Odisha

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

Entry-level evidence

The cited OSSSC CRE-2023 notice specifies high-school-standard objective testing in English, Odia, arithmetic, general knowledge, computer knowledge and general science. This state-GK supplement adds selected skill practice; it does not reproduce that paper. A dated notice illustrates one recruitment, not a universal or current pattern. [EX1]

Higher-level evidence and limit

OPSC provides syllabus and notice sections; the GA register lists OCS examination-rule amendments. The full OPSC syllabus PDF could not be retrieved reliably for this edition. Advanced and mains questions are therefore editorial state-GS enrichment, without a claim of exact OCS syllabus or previous-paper matching. [EX2, EX3]

Three practice levels

Basic emphasises recall and one-step applications. Advanced adds chronology, statements, source judgement, data and policy trade-offs. Mains develops structured analytical answers. Difficulty labels, 10-mark rubrics and word targets are editorial choices. All questions are original practice; no question-frequency or prediction claim is made.

Odisha themes

History, capital geography, Konark, Odissi, crafts, Hirakud, Deomali, Chilika, Bhitarkanika, Similipal and coastal preparedness anchor this collection. Official sources support factual claims. Numerical datasets and administrative dilemmas are hypothetical. Proposed policies are model-answer suggestions, not descriptions of existing government schemes.

Revision boundaries

Checked 29 October 2026. Prepare Odia, national GS, aptitude and current affairs separately as your exam requires. Verify the applicable notification. Changing figures, office-holders and district counts are excluded. Conflicting peak heights and Konark horse counts are not tested. Historical Ramsar species counts are not treated as current censuses.

Write, compare, improve

01 / History and livelihoods

Explain how the Paika Rebellion shows the link between colonial economic policy and resistance.

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

Model answer

The Paika Rebellion of 1817 demonstrates how changes in livelihood and political authority can reinforce one another. Paikas served as a landed militia, combining cultivation with military and police obligations. Their service lands therefore supported both household security and an established social role.

The Khordha gazetteer account describes resumption of service lands, revenue burdens and oppressive subordinate officials among the causes of discontent. Dispossession weakened recognised rights and status. Bakshi Jagabandhu provided leadership, while participation by Kandhas and other groups shows that resistance extended beyond one individual grievance.

An analytical answer should connect these pressures rather than list them separately. Economic insecurity could deepen distrust of colonial institutions; local leadership and familiarity with terrain could turn grievances into organised action. Neither leadership alone nor taxation alone fully explains mobilisation.

The uprising is consequently useful for studying the social foundations of resistance before 1857. Avoid treating all participants as identical or using contested priority labels as substitutes for evidence. Distinguish the documented causes, the coalition involved and the historical interpretation drawn from them.

Self-assessment

Context and Paika institution: 2; economic causes: 3; mobilisation and leadership: 3; balanced interpretation: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: H2. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

02 / Wetland governance

Suggest a balanced conservation and livelihood approach for Chilika Lake.

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

Model answer

Chilika is a brackish lagoon connected with the Bay of Bengal. Its ecological condition matters to waterbirds, fisheries and people who depend on wetland resources. Conservation should therefore consider livelihoods alongside habitat quality, rather than judge success only by visitor numbers.

A practical plan would monitor freshwater inflows, sea exchange, salinity and water quality across seasons. Local observations should complement scientific sampling. Waste and pollution sources need coordinated action beyond the immediate shoreline, while sensitive habitats require clearly explained rules and regular review.

Fishing communities should participate in decisions affecting access and restoration. Transparent consultations, fair grievance handling and support during any necessary restrictions can improve cooperation. Tourism operators should follow waste controls and responsible wildlife practices; benefits should reach local residents through accountable arrangements.

Chilika's removal from the Montreux Record in 2002 followed rehabilitation, but it does not guarantee permanent ecological security. Evaluate future measures using habitat indicators, livelihood reliability and compliance, with results made public. Where evidence is uncertain, pilot an intervention and review its effects before expanding it.

Self-assessment

Ecology and dependence: 2; monitoring and pollution: 3; participation and livelihoods: 3; evaluation: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: N1; editorial governance proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

03 / Coastal preparedness

Why must early warnings be linked to accessible shelters and community drills in coastal Odisha?

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

Model answer

A warning reduces risk only when people receive it, understand it and can act in time. OSDMA describes a communication chain between emergency centres and communities, while its shelter projects recognise the importance of access infrastructure and capacity building.

Preparation should map exposed settlements, identify safe routes and check that shelters have usable entrances, water, sanitation and essential equipment. Plans must include people with disabilities, older residents, children and those needing medical support. Clear responsibilities reduce confusion when evacuation time is limited.

