

GS-I: SOCIETY

Answer Writing Workbook

Previous Year Questions · 2013 to 2024

Name: _____

Roll No: _____ Batch: _____

Start Date: _____ Target Date: _____

How to Use This Workbook

Answer Space Allocation:

5 Marks — 1 A4 page of writing space (~50 words)
10 / 12.5 Marks — 2 A4 pages of writing space (~150–200 words)
15 Marks — 3 A4 pages of writing space (~250 words)

Each Question Header Shows:

Question Number · Sub-Theme · UPSC Year · Marks

Track Your Performance:

Use the Date / Score / Remarks line below each question card.
Get your answers evaluated and note the score for revision tracking.

Total Questions: 78 | Sections: 5 | Years: 2013–2024



1. Salient Features of Indian Society; Diversity of India

PYQs 2013 – 2024

Q.1 · Diversity & Pluralism	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.2 · Diversity & Pluralism	UPSC 2019	15 Marks

Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.3 · Diversity & Pluralism	UPSC 2022	10 Marks

Given the diversities among tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.4 · Diversity & Pluralism	UPSC 2017	10 Marks

In the context of diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.5 · Diversity & Pluralism	UPSC 2024	15 Marks

What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.6 · Diversity & Pluralism | UPSC 2024 | **15 Marks**

Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.7 · Family, Marriage & Socialization	UPSC 2023	10 Marks

Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.8 · Family, Marriage & Socialization	UPSC 2023	10 Marks

Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in Modern India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.9 · Family, Marriage & Socialization	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.10 · Family, Marriage & Socialization	UPSC 2024	10 Marks

Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.11 · Cultural Continuity & Change	UPSC 2021	10 Marks

Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.12 · Cultural Continuity & Change	UPSC 2021	15 Marks

How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.13 · Cultural Continuity & Change	UPSC 2017	15 Marks

The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.14 · Cultural Continuity & Change	UPSC 2019	10 Marks

What makes Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

2. Role of Women, Population Issues, Poverty & Development

PYQs 2013 – 2024

Q.15 · Population & Demography	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.16 · Population & Demography	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.17 · Population & Demography	UPSC 2021	15 Marks

Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (250 words)

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.18 · Population & Demography	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.19 · Population & Demography	UPSC 2023	15 Marks

Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.20 · Population & Demography	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.21 · Population & Demography	UPSC 2024	10 Marks

What is the concept of a 'demographic winter'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.22 · Poverty & Inequality	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from deprivation. Substantiate this statement with suitable examples.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.23 · Poverty & Inequality	UPSC 2020	10 Marks

COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.24 · Poverty & Inequality	UPSC 2018	10 Marks

Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing. Explain by giving reasons.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.25 · Poverty & Inequality	UPSC 2024	10 Marks

In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.26 · Technology & Society	UPSC 2020	15 Marks

How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the educational system in the country? Elaborate your answer.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.27 · Technology & Society	UPSC 2021	15 Marks

What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also? (250 words)

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.28 · Women's Empowerment	UPSC 2019	10 Marks

"Empowering women is the key to control population growth." Discuss. (150 words)

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.29 · Women's Empowerment	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.30 · Women's Empowerment	UPSC 2021	10 Marks

Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. (150 words)

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.31 · Women's Empowerment	UPSC 2023	10 Marks

Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian Society.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.32 · Women's Empowerment	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle class working woman in India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.33 · Women's Empowerment	UPSC 2013	10 Marks

Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organization free from gender bias. Comment.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.34 · Women's Empowerment	UPSC 2019	15 Marks

What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (250 words)

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.35 · Women's Empowerment	UPSC 2018	15 Marks

Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata. Substantiate your view.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.36 · Women's Empowerment	UPSC 2024	10 Marks

Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

3. Urbanisation: Problems and Remedies

PYQs 2013 – 2024

Q.37 · Urban Environmental Challenges	UPSC 2020	15 Marks

Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.38 · Urban Environmental Challenges	UPSC 2013	5 Marks

Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 5 Remarks: _____

Q.39 · Urban Environmental Challenges	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.40 · Urban Environmental Challenges	UPSC 2021	10 Marks

What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.41 · Urban Governance & Policy | UPSC 2018 | **15 Marks**

Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.42 · Urban Governance & Policy | UPSC 2016 | **12.5 Marks**

With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme'.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.43 · Urban Governance & Policy | UPSC 2015 | **12.5 Marks**

Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.44 · Urban Governance & Policy	UPSC 2019	15 Marks

How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.45 · IT Economy & Urban Identity	UPSC 2017	15 Marks

The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues of employment but has also created new problems. Substantiate this statement with examples.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.46 · IT Economy & Urban Identity	UPSC 2021	15 Marks

What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? (250 words)

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.47 · IT Economy & Urban Identity	UPSC 2022	10 Marks

How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.48 · Social Dimensions of Urbanisation	UPSC 2022	10 Marks

Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.49 · Social Dimensions of Urbanisation	UPSC 2024	10 Marks

Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.50 · Social Dimensions of Urbanisation	UPSC 2013	10 Marks

Discuss the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.51 · Social Dimensions of Urbanisation	UPSC 2023	15 Marks

Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

4. Globalisation and its Effects on Indian Society

PYQs 2013 – 2024

Q.52 · Globalisation & Cultural Identity	UPSC 2019	15 Marks

Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. (250 words)

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.53 · Globalisation & Cultural Identity	UPSC 2018	15 Marks

Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian Society. Elucidate.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.54 · Globalisation & Cultural Identity	UPSC 2020	15 Marks

Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.55 · Globalisation & Cultural Identity	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.56 · Globalisation, Women & Migration	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.57 · Globalisation, Women & Migration | UPSC 2024 | **15 Marks**

Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.58 · Globalisation & Social Change	UPSC 2013	10 Marks

Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.59 · Globalisation & Social Change	UPSC 2022	15 Marks

Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____



5. Social Empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism

PYQs 2013 – 2024

Q.60 · Caste & Social Identity	UPSC 2018	10 Marks

Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India. Comment.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.61 · Caste & Social Identity | UPSC 2020 | **10 Marks**

Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.62 · Caste & Social Identity	UPSC 2023	15 Marks

Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.63 · Caste & Social Identity	UPSC 2015	12.5 Marks

Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.64 · Caste & Social Identity	UPSC 2022	15 Marks

Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.65 · Caste & Social Identity	UPSC 2020	15 Marks

Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.66 · Communalism & Religious Identity	UPSC 2018	15 Marks

Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation. Argue by giving suitable illustrations.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.67 · Communalism & Religious Identity	UPSC 2023	15 Marks

Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.68 · Communalism & Religious Identity	UPSC 2017	15 Marks

Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.69 · Regionalism & Sub-nationalism	UPSC 2020	10 Marks

Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.70 · Regionalism & Sub-nationalism	UPSC 2013	10 Marks

Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____


INDIA

Q.71 · Regionalism & Sub-nationalism	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.72 · Secularism & Pluralism	UPSC 2022	15 Marks

Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____

Q.73 · Secularism & Pluralism	UPSC 2014	10 Marks

How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.74 · Secularism & Pluralism	UPSC 2018	10 Marks

How the Indian concept of secularism is different from the western model of secularism? Discuss.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.75 · Secularism & Pluralism	UPSC 2019	10 Marks

What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism. (150 words)

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.76 · Scheduled Tribes & Affirmative Action	UPSC 2017	10 Marks

What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence, addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10 Remarks: _____

Q.77 · Scheduled Tribes & Affirmative Action	UPSC 2016	12.5 Marks

Why are the tribals in India referred to as the Scheduled Tribes? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12.5 Remarks: _____

Q.78 · Scheduled Tribes & Affirmative Action	UPSC 2024	15 Marks

Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, underprivileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment.

Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15 Remarks: _____