Gujarat

Mains answer-writing practice

8 original descriptive questions + model answers

State GK and state-linked general studies, in one PDF.

Higher level: eight analytical prompts, each with a roughly 150-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 focused first 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
Start practice - page 3
Source register - page 11

What the exam research tells us

1 / Foundation-level evidence

The indexed GPSSB Work Assistant 17/2025-26 syllabus explicitly includes India/Gujarat history and a general-awareness component. The official Junior Clerk 13/2025-26 notice is a separate post-specific example. Access to full recruitment PDFs was intermittent; no universal mark allocation is claimed here. [EX1/EX3]

2 / Higher-level preparation

GARC's December 2025 official report describes GPSC recruitment as involving preliminary tests and, for relevant cadres, mains and interviews; it also notes variation by cadre. The GPSC 2025 GS notice could not be fully retrieved. Advanced formats here are editorial choices, not claimed frequency findings from past papers. [EX2/EX4]

3 / Gujarat coverage

State formation; freedom movements; coastal and river geography; Harappan and stepwell heritage; living urban heritage; Garba and Patola; wildlife and wetlands; dairy cooperatives, industry, resources and public services.

Format and evidence limits

All questions are original practice, not previous-year questions or an official mock. MCQs have four options. Mains prompts, word targets and 10-mark self-assessment guides are editorial practice. This state-focused collection does not cover a complete Gujarati, English, aptitude, technical or current-affairs syllabus.

Using the three PDFs

Basic develops recall and simple application. Advanced adds statements, chronology, source interpretation and numerical reasoning. Mains develops structured analysis. Use the exact applicable advertisement, syllabus and amendments to decide your full preparation plan.

Write, compare, improve

01 / Freedom movements

Compare Bardoli Satyagraha and the Dandi March as examples of collective action in Gujarat.

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

Model answer

Bardoli Satyagraha in 1928 and the Dandi March in 1930 used non-violent collective action against colonial authority. Bardoli, led by Vallabhbhai Patel, challenged increased land-revenue assessment. Gandhi's march from Sabarmati to Dandi challenged the salt regime and became a major episode of civil disobedience.

Their immediate issues differed. Bardoli centred on cultivators' resistance to a revenue demand, while the salt campaign used an everyday commodity to mobilise a wider public. Revenue refusal and the public breaking of the salt law connected specific grievances with questions of legitimate authority.

Both depended on organisation, communication and disciplined participation. Leadership mattered, but local networks and participants sustained collective pressure. Their significance lies in the relationship between concrete economic burdens and wider political mobilisation.

The comparison should preserve differences of scale, issue and method. These campaigns were not identical episodes. Together, they show how Gujarat's local experiences contributed to the national freedom struggle and how non-violent action could make colonial policies a subject of public challenge.

Self-assessment

Correct dates and leaders 3; meaningful comparison 4; participation, evidence and structure 3.

Evidence / basis: H2/H3/H4; original historical comparison. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

02 / Water heritage

What can Dholavira and Rani-ki-Vav contribute to public understanding of water management, and what are the limits of direct comparison?

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

Model answer

Dholavira's reservoirs and Rani-ki-Vav's stepwell show that water management is part of the history of technology, settlement and cultural expression. They belong to different periods and settings, so their value lies in careful comparison rather than treating them as one continuous design.

Dholavira provides evidence of organised storage within a Harappan urban settlement. Rani-ki-Vav combines water architecture with elaborate sculpture. Interpreting these sites can help visitors ask how people accessed, stored and valued water under particular conditions.

Their relevance to present concerns should be explained with limits. An ancient structure cannot be transferred unchanged to a modern settlement with different population, rainfall, groundwater conditions and public-health needs. Historical ingenuity offers questions and principles, not a ready engineering specification.

Conservation and education should therefore protect material evidence, explain uncertainty and relate each structure to its setting. Modern projects still require current measurements and technical assessment. The strongest lesson is to connect water planning with local constraints and social use while respecting differences across time.

Self-assessment

Accurate distinctions 3; useful interpretation 4; limits and contemporary application 3.

Evidence / basis: U1/U2; original comparative analysis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

03 / Cooperatives and livelihoods

Using Anand's dairy association as context, explain how a cooperative can improve producer livelihoods and how its performance should be evaluated.

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

Model answer

Anand's association with cooperative dairying provides a useful context for examining collective economic organisation. Small producers may face difficulties in reaching markets, maintaining quality and negotiating prices individually. Shared procurement, processing and marketing can address some of these constraints.

