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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1023)

Name of Candidate	Saumya Sharma		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	95371
Center	Old Rajinder Nagar	Date	5 Aug 2017

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

75, 3rd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar Market, Near Axis Bank, New Delhi – 110060

103, 1st Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. The evolution of temple-building in India can be attributed to factors such as changing form of worship, improvement in the skills of the craftsmen and the increase in funding provided by kings and rich merchants. Examine.

India has a rich and varied history of temple building. Broadly, temple building depended upon:-

- the funding available
- the needs of the society
- the skill of the labourer.

- Changing forms of worship
- From the early Vedic ages, temples are usually not found as the society was pastoral and on the move.
 - with the advent of the Buddhism, we find numerous examples of bare, rock cut cave chaityas and viharas. Eg: Lomas Rishi Cave, Karle Chaitya
 - over time, as the form of worship changed from worship of the elements to Brahmanical worship of a pantheon of gods, numerous temples came up.

• With the increase in number of deities being worshipped, the panchayatana form of temples came up.

• In line with the prevalent social norms, temples with erotic carvings came up. Eg: Lajurani temple, Khajuraho temple.

So, As the form of worship changed from that of the elements to Yakshis to Buddhism to Brahmanism, temples accommodated the faith of the followers

→ Improvement in the skills

• The ancient craftsmen initially took to chiselling away at rock to produce imposing rock cut temples, Eg: Kailasa temple @ Ellora.

• There was also a proliferation of wood based temples, none of which have survived.

• With time, the craftsman learned the art of making structural

temples, which led to imposing structural temples of Dravida style.

- It also led to proliferation of ~~Vihara~~ and Nagara, Utsava, & Dravida style

→ Increase in funding provided:

- As kings sought to legitimise their position, they took to supporting temple building.
- As funding increased, more elaborate form of temples could now be made. This was most sharply observed in the temples of Gupta period, and South India
- Even Merchants funded temple building. Eg: Dilwara temple of Mount Abu.

Therefore, all three factors contributed to the shifting trends in temple building in India.

2. Metal casting in India appears to be one of the oldest sculptural traditions. Discuss the significance of cire-perdue or "lost wax" technique in the sculptural tradition of India with examples from different regions.

India's rich heritage gives importance to metal sculptures.

The lost wax technique is one of the oldest techniques, dating from as far as the Indus Valley civilisation.

In this technique, a clay ~~is~~ coating is made over a wax figurine. Once the clay is baked, a hole is made to drain out the wax, which is then filled with metal.

The mother goddess from Harappa is made using the lost wax technique.

Even after the end of the Indus Valley civilisation, the lost wax technique did

not disappear.

- The southern sculptures of the Chola period used this technique very frequently.

↳ The famous Tanjore sculpture of Shiva in Tandava is perhaps one of the most famous of all.

- In north India, this technique was used to make metal sculptures of various Brahmanical gods.

- In addition to making religious craft, this technique was also used to make different metal objects.

of daily use, such as Bells,
Toys, utensils.

- Even in the 21st century, the
lost wax technique survives
with many marginalised
communities eking out their
living by practising this
art.

Therefore, metal casting is a
very significant art form in
the history of India.

3. India's middle ages brought about a very rich tradition of devotional literature of remarkable merit which dispels the assumption of a dark period of India's history. Elucidate.

- The middle ages world over were associated with dark times i.e. a time of immense superstitions, dogmas and perverse notions surrounding every aspect of life.

- While in India the picture was more or less true with the degradation of Hinduism into a rigid faith with untouchability being rife, it still led to a rich tradition of devotional literature being produced that is read to this date.

• Bhakti movement

- The advent of the Bhakti movement to counter Hinduism's rigidity produced one of the most remarkable

literature, such as

↳ The ~~Nayana~~ Divyapradhanam
Nayanira Divyaprabandham, the
compilation of Alvar saints

↳ The Nayanar's Tevaram,
compilation of songs for
Lord Shiva

↳ Krishnadeva Raya's
Amuktamalghadam celebrating
the wedding of Lord Vishnu
with Andal.

