Polity & Governance · GS - II

“Maintaining public order must be balanced with the protection of individual liberty in a democracy.” Discuss with reference to the use of curfews during civil unrest.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Public order, curfew, individual liberty, human rights, proportionality, rule of law, judicial review, democratic accountability, public safety.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Curfews are administrative measures used to restrict movement in specific areas during violence, unrest or serious security threats. They may help restore order, but excessive restrictions can affect individual liberty.

2. Main Body

Need for curfews

1. Prevent violence and protect life and property.
2. Facilitate security operations and restore normalcy.
3. Protect vulnerable people during emergencies.

Concerns and challenges

1. Restrictions may affect freedom of movement, livelihoods, education and access to essential services.
2. Prolonged curfews can create public hardship and undermine trust in government.
3. Excessive use may lead to concerns about civil liberties and misuse of authority.

Way forward

1. Ensure a clear legal basis and evidence-based justification.
2. Apply restrictions proportionately and for the minimum necessary duration.
3. Provide essential services, transparent communication and appropriate judicial oversight.

3. Conclusion

Curfews can be necessary tools for public safety, but their use should remain lawful, proportionate and accountable. A democratic government must protect both public order and individual freedom.

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