

POLITICAL SCIENCE OPTIONAL

Name of the Candidate	Priya Purohit		
Email ID	[REDACTED]		Roll No.
Mobile No.			Date

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS	
Q.No	Max.Marks	Marks Obtained		
1	10	00	1. Please write your Name, Email, UPSC Roll No. and Mobile number in the answer sheet 2. There are 20 questions printed in English, all questions are compulsory 3. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it. 4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate (English), which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. 5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be struck off.	
2	10	05		
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4	10	04		
5	10	05		
6	15	05	Any specific message from Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Mentor's Remarks: ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... .....	
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16	20	09	Start Time: 11:00a    End Time: 2:00 pm. Mode of Examination:    Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
17	20	10		
18				
19				
Total Marks		103	TEST CODE:	Medium of Examination: English



1. The dilemmas of the human rights movements in India. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)



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2. Relation between ethnicity and democracy in India. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Ethnicity is the consciousness of the national / regional identity with common links. Jame Minor has underlined four components of ethnicity in India — Religion, Race language, caste.

In the democracy, where there is change of traditional society into modern society with use of elections, Party systems etc, then it is natural for former elites to mobilise on the

lines of caste, religion (Rajnikothori)

The ethnic elements like caste and has influenced democracy. Prof. Yogendra Yadav called two upsurge of democracy

Competitive Party system leading to clash of ethnicities and rise of secessionist tendencies  
 e.g. - Khalistan movement.



In 1960, when OBC left Congress  
in 1950, when Dalits left Congress

- Rudolph and  
Rudolph's  
Views

- FW Riggs  
Prismatic  
Society

In today's time there is a 3rd  
surge in search of ethnic identity  
plus empowerment. The search for  
ethnic empowerment has influenced  
North-Eastern states.

Newer research in Electoral Behavior,  
Abhijeet Banerjee said that economics  
now more linked to democracy than  
ethnicity. Arvind Panagariya mentioned  
about VIKAS strategy of BSP based  
on this.

Democracy should enable the empowerment  
and to more communicative action.

3. Increasingly higher focus on Directive Principles of State Policy.  
(Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Directive Principles of State Policy are the guidelines mentioned in Part IV of the Constitution, Article 36 to 51. It is termed as the most important for the function of the governance.

DPSP has been subject to higher focus due to its mandates to State for welfare measures that often clash with Fundamental Rights.

From AK Gopalan to Champakam Doraiswami case, Supreme Court put limit on DPSP and set precedent of FRs. In response, higher focus on DPSP was laid by 24th and 25th

DPSP - an ideal manifest to for any party.

Constitutional Amendments in 1971,  
that curbed even Judicial Review

Doctrine  
of Harmonious  
Construction.

Supreme Court has given way to  
maintain balance in Keshavnanda Bharti  
Case (1973) with restriction of Basic  
structure Doctrine and enabling Judicial  
Review.

States have put special focus on  
Article 39 (b) and 39 (c) to enhance  
equality of income and restrict concentration  
of wealth.

DPSP is not justiciable but its  
content are important yardsticks to  
judge the governance of the State's  
policy.



4. Marginalization of the left ideology in India. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Left ideology in India is product of culmination of work dating pre-independence. With the role of communist leaders like NN Roy, SA Dange.

Left parties were main opposition during 1950s, 60s. Kerala was a rising example and more presence in West Bengal, present day Telangana.

In recent time, there is marginalization of left ideology. As per Prof Praful Bidwai in his book - Rising from

Phoenix has given a number of factors for decline of left. One, the rise of new parties that cater to class (economic) consciousness - Aam Admi Party, Two,

surprising case of Youth more linked  
 to Right Wing, Three, High Command  
Culture, Four, lack of grand strategy  
Five, China Stance in foreign policy  
 and lesser credibility in history of  
Freedom Struggle, Sixth, taking  
youth from college, University and not  
grassroot democracy, to seventh, Lack  
of leadership.

Division of  
 Left ideology  
 - Left's utopian  
 thoughts  
 - Left's linkage  
 with Left

The rise of left ideology depend  
 on alliances like INDIA or the  
 social movements like Bharat  
Jodo Yatra or Pratap Bhanu  
Mehta.



5. The role of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in promoting good governance. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Comptroller and Auditor General of India is a constitutional authority under Article 148 and the head of Indian Audits and Accounts Department.

BR Ambedkar called it perhaps the most important office in the Constitution.

Role of CAG is eminent in checking the financial accounts of States and Central Government, it examines the financial propriety, performance audit of departments and schemes.

