

General Instruction:

- Evaluation is a critical process in ensuring accurate assessment of candidates. Even a minor error can lead to serious consequences affecting students' futures, the education system, and the teaching profession. Therefore, evaluators must carefully read and fully understand the spot-evaluation guidelines before beginning the process.
- The evaluation policy is strictly confidential, as it concerns the integrity of examinations, assessment procedures, and related sensitive matters. Any leakage, sharing, or publication of this policy whether through individuals, print media, websites, or other platforms may result in action under the Board's rules and relevant sections of the IPC, as it could compromise the examination system and impact millions of candidates.
- Evaluation must be carried out strictly according to the instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. Personal interpretations or alternative considerations must not influence the marking. The Marking Scheme must be followed rigorously and without deviation.
- The question paper contains 34 compulsory questions divided into four sections: A, B, C, and D.
- **Section A (Q.1–16):** Multiple-choice questions, each carrying 1 mark. Award 1 mark for each correct answer and 0 marks for an incorrect answer.
- **Section B (Q.17–24):** Very Short Answer questions, each carrying 2 marks. Answers should be written in 20–30 words or in 2 points. Award $\frac{1}{2}$ mark for an attempt, and award marks for each point (1 or $\frac{1}{2}$ each), with a maximum of 2 marks for a correct response.
- **Section C (Q.25–30):** Short Answer questions, each carrying 4 marks. Responses should be written in 50–60 words or in 2 or 4 points. Award **1 mark** for an attempt.
 - If the answer is in **2 points**, award **1, 1½, or 2 marks** for each valid point.
 - If the answer is in **4 points**, award **1 mark or ½ mark** for each valid point.
 - Award **2 or 3 marks** for partially correct responses or answers limited to **20–30 words**.
 - Award **4 marks** for a complete and correct answer.
- **Section D (Q.31–34):** Long Answer questions, each carrying 6 marks. Responses should be written in 170–180 words or in 3 or 6 points. Award **1 mark** for an attempt.
 - If the answer is in **3 points**, award **1, 1½, or 2 marks** for each valid point.
 - If the answer is in **6 points**, award **1 mark or ½ mark** for each valid point.
 - Award **2, 2½, 3 or 3½ marks** for partially correct responses or answers written in **half the required word limit**.
 - Award a total of **6 marks** for a complete and accurate answer.

	Section A	Chapter	Marks	Total
	Questions number 1 to 16 are Multiple Choice type questions. Each question carries 1 mark.			

1	Which development is widely viewed as a significant indicator of shifting global power in the post–Cold War period? A. Expansion of regional trade blocs in Southeast Asia. B. Rise of China as a major economic and strategic actor. C. Growth of multinational cultural industries worldwide. D. Adoption of digital governance initiatives by several states.	1	1	
Ans	B. Rise of China as a major economic and strategic actor.			
2	Which of the following best reflects the rationale behind the emergence of the European Union and ASEAN as contemporary centres of power? A. Building coordinated defense arrangements to counter emerging powers. B. Creating institutional platforms to replace existing global security bodies. C. Advancing shared policies to re-establish earlier external spheres of control. D. Developing regional structures for economic, political, and cooperative stability.	2	1	
Ans	D. Developing regional structures for economic, political, and cooperative stability.			
3	Which statement best reflects the procedural challenge in selecting a new UN Security Council for permanent members? A. Automatic qualification based solely on national economic resources. B. Designing criteria that balance power, population, democracy, and contribution. C. Removing the veto system without structured global consultation. D. Allowing non-permanent members to overrule decisions on permanent seats.	4	1	
Ans	B. Designing criteria that balance power, population, democracy, and contribution.			
4	In policy discussions, what is considered the central purpose of security? A. Safeguarding vital national interests from serious and immediate threats.	5	1	

