

Ancient History Questions in UPSC Mains

1. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture, [2022]
2. Analyze the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion.[2022]
3. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. [2021]
4. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. [2020]
5. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. [2019]
6. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. [2018]
7. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. [2018]
8. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. [2018]
9. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? [2017]
10. Krishnadeva Raya, the King of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. [2016]
11. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. [2016]
12. 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. [2015]
13. 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. [2015]

Modern History Previous Year Questions UPSC Mains

1. Why did the armies of the British East India Company – mostly comprising of Indian soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the Indian rulers? Give reasons. [2022]
2. Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons. [2022]
3. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj. [2021]
4. To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? [2021]
5. Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. [2021]
6. Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. [2021]
7. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long term implications on the national movements. [2020]
8. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. [2020]
9. The Revolt of 1857 was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. [2019]
10. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. [2019]
11. Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's "Indian Renaissance" and the emergence of national identity. [2019]
12. Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? [2018]
13. Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. [2018]
14. Discuss whether the formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. [2018]
15. Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the specter of a fragmented polity. [2017]
16. Why did the 'Moderates' fail to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? [2017]
17. 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? [2017]
18. Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian Independence since the twenties of the last century. [2017]
19. Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism in post-independent India giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India. [2017]
20. Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. [2016]

21. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. [2016]
22. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. [2016]



World History Questions in UPSC Mains

1. "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement. [2021]
2. Explain how the foundation of the modern world was laid by the American and French Revolutions. [2019]
3. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine. [2016]
4. Why did the industrial revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present? [2015]
5. To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically [2015]
6. What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? [2014]
7. 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? [2014]
8. The New Economic Policy – 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. [2014]
9. "Latecomer" Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had experienced. [2013]
10. Africa was chopped into states artificially created by accident of European competition. Analyse. [2013]
11. American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate. [2013]
12. What policy instruments were deployed to contain the great economic depression? [2013]