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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 10/04/2026 (FRIDAY)

- **Static mcq's**
- **Current Affairs mcq's**
- **Mains Practice Questions**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Relief of Lucknow' as depicted in British paintings during the 1857 revolt:

Statement-I: Thomas Jones Barker's painting celebrates the arrival of British forces as a moment of messianic deliverance, emphasizing the heroism of Campbell, Outram, and Havelock.

Statement-II: The visual representation served to reassure the British public that the rebellion was being crushed and that British prestige was being restored through military supremacy.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation: Statement-I is correct as Barker's 'Relief of Lucknow' (1859) focuses on the meeting of the three British heroes (Campbell, Outram, and Havelock) in the center of the canvas, symbolizing the re-assertion of British control. Statement-II is also correct; these paintings were mass-produced as prints to satisfy the British public's demand for news of victory and to project an image of order being restored over "chaos." Since the specific composition of the painting (the heroism) was a deliberate tool to project that restoration of prestige, Statement-II explains why the painting was constructed as described in Statement-I.

2. In the context of population ecology, which of the following best describes the 'r-selection' strategy often observed in unstable or unpredictable environments?

- (a) High parental care and late maturity to ensure survival in crowded niches.
- (b) Small body size, early maturity, and the production of a large number of offspring with low survival rates.
- (c) Constant population size maintained near the carrying capacity of the environment.
- (d) High competitive ability with a focus on long-term resource exploitation.

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation: In ecology (NCERT Class 12, Biology, Chapter 13/Old Chapter 5), organisms are often categorized by their reproductive strategies. r-strategists (like many insects or weeds) thrive in unpredictable environments by producing as many offspring as possible as quickly as possible (high 'r' or intrinsic rate of increase). They typically have small bodies and short lifespans. Options (a), (c), and (d) describe K-selection (like humans or elephants), where populations are stable and competition for resources is high.



3. With reference to the money multiplier effect in an economy, consider the following statements:

1. An increase in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by the Central Bank leads to a proportional increase in the money multiplier.
2. The money multiplier decreases when the public's preference for holding currency over bank deposits increases.
3. A rise in the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) reduces the capacity of the banking system to create credit.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect because the money multiplier (M^m) is inversely related to the reserve ratio ($M^m = 1/LRR$). Therefore, increasing CRR decreases the money multiplier. Statement 2 is correct; if people hold more cash (Currency-Deposit Ratio increases), there is less money in the banking system to be "multiplied" through loans. Statement 3 is correct; SLR (along with CRR) constitutes the legal reserve requirement; a higher SLR means banks must keep more liquid assets aside, thus reducing their ability to create credit (Money Creation).

4. Consider the following statements regarding the challenges to and restoration of the Congress system in the late 1960s:

1. The 'Syndicate' was an informal group of powerful and influential leaders from within the Congress who were instrumental in the installation of Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister.
2. The 1967 General Elections are often described as a 'Political Earthquake' because Congress lost its majority in the Lok Sabha for the first time.
3. The abolition of Privy Purses was used by Indira Gandhi as a tool to project a pro-poor (Garibi Hatao) ideological stance against her rivals.
4. The Congress (O) was the faction led by Indira Gandhi after the formal split of the party in 1969.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: (b)



Detailed Explanation: Statement 1 is correct; the Syndicate (Kamraj, Nijalingappa, etc.) supported Indira Gandhi initially, hoping she would be a "mook gudiya" (silent doll) they could control. Statement 2 is incorrect; while Congress lost power in many states (SVD governments), it maintained a majority in the Lok Sabha, albeit with a significantly reduced margin. Statement 3 is correct; it was a key populist move to bypass the conservative elements of the party. Statement 4 is incorrect; the faction led by Indira Gandhi was the Congress (R) - Requisitionists, while the Syndicate faction was the Congress (O) - Organisation.

5. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R):

Assertion (A): Secondary activities, such as manufacturing, add value to natural resources by transforming raw materials into more valuable products.

Reason (R1): Manufacturing involves the application of power and mass production of identical products.

