

Indian Polity and Constitution -UPSC Civil Services Main Exam

S. NO	Previous Years' Questions - The Trend	Year
1	Keeping in view the political developments in India explain how the need for national integration and the urge for regional autonomy can be reconciled.	1985
2	What is the meaning of Public Interest Litigation?	1985
3	What additions have been made to the Directive Principles of State Policy since the commencement of the Constitution?	1985
4	What is the provision in the Constitution for representation of the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha?	1985
5	What is the party affiliation of each of the following trade unions? INTUC; AITUC; IFTU; HMS; CITU.	1985
6	What is Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha?	1985
7	What is Call Attention Motion?	1985
8	When is the device of joint sitting of both the houses of Parliament not available?	1985
9	Discuss the political, social and economic characteristics of the Indian State.	1985
10	What changes, according to you, have taken place in the power structure in rural India in recent decades?	1985
11	Why is it said that the centre has absolute veto over State Legislature?	1985
12	Explain the grounds on which the President can proclaim a state of Emergency. Give examples from the Indian experience.	1985
13	Analyse the main factors which influenced the voting patterns in the 1984 Lok Sabha Elections in India.	1985
14	Explain the role of the National Development Council.	1985
15	Write a note on the Ordinance making power of the President of India.	1986
16	What categories of persons are nominated by the President to the Rajya Sabha?	1986
17	How is the Vice-President of India elected?	1986
18	How does the Parliament seek to exercise control over the public sector undertaking?	1986
19	What is Appropriation Bill?	1986
20	What is the objective of the Commission of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill of 1986?	1986
21	How are Chief Justices of High Courts in India appointed?	1986
22	Briefly mention the factors which have promoted concentration of power in the Centre in India, and discuss the response of the States to this	1986

	tendency.	
23	Discuss the provisions of Article 249 of the Indian Constitution.	1986
24	What are Zonal Councils?	1986
25	Discuss the role of the pressure groups in Indian politics.	1986
26	Mention any three important entries in the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.	1986
27	Examine the role of the bureaucracy as an instrument of social and economic change in India. In this context, discuss the relationship between the ministers and the civil servants in the policy making process.	1986
28	Why the Indian Constitution is called quasi-federal?	1987
29	Discuss the importance of Article 32 of the Indian Constitution.	1987
30	Define the writ of Certiorari.	1987
31	What do you understand by 'positive discrimination'?	1987
32	State the functions of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.	1987
33	Briefly mention why and how the Chapter on Directive Principles gained precedence over the Chapter on Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution.	1987
34	To what extent does the President of India possess discretionary powers? If any, what are they?	1987
35	Identify the nature and methods of Parliamentary control over the executive in Indian polity.	1987
36	Under what circumstances, can the Financial Emergency be imposed in India?	1987
37	There are political personalities but not political parties in India.' Comment.	1987
38	What are the main features of the Anti-defection legislation of 1985?	1987
39	Why India is called a Republic?	1988
40	What the major commitments of the Constitution of India are as incorporated in its Preamble?	1988
41	Explain the significance of Art 370 in the Constitution of India.	1988
42	What do you consider are the problem of National Integration in India? Suggest suitable remedies.	1988
43	Explain the concept of Minorities in the Indian Constitution and mention the safeguards provided therein for their protection.	1988
44	Discuss the methods by which Parliament controls public expenditure in India.	1988
45	What do you understand by 'Zero-hour' in the conduct of business in Parliament?	1988
46	State the privileges of the members of the Parliament?	1988
47	What is meant by collective responsibility in Parliamentary democracy?	1988

