

**GS Advanced Program 2023****Generic Booklet**Test Name/Code/No. : ..**692016**

Name			
Email ID.			
Roll No.			
Mobile No.		Date	

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes**Instructions to Candidates -**

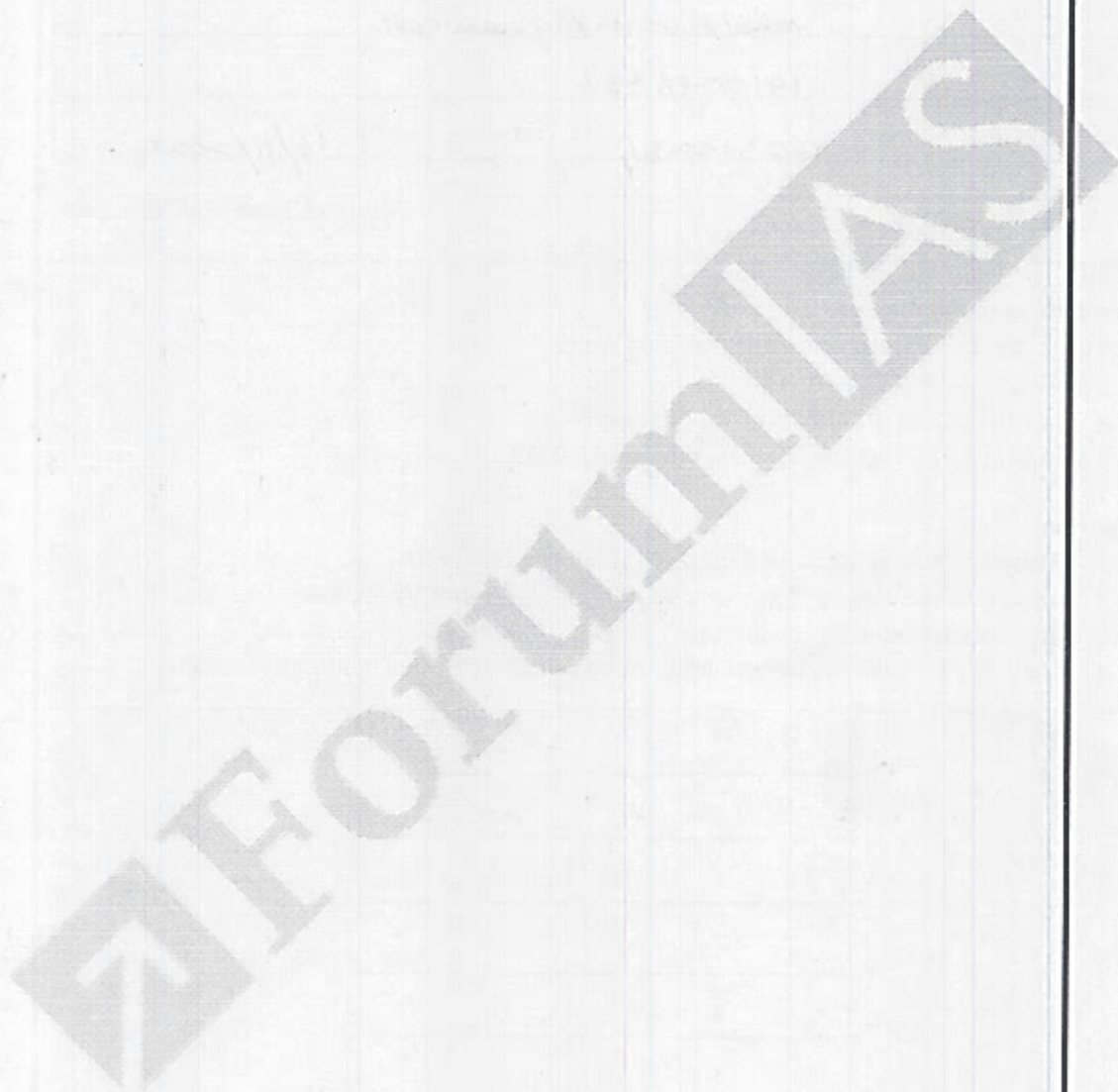
- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard -
<https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on -
<https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
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Overall Grade/Score	

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Start Writing Here

Q.1)

Representation of People Act (RPA), 1951 deals with conduct of elections, ~~usde~~ registration of political parties, electoral disputes and qualification/disqualification of candidates contesting in the elections.

RPA, 1951 - Checked Malpractices

① Ending domicile requirement for Rajya Sabha

② Sec 29 A, 2003 → Inserted a new chapter where parties need to register and they have to disclose all donations and receipts.

It also ~~is it for~~ prohibited accepting foreign donations. and thus increased transparency.

