

Please answer all four questions. Each question carries 15 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.

4Qs x 15 marks = 60; 90 minutes

1. Contemporary India is arguably one of the most dangerous places for women anywhere in the world. It appears that much of the violence committed against women is perpetrated by men. If this situation must change, we Indians -but especially men- must own up responsibility. Write an essay that responds to the following questions: what are the most frequent challenges faced by women across India and please distinguish these by age and social grouping?(5) How have/does Indian society tried/try to normalize misogyny and violence against women?(5) Against the prevalent situation, the United Nations has called for 'bold' action for change 2017. Please give two examples of what you believe to be 'bold' action; what constitutes 'bold' in your example of 'bold' action; what are the conditions that enable 'bold' action; and, what are the (intended/unintended) consequences 'bold' action? (5)
2. It is claimed that India is the world's largest democracy on the basis of a statistical detail of having the largest number of registered voters on the electoral rolls as well as on the fact that nearly half of those voters participate in elections. There is perhaps more to democracy than numbers. Please write out an essay explaining how India in the contemporary period (since 1991) has sought to substantially democratise the polity. (10) What are the weaknesses that you perceive in these attempts to deepen democracy? (5)
3. Some of the institutions and practices in contemporary India may be traced back to the establishment of British power in India since the second half of the 18th century. Explain how the British created an effective army from a diverse Indian population while maintaining European leadership within the organization.(5) How did the 'Collector' emerge as the hinge figure of British administration in India?(5) The British maintained their racial superiority over the Indians through a number of measures that restricted social intercourse.

Explore the significance of the terms white and black towns; *bibis* and *memsahibs*. (5)

4. When studying Contemporary India, we are always confronted with the idea(s) of India or the ways in which India is imagined. During our class sessions, we looked at the views excerpted from Ambedkar, Maulana Abul Azad, MK Gandhi, Gurbachan Singh and Lal Singh Gyani, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, J. Nehru, AZ Phizo. Write a note on the idea(s) of India with reference to the views of those mentioned above and discuss the emergent questions: Is there one idea of India or many? Should there be one idea alone? If there are multiple ideas, how do we reconcile diverse ideas of India if at all we must? Is Contemporary India post-national? (15)

Reminder for the Working Session on the Indian Economy with an external resource person

Session Theme: Union Budget 2017-18: The process, key features and proposals
Sat 18 March 17 in Room 6152 between 10:00-12:00 hrs