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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 27/04/2026 (MONDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the agrarian structure and administrative practices during the later Mughal period:

1. The *Zabt* system ensured uniform land revenue assessment across all provinces irrespective of local variations.
2. The increasing prevalence of *Ijara* (revenue farming) reflected weakening central control over revenue administration.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The *Zabt* system was not uniformly applied across all regions; it was mainly practiced in core Mughal territories like the Indo-Gangetic plains. Many regions followed other systems such as *Batai* or *Kankut*, depending on local conditions.

Statement 2 is correct: The rise of *Ijara* (revenue farming) indicated fiscal stress and declining administrative efficiency, as the state increasingly outsourced revenue collection, often leading to exploitation and reduced central authority.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains the ecological significance of “edge effect” in biodiversity conservation?

- (a) It reduces species diversity by increasing competition at habitat boundaries
- (b) It enhances species diversity due to the presence of transitional zones between ecosystems
- (c) It leads to uniform distribution of species across ecosystems
- (d) It eliminates invasive species at ecosystem margins

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The “edge effect” refers to increased biodiversity at the boundary (ecotone) between two different ecosystems. These transitional zones often support species from both adjoining ecosystems as well as unique species adapted to the edge conditions, thus increasing overall diversity.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding fiscal policy and public debt dynamics:

1. A higher revenue deficit necessarily implies an increase in capital expenditure.
2. Internal public debt does not impose any burden on future generations.
3. A sustainable debt-GDP ratio depends on the relationship between interest rate and economic growth rate.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one



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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: A higher revenue deficit indicates that current expenditures exceed current revenues; it does not imply increased capital expenditure—rather, it may crowd it out.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Internal debt still imposes a burden through taxation and redistribution, even if owed domestically.

Statement 3 is correct: Debt sustainability depends critically on whether the growth rate exceeds the interest rate; if growth is higher, debt burden becomes manageable over time.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the functioning of the Indian parliamentary system:

1. The adjournment motion can be used to discuss a matter of urgent public importance and leads to voting.
2. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is bound to accept every no-confidence motion moved by members.
3. The Rajya Sabha cannot initiate a motion of no-confidence against the Council of Ministers.
4. The doctrine of collective responsibility implies that all ministers are jointly accountable to both Houses of Parliament.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Adjournment motion involves discussion and may lead to voting, reflecting criticism of government.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Speaker has discretion; a no-confidence motion must meet procedural requirements (like minimum support).

Statement 3 is correct: Only Lok Sabha can pass a no-confidence motion since the executive is responsible to it.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Collective responsibility is to the Lok Sabha, not both Houses.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Tropical cyclones generally weaken after making landfall.

Reason (R1): Land surfaces reduce moisture supply necessary for cyclone sustenance.

Reason (R2): Increased surface friction over land disrupts cyclone circulation.

- (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct and both explain A
- (b) Both R1 and R2 are correct but only one explains A
- (c) Only one of the reasons is correct
- (d) Neither R1 nor R2 is correct



Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Assertion is correct: Cyclones weaken after landfall.

R1 is correct: Cyclones derive energy from warm ocean waters; land cuts off this moisture supply.

R2 is also correct: Increased friction over land disrupts wind circulation and reduces cyclone intensity.

Both reasons together comprehensively explain why cyclones weaken after landfall.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding stagflation in the context of contemporary macroeconomic developments:

1. Stagflation can occur simultaneously with a negative output gap and persistently high inflation due to supply-side shocks.
2. Expansionary monetary policy is always effective in resolving stagflation without worsening inflationary pressures.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Stagflation is characterized by low growth (negative output gap or stagnation) along with high inflation, often triggered by supply shocks such as oil price hikes.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Expansionary monetary policy may worsen inflation during stagflation, as the problem is supply-driven rather than demand-deficient. Hence, it is not always effective.

Q2. With reference to recent environmental concerns, “tar balls” are best described as:

- (a) Naturally occurring spherical algae formations found in marine ecosystems
- (b) Weathered fragments of crude oil formed due to physical and chemical processes in oceans
- (c) Volcanic ejecta solidified into rounded shapes in coastal regions
- (d) Biodegradable waste residues formed due to microbial action in wetlands

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Tar balls are small, dark, sticky lumps of weathered crude oil that form when oil spills undergo evaporation, oxidation, and wave action. They often wash ashore and pose ecological risks to marine and coastal life.



Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Crested Porcupine:

1. It is classified as “Endangered” under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.
2. It is primarily nocturnal and feeds mainly on plant roots, tubers, and agricultural crops.
3. It possesses modified quills that can detach easily and act as a defense mechanism against predators.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Indian Crested Porcupine is listed as “Least Concern” by the IUCN due to its wide distribution.

