

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Poverty

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

HEAD-COUNT RATIO (HCR) =
(number of persons below the
poverty line ÷ total population)
× 100

POVERTY GAP = average
shortfall of the poor from the
poverty line — measures the
DEPTH of poverty, not just its
incidence

TENDULKAR 2011-12 CUT-
OFFS: ₹816 per person per
month (RURAL) and ₹1000 per
person per month (URBAN)

CALORIE NORM: 2400 kcal/
person/day RURAL · 2100 kcal/
person/day URBAN (rural >
urban because of more physical
exertion)

HCR India (Tendulkar, 2011-12)
≈ 21.9% ≈ 22% — down from
~45% in 1993-94 (~270 million
people still poor in 2011-12)

WHO ARE THE POOR: landless
casual labourers, marginal
farmers, urban informal-sector
workers, Scheduled Castes /
Scheduled Tribes, female-
headed households

CATEGORISATION: CHRONIC
poor (always + usually) ·
TRANSIENT poor (churning +
occasionally) · NON-POOR

ABSOLUTE poverty = minimum-
needs basket (India's official
measure) · RELATIVE poverty =
inequality between income
groups/countries

5 CAUSES: colonial
deindustrialisation + slow
pre-1991 growth + asset
inequality + unemployment /
jobless growth + indebtedness
+ social factors (caste/gender)

3-PRONGED STRATEGY: (1)
growth-oriented; (2) anti-
poverty programmes —
MGNREGA 2005, PMGSY,
NRLM/Aajeevika, NSAP, PMAY-

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 Causes of poverty in India

6 marks · 90% of years
5-step template: intro with 22% Tendulkar +
colonial/slow-growth + inequality/jobless growth +
indebtedness/social + conclusion linking to multi-
pronged policy.

2 Three-pronged anti-poverty strategy

6 marks · 80% of years
Name ALL three prongs (growth + schemes +
minimum needs) with at least 3 named schemes
and the MGNREGA 100-days fact.

3 Poverty line — meaning + determination

4 marks · 60% of years
Consumption (not income); 2400/2100 kcal norm;
Tendulkar 2011-12 ₹816/₹1000; HCR ≈ 22%.

4 Chronic vs transient vs non-poor

3 marks · 50% of years
Give both sub-types under chronic (always/usually)
and transient (churning/occasionally), plus the non-
poor; one example each.

5 Critically appraise anti-poverty programmes

6 marks · 55% of years
Balanced — 45%→22% trend + MGNREGA/PDS
gains vs leakages, mis-targeting, jobless growth +
qualified-success conclusion.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-10 min

Memorise the key figures —
2400/2100 kcal, ₹816/₹1000
(Tendulkar 2011-12), HCR ≈ 22%,
MGNREGA 100 days.

10-25 min

Write the 6-mark 'causes of poverty'
answer from memory using the 5-
step template.

25-40 min

List the three prongs of the
strategy with at least three named
anti-poverty schemes and one
minimum-basic-needs programme
each.

40-55 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill.

55-60 min

Review wrong answers + recite the
chronic/transient/non-poor
categorisation with sub-types.

G, PMUY; (3) minimum basic needs — PDS, ICDS, mid-day meal, Swachh Bharat

MGNREGA (2005): legal RIGHT to 100 days of unskilled manual wage employment per RURAL household per financial year

CRITICISM: leakages + mis-targeting (inclusion/exclusion errors) + low-quality employment + jobless growth + weak monitoring

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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