Therefore, the good governance based on the study of CAG, which offers its reports to President, then tabled in Parliament and further scrutinised by

Role of CAG as Guardian of Public purse.

Highlighting of major scams in India through CAG reports

Public and Accounts Committee.

Pillars of good governance. Like Transparency, Accountability, Efficiency, Responsibility etc can be checked through CAGs Report.

Examples, recently, CAGs highlighted that more than 7L identities have same mobile number under PM Jan Arogya Yojna.

CAG's role in 2G Scam, Commonwealth Adarsh Housing Society has been the testament of good governance.

Skills former CAGs Vinod Rai in his work - 'Not Just An Accountant' showed the limitations of Post-Mortem analysis and tendency of making CAGs a Munim. CAGs should be relooked in its powers and functions.



6. Examine the scope and limitations of women's movements in India. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Women  
^  
Movements in India has been influenced by the feminism wave yet the nature and scope has been different from western societies.

In western societies, idea of individual rights like abortion rights influenced, still, women movements in India was under community rights and involved social causes like liquor sale.

Chipkoo Movement was under the guidance of Sunderlal Bahuguna sought women and environment rights as intricately linked.

Vandana Shiva, the eco-feminist scholar has also maintained the

You can make a reference to women organisation during freedom struggle



relation, social cause like illegal liquor to be banned in Appiko Movement.  
Rights of tribal women against the excess of army under AFSPA in north-east through Manipur Activist Irom Sharmila.

- Mention some organisations like SEWA, Ela Bhat.

Limitations of women movements in India comes from the traditional society as women role dominant in household, the lack of leaders, lesser political mobilisation and pressure groups have not led to newer women movements in recent time.

In words of Hannah Arendt, the vita Activa is needed from women to enhance civil republicanism.

7. Explain how peasant movements promoted nationalist ideas during the struggle for Indian independence. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Indian independence struggle was the biggest, secular and multi-class movement as per Bipin Chandra

Peasant movements before the formation of Indian National Congress promoted more of indigenous demand like against rise of rent, encroachment over land, change the agriculture <sup>crop system</sup> like Indigo (commercialisation). Movements like Moplah (Malabar), Indigo Revolt, Ramosi (1879), Farazi Movement

After, the entry of Gandhi a leadership could mobilise the peasant movement

into national struggle → Example -  
Champaran Movement (1916), Kheda  
Satyagraha (1918) against the salt hike.

Mention  
some of  
the leaders

during Civil Disobedience Movement  
the merger of Eka Movement, No

like Satjansan  
Sardesai  
associated  
with Kisan  
Sabha.

Tax movements from UP gave  
weightage to national struggle.

INC's Fauzpur session underscored  
to raise the cause of peasants.

Peasants  
realisation of  
commonality  
of cause of  
oppression at  
individual as  
well as  
national level.

Jehhaga movements (1943) also  
pushed for agrarian reforms and  
nationalistic attention to develop.

Subaltern historiographic scholar  
like Bidyut Chakravorti considered  
the peasant and working class as distinct



from freedom movement.

British scholar Benedict Anderson has accepted the culmination of nationalistic feelings from these movements.

Marxist scholars deny the role of peasants in national struggle, as it was mostly the middle class and Congress Brahmin group's struggle to gain power.

Peasants' Movements did impact the post-independence policy of govt. in form of Land Reforms, and abolition of zamindari. But the peasants true development wasn't established and should be adhered to in recent time.

8. Examine the debates on the appointment procedure judges to the higher judiciary in India. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Appointment of Judges by Judges  
termed as 'Imperium in Imperio'  
(State within State) by BR Ambedkar

The debate on appointment of  
procedure of Judges has been evolved

through three Judges cases

(1981, 1993, 1998) where the

collegium system evolved and

CJI along with four senior most

Judges would suggest the names

for appointment - mandatory for

the Executive (President).

99th Amendment, 2014 brought the

NJAC Act to curb the collegium

systems. However, Supreme Court  
stuck the NJAC (National Judicial  
appointment Act)

In recent time, the Supremacy of  
Judiciary has come under debate of  
Separation of powers (Art. 50) or  
Checks and Balance.

Pratap Bhanu Mehta has criticised  
the appointment procedure as it  
is uncommon anywhere in world-  
and called 'self instigating powers'  
of Judges that keep on increasing  
its reach, power and image.

Former CSI Ronjan Gogoi too  
kept the stick for committee based



appointment.

Supreme Court however has pressed to keep the independence of Judiciary and separate it from political influence and favouritism as seen in USA model.

