Haryana

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 exam evidence

HSSC's CET 01/2025 document includes a policy split of 75% general subjects and 25% Haryana topics. Appendix-C covers state history, literature, geography, economy, polity, environment and culture alongside aptitude, languages and computers. Group C is at 10+2 level, with Hindi/English at matric level. This is a cited cycle-specific example. [EX1]

2 / Higher-level exam evidence

The official 7 January 2026 HCS syllabus includes Haryana economy, people, institutions and language in prelims. Mains lists languages and GS I-IV, including Haryana issues in GS I-III and ethics case studies in GS IV. These themes guide the collection; question frequency and official marking are not inferred. [EX2]

3 / Haryana coverage

Formation and shared capital; Panipat battles and regional resistance; Harappan sites and sacred traditions; landforms and alluvium; folk performance; wetlands and forests; agriculture, dairy research, textiles, services and ethics.

Format and evidence limits

All questions are original practice, not previous-year questions or an official mock. Four-option MCQs and mains word targets/10-mark guides are editorial choices. This state-focused supplement does not replace full Hindi, English, aptitude, computer, current-affairs or exam-specific preparation.

Using the three PDFs

Basic develops recall and one-step applications. Advanced adds chronology, statements, source interpretation, data and policy reasoning. Mains develops structured answers. Use the applicable official advertisement, syllabus and amendments to decide your complete study plan.

Write, compare, improve

01 / Panipat in historical perspective

Explain why the three Battles of Panipat should be studied as distinct events rather than as one continuous conflict.

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

Model answer

The three famous Battles of Panipat took place in 1526, 1556 and 1761. The first involved Babur and Ibrahim Lodi; the second involved Hemu and Akbar's forces; the third involved Ahmad Shah Abdali and the Marathas. Their common location should not obscure their different political contexts.

The first battle is associated with the establishment of Mughal power, while the second concerned its consolidation under Akbar. The third belonged to a much later contest involving the Marathas and Abdali. A comparison should therefore consider participants, objectives, resources and consequences separately.

Repeated warfare at the same place can invite geographical questions about access and strategic movement. However, location alone cannot explain an outcome. Leadership, supply, alliances and the circumstances of each campaign also require evidence.

A sound historical account combines chronology with causal analysis. It avoids treating communities as permanent opposing blocs across centuries and distinguishes contemporary evidence from later memory. Panipat becomes more intelligible when similarities of setting are examined alongside differences in power and historical circumstance.

Self-assessment

Accurate chronology and participants 3; distinctions and significance 4; evidence and balanced interpretation 3.

Evidence / basis: H2; original comparative historical analysis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

02 / Archaeology and public history

Propose an interpretation and conservation plan for a Harappan site such as Rakhigarhi.

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

Model answer

Rakhigarhi provides evidence of Harappan settlement, including planned houses and drainage. An interpretation plan should explain what excavated remains show, how they are dated and which questions remain unresolved. It should avoid presenting every inference as a directly observed fact.

Site maps and accessible displays can distinguish structures, objects and archaeological layers. Comparisons with other sites may improve understanding, but similarities should not erase local differences. Sacred traditions and modern identities should be identified separately from the dating of material remains.

Conservation should begin with condition surveys, drainage, controlled visitor routes and appropriate protection of exposed features. Local residents and specialists should help identify pressures and workable management arrangements. Interpretation and facilities should improve access without damaging the evidence they explain.

Evaluation should track site condition, visitor understanding and local participation. Increased footfall alone does not establish success. A useful plan makes archaeology understandable while preserving the possibility of future investigation, respecting surrounding communities and communicating the limits of present knowledge.

Self-assessment

Use of evidence 3; practical interpretation and conservation 4; participation and evaluation 3.

Evidence / basis: A1/A2; original heritage-management framework. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

03 / Agriculture and water

Suggest a strategy to improve farm resilience in Haryana while reducing avoidable pressure on water resources.

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

Model answer

Farm resilience requires attention to income, production risk and water conditions together. Haryana contains contrasting landscapes, so a uniform crop prescription would overlook differences in soils, rainfall, irrigation and markets. Planning should begin with local measurements and farmers' experience.

Measures may include suitable crop diversification, improved irrigation scheduling, soil management and advice on costs and expected returns. Alternatives need reliable market access, storage and practical support; a crop that uses less water does not automatically provide a better livelihood.

Water assessment should measure total withdrawal as well as use per hectare. Efficiency gains can be offset if irrigated area expands or cropping becomes more intensive. Where drainage or salinity is a problem, simply supplying more water may worsen conditions.