48	Examine the role and functions of the State Governors as set out in the Constitution of India.	1988
49	Explain the Constitutional responsibilities of the Election Commission of India.	1988
50	Define the duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India in regard to Audit and show how the Constitution provides for his independence from Executive control.	1989
51	Discuss the value of the consultative committees attached to the different Ministries of the Government of India.	1989
52	Discuss the powers, privileges and immunities of the Indian Parliament.	1989
53	Examine the powers and functions of the speaker of the Lok Sabha.	1989
54	Explain the relevance of Rajya Sabha as a second chamber in the federal set up of Indian Parliamentary System.	1989
55	Discuss the relationship between the Executive and the legislative wings with reference to India.	1989
56	Describe the organization and functions of the committee system in Indian Parliament.	1989
57	What is meant by a 'Cut Motion' in Parliament? Mention its different kinds.	1989
58	Distinguish between a starred question and an unstarred one asked in the Parliament.	1989
59	How is breach of Parliamentary Privilege different from Contempt of the House?	1989
60	"There are certain spheres where the Rajya Sabha alone has the authority". What are they?	1989
61	Explain what is a point of order? When can it be raised?	1989
62	State the significance of Article 370 of our Constitution.	1990
63	What are the "reasonable restrictions" mentioned in the Indian Constitution accompanying the fundamental rights?	1990
64	Define Writ of Mandamus. Explain its importance.	1990
65	What are the major recommendations of the National Perspective Plan for Women, 1988 and what are the relevant recommendations as envisaged in the Constitutional Amendment Bill (6th Amendment)?	1990
66	What is contempt of Parliament? Mention its various kinds.	1990
67	What are the functions of the Business Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha?	1990
68	Explain the nature and extent of discretionary powers and special responsibilities of the Governor in the Indian Constitution.	1990
69	Describe the procedure for the creation of Second Chamber of the State Legislature.	1990

70	"The emphasis in modern federations should not be division and separation but on Collaboration and on Co-operation." Discuss the statement in the context of Indian Polity.	1990
71	Review the present Electoral System in India and suggest modifications to ensure better and healthier Polity.	1990
72	Describe the Constitutional position of the Civil Services in India. How is their neutrality and independence sought to be achieved?	1990
73	Examine whether the grant of greater autonomy to the States would be in the interest of strengthening the integrity and promoting the economic development of the country, especially in the light of recent happenings in our Country.	1991
74	Discuss the secular nature of India polity and the position of minorities in India.	1991
75	Examine the constitutional relation between the President and the Prime Ministers in India.	1991
76	Set forth the functions of the Cabinet.	1991
77	Discuss the powers of the President of India regarding the scheduled areas.	1991
78	Distinguish between value-based politics and personality-based politics.	1991
79	Distinguish between Caretaker-government and Minority government.	1991
80	When can the Governor of a State reserve a Bill for consideration by the President of India?	1991
81	The planning operations in India have led to erosion of federalism.' Discuss.	1991
82	Why was Education taken out of the State and inserted in the Concurrent List of the Indian Constitution?	1991
83	What is the value of 'O' and 'M' in Administration?	1991
84	What are the constitutional provisions that ensure the independence of the Public Service Commissions in India?	1991
85	The Writ of Mandamus will not be granted against certain persons. Who are they?	1992
86	Explain the status, composition and functions of the Minorities Commission.	1992
87	Besides the Directives contained in Part IV, there are certain other Directives addressed to the state in other parts of the Constitution. What are they?	1992
88	State the difference between the Council of Ministers and the Cabinet.	1992
89	Indicate the structure and functions of the Committee on Public Undertakings.	1992
90	Distinguish between Annual Financial Statement and Annual Finance Bill.	1992
91	What is lame-duck-session of legislature?	1992
92	Who is a Protem Speaker? What are his responsibilities?	1992

93	Explain the scope of the Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India.	1992
94	What are Zonal Councils? Discuss their constitution, role and importance in achieving inter-state community.	1992
95	Distinguish between the All India Services and Central Services.	1992
96	Distinguish between preventive detention and punitive detention.	1993
97	What are the various writs available to the citizens of India?	1993
98	When and why was the National Literacy Mission founded?	1993
99	What is meant by 'equal protection of law'?	1993
100	What is the purpose of Art 24 of the Constitution of India?	1993
101	What are the fundamental duties and their implications?	1993
102	Describe the powers and functions of the Council of States. Compare its powers with those of the House of the People.	1993
103	What are the essentials of a true federation? Analyse the nature of the Indian federation.	1993
104	Describe the doctrine of colourable legislation.	1993
105	Describe the composition and functions of the Election Commission of India.	1993
106	What is the content of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution of India?	1993
107	Describe the composition and functions of the National Development Council.	1993
108	Describe the emergence of Basic Structure concept in the Indian Constitution.	1994
109	Differentiate between the 'due process of law' and the 'procedure established by law' in the context of deprivation of personal liberty in India.	1994
110	Explain the meaning of ex post-facto legislation.	1994
111	What is our country's highest civilian award? Who are the two foreigners on whom the award was conferred?	1994
112	What is a bicameral legislature? Mention the states that have a bicameral legislature in our country.	1994
113	"In India, though the Governor is the constitutional head of state just as the President of the country, the former may be enjoying more powers than the latter". Do you agree? Give reasons.	1994
114	Explain the significance of the April 1994 Supreme Court judgement on the proclamation of President's rule.	1994
115	Explain the position of the Election Commission with regard to the residential qualification of the members of the Council of States. What do you think about it?	1994
116	Four more languages were added to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution through two amendments. Give the names of these four languages as also the serial number of amendments.	1994