Albeit, the appointment has been questioned for its opaqueness and nepotism.

Collegium system should be made for transparent and written reasons for appointment & norms should be followed.

You can also suggest a way forward outlining the drawbacks of NJAC and mentioning to solve the hurdles.



9. Examine the provisions of Panchayat Extension Services Act (PESA), 1996. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Panchayat Extension Services Act (PESA, 1996) has been termed as constitution within constitution. It came to empower the tribal regions with decentralised democracy in areas other than Schedule VI, (North-East) in Schedule V states (10 states with tribal population).

Provision for the rights of tribals over minor forest produce and consent of gram sabha has often been diluted by state government.

inter-vention.

Devolution of rights to Gram Panchayat  
has not devolved financial autonomy  
leading to non-execution.

Moreover, the suggestions of Bhuria  
and NAXA committee has improved  
the autonomy in function of marriage,  
social customs, property transfer.

The forest protection and rights  
of tribals in case of displacement  
'increased' in Godavarman Supreme  
Court. Judgement strengthening the  
provisions of PESA Act.

With the overlap of Forest Rights  
Act and PESA, more tribal autonomy

You should  
also outline  
the bottlenecks  
in efficient  
implementation  
of PESA.



to be ensured with provisions on forming chairman and devolution of functions in Schedule V States. States like Chhattisgarh were considered late in adopting the PESA Act, the States intervention in framing rules also should speed up.

10. What are the provisions for constitutional protection of right to freedom of religion and how far have they succeeded in promoting secularism in India? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Right to freedom of Religion

has been guaranteed under part

III of the Constitution from Article

25-28.

A. 25 - Right to profess, practice, propagate

A. 26 - community rights

A. 27 - Freedom from payment of taxes

A. 28 - educational rights

Mention about  
Doctrine of  
Essentiality  
as a judicial  
innovation.

↓  
wearing of  
Kurtan for  
Sikh.

↓  
Triple  
Tale &  
Judgment  
etc.

Secularism is the basic structure of Constitution. As per Supreme Court part III has provided the provisions for secularism in India.



which disfavours any special  
privilege and discredits to  
religion.

- Rajeev Bhargava called it  
a model of principled distance  
and politically negotiated  
secularism has been upheld  
under St. Xavier's vs. State of  
Gujarat case, where SC raised  
the provisions of Freedom of  
Religion.



11. Account for the changes in the socio-economic profile of legislators during last one decade in India. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

→ To show the change you can introduce with constituent assembly of a lawyer's paradise.

Ram Manohar Lohia once noted that the parliamentarians are upper class, English speaking and wealthy and would remain so.

In 75 years of independence, socio-economic profile has undergone changes, yet there remain similarity.

As per Lokniti report, 43% of legislators <sup>have</sup> one criminals cases on them, with 23% has serious criminal

charges in the newly elected candidates (2019) 80% of the legislators in Lok Sabha

parliament has more than 1 crore of wealth. More than 40% has



graduation background, around 30%  
one in social sector, and more than  
50% had political family  
background.

Legislators should reflect the  
representation of its constituency and  
people. Role of muscle and money,  
political influence has been active.

There have been mix of first time  
legislators due to reservation<sup>in</sup> per  
article 340 for SC and ST.

Example - Pramila Bisnoi from Odisha  
is a 74 year old woman from  
the Chakamania village. represents the  
SHGs and Cooperatives Commoners.

Scholar's  
views is  
missing in  
the answer

The presentation of women is  
dismal at 14% in lok sabha.

Passing of 93rd Amendment Bill  
for reservation of women in parliament  
can enhance social profile.

supreme court has intervened  
too to curb criminalisation and  
limit the election expenses.



12. Explain to what extent the concept of "one-party dominance" (W.H. Morris-Jones) model is relevant in Indian politics today. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Indian politics has been marked with one-party dominance till 1960s which was called as Congress System as per Rajni Kothari.

Then, the time from 1989-2014 was called as era of coalition and rainbow cabinet in form of alliances like UPA. (Prof. Chakravarty)

In Indian politics today, the idea of BJP system has become relevant as per Suhas Palshikar. According to him, in 2014 Congress wasn't declined, it was dead.

One-party dominance often comes as  
as result of First Past the Post System  
in Voting. It is relevant for strong  
government in Centre and take  
hardline decisions like Article 370,  
Ram Mandir, Surgical Strikes.