Community drills can test message clarity, travel times and assistance arrangements. Multiple communication channels are needed because electricity or mobile networks may fail. Feedback from fishing hamlets and remote households should confirm whether the warning actually arrived and what prevented action.

Construction counts alone cannot demonstrate readiness. Administrators should review drill participation, equipment failures, route obstructions and unresolved complaints, then assign repairs and follow-up dates. Preparedness requires continuing maintenance and public trust, not a single seasonal meeting. A usable shelter and an actionable warning strengthen each other, while neither removes all residual disaster risk.

Self-assessment

Warning-to-action link: 2; accessible facilities: 3; drills and communication: 3; maintenance and evaluation: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: D1–D3; editorial preparedness proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

04 / Heritage management

Propose a visitor-management approach that protects Konark while benefiting nearby communities.

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

Model answer

Konark's thirteenth-century Sun Temple is a major architectural expression of Surya's chariot. UNESCO identifies its sculptural and historical significance, alongside pressures from environmental exposure, development and tourism. Management must protect the monument's fabric and setting while supporting a meaningful visitor experience.

Conservation decisions should follow professional assessment, with documented inspections and appropriate treatment of vulnerable structures. Visitor routes, clear signage and supervision can reduce avoidable contact with fragile elements. Nearby services should be planned around applicable protection requirements and environmental capacity rather than unrestricted expansion.

Local guides, artisans and service providers should have fair opportunities through training and transparent arrangements. Interpretation can explain architecture and social history without presenting every legend as established fact. Accessible visitor information and facilities should improve inclusion while respecting conservation needs.

Performance indicators should include conservation condition, crowding, waste, visitor understanding and local income opportunities. Public reporting and consultation can reveal conflicts early. Tourism revenue is valuable, but short-term attendance growth should not override the survival of the heritage that makes the destination important in the first place.

Self-assessment

Significance and pressures: 2; conservation measures: 3; community benefits: 3; monitoring and balance: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: C1; editorial management proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

05 / Crafts and development

How can Raghurajpur strengthen craft livelihoods without reducing heritage to mass-produced souvenirs?

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

Model answer

Raghurajpur is associated with Pattachitra and other traditional artistic practices. Its value lies in skilled work, knowledge transmission and the relationship between creators and their cultural setting. Livelihood policy should help artisans earn reliably while retaining control over how their work is represented.

An initial assessment should identify production costs, working conditions, market access and barriers faced by smaller or younger practitioners. Fair pricing, clear product information and direct sales opportunities can improve returns. Digital promotion should credit creators and use their consent rather than circulate unattributed copies.

Apprenticeships and locally designed teaching can sustain techniques while allowing artists to innovate. Shared services, such as packaging or payment support, should be optional and accountable. Tourism schedules should respect working time and avoid turning every household into a compulsory performance space.

Success requires more than higher footfall. Track artisan earnings, payment delays, participation of new learners and satisfaction with marketing arrangements. Decisions should be discussed with practitioners, including less visible workers. The objective is a living craft economy in which income and cultural agency support each other.

Self-assessment

Craft context: 2; market and income measures: 3; skills and agency: 3; meaningful indicators: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: C3; editorial livelihood proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

06 / Rivers and public policy

Using Hirakud, outline principles for fair river management.

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

Model answer

Hirakud stands across the Mahanadi near Sambalpur. This geographical fact provides a starting point for discussing river management, but it does not by itself establish the performance of any particular operating decision. Policy analysis requires current hydrological and social evidence.

Planning should examine rainfall, upstream inflows, storage conditions and downstream exposure together. Reliable forecasts and clear communication between responsible agencies can improve preparedness. Decisions should state their assumptions and acknowledge uncertainty, especially when extreme rainfall changes conditions faster than routine monitoring captures.

River users have different needs, including domestic supply, agriculture, livelihoods and ecosystem functions. Transparent consultation helps identify who benefits and who bears costs. Where an intervention affects land or access, assessment, lawful procedures and effective grievance handling are essential. Efficiency should not conceal unequal burdens on vulnerable households.

Evaluation should combine water reliability, risk reduction, environmental indicators and distributional outcomes. Publish understandable information and review decisions after major events. Avoid claiming that a single structure can eliminate every flood or resolve every water conflict; resilience depends on coordinated catchment management, preparedness and accountable institutions.

Self-assessment

Geographical anchor and evidence limits: 2; hydrological planning: 3; fairness and participation: 3; evaluation: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: G2 for location; editorial river-policy analysis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

07 / Ecology and development

How can mangrove conservation complement cyclone preparedness?

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

Model answer

Bhitarkanika illustrates why coastal ecosystems belong in development planning. The Ramsar account describes mangrove habitat, estuarine fish nurseries and protection against cyclones and tidal surges. These functions connect biodiversity with livelihoods and public safety, making conservation relevant beyond protected-area boundaries.

