

# UPSC GS Paper 1 Syllabus

## General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History, and Geography of the World and Society

- 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, and issues.
- The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- History of the world will include events from the 18th century such as the industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism, etc.— their forms and effect on the society.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems, and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of the world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, Volcanic activity, cyclones, etc., geographical features and their location changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

## GS 1 Syllabus for Modern History

Modern Indian history section of GS 1 Mains Syllabus includes events from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present significant events, personalities, and issues. It also includes the Freedom Struggle, its various stages, and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country. The GS 1 Syllabus also includes the Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

### GS 1 Modern Indian History Topics

The topics under the Modern Indian History are:

- Socio-economic Condition of People
- European Penetration of India
- British Conquest of India
- British Policies & Their Impact – Economic, Administrative & Socio-cultural
- Socio-cultural Reform Movements
- Uprisings Against British Pre-1857

- Revolt of 1857
- Growth of Nationalism in India
- Political, Economic & Administrative Unification of the Country
- Role of Western Education
- Role of Press
- Rediscovery of India's Past
- Early Political Movements
- Formation of INC
- Era of Moderates
- Growth of Militant Nationalism & Revolutionary Activities

## Freedom Struggle UPSC Syllabus

The topics under the Freedom Struggle section includes:

- Swadeshi & Boycott Movement
- Surat Split
- International Influence
- Morley – Minto Reforms
- Growth of Communalism
- Beginning of Mass Nationalism
- Mahatma Gandhi – His Ideas & Leadership
- Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms
- Rowlatt Act, Satyagrah and Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
- Non-cooperation & Khilafat Movement
- Swarajists & No-Changers
- Emergence of New Forces – Socialistic Ideas, Youth & Trade Unionism
- Revolutionary Activity
- Simon Commission & Nehru Report
- Civil Disobedience Movement
- Round Table Conferences
- Communal Award & Poona Pact
- Participation in Elections to Central Legislature & Provincial Assemblies
- Government of India Act, 1935
- Towards Freedom & Partition
- National Movement During World War II
- August Offer
- Individual Satyagraha
- Growth of Communalism
- Peasant Movements
- State People's Struggle
- Cripps Mission
- Quit India Movement
- Wavell Plan
- INA & Subhash Chandra Bose
- Cabinet Mission
- Nationalist Upsurge Post-World War II
- Independence with Partition

## Post-independence Consolidation and Reorganization for GS 1 Syllabus

The topics covered under the Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country, are:

- Nation Building
- Partition and Its Aftermath
- Integration of Princely States
- Reorganisation of States
- Issue of Official Language
- Tribal Consolidation
- