

# UPSC INDIAN ECONOMIC SERVICE (IES)

Previous Years questions

(Topic wise segregation)

(Till 2025)



## TABLE OF CONTENT

History of Development and Planning.....	2
Federal Finance.....	3
Budgeting and Fiscal Policy.....	5
Poverty, Unemployment and Human Development.....	7
Agriculture and Rural development strategies.....	10
India's experience with Urbanization and Migration .....	13
Industry: Strategy of industrial development.....	14
Foreign Trade .....	16
Labour .....	18
Inflation.....	20
Money and Banking .....	21

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## History of Development and Planning

Alternative development strategies— Goal of self-reliance based on import substitution and protection, The post-1991 globalisation strategies based on stabilisation and structural Adjustment packages: Fiscal reforms, Financial sector reforms and Trade reforms

- Q1. What are the factors that prompted India to liberalize and accept Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in the early 1990s? How would you evaluate 'Disinvestment Policy' under SAPs in India? (2025, 20 mark- 300 words)
- Q2. Explain the concept and pillars of Viksit Bharat @2047. (2024, 5 Marks)
- Q3. Discuss inclusivity and sustainability as a growth strategy of India in recent years. (2024, 15 Marks)
- Q4. Discuss the vision, challenges and road map for India to achieve a \$5 trillion economy. (2024, 15 Marks)
- Q5. Enumerate the factors that have led to poor performance of India in human development. (2023, 5 marks)
- Q6. "Privatisation and disinvestment of Public Sector Units was a compulsion and not a choice for India. Discuss (2023, 20 marks)
- Q7. Differentiate between the strategies for self-reliance through protection and self-reliance through globalisation. (2022, 10 marks-150 words)
- Q8. Discuss the rationale and objectives of disinvestment policy in India. Assess its performance. (2020, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q9. Discuss briefly the relative merits of International Trade and output expansion for home market as effective engine of economic development in India. (2019, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q10. Explain why India continued with inward-looking control-oriented development policy despite unsatisfactory results. (2019, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q11. Analyse the causes of India's balance of payments problems before 1990s. How was fiscal deficit linked to the balance of payment crisis? Examine the measures taken by the government of India in correcting the twin deficits. (2019, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q12. Evaluate the liberalisation strategy as adopted in India since 1991 to achieve economic growth. (2018, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q13. Critically evaluate inclusiveness and sustainability of growth as the development strategy in India in recent times. (2017, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q14. Economic growth in India in the post liberalisation period is service led. Is this growth sustainable? (2017, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q15. Why do the basic objectives of planning remain unfulfilled in India? Can India achieve these objectives in the post liberalization period? (2017, 20 marks-300 words)

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- Q16. Do you agree with the view that the process of globalisation in India has led to 'unequal competition'? (2016, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q17. Manufacturing sector needs to be strengthened and developed but the role of the service sector cannot be ignored. Discuss. (2015, 5 marks-150 words)
- Q18. Describe India's development strategy of selective inter-dependence after attaining Independence. (2014, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q19. How is unemployment measured in India? Discuss giving estimates of various forms of unemployment in the Indian economy. (2014, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q20. Differentiate between self-sufficiency and self Reliance as an objective of Indian planning. (2013, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q21. Examine wage goods development strategy as an alternative to Mahalanobis development model at the time of second five-year plan. (2013, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q22. Examine the changing role of Reserve Bank of India since 1991. (2013, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q23. What are the measures adopted since 1991 for structural adjustment of the Indian economy? (2012, 12 marks-150 words)
- Q24. Give five arguments in favour of Trade Reforms introduced in India in 1991. (2011, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q25. "Financial Sector Reforms undertaken in 1991 and 1998 were an essential pre requisite, for a globally integrated, liberated, based economy." Elaborate. (2011, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q26. "P.C. Mahalanobis' Four Sectoral Model of second five year plan failed as it was based on wrong assumptions of the Indian economy." Do you agree? (2011, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q27. Comment features of planning in India. (2010, 7 marks-50 words)
- Q28. What triggered the Indian economic reforms of 1991? Explain in detail. (2010, 15 marks-150 words)

## Federal Finance

Constitutional provisions relating to fiscal and financial powers of the States, Finance Commissions and their formulae for sharing taxes, Financial aspect of Sarkaria Commission Report, Financial aspects of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.

- Q1. What are the major concerns and challenges of fiscal federalism in India? Explain the role of GST as a new initiative in this context. (2025, 20 mark- 300 words)

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- Q2. Discuss the criteria and weightage assigned for determining the sharing of union tax proceeds and recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission of India. (2024, 15 Marks)
- Q3. Discuss the impact of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments on decentralisation of financial powers, responsibilities and resources to Panchayati Raj Institutions. (2023, 15 marks)
- Q4. Write down the key recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission of India. (2022, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q5. Do you think that for a country like India with lot of diversification, the federal system is a better system as far as financial aspect is concerned? Substantiate your answer. (2021, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q6. Discuss the criteria weightage assigned for determining the sharing of Union Tax proceeds and recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission in India. (2020, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q7. What are the issues of conflict between the centre and the states with respect to their financial relations? (2019, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q8. Describe briefly how resources are transferred from the centre to the states in India. (2017, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q9. Why are states in India not satisfied with the financial arrangement between the centre and the states? In this context, what were the major recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission? (2017, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q10. Enumerate constitutional provisions relating to financial relations between the centre and the states. (2016, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q11. Do you think that the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission will help in promoting Cooperative federalism in the country? (2016, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q12. State the major recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. (2015, 5 marks-150 words)
- Q13. Comment on the major Federal fiscal problems between the centre and states in India. (2015, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q14. Examine the changing criteria adopted by the Finance Commissions for the vertical distribution of Central tax proceeds among the states. (2014, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q15. Mention five issues of conflict between centre and States financial relations. (2013, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q16. Critically examine the state financiers and suggest alternative sources of financing a State Government other than grants and loans from the Central Government. (2013, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q17. What do you mean by vertical and horizontal inequalities? How has the 13th finance commission helped in meeting the physical needs of states in India to solve this problem? Comment on the scheme of special grants in aid. (2012, 20 marks-250 words)