- 117 Explain the role of the Planning Commission and the National Development Council in the formulation of public polity in India. 1994
- 118 What are the constitutional rights of the citizens of India? What do you think about the demand of the NRIs for dual citizenship? 1995
- 119 What is the present status of the right to property as a Fundamental Right? 1995
- 120 Why is Art 32 considered as the cornerstone of the Constitution? 1995
- 121 Explain the status of the Ministers known as 'Ministers of State'. 1995
- 122 Explain the functions of the Estimates Committee. 1995
- 123 Describe the non-federal features of the Council of States. 1995
- 124 What is the position of the Supreme Court under the Constitution of India? Discuss its role as a guardian of the Constitution. 1995
- 125 Define Financial Emergency. How many times has this been proclaimed so far? 1995
- 126 Describe the salient features of the Anti-Defection Law. 1995
- 127 What do you understand by the term 'Rule of Law'? How does the Constitution of India seek to establish it? 1996
- 128 The Writ of Mandamus cannot be granted against certain persons. Who are they? 1996
- 129 What do you understand by "preventive detention"? 1996
- 130 What are the functions of the Human Rights Commission of India? 1996
- 131 Why does the Constitution of India contain different forms of Oath for the President, the Ministers, the legislators and the members of the judiciary? Discuss their significance. 1996
- 132 What constitutional provisions make the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India independent? 1996
- 133 What is a Cut Motion? Discuss its significance. 1996
- 134 What are the Consolidated and Contingency Fund of India? How are the two operated? 1996
- 135 How do you distinguish between a Money Bill and a Finance Bill? 1996
- 136 What is delegated legislation and which are the factors responsible for its increase? 1996
- 137 What role can the Union government play in settling inter-state water disputes? 1996
- 138 How are electoral constituencies delimited for Parliamentary elections in India? 1996
- 139 Discuss the factors responsible for the rise of regionalism in India. How does it influence the political system? 1997
- 140 What, according to the Supreme Court, constituted 'The Basic Features' which is upheld in cases known as (i) Keshvananda Bharati v/s State of Kerala (1973) and (ii) Minerva Mills v/s Union of India (1980)? 1997

- 141 What is Social Justice? How can reservation of seats for women in Parliament contribute to the establishment of a socially just society in India? 1997
- 142 What specific provisions exist in the Constitution of India about child labour? 1997
- 143 Write any four fundamental duties prescribed in the Constitution of India. 1997
- 144 How are the President and the Vice President of India elected? What are the constitutional issues involved in their election? 1997
- 145 How does the Parliament control the financial system in India? 1997
- 146 in Parliamentary Procedure signify? 1997
- 147 Give a brief account of CMP (Common Minimum Programme) of the United Front Government at the Centre. 1997
- 148 Present your views for and against the creation of an All India Judicial Service. 1997
- 149 What is Article 356 in the Indian Constitution? Comment. 1997
- 150 How are the new States formed in India? Why have the demands of separate States like those of Vidarbha, Telungana etc, not been considered by the Government recently? 1998
- 151 Briefly state the stages through which the present position of Directive Principles vis-à-vis the Fundamental Rights has emerged. 1998
- 152 State the amplitude of Article 21 of the Constitution. 1998
- 153 What is meant by 'Protem speaker'? 1998
- 154 Which of the cases regarding disqualification for Membership of either House of Parliament are decided by the President? 1998
- 155 Differentiate between Parliamentary Secretary and Lok Sabha Secretary. 1998
- 156 What is a Privilege Motion? 1998
- 157 On what grounds and Legislative Councils are justified? How is it created or abolished in a State? 1998
- 158 Differentiate and state the significance of general election, mid-term election and by-election. 1998
- 159 Point out the composition and functions of the Central Vigilance Commission. 1998
- 160 On what grounds does Article 15 of the Indian Constitution prohibit discrimination? Indicate the way the concept of 'Special protection' has qualified this prohibition, and contributed to social change. 1999
- 161 What is the status of the Right to Property in the Indian Constitution? 1999
- 162 What is the importance of Directive Principles of State Policy? Mention which Directive Principles of State Policy have got primacy over the Fundamental Rights. 1999
- 163 In what ways is the Rajya Sabha expected to play a special role in today's changing political scenario? 1999

