Uttar Pradesh

Mains answer-writing practice

20 original descriptive questions + model answers

Expanded state GK + nine illustrated revision pages, in one PDF.

Higher level: twenty analytical prompts, each with a roughly 150–175-word model response and a suggested 10-mark self-assessment guide.

These are original practice questions, not previous-year questions or an official mock. This expanded collection does not replace an exam-specific syllabus.

Language: English. Core focus: history, geography, heritage, governance, development, environment and institutions.

This edition emphasises stable concepts. It is not a current-affairs digest; verify changing schemes, office-holders, district boundaries and budget figures separately.

How to use this book

Write your response before reading the model. Use the marking guide to check coverage, accuracy and structure. Marks and word targets are practice choices.

Research and scope – page 2
Visual revision – page 3
Start practice – page 12
Source register – page 32

What the exam research tells us

Recruitment evidence

The police constable 2025 notification covers GK, Hindi, numerical/mental ability and reasoning. Its GK section explicitly includes UP culture, education and administration. The February 2026 procedure confirms an objective written test. Basic here is foundation difficulty, not a full police mock or eligibility guide. [EX1, EX2]

PCS evidence

UPPSC lists PCS 2025 mains papers from GS I to VI. Indexed GS V instructions specify short and long descriptive answers. Dynamic PDF links redirected during direct retrieval; detailed paper contents were not systematically analysed. UPSSSC PET official syllabus retrieval failed, so no exact PET-weightage claim is made. [EX3, EX4]

Expanded practice

120 basic MCQs, 88 advanced MCQs and 20 writing prompts; nine visual revision pages. Forty questions are added at each MCQ level; eight writing prompts are added. Original practice, not PYQs. Difficulty, timing and rubrics are editorial, with no frequency or complete-syllabus claim.

Visual learning

Six existing illustrated pages are retained. Three new pages connect historical places, regional farm decisions and Census 2001/2011 literacy. These historical rates are not 2026 estimates. Regional diagrams are schematic. The existing service-centre chart uses invented training values. Artwork is illustrative, not evidence.

Scope and date

Checked 29 October 2026. Stable state GS is emphasised. Older official pages contain outdated figures or errors; selected verified facts are used with limits. Changing vacancies, budgets, office-holders and wildlife totals are excluded. Hindi, subject-specific papers, current affairs and full exam syllabi require separate preparation.

Visual revision / 1



Taj Mahal

Agra / Shah Jahan
White-marble mausoleum [C1]

Dhamek Stupa

Sarnath / Buddhist site
First sermon [C4]

Sarus crane

State bird of UP
Wetland memory cue [N3]

AI-generated illustrations for recall; simplified, not photographs or measured reconstructions.

Do not mix up the Mughal sites

Taj Mahal: mausoleum / Shah Jahan [C1]
Agra Fort: fortified imperial complex [C2]
Fatehpur Sikri: imperial capital / Akbar [C3]

Buddhist contrast: Sarnath = first sermon; Kushinagar = Mahaparinirvana. [C4, C5]

Try this: cover the labels, identify each cue, then give one researched association.

Visual revision / 2

Regional memory grid / Schematic, not a boundary map

North / Terai

Moist plains, grasslands and forests; Dudhwa is a key ecological anchor. [G4, N1]

Central / Awadh cue

Lucknow: capital, Gomti and Chikankari. These are memory anchors, not regional boundaries. [H1, G3, E1]

South / Bundelkhand

Jhansi anchors the region. Water reliability and recurring drought need local assessment. [H3, D1]

East / plain and wetland

Eastern flood concerns; Bakhira marsh in Sant Kabir Nagar. Risk varies locally. [D1, N2]

Foothill process sketch / General Terai Arc concept [G4]

Bhabar

Coarse, porous deposits
Smaller streams may infiltrate
Low water table in the account

