

Economics Syllabus

There is one paper of two hours duration carrying 80 marks and Internal Assessment of 20 marks. The paper is divided into two sections: A and B.

Section A consists of compulsory questions requiring short answers and covers the entire syllabus. Section B consists of questions, which require detailed answers. There is choice and you are required to answer four questions from this section.

1. Understanding an Economy

(i) Meaning and definition of Economics; Concepts of Economics: Wealth, Welfare, Capital, Factors of production, Utility, Government, Household, Firm, Value, Price, Production, Consumption, Micro and Macro Economics.

A basic understanding of economic problems. Definitions of economics - Marshall, Robbins, Samuelson (No characteristics and comparisons). An understanding of the following concepts: wealth, capital, value, price, utility, production, consumption, factors of production, micro and macro economics (meaning of terms with examples)

(ii) Basic problems of an economy: What to produce? How to produce? For whom to produce? Efficient use of resources; economic growth. The concept of production possibility curve.

A brief introduction to basic problems of an economy - what to produce? how to produce? For whom to produce? Needs to be emphasized, irrespective of types of economy. An explanation of how economics as a subject helps us to allocate scarce resources in an efficient manner to be given. The concept of economic growth to be explained through production possibility curve. Comparison between economic growth and economic development should be dealt with briefly.

(iii) Types of Economies: Capitalistic, Socialistic, Mixed, Developed and Developing economy. Characteristics of the Indian economy.

A basic understanding of the features of capitalistic, socialistic and mixed economies is required. The meaning and classification of economies into developing and developed is to be explained. In this context, the characteristics of Indian economy must be explained.

2. Role of Public Distribution System:

What is food security? Who are food insecure people? Efforts of the Government in resolving food problem - Public Distribution System, buffer stock - role of Co-operative societies in Public Distribution System.

Meaning of Food security, causes of Food shortage, solutions for food shortage by Government and Co-operatives (Role of Food Corporation of India, minimum support price, issue price, buffer stock, PDS, RPDS and TPDS - a brief introduction only).

New schemes of PDS - 2000 onwards (to be mentioned only). Critical appraisal of Public Distribution System.

Role of co-operatives in Food Distribution System to be explained with examples.

3. Industry

Interdependence of agriculture and industry; need for rapid industrialization; small-scale and cottage industries; their importance, problems and measures taken to develop them; need for industrial development in India.

The importance of industry and agriculture in terms of their complementarities for accomplishing the target rates of economic growth is to be emphasized. The need for rapid industrialization is to be explained with special reference to solve the problems of unemployment and poverty in India. The role and problems of cottage and small-scale industries need to be analyzed along with the measures taken to tackle such problems. The need for faster industrial development in India is to be discussed in the light of globalization and liberalization.

Impact of industrial practices on the ecosystem.

Mining, industries, energy generation, automobiles, urbanisation leading to defacement of land, deforestation, deterioration of hydrological resources.

Industrial waste: mining operations, cement factories, oil refineries, construction unit.

Spoilage of landscape, pollution, health hazards, effect on terrestrial, aquatic (fresh water and marine) life.

Measures to check the ecosystem.

Improving efficiency of existing technologies and introducing new eco-friendly technologies.

Methods of safe disposal of waste - segregation, dumping, composting, drainage, treatment of effluents before discharge.

Abatement of pollution.

Air: setting standards and implementing them, using technical devices to reduce pollution.

4. Poverty and Unemployment

Meaning of Poverty-line. Causes of poverty; poverty-alleviation programmes; nature of unemployment; causes of unemployment, measures to check unemployment.

Meaning of Poverty line should be explained in terms of calorie intake and with reference to the latest statistical figure about the percentage of population in India living below

poverty line. Meaning of Absolute and Relative Poverty to be explained with examples. The causes of poverty and the government's poverty alleviation programs (2000 onwards) to be highlighted.

Meaning, types and causes of unemployment; Measures taken by the government to solve unemployment problem after 2000.

5. Improvement in Human Capital - Health and Education

Advantages and disadvantages of a large population - Improvement in human capital - changes in the structure of the society due to health and education (literacy rate and life expectancy since 1971).

Women and child welfare - Understanding the importance of women and child healthcare, perceiving the need to empower and include women in decision making, birth control devices, immunization programs.