



ANALYSIS & APPROACH – IAS GENERAL STUDIES PAPER: MAINS 2010

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Paper I

For the sake of analysis the General Studies paper I can be divided into the following subjects:

1. Modern History of India and Culture
2. Indian Polity, Constitution and Governance
3. Indian Geography, Ecology and Environment
4. Indian Economy and Social Development
5. Current National Issues and Topics of Social Relevance

As part of the fluctuations in number of questions asked from any of the particular section, history has been victimized in this year's main examination. But you can always expect a good number of history questions in the next year's main examination. As one can remember, similar was the case with polity in last year's mains that is why sometimes UPSC is truly abbreviated as the Unpredictable Service Commission. Well, coming back to the questions that were asked from history and cultural section - there was one question with choice of "may not attempt" was incorporated as part of Q-(2) (a). This was of 150 words and carried 12 marks. It was on Lord Dalhousie's principles of annexation. One had to comment whether his policy of annexation was both of war and peace or not.

There was another question belonging to the first section but it was from Culture section namely Q-(6)-(a) which was again an optional i.e. it too carried the choice of "may not attempt". This was rather a straight question on 'Madhubani' Art and 'Manjusha' Art or Rajasthan schools of painting and the Pahari schools of paintings. One had to compare any one of these two. Our understanding of culture should constitute an important priority area. Otherwise also, some ideas of Indian Culture would make you familiar with the people of this vast and diverse country and thus shall contribute into making of a

good administrator in you. This has another important aspect i.e. in the interview; such knowledge may turn out to be vital.

Regarding the reference material for history and culture one can read the following:

1. Modern India: NCERT Class XII
2. A Brief History of Modern India – Spectrum Pub.
3. Facets of Indian Culture - Spectrum Pub.

Indian polity and constitution has been given a significant place in this year's main examination. Total four Questions have been asked directly from it- they are- Q.(2) (b) 150 words, 12 marks; it was on the salient features of 106th and 111th Constitutional Amendment Bills with respect to Cooperative Societies. Q.-(4) (a) with 150 words and 12 marks: this was an easy question. One had to write on the grounds of disqualification of an MP from either of the Houses. Q-(5) (e) 50 words, 5 marks : In this, one had to write about the legislative powers assigned to the Rajya Sabha under Art. 249 and Art. 312. and Q-(6) (b) 150 words, 12 marks : In this, one had to simply bring about powers and responsibilities attached to the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Then, Q-8 (a) belonged to this section which was a 50 word question that carried 5 marks. This was rather a straight question in which one had to answer that how does the disagreement between the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of a State in passing of an ordinary Bill is resolved.

Thus a total of 46-marks had been from the polity section. One can say that still the proportional weightage is not up to the mark in polity. But, when you see it in comparison with history, you can sigh with relief. So, polity should be kept under high priority considerations. The knowledge of the System of governance, problems and prospects of the working of democracy, constitutional provision of rights and duties etc shall only enrich your understanding of India, its people and administration. Although, this year's questions were direct in nature but you can not expect it to be always the case. There could be some kinds of intricacies involved or mixed in the polity questions in the coming year's mains examination.

There is a vast scope of application and analysis with the subject matter of Indian polity and constitution. One should therefore try to develop a comprehensive understanding of Indian Polity. For this purpose, one could not only get updated with the newspaper readings but also should be aware with the relevant judgments of the Supreme Court. Systematically, one can start with the 11th & 12th

class NCERT books- ‘Indian Constitution at Work’ and ‘Politics in India since Independence’. These are very elementary books lucidly written, easy to comprehend and simple to read. Apart from this, one can read the following books additionally:

1. Introduction of the Constitution of India- D.D. Basu
2. Indian Polity - Laxmikant
3. Our Political System - Subhash Kashyap

The **3rd section is Indian Geography, Ecology and Environment section**, which has been given due importance as expected. Following questions were related to this subject:-

Q-(1) (a), 250 words, 20 marks: On Disputes of sharing of inter state river waters. It was to be objectively analysed giving special reference to the southern states.

Q-(2) (c), 150 words, 12 marks: This was on small-holdings of farms by Indian farmers which are often seen as major hindrance of good productivity and production that in turn has wider implications on the issue of food security corners in India.