Sec ③ Sec 39A, 2003

↳ equitable time sharing on electronic media

④ PUCL vs UOI, 2009

Supreme Court ^(SC) in 2013, upheld ~~that~~ NOTA. Since then it has been implemented in all elections

⑤ VVPAT

↳ Dr. Subramanian Swamy vs UOI, 2013

SC upheld VVPAT

↳ increased transparency

The above reforms through amendments to RPA, 1951 and Juc through SC judgments strengthened the democracy. It increased transparency and faith of people in free and fair elections increased.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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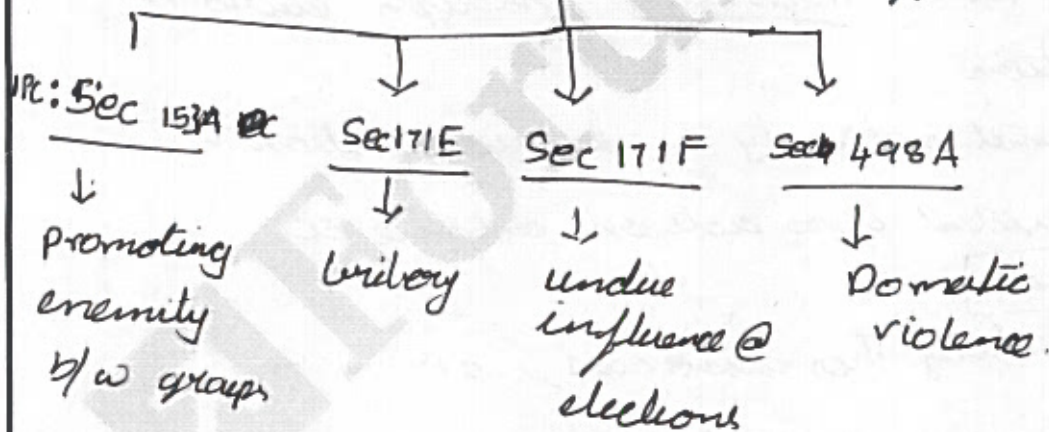
Q.2)

Representation of Peoples Act (RPA), 1951
~~also~~ deals with disqualification of
 candidates (sec 8) and electoral
 disputes.

Grounds for Disqualification

① Sec 8(1) of RPA, 1951

Conviction for certain offences



In addition Sec 8(1) deals with promoting untouchability, violation of Foreign Exchange regulation Act and dealing in narcotics as ~~also~~ grounds for disqualification.

- ② Sec 8(2), 1951 → ~~Do~~ Dowry
Profiteering
Hoarding

- ③ Sec 8(3), 1951

Any MP or MLA jailed for 2 years or more will be disqualified for 6 years from time of release.

Remedy Available

- ① Appeal in High court through election petition.
- ② Final authority on disqualification is President who acts on advice EC

SC Cases

① ~~In~~ Lily Thomasan case, 2013 → SC struck down Sec 8(4) of RPA.

② In Tan Chaukidari case, 1993 SC upheld Sec 62A.

Reforms based on Umesh Sinha Committee is the way forward

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.3)

Digital Gap refers to the lack of access to digital technology to a certain group of people.

In India .

① Rural - Urban digital divide

② ^{to} Women - Men digital divide

Urban & Men have better access to technologies
People

Digital Gap as Obstacle to Good Governance

① Digital education

People in rural areas and women can't get access to best teachers or online material → at disadvantage in a competitive world

② Agriculture

↓
Farmers don't have access to weather forecasting etc.,

③ Lack of access to govt. services

↳ Eg :- ~~in~~ CowIN App - Covid Vaccine

④ Health

↳ missing out on m-health opportunities

The glaring digital divide was seen post COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdown

↳ Steps Taken by Govt.

① PMG DISHA

↳ Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan

② PM-WANI

↳ free wifi in public places.

③ Laptops in form of freebies by state governments

'In order to achieve goal of being a developed nation by 2047 digital divide needs to be bridged.

Overall Grading (✓)

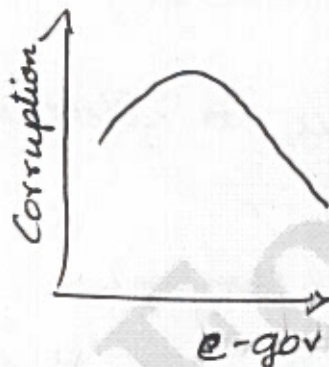
Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.4)

e-governance refers to the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in providing access to government services.

e-governance - Not always Good governance

- ① CK Prahlad in his book "The fortune at bottom of Pyramid." says



corruption initially increases due to e-governance and then decreases.

