Himachal Pradesh

Advanced MCQ practice

24 original MCQs + explained answers

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

Higher level: chronology, statements, evidence checks, data interpretation and policy applications. A bridge towards graduate-level state-service preparation.

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

Attempt every item before opening the answers. Record uncertain answers and revise the explanation. One correct option per question; no official marking scheme is implied.

Research and scope - page 2
Start practice - page 3
Answers and explanations - page 11
Source register - page 17

What the exam research tells us

1 / Foundation-level preparation

An inspected HPRCA Pharmacy Officer syllabus copy lists HP GK with current affairs, science, reasoning and languages alongside specialist subjects. It is a primary-document copy hosted by a publisher, not independently matched to the official download page. It is a post-specific example, not a universal basic-exam pattern. [EX1]

2 / Higher-level evidence

The indexed official HPAS 2025 advertisement lists HP history, geography, polity, art/culture and socioeconomic development in objective prelims. An official indexed notice changes GS mains questions from 2024 onwards to 150-word/8-mark and 225-word/12-mark formats. Full legacy PDF access was unreliable. This book's 10-mark guides are editorial, not that official scheme. [EX2/EX3]

3 / State coverage

Formation and statehood; Himalayan regions and rivers; railway and natural heritage; monasteries, painting, embroidery, festivals and architecture; tea, horticulture, hydropower, wetlands, tourism and mountain services.

Format and evidence limits

All items are original practice, not previous-year questions or an official mock. MCQs use four options. Mains models are about 150 words with practice self-assessment guides. This state-focused collection does not cover a complete language, aptitude, technical or current-affairs syllabus.

Using the three PDFs

Basic develops recall and simple applications. Advanced adds chronology, statements, evidence checks, data and policy reasoning. Mains develops structured analysis. Match the applicable official advertisement, syllabus and amendments to your target post and examination stage.

Try first - check answers later

01 / Historical chronology

Arrange chronologically: 1. Full statehood; 2. Bilaspur integration; 3. Administrative formation; 4. Punjab reorganisation enlargement.

A. 3-4-2-1
B. 4-3-2-1
C. 3-2-4-1
D. 2-3-1-4

02 / Formation and statehood

Consider: 1. Administrative formation was in 1948. 2. Statehood was in 1971. 3. These dates refer to the same constitutional status. Which are correct?

A. 1 and 3 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

03 / River matching

Which set correctly matches the river associations?

A. Shipki La - Yamuna; Kullu - Chenab; Chamba - Beas
B. Shipki La - Ravi; Kullu - Sutlej; Chamba - Beas
C. Shipki La - Beas; Kullu - Ravi; Chamba - Sutlej
D. Shipki La - Sutlej; Kullu - Beas; Chamba - Ravi

Try first - check answers later

04 / River systems

Which pair joins at Tandi, and what river name is associated with the combined flow?

A. Beas and Ravi - Sutlej
B. Chandra and Bhaga - Chandrabhaga/Chenab
C. Spiti and Baspa - Yamuna
D. Ravi and Yamuna - Chenab

05 / Heritage distinctions

Consider: 1. GHNP Conservation Area is a natural World Heritage property. 2. Kalka-Shimla is part of a cultural World Heritage property. 3. Both are intangible-heritage inscriptions. Which are correct?

A. 2 and 3 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 1, 2 and 3
D. 1 and 2 only

06 / Heritage chronology

Which order is correct, from earliest to latest?

A. Tabo foundation - statehood - Kalka-Shimla extension - GHNP inscription
B. Railway extension - Tabo foundation - statehood - GHNP inscription
C. Statehood - Tabo foundation - GHNP inscription - railway extension
D. Tabo foundation - GHNP inscription - statehood - railway extension

Try first - check answers later

07 / Culture and technique

Which set correctly distinguishes the traditions?