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- Q18. Write a critical note on the criteria and relative weights for determining inter-se share of States in fiscal transfer in India. (2011, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q19. Explain the recommendations of the latest Finance Commission of India over sharing of revenue between the Centre and the States. Comment on them. (2010, 15 marks-150 words)

## Budgeting and Fiscal Policy

Tax, Expenditure, Budgetary deficits, Pension and Fiscal reforms, Public debt management and reforms, Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, Black money and Parallel economy in India—definition, estimates, genesis, consequences and remedies

- Q1. Explain the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. Do you agree that the FRBM Act ensures fiscal discipline in India? Give reasons. (2025, 15 mark-200 words)
- Q2. Do you think that the imposition of GST has led to enhanced tax collection for the Centre and States? Has it reduced incidence of taxation on common people? Substantiate your answer. (2024, 20 Marks)
- Q3. Enumerate the recent initiatives by the government to address the issues related to black money and parallel economy. (2023, 5 marks)
- Q4. "GST has curtailed the financial powers of the States under fiscal federalism." Comment. (2023, 5 marks)
- Q5. Discuss the causes and consequences of recent fiscal deficits in India and the measures taken under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act towards fiscal prudence. (2023, 15 marks)
- Q6. Describe the measures taken by the Government of India to tackle the problem of black money. To what extent these measures are successful in addressing the problem? (2022, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q7. What are the basic principles of fiscal management in India? Discuss the role of FRBM rules (2004) to improve the fiscal health at sub-national level. (2022, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q8. Evaluate Public Expenditure Management Policy as an instrument of fiscal reforms in India. (2022, 10 marks-150 words)
- Q9. Evaluate the post-1991 globalization policy of fiscal reforms, financial sector reforms and trade reforms in a row. (2021, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q10. Examine the recent controversy regarding changes in the tax structure on goods and services. Do you think that new structure is a better one In the current context? Elaborate your answer. (2021, 20 marks-300 words)

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- Q11. Explain the concept, features and recent changes of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2003 in the context of limiting India's fiscal deficit and debt deficit. (2020, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q12. Examine the causes and consequences of the recent slowdown in Indian economy. What are the initiatives undertaken by the government to overcome it? Give your suggestions. (2020, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q13. Critically evaluate the problems relating to the implementation of goods and services tax. (2019, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q14. What do you understand by the fiscal responsibility and budget management act? Explain its importance in brief. (2018, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q15. Do you agree that the recent demonetisation in India has not yielded the desired outcome in respect of curbing the menace of Black Money? Give reasons in support of your answer. (2018, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q16. Analyse the evolution of deficits and debts in India since 1980s. What type of measures would you suggest to achieve fiscal balances? (2018, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q17. Why has the government of India considered the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to be a great Leap Forward in the context of the Indian economy? (2018, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q18. How was the economic crisis faced by India in the early nineties related to her internal fiscal imbalances? (2017, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q19. What are the consequences of black money in India? (2017, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q20. Do you think that the agricultural income in India should be taxed? Give reasons for your answer. (2017, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q21. Do you think the imposition of GST will lead to enhanced tax collection for the centre and the states? Will it reduce the incidence of taxation on the common people? (2017, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q22. Distinguish between revenue deficit, effective revenue deficit, fiscal deficit and primary deficit. (2016, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q23. Despite increased collections from taxes, Tax-GDP ratio in the case of Central Government continues to be stagnant. Give reasons. (2016, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q24. Do you think that the union budget is pro-poor? Give reasons in support of your answer. (2016, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q25. Do you think that Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 should be modified? Give reasons. (2015, 5 marks-150 words)
- Q26. What constitutes Black Economy of India? Enumerate its dimensions. (2014, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q27. Do you agree that there is significant divergence between statutory rates of taxes and effective rates of taxes? Give reasons in support of your answer. (2014, 20 marks-300 words)

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- Q28. Discuss the major problems in implementation of Fiscal responsibility and Budget Management Act in India. (2013, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q29. Why is the value of Indian rupee depreciating in recent times? Discuss its implications action on Current Account Deficit and Fiscal Deficit. Are the measures taken by the government and the RBI sufficient? If not, what should be done? (2013, 25 marks-250 words)
- Q30. What policy instruments are used in fiscal reforms in India and for what effect? (2012, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q31. What are the invisible items in the Balance of payments and why are they so called? (2012, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q32. Examine the causes of Fiscal deficit in India and highlight feasible mitigation strategies. (2012, 12 marks-150 words)
- Q33. Which two accounts are summed up in current account balance in India and how much is the ratio of Current Account Deficit to GDP now in India? (2011, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q34. Why are fiscal deficits and revenue deficits a cause of concern, especially for a developing economy like India? Give recent examples. (2011, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q35. Comment on parallel economy in India. (2010, 7 marks-50 words)
- Q36. What is meant by Balance of Payment deficit disequilibrium? Give a brief account of important causes of the Balance of Payment disequilibrium. Review India's present position in this respect. (2010, 30 marks-500 words)

