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Civil Services

IAS MAINS

Examination, 2009-2024

GENERAL STUDIES

Model Answers

How to Score Good Marks in General Studies

A STRATEGY

Candidates of Civil Services Examination have to go through ONE optional subject and Four General Studies papers, all having equal weightage of marks. But then too, candidates have commonly expressed unsatisfactory tone over preparation and results in General Studies papers, even toppers. Even sometimes, toppers cannot score up to their expectations in General Studies. Many reasons can be and are given for this generally accepted problem :

Uncertain Syllabus of the General Studies papers is one of the reason 'Why a strong grasp on and full command cannot be acquired over it.' No candidate, or even classes of high repute can draw a boundary for General Studies, not even a lose boundary can be uttered confidently.

So, to understand these two papers properly and acquire good command, at least, to be relieved of the tension, we must have a perfect strategy to prepare G.S. very methodically. For that let's go through some quite inevitable aspects that we must know and tackle.

Nature of General Studies

As declared earlier, it is quite uncertain and widely unspecified subject matter. Yet UPSC declares it to be acknowledged by every good educated person without having studied the topics specifically. But going through the papers and questions, it comes in mind that even after studying specially in a branch, one cannot answer perfectly some questions. Thus, it is really deep understanding of general topics that is required. For example, Government's policies, bilateral agreements, science and technology, economical issues etc.

Wide Coverage

The Syllabus is undefined. Papers cover a wide area of knowledge and information. It is not only topics from current or national and international issues that are widely scattered, but also in science and technology, economy and geographical spheres, questions cross the limits of tradition. So, a candidate has to be in touch of each and every topics happening around us, having their impact on society, nature or the world.

Deep Understanding

It is not just learning a topic and memorising some facts that pays but a candidate is required to command deep understanding of the incident or phenomena. He should be capable of presenting his views about its impacts.

Active Involvement

A candidate must develop a habit of actively taking interest in important incidents and should read newspapers and magazines for current related topics. He should also be able to think over definitions and explanations of conventional studies, cultivating the habit of 'reading between the lines'.

Command over Every Topic :

In General Studies, a candidate cannot opt any topic as an alternative for another one. A candidate must develop a strong hold and command over every topic of papers i.e. science and technology,

statistics, economics, political issues, social issues, geography, current affairs, sports, international relations, institutions, organisations and so on.

Not Only Books :

Only books reading, though many, cannot give a good result. So for the General Studies is concerned, a candidate has to go through newspapers, magazines, and sometimes active discussions or debates also, for at least, over view based topics.

Unlimited

Yes, it is perfectly uncertain, unspecified and therefore unlimited in nature. Its sphere never ends with a boundary. It is like a horizon which shifts far and as much we approach towards it. So it is also advised to every candidate to be selective in reading and a proper time table must be maintained strictly to follow the schedule. He must decide what he is required to read by suggestions of experienced faculties or at least seniors, friends, or some magazines.

Selective and Intensive

The study of General Studies Mains requires a perfect approach that is selective and intensive. It is quite different from the Preliminary exam. And so some topics, as I mentioned earlier, should be selected for intensive and deep study.

A list of books on every topic, required to be studied, can be prepared and then a time for each of them should be devoted. One can decide number and types of books and extent of time that one can allot to each according to weightage of the topic and one's command over it. For instance, a candidate with Political Science as first or second optional would hardly require to allot much time for the portion of Indian Polity in General Studies. So, this factor varies from candidate to candidate and from stage to stage of preparation.

Moreover, a candidate can decide by the nature of a topic that how much weightage can be given to a topic by considering its importance. We can consider the following points while choosing the self-decided syllabus for the General Studies :

- Previous Years' Papers can be thoroughly studied to understand what topics are frequently emphasised, especially traditional topics like history, polity, economy, geography, statistics etc.
- Current news can guide you to select portions of importance. For example, the topic of bilateral relations can be asked if any agreement or visit of higher authority has taken place during recent period.
- Newly declared policies and its importance should be prepared as it can be expected in papers.
- Any International Conference, organisation or summit in news should be prepared thoroughly.

These are only a few criteria for selection of topics of importance from amongst the unlimited reservoir of issues and incidents.

One more important suggestion, on this topic of selective and intensive study, is that preparation should be based on understanding and information apart from getting knowledge but never should be just a bulk of data, figures and numbers.

