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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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- **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 Constitution of India:

1. The expression "the People of India" in the Preamble implies that sovereignty is indivisible and cannot be constitutionally alienated.
2. The authority to amend the Constitution ultimately flows from the same constituent power that adopted the Constitution in 1949.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Both
(c) Neither
(d) Cannot be determined from the Constitution

Answer: (b) Both

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. The Preamble begins with "We, the People of India," signifying popular sovereignty. The Supreme Court has consistently interpreted this to mean that sovereignty resides in the people collectively and is exercised through constitutional institutions. While certain sovereign functions may be delegated, sovereignty itself is indivisible and non-transferable.
Statement 2 is also correct. The power of constitutional amendment under Article 368 is derived from the constituent power exercised by the Constituent Assembly. Though Parliament now exercises this power, it does so as a continuation of constituent authority, not ordinary legislative power. This distinction was emphasized in cases such as *Kesavananda Bharati*, which held that Parliament acts as a constituent body while amending the Constitution.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains the constitutional significance of the phrase "procedure established by law" as used in Article 21 of the Constitution of India?

(a) Any procedure enacted by Parliament is valid irrespective of its fairness
(b) Procedure must be reasonable, just and non-arbitrary as interpreted by the judiciary
(c) Procedure must conform strictly to natural justice as enumerated in the Constitution
(d) Procedure must be approved by both Parliament and the State Legislatures

Answer: (b) Procedure must be reasonable, just and non-arbitrary as interpreted by the judiciary

Detailed Explanation:
Originally, Article 21 was interpreted narrowly in *A.K. Gopalan*, where "procedure established by law" meant any legislatively enacted procedure. This view was later overturned in *Maneka Gandhi*, where the Supreme Court held that such procedure must be fair, just, and reasonable, effectively incorporating substantive due process into Indian constitutional law. Thus, the phrase now acts as a limitation on legislative arbitrariness.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Fundamental Rights:

1. The rights guaranteed under Part III are enforceable only against the State and not against private individuals.

2. Article 17 operates directly against both State and private persons without the need for implementing legislation.
3. The Supreme Court has recognized horizontal application of certain Fundamental Rights through judicial interpretation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is incorrect. While most Fundamental Rights are enforceable against the State, some rights—such as Articles 15(2), 17, and 23—have horizontal application against private individuals.
Statement 2 is correct. Article 17 abolishes untouchability and is self-executory, operating directly against private persons as well as the State.
Statement 3 is correct. The Supreme Court has expanded horizontal applicability through interpretation, especially in cases relating to Articles 21 and 15, by reading State responsibility into private actions that affect fundamental freedoms.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Directive Principles of State Policy:

1. They are non-justiciable but constitutionally enforceable through political accountability.
2. In case of conflict, Fundamental Rights always prevail over Directive Principles.
3. The Constitution permits the State to restrict certain Fundamental Rights to give effect to specific Directive Principles.
4. The Supreme Court has treated some Directive Principles as integral to the basic structure of the Constitution.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Only three

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. Directive Principles are not enforceable by courts but are binding in governance and enforceable through democratic and political processes.
Statement 2 is incorrect. The relationship is not hierarchical; the Supreme Court has evolved the doctrine of harmonious construction, particularly after *Kesavananda Bharati* and *Minerva Mills*.
Statement 3 is correct. Articles 31C and other constitutional provisions allow reasonable restrictions on certain Fundamental Rights to implement specified Directive Principles.

Statement 4 is correct. The Court has recognized principles such as social justice and welfare orientation—reflected in Directive Principles—as part of the basic structure.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type:
Assertion (A):
The power of judicial review in India is not absolute and can be curtailed by constitutional amendment.

Reason (R1):
Parliament, while exercising constituent power, can amend any part of the Constitution including provisions related to judicial review.