	B. Regulating moderate risks that influence general administrative planning. C. Managing routine issues that arise within everyday governance processes. D. Addressing occasional pressures that affect institutional decision-making.			
Ans	A. Safeguarding vital national interests from serious and immediate threats.			
5	What was the central difficulty encountered while listing women voters during the initial electoral roll preparation? A. Several entries used relational descriptions that prevented precise individual identification. B. Numerous entries used informal personal details that hindered accurate voter verification. C. Many entries contained partial demographic information that limited reliable classification.	9	1	
Ans	A. Nearly 40 lakh women were omitted as they were recorded only through relational tags like “wife of” or “daughter of,” prompting mandatory revision.			
6	Who played a key role in ensuring Lal Bahadur Shastri’s unanimous selection as Prime Minister after Nehru’s death in 1964? A. Morarji Desai B. K. Kamraj C. Indira Gandhi D. S. Nijalingappa	12	1	
Ans	B. K. Kamraj through organizational mediation among senior members.			
7	Which of the following events directly triggered the declaration of Emergency in India in 1975? A. Rising food shortages following monsoon failures across states. B. Supreme Court observations during the Kesavananda Bharati judgment. C. Allahabad High Court ruling invalidating Indira Gandhi’s parliamentary victory. D. Nationwide railway disruptions organized under major labor unions.	13	1	
Ans	C. Allahabad High Court ruling invalidating Indira Gandhi’s parliamentary victory.			

8	Which of the following events marked the beginning of coalition politics in India? A. Introduction of structural economic reforms in the early 1990s. B. Electoral setback of the Congress Party in the 1989 national polls. C. Emergence of new social-justice-based political formations in states. D. Escalation of tensions following the 1992 religious-site demolition.	15	1	
Ans	B. Electoral setback of the Congress Party in the 1989 national polls.			
9	Which of the following best illustrates a conflict-sensitive diplomatic approach adopted by India in resolving disputes with its South Asian neighbors? A. Prioritizing unilateral military preparedness over bilateral negotiations. B. Engaging in composite dialogue mechanisms while honoring ceasefire commitments. C. Suspending all economic engagements until territorial disputes are settled. D. Relying exclusively on third-party international mediation for regional conflicts.	3	1	
Ans	B. Engaging in composite dialogue mechanisms while honoring ceasefire commitments.			
10	Which action most appropriately reflects India's readiness to accommodate varied regional and global perspectives during diplomatic engagements? A. Rejecting external perspectives to safeguard uniform national positions. B. Suspending dialogue until all states endorse India's proposals fully. C. Joining multilateral negotiations that include varied state viewpoints. D. Limiting diplomatic discussions strictly to bilateral-level engagement.	6	1	
Ans	C. Joining multilateral negotiations that include varied state viewpoints.			
11	Which action by India in global trade talks reflects working jointly with similarly placed nations? A. Negotiating alone with major economies. B. Avoiding regional consultations on farm issues. C. Waiting for major powers to finalize decisions.	7	1	

	D Forming joint positions with Global South Nations.			
Ans	D Forming joint positions with Global South Nations.			
12	In climate forums, which step shows India's constructive engagement with multiple actors? A. Presenting domestic climate plans without seeking external suggestions. B. Signing coordinated declarations with a diverse coalition of countries. C. Withdrawing from negotiations when substantive differences emerge. D. Restricting climate talks primarily to bilateral-level interactions.	7	1	
Ans	B. Signing coordinated declarations with a diverse coalition of countries.			
13	Which step taken by a political leader best reflects an effort to introduce fresh approaches in addressing a long-standing public policy issue? A. Continuing old schemes exactly as before without changes. B. Overlooking input from communities during policy decisions. C. Creating a framework that combines traditional and modern tools. D. Postponing reforms until other countries take similar actions.	8	1	
Ans	C. Creating a framework that combines traditional and modern tools.			
14	Which approach demonstrates an adaptive response to conflicting interests during India's planned development era? A. Following industrialization plans strictly without consulting local communities. B. Balancing agricultural and industrial priorities while considering social justice. C. Giving priority to private business interests over state-led planning efforts. D. Postponing all development projects until full agreement is reached among parties.	10	1	
Ans	B. Balancing agricultural and industrial priorities while considering social justice.			

