

UPSC Polity Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. What is the primary role of the Attorney General of India?

- A. To represent citizens in court**
- B. To advise the government on legal matters**
- C. To impose legal penalties**
- D. To oversee police investigations**

2. Which symbol is primarily associated with Zoroastrianism?

- A. Ahura**
- B. Atar**
- C. Yasna**
- D. Asha**

3. The term 'Palaeolithic' comes from two Greek words, 'palaeo', meaning old, and 'lithos', meaning _____?

- A. Bone**
- B. Stone**
- C. Earth**
- D. Wood**

4. What is the essence of 'Social Justice' as defined in the Constitution?

- A. Ensuring equal rights, opportunities, and fair treatment for all citizens, especially marginalized communities**
- B. A focus solely on economic equality and wealth redistribution**
- C. A framework for addressing economic disparities between states**
- D. A commitment to promoting social hierarchies**

5. What does 'proportional representation' refer to in electoral systems?

- A. A system where parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes they receive**
- B. An electoral system based solely on majority votes**
- C. A voting method involving two rounds of elections**
- D. A system where only independent candidates can win**

6. Which part of the Constitution discusses Fundamental Rights?

- A. Part II**
- B. Part III**
- C. Part IV**
- D. Part V**

7. Which amendment act is commonly referred to as the 'Mini Constitution'?

- A. 61st Amendment**
- B. 42nd Amendment**
- C. 73rd Amendment**
- D. 86th Amendment**

8. Which of the following is a major teaching of Buddhism?

- A. The noble truths**
- B. The caste system**
- C. The Vedas**
- D. Moksha**

9. Which act introduced the system of diarchy to govern the provinces of British India?

- A. Government of India Act 1935**
- B. Government of India Act 1919**
- C. Government of India Act 1909**
- D. Indian Independence Act 1947**

10. What is the significance of the Preamble to the Constitution?

- A. It establishes a list of punishable offenses**
- B. It outlines the objectives and guiding principles of the Constitution**
- C. It provides the legal framework for government actions**
- D. It is an unnecessary part of the Constitution**

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary role of the Attorney General of India?

- A. To represent citizens in court
- B. To advise the government on legal matters**
- C. To impose legal penalties
- D. To oversee police investigations

The primary role of the Attorney General of India is to advise the government on legal matters. This position is fundamental in ensuring that the government's actions comply with the law and that it receives sound legal counsel on various issues. The Attorney General represents the government in legal proceedings and provides opinions on legal questions that may arise in the course of governance. This role includes interpreting laws, advising on the implications of proposed legislation, and representing the government in the Supreme Court and High Courts where the government is a party to a case. The Attorney General's advice is critical in shaping legal policy and ensuring that the state's interests are upheld in the judicial system, contributing significantly to the rule of law and the functioning of the legal system in India. The options related to representing citizens, imposing penalties, or overseeing police investigations do not align with the responsibilities of the Attorney General, as their role is firmly positioned within the government rather than on the side of individual citizens or law enforcement activities.

2. Which symbol is primarily associated with Zoroastrianism?

- A. Ahura
- B. Atar**
- C. Yasna
- D. Asha

Atar is primarily associated with Zoroastrianism as it represents fire, which holds a central place in the faith. In Zoroastrian belief, fire is seen as a symbol of purity and is often used in rituals and prayers to represent the presence of Ahura Mazda, the supreme deity. The Zoroastrians regard fire as a manifestation of divine truth and light, and it plays a crucial role in their worship practices, especially in fire temples. While Ahura refers to the deity itself, Yasna pertains to the liturgical rituals and prayers that worshippers perform. Asha represents the concept of truth, order, and righteousness within the Zoroastrian worldview but is not as closely linked to the physical symbolism as Atar is. Therefore, Atar stands out as the most significant symbol directly associated with Zoroastrianism, emphasizing the importance of fire in their religious context.

