

How to prepare?



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1.Time Allocation

2.7-5-3 Rule

3.Intro-Body-Conclusion Rule

4.Keywords

5.Differentiate between UPSC vs OPSC answer

6.Optional vs General Studies Answer

7.What is a perfect answer

8.Suggestions for repeater candidates

Time Allocation: Plan how much time you will allocate to each question based on its marks.

250 marks: 3 hours (180 minutes)

Exam administration: 5 minutes

Review Time: 5 Minutes

180-10: 170 minutes

250 marks / 170 minutes: 1.47 marks per minutes

- 10 marks: **6.66 (around 7 minutes)**
- 15 marks: **10-12 minutes**
- 20 marks: **12-14 minutes**

Practice Writing: Regularly practice writing answers within the time limit. Focus on improving your speed and clarity.

Mock Tests: Take full-length mock tests to simulate exam conditions. Analyze your performance and identify areas for improvement

The 7-5-3 Rule of Answer Writing: The 7-5-3 rule is as simple as the numbers given, where:

- **SEVEN** –7 minutes per question.
- **FIVE** – 5 key points or paragraphs, each addressing a specific aspect of the question. Use data, examples, and case studies to support your arguments.
- **THREE** – Elaborate each point in 3 dimensions as per the requirements listed in the question.

The following are useful pointers:

- 1. Social, Economic, Political and Geographical perspective**
- 2. For, against, and conclusion**
- 3. What/Why/How**

Structured Answers: Use the introduction-body-conclusion format to structure your answers. Write concise and relevant points to avoid wasting time on unnecessary details.

Introduction

Purpose: The introduction sets the stage for your answer. It should be concise and directly address the question.

How to Write: Begin with a brief definition, context, or background information related to the topic. You can also start with a relevant quote or a fact to grab attention.

Body

Purpose: The body is where you present your main arguments, analysis, and evidence. It should be well-organized and cover all aspects of the question.

How to Write:

Divide into Paragraphs: Each paragraph should cover a specific point or argument. Use subheadings if necessary.

Use Data and Examples: Support your arguments with relevant data, examples, case studies, and references to reports or studies.

Balanced View: Present a balanced view by discussing both sides of an argument, if applicable. Highlight the pros and cons, advantages and disadvantages, or different perspectives.

Link to the Question: Ensure that each point you make is directly linked to the question and contributes to answering it.

Conclusion

Purpose: The conclusion summarizes your answer and provides a final perspective.

How to Write:

Summarize Key Points: Briefly summarize the main points discussed in the body.

Provide a Final Thought: Offer a concluding thought, suggestion, or recommendation. You can also mention the way forward or the significance of the topic in a broader context.

Bullet Points and Diagrams: Use bullet points for clarity and to save time. Include diagrams, flowcharts, and tables where applicable to convey information quickly.

Avoid Perfectionism: Aim for completeness rather than perfection. Ensure you attempt all questions rather than spending too much time perfecting a few answers.

Review: Reserve the last 5-10 minutes to review your answers. Check for any missed points, grammatical errors, or incomplete answers.