A. Chamba Rumal - painting on glass; Kangra Kalam - music; Nati - pottery
B. Chamba Rumal - wood carving; Kangra Kalam - embroidery; Nati - architecture
C. Chamba Rumal - metal casting; Kangra Kalam - weaving; Nati - sculpture
D. Chamba Rumal - embroidery; Kangra Kalam - painting; Nati - dance

08 / Building traditions

A Kath Kuni building has survived a past earthquake. Which inference is most responsible?

A. No maintenance or engineering review is needed
B. Any new building using timber is equally safe
C. Its design merits study, but present safety requires assessment of condition, site and construction
D. Every Kath Kuni building is immune to earthquakes

09 / Wetland recognition

Which group contains three recognised Ramsar wetlands in Himachal Pradesh?

A. Harike, Nalsarovar, Bhoj
B. Pong Dam Lake, Renuka, Chandertal
C. Sambhar, Wular, Kolleru
D. Dal Lake in Srinagar, Loktak, Chilika

Try first - check answers later

10 / Landscape and planning

Why should a tourism plan avoid applying the same water-demand assumptions to Spiti and wetter valleys?

A. All valleys share the same rainfall and infrastructure
B. Aridity, seasonality, supply and settlement conditions differ
C. Every mountain site has unlimited water
D. Altitude alone fixes identical visitor demand

11 / Hydropower measures

A station reports installed capacity in MW. What further information is needed to assess annual energy generation?

A. Operating time, usable flows, outages and performance
B. Only the height of its signboard
C. Capacity alone without a time period
D. Only the date of the launch ceremony

12 / Horticulture suitability

A hypothetical village proposes replacing all crops with apples. Which appraisal is strongest?

A. One unusually good harvest as a permanent guarantee
B. Local climate, water, soils, market access, costs and risk
C. The popularity of apples elsewhere alone
D. The number of promotional posters

Try first - check answers later

13 / Road-risk appraisal

A proposed mountain road shortens travel time. Which broader assessment is needed?

A. Only the opening-day traffic count
B. Construction length alone as proof of resilience
C. Slope stability, drainage, spoil disposal, maintenance and access benefits
D. Travel-time savings as the only criterion

14 / Tourism outcomes

A hypothetical destination gains visitors but has unreliable water and waste collection. Which evidence best tests development quality?

A. Visitor arrivals alone
B. Total publicity spending alone
C. Service reliability, ecological pressure, local earnings and distribution
D. Only hotel construction value

15 / Craft livelihoods

Sales of a hypothetical embroidered-textile group rise, but material and marketing costs rise faster. Which conclusion is justified?

A. Net returns need examination; higher sales do not prove better livelihoods
B. Every practitioner must be better off
C. Costs cannot affect household earnings
D. Craft skills automatically improve when sales rise

Try first - check answers later

16 / Remote public services

A mobile service reaches more mountain villages but repeat visits and referrals are interrupted. What should evaluation examine?

A. Continuity, completed referrals, access barriers and service quality
B. Number of vehicles purchased alone
C. Only the number of launch events
D. Village count alone

17 / Weighted occupancy

Two hypothetical homestays have 10 and 30 rooms. Occupancy is 80% and 40% respectively. What is combined occupancy?

A. 70%
B. 45%
C. 60%
D. 50%

18 / Rates and differences

A hypothetical segregation rate rises from 30% to 45%. What are the percentage-point and relative increases?

A. 15 percentage points and 50%
B. 45 percentage points and 30%
C. 50 percentage points and 15%
D. 15 percentage points and 15%

Try first - check answers later

19 / Budget comparison

A hypothetical project has original estimate 160 units, revised estimate 200 and actual spending 180. Which is correct?

A. Actual is 80% of revised
B. Actual is 90% of both estimates
C. Actual exceeds both estimates
D. Actual is 112.5% of original and 90% of revised

20 / Post-harvest arithmetic

A hypothetical consignment has 600 kg of apples. After 10% is removed, the rest is packed into 15 kg boxes. How many full boxes are filled?