Reason (R2): The spatial distribution of secondary activities is primarily determined by the proximity to the source of raw materials regardless of market access.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

(Note: Following the new UPSC pattern for Assertion-Reason where R1/R2 logic is tested or Statement I/II format is used):

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation: The Assertion is correct; the essence of secondary activities is the "addition of value" (e.g., turning iron ore into steel). Reason 1 (Statement-II in modern parlance) is a correct characteristic of modern manufacturing. However, Reason 2 is incorrect. The spatial distribution of industries is a complex "cost-minimization" exercise. While raw materials are important for weight-losing industries (like sugar or iron), many industries are market-oriented (like electronics or perishables) or "footloose," and market access is often more critical than raw material proximity.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched PRISM-SG Portal:

Statement-I: The PRISM-SG portal is designed to provide a centralized digital interface for the expedited approval of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Rail-Road infrastructure involving steel girders.

Statement-II: The portal integrates the Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) and Welding Procedure Specification Sheet (WPSS) into a digital workflow to reduce project approval timelines.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation: Statement-I is correct as PRISM-SG stands for *Portal for Rail-Road Inspection & Stages Management – Steel Girders*. It was launched to bridge the coordination gap between the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Road Transport. Statement-II is also correct; the primary cause of delays in bridge construction is the manual, offline verification of technical documents like the QAP and WPSS. By digitizing these specific stages, the portal explains *how* the expedited approval mentioned in Statement-I is achieved.

2. In the context of the National Housing Bank's (NHB) latest initiatives, what is the primary objective of the 'Gruh Sugam Portal'?

- (a) To provide a secondary market platform for the trading of Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS).
- (b) To facilitate digital home loan access for Defence, Paramilitary, and Government personnel from their place of posting.
- (c) To act as a regulatory sandbox for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to test AI-driven credit scoring models.
- (d) To monitor the real-time construction progress of affordable housing units under the PMAY-U 2.0 scheme.

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation: Launched in March 2026, the Gruh Sugam Portal is a dedicated digital marketplace by the NHB. It specifically targets government and security personnel who often face difficulties in physical documentation and bank visits due to remote postings. The portal allows them to apply for and compare loan offers from multiple lenders digitally.



3. With reference to 'Tokens' in the architecture of Large Language Models (LLMs), consider the following statements:

1. A token is a fixed-length unit of text, strictly equivalent to one English word or four characters across all languages.
2. The 'Context Window' of an AI model refers to the maximum number of tokens the model can process and "remember" in a single session.
3. Increasing the number of tokens in a prompt generally reduces the computational cost and latency of the model's response.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect; tokens are not fixed-length. While 1 token is roughly 0.75 words in English, the length varies by language and tokenization method (e.g., Byte Pair Encoding). Statement 2 is correct; the context window (e.g., 128k tokens) determines the model's "attention span." Statement 3 is incorrect; more tokens increase the computational load (FLOPs) and inference time, thereby increasing cost and latency.

4. Regarding the Trade Marks Act, 1999 and its legal framework in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Act provides for the registration of "shape of goods" and "packaging" as valid trademarks, provided they possess a distinctive character.
2. Under the Act, a registered trademark is valid for a period of 10 years and can be renewed indefinitely for successive periods of 10 years.
3. The 'well-known trademark' status is granted only to those marks that are registered under the Indian Trademark Registry.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)



Detailed Explanation: Statement 1 is correct; the definition of a "mark" under Section 2(m) includes the shape of goods and combination of colors. Statement 2 is correct; registration is for 10 years, renewable every 10 years. Statement 3 is incorrect; a trademark does *not* need to be registered in India to be recognized as "well-known." The Registrar can declare a mark as well-known based on its international reputation and use, even if it hasn't been used or registered in India.

5. With reference to the 'Nasha Mukh Vidyalaya' initiative launched in 2026, consider the following statements:

1. It is a sub-component of the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan' (NMBA) implemented by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. The initiative mandates the appointment of 'Prahari' clubs in every school to monitor and report substance abuse activities.
3. It focuses exclusively on the 'Supply Reduction' pillar of drug control through strict policing in school peripheries.
4. The program includes a mandatory 3-year action plan for schools to integrate life-skills education into the curriculum.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation: Statement 1 is correct; it's an inter-ministerial effort to target schools. Statement 2 is correct; 'Prahari' clubs (led by teachers and senior students) are a key feature for peer-led prevention. Statement 3 is incorrect; while it touches upon the environment, it is primarily a 'Demand Reduction' and 'Prevention' strategy, not a policing/supply-side enforcement mechanism (which is the domain of the NCB). Statement 4 is correct; the Ministry of Education issued a specific 3-year action plan in early 2026 to ensure institutionalized awareness.