Q.(3)(a), 150 words, 12 marks: This was on ‘Urban solid waste management in the country’. One is supposed to give their spatial components along with this distributional patterns of solid waste management had to be highlighted.

Q.(3) (b) , 150 words, 12 marks: This was a straight question on the contributions of ICAR i.e. Indian Council of Agricultural research in the agricultural development if the country.

Q. (3) (c) 150 words, 12 marks: This was on local winds of hot weather season in India and one had to comment on their socio-economic impacts.

Q. (4) (c) 150 words, 12 marks: This question was on pollution measures of vehicle in India with reference to ‘Bharat Stage’ emission norms and its present status. This was again a question which could not have been prepared as such but observed, so, an applied geography question about which every youth are supposed to be aware.

Q. (5) (b), (c), (d), (f), (g): These questions were of very short type, which were to be written in about 50 words and that carried 5 marks each.

Q. (7) (c), (d) and (f) 150 words and 12 marks each: These questions were on ‘Ramsar Wetland Sites’, DFC i.e. Dedicated Freight Corridor – railway project and its relation with the existing Golden Quadrilateral road project, and Real Estate Regulation of Development Act respectively. These were

again applied questions except the first i.e. On 'Ramsar Wetland Sites' which was a starlight forward factual question.

In this way, total 14 questions in various categories carrying a total of 141 marks had been asked from geography and related sections alone. This makes geography preparation a prerequisite or a necessary priority condition in order to secure a confident position in the G.S. Otherwise G.S. becomes untenable and something beyond one's reach. The reactions of the candidates coming out from the examination hall have only confirmed this showing their levels of dissatisfaction and even frustration in few cases.

Well, how to prepare for this becomes a big question. As part of the systematic preparation for this section, one should build his/her foundations on NCERTs. It is advisable that NCERT books of 6th-10th standard should be read more than once. In this way one can make oneself familiar with the subject matters of Geography. After that, if one feels confident and curious – he/she may consider reading 11th and 12th NCERTs as well. Though it is not mandatory to the candidate who does not have geography as an optional subject but it is desirable for them as well. Further, newspaper updation is going to be a part and partial matter for geography preparation.

Now, we come down to the 4th section i.e. **Indian Economy and related segment**. Economy section had been quite a neglected segment in both the schemes- preliminary as well as main examinations since the past few years. But this time around, we have experienced and some of us have even got shocked to see them in their plenties in the Prelim 2010 exam. Once again this trend continued, though not that extensively, in this year's mains. We found as many as 5 questions comprising over 60 marks placed in the 1st paper alone. In the 2nd paper they are in plenty. Let us find out issues on which these questions of economics were based and make an attempt to build strategies to tackle them.

From the Paper-1st

Q.(1)(b), 200 words, 20 marks question had been asked on different estimates of poverty and G.D.P. growth and one had to give critical comments on their affinity with reality giving reasons for their such conclusions.

Q.(6)(d) 150 words, 12 marks: this was on Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs) and Mutual Fund (MFs). So, the one who is keeping tracks of stock market could have dealt it quite efficiently.

Q.(7)(a) and (b) 150 words and 12 marks each: the 1st one was on 'repo rate' and 'reverse repo' rates with their implications, if raised. The second was on Common Wealth Games and different ways of their analysis of success and failures. One had to comment on the fact that the general cost benefit analysis should not comprise the only factor of our analysis of the success and failure of such large scale games.

Q.(8)(f), 50 words, 5 marks: this was a factual question on sectoral and state wise distribution patterns of FDI inflows in our country.

In the 2nd paper, where International Economics are covered, had following questions–

Q.(3) 50 words, 5 marks each – 8Qs:

(a) On IMF and World Bank: Comparisons and Contrast

(b) Indian Capacity building and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan.

(c) Significance of GDI and GEM as components of HDR

(d) Round Tripping

(e) Reasons for hike on visa processing fees by the US

(f) Under UNFCCC difference between Annexure-I and Annexure-II countries.

(g) Recent Economic crisis in PIGS' countries of Europe.

In this way Economic section in 2010-Mains was not very much surprising. It did not have extreme nature.

