

UPSC Polity Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. 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.

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. 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!

Questions

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- 1. What is one of the key features of the Indian Constitution regarding religion?**
 - A. All citizens must follow the majority religion**
 - B. Only secular religion is recognized**
 - C. The state shall not discriminate against any religion**
 - D. Religious leaders are part of the government**

- 2. What is the location of the second largest library in India?**
 - A. Indian Parliament**
 - B. State Legislative Assembly**
 - C. National Archives**
 - D. University Library**

- 3. Who was the Viceroy of India during the partition of Bengal?**
 - A. Lord Curzon**
 - B. Lord Wellesley**
 - C. Lord Mountbatten**
 - D. Lord Ripon**

- 4. What was the primary objective of the Planning Commission when it was established?**
 - A. Centralize power**
 - B. Monitor foreign relations**
 - C. Design policies for economic development**
 - D. Promote education**

- 5. What are 'Fundamental Rights'?**
 - A. Rights that can be amended by the Parliament**
 - B. Rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution to protect individual freedoms**
 - C. Rights specific to citizens only during wartime**
 - D. Rights that are solely economic in nature**

- 6. Which group was expected to engage in agriculture, herding, and trade?**
- A. Kshatriyas**
 - B. Brahmins**
 - C. Vaishyas**
 - D. Shudras**
- 7. The earliest people who lived along the banks of River _____ were skilled gatherers?**
- A. Ganga**
 - B. Indus**
 - C. Narmada**
 - D. Yamuna**
- 8. Under which Article is the President's Rule imposed in a state?**
- A. Article 355**
 - B. Article 356**
 - C. Article 357**
 - D. Article 358**
- 9. The Arya Samaj aimed to reform which aspect of society?**
- A. Political structures**
 - B. Religious practices**
 - C. Economic policies**
 - D. Social norms**
- 10. What is the maximum number of members in the Rajya Sabha?**
- A. 250 members**
 - B. 200 members**
 - C. 300 members**
 - D. 150 members**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is one of the key features of the Indian Constitution regarding religion?

- A. All citizens must follow the majority religion**
- B. Only secular religion is recognized**
- C. The state shall not discriminate against any religion**
- D. Religious leaders are part of the government**

One of the key features of the Indian Constitution regarding religion is that the state shall not discriminate against any religion. This principle is enshrined in the framework of secularism that underlies the Constitution. India's secularism is characterized by equal treatment of all religions and the separation of religion from the functions of the state. This means that the Indian government cannot favor one religion over another, nor can it impose any religious beliefs or practices on its citizens. Every individual has the right to practice any religion of their choice, or none at all, without facing discrimination from the state. This commitment to equal respect for all religions helps to maintain social harmony in a country as diverse as India, where multiple religions coexist. The other options do not accurately reflect the essence of India's constitutional provisions on religion. For instance, mandatory adherence to a majority religion contradicts the principle of individual freedom, while recognizing only secular religions would exclude other faiths. Furthermore, involving religious leaders in government contradicts the principle of separation between religion and state, which is fundamental to India's democratic framework.

2. What is the location of the second largest library in India?

- A. Indian Parliament**
- B. State Legislative Assembly**
- C. National Archives**
- D. University Library**

The second largest library in India is located in the Indian Parliament, specifically known as the Parliament Library. This library serves the members of Parliament and provides them with resources and information to assist in their legislative functions. It houses a vast collection of books, periodicals, reports, and other important documents that support parliamentary work. The importance of the Parliament Library extends beyond just size; it is integral to the legislative process, providing access to essential information for lawmaking, research, and policy formulation. Compared to other libraries like those affiliated with state assemblies or universities, the Parliament Library plays a unique role at the national level, particularly in supporting the governance and legislative functions of the country.