A. 30
B. 40
C. 54
D. 36

21 / Causation and evidence

Visits rise after a hypothetical heritage campaign. What follows from this information alone?

A. Every village earned more
B. The campaign caused the entire rise
C. The rise coincided with the campaign; its causal effect needs further evidence
D. Season and transport changes cannot matter

Try first - check answers later

22 / Data comparability

A study compares old figures for a smaller Himachal territory with later totals after enlargement. What is essential?

A. Reconstruct comparable boundaries, definitions and periods
B. Treat any increase as proof of higher living standards
C. Remove the territorial labels
D. Use whichever total is larger

23 / Public-service outcome

A hypothetical village water scheme installs 80 taps. Which evidence best tests whether it works for residents?

A. Tap count alone
B. Reliable access to water of suitable quality
C. Construction expenditure alone
D. Number of inauguration guests

24 / Ethics and evidence

An assessor is asked to approve a mountain tourism facility before its required inspection is complete. What is the best response?

A. Approve it because the opening date is announced
B. Follow the authorised assessment process, record the evidence gap and resist improper pressure
C. Treat an assurance as equivalent to inspection
D. Hide missing evidence if jobs are promised

Answer key + explanations

01 / Answer C

3-2-4-1. The sequence is 1948, 1954, 1966 and 1971.

Evidence: H1/H2

02 / Answer C

1 and 2 only. The dates mark distinct stages of political and administrative development.

Evidence: H1

03 / Answer D

Shipki La - Sutlej; Kullu - Beas; Chamba - Ravi. These associations help distinguish different valleys and drainage routes.

Evidence: G3

04 / Answer B

Chandra and Bhaga - Chandrabhaga/Chenab. Tandi is an important confluence in Lahaul.

Evidence: G4

Answer key + explanations

05 / Answer D

1 and 2 only. Natural and cultural properties are distinct from UNESCO's intangible-heritage recognition system.

Evidence: N1/U1

06 / Answer A

Tabo foundation - statehood - Kalka-Shimla extension - GHNP inscription. The relevant years are 996, 1971, 2008 and 2014.

Evidence: C1/H1/U2/N1

07 / Answer D

Chamba Rumal - embroidery; Kangra Kalam - painting; Nati - dance. Related artistic influences do not make the forms identical.

Evidence: C2/C3/C5

08 / Answer C

Its design merits study, but present safety requires assessment of condition, site and construction. One survival example does not establish universal immunity. Details and condition matter.

Evidence: C6; original evidence interpretation

Answer key + explanations

09 / Answer B

Pong Dam Lake, Renuka, Chandertal. These named Himachal wetlands should not be confused with lakes in other states.

Evidence: N3

10 / Answer B

Aridity, seasonality, supply and settlement conditions differ. Resource assessment needs local conditions and seasonal evidence.

Evidence: G2; original planning application

11 / Answer A

Operating time, usable flows, outages and performance. Capacity is a power rating; actual energy depends on operating conditions over time.

Evidence: E3 for context; original energy reasoning

12 / Answer B

Local climate, water, soils, market access, costs and risk. Crop suitability and livelihood outcomes vary with local resources and markets.

Evidence: E2; original agricultural application

Answer key + explanations

13 / Answer C

Slope stability, drainage, spoil disposal, maintenance and access benefits. Connectivity benefits must be examined alongside location-specific environmental and maintenance risks.

Evidence: Original infrastructure-appraisal scenario

14 / Answer C

Service reliability, ecological pressure, local earnings and distribution. Tourism volume is not a complete measure of sustainable local benefit.

Evidence: Original development application

15 / Answer A

Net returns need examination; higher sales do not prove better livelihoods. Revenue, income and the distribution of benefits are different measures.

Evidence: Original economic application

16 / Answer A

Continuity, completed referrals, access barriers and service quality. Reach is an output; dependable completed care or assistance requires continuity.

Evidence: Original governance scenario

Answer key + explanations

17 / Answer D

50%. Occupied rooms = 8 + 12 = 20 out of 40. Weight rates by capacity.