Statement 2 is correct: It is nocturnal and herbivorous, often feeding on roots, tubers, and crops, leading to human-wildlife conflict.

Statement 3 is correct: Its quills are defensive structures that can detach and injure predators.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Babu Jagjivan Ram:

1. He served as the Defence Minister of India during the Indo-Pak War of 1971.
2. He was associated with the formation of the Congress for Democracy, which later merged with the Janata Party.
3. He presided over the Constituent Assembly and played a central role in drafting the Indian Constitution.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Jagjivan Ram was Defence Minister during the 1971 war.

Statement 2 is correct: He formed Congress for Democracy in 1977, which later merged with the Janata Party.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Constituent Assembly was presided over by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, not Jagjivan Ram.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding NATO:

1. NATO’s Article 5 provides for collective defense, which has been invoked only once in its history.
2. NATO includes all member states of the European Union as its members.



3. NATO's strategic concept has expanded to include cyber threats and hybrid warfare in recent years.
4. NATO operates under the direct command of the United Nations Security Council.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Article 5 has been invoked only once, after the 9/11 attacks.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Not all EU members are NATO members (e.g., Austria, Ireland).

Statement 3 is correct: NATO has expanded its focus to include cyber and hybrid threats.

Statement 4 is incorrect: NATO is an independent military alliance and not under UNSC command.

(Map-Based Question)

Q6. With reference to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, consider the following statements:

1. It connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and ultimately the Arabian Sea.
2. It lies between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.
3. It directly connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Indian Ocean without passing through any canal.
4. It is a crucial chokepoint for global oil and trade routes linking Europe and Asia.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

Statement 2 is correct: It lies between Djibouti/Eritrea (Africa) and Yemen (Arabian Peninsula).

Statement 3 is incorrect: The connection between the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean requires the Suez Canal; Bab el-Mandeb alone does not directly connect them.

Statement 4 is correct: It is a major global chokepoint for oil and trade flows.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q1. Examine how physical geography influences the distribution and pattern of human settlements in India. Illustrate with suitable examples.

Answer:

Physical geography plays a decisive role in shaping the distribution, density, and morphology of human settlements in India. The interplay of relief, climate, soil, water availability, and vegetation determines where and how people settle.

Firstly, relief significantly influences settlement patterns. In the Himalayan region, rugged terrain, steep slopes, and susceptibility to landslides restrict dense settlements. As a result, settlements are scattered and located on relatively stable terraces. In contrast, the Northern Plains, characterized by flat topography, fertile alluvial soil, and ease of construction, support dense and nucleated settlements.

Secondly, climate acts as a crucial determinant. Regions with moderate climate such as the Indo-Gangetic plains and coastal areas attract dense populations. On the other hand, extreme climates like the Thar Desert (arid) or Ladakh (cold desert) witness sparse settlements due to harsh living conditions and limited resources.

Thirdly, water availability is a fundamental factor. Settlements historically developed along rivers such as the Ganga, Yamuna, and Godavari, ensuring access to drinking water, irrigation, and transport. Even today, urban agglomerations tend to cluster around reliable water sources.

Soil fertility also contributes to settlement density. Fertile regions support intensive agriculture, thereby sustaining larger populations. Conversely, infertile or rocky soils discourage settlement growth.

Additionally, natural vegetation and resources affect habitation. Forested regions often have dispersed tribal settlements, while mineral-rich areas may develop into industrial townships.

In conclusion, physical geography provides both opportunities and constraints, guiding human settlement patterns in India. While technological advancements have reduced dependence on physical factors, their influence remains significant, especially in rural and ecologically fragile regions.

Q2. Discuss the role of pressure groups in strengthening or weakening democratic governance in India.

Answer:

Pressure groups are organized entities that seek to influence public policy without directly contesting elections. In India, they play a dual role in both strengthening and, at times, challenging democratic governance.

On the positive side, pressure groups enhance participatory democracy. They articulate the interests of diverse social, economic, and professional groups such as farmers, laborers, and industrialists. For instance, farmer organizations have successfully influenced agricultural policies, ensuring that grassroots concerns are reflected in decision-making.





They also act as a bridge between citizens and the government, especially in a vast and diverse country like India. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups raise awareness on issues like environmental protection, gender justice, and human rights, thereby deepening democratic discourse.

Moreover, pressure groups contribute to policy formulation by providing expertise and data. Industry bodies like FICCI and CII offer valuable inputs in economic policymaking, enhancing efficiency and practicality.