→

Terai

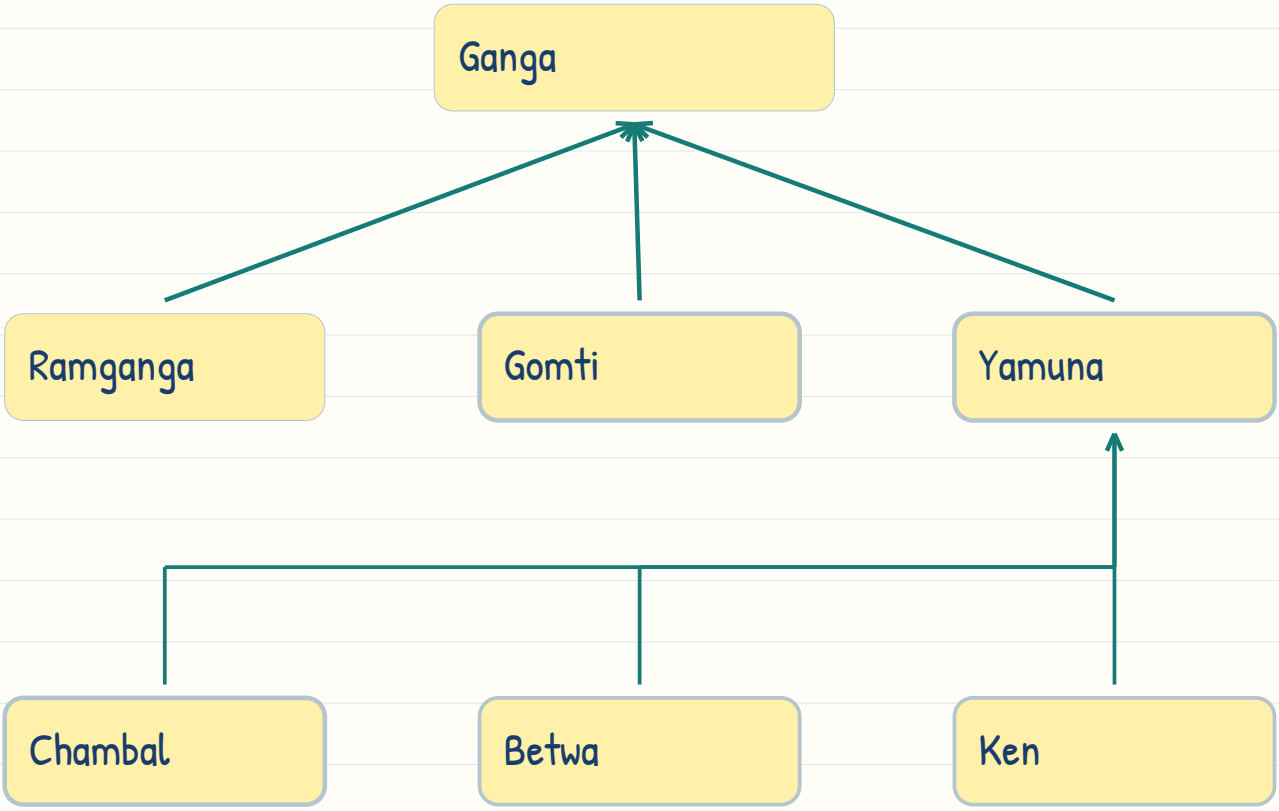
Finer sediments
Streams re-emerge
High water table and wet habitats

The diagram shows a process, not a continuous belt across every UP district. Conditions require site-specific evidence.

Recall check: why is a Terai grassland not interchangeable with a dense plantation?

Visual revision / 3

Arrows point from tributary to receiving river. Selected relationships only.



All three lower branches feed the Yamuna network. [G1]

City anchors

Lucknow / Gomti [G3] Agra / Yamuna [C1]
Prayagraj / Ganga-Yamuna confluence [G2]
Varanasi / Ganga [G1]

This is a river-network diagram, not a route map. Node positions do not represent distances, river courses, bank sides or exact confluence locations.

Memory chain: Ken -> Yamuna -> Ganga. Avoid inserting the Gomti between them.

Visual revision / 4

1857

10 May / Meerut

Military uprising with civilian participation. [H2]

1922

4 February / Chauri Chaura

Gandhi halted Non-Cooperation after the incident. [H4]

1925

9 August / Kakori

Revolutionary action targeting a train-borne treasury. [H5]

1950

24 January / UP renaming

United Provinces renamed Uttar Pradesh. [H1]

2000

9 November / Reorganisation

Uttarakhand carved out of the undivided state. [H1]

Dates are different kinds of milestones

1857: uprising / 1922: movement decision / 1925: revolutionary action.
1950: renaming / 2000: territorial reorganisation. Do not treat them as identical events.

Visual revision / 5

Selected district-product pairs / not an exclusive list [E1]

Lucknow Chikankari / Zari Zardozi	**Moradabad** Metal craft
Bhadohi Carpets	**Firozabad** Glass products
Aligarh Locks and hardware	**Kannauj** Itra / perfume
Meerut Sports goods	**Saharanpur** Wood carving

From craft identity to livelihoods [E2]

Skills + inputs → Production → Markets

Evaluate the whole chain: input cost, quality, payment terms, market access and net producer returns. Programme aims do not prove impact.

Recall: Pilibhit / flutes; Pratapgarh / amla; Siddharthnagar / Kala Namak rice. [E1]

Visual revision / 6

Different institutions / different responsibilities

State legislature

Assembly: lower House
403 elected seats [P1]
Council: upper House
100 seats [P2]

Judiciary

High Court principal seat:
Prayagraj (Allahabad)
Lucknow Bench [P3]
Capital is Lucknow [H1]

Rural local tiers

Gram: village
Kshetra: intermediate
Zila: district [P4]
Not a command chart

Chart-reading drill / COMPLETED CASES (hypothetical)



Centre A: 40 / B: 60 / C: 80 / D: 100. Total: 280 cases.

Counts need denominators for rate comparisons. These invented values are practice data, not statistics about UP offices or recruitment.

Visual revision / 7

Places, texts and institutions / association board

Kaushambi / Vatsa [H6]

Ancient capital association

Shravasti / Kosala [H7]

Rapti river setting

Kannauj / Harsha [H8]

Xuanzang / Hiuen Tsang association

Prashasti / Samudragupta [H9]

Composer: Harishena / praise is a source genre

Maghar / Kabir [C7]

Sant Kabir Nagar / memorial association

Varanasi / BHU [H10]

Act: 1915 / foundation: 1916

These are selected associations, not one continuous chronology. A memorial does not settle every biographical date; a later inscription does not date the original pillar.

Literary contrast: Tulsidas / Ramcharitmanas / Awadhi [C8]
Premchand / Godan [C9]. Catalogue edition years are not first-publication dates.

Visual revision / 8

Regional farm choices / diagnose before prescribing

Bundelkhand context [G5, G6]

Hamirpur apiculture case; Jhansi agricultural university.
Erratic rainfall and varied farm conditions require local assessment.