## Poverty, Unemployment and Human Development

Estimates of inequality and Poverty measures for India, Appraisal of Government measures, India's human development record in global perspective, India's population policy and development

- Q1. What are the components of Human Development Index (HDI) in India? Why do these components remain stagnant over the years? (2025, 5 mark- 100 words)
- Q2. "The National Population Policy, 2000 has made a qualitative departure in its approach to population issues but it does not directly lay emphasis on population control." Critically examine the statement. (2025, 20 mark- 300 words)
- Q3. Explain the main pillars of the Indian model of inclusive growth. What are the social welfare measures undertaken by the Government of India to achieve inclusivity? (2025, 20 mark- 300 words)
- Q4. Discuss the objectives and significance of 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in India. (2024, 5 Marks)
- Q5. Discuss the estimates of poverty based on 'Multidimensional Poverty Index' in India. (2024, 5 Marks)

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- Q6. Examine the impact of Skill India Programme' on demographic dividend and employment generation in India. (2024, 15 Marks)
- Q7. Though the economic reforms initiated in 1990s have led to reduction in poverty, yet they have widened the interpersonal income inequality," Critically examine and suggest measures to tackle the issue. (2023, 20 marks)
- Q8. (2022, 10+10 marks-300 words)
- Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty or poverty is the main cause of population growth in India
  - Analyse the trend in consumption inequality in India since the early 1990s.
- Q9. Comment on the latest measure of poverty in Indian Context. (2021, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q10. Explain the coexistence of rising economic inequality and falling poverty in India. Do you think that there is necessarily a trade off between the two over time? Explain your answer. (2021, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q11. Delineate the major challenges in eliminating unemployment and growth retrogress in the Indian economy of recent times. Make brief policy suggestions to meet them. (2021, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q12. Write a note on Human Development Report (HDR) 2019, with reference to India. (2020, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q13. What are the causes and extent of unemployment in India? What do you understand by the term jobless growth? Explain this in light of recent experience. (2020, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q14. What are the main pillars of Make in India programme? Discuss the impact of it on: (2020, 15 marks-200 words)
- Manufacturing
  - Automobile sector
- Q15. Give and account of MGNREGA in India. Explain the extent to which it has been successful in combating rural unemployment and poverty. What are your suggestions to make it more effective? (2020, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q16. Discuss the trend of the sex composition of population in India. What are its determinants? Comment on the measures adopted by the government of India to check further loss of girls. (2019, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q17. The emerging trend in economic inequality in India does not augur well. Point out the main factors responsible for the trend and suggest appropriate measures to this effect. (2018, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q18. Do you subscribe to the view that development of economic and social infrastructure is central to any future strategy of poverty alleviation in India? Elaborate your answer. (2018, 20 marks-300 words)

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- Q19. The success of realising the demographic dividend hinges upon the success of Skill India programme, which in turn depends upon the resources allocated to human capital formation. Evaluate critically. (2018, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q20. What are the various dimensions of poverty? Has the economic reform package ultimately reduced the incidence of poverty in India? (2017, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q21. How will you explain the paradox of high economic growth and low human development in India in recent times? (2017, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q22. Why is India's Human Development record still poor in spite of higher GDP growth rate? (2016, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q23. Anti-poverty programmes need to be reoriented for assets creation rather than providing employment in rural areas. Comment. (2015, 5 marks-150 words)
- Q24. India's Human Development record continues to be gloomy. Can you suggest measures to improve it? (2015, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q25. Skill development and increase in labour productivity will impact India's growth rate. In this context, would you suggest changes in India's education policy? (2015, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q26. It is not the population but the poverty and unemployment are the two most chronic problems of the Indian economy. What policy measures would you suggest to solve these problems? (2015, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q27. Comment on the plausibility of the current poverty estimates in the context of the controversy surrounding the procedures for poverty estimation. (2014, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q28. How is unemployment measured in India? Discuss giving estimates of various forms of unemployment in Indian economy. (2014, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q29. Do you agree that urban inequalities have grown with the passage of time in India? Give reasons in support of your answer. (2014, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q30. Malthus made a case for delayed marriages to control population but he was silent on different age specification for male and female. Why, in India, we have different minimum wages for marriage for boys and girls? (2013, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q31. Define and distinguish between primary poverty and the secondary poverty in Indian context. (2013, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q32. Comment on Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana for removing urban poverty and unemployment in India. (2013, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q33. What are the governmentally run schemes for providing gainful employment in rural areas? (2012, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q34. What are the changes which have been incorporated in the National Population Policy 2000, to improve the quality of population? (2012, 12 marks-150 words)
- Q35. What are some demographic issues which are a matter of concern for India, as brought out in census 2011? (2011, 5 marks-50 words)

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- Q36. Why has the Poverty Line methodology given by Planning Commission of India become controversial? Is the criticism really justified? Examine critically. (2011, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q37. Explain the relation between poverty, unemployment and inequality. Comment on the method of determination of the poverty line in India. (2010, 15 marks-150 words)

## Agriculture and Rural development strategies

Technologies and institutions, Land relations and Land reforms, Rural credit, Modern farm inputs and Marketing— Price policy and Subsidies; Commercialisation and diversification; Rural development programmes including poverty alleviation programmes, development of economic and social infrastructure and New Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