Answer Writing

It's a quite necessary skill for mains examination. No word should be missed and no extra word can be spaced between. Besides shortage of time, words limit is a crucial factor of these papers.

Proper word at proper place' is applied in this exam. If a candidate, reading a lot and knowing a lot, cannot score well, What is justification? No justification, just one fault appears on the surface that is lack of answer writing skill. It can be commanded over impressively.

What a candidate knows is only picturised by words he writes in his answers. He cannot enjoy a smooth flow of ink nor can be create bumpers in logical flow of answer. He has to maintain flow of language on the road. He is directed by the question and that too without bumps, covering the whole distance. He is, in simple words, required to maintain the quality of his answers with the following characteristics:

- Simplicity of language.
- Logical flow of language.
- Clarity of thoughts.
- Proper structure of answers.
- Appropriate diagrams, graphs or figures can be drawn.
- Maintaining word limit.
- Information and data.
- Precise and brief writing.

A candidate cannot just fill up pages without having any relevance to the answer. A story, for instance, explains it. Once there was a person, not much intelligent, rather known as even lacking common-sense as a matter of fact. It was natural from him, not to expect anything that requires intelligent, expertise or skillful knowledge. Yet, being on a high post of reputation, he used to believe and boast of being a scholar, an expert. And in this illusion, he, among the surprise of all, published a book, "Shivaji—Life and story of a Maratha leader". It was not inspired by interest and curiosity of the story but by curiosity to know what and how he can write, people purchased the book.

Of course, the book was made quite bulky, as if it had to be proved as the level of his intelligence. When the readers were to go through the pages, they found the story something like this :— There was a Maratha leader. His name was Shivaji Maharaj..... He used to ride his horse tik-tak and fight battles with sword sweeping Syuen-shyuen, tik-tak, syuen-syuen (voice of sword, cutting air) and every morning this Maratha leader ride his horse and fight battles, tik-tak, tik-tak, syuen, syuen tik-tak syuen tik-tak syuen.....

(Many pages were just filled up with these two words). Then he concluded the story :

"And this Maratha leader was really great."

How would a reader feel when reading this story of Shivaji with barely three to four sentences or paras but feleed all pages with two words only. tik-tak, tik-tak and syuen shyuen ! Same boredom might be felt by the examiner when a candidate has just filled up pages and completed words.

Morale of this story for us is that we cannot end up with such surprising answers.

A candidate must remember one more thing that he cannot fix in the answer whatever he knows and has learnt. He has to strictly examine relevance of the information he possesses. Only if it is relevant, he can write it in the question. Not only to make it an impression that he knows something extra about the topic – he can be allowed to write whatever he has gained so far.

One more story will explain this bad habit that many candidates have in them.

A student of primary school makes his mind to participate in an Essay competition to be held in near future in his school. He determined his efforts and started to find out a topic which can give him more points or grades. He at last, according to his level, found out and decided to draft a model essay on “A Pig” and he prepared it.

He read it over and over till he could do it by heart ! And not yet satisfied with his efforts and his intense desire to win medal, he also practised to write it, for many a times. When the day of destiny came at last, he entered the competition hall and prepared his arms and ammunition.

The examiner declared topics of essay which did not contain topic “A Pig” that the boy had prepared. He was nervous. He would see his dreams breaking and scattering. But after some time he again collected all his courage. As we are, he was advised so many times by his teachers and parents that even though you don’t know anything about the question, you should not left it blank. You should try to think over it and search any knowledge that you might gather from inside and then you should write about it. So, was the case with this “Our dear boy”, he again had a glance at the topics and after thinking over them, of course because he was advised, he thought that he knew something about cricket and finally decided to write about cricket. He started in this way :

Cricket is a game. It is played with a bat and a ball and some sticks and many players. Once there was a cricket match. A player threw a ball and another player hit it with bat. The ball went high in the sky and went away from over the wall. The ball fell on road outside. It tumbled and crossed the road. It fell in mud. In that mud, there was a pig..... and not surprisingly, then he wrote the whole essay about a pig which he had prepared.!!

How strange, in an essay about cricket, he could manage to fill up pages, intelligently making his way, with the essay of a Pig.

Sometimes, candidates also, like this boy, direct his answer to accommodate what he knows and then fills up pages with that knowledge only. But it is as foolish act as this boy had done.

I hope, no need to suggest now in clear words that a candidate must not and never unnecessarily try to write whatever he knows unless asked and to pull the answer in the direction, which he has knowledge in.