Measure the resource base

Soil, drainage, available water, crop demand and household constraints

Test the enterprise

Skills, forage or inputs, plant health, costs, buyers and access

Combine evidence / choose and monitor

Water budget + suitable seed + reliable advice.
Satellite observations can support crop assessment [S1]; field validation checks interpretation.

Evaluate results / not just activity

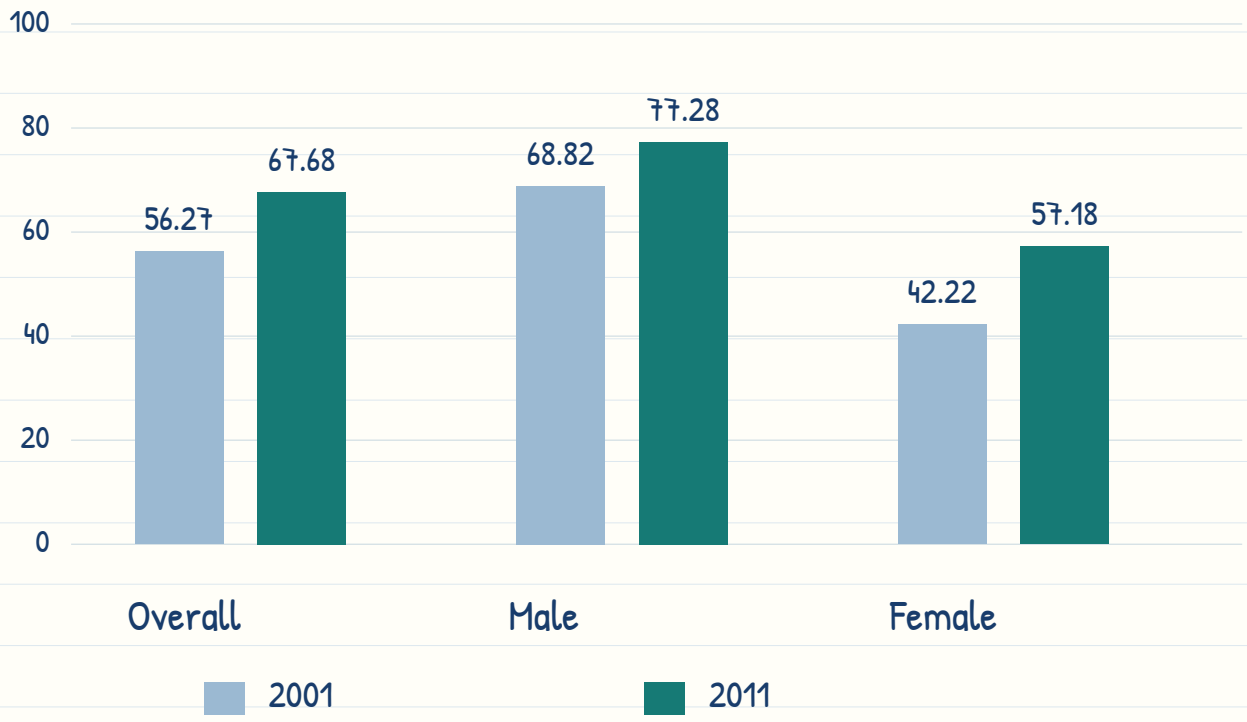
Net returns, reliability, water pressure and equitable access.
Compare with a baseline; track failures as well as successes.

Historical sugarcane case [G7]: research + mills + cane administration + farmers. Healthy planting-material supply needs coordination. Past record output is not a current ranking.

Visual revision / 9

Literacy / UP Census 2001 and 2011 [D3]

Historical rates, percent, people aged 7+. Bars start at zero.



Read the changes

Overall: +11.41 percentage points.
Gender gap: 26.60 -> 20.10 points / narrows by 6.50 points.

Difference is not relative growth

11.41 points / 56.27 x 100 = about 20.28% relative increase.
Do not label the difference as 11.41% relative growth.

Source: Lok Sabha annex, Census state literacy table, UP row.
Not a 2026 estimate. Endpoints do not show annual trends or prove a programme's impact. Counts require population denominators.

Write, compare, improve

01 / Regional planning

Why does UP need region-specific development planning?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Uttar Pradesh combines river plains, the Terai landscape and southern regions such as Bundelkhand. The SDMA hazard profile highlights recurrent flooding in eastern and Terai districts and drought concerns in Bundelkhand. These differences make a uniform development package an inadequate starting point.

Planning should begin with local evidence about water, livelihoods, infrastructure and exposure. Flood-prone settlements may need drainage assessment, warnings and reliable access during disruption. Drought-prone areas need realistic water budgets, maintenance of storage and crop choices suited to local conditions. Neither package guarantees the removal of every risk.

Economic priorities also vary. A craft cluster may need market access and reliable power, while an agricultural area may need storage or irrigation management. Consultation should include groups with weaker access to services and resources, rather than assuming that district averages represent every household equally.

A common state framework can set standards for accountability, inclusion and evaluation while allowing locally justified choices. Progress should be measured through service reliability, livelihood outcomes and reduced exposure, with costs and distribution examined. Regional planning works when it links shared public goals to different conditions on the ground.

Self-assessment

Regional context: 3; differentiated measures: 3; equity and institutions: 2; evaluation: 2.