- Q1. What are the major objectives of the 'Mission Antyodaya' of the Government of India? How does the programme strengthen the process of participatory planning for Gram Panchayat Development Plan? (2025, 15 mark- 200 words)
- Q2. Examine the relationship between farm size and productivity in the Indian agriculture. What are the measures undertaken to improve agricultural productivity in India? (2025, 15 mark- 200 words)
- Q3. Discuss the provisions of 'Green Box Subsidies' under the Agreement on Agriculture. (2024, 5 Marks)
- Q4. Discuss the extent to which MGNREGA has been successful in combatant the problem of rural unemployment. Suggest measures to make it more effective. (2024, 15 Marks)
- Q5. Give an account of recent trends in agricultural growth rates in India. Critically evaluate government initiatives for promoting sustainable agricultural development. (2024, 20 Marks)
- Q6. Enumerate economic and social infrastructure programmes launched after 2015 towards restructuring the rural economy and reduction in poverty. (2023, 15 marks)
- Q7. Account for the factors that have prevented farmers from getting remunerative prices for their products. Examine some recent initiatives to reform the agricultural marketing system by the government. (2023, 20 marks)
- Q8. Discuss how e-NAM and derivatives market linkages can benefit farmers in India. (2022, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q9. Examine the complementarity between technological change and institutional change in enhancing agricultural growth in India. Suggest some measures for adoption of technologies for sustainable farming system in India. (2022, 20 marks-300 words)

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- Q10. What is the Aspirational Districts Programme of the Government of India? Discuss how it is a manifestation of the inclusive development agenda. (2022, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q11. Make an impact assessment of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. (2021, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q12. Subsidies are a source of inefficiency and corruption. They should be rationalized and ultimately phased out. Do you agree with this view? Substantiate your answer in the context of Indian agriculture (2021, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q13. Briefly discuss the salient features of National Agriculture Market (NAM) in India. (2020, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q14. Discuss the salient features of National Food Security Act, 2013 in India. Give a critical assessment of it. (2020, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q15. "Subsidies may be a hidden culprit in India's farm crisis". Critically examine the statement. (2020, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q16. Discuss the trends of agricultural growth rates in India during the post reform period. What are the factors responsible for the decline in growth rates? Evaluate the measures taken by the government to revive this sector. (2020, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q17. Examine the possible consequences of opening up the Indian agriculture to the world markets? (2019, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q18. Comment on the required rate of growth for doubling farmers' income within five years. What measures have been taken by the Government of India to achieve this? Are those measures adequate? Give your suggestions. (2019, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q19. What are the problems associated with poverty alleviation programmes of the Government of India? Do you support the principle of Universal basic income as a better alternative? Give reasons for your answer. (2019, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q20. Give a short account of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. (2018, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q21. Describe the salient features of National Health Mission in India briefly. (2018, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q22. What do you understand by diversification of agriculture in India? Critically examine the role of Agricultural price policy in this context. (2018, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q23. Agricultural credit from institutional sources is a chronic problem in India. In this context, explain the role of commercial banks in disbursing agricultural credit. (2017, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q24. What are the challenges faced by India for financial inclusion in rural areas? Discuss how this problem can be overcome. (2017, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q25. What are the flaws in Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? Do you think Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) can remove these flaws? Explain. (2017, 20 marks-300 words)

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- Q26. "Green revolution in India has improved Indian farming but has failed to address challenges". Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer. (2016, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q27. Subsidies are a source of inefficiency and corruption. They should be rationalised and ultimately phased out. Illustrate your answer in the Indian context. (2015, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q28. Industrial development and Agricultural Development are two sides of the same coin. What policy prescriptions would you advocate in the context of the Indian economy? (2015, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q29. Give arguments against subsidies in India. (2013, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q30. Discuss the major weaknesses of Agricultural price policy of India. Suggest suitable remedial measures. (2013, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q31. Comment on the various sources of Industrial financing in India for conducive industrial climate. Suggest suitable for alternative sources for strengthening industrial financing. (2013, 25 marks-250 words)
- Q32. Highlight the nature of the land reforms still needed in the Indian economy. (2012, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q33. How is agricultural price policy determined in India? Does the process take note of Agricultural subsidies? (2012, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q34. Explain the nature and process of public sector reforms in India. What additional measures are required? (2012, 20 marks-250 words)
- Q35. What were the components of the New Agricultural Strategy adopted in late sixties? Narrate the positive and negative impacts of the Green Revolution. At present, what measures should be adopted to bring Second Green Revolution in Indian agriculture? (2012, 20 marks-250 words)
- Q36. What are the important forms of farm subsidies in India and what is their justification? (2011, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q37. What are the challenges and priorities of Indian agriculture in meeting WTO requirements keeping in view the provisions on Agreement on Agriculture (AOA)? (2011, 15 marks-300 words)
- Q38. Comment on PURA Model (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) (2010, 7 marks-50 words)
- Q39. What measures need to be adopted to improve the economic conditions of farm workers in India? Discuss. (2010, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q40. Discuss the agricultural price policy of the Government of India. Will you suggest changes in this policy? Justify your answer. (2010, 15 marks-150 words)

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## India's experience with Urbanization and Migration

Different types of migratory flows and their impact on the economies of their origin and destination, The process of growth of urban settlements; Urban development strategies