Performance depends on governance as well as scale. Producers need understandable accounts, meaningful participation and fair procedures for measuring quality and making payments. Reliable collection and processing can support market access, but management costs and uneven participation can weaken benefits.

Evaluation should examine net producer returns, payment reliability, service quality and access for smaller suppliers. It should also consider whether women and less influential members can participate in decisions and use services. Higher turnover alone does not establish improved household welfare.

A cooperative is therefore a means of organising economic activity, not an automatic guarantee of success. Durable livelihood gains require capable management, accountable institutions and continuing attention to production costs, quality and markets. Results should be assessed through members' experience alongside financial and operational records.

Self-assessment

Economic mechanism 3; governance and inclusion 4; appropriate outcome measures 3.

Evidence / basis: E2; original cooperative-development analysis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

04 / Living heritage

Suggest a conservation approach for an inhabited pol in historic Ahmedabad.

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

Model answer

An inhabited pol is a living neighbourhood as well as part of Ahmedabad's historic urban fabric. Its streets, houses and shared spaces have social functions. Conservation should therefore begin by understanding residents' needs and the condition of buildings and infrastructure.

A survey should record historic features, structural risks, drainage, fire access and everyday movement. Residents, craftspeople and technical specialists should help identify practical repairs. Essential services should improve safety and habitability while avoiding unnecessary damage to significant fabric.

Visitor management should respect privacy, religious use and access to homes and workplaces. Clear routes and interpretation can improve understanding without turning the neighbourhood into a stage set. Assistance for appropriate repair should use transparent criteria and support continuing residential use.

Evaluation should track building condition, service quality and residents' ability to remain and work in the area. Tourist numbers and fresh paint are incomplete indicators. A successful approach protects heritage through continued use, informed maintenance and negotiated improvements, with responsibilities and costs clearly shared among the relevant participants.

Self-assessment

Living-heritage understanding 3; practical conservation measures 4; participation and outcomes 3.

Evidence / basis: U3; original urban-conservation plan. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

05 / Craft transmission

Propose a plan to support Patola practitioners while protecting skill, attribution and viable livelihoods.

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

Model answer

Patan's double-ikat Patola depends on preparing both warp and weft patterns and aligning them during weaving. Supporting the craft should address the time, skill and coordination involved, rather than focusing only on sales displays.

A programme should begin with practitioners' priorities for training, materials, working conditions and market access. Apprenticeships should provide fair support and opportunities for sustained learning. Documentation needs consent and proper attribution, while public interpretation should distinguish technique from superficial visual resemblance.

Market support could improve product information, transparent pricing and access to buyers. Practitioners should retain a voice in design and adaptation. Commercial partnerships need clear terms for payment, credit and the use of names and images. Assistance should avoid imposing a single aesthetic as the only authentic form.

Evaluation should track net earnings, payment reliability, active learning and practitioners' assessment of continuity. Higher sales can coexist with rising costs or weak skill transmission. The objective is a viable living practice in which recognition and income support continuing expertise.

Self-assessment

Technique and context 3; practical livelihood and learning measures 4; consent and evaluation 3.

Evidence / basis: C3; original craft-support plan. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

06 / Conservation landscapes

How can tourism around a Gujarat wildlife landscape support conservation and local livelihoods?

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

Model answer

Gujarat's Gir landscape, Little Rann and Nalsarovar represent different ecological settings. A tourism plan should begin with the needs of the particular habitat rather than applying the same visitor model everywhere. Wildlife protection and residents' livelihoods both require attention.

Planning should map sensitive areas, seasonal conditions, visitor routes and existing local uses. Limits on access and activities should follow ecological evidence and safety needs. Training, fair work opportunities and local purchasing can help nearby households benefit, while a complaints process should address costs and disturbance.

Income alone is insufficient evidence of success. Monitoring should examine habitat condition, wildlife disturbance, waste, water use and the distribution of earnings. Where conservation creates restrictions or wildlife-related losses, affected residents need a credible process for reporting problems and obtaining appropriate responses.

Tourism should remain a tool rather than the sole purpose of management. A durable approach links manageable visitor pressure with reliable local benefits and adjusts operations when evidence shows harm, unequal access or declining ecological conditions.

Self-assessment

Site-specific ecological approach 3; livelihood and management measures 4; monitoring and accountability 3.

Evidence / basis: N1/N2/N3 for settings; original management framework. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

07 / Industrial development

Outline a balanced framework for assessing a hypothetical textile-cluster expansion near Surat.

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

Model answer

Surat's textile association makes it a useful setting for examining industrial growth. An expansion may create work and business opportunities, but a balanced assessment must consider infrastructure, environmental pressures and who receives the benefits.