Evidence / basis: G2, G4, H3, D1; editorial synthesis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

02 / River systems

Explain the value of basin-based river management in UP.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Uttar Pradesh is connected through the Ganga system and its tributaries. The Yamuna joins the Ganga at Prayagraj, while Chambal, Betwa and Ken belong to the Yamuna network. Gomti and Ramganga are Ganga tributaries. These relationships matter because water and pollution cross administrative boundaries.

A basin approach examines upstream and downstream conditions together. Monitoring should include flows, water quality, sediment and seasonal demand. An intervention at one location may change conditions elsewhere, so local improvements should not be evaluated without considering connected reaches and the people who depend on them.

Coordination is needed among irrigation, urban services, agriculture, pollution control and local institutions. Clear responsibilities should cover data sharing, maintenance and response to problems. Communities can provide useful information about access and service gaps, while technical measurements remain essential for assessing trends and comparing alternatives.

Evaluation should consider water reliability, ecological condition, pollution reduction and distribution of costs and benefits. A diagram of tributaries is a useful memory aid, but does not show exact courses or substitute for hydrological assessment. Basin management turns a connected physical system into a basis for coordinated public decisions.

Self-assessment

River relationships: 3; connected assessment: 3; governance: 2; indicators and limits: 2.

Evidence / basis: G1, G2; editorial management framework. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

03 / Freedom struggle

How can UP's freedom-struggle history be studied analytically?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Meerut in 1857, Chauri Chaura in 1922 and Kakori in 1925 illustrate different episodes within the history of resistance to colonial rule. Accurate dates and locations provide a foundation, but analysis should also explain participants, objectives, methods and historical consequences.

The Meerut account records military action and civilian involvement. Chauri Chaura raises questions about mass mobilisation and the commitment to non-violence, because Gandhi halted Non-Cooperation after the incident. Kakori illustrates a revolutionary action directed at a government treasury carried by train. These episodes should not be treated as identical strategies.

Sources need contextual reading. Official commemorations help identify public memory, while contemporary records and scholarship can clarify motives, disagreements and constraints. An account should avoid assuming that every participant shared one objective or that one event explains the whole course of the national movement.

A useful answer compares forms of organisation and the relationship between local action and wider politics. It should distinguish description from interpretation and identify the evidence behind each claim. This approach makes chronology meaningful without reducing complex struggles either to a list of heroic names or to one simple explanation.

Self-assessment

Accurate examples: 3; comparison: 3; sources and nuance: 3; clarity: 1.

Evidence / basis: H2, H4, H5; editorial historical interpretation. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

04 / Heritage and tourism

How should UP balance heritage conservation and tourism?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri are distinct World Heritage properties with different historical functions. Sarnath and Kushinagar add important Buddhist associations. A tourism strategy should explain these differences while protecting the physical fabric, setting and continuing significance of each place.

Management begins with evidence about conservation condition, access, visitor pressure and local services. Repairs require qualified expertise and documented decisions. Routes, waste arrangements and facilities should respond to assessed capacity rather than an assumption that more visitors always produce better preservation or greater public benefit.

Local residents, practitioners, guides and businesses should help identify practical concerns. Heritage interpretation needs to distinguish historical evidence from religious tradition and promotional claims. The interests of people who use a place for worship or work should be considered alongside those of visitors and tourism operators.

Evaluation should track conservation condition, accessibility, service reliability and distribution of income. Visitor numbers and revenue are useful indicators, but insufficient alone. Transparent management and periodic review can reveal when tourism pressures are damaging the very qualities that attract people, allowing plans to change before harm becomes difficult to reverse.

Self-assessment

Heritage distinctions: 3; conservation and access: 3; community and interpretation: 2; evaluation: 2.

Evidence / basis: C1-C5; editorial conservation proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

05 / Craft livelihoods

How would you evaluate ODOP benefits for UP artisans?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

UP's ODOP programme supports district-linked products and industries. Lucknow's Chikankari, Bhadohi's carpets and Moradabad's metal craft illustrate different production traditions. The programme's stated aims establish an evaluation agenda; they do not by themselves prove that every artisan has benefited equally.

Assessment should examine net earnings, payment reliability, working conditions, market access and the costs of participation. Baseline records and suitable comparisons can help identify changes, while recognising that demand, input prices and other interventions may also affect results. Gross exports alone cannot show household-level welfare.

Implementation review should ask who receives training, finance, common facilities or marketing support and who remains excluded. Producer participation can reveal practical barriers that aggregate figures miss. Women, smaller enterprises and informal workers may face different constraints, which should be investigated rather than assumed away.

Findings should distinguish programme reach, delivery quality and outcomes. Support should be adapted to the needs of different crafts, rather than impose one identical business model. Publishing costs and limitations makes evaluation useful for improvement and helps keep heritage promotion connected with the livelihoods of the people sustaining these traditions.

Self-assessment

Programme context: 2; outcomes and attribution: 3; inclusion and delivery: 3; balanced review: 2.

Evidence / basis: E1, E2; editorial evaluation design. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

06 / Agriculture and water

Discuss agricultural growth alongside water sustainability in UP.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Agriculture in Uttar Pradesh includes major food grains such as wheat and rice, alongside crops linked to processing industries. Water conditions vary across the state. Growth therefore requires attention to output, resource reliability and the distribution of benefits among different kinds of cultivators.

Local assessment should examine rainfall, available storage, groundwater trends, irrigation maintenance and crop demand. A rise in production may coexist with declining water levels or higher pumping costs. Such outcomes should be evaluated together, rather than use a single harvest or statewide ranking as evidence of long-term sustainability.