Evidence: Original calculation

18 / Answer A

15 percentage points and 50%. Difference = 15 points; relative rise = 15 / 30 x 100 = 50%.

Evidence: Original calculation

19 / Answer D

Actual is 112.5% of original and 90% of revised. 180 / 160 x 100 = 112.5%; 180 / 200 x 100 = 90%.

Evidence: Original calculation

20 / Answer D

36. Usable fruit = 600 x 0.9 = 540 kg; 540 / 15 = 36 boxes.

Evidence: Original calculation

Answer key + explanations

21 / Answer C

The rise coincided with the campaign; its causal effect needs further evidence. A comparison and other changing conditions are needed to estimate impact.

Evidence: Original evidence-interpretation question

22 / Answer A

Reconstruct comparable boundaries, definitions and periods. Territorial change alters the unit measured. Comparable geography is needed for a valid trend.

Evidence: H1/H2; original statistical application

23 / Answer B

Reliable access to water of suitable quality. Installed infrastructure is an output; actual usable service is an outcome.

Evidence: Original evaluation question

24 / Answer B

Follow the authorised assessment process, record the evidence gap and resist improper pressure. A credible decision requires the applicable process and adequate evidence, with transparent handling of pressure.

Evidence: Original ethics scenario

Source register

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

EX1 / HPRCA Pharmacy Officer syllabus: publisher-hosted document copy, p6

img2.freejobalert.com

EX2 / HPPSC: HPAS 2025 advertisement; official indexed text

www.hppsc.hp.gov.in

EX3 / HPPSC: change to GS mains question format from 2024; indexed notice

hppsc.hp.gov.in

H1 / Government of Himachal Pradesh: formation, enlargement and statehood

himachal.gov.in

H2 / Revenue Department: formation and Bilaspur integration

himachal.gov.in

G1 / Himachal Tourism: mountain setting and topography

himachaltourism.gov.in

G2 / Himachal Tourism: Spiti landscape and settlement

himachaltourism.gov.in

G3 / Himachal Tourism: rivers and Himalayan regions

himachaltourism.gov.in

Source register

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

G4 / Himachal Tourism: Lahaul and Tandi confluence

himachaltourism.gov.in

N1 / UNESCO: Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area

whc.unesco.org

N2 / Convention on Wetlands: Pong Dam Lake on the Beas

www.ramsar.org

N3 / HIMCOSTE: state wetland authority and Ramsar sites

www.himcoste.hp.gov.in

U1 / UNESCO: Mountain Railways of India and Kalka-Shimla component

whc.unesco.org

U2 / UNESCO: 2008 decision adding Kalka-Shimla Railway

whc.unesco.org

C1 / Himachal Tourism: monasteries and Tabo foundation

himachaltourism.gov.in

C2 / Chamba district: embroidered Chamba Rumal

hpchamba.nic.in

Source register

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

C3 / Kangra district: painting traditions

hpkangra.nic.in

C4 / Himachal Tourism: fairs and festivals

himachaltourism.gov.in

C5 / Himachal Tourism: regional arts and Nati

himachaltourism.gov.in

C6 / G.B. Pant NIHE: Kath Kuni in Himalayan resilient-practices collection

www.gbpihed.gov.in

E1 / Tea Board of India: Kangra tea region

teaboard.gov.in

E2 / HP SHIVA: agroclimatic zones and fruit suitability

hpshiva.hp.gov.in

E3 / SJVN: Nathpa Jhakri station on the Sutlej

sjvn.nic.in

Read sources in context

Formation in 1948 and full statehood in 1971 are different milestones. Old state pages may contain outdated boundaries or statistics; only stable associations are used here. Verify changing administrative details and recruitment instructions separately.

World Heritage, Ramsar and intangible-heritage systems are distinct. Numerical figures and administrative cases are invented practice exercises. Model answers and 10-mark guides are editorial suggestions. Heritage discussion is not a building-safety certification.