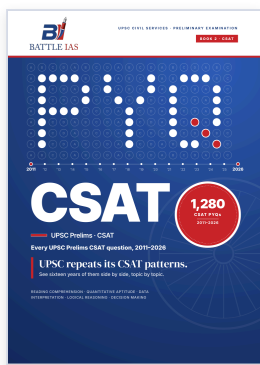
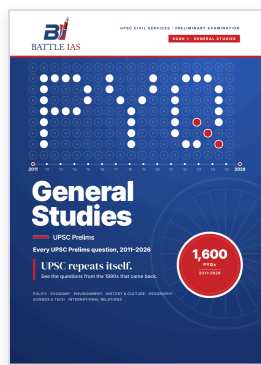


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Question counts from each book's "The paper at a glance" (p. 4).

such as the Forest Rights Act and the Niyamgiri judgment (2013).

21. The distribution of powers between the Centre and the States in the Indian Constitution is based on the scheme provided in the [2012]

- (a) Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909
- (b) Montagu-Chelmsford Act, 1919
- (c) Government of India Act, 1935
- (d) Indian Independence Act, 1947

Ans. (c)

The three-list division of powers in the Seventh Schedule has one clear ancestor: the **Government of India Act, 1935**. That Act divided powers into a **Federal List**, a **Provincial List** and a **Concurrent List**, and gave the provinces autonomy. The Constitution's Union, State and Concurrent Lists follow this scheme closely, often entry by entry. Option (c). Eliminate. Morley-Minto (1909) introduced separate electorates; it did not divide powers.

Where students slip: Montagu-Chelmsford (1919) separated central and provincial subjects and introduced **dyarchy** in the provinces; it is **the closest distractor** because it was the first step towards dividing subjects, but it had no concurrent list. **How to think it through:** The Indian Independence Act, 1947 ended British rule and created two dominions. So (c). The 1935 Act is the single largest source of our Constitution: the federal scheme, the office of Governor, the judiciary, the Public Service Commissions, emergency provisions and administrative details all draw on it.

22. The Constitution (Seventy-Third Amendment) Act, 1992, which aims at promoting the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country, provides for which of the following ? [2011]

- 1. Constitution of District Planning Committees.
- 2. State Election Commissions to conduct all panchayat elections.
- 3. Establishment of State Finance Commissions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans. (c)

Check each body against the Article that creates it. **State Election Commissions** to conduct panchayat elections come from **Article 243K**, inserted by the **73rd Amendment**. Item 2 belongs. **State Finance Commissions** to review panchayat finances come from **Article 243I**, also from the 73rd Amendment. Item 3 belongs. Item 1, **District Planning Committees**, sits in **Article 243ZD**, which is in Part IXA (Municipalities), inserted by the **74th Amendment**. A DPC consolidates the plans of both panchayats and municipalities, which is why it is often discussed with panchayati raj, but the provision itself is not part of the 73rd Amendment.

Where students slip: The **shared district-level role** is the trap. **How to think it through:** So this book prints (c): items 2 and 3. UPSC's official key gave (d), counting the DPC because it covers panchayat plans too. My advice: know both the Article numbers and the reason behind the key. The 73rd Amendment also added the Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects), a five-year term (243E) and one-third reservation for women (243D).

NOTE: UPSC's official key for this question (released through RTI) gives (d). This book prints (c), because District Planning Committees are a 74th Amendment provision.

23. Consider the following statements : [2011]

In India, a Metropolitan Planning Committee

- 1. is constituted under the provisions of the Constitution of India.
- 2. prepares the draft development plans for metropolitan area.
- 3. has the sole responsibility for implementing Government sponsored schemes in the metropolitan area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans. (a)

Statement 1: a **Metropolitan Planning Committee** is provided by **Article 243ZE**, inserted by the **74th**

1,70,000, $\div 5 = 34,000$). Option (c), ₹20,000, gives the whole monthly rise to the average, forgetting to share it, and option (b), ₹16,000, does not fit. Always bring all figures to the same time period before adding.

Trap: The average is per month but the rise is per year. Convert ₹1,20,000 a year to ₹10,000 a month before you add.