3. Who was the Viceroy of India during the partition of Bengal?

A. Lord Curzon

B. Lord Wellesley

C. Lord Mountbatten

D. Lord Ripon

The Viceroy of India during the partition of Bengal in 1905 was Lord Curzon. He initiated this controversial policy with the intention of improving administrative efficiency in the region, as Bengal was a large and populous province. However, the partition is widely regarded as an attempt to divide and rule by creating religious divisions between Hindus and Muslims, which ultimately provoked significant political unrest and opposition from Indian nationalists. Lord Curzon's actions in 1905 sparked widespread protests and played a crucial role in consolidating the Indian national movement. The partition was reversed in 1911, but the events surrounding it significantly influenced the trajectory of Indian nationalist sentiments. Thus, understanding the role of Lord Curzon is essential when analyzing the political dynamics of British India during that period.

4. What was the primary objective of the Planning Commission when it was established?

A. Centralize power

B. Monitor foreign relations

C. Design policies for economic development

D. Promote education

The primary objective of the Planning Commission, established in India in 1950, was to design policies for economic development. The commission aimed to assess the economic challenges facing the nation and plan strategies to enhance economic growth, address poverty, and promote equitable distribution of resources among different regions and communities. By focusing on systematic planning, the commission sought to coordinate various sectors of the economy, determining priorities for resource allocation and development initiatives, which were essential for building a self-reliant nation. The emphasis on economic development reflects the Commission's role in shaping India's Five-Year Plans, which laid the foundation for targeted growth in agriculture, industry, and services. Through these plans, the Commission played a pivotal role in transforming India's economic landscape, directing investments towards infrastructure, health, education, and rural development, thereby aligning with the broader goals of national development and improvement in living standards.

5. What are 'Fundamental Rights'?

- A. Rights that can be amended by the Parliament
- B. Rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution to protect individual freedoms**
- C. Rights specific to citizens only during wartime
- D. Rights that are solely economic in nature

Fundamental Rights are integral to the Constitution and serve as guaranteed protections for individual freedoms against arbitrary actions by the state. These rights are enshrined in Part III of the Indian Constitution and are designed to ensure that every citizen has access to certain essential liberties such as the right to equality, the right to freedom of speech and expression, and the right to protection from discrimination, among others. The significance of Fundamental Rights is that they provide a framework within which citizens can seek justice and legal recourse against infringement of their rights, ensuring a degree of security and personal liberty. They are justiciable, which means that individuals can approach the courts to enforce these rights, and they cannot be unilaterally altered by ordinary legislation. This feature distinguishes them from other rights, emphasizing their importance in maintaining the democratic fabric of the nation. The other options do not accurately represent the essence of Fundamental Rights. They are not rights that can be easily amended by Parliament; rather, any amendment affecting Fundamental Rights must comply with the basic structure doctrine. Additionally, these rights are applicable to all individuals and not limited to wartime or economic contexts. They encompass a broad range of civil, political, and social rights critical for individual and group development in a free society.

6. Which group was expected to engage in agriculture, herding, and trade?

- A. Kshatriyas
- B. Brahmins
- C. Vaishyas**
- D. Shudras

The Vaishyas were expected to engage in agriculture, herding, and trade, as they form one of the four varnas in the traditional Indian social hierarchy, known as the varna system. This classification includes Brahmins (priests and teachers), Kshatriyas (warriors and rulers), Vaishyas (merchants, landowners, and farmers), and Shudras (laborers and service providers). The Vaishyas played a crucial role in the economy by being responsible for agricultural production and managing the trade of goods and services. Their activities included farming the land, raising livestock, and facilitating commerce, which were essential for society's overall sustenance and development. Other groups have specific roles that do not primarily involve agriculture or trade. For instance, Brahmins primarily focus on religious rituals and education, Kshatriyas are involved in governance and warfare, and Shudras provide necessary services and labor. Hence, the Vaishyas were distinctively recognized for their engagement in agricultural and commercial activities, directly linking them to the economic and agrarian aspects of ancient society.