However, pressure groups can also weaken democracy. Some groups resort to disruptive methods such as strikes, bandhs, and protests, which may affect public order and economic activity. Additionally, elite-dominated groups may disproportionately influence policies, leading to unequal representation.

There is also the issue of opacity and lack of accountability, particularly in lobbying activities, which may lead to corruption or policy capture.

In conclusion, pressure groups are indispensable to a vibrant democracy, provided their functioning remains transparent, inclusive, and within constitutional limits. Their constructive engagement strengthens democratic governance, while unchecked influence may undermine it.

Q3. Analyze the challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable agricultural practices in India.

Answer:

Sustainable agriculture in India aims to balance productivity with environmental conservation and long-term viability. It is increasingly relevant in the context of climate change, resource depletion, and food security concerns.

One of the key opportunities lies in the adoption of organic farming and natural farming practices. These reduce dependence on chemical inputs, improve soil health, and cater to growing global demand for organic produce. Initiatives like Zero Budget Natural Farming have shown promising results.

Water-efficient technologies such as drip and sprinkler irrigation offer significant potential, especially in water-scarce regions. They enhance water use efficiency and reduce wastage.

Crop diversification is another opportunity. Moving away from water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane towards pulses, millets, and oilseeds can improve soil health and ensure nutritional security.

However, several challenges persist. Farmers often face financial constraints and lack awareness about sustainable practices. Transitioning from conventional to organic farming involves initial yield losses and certification hurdles.

Climate change exacerbates vulnerabilities, with erratic rainfall, droughts, and floods affecting crop productivity. Institutional support, including access to credit, markets, and extension services, remains inadequate.

Moreover, fragmented landholdings limit the adoption of modern technologies and mechanization.





In conclusion, while sustainable agriculture offers a pathway to resilient and eco-friendly farming, it requires coordinated efforts involving policy support, technological innovation, and farmer awareness. A balanced approach integrating traditional knowledge with modern science is essential for long-term agricultural sustainability.

Q4. “Ethical governance is the cornerstone of public trust.” Examine this statement in the context of civil services in India.

Answer:

Ethical governance refers to the adherence to moral principles such as integrity, transparency, accountability, and fairness in public administration. In a democratic setup like India, it forms the foundation of public trust in institutions.

Civil servants, as key agents of governance, play a crucial role in upholding ethical standards. Their decisions directly impact citizens’ lives, making ethical conduct essential for ensuring justice and equity. For instance, impartial implementation of welfare schemes ensures that benefits reach the intended beneficiaries without discrimination.

Transparency in decision-making enhances credibility and reduces corruption. Mechanisms like the Right to Information (RTI) Act empower citizens and promote openness in governance. Similarly, accountability ensures that public officials are answerable for their actions, fostering trust.

However, challenges such as political interference, corruption, and bureaucratic inertia often undermine ethical governance. Instances of misuse of power erode public confidence and weaken democratic institutions.

Ethical dilemmas are also common, where civil servants must balance competing interests. In such situations, adherence to constitutional values and public interest becomes paramount.

Training and institutional mechanisms like codes of conduct, vigilance bodies, and ethics committees are essential to promote ethical behavior. Technology-driven governance (e-governance) further enhances transparency and reduces human discretion.

In conclusion, ethical governance is indispensable for maintaining public trust. Strengthening ethical standards in civil services not only improves governance outcomes but also reinforces the legitimacy of the state.





Q5. Discuss the strategic and economic significance of Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the context of recent global developments.

Answer:

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait is a narrow maritime chokepoint located between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. It holds immense strategic and economic significance in global geopolitics.

Economically, the strait is a vital artery for international trade. A significant proportion of global oil shipments and container traffic passes through it, linking Europe (via the Suez Canal) with Asia. Any disruption in this route can lead to increased shipping costs, delays, and global supply chain disturbances.

Strategically, the region has gained prominence due to ongoing conflicts and geopolitical rivalries. The proximity to conflict zones such as Yemen increases the vulnerability of shipping routes. Incidents involving attacks on commercial vessels have highlighted the risks associated with this chokepoint.

Major powers, including the United States, China, and European nations, maintain a naval presence in the region to secure maritime trade and ensure freedom of navigation. The presence of military bases in Djibouti underscores its strategic importance.

Furthermore, the strait is critical for energy security, particularly for countries dependent on Middle Eastern oil exports. Any blockade or instability can have cascading effects on global energy markets.

In conclusion, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait is not merely a geographic feature but a critical node in global trade and security architecture. Ensuring its stability is essential for maintaining economic continuity and geopolitical balance in an increasingly interconnected world.