37. An automobile owner reduced his monthly petrol consumption when the prices went up. The price-consumption relationship is as follows : [2015]

Price (in ₹ per litre)	40	50	60	75
Monthly consumption (in litres)	60	48	40	32

If the price goes up to ₹ 80 per litre, his expected consumption (in litres) will be

- (a) 30 (b) 28
(c) 26 (d) 24

Ans. (a) Before reaching for any formula, look for a pattern in the table. Multiply each price by the litres bought: $40 \times 60 = 2,400$; $50 \times 48 = 2,400$; $60 \times 40 = 2,400$; $75 \times 32 = 2,400$. Every column gives the same answer. So the owner always spends ₹2,400 a month on petrol, whatever the price. At ₹80 a litre, he buys $2,400 \div 80 = 30$ litres: option (a). Options (b), (c) and (d) would mean he spends less than ₹2,400, which breaks the pattern. The trap is to see that consumption fell by 8 litres between some columns and continue that drop in a straight line; the table is about fixed spending, not a fixed fall.

38. Two equal glasses of same type are respectively $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ full of milk. They are then filled up with water and the contents are mixed in a pot. What is the ratio of milk and water in the pot? [2015]

- (a) 7 : 17 (b) 1 : 3
(c) 9 : 21 (d) 11 : 23

Ans. (a) Choose an easy size for each glass, a number that both 3 and 4 divide into: 12 cups. The first glass is one-third milk, so it has 4 cups of milk and 8 cups of water after it is filled up. The second glass is one-fourth milk, so it has 3 cups of milk and 9 cups of water. Pour both into the pot: milk = $4 + 3 = 7$ cups, water = $8 + 9 = 17$ cups. The ratio is 7 : 17, option (a). Option (b), 1 : 3, is what you get if you treat both glasses as one-fourth milk. Option (c), 9 : 21, simplifies to 3 : 7, and (d), 11 : 23, does not fit. The trap is adding the fractions $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{7}{12}$ and calling that the milk share of the pot;

there are two glasses, so the milk is 7 out of 24, not 7 out of 12.

39. A person ordered 5 pairs of black socks and some pairs of brown socks. The price of a black pair was thrice that of a brown pair. While preparing the bill, the bill clerk interchanged the number of black and brown pairs by mistake which increased the bill by 100%. What was the number of pairs of brown socks in the original order ? [2015]

- (a) 10 (b) 15
(c) 20 (d) 25

Ans. (d) Give the prices easy values: a brown pair costs ₹1, so a black pair costs ₹3. Now test the options, starting with any one. Try (d), 25 brown pairs. The correct bill is 5 black $\times$ ₹3 + 25 brown $\times$ ₹1 = $15 + 25 = ₹40$. The clerk swapped the numbers, billing 25 black and 5 brown: $25 \times 3 + 5 \times 1 = 75 + 5 = ₹80$. ₹80 is double ₹40, which is a 100% increase, exactly as stated. So 25 is right. Quickly check one other to be sure: with 10 brown, the true bill is $15 + 10 = 25$ and the wrong bill is $30 + 5 = 35$, only a 40% rise. Options (a), (b) and (c) all give rises below 100%. The trap is to read "increased by 100%" as "increased by ₹100"; it means the bill doubled.

40. The monthly incomes of Peter and Paul are in the ratio of 4 : 3. [2015]

Their expenses are in the ratio of 3 : 2. If each saves ₹ 6,000 at the end of the month, their monthly incomes respectively are (in ₹)

- (a) 24,000 and 18,000 (b) 28,000 and 21,000
(c) 32,000 and 24,000 (d) 34,000 and 26,000

Ans. (a) All four options already keep the incomes in the ratio 4 : 3, so just check the expenses. Take away the ₹6,000 each person saves and see whether the expenses come out 3 : 2. Option (a): 24,000 – 6,000 = 18,000 and 18,000 – 6,000 = 12,000; 18,000 : 12,000 is 3 : 2. It works. Option (b): expenses 22,000 and 15,000, which is not 3 : 2. Option (c): 26,000 and 18,000, which is 13 : 9. Option (d): 28,000 and 20,000, which is 7 : 5. Only (a) fits. When every option already satisfies one condition, the other condition decides the answer. The trap is to stop after checking the 4 : 3 ratio, which every option passes.

Fastest way: All four options already give incomes in the ratio 4 : 3, so test only the other

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Topic 1 · Making of the Constitution, Preamble, Features and Schedules

UPSC does not test dates of Assembly sessions for their own sake. It asks what a constitution is for. The same idea keeps returning in new clothes: a constitutional government is a limited government.