15	Which approach would best address regional demands while keeping the country united in the 1980s? A. Negotiate with regional leaders and respect local cultural and political interests. B. Impose uniform policies on all regions without consulting local populations. C. Allow regions to secede whenever they demand without dialogue or agreement. D. Focus only on economic development and postpone addressing regional issues.	14	1	
Ans	A. Negotiate with regional leaders and respect local cultural and political interests.			
16	India easing visa restrictions for Chinese professionals most likely reflects: A. Balancing economic cooperation with China while maintaining strategic independence. B. Expanding economic ties with China while safeguarding national security. C. Prioritizing foreign collaboration with China over domestic concerns. D. Strengthening trade relations with China without considering security.	11	1	
Ans	A. Balancing economic cooperation with China while maintaining strategic independence.			
	Section B			
	Questions number 17 to 24 are Very Short Answer type questions. Each question carries 2 marks. Write an answer to each question in 20 to 30 words.			
17	What was the primary objective behind the formation of ASEAN in 1967?	2	2	
Ans	ASEAN was established to promote regional stability, enhance economic cooperation, and prevent external interference by fostering mutual trust, peaceful coexistence, and coordinated development among Southeast Asian nations.			
18	Why is human security considered broader than state security?	5	2	

Ans	Human security extends beyond territorial protection, prioritizing individuals' welfare by addressing threats like poverty, health crises, and environmental risks, ensuring comprehensive safety beyond conventional military concerns.			
19	Why was preparing electoral rolls important before India's first general election?	9	2	
Ans	Accurate electoral rolls ensured universal adult franchise, guaranteed each citizen's voting rights, prevented malpractice, and laid out the institutional foundation for a fair, inclusive, and credible democratic election process.			
20	Which slogan coined by Lal Bahadur Shastri symbolized India's determination during the 1965 war with Pakistan?	12	2	
Ans	Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" galvanized national resolve by honoring soldiers' bravery and farmers' contributions, reinforcing unity and resilience during wartime challenges.			
21	What constitutional provision allowed the government to declare Emergency in 1975?	13	2	
Ans	The Emergency was declared under Article 352, empowering the government to act during perceived threats to national security and internal stability, centralizing authority for extraordinary administrative measures.			
22	Rohan, a young Indian diplomat, is assigned to address rising tensions between India and Bangladesh over the Brahmaputra River. Disagreements on water-sharing and hydroelectric projects have heightened public concern in both countries. He recognizes that the situation is shaped by historical mistrust as well as environmental and social implications. Question: Based on Rohan's approach in resolving the Brahmaputra dispute, identify two key strategies he used to manage conflict and explain how they promote cooperation between India and Bangladesh.	3	2	
Ans	Rohan used inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue and impartial mediation. These strategies build trust, clarify shared interests, reduce suspicion, and create mutually acceptable solutions for cooperative India-Bangladesh river management.			

23	The Euphrates River flows through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. Turkey, as the upstream state, has constructed several dams to meet its energy and agricultural needs, significantly affecting water availability in Syria and Iraq downstream. Both Syria and Iraq claim that reduced water flow has harmed agriculture, drinking water supply, and local livelihoods. International agencies have conducted studies, but their findings differ. Some emphasize Turkey's economic development, while others highlight the ecological and humanitarian costs for downstream populations. Question: How can considering diverse perspectives and weighing both economic and humanitarian evidence enable stakeholders to critically reflect on their assumptions and develop a balanced approach to managing the Euphrates River?	6	2	
Ans	Evaluating economic benefits alongside humanitarian and ecological evidence encourages stakeholders to question rigid positions, appreciate interdependence, and design equitable water-sharing frameworks that balance development and downstream rights.			
24	Why do local communities in several Indian states express concern over large-scale infrastructure projects such as highways, mining zones, or industrial corridors?	10	2	
Ans	Communities fear displacement, ecological degradation, loss of livelihoods, and cultural disruption. They seek transparent decision-making and safeguards ensuring development does not compromise social well-being or environmental integrity.			
	Section C			
	Questions number 25 to 30 are Short Answer type questions. Each question carries 4 marks. Write an answer to each question in 50 to 60 words.			
25	For Question number 25, two statements are given one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read these statements carefully and choose the correct option as the answer from the options (A), (B), (C) and (D) given below. Assertion (A): The recent tensions between Russia and Ukraine reflect the enduring strategic importance of	1	4	