- Q1. Critically analyze the growth of urban informal sector caused by migration in India. What are the corrective measures undertaken by the Government of India? (2025, 15 mark- 200 words)
- Q2. Bring out the factors responsible for rapid urbanisation in India in recent years. Suggest polity measures to prevent the undesirable effects of rapid urbanisation. (2024, 15 Marks)
- Q3. How can Smart City Mission address the socio-economic and environmental issues in urban India? (2023, 5 marks)
- Q4. Critically examine the causes and consequences of different types of migratory flows on the home and destination economies. (2023, 15 marks)
- Q5. Discuss the characteristic features of internal migration in India. Explain how urbanisation is linked with migration. What are the major determinants of rural to urban migration in large agglomerations in India? (2022, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q6. Do you think that "Back to Village" policy planning by the Central Government will reduce pressure on urban amenities? (2021, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q7. 'Smart city Mission' is in contrast to "back to Village" mission. Do you agree with this view point? (2021, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q8. What are the objectives of smart cities mission in India? (2020, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q9. Discuss in brief the salient features of Digital India programme. (2020, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q10. Bring out the factors responsible for rapid urbanisation in India. What are the policy measures taken to prevent the undesirable effects of rapid urbanisation? (2020, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q11. What are the links between urbanisation and economic development? Do you think that Indian cities and towns have adequate infrastructure to bear the burden of increased population? What measures have been taken by the government of India to address this problem? (2019, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q12. How has the rural-urban migration in India impacted the two sets of areas in social and economic terms? What policy measures would you prescribe to negate the negative impacts of the said process of migration? (2018, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q13. Is increasing urbanisation in India the result of push factors rather than pull factors? Discuss. (2016, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q14. Mention economic and non-economic factors affecting migration from rural areas to urban areas in India. (2013, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q15. What problems are faced in the implementation of Urban Development strategies? (2012, 5 marks-50 words)

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Q16. Critically assess the impact of urbanisation on socio-economic situation in India.  
(2010, 15 marks-150 words)

## Industry: Strategy of industrial development

Industrial Policy Reform; Reservation Policy relating to small scale industries, Competition policy, Sources of industrial finances, Bank, Share market, Insurance companies, Pension funds, Non-banking sources and Foreign direct investment, Role of foreign capital for direct investment and Portfolio investment, Public sector reform, Privatisation and Disinvestment

- Q1. What is Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme initiated by the Government of India? Critically examine its role towards employment generation in India. (2025, 15 mark- 200 words)
- Q2. What are the Industrial Policy Reforms related to Small-Scale Industries undertaken in recent period? Discuss their impact on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). (2025, 15 mark- 200 words)
- Q3. Briefly explain the features and objectives of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana' in India. (2024, 5 Marks)
- Q4. Explain the components of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme in India. (2024, 5 Marks)
- Q5. What are the pillars of 'Make in India'? Discuss the impact of Make in India' on manufacturing and automobile sectors in India. (2024, 15 Marks)
- Q6. "The 'Startup India' initiative aims at fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovations by creating an ecosystem conducive to growth in India. Elucidate. (2024, 20 Marks)
- Q7. "FDI has a positive impact on growth and employment but has also resulted in a number of negative externalities." Comment. (2023, 15 marks)
- Q8. What is competition policy? Why do we need a national competition policy (NCP)? How does NCP affect economic growth in India? (2022, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q9. How will you account for the industrial performance scenario of the Indian economy in 2020-21? Comment on the most adverse factor in your opinion in this respect. (2021-20 marks-300 words)
- Q10. Explain why many of the public sector enterprises have become a burden on the Government of India? (2019, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q11. Examine the role of the state in the new development strategy in India. How far has government compromised with its social objectives? Do you support the disinvestment policy? Explain. (2019, 15 marks-200 words)

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- Q12. Do you think that India failed to acquire the ability to design, fabricate and erect its own plants without foreign assistance? Comment on the Make in India policy Government of India in this light. (2019, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q13. Are Investment decisions based on commercial judgements superior to allocation of resources through planning on the basis of preconceived notions of social desires? Elaborate your answer comparing the July 1991 Industrial policy to the earlier policies. Is this change beneficial for the Indian economy? Discuss. (2019, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q14. How can the disinvestment drive be invigorated in the Indian Economy? (2018, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q15. What in your opinion is the present outlook in respect of the industrial performance of Indian economy 2008-19? What are the favourable factors, risks and challenges in this regard? (2018, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q16. Critically evaluate the government policies towards the public sector enterprises since 1991. Do you think these enterprises are still relevant for industrial development in India? (2017, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q17. What are the major problems of industrial development in India? Can the "Make in India" programme recently launched by the Government of India eliminate some of these problems? (2017, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q18. Disinvestment policy of the government has failed to deliver results. Do you agree? Give reasons. (2016, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q19. Discuss recent initiatives undertaken by the government to boost industrial growth in India. (2016, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q20. MSME's have a critical role in boosting industrial growth in India and ensuring the success of "Make in India" programme. Explain (2016, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q21. Bring out the importance of micro, small and medium enterprises in the context of the Indian economy. (2015, 5 marks-150 words)
- Q22. Nonbanking financial institutions need to be effectively regulated and monitored in India. Can you suggest some measures in this direction? (2015, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q23. Industrial development and agricultural development are the two sides of the same coin. What policy prescriptions would you advocate in the context of the Indian economy? (2015, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q24. How far can India's New Competition Policy help to make Indian industry more competitive especially vis-à-vis the MNC's? Analyse and support with evidence. (2014, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q25. How far is the restructuring of the PSUs to make them more competitive a better strategy to enhance, rather than the tactic policy of privatizing them? Discuss in the light of practical evidence and recommendations?
- Q26. Conceptualize medium enterprises as MSMED Act, 2006. (2013, 5 marks-50 words)