Time Management

Time Management is required at two stages :

- (i) During Preparation
- (ii) In the Examination Hall.

(i) During Preparation : While preparing for the mains, especially after result of Preliminary, candidate rests with a little time, hardly three months at hand. In this short span of time, he requires to thoroughly prepare his both optionals and General Studies. Apart from these Six papers, a candidate has to prepare for Essay and two language papers, though not much emphasised by candidates.

In addition to all these, the must required preparation of acquiring writing skill and practice is also there.

Among these needs, one has to manage time for each optional, essay and the G.S.

Some tips can be given on this points :

- Divide total time for all these six papers, sparing an evening a week for essay.
- For each paper, you can again divide the time allocated to it, even for topics separately.
- Confirm a little flexibility in your time division.
- Ensure that you give enough weightage to every topic, providing more time and concern for important one.
- Be confirm that you allocate time for each, based upon two strategies.
 - (i) your command, knowledge and background.
 - (ii) previous years' questions and marks weightage.
- Do not indulge, in any topic for expert knowledge and just be sure that you are gaining enough knowledge required for General Studies. Even your personal interest should not lead you to this mistake.

(ii) Time Management in Exam. Hall:

- Do not read the whole paper in starting, because all questions are compulsory in General Studies.
- Among questions with options, go through each (a), (b), (c), where option is available.
- Think which question you can attempt well.
- After deciding the question to be attempted, jolt down relevant points according to nature of the question. Then start to write answers. No extra words or comments, only straight forward answer on proper direction will surely shorten your time,
- The condition is that before starting to write an answer one must had points and structure of the answers in one's mind.
- Do not waste time in noticing behaviour and impression of others about the papers though this is not to say to a candidate of Civil Services, yet it is necessary.
- Proper managed preparation can give you sweet fruits even in General Studies and allowing you enough time for your optionals also.

Just remember one thing, no one can be perfect in general studies, learn to be satisfied with your preparation, yes, improvement must always be yearned for.

Notes

Many toppers advise to prepare notes and many to follow strategy of underlining important parts. Some combine both. What is the best way for main preparation of General Studies? Should a candidate spare time for notes making?

Answer is again amalgamation of both where to use notes and where underline is an important question. You can follow the stages given below.

- Stage 1 : To be precise, you can underline your references with a pencil and different colours of pens and highlighters.
- Stage 2 : You can underline with pencil, that portion of a book or magazine which you generally find important, as a whole.

- Stage 3 : Now you can, from among these portions underline that sentences which can provide you central idea of the topic with one colour pen, may it be blue.
- Stage 4 : Then again, if you find some words and phrases, numbers, figures and data of vital importance, underline that part with another colour of pen, as more important for revision and memorising. May it be black or green.
- Stage 5 : Then at last and inevitable task, you can round up or underline or box-up only a few words for the portion which can be used as the stimulation to your grasp of that topic. For example, in History of Modern India, while learning the topic of “Gandhi in Indian National Movement”. You can just, for a few, use this last technique and remark words like, ‘Champaran’, ‘Dandi’, ‘Civil Disobedience’, ‘Non-Cooperation’, ‘Swadeshi’, ‘Round-table’, ‘Satyagraha’, ‘Ahimsa’ and ‘fast’. It is sure that while reading these words only, you can surely recall the whole topic. Am I right?

So, follow these techniques for underlining.

For making notes :

- It must be topic and sub-topic wise,
- It must include only relevant and most important points in brief language.
- Grammar and full sentences are not required to be taken care of.
- It must be handy in size and shape.
- It must be with clean and legible hand-writing.
- It must be attractively drafted and designed.
- It should not be with scattered points but with well arranged topics, indexed based on importance or incidents.
- Even in notes, most important words can be rounded up or highlighted, as in books and references.
- No preface, conclusion, views etc. on a topic, but only relevant explanation in point based language and data should be there.
- Notes should be prepared subject-wise and if possible topic wise.
- Head points and titles should be given in notes.
- Different colour pens and signs can be used to indicate importance, weightage and probability to be asked in papers for different topics.

Once again, notes must not be like a manuscript of original texts, it must be in your own words and if possible, language and style too.

It must be brief, summarily prepared and portable that can be revised even in a single day before the papers.

Understanding Nature of Topics

When involved in preparation, each topic should be evaluated in contexts of its probability of being asked in examination, its probable weightage and importance.