7. The earliest people who lived along the banks of River _____ were skilled gatherers?

- A. Ganga**
- B. Indus**
- C. Narmada**
- D. Yamuna**

The earliest people who lived along the banks of the River Narmada are recognized as skilled gatherers due to the rich natural resources found in that region. The Narmada River, flowing through central India, has been an important water source and has supported diverse flora and fauna, which would have attracted early human communities. Archaeological studies indicate that these communities engaged in gathering wild plants, fruits, and nuts, showcasing their ability to utilize the environment sustainably. The significance of the Narmada in early human history is also marked by the discovery of tools and artifacts in surrounding areas, indicating a prehistoric culture that thrived by utilizing the river's resources. This adaptability and resourcefulness highlight their skilled gatherer status and their connection to the natural ecosystem, laying the groundwork for future agricultural practices in the Indian subcontinent. In contrast, while the other rivers mentioned (Ganga, Indus, and Yamuna) also played crucial roles in the development of ancient civilizations, the specific identification of the Narmada as the site of early gatherers reflects unique archaeological findings that are pivotal to understanding human prehistory in that region.

8. Under which Article is the President's Rule imposed in a state?

- A. Article 355**
- B. Article 356**
- C. Article 357**
- D. Article 358**

The imposition of President's Rule in a state is governed by Article 356 of the Indian Constitution. This article allows the President of India to assume control over the state government when the constitutional machinery fails. Essentially, it enables the central government to take over the functions of the state government when it is unable to govern due to various reasons, such as political instability or failure to carry out constitutional responsibilities. Under Article 356, the President can declare that the government of a state cannot be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Following such a declaration, the President can dissolve the state legislative assembly and appoint a governor to administer the state. This mechanism serves as an emergency provision to maintain constitutional order in the states. In contrast, the other articles mentioned relate to different aspects of governance. Article 355 pertains to the duty of the Union to protect states against external aggression and internal disturbance, while Article 357 provides for legislation by Parliament to give effect to the proclamation of President's Rule. Article 358 concerns the suspension of the fundamental rights during a proclamation of emergency. Each of these articles serves distinct purposes and contexts within the framework of the Indian Constitution, but it is Article 356 that specifically addresses the situation of President's Rule in a state

9. The Arya Samaj aimed to reform which aspect of society?

- A. Political structures**
- B. Religious practices**
- C. Economic policies**
- D. Social norms**

The Arya Samaj, founded in 1875 by Swami Dayananda Saraswati, primarily aimed to reform religious practices within the Hindu community. Its foundational principle was to promote a return to the Vedas, encouraging a rational interpretation of Hindu scriptures and denouncing superstitions, idol worship, and social inequalities prevalent at the time. The movement sought to establish a more progressive form of Hinduism that would align with modern values, including promoting education, women's rights, and social justice. By focusing on reforming religious practices, the Arya Samaj played a significant role in revitalizing Hindu beliefs and practices, steering them towards a more enlightened understanding based on reason and verified teachings. In contrast, the other options pertain to areas the Arya Samaj did influence to some degree, such as social norms through its advocacy for education and women's rights, but they were not the primary focus of the movement. Political structures and economic policies were not specific targets for reform by the Arya Samaj; instead, the group's main concentration remained firmly on religious practices and the promotion of a monotheistic faith within Hinduism.

10. What is the maximum number of members in the Rajya Sabha?

- A. 250 members**
- B. 200 members**
- C. 300 members**
- D. 150 members**

The maximum number of members in the Rajya Sabha, which is the upper house of India's Parliament, is 250. This figure is established by Article 80 of the Constitution of India. The composition of the Rajya Sabha includes representatives from the states and union territories as well as appointed members. Out of the total, 238 members are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States and Union territories, while the President of India has the authority to appoint 12 members who are distinguished in fields such as literature, science, art, and social service. This fixed upper limit ensures that the Rajya Sabha can function effectively as a house of elders and provides a balanced representation of various regions and sectors of Indian society in the legislative process. Understanding the composition and limits of the Rajya Sabha helps in comprehending the Indian parliamentary system and its functioning.

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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