164	Assess the importance of the role played by the Public Accounts Committee.	1999
165	Who presides over the Joint-Session of the two Houses of the Indian Parliament over a non-money bill?	1999
166	What is the maximum gap between two sessions of the Indian Parliament?	1999
167	Is there any provision to impeach the Governor of a State?	1999
168	Examine the need for the review of the Indian Constitution.	2000
169	Examine the demand for greater state autonomy and also its impact on the smooth functioning of India polity.	2000
170	What constitutes the doctrine of the 'basic features' as introduced into the Constitution of India by the Judiciary?	2000
171	Explain Public Interest Litigation. Who can file it and on what basis can it be rejected by the Court of Law?	2000
172	Do you justify the Prime Minister's entry into Parliament through the Rajya Sabha?	2000
173	How is the Vice President of India elected?	2000
174	How does Parliament control the Union Executive? How effective is its control?	2000
175	Examine the role of Estimates Committee.	2000
176	What is vote on account?	2000
177	What is Caretaker Government?	2000
178	What is a Privilege Motion?	2000
179	What is contempt of Parliament?	2000
180	Examine the demand for greater State-autonomy and also its impact on the smooth functioning of the Indian Polity.	2000
181	Discuss the major extra-constitutional factors influencing the working of federal polity in India.	2000
182	Identify the major electoral reforms which are necessary in the Indian Political System.	2000
183	Discuss the constitutional provisions regarding the rights of children.	2001
184	What is the Constitutional position of Directive Principles of State Policy? How has it been interpreted by the judiciary after the emergency in 1975-77?	2001
185	Comment on the nature of Ordinance-making power of the President of India. What safeguards are there against possible misuse?	2001
186	Distinguish between Cabinet Secretariat and Prime Minister's Secretariat. Which of these is more important?	2001
187	Bring out the aberrations of the Parliamentary system of government in India.	2001
188	What are the main differences between the passage of a Constitution Amendment Bill and other Legislative Bills?	2001

189	Discuss the administrative relations between the Centre and the States in the light of recent controversies.	2001
190	What is the importance of the 84th Amendment of the Indian Constitution?	2002
191	Discuss the constitutional provisions relating to the non-justiciable directives binding upon the states.	2002
192	Why does the Constitution of India provide different forms of Oaths for the President, the Ministers, the legislators and the members of the judiciary? Discuss their significance.	2002
193	What is the composition of the Electoral College for the election of the President of the Indian Republic? How the value of votes cast is counted?	2002
194	"The issue of a hung Parliament adversely affects the stability of Indian Government." Discuss the statement and point out how far changing over to the Presidential from the government will be a solution to this problem.	2002
195	How is the Constitution of India amended? Do you think that the procedure for amendment makes the Constitution a play-thing in the hands of the Centre?	2002
196	Explain the role of the Public Accounts Committee.	2002
197	What is the role of the Protem speaker?	2002
198	What is meant by the 'lame-duck session' of the legislature?	2002
199	What is the position of the Supreme Court under the Constitution of India? How far does it play a role as the guardian of the Constitution?	2002
200	What is meant by the 'fringe areas' in the sphere of local government in India?	2002
201	Describe the methods of delimiting constituencies for parliamentary elections in India.	2002
202	Identify the major Fundamental Duties.	2003
203	Discuss the question of death sentence and Presidential clemency.	2003
204	State the difference between Council of Ministers and the Cabinet.	2003
205	How is the Vice President of India elected?	2003
206	Discuss Parliamentary Control over the Executive.	2003
207	Identify the major obstacles in the smooth functioning of Parliamentary democracy in India.	2003
208	Explain the relevance of Rajya Sabha as a second chamber in the federal set up of Indian Parliamentary System.	2003
209	What is a point of order? When can it be raised?	2003
210	What is a Privilege Motion?	2003
211	What is meant by 'sine-die' adjournment?	2003
212	Explain the discretionary powers of the Governor of State.	2003
213	Indicate the provisions of Indian Constitution relating to secularism.	2004