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- Q27. Justify level-playing-field for various categories of Indian industries for coexistence. (2013, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q28. In quantitative terms, bring out how far the disinvestment policy has been successful India? (2012, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q29. Discuss the role of share market in maximising resources for investment in Indian industry. (2012, 12 marks-150 words)
- Q30. How are micro enterprises different from small scale industries? (2012, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q31. Critically examine the impact of the New Industrial Policy initiated in India in 1991. (2010, 15 marks-150 words)

## Foreign Trade

Salient features of India's foreign trade, Composition, Direction and Organisation of trade, Recent changes in trade, Balance of payments, Tariff policy, Exchange rate, India and WTO requirements. Bilateral Trade Agreements and their implications.

- Q1.
- Mention the major reasons for the rise in India's current account deficit in the last decade. (2025, 5 mark- 100 words)
  - Explain the reasons of sharp decline of Indian Rupee (INR) against Dollar in recent period. (2025, 5 mark- 100 words)
- Q2. Bring out the main features of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 of the Government of India. How is it effective in controlling trade-based money laundering? (2025, 15 mark- 200 words)
- Q3. Explain Bilateral Investment Treaties. What are the major concerns of the Government of India regarding these treaties? (2025, 20 mark- 300 words)
- Q4. Explain the provisions of recent Foreign Trade Policy (2021-2026) in the context of export promotion and ease of doing business. Substantiate your answer. (2024, 15 Marks)
- Q5. Discuss the recent trends in India's Balance of Payments. Bring out the factors responsible for current account deficit in India's Balance of Payments in recent years. (2024, 20 Marks)
- Q6. Account for the provisions made for the MSMEs and e-commerce exports in the trade policy of India 2021 – 26 (2023, 5 marks)
- Q7. Though the export promotion strategy has resulted in the diversification of India's exports basket, yet it has failed to decrease the trade deficit." Comment. (2023, 15 marks)
- Q8. "India's decision of not joining Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is based on sound economic reasoning and is not a diplomatic strategy." Discuss. (2023, 15 marks)

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- Q9. Write down the main features of foreign trade policy (2015-20) of India. (2022, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q10. Analyse the complementarity, difference and integration between Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI).  
a. "FDI is necessary but not sufficient condition for economic growth in India." Critically examine. (2022, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q11. Analyse the effects of tariff protections on domestic industries in India. Evaluate India's trade openness and tariff policy since the 1991 reforms. (2022, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q12. Do you think that the current exchange rate policy is appropriate for a sustainable balance of Trade? (2021, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q13. Examine the pattern of India's foreign trade in recent times. Can a self-reliance policy of trade serve as an engine of economic development? (2021, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q14. Examine the Foreign Trade Policy in India (2015-2020) in the context of its vision, mission and objectives. (2020, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q15. Examine how International agreements under the World Trade Organisation have affected Indian agriculture and industry. (2019, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q16. Critically analyse the role of foreign capital in promoting investment in India. (2018, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q17. Describe in brief the composition of India's imports during the economic reform's era? (2018, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q18. Critically evaluate the issue of capital account convertibility in the context of the Indian economy? (2017, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q19. Mention the major trade policy reforms in India since 1991. How has it affected the structure of India's foreign trade? (2017, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q20. Explain how curtailment of domestic absorption improved the balance of payment situation of India? (2017, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q21. Analyse the extent to which the composition and direction of India's foreign trade have undergone changes during last ten years. (2016, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q22. Enumerate the reasons for decline in growth rate of India's exports. (2016, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q23. Why is it crucial to bring about a shift in India's direction of foreign trade towards trading blocs such as SAARC and ASEAN, and economic grouping like BRICS? Discuss the expected benefits and pitfalls in the light of the evidence since the last decade. (2014, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q24. Critically evaluate the centre's decision to abdicate its decision-making power in favour of States on whether to allow or disallow FDI in front-end retail. (2014, 20 marks-300 words)

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- Q25. Critically discuss India's Food Security Act, 2013 and point out its incongruity with the WTO norms as recently proclaimed at recently concluded Bali Summit. (2014, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q26. In what way is the direction of India's foreign trade changing? Is this also influencing the composition of trade? (2012, 12 marks-150 words)
- Q27. Critically assess the role of FDI in insurance and pension funds. (2012, 12 marks-150 words)
- Q28. What are the main features of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2004-09 adopted by the government of India? Has India conformed to this? (2011, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q29. What has been the experience of India in relation to SEZ policy framework? Has it satisfied the requirements of all principal stakeholders? (2011, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q30. Comment on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). (2010, 7 marks-50 words)



Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, Industrial relations and Labour welfare— Strategies for employment generation— Urban labour market and Informal sector employment, Report of National Commission on Labour, Social issues relating to labour e.g. Child Labour, Bonded Labour International Labour Standard and its impact.