6. The Padma River, which plays a crucial role in the hydro-politics of South Asia, is formed by the confluence of which of the following rivers before it enters the Meghna estuary?

- (a) The Teesta and the Brahmaputra
- (b) The Ganges and the Jamuna
- (c) The Surma and the Kushiya
- (d) The Bhagirathi and the Hooghly

Answer: (b)



Detailed Explanation: The Ganges enters Bangladesh from India and is known as the Padma. Further downstream, it is joined by the Jamuna River (the main distributary of the Brahmaputra). The combined flow of the Padma and Jamuna continues as the Padma until it meets the Meghna River near Chandpur, eventually emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1. General Studies - 1 (History)

Topic: *Thinkers, Beliefs, and Buildings (NCERT Class 12th, Themes in Indian History Part II, Chapter 4)*

Question: "The mid-first millennium BCE is often regarded as a turning point in world history." In this context, discuss how the emergence of Jainism and Buddhism challenged the existing Brahmanical order. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Sample Answer: The mid-first millennium BCE was an era of profound intellectual ferment globally, seeing the rise of Socrates in Greece and Kong Zi in China. In India, it marked the "Second Urbanization" and the emergence of Śramaṇa traditions, primarily Jainism and Buddhism.

Challenges to the Brahmanical Order:

- **Rejection of Ritualism:** The Brahmanical system was heavily centered on elaborate, expensive sacrifices (*Yajnas*). Buddhism and Jainism emphasized ethical conduct over ritualistic performance.
- **Opposition to Caste Hierarchy:** The *Varna* system was rigid and birth-based. Both Mahavira and Buddha admitted people from all castes into their *Sanghas*, emphasizing *Karma* (deeds) over *Janma* (birth).
- **Authority of the Vedas:** These new religions questioned the divine origin and infallibility of the Vedas, advocating for individual agency and logical reasoning.
- **Linguistic Shift:** While Brahmanical texts were in Sanskrit (the language of the elite), Jainism and Buddhism used Prakrit and Pali, making spiritual knowledge accessible to the masses.

Legacy in Art and Architecture: The shift in beliefs led to a transition from ephemeral structures to permanent monuments. The Stupa emerged as a symbol of Buddhist veneration, containing relics of the Buddha.

Conclusion: The Śramaṇa traditions did not just offer a religious alternative but a social revolution that promoted egalitarianism and non-violence (*Ahimsa*). This intellectual awakening laid the foundation for the Mauryan Empire and the eventual spread of Indian thought across Asia.

2. General Studies - 2 (Governance & IR)

Topic: *International Organisations (NCERT Class 12th, Contemporary World Politics, Chapter 4)*

Question: "The United Nations was not created to take humanity to heaven, but to save it from hell." Assess the relevance of the UN in the 21st century in the face of rising unilateralism and global conflicts. (15 Marks, 250 Words)



Sample Answer: The UN was established in 1945 to prevent a third World War. While it has succeeded in preventing a global nuclear holocaust, the 21st century poses challenges that the original Charter did not fully anticipate.

Challenges to UN Relevance:

1. **Ineffectiveness of the Security Council:** The Veto power held by the P5 often leads to paralysis during crises (e.g., Ukraine, Gaza).
2. **Rise of Unilateralism:** Major powers often bypass the UN for military interventions or trade sanctions.
3. **Anachronistic Structure:** The UNGA and UNSC do not reflect the current geopolitical reality, excluding emerging powers like India, Japan, and Brazil from permanent membership.

Areas of Success and Critical Need: Despite political failures, the UN remains the only platform for "Global Commons."

- **Social & Economic Development:** Through the WHO, UNDP, and UNESCO, the UN has drastically improved literacy and health globally.
- **Climate Action:** The UNFCCC is the primary driver of global climate negotiations.
- **Peacekeeping:** UN missions stabilize conflict zones where no single nation is willing to intervene.

Conclusion: The UN needs urgent "Reform to Transform." Expanding the UNSC and revitalizing the General Assembly are essential to ensure that the "Parliament of Mankind" does not become a redundant talking shop in a multipolar world.