Evaluation should compare net returns, risk, resource use and participation across different farm groups. Demonstration plots offer useful learning, but results need testing under wider conditions. A durable strategy combines technical advice with viable markets and accountable water management, adjusting measures when evidence shows unintended effects.

Self-assessment

Local diagnosis 3; linked farm and water measures 4; outcome assessment and risks 3.

Evidence / basis: G1/E4 for context; original agricultural strategy. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

04 / Wetland conservation

Design a conservation and visitor-management approach for a Haryana wetland such as Sultanpur or Bhindawas.

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

Model answer

Sultanpur and Bhindawas are important wetland habitats recognised under the Ramsar framework. Their domestic protected-area categories differ. Management should begin with each site's water regime, ecological condition and surrounding land uses rather than treating international recognition as a complete management plan.

Monitoring should record water levels and quality, habitat conditions, disturbance and bird use through comparable surveys. A single count can vary with season and survey effort, so trends require repeated evidence. Pollution sources and changes outside the site may affect conditions within it.

Visitor routes, timings and facilities should follow ecological sensitivity and safety needs. Local residents, guides and other users should help identify workable arrangements. Waste handling and clear information can reduce avoidable disturbance while supporting suitable livelihood opportunities.

Success should be judged by habitat condition, manageable visitor pressure and fair local outcomes. Ticket revenue alone is insufficient. Responsibilities for monitoring, complaints and corrective action should be clear so that the plan responds when conditions or pressures change.

Self-assessment

Accurate wetland context 3; ecological and visitor measures 4; participation and adaptive evaluation 3.

Evidence / basis: N1/N2/N3; original conservation plan. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

05 / Textiles and circular production

How should a hypothetical textile-recycling initiative in Panipat be evaluated beyond the amount of recycled fibre used?

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

Model answer

Panipat's textile industry provides a useful context for evaluating circular production. Recycled fibre can reduce demand for new material, but environmental benefit depends on how collection, sorting, processing, transport and final use are organised. One input measure cannot describe the whole system.

The assessment should compare material substitution, energy and water use, emissions, waste and product durability against a clear baseline. Rejected material and treatment requirements should be included. Expanding output may offset some savings per unit, so total impacts also matter.

Livelihood evaluation should examine work quality, safety, skills, wages and the position of smaller suppliers and workers. Higher sales do not establish fair distribution of benefits. Transparent purchasing and payment arrangements can help participants understand the terms of the initiative.

Claims should be supported by consistent records and independent checks where appropriate. Evaluation should combine environmental performance with viable economics and worker outcomes. A stronger initiative demonstrates measurable improvement across the production chain and corrects problems rather than relying solely on a green label.

Self-assessment

Production-chain understanding 3; environmental and livelihood measures 4; credible evidence and accountability 3.

Evidence / basis: E3 for industrial context; original hypothetical appraisal. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

06 / Peri-urban public services

A hypothetical fast-growing Haryana settlement has more jobs but poor drainage and rising housing costs. Outline an administrative response.

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

Model answer

Employment growth can improve opportunities while placing pressure on housing, drainage and other services. An administrative response should identify who benefits, who faces additional costs and which infrastructure gaps are most urgent. Aggregate job numbers are insufficient for judging household welfare.

A baseline should map settlements, drainage routes, service connections and vulnerable locations. Residents, workers, landlords and businesses should be consulted, including people whose housing or employment is informal. Immediate measures should address serious risks while longer-term planning coordinates services with growth.

Drainage work needs an assessment of the wider catchment and maintenance responsibilities. Housing responses should consider affordability, access to work and basic services. Relocation or new construction should be assessed for its effects on livelihoods and travel costs rather than assumed to solve every problem.

Evaluation should track flooding, service reliability, housing burdens and access across groups. Public reporting and a working complaints process can reveal recurring failures. The goal is growth accompanied by dependable services and practical access to opportunity, with clear responsibility for correcting gaps.

Self-assessment

Diagnosis and distribution 3; coordinated service and housing response 4; participation and outcomes 3.

Evidence / basis: Original Haryana-linked administrative scenario. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

07 / Culture and livelihoods

Suggest ways to support Saang and other Haryana folk traditions while improving practitioners' livelihoods.

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

Model answer

Saang, seasonal dance and folk music are living practices sustained by performers, learners and audiences. Support should recognise their different forms and social settings rather than treating all cultural activity as interchangeable entertainment for visitors.