Expect two kinds of questions here. One is political theory: liberty, equality, rule of law, the State. The other is the text: the Preamble's exact words, what each Schedule holds, what 1950 looked like before 1976 changed it.

My advice: learn the original Preamble and the 42nd Amendment changes side by side. Many wrong options are built from that gap.

A · UPSC QUESTIONS, 2026 TO 2011

1. Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India : [2026]

1. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Constitution of India will be officially called the 'Constitution of India'.
2. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the Government of India Act, 1935 stand repealed.
3. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that mentions 26th January, 1950 as the date of the commencement of the Constitution of India.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct ?

- (a) All three statements are correct.
- (b) There is no correct statement.
- (c) There are two correct statements that include statement 3.
- (d) There is only one correct statement.

Ans. (b)

Three negative statements in a row are tiring to judge, so first turn each one into a plain question:

"Is there an Article that does this?" Now walk to the very end of the Constitution, because the closing Articles deal with exactly these housekeeping matters. **Article 393** gives the short title: "This Constitution may be called the Constitution of India." So statement 1 is wrong. **Article 395** repeals the **Indian Independence Act, 1947** and the **Government of India Act, 1935**, so statement 2 is wrong too. **Article 394** says the remaining provisions come into force on **26 January 1950**, which it calls "the commencement of this Constitution", so statement 3 also fails. With all three wrong, only option (b) survives; (a), (c) and (d) each need at least one true statement.

Where students slip: The **negative framing** is the whole trap: a student who knows Article 395 can still tick the wrong box by forgetting the "no". **How to think it through:** Remember two dates as well. Citizenship, elections and the provisional Parliament took effect on 26 November 1949, the day of adoption. The rest began on 26 January 1950, chosen because the Purna Swaraj pledge was taken on that day in 1930.

2. Consider the following statements about the provisions pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in India : [2026]

1. Provisions regarding the administration of the Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are given in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. Some tribes of India are entitled to exemption from paying Income Tax on certain incomes.
3. The Constitution of India provides for reservation of seats in Panchayats for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct ?

- (a) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.
- (b) There are two correct statements, that are statements 1 and 3.
- (c) There is only one correct statement.
- (d) All three statements are correct.

Ans. (a)

Take each statement on its own and then match the count to the options. Statement 1 names **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**. The

moment you see these four States, think **Sixth Schedule**, not Fifth. Their tribal areas have **Autonomous District Councils**; the Fifth Schedule covers Scheduled Areas in other States such as Jharkhand and Odisha.

Where students slip: So statement 1 is wrong, and it is the **Fifth–Sixth swap** UPSC loves. **How to think it through:** Statement 2 sounds surprising, but it is true: **Section 10(26)** of the Income-tax Act exempts certain income of Scheduled Tribe members living in specified north-eastern areas and Ladakh. Statement 3 is true: **Article 243D** reserves Panchayat seats for SCs and STs, and at least one-third of those reserved seats go to SC and ST women. So we have two correct statements, 2 and 3. Option (a) says "two correct, including statement 2", which fits. Option (b) wrongly pairs 1 and 3; (c) and (d) get the count wrong. A memory hook I give in class: the Sixth Schedule is "ATMM", the four north-eastern States. The same swap returned in 2015, 2019 and 2022, so fix it once and you collect marks for years.

CONNECT THE DOTS

The same Fifth/Sixth swap returns in 2015, 2019 and 2022 questions. → Making of the Constitution, Preamble, features and schedules

3. Consider the following statements : [2025]

With reference to the Constitution of India, if an area in a State is declared as Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule

- I. the State Government loses its executive power in such areas and a local body assumes total administration
- II. the Union Government can take over the total administration of such areas under certain circumstances on the recommendations of the Governor

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Ans. (d)

Read the opening line carefully: the area is a **Scheduled Area** under the **Fifth Schedule**. Now ask what the Fifth Schedule actually changes. It does not take the area away from the State. The State's executive power still extends there; what is added is a special role for the **Governor**, who reports to the President, can direct that a law shall not apply or shall apply with changes, and can

make regulations on tribal land and money-lending, with a **Tribes Advisory Council** to advise. Statement I says the State "loses its executive power" and a local body takes "total administration". Both parts are wrong; that picture belongs more to the Sixth Schedule's autonomous councils, and even they never replace the State entirely. Statement II says the Union can "take over the total administration". The Schedule only lets the Union give **directions** to the State on administering these areas.