- How much influence does it create upon the society, politics or nature, is to be taken into account.

- Whether the topic has relevant facts and figures which are important from the examination's point of view.
- If the topic is view based, different types of views, for and against must be acquired with by candidate.
- One cannot be biased to one side of it, one must learn to be natural while understanding the topic, only then candidate can balance answer in examination hall.

Some topics can basked in context of its contribution on particular or various fields, some can be for explaining implication and some for discussion. While learning a topic, according to its nature, a candidate must evaluate its purpose and perspectives. It can be directed to discussion, justification, examination, elucidation, arguments and comments, all or any of these possible manners.

In another way, representing and understanding the same aspects, from the angle of marks and words should also be taken into account.

Topics possible to be asked in two marks only, ten or thirty marks etc., can be decided or at least expected by candidates and then preparation can be directed to that track.

Model and Practice

Various question papers, as models and practices should be gone through for the exam purpose.

The more one practises papers, the more marks be scores; is hitherto noticed fact. We need to be careful while choosing models which are of good standard and level. Solving such papers can boost a candidate's confidence and can make him aware of some expected topics that can be asked in papers.

It also helps in tackling the problems of time management, exam fear and so on.

Therefore, it is always advisable for every candidate to go through various questions and topics by means of model papers and practice sets.

Reading Material

Having going through all these aspects of strategy, now a candidate, at last, requires to know and decide what material he can use.

For different topics of General Studies, a candidate has to go through various references, guides, magazines and newspapers. One must decide carefully what books can be read for what topics. For this, friends, seniors, faculties or toppers (if not personally than through interviews in magazines) can be taken help of.

Classes materials if found reliable can be used. Guides from various publications can also help understanding very easily.

Dictionaries and Atlas are must

For proper understanding of every topics, points and phenomena, dictionaries and Atlas are must to be used. Otherwise ambiguities of meaning may be created in candidate's mind. No boasting of knowledge or vocabulary should come in way. Neither a candidate should feel boring in using Atlas for Map reading.

Interpreting “Words” Given in the Questions

Candidate should answer the Question in accordance with the terms specified in the question. Some of those terms are mentioned here.

- Elucidate : It means to throw light on or explain. A statement is to be made intelligible by providing relevant facts and figures. You are not going to differ in such questions but just follow the track it provides to you, just giving explanations, if required with examples, to elucidate i.e. convince the statement.
- Explain : It is almost like same as Elucidate. Minor difference that appears in answer writing is that with definition and necessary details, one can just be within the area of statement while explaining it.
- Comment : Requires personal views of a candidate. Remember “to comment” is not “to argue”. It is necessary here to be balanced on each aspects, for and against, including every topic of the statement. Though a candidate can conclude either for or against but not necessarily to any one side specifically. Illustrations, incidents, datas, facts can be used to comment your view.
- Examine : This question compulsorily requires result of examination. One cannot be at middle point or remain indecisive to be neutral. The statement requires a close inspection to bring out facts throwing light on various merits and demerits and concluding on any one side.
- Critically Examine : Here too, one must give judgement, most important here. One needs not to justify any fact or point but to be critical to them so that no side – for or against – seems to be favoured. As a critic does not be either for or against but for at some aspects and against at others.
- Discuss : It gives you a chance to narrate various aspects and details of the statement. It is comparatively easy to discuss as you are neither required to explain nor to examine. Just providing necessary detail about various aspects of the question will suffice the answer.
- Analyse : Analysis is something like scientific technique. One by one each aspects of the statement are taken into consideration. While dealing with one aspect, examine it, discuss it and comment upon it and then conclude separately for that aspect without having relevance to others. But remember each aspects, differently analysed must be coordinated and conclusion should be formed as a whole, of the whole analysis.
- Illustrate : To give example to explain the topic in the statement, to make it clear. Here too, relevant datas, quotations and facts can help to point out. But it must be remembered that you are not going to write an opposite to the statement. One needs to follow the direction of the statement and to explain it in that way.

- Simplify : To simplify means to make simple the statement. Give definition, meaning, explanation, details, examples and make the statement easy to grasp.
- Elaborate : It requires to add related details to make it full of meaning. Without necessary details some statements do not bear meaning. You are to provide its background, basis and then related detail to clear the whole picture in your words.
- Argue : To argue is to give for and against arguments on different aspects and effects of the statement. Remember, both sides must be covered. Balanced argument is advisable but if the topic is very positive or very negative, that side can be emphasised.
- Review : To review is to have a look on the historical facts of the statement. It is an expertise inspection of any topic. What outcomes and results you get, produce there.
- Justify : A statement regarding any result, decision or fact is given. Candidate has to justify it by explaining its benefits or merits and expressing its effect on minimising the adverse side. To prove propaganda in the statement logically and step by step is the expectation.