Reason (R2):
Judicial review forms part of the basic structure and therefore cannot be abrogated even by a constitutional amendment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) A is true; R1 is true; R2 is false
(b) A is false; R1 is true; R2 is true
(c) A is false; R1 is false; R2 is true
(d) A is true; R1 is false; R2 is true

Answer: (d) A is true; R1 is false; R2 is true

Detailed Explanation:
The assertion is true because judicial review, while fundamental, is subject to constitutional limitations and procedural regulation. However, it cannot be destroyed.
Reason 1 is false because Parliament's constituent power is limited by the basic structure doctrine; it cannot amend the Constitution so as to abrogate judicial review.
Reason 2 is true. Judicial review has been consistently held by the Supreme Court to be part of the basic structure, making it immune from complete removal even through constitutional amendment.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the *Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)* developed by India:

1. MPATGM employs an imaging infrared seeker that allows true fire-and-forget capability even against moving armoured targets.
2. MPATGM is designed to be integrated only with vehicle-mounted launch systems and not with shoulder-fired configurations.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Both

(c) Neither
(d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a) Only one

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. MPATGM uses an Imaging Infra-Red (IIR) seeker enabling lock-on before launch and autonomous terminal guidance, which qualifies as true fire-and-forget capability.
Statement 2 is incorrect. MPATGM is specifically designed as a *man-portable*, shoulder-launched system, although tripod and vehicle integration may be explored later. The defining feature is portability for infantry units.

Q2. Which one of the following best distinguishes *Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)* from India's newer launch vehicles?

(a) It can place payloads only in geostationary orbit
(b) It uses solid propulsion in all stages
(c) It has demonstrated multi-orbital deployment in a single mission
(d) It is incapable of commercial satellite launches

Answer: (c) It has demonstrated multi-orbital deployment in a single mission

Detailed Explanation:
PSLV has repeatedly demonstrated the capability to inject multiple satellites into different orbits in a single mission, a complex feat requiring precise orbital manoeuvring.
Other options are incorrect: PSLV is not meant for GTO, it uses a mix of solid and liquid stages, and it has been a major commercial launch vehicle for foreign satellites.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding *atmospheric aerosols*:

1. Aerosols can exert both positive and negative radiative forcing depending on their composition and altitude.
2. Sulphate aerosols generally contribute to surface cooling by increasing planetary albedo.
3. Aerosols have a longer atmospheric lifetime than greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. Aerosols can either cool (e.g., sulphates) or warm (e.g., black carbon) the atmosphere.
Statement 2 is correct. Sulphate aerosols scatter solar radiation and enhance cloud reflectivity, causing cooling.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Aerosols generally remain in the atmosphere for days to weeks, whereas CO_2 persists for centuries.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the *Pax Silica Initiative*:

1. It aims at reducing global dependence on a single geographic region for semiconductor manufacturing.
2. It is a multilateral initiative involving strategic cooperation among democratic economies.
3. India is a participant primarily in the downstream semiconductor design and talent ecosystem.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. Pax Silica seeks to diversify semiconductor supply chains away from concentrated hubs.
Statement 2 is correct. It involves cooperation among like-minded, democratic economies to ensure resilient chip supply chains.
Statement 3 is correct. India's strength lies in chip design, human capital, and emerging fabrication ambitions rather than advanced fabrication dominance.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the *Greenwald Limit* in nuclear fusion research:

1. It defines an upper limit on plasma density beyond which tokamak operation becomes unstable.
2. The limit is directly proportional to plasma current and inversely proportional to tokamak radius.
3. Exceeding the Greenwald Limit leads primarily to thermal runaway of plasma.
4. The limit is relevant only for inertial confinement fusion systems.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. The Greenwald Limit sets a density threshold for stable tokamak plasma confinement.
Statement 2 is correct. The empirical relation links density with plasma current and machine size.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Breaching the limit leads to plasma disruptions, not thermal runaway.
Statement 4 is incorrect. It applies to magnetic confinement (tokamak) systems, not inertial confinement.

Q6. The primary launch site used for *Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)* missions is located closest to which one of the following water bodies?

(a) Gulf of Khambhat
(b) Bay of Bengal
(c) Arabian Sea
(d) Palk Strait

Answer: (b) Bay of Bengal

Detailed Explanation:
PSLV launches occur from Sriharikota on the eastern coast of India in Andhra Pradesh. The launch site faces the Bay of Bengal, which provides a safe downrange trajectory for spent stages and debris during launches.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS–I | World History

Q1. ***The unification of Germany in the 19th century was not merely a nationalist movement but a calculated exercise in power politics.***
Critically examine the role of Realpolitik in German unification.