A useful programme should begin with practitioners' priorities for rehearsal space, training, instruments and performance opportunities. Fair contracts, timely payment and transparent selection can improve livelihoods. Apprenticeships should support sustained learning rather than only short appearances at official events.

Documentation needs consent, attribution and attention to context. Digital recordings can widen access, but practitioners should have a voice in how performances are edited, credited and reused. Adaptation may be part of a living tradition; support should not impose a single version as the only legitimate form.

Evaluation should examine earnings, payment reliability, opportunities to learn and practitioners' assessment of continuity. Audience size and event counts provide only partial evidence. The objective is to strengthen the conditions in which skills and cultural meanings can continue, alongside fair recognition and viable work.

Self-assessment

Cultural understanding 3; practical transmission and livelihood measures 4; consent and evaluation 3.

Evidence / basis: C3/C4/C5; original cultural-support plan. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

08 / Ethics case: a sports grant

You assess sports-club grants in a Haryana district. A close relative applies and a senior colleague asks you to favour the club. Explain your response.

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

Model answer

The situation creates a conflict of interest and a risk of unfair influence. My responsibility is to protect an impartial process and public funds while ensuring that the application receives treatment under the same published rules as others.

I would disclose the relationship through the authorised channel and seek an independent assessment arrangement in accordance with applicable procedures. I would not secretly score the application, favour it or reject it automatically because of the relationship. The relevant criteria should determine its merits.

The request for preferential treatment should be refused clearly and professionally. Material communications and decisions should be recorded appropriately, with concerns raised through the proper supervisory or oversight process if pressure continues. Applicant information must remain confidential except where disclosure is authorised.

The process should include clear reasons, consistent documentation and the applicable review mechanism. These steps protect both fairness and confidence in the result. A good outcome is not merely a defensible score; it is an assessment that can withstand scrutiny without concealed influence or personal advantage.

Self-assessment

Identify conflict and competing duties 3; proportionate independent process 4; records, confidentiality and accountability 3.

Evidence / basis: Original ethics case; EX2 for case-study preparation 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 / HSSC CET 01/2025: policy p28; Appendix-C p36 (PDF pages)

hssc.gov.in

EX2 / Haryana Personnel Department: HCS syllabus, 7 January 2026

csharyana.gov.in

H1 / Haryana Vidhan Sabha: reorganisation and joint capital

haryanaassembly.gov.in

H2 / Panipat district: three battles and historical chronology

panipat.gov.in

H3 / Haryana Information Department: Rao Tula Ram and 1857

prms.prharyana.gov.in

G1 / Government of Haryana: physical geography and alluvial landforms

www.haryana.gov.in

G2 / Haryana Wildlife Department: regional landscapes

wildlife.haryanaforest.gov.in

A1 / Haryana Tourism: Harappan settlement at Rakhigarhi

haryanatourism.gov.in

Source register

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

A2 / Haryana Archaeology: excavations at Banawali and Rakhigarhi

archaeology.haryana.gov.in

C1 / Kurukshetra district: Jyotisar and its sacred association

kurukshetra.gov.in

C2 / Haryana Tourism: Surajkund and Faridabad

haryanatourism.gov.in

C3 / Haryana Art and Cultural Affairs: Phag and dance traditions

artandculturalaffairshry.gov.in

C4 / Haryana Art and Cultural Affairs: music and instruments

artandculturalaffairshry.gov.in

C5 / Kaithal district: Saang folk theatre and cultural heritage

kaithal.gov.in

N1 / Haryana Wildlife Department: Sultanpur National Park

wildlife.haryanaforest.gov.in

N2 / Jhajjar district: Bhindawas bird sanctuary

jhajjar.nic.in

Source register

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

N3 / Convention on Wetlands: Sultanpur and Bhindawas Ramsar listing

www.ramsar.org

N4 / Haryana Wildlife Department: Kalesar National Park

wildlife.haryanaforest.gov.in

E1 / CCS Haryana Agricultural University: Hisar

www.hau.ac.in

E2 / ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute: Karnal

www.ndri.res.in

E3 / Panipat district: textiles, carpets and handlooms

panipat.gov.in

E4 / Kaithal district: agriculture and crop seasons

kaithal.gov.in

Read sources in context

Formation dates, physical features and historical associations are separated from current statistics. Verify changing administrative boundaries, office-holders, schemes and recruitment instructions separately. Sacred associations are identified as tradition rather than archaeological dating.

Ramsar recognition and domestic protected-area categories are distinct. Numerical figures and administrative situations are invented practice exercises. Model answers and self-assessment guides are editorial suggestions, not official keys.