• The Bhakti movement was
also expressed by -

↳ Mirabai, who wrote songs
in intense devotion of Lord Krishna

↳ Kabir, whose Kabir Panth
is still read.

• It also saw proliferation of
new faiths, such as

Ikhtisar: The compilation of Qura Qasath Sahib which combined and reflected the syncretic ethos of that time was a high point.

- Additionally, the Mughal emperors were big patrons of literature and art.

Many secular works such as auto biographies, ^{biographies} were written.

- ~~while~~ This also gave an impetus to Sufism.

This rich tradition from India's middle ages was inclusive, saw equality of all humans, and is read to this date. This, therefore, dispels the myth of middle ages being a dark period.

4. The outbreak of World War II in 1939 divided the nationalists over the next course of action in the freedom struggle. Elaborate. In this context, also examine the factors that led to INC launching the Quit India Movement.

When the World War II broke out, the Indian nationalists were getting used to the Carrot and Stick Policy of the British.

- The 1935 Act was a disappointment
- The Round Table Conferences did not yield result
- The Call for Poorna Swaraj at the Lahore Session was disregarded by the British.

In this context, WW II's outbreak created divisions in the Congress party.

- The first group wanted to support the British out of duty of being British subjects
- The second group was

against joining the war, but wanted to still help the British as the war was against fascism. Eg: Nehru

↳ The third group was totally against joining the war. It wanted to continue the fight for independence and wanted to attack the British at its weakest. Eg: Bose.

However, it was decided to support British in the WW II for the following reasons: -

- ① Nationalists did not want to be seen as supporting Fascism
- ② The threat of being attacked by Japan loomed large

③ The British cabinet assured Indians of self government post the war.

Yet, this was in vain as the British did not wish to leave India.

→ This led to Gandhi's call for the Quit India movement, which gave an ultimatum to the British to leave India.

→ However, the British government caught wind of this, the movement was brutally suppressed even before starting. All leaders were sent to the prison & released only years later.

5. How did the Indian industrialists contribute to the freedom struggle? Did the emergence of the socialistic trend during the later period of the struggle deter them from supporting the freedom struggle? Analyze.

- The Indian industrialists were a major force in the independence struggle. The first few leaders of the Indian National Congress were landed zamindars or industrialists.
- Their major concern was:
 - ① The discrimination of Indian goods vis-a-vis British goods
 - ② loss of competitive advantage for Indian goods
- The drain theory propounded by Dadabhai Naoroji & supported by RC Dutt gave credence to the economic nature of the British Rule in India, post which many petitions

were made to the British Government.

• Yet,

↳ Post WW I, the British industries suffered and the Indian industries got a boost.

• The industrialists became more vocal proponents of freedom.

• In addition,

↳ The Bombay Plan was released by the Industrialists

↳ FICCI was started

↳ Funding was provided to political parties

↳ Economic Advice was provided.

• While the passing of the labour laws in 1920s was seen by the industrialists to be an effort by British

Government to cut down competitiveness of Indian industry, by reducing working hours and reducing productivity of Indian labour, it cannot be said that the rise of socialism deterred industrialists

- ↳ They continued to be a big supporter of independence
- ↳ They reconciled the goals of socialism and their business by releasing the Bombay Plan and asking for government protectionism

This is proved by the fact that post independence, the industrialists contributed whole heartedly to nation building.

6. The social-religious reform movements of the 19th and 20th century in British India not only tried to purge the Indian society of various social evils but also prepared the ground for the Indian freedom struggle. Analyze.

The socio-religious reform movements had a major role to play in India's freedom struggle.