The economic appraisal should distinguish temporary construction jobs from continuing employment. It should examine wages, skills, working conditions, local purchasing and the viability of smaller firms. Gross sales should be considered alongside costs and changes in household income.

Water demand, wastewater treatment, waste handling and transport require baseline information and credible operating arrangements. Assessment should consider cumulative pressure from existing activity, not just the proposed addition. Responsibilities for compliance, monitoring and corrective action should be clear under applicable requirements.

Workers, residents and businesses need access to understandable information and a way to raise concerns. Evaluation should track job quality, environmental conditions and the distribution of gains and losses over time. Development is stronger when productive capacity grows alongside dependable services, accountable management and durable improvements in local welfare.

Self-assessment

Balanced economic appraisal 3; environmental and service measures 4; participation and evaluation 3.

Evidence / basis: E1 for industrial context; original hypothetical appraisal. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

08 / Accessible recruitment

Design an evaluation of a hypothetical digital recruitment portal that measures candidate experience as well as administrative speed.

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

Model answer

A digital recruitment portal should help eligible candidates complete a reliable application and understand subsequent steps. Faster form entry is useful, but it does not prove that the full process is accessible or dependable.

Evaluation should follow the journey from finding the correct advertisement to submitting documents and receiving confirmation. Indicators should include completion rates, upload failures, payment problems, response times and unresolved complaints. Results should be examined across device types, connectivity conditions and accessibility needs.

Testing with candidates can reveal unclear instructions and repeated failures. Improvements might include understandable error messages, accessible forms, status tracking and assistance that does not compromise personal information. Any change should be checked through actual tasks rather than a demonstration alone.

Administrative records should be combined with user feedback and analysis of abandoned applications. Performance reporting should distinguish registrations from successful submissions and acknowledge system outages. The objective is timely recruitment with fair practical access, clear accountability and a dependable way to correct errors before they become barriers to participation.

Self-assessment

Complete user journey 3; practical indicators and improvements 4; access and accountability 3.

Evidence / basis: Original administrative scenario; EX2 for recruitment context. Editorial model answer.

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 28 October 2026.

EX1 / GPSSB: Junior Clerk 13/2025-26 official notice; access intermittent

gpssb.gujarat.gov.in

EX2 / GARC: Sixth Report, December 2025; recruitment structures

garcguj.in

EX3 / GPSSB: Work Assistant 17/2025-26 syllabus; indexed text

gpssb.gujarat.gov.in

EX4 / GPSC: January 2025 GS notice; full PDF unavailable during research

gpsc.gujarat.gov.in

H1 / Gandhinagar district: state formation and capital history

gandhinagar.nic.in

H2 / Sabarmati Ashram Trust: digital historical guide

audioguide.gandhiashramsabarmati.org

H3 / Sardar Patel Trust: Bardoli Satyagraha

sardarpateltrust.org

H4 / IIPA: Sardar Patel chronology; Bardoli revenue protest

www.iipa.org.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 28 October 2026.

G1 / Gujarat NRI Division: history and geographical setting

nri.gujarat.gov.in

G2 / Narmada district: Sardar Sarovar Dam and river

narmada.nic.in

U1 / UNESCO: Dholavira, a Harappan City

whc.unesco.org

U2 / UNESCO: Rani-ki-Vav at Patan

whc.unesco.org

U3 / UNESCO: Historic City of Ahmadabad

whc.unesco.org

C1 / Gujarat Tourism: Sun Temple, Modhera

gujarattourism.com

C2 / UNESCO: Garba inscription on intangible-heritage list, 2023

www.unesco.org

C3 / Gujarat Tourism: Patan Patola and double-ikat process

gujarattourism.com

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 28 October 2026.

N1 / Gujarat Tourism: Gir landscape and Asiatic lions

gujarattourism.com

N2 / India Cine Hub: Little Rann landscape and wild ass

indiacinehub.gov.in

N3 / Convention on Wetlands: Nalsarovar designation

www.ramsar.org

E1 / Surat Municipal Corporation: city, river and industries

www.suratmunicipal.gov.in

E2 / Anand district: economy and cooperative dairying

anand.nic.in

Read sources in context

Pages can mix stable facts and dated statistics. This edition uses stable geographical and industrial associations; it does not present old counts, rankings or production figures as current. Verify changing boundaries, schemes and examination rules separately.

Garba is recognised under intangible heritage; Dholavira, Rani-ki-Vav and historic Ahmadabad are built World Heritage properties. Numerical data and administrative cases are invented exercises. Model answers are editorial suggestions.