

**Please answer all three questions. Each question carries 20 marks, and wherever necessary, the break-up for each specific query is given in parentheses. Please structure your answers for which you might want to use a page for ordering your thoughts while keeping an eye on the time.**

**3 questions x 20 marks = 60  
90 minutes**

1. The legacies of British colonial rule have determined in substantial measure the nature and structure of contemporary India. Explain Orientalism and its institutionalization in India (3). What is the causal link between Orientalism and Indian linguistic identities (2)? How did the British colonial government structure and create order out of the vast land mass and the diverse population of India (15)? Your response could include the following rubrics: Communications, land and revenue, military power, civil administration, demographic information.
2. According to the World Economic Forum, at the present rate of change the gender gap will not close entirely until 2186. But that may be too long a wait. If change must come, individuals and organizations must act in their own immediate spheres. Effective action requires an understanding of challenges faced by women in contemporary India. For example, millions of women in India do not have access to toilets and have to wait till dark to use open spaces, which in turn pose dangers from predators.  
List five other challenges faced by women in contemporary India and briefly explain each one of these (10). For redressing the

gender disparity against women in the engineering sector, it is not enough to merely provide academic counsel to women students early in their careers but it is imperative to have women in selection panels as well. List two other actions that you could undertake for effectively managing if not resolving problems faced by women in your own immediate environment (10).

3. Three defining characteristics of the contemporary Indian polity are the ideology of secularism, decentralization of governance or the empowerment of local government and the culture of transparency generated through the Right to Information Act (2005). Write a short note on each of these (secularism, local government and RTI) explaining their significance (15). Corruption in public life is another characteristic of contemporary India. Name two organs of the State tasked with fighting this menace (1). List two functions each of political parties and parliamentary committees in India (4).