Options include better delivery management, locally appropriate crop advice, soil-moisture measures and attention to storage and market losses. Farmers should participate in identifying constraints. Measures need to reflect local conditions and economic feasibility; no crop or irrigation technology is automatically suitable for every district or household.

Evaluation should track net farm returns, water reliability, resource trends and access for smaller producers. Rainfall differences and changing prices must be considered when interpreting results. A balanced approach connects agricultural development with sustained water management, allowing decisions to change when evidence reveals costs that were previously overlooked.

Self-assessment

Crop and regional context: 2; supply-demand assessment: 3; feasible measures: 3; evaluation: 2.

Evidence / basis: E3, D1; editorial agricultural framework. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

07 / Flood resilience

Suggest a flood-resilience plan for an eastern UP district.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The UP SDMA hazard profile identifies eastern districts and the Terai as important flood-risk areas. A district plan should translate this broad context into local evidence about rainfall, river levels, drainage, exposed settlements and access to essential services. Historical state statistics are not a current district assessment.

Preparedness should include understandable warnings, identified responsibilities and arrangements for reaching people with limited connectivity. Evacuation routes, shelters and continuity of essential services need practical testing. Engineering measures require maintenance and should be assessed for effects on neighbouring areas and residual risk.

Land-use decisions should consider flood pathways and exposure. Residents can identify recurring access problems and groups who may need additional assistance. Coordination among local bodies, irrigation, transport and emergency services should establish clear communication and a shared record of actions, rather than depend solely on informal contacts.

Evaluation should examine warning reach, response time, service continuity and changes in exposure or losses, while accounting for event severity. No single structure guarantees zero flooding. A useful plan combines prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, and uses experience from each event to correct weaknesses before the next season.

Self-assessment

Hazard and local evidence: 3; preparedness: 3; coordination and equity: 2; learning and limits: 2.

Evidence / basis: D1; editorial district-planning case. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

08 / Terai conservation

Why does Terai conservation need a habitat-mosaic approach?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The Terai landscape combines forest, grassland and wetland habitats. Dudhwa's protected-area complex includes Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur and Katarniaghat sanctuaries. Its significance cannot be captured by a single measure of tree cover, because different ecological functions depend on different parts of the landscape.

Assessment should examine habitat condition, water pathways, disturbance and connectivity. Increasing dense vegetation everywhere could be inappropriate where open grasslands or wetlands support important species. Management therefore requires site-specific ecological evidence, with historical descriptions used as context rather than a substitute for updated surveys.

Nearby communities should participate in identifying livelihood needs and practical pressures. Decisions about tourism or resource management need clear information about who benefits and who bears costs. Local observations can complement scientific monitoring while maintaining explicit standards of evidence and acknowledging uncertainty.

Evaluation should combine habitat indicators, connectivity and community experience. Visitor numbers or plantation counts alone are insufficient measures of success. The aim is sustained ecological function through accountable management of a connected landscape, with periodic review when monitoring shows that an intervention is producing unintended changes or failing to address a documented pressure.

Self-assessment

Landscape and reserve context: 3; ecological assessment: 3; participation: 2; evaluation: 2.

Evidence / basis: G4, N1; editorial conservation framework. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

09 / Local governance

How can three-tier Panchayati Raj improve rural services?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Uttar Pradesh's Panchayati Raj system includes Gram, Kshetra and Zila Panchayats. These correspond broadly to village, intermediate and district levels. Their potential contribution to rural services depends on clear functions, resources and accountability, rather than the existence of three institutional labels alone.

Planning should begin with local needs and information about existing service gaps. Village-level priorities can inform wider coordination where infrastructure or services cross boundaries. Responsibilities for financing, implementation and maintenance should be explicit, with procedures that communities and staff can understand and follow.

Participation needs practical arrangements that allow less-heard groups to contribute. Public information about decisions, expenditure and progress can support scrutiny, while grievance channels help identify failures. Digital records may improve tracking, but require reliable data, staff capacity and assisted access for people who cannot use online systems independently.

Evaluation should examine service reliability, equitable access, maintenance and responsiveness. Spending or construction totals are useful inputs and outputs, not complete evidence of improved welfare. Strengthening local governance therefore means connecting institutions with workable processes and meaningful public oversight, while checking the applicable legal provisions for specific powers and procedures.

Self-assessment

Tier structure: 2; functions and coordination: 3; participation and accountability: 3; outcomes: 2.

Evidence / basis: P4; editorial governance analysis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

10 / Urban development

Evaluate infrastructure through access, not construction alone.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Urban infrastructure can support movement, commerce and access to services, but construction totals alone do not demonstrate improved everyday life. A UP city or industrial cluster should be assessed through the problems a project is intended to solve and the people who are expected to benefit.

A baseline should examine travel time, cost, reliability, service gaps and environmental pressures. Evaluation can compare conditions before and after implementation, while considering other changes that may explain the results. The same facility may improve access for some users while imposing costs on others.

Planning should involve residents, workers and smaller enterprises. Affordable access, links with existing services and maintenance capacity need attention alongside the main structure. Land, livelihood and environmental concerns should be assessed transparently. Digital or physical design choices should not assume that every user has identical resources or abilities.

Success should include reliable service, reduced burdens, fair access and manageable operating costs. Public reporting can reveal whether benefits reach intended groups and whether maintenance is sustained. This approach links infrastructure investment to useful outcomes and allows revision when measured results differ from the original assumptions.