- Q1.
- Discuss the significance of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), 2015 of the Government of India. (2025, 5 mark- 100 words)
  - Write down the policy measures undertaken recently to improve female labour force participation rate in India. (2025, 5 mark- 100 words)
- Q2. Give an account of recent labour market reforms in India. Critically evaluate the impact of technological changes on labour market. (2024, 15 Marks)
- Q3. Identify the socio-economic and cultural factors that have led to the existence and persistence of child labour in India. Discuss some of the recent initiatives of the government to address the issue. (2023, 15 marks)
- Q4. "Globalisation has made International Labour Standards more relevant today." Discuss its impact on the labour and the economy. (2023, 20 marks)
- Q5. "India has a worse underemployment problem than unemployment." Do you agree? Give reasons. (2022, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q6. Do you agree with the view that Child labour in India is a socio-economic problem? (2021, 5 marks-100 words)

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- Q7. Has the situation of India's informal sector workers changed in recent times? Suggest policy interventions for improving the socio-economic conditions of these workers. (2021, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q8. Discuss the recent reforms in labor market in India. (2020, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q9. Elaborate the causes of prevalence of child labour in India. Suggest suitable measures to control it. (2019, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q10. Examine the nature of the Reserve Army of labour in India after the adoption of the neo-liberal policies. Do you think that India will continue to be an informal economy in near future? Give reasons for your answer. (2019, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q11. Is it possible to transform India's Youth from job seekers to job creators in the changing jobs scenario in India? What steps have been taken by the government of India to attain this objective? (2019, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q12. Define informal sector employment. What types of vulnerabilities are faced by workers in the informal sector in India? Point out the required policy measures to ameliorate the social and economic hardships of Indian formal sector workers. (2018, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q13. What are the major social issues related to child labour in India? (2018, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q14. Do you think that the employment generation strategy adopted by the government of India since 1991 can reduce unemployment significantly? (2017, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q15. "Bonded labour continues to exist in India despite government's efforts to regulate it." Comment. (2016, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q16. India is presently facing dual challenges of developing skills and using skills. Discuss. (2016, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q17. Child labour continues to be a permanent problem in India. Suggest pragmatic ways to control it. (2015, 5 marks-150 words)
- Q18. What provisions have been enshrined in the National Security Act, 2008 for Unorganized Sector Workers? Discuss critically giving evidence on its progress and achievements so far. (2014, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q19. In what way are India's labour markets rigid? Enlist the recommendations of the second National Commission on Labour to provide flexibility to Indian labour market. (2014, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q20. Explain the difficulties in implementation of Ban on Child Labour in India. (2013, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q21. Comment on the finding of the latest report of the National Commission of Labour regarding informal sector employment. (2012, 12 marks-150 words)
- Q22. Examine unit labour cost as a tool for competitiveness in India. Compare this with some developed economies of the world. (2011, 5 marks-50 words)

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## Inflation

Definition, Trends, Estimates, Consequences and remedies (control): Wholesale Price Index. components and trends, Consumer Price Index: components and trends

- Q1. "Retail price inflation mainly stems from the agricultural and allied sectors, housing, textiles and pharmaceutical sectors in India." Comment. (2025, 5 mark- 100 words)
- Q2. What are the different methods of estimating inflation in India? Discuss the measures undertaken by the Government of India to control inflation. (2025, 15 mark- 200 words)
- Q3. Discuss the consequences of inflation targeting monetary policy in India. Describe the role of the Reserve Bank of India in ensuring financial stability. (2024, 20 Marks)
- Q4. "Exclusion of service sector in W.P.I. is a major constraint in reflecting consumer inflation in India." Comment. (2023, 5 marks)
- Q5. "India's inflation is basically structural in nature Monetary and fiscal interventions can only moderate its rate but cannot be a permanent solution." Explain using appropriate statistics with logic and reasoning. (2023, 20 marks)
- Q6. Discuss the role of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in India in the context of inflation targeting. (2022, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q7. Analyse the trends in 'Fuel and Power' inflation in India based on WPI. (2022, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q8. How is core inflation different from CPI headline inflation? What is the rationale in measuring core inflation? Explain. (2022, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q9. What have been the causes for the rise in prices in India during the eighties and nineties? Also, comment on the recent rise in inflationary pressure in terms of cost-push factors and demand-pull factors. (2021, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q10. "WPI is in no way an indicator of consumer inflation; at best it is a determinant for pricing power of domestic manufacturers". Discuss. What are the advantages of CPI and WPI? (2021, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q11. Distinguish between "wholesale price index" and "consumer price index" in India. (2020, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q12. What are the causes and consequences of inflation in India? What are the initiatives and measures taken by the RBI to contain it? In this context, discuss the relevance of inflation targeting in India. (2020, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q13. What were the causes of inflationary rise in prices of food grains in India? To what extent was future trading in essential items responsible for this food inflation? (2019, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q14. Distinguish between Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI) and explain the way Headline Inflation is measured in India. Also explain the current

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approach of the RBI in maintaining price stability and growth. (2018, 20 marks-300 words)

Q15. Distinguish between various concepts of consumer price index in India. Which of them is used for compensating the employees for inflation and why? (2013, 25 marks-250 words)

Q16. How is the Consumer Price Index prepared in India? (2012, 5 marks-50 words)

Q17. Why is monetary policy alone inadequate to combat inflation in India? Explain in the wake of raising REPO and reverse REPO rates in recent months by RBI. (2011, 5 marks-50 words)

Q18. What is the total number of items in the revised WPI series with 2004-05 base, and what weights are assigned to Primary articles, Fuel and Power, Manufactured Products? Do you think the mix of items is appropriate? (2011, 5 marks-50 words)

Q19. Define inflation. What are the effects of inflation? Give reasons for the differential effects of inflation on different sections of India's population. Indicate the welfare implication. (2010, 30 marks-500 words)

## Money and Banking

Financial sector reforms, Organisation of India's money market, Changing roles of the Reserve Bank of India, Commercial banks, Development finance institutions, Foreign banks and Non-banking financial institutions, Indian capital market and SEBI, Development in Global Financial Market and its relationship with Indian Financial Sector. Commodity Market in India-Spot and Futures Market, Role of FMC.