Regarding the preparation part, one should first of all read XIth (Indian Economic Development) & XIIth (Macroeconomics) class NCERT books. Thereafter, one can choose to read one of the standard books– like 'Uma Kapila' or selected chapters of 'Mishra and Puri'. Apart from these one has to be in constant touch with the newspapers and magazines and keep oneself up-dated. One should always be a keen observer and pose questions regarding the economic drives and implications of what ever significant changes happen around him/her. This is very important exercise that one should make oneself habituated with. There can not be a better way to understand economics than observation and critical analysis.

Rest of the questions could be placed under the head: Social issues and current affairs. They were also unique in themselves. Many names were not much heard. But, then, you can always be prepared for such things in the General Studies Paper.

The best way to prepare the current affairs is reading, listening and watching to the news items and ofcourse through own observations. So, one could get subscribed to atleast one of the newspapers—like —‘*The Hindu*’ or ‘*The Indian Express*’ or ‘*The Economic times*’. And if one could afford two or all the three, there is no problem. But, one should be a fast reader as well. You can not go on to read the news papers the whole day.

This question should not arrive to one’s mind as to how to read the entire paper back to back with two optionals and the General Studies. One has to be selective in reading. Only those news items which are relevant for this exam should be considered for reading or rather studying. Here one should note one very important fact that while reading the newspaper one should always keep a diary and keep noting down some of the important facts and issues. Reading without writing would not do. So, take it seriously and start writing some of the news items. Its benefit cannot be understood at this point in time and at this level of preparation but when you get to write mains or face interview, they shall come very handy and you will have ready-made material for you then.

Apart from the newspapers, one can subscribe to atleast one magazine – *Chronicle*, *CST* or *Pratiyogita Darpan*, anyone will do. As if you miss out some thing in the newspaper you shall have another backup opportunity to catch hold with the missing link. Apart from these, you shall have many opportunities provided by these magazines in which you can know the changing patterns, names and interviews of UPSC-Toppers etc. that shall act as a catalyst for your preparation and shall keep you moving.

PAPER II

The 2nd Paper mainly comprises with the following:

- 1 Indian and World / International Affairs and Institutions
- 2 India's Economic Interaction with the World
- 3 Science and Technology
- 4 Statistics

The 1st section of this years main comprise with India and World issues with no choice i.e.-

Q(1)(a) 250 words, 20 marks: It was on disintegration of the Soviet Unions and its implications on India's security and strategic perspectives.

Q(1)(b) 250 words, 20 marks: this was on Indian approach towards meeting the country's growing demands.

Both these questions were very important and related to India's current situation of Energy crisis and India's desire for UN Security Council place.

Q-(2) and Q-(5) consisted 150 words and 12 marks each: these were based on the Japani principles of Hikaku San Gensoku to Indian diaspora in Caribbean to Israel, China, Uruguay round of TRIPS to Bangladesh-Myanmar maritime boundary disputes. While, Q-(3) (g) – was on MONSUSCO and (h) On Riyadh declaration. These had 50 words and 5 marks limit.

Then comes **Q-(4)** with 150 words and 12 marks each. They were totally dedicated to Asia Peace solution, Darfur and Abuja Peace agreement, and on BWC, or Biological weapons convention. Thus, in total over 120 + 15 marks question belong to international relation or 'India and the World' head. The other 15 belong to (6th) question which was of 50 words and carried 5 marks.

For this section one can read the book "*Foreign Policy of India*" by V.N Khanna. And newspaper and magazine updations have to be continued.

The 3rd section is **Science and Technology**, which is very hazy segment. One needs a proper strategy to tackle it. This is the only section on which complete mastery cannot be claimed. One can only prepare it partially with lot of limitations the reason being the vastness of this section. There can be anything under the sun which could be asked under the science and technology head.

So one needs a scientific attitude in order to cope with the demand of knowledge by the UPSC regarding Science and Technology, therefore, it becomes harder to prepare. Though scopes of some start with putting in genuine efforts can always be found out. You can start with any standard book of Science and Technology from the market and build your basic foundation. 'Spectrum : Science and Technology In India' could be preferred for the basic concept building.

Simultaneously you have to keep your self updated with the newspapers. That is how you can attempt to prepare for this section. There is no shortcut available to you otherwise.

The statistics were fine, question were a bit lengthy but so was the entire paper you can prepare it with a spectrum book or some other basic books of statistics (NCERT Book).

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