3. General Studies - 3

Topic: *Determination of Income and Employment (NCERT Class 12th, Introductory Macroeconomics, Chapter 4)*

Question: Explain the concept of 'Investment Multiplier.' How can the government use this mechanism to pull an economy out of a recessionary phase? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Sample Answer: The Investment Multiplier (k) is a Keynesian concept stating that an initial increase in autonomous investment leads to a final increase in national income that is a multiple of the initial investment.

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The Mechanism: The value of the multiplier depends on the **Marginal Propensity to Consume (MPC)**. The formula is:

$$k = \frac{1}{1 - MPC}$$

When the government invests in infrastructure, it generates income for workers and contractors. These individuals spend a portion of this income (based on MPC), which becomes income for others, creating a virtuous cycle.

Role in Combating Recession:

1. **Boosting Aggregate Demand:** During a recession, private demand is low. Government "pump-priming" through public works shifts the AD curve upwards.
2. **Addressing Deficient Demand:** It helps the economy move from an under-employment equilibrium to a full-employment equilibrium.



3. **Crowding-In Effect:** Initial public investment can improve business confidence, encouraging private players to start investing again.

Conclusion: While the multiplier is a powerful tool, its effectiveness in India is often hampered by "leakages" like high imports, high Marginal Propensity to Save (MPS), and supply-side bottlenecks. Therefore, fiscal stimulus must be accompanied by structural reforms.

4. General Studies - 4

Topic: *Probity in Governance (Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude)*

Question: "Accountability is the glue that bonds commitment to results." Differentiate between 'Responsibility' and 'Accountability' in the context of civil services. Suggest measures to institutionalize social accountability. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Sample Answer: In the realm of ethics, Responsibility and Accountability are often used interchangeably but have distinct moral and administrative connotations.

Responsibility vs. Accountability:

- **Responsibility** is the obligation to perform a task. It is "internal" and proactive. A doctor feels a responsibility to save a patient.
- **Accountability** is being "answerable" for the outcome of that task. It is "external" and retrospective. The doctor is accountable to the medical board if negligence occurs. In civil services, an officer may be responsible for a scheme, but they are accountable to the Parliament and the public for the funds used.

Institutionalizing Social Accountability: Social accountability is a process where citizens demand accountability directly from the government.

1. **Social Audits:** Mandating audits of schemes like MGNREGA by the local community to verify work done on the ground.
2. **Citizen Charters:** Clearly defined service standards and grievance redressal mechanisms.
3. **Transparency Portals:** Real-time data on fund utilization (e.g., the PRISM-SG portal for infrastructure).
4. **Protection of Whistleblowers:** Ensuring that those who expose corruption are legally and physically protected.

Conclusion: An ethical civil servant must bridge the gap between being responsible and being accountable. By moving from mere "procedural accountability" to "performance accountability," the trust deficit between the state and the citizen can be reduced.

5. Current Affairs

Topic: *250th Anniversary of the American Revolution (1776–2026)*

Question: As the world marks the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence, analyze the impact of the American Revolution on the Indian National Movement and the Indian Constitution. (15 Marks, 250 Words)



Sample Answer: July 4, 2026, marks the Sestercentennial (250th) anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence. The American Revolution (1775–1783) was the first successful anti-colonial struggle in modern history, setting a precedent for India's own fight against the British Raj.

Impact on Indian National Movement:

- **Ideological Inspiration:** Leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji and later the revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh were deeply influenced by the concepts of "No Taxation Without Representation" and "Inalienable Rights."
- **The Strategy of Resistance:** The American boycott of British goods (Boston Tea Party) served as a spiritual precursor to the Swadeshi and Non-Cooperation movements led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Global Solidarity:** Indian nationalists often cited the American example to convince the international community (including the US during WWII) that British imperialism was morally indefensible.

Impact on the Indian Constitution: The Indian Constitution borrowed several "American" features:

1. **Preamble:** Starting with "We the People..." signifies the source of authority.
2. **Fundamental Rights:** Heavily inspired by the US Bill of Rights.
3. **Judicial Review:** The power of the Judiciary to strike down unconstitutional laws.
4. **Presidential Impeachment:** The procedure for removing the head of state.

Conclusion: While the American Revolution was a struggle for Republicanism and India's was a struggle for Decolonization,