Self-assessment

Outcome framing: 2; evidence and comparison: 3; inclusion and trade-offs: 3; evaluation: 2.

Evidence / basis: E2 context; editorial infrastructure case. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

11 / Administrative ethics

An influential person pressures an officer to favour a supplier. Respond.

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The officer should protect an impartial decision process and maintain an accountable record. Pressure from an influential person does not justify changing evaluation criteria or giving a supplier an undisclosed advantage. The response should remain professional and follow the applicable procedures for the particular procurement.

First, the officer should document the communication accurately and avoid making promises. The evaluation should use the published criteria, with relevant conflicts disclosed through the proper channel. Where necessary, supervisory or designated oversight mechanisms should be informed according to the rules, without circulating sensitive information unnecessarily.

The officer should ensure that the process can continue fairly for all participants. Records, reasons and required approvals matter because a correct outcome is difficult to defend if the decision trail is incomplete. Any gift or personal benefit should be declined and handled under the relevant procedures.

A reasoned response combines integrity with practical implementation. It should neither hide pressure nor replace formal safeguards with a personal confrontation. Review should focus on whether criteria remained fair, records were complete and concerns reached the appropriate authority. This protects public trust while keeping the officer's actions verifiable.

Self-assessment

Ethical issue: 2; practical response: 4; records and procedures: 3; clarity: 1.

Evidence / basis: Editorial ethics case; administration theme in EX1. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

12 / Data and evidence

Why should public programmes report both counts and rates?

Practice target: about 175 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Counts show the scale of activity, while rates relate activity to a relevant base. A hypothetical centre completing forty of fifty requests has an eighty per cent completion rate. Another completing sixty of one hundred has a sixty per cent rate, despite its larger completed count.

Neither measure is sufficient alone. Counts help plan workload and resources, while rates help compare performance against demand. Comparisons also need information about case complexity, time periods, definitions and data quality. A higher rate may reflect easier cases or exclusion of difficult applications rather than genuinely better service.

Public reports should state denominators, units and dates clearly. Weighted aggregates should use underlying totals instead of taking an unweighted average of unequal groups. Qualitative feedback can explain barriers that a chart does not show. Hypothetical training data must remain clearly separated from actual administrative evidence.

Evaluation should combine scale, timeliness, quality and access across groups. Transparent methods make errors easier to detect and results easier to interpret. Reporting both counts and rates supports more defensible decisions, provided that officials also examine what the measures omit and resist treating one attractive number as complete proof of success.

Self-assessment

Count-rate distinction: 3; worked example: 2; comparison limits: 3; reporting quality: 2.

Evidence / basis: Editorial data case; chart and aptitude themes in EX1. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

13 / Historical sources

How can inscriptions and district histories be used critically to study ancient UP?

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Kaushambi and Shravasti provide Vatsa and Kosala capital associations, while the Samudragupta prashasti discussed by NCERT offers a different kind of evidence. The first task is to specify the claim: location, political relationship, date or interpretation.

A prashasti is a text of praise. It can preserve valuable names and political claims while presenting a ruler favourably. Its author, purpose and context should guide interpretation. An older pillar carrying a later inscription also requires separate treatment of the object and its added text.

District histories are useful starting points but can mix sourced history, tradition and errors. A verified association does not validate every sentence on the same page. Compare disputed details with specialist or archaeological evidence and retain uncertainty where necessary.

A sound answer identifies sources, distinguishes observation from inference and avoids treating a memorial, legend or promotional claim as independent proof of an exact event. Critical reading improves historical reconstruction without discarding useful evidence wholesale.

Self-assessment

Concrete anchors: 3; source purpose: 3; corroboration: 2; limits: 2.

Evidence / basis: H6–H9; editorial source-method framework. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

14 / Literature and public history

Connect literature, memorial places and educational institutions without confusing their evidence.

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

UP study can connect Tulsidas with Ramcharitmanas, Premchand with Godan, Kabir with Maghar and BHU with Varanasi. These associations represent different kinds of cultural evidence and should retain their distinctions.

A library catalogue identifies an author, language and a particular edition or translation. The English translation of an Awadhi original does not change the original language. Similarly, a listed modern edition year is not evidence of first publication. The roles of author, editor and translator should remain separate.

Memorial sites show how communities commemorate a figure. Their location and documented association do not automatically settle contested biographical chronology. BHU's institutional account distinguishes the 1915 Act from its 1916 foundation and acknowledges collaboration in its founding.

A useful public-history display would label source, date and claim beside each object or place. This connects cultural memory with verifiable records while allowing students to see what each source establishes and what requires further investigation.

Self-assessment

Four anchors: 3; catalogue distinctions: 3; memorial/institution evidence: 2; presentation: 2.

Evidence / basis: C7–C9, H10; editorial synthesis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

15 / Bundelkhand agriculture

Design a locally grounded farm-resilience approach for a Bundelkhand district.

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Bundelkhand's erratic rainfall and uneven farm conditions require local diagnosis. The RLB Central Agricultural University seed-and-farm profile supplies regional context, while the Hamirpur apiculture case illustrates one possible diversification pathway. Neither establishes one solution for every holding.

Begin with soil condition, drainage, water availability, crop demand and household constraints. Water budgets should compare reliable supply with demand before promoting additional irrigation or a new crop. Suitable planting material, timely advice and affordable access matter alongside physical infrastructure.

