

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]

