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Practice cum Revision - MCQs
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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram;
After Cabinet nod, Citizenship Bill ready for tabling in House

It will not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura

BJP confident of Citizenship Bill passage

While it has majority in the Lok Sabha, the party appears to be sailing through in the Rajya Sabha too

The Bill is unconstitutional, says Opposition

It will affect our culture, language and our poltical power, says former Assam CM Hironam Singha

News

* Union Cabinet cleared Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019

* Amends Citizenship Act, 1955 [CA, 1955]

* Amendments

1. Granting Indian citizenship to members of 6 minority communities, migrated to India from 3 countries before Dec 31, 2014

   - 6 minority communities → Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians
   - 3 Countries → Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Illegal Migrants under Citizenship Act, 1955

Foreigner entered into India without valid passport or travel documents or staying beyond permitted period of time.

Illegal Migrants under 2019 Bill

Persons belonging to 6 minority communities, from 3 countries shall not be treated as illegal migrants

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
2. Such person can apply for Naturalisation under CA, 1955
   ➔ Third Schedule, CA, 1955 ➔ Qualifications for naturalisation

3. Section 7D, CA, 1955 ➔ Cancellation of Registration as OCI cardholder
   ➔ Provision added ➔ OCI Cardholder violates any provisions of act or any law ➔ Cancellation of registration

**News**

* Does not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura (Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution)

* Does not apply to states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland

   ➔ Inner Line Permit (ILP)

**Opposition to Bill**

* Unconstitutional

* Violates basic tenets of the Constitution

* Excludes persons belonging to Muslim Religion ➔ "Religious Discrimination"
The many structural flaws in India's higher education system

It is crisis-ridden, understaffed and underfunded

The system surrounding the lives at the prestigious Indian Institute has stirred deep questions about the quality of academic education. India's higher education system is not only beset by numerous problems, but also has a direct impact on human capital, the two pillars of global productivity and GDP growth, making India's higher education a concern.

India graduates half of its first-time graduates are unemployed—a problem compounded by unfairness.

Faculty shortage: Faculty shortage in postgraduate institutions is at an all-time high. A mere 3% of the teaching faculty in India is considered to be below par compared to the world standard. The number of teaching faculty is not in sync with the number of students enrolled.

The problem lies in the concept itself, and experts agree that a 1 to 1 ratio of teaching faculty and students is necessary to provide quality education at their highest standards. The primary issue is that India has never had enough teachers, and the problem is compounded by the fact that the number of students is on the rise.

Higher Education System in India

- Dept. of Higher Education, MHRD, GoI
- Author → structurally flawed
- Structural flaws
  - Shortage in faculties
  - Underfunding
  - Separation of research from teaching
- Shortage in faculties
  - 50% faculty vacancies in Govt. institutions on average
  - Increasing demand but stagnant supply is the reason

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Higher Education System in India

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- Shortage in faculties
  - 50% faculty vacancies in Govt. institutions on average
  - Increasing demand but stagnant supply is the reason

- Underfunding
  - India's R&D expenditure - 0.62% of GDP - Low

- Low salaries to faculties in India when compared to foreign universities

- Chinese example
  - Providing salaries in dollars
  - Monetary incentives for published research

- Separation of research from teaching
  - Students not exposed to recent innovations

- Structural flaws in India's higher education system could affect macroeconomic indicators such as Labour productivity

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
• Labour productivity
  ➔ Output obtained from each employee
  ➔ Determined mainly by
    - innovation
    - human capital

• Suggestions
  ➔ Increase in research
  ➔ Innovation
  ➔ Labour productivity
  ➔ Higher education qualification
  ➔ Human Capital

⇒ Govt. should acknowledge the importance of higher education in India
⇒ Recent initiatives
  1. Draft National Education Policy (June 2019)
     ➔ Double education spending to 6% of GDP
     ➔ Close the research-teaching divide
  2. ‘Institutions of Eminence’ Programme (2018)
     ➔ More funding to some research institutions

⇒ Reforms in higher education system should happen in the form of legislations
⇒ Culture of discovery and accountability to India’s higher education institutions.
Cabinet okays bond ETFs

Bharat Bond ETF would be India’s first corporate bond exchange traded fund

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the government’s plan to create and launch India’s first corporate bond exchange traded fund (ETF) — Bharat Bond ETF.