Diversification should be tested against seasonal resources, skills, disease risks, costs and market access. Beekeeping, for example, needs attention to forage and bee health as well as honey sales. Small demonstrations and farmer feedback can expose practical barriers before wider expansion.

Evaluation should track sustained net returns, water reliability, risk and access across different farm groups. Baselines and transparent cost accounting help distinguish genuine improvement from higher gross receipts or a single favourable season.

Self-assessment

Local diagnosis: 3; water/seed strategy: 3; diversification: 2; evaluation: 2.

Evidence / basis: G5, G6; editorial planning case. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

16 / Seed systems

Explain how a healthy planting-material programme can connect research with farm adoption.

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The cited historical sugarcane case describes collaboration among a Lucknow research institution, mills, cane administration and farmers. It highlights healthy planting material as a production bottleneck. The lesson is institutional coordination, rather than a guarantee that a past variety or output record remains optimal today.

A programme should assess demand, establish quality-controlled multiplication and maintain traceable supply. Suitable material must reach growers at the right time and cost. Extension should explain handling and crop management, while farmer observations can reveal performance or disease problems requiring investigation.

Responsibilities should be explicit: research supports evidence, multiplication supplies material, administration coordinates access and farmers make adoption decisions within their constraints. Feedback and complaint channels help correct failures in the chain.

Measure availability, quality, adoption costs and farm results across representative growers. Historical production growth alone cannot isolate the programme's effect. Current recommendations require current evidence on suitability and plant health, rather than uncritical reuse of an older success story.

Self-assessment

Historical context: 2; supply-chain design: 4; feedback/access: 2; evidence limits: 2.

Evidence / basis: G7; editorial implementation framework. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

17 / Literacy and inequality

Interpret UP literacy change between Census 2001 and 2011 using the supplied chart.

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

UP's overall literacy rate increased from 56.27 per cent in 2001 to 67.68 per cent in 2011, a rise of 11.41 percentage points. The rates concern people aged seven and above and describe historical Census observations, not the current situation.

Male literacy rose from 68.82 to 77.28 per cent, gaining 8.46 points. Female literacy rose from 42.22 to 57.18 per cent, gaining 14.96 points. The male-female gap consequently narrowed from 26.60 to 20.10 points, a reduction of 6.50 points. Faster improvement among females did not eliminate the gap.

These rates cannot provide absolute changes in literate population without the corresponding population totals. Nor do two observations reveal annual trajectories, district variation or a particular programme's causal contribution.

Policy analysis should combine comparable disaggregated evidence with information on learning, access and barriers. A current assessment needs newer verified observations with clearly stated definitions rather than presenting 2011 rates as 2026 estimates.

Self-assessment

Overall change: 2; group/gap arithmetic: 4; limits: 2; policy use: 2.

Evidence / basis: D3; arithmetic and editorial interpretation. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

18 / Remote sensing

How should a district use satellite crop information responsibly?

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

ISRO describes remote-sensing applications in agriculture, including crop assessment and forecasting. A district can use spatial information to identify patterns and prioritise investigation, but a map should support decisions through a documented evidence process.

Begin with a clear question, observation date and appropriate spatial scale. Crop classification can be affected by similar signatures, cloud cover and crop stage. Independent field samples should test interpretation across relevant conditions rather than merely confirm selected successful predictions.

Combine satellite information with weather, soil, water and farmer observations. Forecasts should communicate uncertainty and document revisions as new evidence arrives. A regional estimate does not automatically establish conditions on every plot or identify the cause of a local crop problem.

Officials should record how information changes an action, verify results and provide a route to correct errors. Transparent methods, representative validation and local feedback make the technology useful while preventing precise-looking maps from being mistaken for complete or infallible knowledge.

Self-assessment

Application: 2; validation: 3; integration/uncertainty: 3; accountable use: 2.

Evidence / basis: S1; editorial district application. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

19 / Enterprise evaluation

A district promotes beekeeping. How would you evaluate livelihood results?

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The Hamirpur ICAR case makes apiculture a relevant example for examining farm diversification. Evaluation should begin with the intended livelihood change and a baseline, rather than count distributed equipment or participants as final success.

Track adoption, seasonal production, sales, operating costs and the value of household labour. Bee health, forage availability, skills and buyer reliability affect viability. Net returns and stability matter more than gross receipts from a selected successful beneficiary. Record losses and enterprises that discontinue as well as surviving examples.

Compare outcomes across participant groups and, where feasible, a credible comparison group. Weather, prices and other assistance may affect results independently of training. Follow-up across seasons can test whether a favourable first result persists.

Qualitative feedback can explain barriers such as working capital or market access. Report methods, coverage and uncertainty, and use findings to improve support. The aim is to establish who benefits, at what cost and under which conditions, without treating a case study as a universal income promise.

Self-assessment

Baseline/outcomes: 3; costs and risks: 3; comparison: 2; improvement/limits: 2.

Evidence / basis: G5; editorial evaluation case. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

20 / Data communication

Prepare principles for a clear and honest state-development dashboard.

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

A useful dashboard should answer defined policy questions with clearly labelled evidence. Every indicator needs a unit, date, source and population base. Historical Census literacy, hypothetical training values and current administrative records should be visibly distinguished.

Show both counts and rates where they answer different questions. Rates need explicit denominators, while aggregates should use appropriate population or case weights. A rise from 56.27 to 67.68 per cent is 11.41 percentage points, rather than 11.41 per cent relative growth. Chart scales should not exaggerate small differences.