Q1. Explain the financial sector reforms in India. What are the challenges and steps taken by the government in improving the banking system? (2025, 15 mark- 200 words)

Q2. Distinguish between Indian Money and Capital market. Explain the role of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in regulating capital market. (2025, 20 mark- 300 words)

Q3. Describe the concept and significance of digitalisation. Critically examine the impact of Digital India Programme' on Indian economy in recent years. (2024, 20 Marks)

Q4. Discuss the issues and challenges to the Indian Financial Sector in view of the recent developments in the global financial market. (2023, 15 marks)

Q5. "Non-Banking Financial Institutions have red financial access and entrepreneurship, but have also led to uncertainty in the market and created regulatory woes to the RBI." Discuss. (2023, 20 marks)

Q6. What are the basic approaches of financial sector reforms in India? (2022, 5 marks-100 words)

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- Q7. Analyse the performance of commodity futures markets in India. Critically evaluate the working of Forward Markets Commission (FMC) in India. (2022, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q8. Discuss the opportunities and challenges of India's insurance sector. How the insurance sector reforms can resolve these challenges? (2022, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q9. Explain the rationale for various monetary policy measures undertaken by the RBI during COVID-19 Pandemic in India. (2022, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q10. Briefly account for slow rates of capital formation in the Indian economy during the last decade (2021, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q11. Do you agree that there has been huge misuse of bank funds in recent years? What in your opinion are the factors responsible for bank irregularities in this context? (2021, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q12. "In the Village itself, no form of credit organization will be suitable except the Co-operative society. Cooperation has failed, but cooperation must succeed." How much do you agree with the view? (2021, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q13. What are the features and defects of Indian money market? How far have the reforms of the Indian money market brought improvements in its working since 1991? (2021, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q14. Give an account of the progress and expansion of banking network and Pradhan Mantri Jan dhan yojana in the context of financial inclusion in rural India. (2020, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q15. Discuss the capital market reforms in India. What is the role of capital market in India's industrial growth? Highlight the measures taken by Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the development of capital market in India. (2020, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q16. Examine the nature of systematic weaknesses in controlling the Indian money and capital market in view of the recent scams. Suggest some remedies to counter these deficiencies. (2019, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q17. Critically examine the rationale of the withdrawal of a significant volume of currency in circulation in India in the recent past. Do you think that this temporary shock will lead to deeper and long-term recession in the economy? Give reasons for your answer. (2019, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q18. Give a brief account of the composition of the Indian Capital Market and comment on the role of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in this regard. (2018, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q19. Do you think demonetization of higher currency notes will have any effect on output and employment in India? (2017, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q20. What are the factors responsible for deterioration in the asset quality of banks in India? (2016, 15 marks-200 words)

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- Q21. Point out the problems of Indian capital market. In this context, evaluate the role of SEBI in strengthening capital market. (2016, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q22. Financial inclusion is a must for healthy growth of the Indian economy. In this context, what measures would you suggest to promote household savings in India? (2015, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q23. In the context of purchasing power parity, Indian rupee is undervalued in dollar terms. How far is it true? (2015, 15 marks-200 words)
- Q24. Do you think that fiscal reforms should supplement financial sector reforms to achieve the objective of stabilization and employment generation in the Indian economy? Explain. (2015, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q25. Do rising stock market prices necessarily project the health of the economy? Give a well-reasoned answer with evidence from the Indian economy. (2014, 5 marks-100 words)
- Q26. Examine the extent to which RBI's monetary policy stance on achieving twin objectives of containing inflation and facilitating growth has been successful. (2014, 20 marks-300 words)
- Q27. Differentiate between narrow banking and universal banking in Indian context. (2013, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q28. Examine the changing role of RBI since 1991. (2013, 15 marks, 150 words)
- Q29. How are non-banking financial institutions important in Indian economy? (2012, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q30. What, in your view, are the causes for the continual fluctuations/fall in the value of the Indian rupee in Dollar terms in recent times? Suggest possible mitigation strategies. (2012, 12 marks-150 words)
- Q31. How are foreign banks regulated in India? Do you think such regulation is required in the Indian context? (2012, 12 marks-150 words)
- Q32. Why is monetary policy alone inadequate to combat inflation in India? Explain in the wake of raising REPO and reverse REPO rates in recent months by RBI. (2011, 5 marks-50 words)
- Q33. Money market in India has developed in terms of participants, number of securities and institutions. Comment and explain how RBI regulates the money market. (2011, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q34. Comment on Moral Suasion and the RBI (2010, 7 marks-50 words)
- Q35. Enumerate the functions of financial markets with special reference to India. (2010, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q36. Discuss the promotional and developmental functions of the RBI. Evaluate the RBI's performance in this sphere. (2010, 15 marks-150 words)
- Q37. "The existence of Non-Banking Financial Intermediaries (NBFI) has reduced the scope of the effectiveness of monetary policy". Do you agree? Explain with examples drawn from the Indian experience. (2010, 30 marks-500 words)

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