	post-Soviet states in global geopolitics. Reason (R): The disintegration of the Soviet Union created multiple independent states with valuable natural resources and strategic locations, attracting interest from major powers like the US, China, and the EU. Options: (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A). (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of the Assertion (A). (C) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true. (D) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.			
Ans	A. Both the Assertion and the Reason are correct. The enduring strategic value of post-Soviet states is indeed central to current Russia–Ukraine tensions. The Reason accurately explains this because the USSR’s disintegration produced resource-rich, strategically located states whose geopolitical alignment directly affects regional security, energy routes, and the strategic interests of major powers.			
26	Explain why equitable representation in the UN Security Council cannot be determined solely based on geography or population.	4	4	
Ans	Equitable representation requires balancing multiple factors economic capability, contributions to peacekeeping, democratic legitimacy, regional diversity, and global influence. Basing membership solely on geography or population overlooks states with significant strategic roles, diplomatic capacity, or responsibility in global governance. A multidimensional approach ensures that the Council reflects contemporary power realities and operational effectiveness.			
27	Describe one instance from India’s engagement in global or regional platforms where it has worked alongside other states to address shared concerns arising from globalization.	7	4	
Ans	A notable example is India’s collaboration with Brazil, South Africa, and China in WTO negotiations through the			

	G-20 developing nations group. Together, these countries advocated fair agricultural trade rules, challenged unequal market access, and pushed reforms benefiting developing economies. This partnership demonstrated India's commitment to collective bargaining and equitable outcomes in a globalized economic system.			
28	State one instance from contemporary Indian politics where policymakers introduced an unconventional method to improve public participation in governance.	8	4	
Ans	The introduction of the "Gram Sabha-based social audit system" in schemes like MGNREGA reflects an innovative approach to participatory governance. By allowing citizens to examine expenditure, verify records, and publicly question officials, policymakers strengthened transparency and accountability. This grassroots model empowered communities, encouraged active engagement, and created a culture of democratic oversight.			
29	Why have several northeastern states opposed largescale demographic shifts due to migration, and how does this relate to regional aspirations within the framework of Indian federalism?	14	4	
Ans	Many northeastern states fear that rapid demographic changes threaten indigenous cultures, linguistic identities, and traditional land rights. These concerns are tied to the region's historical autonomy and constitutional protections. Their resistance aligns with federal aspirations for self-governance, where states seek to preserve local identities while negotiating development and integration within the Indian Union.			
30	Analyze how India's foreign policy during the Cold War, including its stance on non-alignment, regional conflicts, and nuclear development, reflected a balance between safeguarding national security and engaging with the international community.	11	4	
Ans	India's non-alignment allowed it to avoid military blocs, preserving strategic autonomy while maintaining dialogue with both the US and USSR. Its stance on regional conflicts emphasized peaceful negotiation and sovereign equality. Simultaneously, India pursued nuclear development for security without aggressive posturing. Together, these choices reflected a calibrated			

	approach that safeguarded national interests while upholding constructive global cooperation.			
	Section D			
	Questions number 31 to 34 are Long Answer type questions. Each question carries 6 marks. Write an answer to each question in 170 to 180 words.			
31	Examine how the rise of China as an economic powerhouse has altered contemporary global power structures. In your response, discuss the key reforms that enabled China's economic transformation, its regional and global influence, and the implications of its growth for neighboring countries, particularly India.	2	6	
Ans	China's rise as an economic powerhouse has profoundly reshaped global power dynamics, challenging Western dominance and transforming regional and international institutions. This transformation began with Deng Xiaoping's 1978 reforms that introduced market liberalization, Special Economic Zones, export-led industrialization, and greater openness to foreign investment. These changes fueled rapid economic growth, a robust manufacturing sector, and deeper integration into global trade networks. China extended its influence through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and multiple regional trade partnerships, strengthening ties across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This expansion has prompted neighboring countries, especially India, to reassess their strategic positions. China's growing presence in South Asia, military modernization, and expanding maritime activities present both challenges and competitive pressures for India. However, these developments also open economic opportunities via trade, connectivity, and regional cooperation. Ultimately, China's ascent has redefined contemporary global power structures by redistributing influence, intensifying strategic competition, and encouraging nations to navigate a delicate balance between cooperation and caution.			