(A) Freeing the society of social evils

- Hinduism had degenerated itself. The reformers used the Vedas and philosophy of Vedanta to reveal the illogicality of prevailing customs.
- Ram Mohan Roy's struggles ensured the outlawing of sati.
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar supported widow remarriage.
- BM Malabari's efforts led to Age of Consent Act to curb child marriage.

- Gopal Gokhale, Jyotiba & Savitri Phule contributed to outlawing women's education.
- The work of Dayanand Saraswati and Arya Samaj worked towards achieving an egalitarian society.
- Harthna Sabha, Justice Party all worked towards ending social inequalities.

(B) Preparing the ground for freedom struggle

- The aforementioned activities in addition to making the society free from evils, also awakened feeling of nationalism.
- In the wake of ~~rather~~ British

rule, the reformers used newspapers to publish a wide variety of articles which generated feelings of social and geographical unity in the populace that was hitherto missing.

- This was invaluable, as it made the work of later nationalists easier.

A class of enlightened Indians believing in nationality and liberty helped the freedom movement achieve independence

7. The dawn of 19th century was marked by large scale expansion of the British empire into India, especially during the governorship of Wellesley. Elaborate.

In the 19th century, the following changes took place in Britain

- Technological revolution
- Industrial revolution
- An increasing population with increased need for food grain and consumer goods.

- In India, British found the ideal set of conditions to feed its economy. Instead of industrial revolution, commercial revolution took place in India through

- Duties on Indian exports
- India became a raw material supplier
- Agriculture food crops replaced by cash crops.

- To bolster its aims, the British trading co. sought ^{to expand} political powers, made available to it by the Battle of Buxar wherein it got Diwani rights.
- The British had certain territories under direct control. Yet, this did not satisfy the British.
- Under Wellesley, the British adopted the policy of subsidiary alliance wherein
 - ↳ Princely states had to station British troops and British resident
 - ↳ The British could annex anytime on the ground of mismanagement, as was done in Awadh.
- Subsidiary alliance led to loss of external sovereignty and erosion

of internal sovereignty for the states.

• British also resorted to the Doctrine of lapse under Dalhousie, wherein a state could be annexed if the ruler died without a heir. Eg: Satara

• These two policies, along with the policy of ring fence led to a large area coming under direct or indirect British control.

• This large scale expansion, in turn, helped the British fulfil its aims in India.

8. United States entered the Vietnam war incrementally, in a series of steps between 1950 and 1965. Elucidate. Also analyse the reasons for America's failure in the war.

- The entry of US into Vietnam leading to the war was a culmination of incremental steps based around cold war!
- Ho Chi Minh's Vietminh succeeded in declaring independence from France in 1945.
Ho Chi Minh had active support of the USSR in guerrilla warfare.
- The US under Eisenhower believed and feared in the theory of Domino Effect. It was felt that after North Korea; China Vietnam too would become a part of USSR sphere of communism.
- To prevent this, US entered Vietnam and declared war against Vietminh.

which US thought was based in North Vietnam.

The broad steps were: -

- ① Safe villages → moving some citizens into safe spaces
- ② Indiscriminate bombing of North Vietnam, use of chemical agents such as Napalm Jelly.
- ③ Continued bombing of Ho Chi Minh trail and gradual reduction of troops.

However, the intervention of ^{US}~~USSR~~ to safeguard capitalism in Vietnam failed. Reasons being:

- ① Public support for Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam in face of brutal US repression strengthened Vietnamese Communism.

- ② Guerrilla Warfare & Ho Chi Minh trail which US could not completely destroy
- ③ Continued support of USSR & China for Ho Chi Minh
- ④ Build up of public opinion against the war in US
 - ↳ People thought the war was unnecessary and a waste of money.
 - ↳ The iconic image of the young girl running from Napalm Jelly, haunted the minds of many.

All this led to the calling off of the war.

9. Even though there is much that is wrong with the European Union (EU), its achievements can not be discounted either. Discuss.