Planning should protect suitable habitat and maintain ecological connections while addressing encroachment and pollution through fair, lawful processes. Restoration requires site-specific assessment of hydrology and species suitability; planting targets alone do not demonstrate a functioning mangrove ecosystem. Community knowledge and independent monitoring can improve implementation.

Mangroves cannot provide complete protection against every storm. They should complement early warnings, evacuation routes, accessible shelters and trained responders. Risk communication must explain this limit so that environmental investment does not create false confidence or weaken preparedness budgets.

Participation matters where households rely on coastal resources. Discuss restrictions openly, provide workable alternatives where needed and monitor livelihood effects. Assess outcomes through habitat condition, recruitment of native vegetation, exposure reduction and community experience. A combined approach treats ecosystems and public infrastructure as mutually supporting parts of resilience, with responsibilities that remain clear.

Self-assessment

Mangrove functions: 2; sound conservation: 3; integration with preparedness: 3; fairness and monitoring: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: N2, D1–D3; editorial policy proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

08 / Ethics in relief

A shelter has limited supplies. Influential residents demand priority. As the officer, how would you respond?

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

Model answer

My immediate responsibility is to distribute essential supplies according to assessed need, without favouritism. Influence or social status should not displace people facing greater risk. I would explain the allocation principles calmly, while ensuring that an argument does not interrupt urgent assistance.

A quick, verifiable register would record household size and immediate needs, with particular attention to children, pregnant people, older residents, disability and medical vulnerability. Publish simple eligibility and distribution information without exposing sensitive personal details. Use trained staff and community representatives to check omissions and discourage duplicate claims.

I would document stock, allocations and shortages, request additional supplies through the appropriate channel and maintain a practical grievance process. If immediate rationing is unavoidable, communicate its basis and review it as new supplies or needs emerge. Conflicts should be managed proportionately and respectfully.

After urgent distribution, reconcile records and examine complaints independently. Any attempt to divert supplies should be recorded and referred through applicable procedures. The ethical test is whether decisions remain impartial, explainable and responsive under pressure, while preserving dignity and confidence in the relief operation.

Self-assessment

Impartiality and urgency: 2; need assessment and privacy: 3; accountable distribution: 3; review and dignity: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: Hypothetical ethics case; D1 for shelter context. 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 / OSSSC: CRE-2023 detailed advertisement; examination plan, p. 7

www.osssc.gov.in

EX2 / OPSC: official portal; examination syllabus and notices

opsc.gov.in

EX3 / GA Department: rules register and OCS amendments

ga.odisha.gov.in

H1 / Registrar of Cooperative Societies: province formation

rcs.odisha.gov.in

H2 / Khordha district: Paik Rebellion; gazetteer account

khordha.odisha.gov.in

H3 / State portal: Ashoka, Kalinga and rock edicts

odisha.gov.in

H4 / Lok Bhavan: Cuttack as the capital of the 1936 province

lokbhavan.odisha.gov.in

G1 / Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation: capital city

www.bmc.gov.in

Source register

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

G2 / Sambalpur district: Hirakud Dam on the Mahanadi

sambalpur.odisha.gov.in

G3 / Koraput district: Deomali and the Eastern Ghats

koraput.odisha.gov.in

C1 / UNESCO: Sun Temple, Konarak; significance and threats

whc.unesco.org

C2 / Odisha Tourism: Odissi classical dance

odishatourism.gov.in

C3 / Odisha Tourism: Raghurajpur and Pattachitra

odishatourism.gov.in

C4 / Odisha Tourism: music, crafts and festival associations

apps.odishatourism.gov.in

N1 / Ramsar: Chilika Lake, designation and restoration history

rsis.ramsar.org

N2 / Ramsar: Bhitarkanika Mangroves and coastal functions

rsis.ramsar.org

Source register

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

N3 / UNESCO MAB: Similipal Biosphere Reserve

www.unesco.org

N4 / Kendrapara district: Gahirmatha and Olive Ridley turtles

kendrapara.odisha.gov.in

D1 / OSDMA: community involvement in shelter management

www.osdma.org

D2 / OSDMA: Early Warning Dissemination System

www.osdma.org

D3 / OSDMA: shelter connectivity and capacity building

www.osdma.org

Read sources in context

EX1 is a historical recruitment example. EX2 is a verification gateway; its full syllabus was not accessible in this research. EX3 confirms rule amendments exist, not their complete examination scheme.

Ramsar summaries include older ecological information. We use stable habitat descriptions and recorded designation/restoration milestones. Policy recommendations and all sample calculations are editorial.

Older spellings Orissa, Oriya and Konarak may appear in sources. Province formation in 1936 is distinct from independence. No exact capital-transfer year, peak elevation or current wildlife population is asserted.