Main Examination

(*Syllabus and Instructions given by UPSC*)

The main Examination is intended to assess the overall intellectual traits and depth of understanding of candidates rather than merely the range of their information and memory.

The nature and standard of questions in the General Studies papers (Paper II to Paper V) will be such that a well-educated person will be able to answer them without any specialized study. The questions will be such as to test a candidate's general awareness of a variety of subjects, which will have relevance for a career in Civil Services. The questions are likely to test the candidate's basic understanding of all relevant issues, and ability to analyze, and take a view on conflicting socio-economic goals, objectives and demands. The candidates must give relevant, meaningful and succinct answers.

The scope of the syllabus for optional subject papers (Paper VI and Paper VII) for the examination is broadly of the honours degree level i.e. a level higher than the bachelors' degree and lower than the masters' degree. In the case of Engineering, Medical Science and law, the level corresponds to the bachelors' degree.

Syllabi of the papers included in the scheme of Civil Services (Main) Examination are given as follows:-

PAPER-I:

Essay: Candidates will be required to write an essay on a specific topic. The choice of subjects will be given.

They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay to arrange their ideas in orderly fashion, and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.

English Comprehension & English Precis will be to test the English language Comprehension and English Precis writing skills (at 10th standard level).

PAPER-II:

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present significant events, personalities, issues
- The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.

- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of world's physical geography,
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including waterbodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

PAPER-III:**General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations**

- Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries
- Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry- the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.
- India and its neighborhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

PAPER-IV:**General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management**

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it
- Government Budgeting
- 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
- 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.
- * Food processing and related industries in India- scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- * Land reforms in India.
- * Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.
- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life
- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenisation of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
- Disaster and disaster management.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; moneylaundering and its prevention
- Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate

PAPER-V:

General Studies- IV: Ethics, Integrity, and aptitude

This paper will include questions to test the candidates' attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects. The following broad areas will be covered.

Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of Family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

- Attitude: content, structure, function; its] influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weakersections.
- Emotional intelligence-concepts and their utilities and application in administration and governance
- Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers I from India and world
- Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
- Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
- Case Studies on above issues.

PAPER-VI & PAPER VII:

Optional Subject Papers I & II

Candidates may choose any optional subject from amongst the list of subjects given in para 2 (Group 1). However, if a candidate has graduated in any of the literatures of languages indicated in Group-2, with the literature as the main subject, then the candidate can also opt for that particular literature subject as an optional subject.

(MAIN)

Civil Services Exam. 2009 General Studies

SOLVED PAPERS PAPER-I

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 300

Candidates should attempt ALL questions strictly in accordance with the instructions given under each question.

Q. 1 Critically analyse any two of the following statements with reference to the contexts in which they were made (in about 150 words each): $15 \times 2 = 30$

- (a) "Many Englishmen honestly consider themselves the trustees for India and yet to what a condition they have reduced our country."
- (b) "The foreign power will be withdrawn but for me real freedom will come only when we free ourselves of the dominance of western education, western culture and the western way of living which have been ingrained in us."
- (c) "Satan cannot enter till he finds a flaw A great ocean separates us educated few from the millions in our country."

Important Points for Answer:

- British rule
- Trusteeship theory
- Economic exploitation
- Effect on India

Answer: This statement shows that the Britishers have exploited India economically for the benefit of Britain. The rule of British has reduced Indian economic condition to a worse situation.

This statement is similar to 'Drain of Wealth' theory of Dada Bhai Naoroji. Earlier Dada Bhai Naoroji and R. C. Dutt had exposed that British imperialism has phases of economic exploitation of India.

Gandhi believed in trusteeship theory. According to that theory, British government was trustee of people of India and so it should govern India in such a way as may result in most beneficial to India. But this theory was proved wrong as it could clearly be seen that Britishers have not acted in good faith for India's benefit.

They at the time of British East India Company, used the monopoly status to get trade benefits. During 1765 to 1857, it used its position to dictate terms to rulers to maximise its income from revenue. Later-on, after 1857, industrialist and capitalist phase exploited India.