

UPSC Prelims: Objective Questions (MCQs)

1. Which of the following countries is NOT a member of the G7?

- A) Canada
- B) France
- C) Russia
- D) Italy

Answer: C) Russia

Russia was removed from the G8 in 2014 after the annexation of Crimea. It is no longer part of the G7.

2. The G20 was established in response to which major global event?

- A) The Oil Crisis of the 1970s
- B) The Asian Financial Crisis of 1997
- C) The Global Financial Crisis of 2008
- D) The COVID-19 Pandemic

Answer: B) The Asian Financial Crisis of 1997

Initially formed in 1999 as a meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

3. Consider the following countries:

- 1 Brazil
- 2 South Africa
- 3 Indonesia
- 4 China

Which of the above are original BRICS members?

- A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- B) 1, 2 and 4 only
- C) 1 and 4 only
- D) All of the above

Answer: B) 1, 2 and 4 only

Indonesia is not a BRICS member.

4. The headquarters of the New Development Bank (NDB) is located in:

- A) Moscow, Russia
- B) Johannesburg, South Africa
- C) Shanghai, China
- D) Brasília, Brazil

✔ Answer: C) Shanghai, China

5. Which one of the following correctly matches the G20 Presidency for the year 2023?

- A) Germany
- B) Italy
- C) India
- D) Brazil

✔ Answer: C) India

◆ UPSC Mains: Subjective Questions

Q1. Compare and contrast the structure, vision, and global impact of G7 and G20. How relevant are these groupings in the present multipolar world?

Answer Outline:

- G7: Formed in 1975, developed economies, limited representation.
- G20: Formed in 1999, inclusive of emerging economies.
- G7: Tech, R&D, global finance influence.
- G20: More democratic, crisis-responsive (e.g., 2008, COVID-19).
- Relevance: G7 losing dominance; G20 now more representative.
- Challenges: Consensus-building, geopolitical divides.

Q2. Evaluate the role of BRICS in creating an alternative global governance framework. Has it succeeded in challenging Western-led institutions?

Answer Outline:

- Origin and purpose of BRICS.

- NDB, CRA, and de-dollarization initiatives.
- Platform for South–South cooperation.
- Limited but symbolic challenge to IMF/World Bank.
- Increasing relevance post-Ukraine conflict and U.S.–China tensions.
- Need for internal coherence.

Q3. “BRICS and G20 together represent a rebalancing of global political and economic power.” Discuss with suitable examples.

Answer Outline:

- Changing economic weight: India, China, Brazil among top 10 economies.
- G20 represents 85% of global GDP, while BRICS focuses on inclusive development.
- Initiatives: Infrastructure finance, climate action, digital cooperation.
- India’s G20 presidency example: Voice of Global South Summit.
- Challenges: Internal ideological differences.

Q4. How does India benefit strategically and economically from its participation in G7 outreach, G20, and BRICS platforms?

Answer Outline:

- Strategic presence: Bridge between Global North and South.
- G20: Platform for trade, climate diplomacy, digital public infrastructure (DPI) showcase.
- BRICS: Multipolar positioning, countering Western blocs.
- G7: Attracting technology, investment, diplomacy clout.
- Enhanced global visibility, especially during its G20 presidency.

Q5. Discuss how G20 and BRICS can contribute toward global issues like climate change, digital divide, and inclusive infrastructure development.

Answer Outline:

- G20: Global funding mechanisms, green energy finance, digital public goods.

- BRICS: NDB-funded renewable energy, infrastructure in Africa, Asia.
- Role in UN SDG acceleration.
- Examples: Solar alliances, infrastructure for the South, debt relief.