It also ensures stability in  
long term policy making. This is the  
characteristic of BJP majority House  
as per Thomas ~~van~~ Blom Hansen.

still, it becomes detrimental for  
Democratic ideals. Multi-party  
systems ensures check on authoritarian  
practices and play an active role of  
opposition. In India, the regional  
politics still in search of multiparty.

identity, example, JDU in Bihar,  
BJD in Odisha, TMC in West Bengal,  
CPM(I) in Kerala etc.

One-party dominance gives lesser  
choice to voters and decreases active  
accountability.

Indian politics is suitable for  
Multi-party system, Party system is

sign of relevant parties. As only  
6 parties are qualified as National  
Parties, Pratap Bhanu Mehta said

that opposition should strive to  
maintain multi-party system in India.

You should  
discuss about  
the pros  
of Party  
system in

India from  
Pre-Independence  
parties to the  
current  
system.





13. Analyse the position of the Prime Minister of India in a coalition regime. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

In India, coalition regime started with the 1989 time with increasingly role of regional parties and change in components of the Cabinet.

Prime Minister is the first among the equals to under collective responsibility as per Article 75.

KC Wheare said the under parliamentary democracy with full majority, Prime Minister is powerful than the US president; coalition happens when there isn't full majority in the assembly and a rainbow is formed in the

You can also mention about the evolution of coalition system from one-party dominance with the increase in role of ethnicity in voting behaviour.

Cabinet. Hence Prime Minister  
has to accommodate the interests of all  
parties to maintain confidence in the  
Lower House. This leads to negotiations  
and compromise on party lines, delay  
in decision, high risk of defection etc.

Example, VP Singh government in  
1990s was under such condition.

Prime Minister is said to have  
a high degree of power to <sup>influence</sup> appointment  
of Executive bodies like UPSC, EC,  
Ministers etc. In coalition the  
decision-making is shared. Italy's  
coalition position also is similar.

Akshay Bihari  
Bajpai  
Government  
Coalition  
of 32  
Parties -



↳ this is India.

In recent time, in India as per  
Suhra Palshikar, there is a  
BJP system, hence the power  
of Prime Minister increasing as  
the scholars say parliamentary  
system turn into Prime Ministerial  
form of government.



14. Discuss the working of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to curb violence against Dalits. (20 marks)

National Commission for Scheduled Caste is a Constitutional Body under Article 338 B after division with NC for Backward Class.

Working of NCSC is based on the mandate that it would serve the interests of Schedule Caste by divising suggestions to the legislature and protecting demands of SC on implementation of the Acts etc.

Working has been a mixed bag with more disappointments. It is said to be a teeth that cannot bite for the cause of SC.

The focus has been on Service  
Allocation, Promotions Issues with close  
to 70% cases belong to this category.

Non-penetration  
of benefits  
at the  
grassroot  
level.

Backlog of cases close to 63000

Recommendation  
on  
nature of  
action.

Dalit Atrocities and poor feedback  
on legislative <sup>move</sup> like Prevention of

Lack of  
awareness  
about  
Commission's  
role  
among  
common  
people.

Atrocities on SC/ST Act. Example,

Rohit Verma case.

Moreover, the report that to be  
sent to president is often missed  
the timeline and there isn't enough  
discussion in parliament on the  
findings of NCSC.

Further improvement is needed to decrease political influence and giving more cases on dalits from the ground.

Using new technology and ICT in register of complaints and grievances can be explored. as in National Commission of Women.



15. Discuss the nature of reforms of the electoral process in India and explain the further scope for reforms. (20 marks)

Electoral process in India deals with number of phases like electoral funding, selection of Election Commission Members, conduct of Elections, Qualifications of Candidates etc.

Nature of reforms of Electoral process took a turn with amendment in 1989 to increase the strength of Election Commission, and adult franchise with voting after 18 years.

The reforms has been judicial in many cases. With the Lily Thomas case, section 8(4) <sup>of RPA, 1951</sup> was struck



Puck  
Case

down, roll ~~of~~ out of NOTA in  
voting preferences, Right to Information  
for political parties and disclosure of  
antecedents

The legislative reform through  
passing of Finance Bill in Budget-1718  
It aimed to change the electoral  
fueling - rate make in anonymous  
and change the provisions of 7-5-1 and  
3 years profit criteria.

Executive reforms has been seen  
through Election's Commission's  
Model Code of Conduct.

There is further scope of change  
and reforms in Electoral process

As per Nawin Chawla, former CEC  
the transparency of political parties  
should increase with power of Election  
commission to de-register political  
parties.

In recent Aroop Baranwal case of  
2023, Supreme Court has evolved  
Article 324(2). <sup>Until</sup> ~~Until~~ parliament make  
a law, chief Election Commission  
would be selected by a committee  
comprising of CJI, leader of opposition  
and Prime Minister.

