

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE*Time Allowed : Three Hours**Maximum Marks : 300***Question Paper Specific Instructions**

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions :

All the questions are to be attempted.

The number of marks carried by a question / part is indicated against it.

Attempt of a part / question shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a part / question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

*Answers must be written in **ENGLISH** only.*

- Q1.** (a) Discuss the concept of Dhamma as practised by Ashoka of the Mauryan Empire. (200 words) 15
- (b) Explain the political and cultural significance of the reign of Harshavardhana (606 – 647 A.D.). (200 words) 15
- (c) Analyse how Bal Gangadhar Tilak introduced the method of 'Passive Resistance' in the freedom struggle of India. (125 words) 10
- (d) What were the circumstances which led to the emergence of socialist ideology which became the new and potent force in the late 1920s and early 1930s in Colonial India ? (125 words) 10

- Q2.** (a) How does investment in people contribute to economic growth ? Explain why investment in human development is crucial for India. (200 words) 15
- (b) Identify the causes of price volatility in agricultural markets. Suggest ways to tackle price and income fluctuations in agriculture. (200 words) 15
- (c) Why is India called the global agricultural powerhouse ? What are the key priorities in supporting agricultural growth ? (125 words) 10
- (d) Describe the economic, social and environmental gains of an increasingly digitalised society. (125 words) 10
- Q3.** (a) Indian Constitution can be viewed as oriented towards four intertwined goals : 'Rights, Justice, Development and Governance'. Elucidate. (200 words) 15
- (b) "India has a multiplicity of major institutions which provide a series of checks and balances, ensuring that the infirmities of one institution can be compensated for by the actions of another." Explain. (200 words) 15
- (c) Explain how local government institutions have led to the considerable deepening of India's constitutional democracy. (125 words) 10
- (d) "As one of the world's most powerful courts, the Supreme Court of India has evolved in its role as guardian of the Rights provisions, as enshrined in the Constitution." Explain. (125 words) 10
- Q4.** (a) Differentiate between Cyclone and Anti-cyclone. How are tropical cyclones being affected globally by climate change ? (200 words) 15
- (b) "Development of National Industrial Corridors has the potential to infuse equitable and sustainable urbanisation by creating economic nodes across the country." Discuss. (200 words) 15
- (c) "Promoting tourism without assessment of the carrying capacity of hill stations of India is a disaster." Justify. (125 words) 10
- (d) Explain the potential of lithium reserves in India and discuss the social and environmental problems associated with mining. (125 words) 10

- Q5.** (a) What are millet crops ? Describe the major millets of India and their health benefits. (200 words) 15
- (b) What is DNA fingerprinting ? Write its applications in forensics. (200 words) 15
- (c) What are communicable diseases ? Discuss the control efforts made by the Government of India in this regard. (125 words) 10
- (d) Discuss the clean and green energy sources in India. In what way are they helping us to reduce carbon emissions and carbon footprint ? (125 words) 10
- Q6.** (a) What is a hologram ? How are holograms made ? In which ways is holography superior to photography ? (200 words) 15
- (b) The Union Government launched the National Quantum Mission (NQM) in 2023. 15
- (i) What are the total cost and tenure of this mission ?
- (ii) Discuss the deliverables of this mission.
- (iii) How will this mission help 'Digital India' ? (200 words)
- (c) What are the concerns over the fifth generation of mobile communication (5G) that enables significantly faster data transfer ? Do you think 5G will increase cyber security risk ? Justify your answer. (125 words) 10
- (d) What is nuclear energy ? What possibilities can be explored to produce toxic waste-free nuclear energy ? (125 words) 10