Model Answer

The unification of Germany in 1871 was less an organic expression of romantic nationalism and more a carefully orchestrated political strategy rooted in **Realpolitik**, particularly under the leadership of Otto von Bismarck. While nationalist sentiments provided emotional legitimacy, the decisive factors were diplomacy, military power, and calculated statecraft.

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Realpolitik emphasized practical considerations over ideological commitments. Bismarck subordinated liberal nationalist aspirations to the strategic interests of Prussia. He first neutralized internal opposition by sidelining the Frankfurt Parliament's liberal vision of a "Greater Germany" and instead promoted a Prussian-led "Lesser Germany" excluding Austria. This ensured Prussian dominance.

Externally, Bismarck engineered a series of limited, controlled wars to achieve political objectives without triggering a hostile coalition. The Danish War (1864) isolated Denmark diplomatically, the Austro-Prussian War (1866) decisively removed Austria from German affairs, and the Franco-Prussian War (1870–71) unified southern German states behind Prussia through a shared external threat. Each conflict was preceded by diplomatic preparation to ensure neutrality or support from major European powers.

Economic integration through the **Zollverein** further strengthened Prussian leadership by fostering interdependence among German states, demonstrating that economic unity could precede political unity.

Nationalism was instrumentalized, not idealized—popular sentiment was mobilized when useful and restrained when inconvenient.

However, the Realpolitik-driven unification had long-term consequences. The authoritarian nature of the new German Empire reflected Prussian militarism rather than democratic nationalism. Liberal institutions were subordinated to the monarchy and the military elite, embedding structural authoritarianism into German political culture.

Thus, German unification illustrates how nationalism can be shaped and directed by power politics. Realpolitik did not negate nationalism but harnessed it as a tool, producing a unified Germany that was powerful, stable, but politically conservative—an outcome that would profoundly shape European history.

GS–II | Governance

Q2. ***Good governance models increasingly emphasize decentralisation, transparency, and citizen-centric service delivery.***
Discuss with suitable examples.

Model Answer

Good governance is no longer confined to efficient administration; it increasingly focuses on **participatory, transparent, and accountable governance** that places citizens at the centre of public service delivery. Decentralisation, transparency, and citizen-centricity form the core pillars of modern governance models globally and in India.

Decentralisation enhances responsiveness by transferring decision-making closer to citizens. In India, constitutional backing to Panchayati Raj Institutions through the 73rd and 74th Amendments has enabled local solutions to local problems. States like Kerala demonstrate how fiscal and administrative decentralisation improves social outcomes, particularly in health and education.

Transparency is crucial for reducing corruption and enhancing trust. Instruments such as the Right to Information Act institutionalize openness in governance. Digital platforms like online procurement portals and open data initiatives reduce discretion and promote rule-based decision-making. Transparency also improves policy feedback loops by allowing citizens to scrutinize government actions.

Citizen-centric service delivery shifts the focus from bureaucratic convenience to public outcomes. Models like mission-mode governance, single-window clearances, and outcome-based monitoring exemplify this approach. The use of technology—such as digital identity systems and direct benefit transfers—has reduced leakages and improved service reach, especially for marginalized groups.

Globally, countries like Estonia illustrate how digital governance can simplify citizen interaction with the state, while participatory budgeting in parts of Latin America shows how citizens can directly influence resource allocation.

However, challenges persist. Decentralisation without capacity building can lead to inefficiencies; transparency without accountability mechanisms may result in information overload; and digitisation risks exclusion if digital literacy is uneven.

In conclusion, good governance models succeed when institutional reforms are complemented by administrative capacity, political commitment, and citizen empowerment. The future of governance lies in

deepening democratic engagement while leveraging technology for inclusive, transparent, and responsive administration.

GS–III | Science and Ethics

Q3. ***Scientific advancement is ethically neutral, but its application is not.***
Examine this statement in the context of emerging technologies.

Model Answer

Science, as a systematic pursuit of knowledge, is ethically neutral; however, the **application of scientific knowledge is deeply value-laden**. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and nuclear energy exemplify how ethical considerations become central once scientific discoveries intersect with society.

Artificial intelligence can enhance efficiency, improve healthcare diagnostics, and optimize resource use. Simultaneously, it raises ethical concerns related to surveillance, algorithmic bias, employment displacement, and erosion of privacy. The technology itself is neutral; ethical dilemmas arise from how societies choose to deploy and regulate it.

