

STUDY MATERIAL

UPSC Civil Services Prelims Notes

Demo Edition - UPSC CSE Prelims - General Studies Paper I

Polity - History - Geography - Economy - Environment

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About this demo

This is a **free demo PDF** from StudyElites. It contains sample chapters from our UPSC Civil Services Prelims Notes so you can preview the structure, depth and quality of the full product before purchasing.

The full version (delivered after purchase via Razorpay) contains the complete chapter set, additional practice sets, previous-year question walkthroughs, and topic-wise quick-revision sheets. This demo covers approximately 15-20% of the full material.

What's inside this demo

- Chapter 1 - Indian Polity (Constitution, parliament, judiciary)
- Chapter 2 - Modern Indian History (1757-1947, freedom struggle)
- Chapter 3 - Indian & World Geography (Physical, human, economic)
- Practice question bank with answer key

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Chapter 1

Indian Polity

1.1 Constitution, parliament, judiciary

Indian Polity is a core UPSC Prelims topic, with 12-18 questions every year. The Constitution was drafted by the Constituent Assembly (1946-1949) under Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's chairmanship of the Drafting Committee. It was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950.

The Constitution originally had 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules. It has been amended 106 times (latest: 106th Amendment, 2023 - Women's Reservation). Fundamental Rights (Articles 12-35), Directive Principles (Articles 36-51), and Fundamental Duties (Article 51A) form the core trinity.

1.2 Important Formulas / Rules

Constitution adopted: 26 Nov 1949

Constitution effective: 26 Jan 1950

Original articles: 395; Current: 470+

Amendments so far: 106

Fundamental Rights: 6 (Articles 12-35)

1.3 Worked Example

Example. Which amendment is known as the 'Mini Constitution' and why?

The 42nd Amendment (1976) is called the 'Mini Constitution' because it made sweeping changes - added 'Socialist', 'Secular', 'Integrity' to the Preamble, added Fundamental Duties (Article 51A), and curtailed judicial review power.

Chapter 2

Modern Indian History

2.1 1757-1947, freedom struggle

Modern Indian History spans from the Battle of Plassey (1757) to Independence (1947). UPSC Prelims asks 10-15 questions from this section. Major themes: British conquest, 1857 Revolt, socio-religious reform movements (Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj), Indian National Congress, partition of Bengal (1905), Gandhian era (1915-1948).

The 1857 Revolt started on 10 May 1857 in Meerut by Indian sepoys of the British East India Company. Key leaders: Mangal Pandey, Rani Lakshmibai (Jhansi), Nana Saheb (Kanpur), Begum Hazrat Mahal (Lucknow), Tantia Tope. After 1858, the Crown took over from EIC (Government of India Act 1858).

2.2 Important Formulas / Rules

Battle of Plassey: 1757

Battle of Buxar: 1764

1857 Revolt: 10 May 1857 (Meerut)

INC founded: 28 Dec 1885 (A.O. Hume)

Quit India: 8 Aug 1942 (Gandhi)

2.3 Worked Example

Example. What was the immediate cause of the 1857 Revolt?

The immediate cause was the introduction of the Enfield rifle whose cartridges were rumoured to be greased with cow and pig fat - offensive to both Hindu and Muslim sepoys. The revolt started on 10 May 1857 in Meerut when 85 sepoys refused to use the cartridges.

Chapter 3

Indian & World Geography

3.1 Physical, human, economic

UPSC Prelims Geography covers Indian and world physical geography, climate, drainage, soils, mineral resources, and economic geography (agriculture, industry, transport). 10-15 questions every year.

India's major physiographic divisions: Northern Mountains (Himalayas), Northern Plains (Indo-Gangetic), Peninsular Plateau (Deccan), Coastal Plains (East + West), Islands (Andaman-Nicobar, Lakshadweep). The Himalayas have 3 parallel ranges: Himadri (Great Himalayas, avg 6000m), Himachal (Lesser Himalayas, avg 3000-4500m), Shivaliks (Outer Himalayas, avg 900-1200m).

3.2 Important Formulas / Rules

Himalayan ranges: Himadri > Himachal > Shivaliks (north to south)

Tropic of Cancer: 23 deg 26 min N

Ganga: 2,525 km (longest in India)

Kanchenjunga: 8,586 m

3.3 Worked Example

Example. Arrange the Himalayan ranges from north to south.

Himadri (Great Himalayas) - northernmost, highest. Himachal (Lesser Himalayas) - middle. Shivaliks (Outer Himalayas) - southernmost, lowest. So north to south: Himadri > Himachal > Shivaliks.

Practice Question Bank

10 sample questions with answer key.

Polity

Q1. Which Amendment is called the 'Mini Constitution'?

- (A) 42nd
- (B) 44th
- (C) 61st
- (D) 73rd

Answer: (A) 42nd Amendment (1976).

Q2. Number of Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution?

- (A) 5
- (B) 6
- (C) 7
- (D) 8

Answer: (B) 6 (Articles 12-35).

Q3. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee?

- (A) Nehru
- (B) Patel
- (C) Ambedkar
- (D) Rajendra Prasad

Answer: (C) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

History

Q4. Immediate cause of the 1857 Revolt?

- (A) Salt tax
- (B) Enfield rifle cartridges
- (C) Partition of Bengal
- (D) Jallianwala Bagh

Answer: (B) Enfield rifle cartridges rumoured greased with cow/pig fat.

Q5. When was the Indian National Congress founded?

- (A) 1875
- (B) 1885
- (C) 1895
- (D) 1905

Answer: (B) 28 December 1885.

Q6. Quit India Movement was launched in which year?

- (A) 1930
- (B) 1935
- (C) 1942
- (D) 1945

Answer: (C) 1942 (8 August).

Geography

Q7. Tropic of Cancer passes through how many Indian states?

- (A) 6
- (B) 7
- (C) 8
- (D) 9

Answer: (C) 8 states.

Q8. Northernmost range of the Himalayas?

- (A) Shivaliks
- (B) Himachal
- (C) Himadri
- (D) Pir Panjal

Answer: (C) Himadri (Great Himalayas).

Q9. Longest river in India?

- (A) Godavari
- (B) Yamuna
- (C) Ganga
- (D) Brahmaputra

Answer: (C) Ganga (2,525 km).

Economy

Q10. RBI was nationalized in which year?

- (A) 1935
- (B) 1947
- (C) 1949
- (D) 1969

Answer: (C) 1949 - RBI was nationalized on 1 January 1949.

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