- ② Digital divide makes a lot of poor people, rural areas, women excluded.
- ③ It adds a new layer of bureaucracy in form of Computer Operators.

④ Lack of trust by the citizens
 ↳ citizens grown up with ^{system} ~~citizens~~ of bodies to get things done are unlikely to believe that this is different

⑤ Privacy Issues

Eq ▷ Concerns raised on Aarogya Setu app in beginning

Suggestions

- ① Bring Data Protection bill to address privacy concerns
- ② Bridge digital divide through schemes Digital India, Bharat net etc
- ③ Focus more on m-gov (mobile governance) due to high penetration of smart phones.

Addressing the challenges will help make efficient use of AI, Bigdata etc.,

Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.5)

Civil Service Neutrality refers to being politically neutral and aid and advise minister without political bias. Recently there are concerns about ~~Defile~~ civil services being involved in politics and questions are being raised of effective public service delivery because of this.

Civil Service - drift away from neutrality

- ① Civil servants closely aligning with ruling parties for 'cutty' posting
- ② ~~Retiree~~ Increased involvement in politics post voluntary retirement raises doubts on their sincerity while performing the job.
- ③ Misuse of discretion for personal political gain.

④ Politician - bureaucrat nexus

↳ lack of objectivity in awarding contracts

↳ Increased corruption

↳ loss to tax payers

↳ loss of trust in the system.

⑤ Public service delivery is affected adversely

Measures that can be taken

① Strict disciplinary action on

violation of Central Services

Conduct rules, 1964 and All India

civil service Conduct rules, 1964

② Civil Services Board for Transfers

↳ No incentive for bureaucrat to be close political elite

- ③ Performance appraisal as suggested by 2nd ARC and Hota Committee
- ④ ~~Rec~~ Hota committee recommended a model code of governance.
- ⑤ Mandatory two year cooling period post retirement if one seeks to join politics
- ⑥ Santham committee suggested changes in Art 311 ~~is~~ that disciplinary action against All India officers can be taken by state government

Civil servants should abide by a Code of Ethics where neutrality, integrity, selflessness are given paramount importance.

Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.6) Lateral entry ~~is~~ refers to direct appointment of specialists and domain experts, mainly from Private sector at the middle or senior levels of government.

It pertains to the age old Generalist vs Specialists debate.

Need for Lateral Entry.

- ① Infusion of fresh perspective in administration.
- ② Specialists are needed to tackle problems faced by 21st century administration.
 [Eg] Advent of AI, Machine Learning
 Big Data need domain experts
- ③ Promote efficiency in administration.

- ④ It reduces the current vacancy
at mid level in current
administrative machinery
- ⑤ It provides opportunity to
unsuccessful and untested candidates
- ⑥ It promotes competition and cure complacency in administration

Concerns of Lateral Entry

- ① Chances of spoils system
 ↓
 → breeds Nepotism and favouritism
 → breaks much needed continuity
 in administration if lateral
 entrants are changed every time
 govt. changes.
- ② Difference in work culture
 ↳ Pvt. sector is more focused on
 profits

- ③ No credible data that private sector is more efficient than public sector
- ④ Resistance from civil servants
- ⑤ Lack of objectivity in recruitment of lateral entrants
- ⑥ Lack of field experience of dealing with citizenry
- ⑦ Dependence on few individuals for domain expertise may backfire

The way forward is ensure the constitutional role of UPSC in bringing objectivity in recruitment, mandatory field posting for sometime.

Second ARC suggested that a system of lateral entry should be institutionalised.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.7)

Sec 62(5) of RPA, 1951 excludes persons from criminal background from participating in elections.

It states "No person shall vote at any elections if he/she is confined to prison."

- * As only an elector can contest elections,
- * This provision also disqualifies a person confined to prison from contesting the elections with exception of Preventive Detention.

Debate

Some experts argue that this is

① against the Art. 326 which gives people Right to Vote.

② NC RB data shows that as of 31st Dec, 2021, 77% of detainees are undertrial.

Though they are not convicted, their Right to vote is hampered.

③ This is against Art. 14 → Principle of Equality

Jan Chaukidari case (2013)

Patna High Court (HC) upheld Sec 62(5) of RPA, 1951.

→ It claimed that Right to vote is a statutory right and hence can be taken away

⇒ Election Commission (EC) challenged it in Supreme Court (SC)

→ SC upheld Patna HC's Judgement.

∴ Currently, a person in jail can neither vote nor contest in elections.

Recent Developments

Recently, Supreme Court accepted a petition challenging Sec 62(5).

~~As~~ This petition is yet to be heard.

It is awaited to see whether SC upholds its judgements of Anukul Chandra Vs UOI, 1997 and

Jan Chaukhdhari case, 2013 or

Overtures them.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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