“The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for creation and launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) to create an additional source of funding for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSOs), Central Public Financial Institutions (CPFIs), and other government organisations,” the government said in its release.

“Bharat Bond ETF would be the first corporate bond ETF in the country,” it added. The ETF will comprise a basket of bonds issued by the CPSEs, CPSOs, CPFIs, and other government organisations and will be tradable in two segments: one for institutional investors and another for retail investors.

“On issue date, bond ETFs expected to offer Central Public Sector enterprises, other government organisations and additional source of funding to meet borrowing requirements,” the release added.

Bonds for funds — Bharat Bond ETF

ETF to comprise basket of bonds issued by Central public sector enterprises, other government entities

- Bond ETF to comprise basket of bonds issued by Central public sector enterprises, other government entities.
- The ETF will be listed on the BSE and the NSE and will be tradable on both exchanges.
- Retail and institutional investors will be able to invest in the ETF through a system of quot-relay.
- The ETF will be listed on the BSE and the NSE and will be tradable on both exchanges.
- The ETF will be tradable on the BSE and the NSE and will be tradable on both exchanges.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies—II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

PAPER-IV


- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

News

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved Bharat Bond ETF.

ETF

- Exchange Traded Fund
- Basket of securities traded on Exchanges, like a stock throughout the day
- Contains all types of investments - stocks, commodities or bonds

Bharat Bond ETF

- To create additional source for funding for CPSEs, CPFIs & other Govt. organisations
- First Corporate Bond ETF of India.

Features

- Basket of bonds issued by CPSUs, CPSEs, CPFIs & other Govt. organisations
- Tradable on Exchange
- Small unit size of Rs. 1,000.
- Initially all AAA rated bonds will be issued.
- Transparent Net Asset Value (NAV)
- Transparent portfolio - daily disclosure on website
- Fixed maturity date.
End of reservation for Anglo-Indians?

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to extend reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for 10 years but a question mark prevailed over whether it has extended reservation for two seats in the Lok Sabha for the Anglo-Indian community.

Provisions for reservation for SCs/STs and Anglo-Indians are extended under Article 334 (a) and (b) of the Constitution. While the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar confirmed that the SC/ST reservation under 334(a) was extended by 10 years, he said details of the Bill would be clear when it is tabled in Parliament in the ongoing session.

Two members of the Anglo-Indian community have been nominated in the Lok Sabha since the adoption of the Constitution, under article 334(b). Sources said the reservation for members of the Anglo-Indian community had been done away with “for the time being”.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
Article 334

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this part [Part xvi], the provisions of this Constitution relating to—

(a) the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States; and

(b) the representation of the Anglo-Indian community in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States by nomination,

shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of seventy years from the commencement of this Constitution.
Practice Question – Prelims
Q1. Inner Line Permit (ILP) exists in which of the following states?
   1. Arunachal Pradesh
   2. Assam
   3. Mizoram
   4. Meghalaya
   5. Tripura
Select the correct answer from the code given below.
   a) 1, 2 and 3
   b) 1 and 3
   c) 2, 4 and 5
   d) 4 and 5

Practice Question – Prelims
Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to “Bharat Bond Exchange Trade Fund (ETF)”.
   1. It will provide an additional source of funding for Central Public Sector Undertakings and Central Public Sector Enterprises.
   2. These bonds are tradable on exchanges.
Which among the following statements is/are incorrect?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India.
   1. There is reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in both Houses of the parliament and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States for such period as mentioned in the Constitution.
   2. The representation of the Anglo Indian community in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States by nomination, shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of seventy years from the commencement of the Constitution.
Select the correct statements using the codes given below.
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Mains
GS-II
Q. In the light of recent controversy on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, critically examine the amendments to Citizenship Act, 1955. (10 marks, 150 words)

Practice Question – Mains
GS-II
Q. ‘Keeping the demand of rapidly expanding economy for professional skilled manpower, we have expanded our professional education sector. What we need to ensure is the quality of higher education’ – Vice President of India. In the context of the above statement, critically examine the present status of higher education system in India. (150 words, 10 marks)