3. The term 'Palaeolithic' comes from two Greek words, 'palaeo', meaning old, and 'lithos', meaning _____?

- A. Bone
- B. Stone**
- C. Earth
- D. Wood

The term 'Palaeolithic' is derived from two Greek words: 'palaeo' meaning old and 'lithos' which translates to stone. The Palaeolithic era, often called the Old Stone Age, is characterized by the development of the first stone tools by early hominins. This period marks significant advancements in human technological and cultural evolution, as it encompasses the earliest and most extended phase of human history. Understanding the terminology is crucial for grasping the broader context of prehistoric human life and the evolution of societies that relied heavily on stone tools for survival and daily activities. The importance of stone in this era is reflected in the artifacts and archaeological findings that have provided insights into the lives of early humans.

4. What is the essence of 'Social Justice' as defined in the Constitution?

- A. Ensuring equal rights, opportunities, and fair treatment for all citizens, especially marginalized communities**
- B. A focus solely on economic equality and wealth redistribution
- C. A framework for addressing economic disparities between states
- D. A commitment to promoting social hierarchies

The essence of 'Social Justice' in the context of the Constitution emphasizes the importance of ensuring equal rights, opportunities, and fair treatment for all citizens, particularly those from marginalized communities. This principle is rooted in the belief that every individual deserves equal consideration and access to resources, regardless of their background, caste, gender, or economic status. The constitutional framework in India is designed to promote dignity, freedom, and equal treatment, which aligns with the concept of social justice. It seeks to address historical injustices and discrimination faced by specific groups, thereby aiming to create an inclusive society. The foundational values encapsulated in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution highlight the commitment to justice as a multifaceted principle that includes social, economic, and political dimensions. In contrast to a narrow focus solely on economic equality or wealth redistribution, the notion of social justice goes beyond material wealth, emphasizing the need for empowerment and active participation of all societal segments in political and civic life. This approach rejects initiatives that may inadvertently reinforce social hierarchies, instead advocating for a society where equal opportunities are afforded to all, promoting true equity.

5. What does 'proportional representation' refer to in electoral systems?

- A. A system where parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes they receive**
- B. An electoral system based solely on majority votes**
- C. A voting method involving two rounds of elections**
- D. A system where only independent candidates can win**

Proportional representation is an electoral system in which parties receive seats in the legislature that correspond to the number of votes they achieve in an election. This means that if a political party secures, for instance, 30% of the total votes cast, it should ideally be allocated around 30% of the seats in the parliament or assembly. This system is designed to ensure that the representation in the legislative body reflects the overall support for each party among the electorate, promoting a more diverse and inclusive political environment. The focus on proportional allocation helps small parties gain representation that they might not secure in a majority-based system, where only the highest-voted candidates from each district are elected. This can lead to a more multiparty system and provide voters with broader choices. By contrast, systems exclusively relying on majority votes tend to favor larger parties and can marginalize smaller groups, leading to less representative governance. Thus, the essence of proportional representation lies in its aim to align electoral outcomes with the electorate's preferences.

6. Which part of the Constitution discusses Fundamental Rights?

- A. Part II**
- B. Part III**
- C. Part IV**
- D. Part V**

Fundamental Rights are discussed in Part III of the Constitution of India. This section is crucial as it lays down the various rights guaranteed to all citizens, which serve to protect their individual freedoms and promote equality before the law. These rights include the right to equality, the right to freedom, the right against exploitation, the right to freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights, and the right to constitutional remedies, among others. The inclusion of Fundamental Rights in the Constitution solidifies the framework of democracy and civil liberties, ensuring that individuals can seek redressal when these rights are violated. The significance of Part III lies in its role as a safeguard against arbitrary state actions, enabling citizens to uphold their dignity and freedom. This part of the Constitution is often referred to as the cornerstone of individual rights in India, thereby emphasizing its importance in maintaining the rule of law and protecting civil liberties. Other parts mentioned do not contain the provisions related to Fundamental Rights; for instance, Part II primarily addresses citizenship, Part IV outlines the Directive Principles of State Policy aimed at guiding the state in policy-making, and Part V deals with the Union government structure.