The European Union was the result of the Maastricht Treaty in 1993. It is a political and economic union of 28 member countries.

Criticisms :

- ① That the EU has often failed to avert crisis.
Eg: Greece bailout was an effect of lenient EU policies
- ② That in a world of protectionism, EU has no place.
- ③ That it should remain a mere economic union and not a political union as:
- Each country should decide its own policies with

respect to issues like migrants, social security.

• The common standards set by the European ^{Convention} ~~Charter~~ of Human Rights are rarely followed and are applied unevenly by members.

④ That Brexit spells the end of EU, and shows a lack of confidence in its policies.

Yet, not all is dry & sundry with EU. It has had many achievements too :-

① Schengen visa for some EU countries has ensured more tourism revenue.

② Better utilisation of inland waterways & increased trade.
Eg: Rotterdam was the busiest port in the world a few years ago.

③ Role of EU in global politics.

↳ EU is known for progressive policies in fields of human rights and sustainable development

↳ It is a world leader in many areas, eg: Paris Climate Deal

④ The small states of Europe

benefit in many ways socially, politically & economically from EU and it adds to their stability.

⑤ Even within the EU, individual states are provided enough leeway to take own decisions & maintain political sovereignty.

Therefore, the one off Brexit cannot be taken to discount achievements of EU, which has worked hard to promote European stability.

10. Despite being a failure, 1848 revolutions remain a watershed event in European History. Elaborate.

- The revolutions of 1848 in Europe were a series of revolts against the ruling nobility in many parts of Europe.
- Held in the backdrop of the French Revolution, the revolutions signified a revolt of the common man from the clutches of the nobility.
- The common man was oppressed, had to pay the most taxes. The desire was to have democracy and equality.
- The revolutions affected Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary. France too was affected.

as it was dealing with post french revolution instability.

- Yet, the aspirations of the revolting citizens were crushed and repressed with brute force.

- Despite this, the revolutions remain a watershed event in the history of Europe

① while they brought little political change, with monarchy remaining predominant and only a few rights being given, the revolutions brought many socio-economic changes.

② The hitherto oppressed class now saw itself as being

important.

③ The ruling nobility realised their precarious position that depended upon the support of the people.

It took steps to lessen the burden on peasants, and tried to work for their welfare.

④ They set the stage for future democratic governments in Europe.

Therefore, although a failure the wars were successful in that they led to a socio-political awakening of the masses.

11. The events that led to the American Revolution had causes rooted in the social, economic, political and ideological context of that time. Elaborate. Also, bring out the influence that the American Revolution had on the French Revolution.

- After the age of discovery, many Europeans migrated to USA and set up their colonies there. Yet, increasing influence of Britain in various spheres led to the revolution.

(A) Economic Causes: -

- The British Govt. was very interfering, and imposed a number of taxes on American colonies.
- The immediate trigger of the revolution was the Boston Tea Party wherein crates of tea with high taxation were thrown into the Atlantic Ocean.
- ~~The~~ ~~1790~~

(B) Political Causes -

- The Boston Tea Party incident was followed by severe repression.
- The Americans were not represented in the British Parliament. The slogan was - no taxation without representation.
- The British Govt prohibited the expansion of American settlements to safeguard Native American territories. - This was despised.

(C) Social Context -

- Most of the settlers of American had left Europe to escape its rigid Catholic religion & other repressive policies.
- They rejected the control of the perpetrators they escaped from.

(D) Ideological Content

- Inspired by writings of Montesquieu
- Rousseau
- Ideas of liberty, equality, fraternity.

The American Revolution culminated with the American Constitution, and the establishment of the first republic

Effect of American Revolution on the French Revolution :-

After seeing the courage of Americans & establishment of the first republic, French citizens were motivated to give effect to writings of French Philosophers and set a democratic republic for themselves.

12. In the context of Punjab crisis it can be argued that language, religion and regionalism combined into a potentially explosive situation which political elites struggled to contain. Examine.