Disaggregate carefully to reveal uneven access, while protecting sensitive information. Comparable definitions and periods are essential before ranking districts. A state average may conceal local problems, and programme activity totals do not independently demonstrate outcomes or causation.

Provide explanations, accessible tables and a correction process. Update dates should distinguish the source observation from the dashboard publication date. This makes the display useful for decisions and helps readers recognise uncertainty instead of inferring completeness from visual polish.

Self-assessment

Labels/provenance: 3; statistical accuracy: 3; comparison/limits: 2; accessibility: 2.

Evidence / basis: D3; editorial dashboard framework. Editorial model answer.

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

EX1 / Police Board: constable 2025 notification, syllabus appendix

uppbpb.gov.in

EX2 / Police Board: written-exam procedure, 5 February 2026

uppbpb.gov.in

EX3 / UPPSC: official paper archive, including PCS 2025 GS I-VI

uppsc.up.nic.in

EX4 / UPPSC: PCS 2025 GS V, indexed instructions

uppsc.up.nic.in

H1 / UP NRI Department: UP Divas, renaming and reorganisation

nri.up.gov.in

H2 / Meerut district: 10 May 1857 and local industries

meerut.nic.in

H3 / Jhansi district: Bundelkhand setting and Rani Lakshmibai

jhansi.nic.in

H4 / Gorakhpur district: Chauri Chaura memorial and movement

gorakhpur.nic.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

H5 / PIB New India Samachar, August 2025: Kakori train action

newindiasamachar.pib.gov.in

C1 / UNESCO: Taj Mahal

whc.unesco.org

C2 / UNESCO: Agra Fort

whc.unesco.org

C3 / UNESCO: Fatehpur Sikri

whc.unesco.org

C4 / UP NRI Department: Sarnath and the Lion Capital

nri.up.gov.in

C5 / UP NRI Department: Kushinagar and Mahaparinirvana

nri.up.gov.in

C6 / Sangeet Natak Akademi: Kathak Kendra and Lucknow gharana

www.sangeetnatak.gov.in

G1 / Central Water Commission: Ganga basin, tributary systems

www.cwc.gov.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

G2 / Prayagraj district: confluence, regional setting and crops

prayagraj.nic.in

G3 / Lucknow district: Gomti and city setting

lucknow.nic.in

G4 / Wildlife Institute of India: Terai Arc landscape, physical features

digitalrepository.wii.gov.in

N1 / WII tiger-reserve portal: Dudhwa landscape and components

mee-tr.wii.gov.in

N2 / Ramsar Convention: Bakhira freshwater marsh

www.ramsar.org

N3 / UP Eco-Tourism Board: Parvati Arga and state bird

upecoboard.up.gov.in

E1 / Official ODOP portal: district-product associations

odopup.in

E2 / Official ODOP portal: programme aims and support areas

odopup.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

E3 / UP NRI Department: food-processing and crop context

www.nri.up.gov.in

P1 / UP Assembly: bicameral structure and 403 elected seats

www.upvidhansabhaproceedings.gov.in

P2 / UP Council: constitution and 100-seat composition

vidhanparishadproceedings.up.gov.in

P3 / Allahabad High Court: history of the Lucknow Bench

www.allahabadhighcourt.in

P4 / Panchayati Raj Department: village, block and district institutions

panchayatiraj.up.nic.in

D1 / UP SDMA: historical flood and drought hazard profile

upsdma.up.nic.in

D2 / UP SDMA: state location profile in disaster-management plan

sdma.up.gov.in

H6 / Kaushambi district: ancient Vatsa capital

kaushambi.nic.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

H7 / Shravasti district: Kosala and Rapti setting

shravasti.nic.in

H8 / Kannauj district: Harsha and Xuanzang association

kannauj.nic.in

H9 / NCERT via IIT Kanpur SATHEE: New Empires and Kingdoms

sathee.iitk.ac.in

H10 / BHU: foundation, founder and Varanasi campus

www.bhu.ac.in

C7 / Sant Kabir Nagar district: Maghar, Sant Kabir Chaura

sknagar.nic.in

C8 / JGU library catalogue: Ramcharitmanas, original Awadhi

books.jgu.edu.in

C9 / IIT Bhubaneswar library catalogue: Premchand, Godan

koha.iitbbs.ac.in

G5 / ICAR: apiculture case in Hamirpur, Bundelkhand

icar.gov.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

G6 / RLB Central Agricultural University: Seed and Farm Directorate

rlbcau.ac.in

G7 / ICAR: historical UP sugarcane research collaboration case

icar.gov.in

D3 / Lok Sabha annex: Census 2001/2011 state literacy table

sansad.in

S1 / ISRO: agriculture and soil applications

www.isro.gov.in

Read sources in context

EX1–EX2: indexed official text; direct retrieval unreliable. EX3: paper labels. EX4: indexed instructions, not question-frequency analysis. Official PET syllabus was inaccessible. Practice is original; exact current exam coverage is not claimed.

P1 has obsolete text; selected institutional facts only. H6–H8 contain legends or errors: use only cited place associations. Catalogue edition years are not original publication dates. Verify changing rules separately.

D3 is historical Census data, age 7+, not current estimates or impact evidence. G5–G7 are contextual cases, not statewide crop prescriptions or current rankings. S1 supports applications; scenario judgements are editorial.