12.5 marks) (2014)
5. Adoption of PPP model for infrastructure development of the country has not been free of criticism. Critically discuss pros and cons of the model. (200 words, 10 marks) (2013)