- In the aftermath of independence, the government went back on its pre-independence promise of linguistic states.
- The government did not want the bloodshed of Partition to repeat itself. Yet, linguistic states had to be formed.
- In the case of Punjab, the problem was complex
 - ↳ Punjabi language coexisted with Sikh religion, and Regionalism was strong.
- The movement for Khalistan gained ground. Khalistan was to be an independent nation comprising of Punjabi.

Subas, to be governed as per Akal Panth.

- To control the situation, the government carved out Punjab and separated Hindi speaking Haryana and Himachal Pradesh from it.
- Yet, this did not control the desire to have Khalistan as it was based on religion and not language.
- The problem of Khalistan was more complex due to
 - ↳ Sikhs felt some Hindus were better off and took a large share of opportunities
 - ↳ The Sikh diaspora in US, Canada, UK, Australia was active in the demand and provided funding for Khalistanis.

- The political class failed to gauge the enormity of the situation.
- Operation Blue Star led to disreputation of Sikh Holy Place, the Golden Temple which led to a period of rioting and resident's rule being imposed in the state.
- This unfortunately culminated with the assassination of our ex-PM.
- Even now, it cannot be said that the government has fully controlled the situation.
 - ↳ The drug menace, unemployment, poor education facilities in Punjab are keeping the movement alive.

13. What were the factors that led to the declaration of Emergency in 1975? Why is it considered as the dark period of Indian democracy? In this context, discuss the response to the imposition of emergency among the masses, media and political class.

- In the 1970s, Raj Narain filed a case in Allahabad High Court against Indira Gandhi's election.
- The Court, in its judgment, declared the election of Indira Gandhi as invalid, and disqualified her.
- This was responded to by the imposition of National Emergency, on account of 'internal disturbance' under Art 352. An emergency was already in place on account of 'external aggression' courtesy Indo-Pak war.

• Factors why emergency is called a 'dark period'

↳ A mini constitution was enacted (42nd Amendment) which virtually changed the entire constitutional scheme.

↳ Took away power of judicial review

• Made DPSP trump Fundamental Rights.

- Immense political repression
- Habeas Corpus not in place, so many people went missing
- Forced sterilisations
- Clamping down and severe repression of media.

Responses to emergency

- Masses
- The masses proved the mettle of democracy by voting out

the government and bringing in a new government.

- They took to protests.

• Media

- It refused to be cowered down.

- It focused, highlighted & revealed the excesses being committed ~~even~~ after the emergency was over

- To this date, the media ensures public memory does not fade.

• Political Class

- The Janata Party government that was elected in 1977 passed the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act which

restored the constitution to its original position.

Therefore, even though emergency was a dark period, democracy won.

14. The role of women since independence has not been confined to issues of women alone, rather they have played an important role in the issues related to peasants, tribals, farmers, trade unions and environment. Discuss.

In pre independence India, while some women like Sarojini Naidu & Annie Besant were involved with issues of national importance, most women's role was confined to issues that affected women.

- Post independence, women have played a lead role in almost every sphere of democratic politics and civil society includ-

→ Peasants & Farmers

- The Mezdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan of Aruna Roy, an ex- IAS officer is foremost in safeguarding peasant rights & working for RTI.
- Role of Women in Self Help

Group formation cannot be highlighted enough. Ela Singh played a leading role.

→ Tribes

- The recent formation of Jaglag (Jagdapur Legal Aid Group) by a group of women lawyers is working painstakingly to safeguard tribal rights in naval infested Chhatisgarh.
- Irom Sharmila's role in ~~Ind~~ protecting Manipur's tribals from AFSPA.

→ Environment

- Medha Patkar's relentless efforts to save the villagers, farmers and community at large from adverse impacts of large dams.
- Women spearheading

environment reforms as IAS officers,
Forest Range Officers, Professors &
Politicians.