214	What is the significance of a Preamble to a Constitution? Bring out of the Philosophy of the Indian polity as enshrined in the Preamble of Indian Constitution.	2004
215	Discuss how the Constitution of India provides equal rights.	2004
216	What is Habeas Corpus?	2004
217	What is the special facility provided to the linguistic minorities under Article 350 A?	2004
218	Define Money Bill. Discuss how it is passed in the Parliament.	2004
219	How can a judge of the Supreme Court be removed?	2004
220	Discuss how state Governments can exercise control over panchayats.	2004
221	What are the constitutional restrictions imposed upon the power of the borrowing of the state governments?	2004
222	Under what Article of the Constitution can the Union Government play its role in settling inter-state water disputes?	2004
223	Discuss the meaning of "breakdown of constitutional machinery". What are its effects".	2004
224	What is a Finance Commission? Discuss the main functions of the State Finance Commission.	2004
225	What are the steps that the Election Commission may take if a recalcitrant State Government wants to put off Assembly Elections?	2005
226	Give your views on the right to freedom of religion as enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Do they make India a secular State?	2005
227	What are the Constitutional limitations on the free movements of Indians throughout the country?	2005
228	What is meant by 'double jeopardy'?	2005
229	What is the common point between Articles 14 and 226 of the Indian Constitution?	2005
230	In what ways can the President of India ascertain the views of the Supreme Court on a particular bill?	2005
231	Who and what does the Indian Parliament consist of?	2005
232	Is it possible to distinguish between judicial review and judicial activism in India? Does the recent behaviour of the Indian judiciary partake more of judicial activism? Argue with suitable examples.	2005
233	Would you say that the implementation of the Panchayati System in the last ten years has led to a real restructuring of the Indian Polity?	2005
234	Comment on the financial relations between the Union and the States in India. Has post-1991 liberalization in any way affected it?	2005
235	What are the protections afforded to Scheduled Tribes in the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?	2005
236	How is the Election Commission of India constituted?	2005

237	What is right to life and personal liberty? How have the courts expanded its meaning in recent years?	2006
238	What are the social and economic consequences of abolishing child labour in India?	2006
239	To what extent can the President withhold his assent to a Bill already passed by the Parliament?	2006
240	On what grounds can a member be disqualified from either House of Parliament?	2006
241	How would you differentiate between the passage of a Constitution Amendment Bill and of an Ordinary Legislative Bill?	2006
242	Explain the following terms: 1. Dissolution of the House 2. Prorogation of the House 3. Adjournment of the business of the House.	2006
243	What is the Consolidated Fund of India?	2006
244	Is the High Courts' power to issue 'writs' wider than that of the Supreme Court of India?	2006
245	How does the Inter-State Council establish co-ordination between States?	2006
246	What are the salient features of the Government of India Acts of 1858 and 1909?	2007
247	What is Regionalism? In which way regionalism has affected the India polity?	2007
248	What is the importance of Right to Constitutional Remedies?	2007
249	Discuss the steps to get rid of child labour in India.	2007
250	Bring out the differences between the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. Discuss some of the measures taken by the Union and State Governments for the implementation of the Directive principles of State Policy.	2007
251	What are the exceptions when the President of India is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers?	2007
252	How is the President of India elected?	2007
253	What is the difference between Council of Ministers and Cabinet?	2007
254	What is pro tem Speaker?	2007
255	What is casting vote?	2007
256	Under what circumstances, Parliament may legislate on State subjects?	2007
257	The Lokpal Bill.	2007
258	What are the main determinants of voting behaviour in India?	2007
259	What is criminalization of politics?	2007
260	Discuss the major extra-constitutional factors influencing the federal polity in India.	2008
261	Examine the demand for greater state autonomy and its impact on the smooth functioning of India polity.	2008
262	Discuss the problems in achieving National Integration in India.	2008

263	Universal Declaration of Human Rights.	2008
264	Enumerate the Fundamental Duties incorporated in the Constitution after the 42nd Amendment.	2008
265	Distinguish between the auditing and accounting functions of the CAG of India.	2008
266	What is a Censure Motion?	2008
267	Distinguish between a starred question and an unstarred one asked in the Parliament.	2008
268	What is contempt of Parliament?	2008
269	Examine the impact of Regional Political Parties in Indian Politics.	2008
270	Examine the role of case in Indian politics.	2008
271	What is meant by 'Judicial Activism'? Evaluate its role in the context of the functioning of Indian Polity.	2008
272	Discuss the composition and functions of the Union Public Service Commission.	2008
273	How does the Indian Constitution seek to maintain independence of the Public Service Commission's?	2004, 2002