7. Which amendment act is commonly referred to as the 'Mini Constitution'?

- A. 61st Amendment**
- B. 42nd Amendment**
- C. 73rd Amendment**
- D. 86th Amendment**

The 42nd Amendment is often referred to as the 'Mini Constitution' due to the extensive and significant changes it made to the original Constitution of India. Enacted in 1976 during the Emergency period, this amendment altered more than 50 articles of the Constitution, thereby impacting the structure, power dynamics, and functions of various governmental bodies. Among its key features, the 42nd Amendment added fundamental duties to the Constitution, established the supremacy of the Constitution itself, and reinforced the Directive Principles of State Policy. Additionally, it aimed to curtail the power of the judiciary to review constitutional amendments. This comprehensive revision has led to its nickname, as it serves as a concise encapsulation of critical amendments that guide governance in India. The other amendment acts listed do not carry the same significance or breadth of changes. While each played important roles within their respective contexts, none have redefined or amended the Constitution to the same extent as the 42nd Amendment. This is why it stands out as the 'Mini Constitution.'

8. Which of the following is a major teaching of Buddhism?

- A. The noble truths**
- B. The caste system**
- C. The Vedas**
- D. Moksha**

The major teaching of Buddhism is encapsulated in the concept of the noble truths. These truths are fundamental to understanding the Buddhist worldview and the path to enlightenment. The Four Noble Truths articulate the nature of suffering, its origin, the possibility of cessation, and the path leading to the cessation of suffering, which is known as the Eightfold Path. In contrast, while the caste system is a significant aspect of Hindu society, it is not a teaching of Buddhism and is often critiqued by Buddhist principles. The Vedas, which are ancient Hindu scriptures, do not form a part of Buddhist doctrine. Moksha is a term used primarily in Hinduism to describe liberation from the cycle of birth and rebirth; in Buddhism, a similar concept exists but is framed within the context of attaining Nirvana rather than Moksha. Thus, the noble truths stand out as the central tenet of Buddhism, guiding adherents toward spiritual awakening and the alleviation of suffering.

9. Which act introduced the system of diarchy to govern the provinces of British India?

- A. Government of India Act 1935**
- B. Government of India Act 1919**
- C. Government of India Act 1909**
- D. Indian Independence Act 1947**

The Government of India Act of 1919 is the legislation that introduced the system of diarchy to the provinces of British India. Diarchy was a governance system that allowed for a division of responsibilities between elected Indian ministers and appointed British officials. Under this Act, the provinces were empowered to manage certain subjects like education, health, and local self-government, while other subjects, particularly those concerning the defense, foreign affairs, and internal security, remained under the control of the British officials. This arrangement aimed to create a greater level of participation from Indians in their governance while still ensuring that crucial powers remained with the British authorities. It was seen as a step towards self-governance, intending to placate Indian demands for political reforms. The subsequent acts, like the Government of India Act of 1935, built upon the earlier reforms but introduced further changes, including the establishment of a federal structure and more autonomy to provinces, rather than the specific creation of diarchy itself, which was a feature of the 1919 Act. The other options, such as the Government of India Act of 1909, focused more on limited reforms without the diarchy system, and the Indian Independence Act of 1947 addressed the transition to independence rather than reforming governance.

10. What is the significance of the Preamble to the Constitution?

- A. It establishes a list of punishable offenses**
- B. It outlines the objectives and guiding principles of the Constitution**
- C. It provides the legal framework for government actions**
- D. It is an unnecessary part of the Constitution**

The Preamble to the Constitution holds significant importance as it outlines the objectives and guiding principles that the Constitution seeks to achieve. It serves as an introductory statement that encapsulates the core values and aspirations of the Constitution, reflecting the philosophy upon which the Indian state is founded. By explicitly stating the goals such as justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, the Preamble provides a framework through which the interpretation of the Constitution can be guided. Additionally, the Preamble acts as a source of inspiration and direction for both the government and the citizens, embodying the intentions of the framers. It sets forth the fundamental ideals that inform the functioning of all branches of government and contributes to the nation's identity. Therefore, its significance lies in its role as a foundational summary of the essential principles that constitute the essence of the Constitution.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://upscpolity.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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