→ Trade Unions

• Many women lead trade unions, often forming women's wings in these.

Apart from civil society, women are moving ahead in the field of banking (Arundhati Bhattecharya, Chanda Kochhar), industry (PepsiCo Indira Nooyi), law (Indira Jaisingh), medicine and politics to work for issues that affect the society at large, and not only the women.

15. Critically examine the point of view that cultural diversity in India has been a hindrance to the process of nation building.

India has a rich diversity of cultures, perhaps unmatched by any other country. Yet, it is being said that it is acting as a hindrance in formation of a unified India.

Arguments in favour of cultural diversity acting as an impediment

- ① Most nations which are close knit and peaceful have a common language/religion. Eg: Poland; France; Malaysia
- ② The cultural diversity encourages regional chauvinism
- ③ It gives rise to son of the soil theory
- ④ It leads to fears of regional movements turning

violent. Es: Khalistan, Nagalim.

Arguments against:

- ① India has survived the test of time.
- ② The regional cultures have coexisted and co-developed, leading to formation of syncretic Indian culture
- ③ It promotes nationbuilding by making people more tolerant and open to different new points.
- ④ It adds to India's soft power and confidence of Indians about their roots. It also boosts the confidence of Indians about their roots.

To conclude,

- It cannot be said as a matter of fact that

cultural diversity is a hindrance in nation building.

- on the contrary, India has survived 70 years of being a democracy despite its dissimilar cultural traditions & numerous languages.
- A few unfortunate regional chauvinism ~~see~~ incidents cannot be used to colour the entire Indian democracy experience.

16. Equality of opportunity requires not only open competition for advantaged positions but also fair access to qualifications required for those positions. Discuss in the Indian context.

- Equality of opportunity is guaranteed by our constitution through Articles 14, 15, 16.

- For substantive equality to exist over and above formal equality, it is necessary that
 (A) People have the means to achieve requisite educational qualifications

↳ Through reservations in educational institutes of higher level

→ Through Economically Weaker Section reservation under RTI in schools

→ Through statescholarships for weaker sections

And,

(B) That people have the means
to use these qualifications
for advantaged positions

→ In the public sector,
this is done through:

- Reservation in competitive exams with relaxed standards
- Reservation in promotions
- Reservation in other appointments

→ In the private sector,
this is achieved by:

- The constitution which ensures non-discrimination, equality and abolition of untouchability.

When these two are achieved,

only then true equality is achieved, as one cannot fully achieve its goals without the other.

- Reservations are therefore, a means of placing unequals equal. It is form of affirmative action, which is available not only for disadvantaged castes, but also for economically & socially backward classes to ensure substantive equality.

17. Portrayal of stereotypical sensational images of women not only reduces their identity to a mere object of desire but also reinforces the patriarchal structure of the society. Discuss with examples.

- A stereotype refers to assumed characteristics painting an entire group with the same brush.
- Irrespective of their truth/falsity, stereotypes are inherently harmful as they prevent a member of a social group from discarding the negative identities associated with the group.
- Stereotypes against women constantly seek to reinforce patriarchy. They propagate the view that
 - ↳ women are incapable
 - ↳ women need men to protect them & take decisions
 - ↳ women are best suited

for household activities.

Examples of stereotypes abound.

To cite a few;

- ① That women are meant to look beautiful for men boosts the make up industry, and leads to young girls focusing too much on their looks, ignoring their studies which clears the field for a lifetime of dependence
- ② That women need to marry and run a household discourages many women from even appearing for tough jobs, such as the IAS
- ③ That women are bad drivers discourages women from driving

lest they should drive badly.

④ The many jokes on wives on social media downplay the economic worth of a woman's efforts, and bring them to apathy.

⑤ The widespread objectification of women leads to anxiety, self esteem & health disorders such as anorexia.

⑥ Stereotypes ensure girls are continued to be treated as a burden, their education neglected, and child marriage rampant.