32	Explain the political and social significance of the Mandal Commission implementation in 1990. Your answer should include: a. The role of the National Front government in implementing the recommendations. b. The reaction of various social groups and political parties to OBC reservations. c. The long-term impact of this decision on Indian politics and the emergence of coalition governments.	15	2+2+2	6
Ans	a. The National Front government under V. P. Singh enacted the Mandal Commission's recommendations by introducing a 27% reservation for OBCs in central government employment, marking a significant step toward promoting social justice. The government framed this initiative as a necessary correction to longstanding structural exclusion, aiming to increase representation of historically marginalized groups within state institutions and redefine the state's relationship with these communities. b. The policy sparked mixed reactions across society. OBC groups welcomed it as a long-overdue empowerment, while many upper-caste youth protested vigorously, expressing concerns over merit and opportunities. Political parties responded strategically some supported the policy to strengthen their backward-class voter base, while others criticized its timing and feared it might deepen social divisions, reflecting complex ideological and electoral calculations. c. The Mandal implementation transformed India's political landscape by encouraging the emergence of strong, OBC-led regional parties, which eroded previous dominant power structures. This change played a key role in ushering in the coalition era, as national parties increasingly depended on regional partners with significant backward-class support, reshaping governance and policy-making in subsequent decades.			
33	In a classroom exercise on South Asian cooperation, Student A represents India and Student B represents	3	2+2+2	

	Nepal. They are asked to address disputes over cross-border hydroelectric projects and river water management. Student A suggests joint monitoring, coordinated energy distribution, and shared environmental assessments. Student B emphasizes the welfare of local communities, ecological impacts, and fair distribution of benefits. Both must negotiate solutions that respect each country's interests, promote sustainable development, and build mutual trust, reflecting the challenges and opportunities of regional cooperation in South Asia. a. Explain two ways in which initiatives like joint monitoring of hydroelectric projects and coordinated energy distribution reflect sensitivity to historical mistrust between India and Nepal. b. Identify two confidence-building measures (CBMs) that India and Nepal could adopt to prevent escalation over disputes related to river water sharing. c. How could collaborative environmental assessments or community development projects help rebuild trust and strengthen cooperation between India and Nepal despite previous tensions?			
Ans	a. Joint monitoring and coordinated management of energy distribution address historical mistrust by ensuring that technical information on water flow, dam safety, and electricity production is transparently gathered and equally shared. This approach alleviates concerns of unilateral advantage and assures both parties that decisions regarding shared rivers will be made with fairness, reciprocity, and mutual responsibility. b. India and Nepal can implement formal confidence-building measures (CBMs), such as real-time bilateral water information systems granting simultaneous access to hydrological data for both countries, along with regular joint inspections of hydropower facilities involving engineers, diplomats, and local			

	stakeholders. These practices enhance predictability, reduce misunderstandings, and allow for prompt action if issues arise. c. Collaborative environmental assessments foster trust by creating a common scientific foundation to assess ecological risks, decreasing conflicts over the credibility or motives behind impact studies. Likewise, community-focused development projects such as livelihood support, watershed conservation, or benefit-sharing initiatives demonstrate that cooperation delivers practical benefits to people on both sides of the border, thereby strengthening long-term goodwill and regional stability.			
34	In South India, sacred groves are parcels of forest preserved by local communities for religious and cultural reasons. They provide critical ecological services, protect biodiversity, and maintain community livelihoods. Recent government policies have encouraged industrial and infrastructural development, putting these groves at risk of encroachment. Conflicts have emerged between state authorities advocating development, local communities defending traditional practices, and conservationists focusing on ecological preservation. a. As an officer managing forest protection, explain two ways in which acknowledging local cultural and spiritual perspectives alongside ecological assessments can strengthen the Department's conservation policies for sacred groves. b. Identify one collaborative decision-making process through which the Forest Department, local communities, and conservation experts can jointly develop solutions that reflect shared agreement. c. Cite one example where the Department's reassessment of its long-standing assumptions about development versus conservation priorities led stakeholders to achieve a more balanced and sustainable outcome for sacred grove management.	6	2+2+2	6

Ans	a. Recognizing sacred traditions alongside ecological assessments strengthens conservation by ensuring community ownership since people protect groves tied to their identity and by integrating traditional ecological knowledge that enriches scientific planning, making policies socially legitimate and environmentally effective. b. A joint participatory forest management council comprising local community leaders, forest officials, and conservation experts provides a structured platform for shared discussions, collective mapping of threats, and consensus-based decisions on protection measures for sacred groves. c. When the Department reconsidered a proposed road expansion near a sacred grove, community consultations and ecological reviews revealed serious risks, choosing an alternative route while supporting community-led restoration achieved a balanced outcome that safeguarded cultural values and biodiversity without halting development.			
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