Where students slip: Notice how **directions has been stretched into take over**. In this topic, strong words like "loses", "total" and "take over" are warning lights. **How to think it through:** Both statements fail, so the answer is (d). **PESA, 1996**, which gives gram sabhas real power in Fifth Schedule areas, is the natural next thing to revise.

4. Who was the Provisional President of the Constituent Assembly before Dr. Rajendra Prasad took over ? [2024]

- (a) C. Rajagopalachari
- (b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (c) T.T. Krishnamachari
- (d) Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha

Ans. (d)

A one-line fact question, but all four names belong to the Constituent Assembly, so you must tie each name to its role rather than to fame. Recall the first sitting on **9 December 1946**. Following French practice, the oldest member, Dr **Sachchidananda Sinha**, was made the temporary President. Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected permanent President on 11 December 1946. Now clear the others. Option (b): Dr **B.R. Ambedkar** chaired the Drafting Committee, a different post. Option (c): **T.T. Krishnamachari** was a member of that committee. Option (a): C. Rajagopalachari never presided over the Assembly. So (d).

Where students slip: The trap is that **big names tempt you** when the question is really about a role. **How to think it through:** Keep a small table of posts in your notes: H.C. Mukherjee as Vice-President, **B.N. Rau** as Constitutional Adviser, Nehru moving the Objectives Resolution on 13 December 1946, and adoption on 26 November 1949. Each of these has been, or can easily become, a one-liner in Prelims.

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Topic 1 · Reading comprehension I: inference, assumption, implication and conclusion

Inference questions ask what **must follow** from the passage; assumption questions ask what the author **takes for granted** without saying. Both reward staying inside the text: an option that is true in real life but not supported by the passage is wrong. Watch the words “only”, “solely”, “all”, “never” and “inevitably”. UPSC uses them to turn a supported idea into an **extreme** one. I check every such word against the passage before marking.

A · UPSC QUESTIONS, 2026 TO 2014

PASSAGE · QUESTIONS 1–2

[2026]

‘Kalagram’, the cultural village set up at the Maha Kumbh Mela, unfolded as a mosaic of India’s diverse regions, each represented by seven meticulously crafted ‘Sanskriti Angans’—stepping through the grand portal was like entering another world. These thematic zones, inspired by iconic temples like the Dakshineswar Kali Temple and the Brahma Mandir, were treasure troves of regional artistry. Bengal’s Pattachitra paintings, Assam’s bamboo crafts, Tamil Nadu’s Thanjavur paintings, and Madhya Pradesh’s tribal sculpture—all were showcased in these living galleries where 230 master artisans breathed life into them using age-old techniques, their hands shaping India’s ancient history into creations to behold.

1. Which of the following conclusions are valid? [2026]

- Seven Sanskriti Angans, representing different regions of India, had been showcased in Kalagram.
- Regional artistry was recognised via the inspiration drawn from iconic temples.
- India’s ancient history had been crafted by the contemporary craftsmanship of 230 artisans into creations to behold.
- Art forms from all regions of India had been showcased in these living galleries. Select the answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2, 3 and 4

- (c) 1, 2 and 4 (d) 1 and 3

Ans. (a) We are asked which conclusions the passage actually supports, so hold each one up against the text. Conclusion 1 is almost a copy of the opening: India’s regions are “represented by seven meticulously crafted ‘Sanskriti Angans’”. Conclusion 2 matches the next line: the zones, “inspired by iconic temples”, were “treasure troves of regional artistry”. Conclusion 3 slips on one word: the artisans used “age-old techniques”, and calling them **contemporary** turns that upside down. Conclusion 4 says art from **all** regions, but the passage names only four States; **diverse is not the same as all**. So 1 and 2 only, option (a).

Trap: “Diverse” does not mean “all”. When the passage names a few examples, an option that says every region, every State or all forms has gone beyond it.

2. Which one of the following statements is not correct? [2026]

- Paintings from four States of India have been mentioned.
- Stepping into Kalagram is likened to stepping into another world.
- The Angans have been described as living galleries.
- Kalagram is divided into thematic zones, inspired by well-known temples of India.