Biotechnology presents similar tensions. Gene-editing tools like CRISPR offer potential cures for genetic diseases but also raise concerns about eugenics, designer babies, and unequal access. Without ethical oversight, scientific capability may outpace moral consensus, leading to irreversible societal consequences.

Nuclear science further illustrates this duality. Nuclear fission has enabled clean energy generation but also produced weapons of mass destruction. Ethical responsibility lies not in the discovery of nuclear reactions but in policy choices regarding proliferation, deterrence, and civilian use.

Ethics acts as a guiding framework to ensure that scientific applications align with human values such as dignity, justice, and sustainability. Concepts like precautionary principle, informed consent, and intergenerational equity become critical in governing technological use.

Therefore, ethical governance of science requires multidisciplinary engagement—scientists, policymakers, ethicists, and citizens must collaboratively shape norms and regulations. Institutional mechanisms such as ethical review boards, technology impact assessments, and global treaties play a vital role.

In conclusion, while science expands human capability, ethics must shape human choice. Progress without ethical anchoring risks undermining the very welfare that scientific advancement seeks to promote.

GS–IV | Ethics

Q4. ***Integrity is tested not when choices are easy, but when personal cost conflicts with public duty.***
Discuss with examples.

Model Answer

Integrity represents consistency between values, words, and actions, particularly when ethical conduct entails personal sacrifice. In public life, integrity is most meaningfully tested when individuals face dilemmas where adherence to moral principles imposes professional, social, or personal costs.

Public officials often encounter pressures ranging from political interference to institutional inertia. Upholding integrity in such circumstances demands moral courage—the willingness to prioritize public interest over self-interest. Whistleblowers exemplify this conflict; exposing wrongdoing often leads to retaliation, career stagnation, or social isolation, yet remains essential for institutional accountability.

Integrity also involves resisting subtle ethical erosion. Accepting minor procedural violations for convenience can gradually normalize misconduct. Ethical administrators demonstrate integrity by consistently following rules even when shortcuts promise immediate gains or approval.

Historical and contemporary examples show that integrity strengthens institutions in the long run. Leaders who resign over moral responsibility—even without legal compulsion—reinforce democratic accountability. Conversely, compromised integrity erodes public trust and weakens governance legitimacy.

Integrity is sustained through ethical awareness, supportive institutional culture, and personal moral grounding. Codes of conduct, ethical training, and transparent systems reduce the individual burden of ethical action. However, ultimately, integrity is a personal choice rooted in character.

In conclusion, integrity is not the absence of temptation but the triumph over it. Societies progress when individuals choose ethical duty over personal comfort, reaffirming that moral courage is the foundation of effective and trustworthy governance.

Current Affairs

Q5. ***BHASHINI Samudaye represents a shift from mere digital inclusion to linguistic empowerment.*** **Examine its significance and challenges.**

Model Answer

BHASHINI Samudaye marks a transformative step in India's digital governance by addressing a foundational barrier—**language**. While digital infrastructure has expanded rapidly, linguistic exclusion has limited meaningful access for large sections of the population. BHASHINI Samudaye seeks to democratize digital spaces by enabling AI-driven language tools across Indian languages.

Its significance lies in three dimensions. First, it enhances access to public services by enabling citizens to interact with digital platforms in their mother tongue, thereby deepening democratic participation. Second, it supports economic inclusion by empowering small businesses, farmers, and informal workers to access markets and information without linguistic disadvantage. Third, it strengthens cultural preservation by integrating Indian languages into emerging digital ecosystems.

The initiative's collaborative model—bringing together government, startups, academia, and open-source communities—promotes innovation while avoiding monopolistic control over language data. This "community-first" approach differentiates it from purely top-down digital initiatives.

However, challenges remain. Linguistic diversity is vast, and ensuring quality, contextual accuracy, and inclusiveness across dialects is complex. Bias in language datasets may marginalize smaller linguistic communities. Data privacy, intellectual property rights, and long-term sustainability of open models also require careful governance.

Moreover, technological inclusion must be complemented by digital literacy and affordable access to devices; otherwise, linguistic tools alone cannot bridge the digital divide.

In conclusion, BHASHINI Samudaye reflects a shift from access-based inclusion to capability-based empowerment. If implemented with ethical safeguards, community participation, and institutional support, it can redefine digital governance in multilingual societies.