Yet, despite the odds being against them, women have successfully broke free from many stereotypes and excelled in all fields - sports, Commerce, Medicine, law.

18. Explain the concept of planned obsolescence with examples and discuss its impact for an economy. In this context, comment on Indian society's move towards throwaway culture.

- Obsolescence refers to the becoming obsolete of a thing
- Planned obsolescence refers to a business strategy wherein industrialists design & plan a product in a way that it becomes obsolete after a while and the customer has to purchase a new one.
- The reason for this is that with better technological advances, the shelf life of products increased and manufacturers found this way to keep revenues going.
- Examples
 - ↳ Computer softwares & apps which have to be updated

- Poor quality of clothes which go bad in about a year
- Poor quality of wires, cords, charging cables.

→ Impact on an Economy

- ① May lead to wastage of both resources and money
- ② May lead to stagnation in innovation as the same product is produced over and over without looking for new ways to retain consumer base
- ③ Leads to consumerism.
- ④ Huge amount of waste generation

→ Consumerism & Move towards throwaway culture →

- with planned obsolescence, consumerism takes centre stage

where consumers buy a product and throw it as soon as it loses value.

This refers to 'throwaway' culture.

- Eg:
- ① Shift to disposable diapers & sanitary pads
 - ② PET bottles which cannot be recycled
 - ③ Damaged electrical equipment

Throwaway culture is also marked by a desire to have the best of a product, so a consumer buys the latest version even if it has no utility.

Due to problems of wastage & waste generation, it is important to have a relook and move towards long lasting sustainable products.

19. Employment is a vital factor in empowerment of persons with disabilities. Analyse. Enumerate the steps taken by the government to increase employment of persons with disabilities.

- The biggest factor for the disempowerment of persons with disabilities remains their dependence on others. This dependence can be in the form of financial assistance, to help with filing bills & so on.
- In this context, employment of persons with disabilities is essential for their employment
 - ① Employment gives self confidence as they now see themselves as an asset for society
 - ② It makes them independent, especially financially.
 - ③ Their widespread presence in economy ensures that

enabling features are introduced in infrastructure such as ramps, mics & speakers, text to speech technology.

- ④ This gives them functional ability, and also brings more employees into the economy.

Steps taken by government:

- ① The 1995 PWD Act provided for 3% reservation for persons with disabilities across government jobs, which has now been increased to 4% as per the 2016 Act.

- ② Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan to change attitudes and provide help to set up own

self employment units.

③ Adip Yojana

- To provide accessibility providing Aids to PWDs, to help them move around

④ Increasing access

↳ By making 50% of railway stations, 50% of government buildings accessible.

→ By making government websites screen-reader accessible

⑤ Accessible Banking

All these steps will ensure the increased employability & mobility of PWDs, which will enhance their independence & status.

20. While many see globalisation as synonymous with westernisation, evidence suggests that the process of globalisation has not been a one way street.
Comment.

- It would be factually incorrect to associate globalisation with westernisation.
- As the name suggests, globalisation refers to a global phenomenon, where cultures have permeated across the globe.

That globalisation has been a two way street :-

- ① Economically
↳ while FDI and foreign goods have flooded our markets, it also has led to transfer of Indian labour, and raw material to world markets

- ② Socially
Migration has been happening both ways. Tourism too

is two sided .

③ Culturally

- While western culture trickles into our society, Indian culture such as yoga, Indian food is also prevalent in the west. Eg: A few years, butter chicken tikka was named the national dish of UK for one year.

④ Politically

- While Trump's nomination affected the rest of the world, regional political instability like Syrian war and South China Sea despite too has global ramifications .

⑤ Legal

- While most treaties

from westernised powers, regional groupings such as ASEAN and others such as BRICS are ensuring that policies of developing countries have an effect on the world scene.

Therefore, it is certainly a two way street with equal contribution and mixing of material culture; although western culture may seem to dominate