Ans. (a) This one asks for the statement that is **not** correct, so we are hunting for the false one. Count the paintings carefully: the passage names “Bengal’s Pattachitra paintings” and “Tamil Nadu’s Thanjavur paintings”, only two. Assam appears for bamboo crafts and Madhya Pradesh for tribal sculpture, which are not paintings. So (a), “paintings from four States”, is the false statement. Four States are mentioned, but **not four for paintings**. The rest are faithful: “like entering another world” gives (b), “living galleries” gives (c), and “thematic zones, inspired by iconic temples” gives (d).

PASSAGE · QUESTIONS 3–4

[2026]

Sport is not just about winning medals or getting jobs through a sports quota. Today’s generation is struggling with issues like depression and anxiety. Parents often say that their children are inactive and rarely

leave the house. Sport can help tackle these problems. From sport you can learn time management, fitness, teamwork, coordination, and so much more. We need to develop a culture in which sport is seen as a way of life—a path to building a healthier, happier society.

3. Which of the following conclusions are valid? [2026]

1. Sport is more than just games; it is a way of life.
2. Sport can help mitigate the problems of seclusion among the young.
3. Earning laurels in sport can help one secure a job on the basis of an assigned quota.
4. Standard corporate sector skills cannot be learnt through sport.

Select the answer using the code given below.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 3 only | (b) 2 and 4 only |
| (c) 1, 2 and 4 | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Ans. (d) Test each conclusion against the passage. Conclusion 1 is the closing thought: sport should be "seen as a way of life". Conclusion 2 picks up "children are inactive and rarely leave the house", the seclusion that "sport can help tackle". Conclusion 3 rests on the first line, which mentions "getting jobs through a sports quota"; the passage says sport is not *just* about that, which still accepts that it happens. Conclusion 4 says corporate skills **cannot** be learnt through sport, yet the passage lists "time management, fitness, teamwork, coordination", exactly the skills any office wants. So 4 contradicts the text, and the answer is 1, 2 and 3, option (d).

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct? [2026]

1. Parents are not encouraging enough when it comes to children playing sport.
2. Participation in sporting activities can help develop life skills.
3. Sport as a way of life can help evolve the very nature of society itself.

Select the answer using the code given below.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) 1 and 3 | (b) 2 and 3 |
| (c) 2 only | (d) 3 only |

Ans. (b) Statement 2 is straight from the line "From sport you can learn time management,

fitness, teamwork, coordination, and so much more"; those are life skills. Statement 3 matches the ending, sport as a way of life is "a path to building a healthier, happier society", which is a change in society itself. Statement 1 is the trap: parents only *report* that their children are inactive, and **the passage never blames them** for it. Do not turn the person reporting a problem into its cause. So 2 and 3, option (b).

PASSAGE · QUESTIONS 5-7

[2026]

When SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in 2019, it was a truly novel virus for the world. At that time, no one in the world had been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or had specific immunity against it. In contrast, people across the world have been exposed to HMPV for decades and the virus is well-studied. HMPV and SARS-CoV-2 belong to two very different virus families with fundamentally different characteristics and epidemiology, with strong seasonality seen in HMPV, unlike SARS-CoV-2. Both viruses cause different severity of symptoms, particularly over the long term, and the affected population segments do not fully overlap. In general, HMPV causes milder illness with deaths being very rare and with no long-term post-viral symptoms.

5. Which of the following conclusions is/are valid? [2026]

1. Though SARS-CoV-2 and HMPV are similar viruses with somewhat different epidemiology, the former became a pandemic because it was novel and people had not been exposed to it in the past.
2. The two viruses have fundamentally different impacts on human populations and should not therefore be dealt with in a similar manner.

Select the answer using the code given below.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) Both 1 and 2 | (d) Neither 1 nor 2 |

Ans. (b) The whole passage is built on contrast: the viruses "belong to two very different virus families with fundamentally different characteristics and epidemiology". Conclusion 2 follows naturally: different impacts, so they should not be handled the same way. Conclusion 1 starts by calling them **similar viruses**, which flatly contradicts "very different virus families". One

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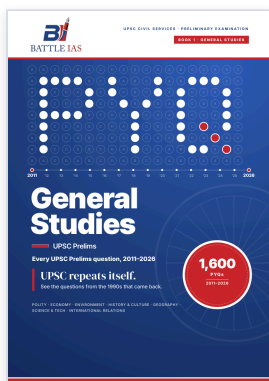
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