

HISTORY & CULTURE GENERAL STUDIES-I MAINS PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Modern History	3	2	3	1+1+1(GS I,II & IV)	1	2	1+1
Freedom Struggle	1	-	2	2	2	1	2
Ancient Art forms, Literature and Architecture & culture	1	1	1	1	2	3	2
Medieval Art forms, Literature and Architecture	-	1	-	1	-	1	1
Modern Art forms, Literature and Architecture	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Post-Independence	-	1	-	1	-	-	5
World History	1	1	1	1	2	3	4

TOPIC WISE ANALYSIS (MAINS 2013-2019)

MAINS-SYLLABUS

- ❖ **Indian culture** will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- ❖ **Modern Indian history** from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present significant events, personalities, issues.
- ❖ **The Freedom Struggle** – its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country.

2019

1. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art. **(10)**
2. The 1857 Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate. **(10)**
3. Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity. **(10)**
4. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movements during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. **(15)**

5. Assess the role of British imperial power in completing the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. (15)

2018

1. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
2. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
3. Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. (Answer in 150 words) (10)
4. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) (15)
5. Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? (Answer in 250 words) (15)

2017

1. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? (150 words) (10)
2. Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the specter of a fragmented polity. (150 words) (10)
3. Why did the 'Moderates' failed to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? (150 words) (10)
4. In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your view point. (150 words) (10)
5. Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. (250 words) (15)
6. Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian Independence since the twenties of the last century. (250 words) (15)
7. The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What are the major issues and debates concerning women in that period? (250 words) (15)

2016

GENERAL STUDIES I

1. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. (12.5)
2. Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijaynagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. (12.5)

3. Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. (12.5)
4. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. (12.5)
5. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. (12.5)

GENERAL STUDIES II

1. Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss. (12.5)

GENERAL STUDIES IV

1. Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's concept of seven sins (150 words) (10)

2015

1. The ancient civilization in Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to the present day. Comment. (12.5)
2. Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. (12.5)
3. How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss. (12.5)
4. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. (12.5)
5. It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years but for the experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935. Discuss. (12.5)

2014

1. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of Indus valley civilization provided inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. (200 words) (10)
2. Gandhara's sculpture owed as much to the Romans as the Greeks. Explain. (200 words) (10)
3. Takshila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss. (200 words) (10)
4. Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu/Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. (200 words) (10)
5. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? (200 words) (10)

6. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-18th century till independence. (200 words) (10)
7. In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? (200 words) (10)

2013

1. Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment. (200 Words) (10)
2. (a) Discuss the 'Tandava' dance as recorded in early Indian inscriptions. (100 words) (5)
(b) Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. (100 words) (5)
3. Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch-bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. (200 words) (10)
4. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian Struggle for freedom. (200 words) (10)
5. "In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of Modern India." Elaborate. (200 words) (10)
6. Discuss the contributions of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre- and post-independent India. (200 words) (10)

GENERAL STUDIES – I
POST – INDEPENDENCE
PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS (MAINS)

Post – independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

2018

1. Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

2017

No questions asked in 2017

2016

1. Has the **formation of linguistic States** strengthened the cause of **Indian Unity**? (12½)

2015

No questions asked in 2015.

2014

No questions asked in 2014

2013

1. Critically discuss the objectives of **Bhoodan and Gramdan Movements** initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. (200 words) **10**
2. Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan, '**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**'. (200 words) **10**
3. Discuss the contributions of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** to pre- and post-independent India. (200 words) **10**
4. Analyze the circumstances that led to the **Tashkent Agreement in 1966**. Discuss the highlights of the Agreement. (200 words) **10**
5. Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the **emergence of Bangladesh**. (200 words) **10**

WORLD HISTORY PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc. - their forms and effect on the society.

- . Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French Revolutions. **15**

2018

1. Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to their colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? **15**

2017

1. What problems are germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula? (150 words) **10**

2016

1. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine. **12.5**

2015

1. Why did the industrial revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. 'How does it compare with that in India at present? (200 words) **12.5**
2. To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically. ? (200 words) **12.5**

2014

1. What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? (200 words) **10**
2. What were the events that led to the Suez crisis in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain's self-image as a world power? (200 words) **10**
3. The new economic policy 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. (200 words) **10**

2013

1. "Latecomer' Industrial Revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what West had experienced." Analyze. (200 words) **10**
2. "Africa was chopped into States artificially created by accidents of European competition." Analyze.(200 words) **10**
3. "American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism." Substantiate.(200 words) **10**
4. What policy instruments were deployed to contain the Great Economic Depression? (200 words) **10**