Election Commission's demand to  
make opinion in selection cases and  
disqualification of MPs, MLAs.

→ Dinakar  
Goswami  
Committee  
→ Indrajit  
Gupta  
Committee  
→ 255th Law  
Commission  
Report.  
→ Legal  
backing  
to model  
Code of  
Conduct.



- Electoral  
Bond

There should be changes in the Electoral Funding as more than 80% of funding remain anonymous with more than 1 crore size (as per CDS Lokniti)

- Remote  
Voting

The recent changes of Election Commission's in the voting by initiating Migrant Voting should also enable NRI Voting via electronic messaging.

Electoral reforms form the basis of free and fair elections which Supreme Court has called as Basic Structure of the Constitution.

16. Explain how pressure groups have been influencing public policy-making. (20 marks)

Pressure groups are the g units that perform interest articulation in the input-output systems of Almond and Powell.

Pressure groups are non-political groups that influence public policy but do not form government.

The form of influence of pressure groups vary from country to country.

In developing countries like India, there is prismatic society as per

PW Biggs and non-associational

groups often dominate.

For example, Rashtriya Swayam Sevak

Rashtriya  
Swayam Sevak  
Sanjh

vishwa  
Hindu Parishad

Hindu Vistwa Parishad, Karni Sena etc.

has influenced the policies of right-wing parties like Bhartiya Janta Party as per the Thomas Blom Hanson's work the Saffron Wave.

In developed countries like USA, pressure groups are associational, institutional and use tools like lobbying, propogandising, influence to impact policy making in their favours.

Robert Michel highlighted the role of dominant business pressure groups in USA during Vietnam War

in 1970s.



Pressure groups have been active in funds and electoral donations.

In India, electoral bonds's anonymity has opened undisclosed flow of finance.

The Business - Politicians axis as per Nohra Committee is akin to Dahl - Schumpeter axis.

Pressure groups give inputs on new laws and feedback influences the decision making. Example, role of - Kisan Movement (Anomic Pressure groups) led to withdrawal of 3 Farm Laws.

Pressure groups have been active in Judicial sphere too. Role of

You can  
also mention  
contemporary  
issues like,  
women-led  
pressure groups  
fighting for  
criminalising  
honour rape

MKSS in framing of RTI Act

Pressure groups help in strengthening  
democratic ideals like civic republicanism  
as mentioned by Hannah Arendt.

17. "Cooperative federalism produces a strong central, general or government, yet it does not necessarily result in weak provincial governments that are largely administrative agencies for central policies. Indian federation has demonstrated this." (Granville Austin)  
Examine the uniqueness of Indian federalism in the light of the above statement. (20 Marks)

As per KC Wheare federalism is a system of shared government with distinct identity and authority. India is a federal polity.

Granville Austin called India's federalism as Cooperative federalism as both the states and centre has to cooperate to function.

It produces a strong central government as per the provisions of constitution like Article 1 that calls India as Union of States i.e. the holding together model, where states are destructurable units of a indestructible unit.

Questi-  
federal.



- Emergency and President's rule need to be elaborated in this way.

With the provisions of Article 352-360 (Emergency), All India Service (A.312) and residuary powers of legislature with Parliament (A.246)

but it does not lead to weak provincial government as the need for strong union was needed due to secessionist tendencies. (as in Canada, India). In Indian constitution measures such as written constitution, division of power as per schedule 7 (A.246 in State list, concurrent list) and rigidity of constitution, a body of Rajya Sabha etc enable much authority to States. Moreover, Pahl Appleby has called Indian polity as



too-federal

In time of rise of regional politics and political parties and coalition cris, the bargaining power of states increased as per Morris Jones.

In policy making like foreign policy, paradiplomacy could be seen in the periphery states. Example, West Bengal's in Bangladesh's water Treaty, Tamil Nadu in Sri Lanka's crisis.

Indian federation has been called as Quasi-federal by KC Wheare

who compare it with USA model.

In India, the federation has been called as Sui-Grenari's and product of

creative play as per Louise Tillin. She said the creation of unique federal units like Autonomous region, Tribal region, States, National Capital Territory (Schedule V, Schedule VI, Article 239) gives India different flavours.

In recent time, the federation has come under light of 'competitive federalism' due to market economy, difference of centre and states. Evolution and role of political parties in centre and state.

Zonal Council

It is time to invest more in cooperation through platforms like Niti Aayog's Team India, Inter-State Council (Article 263).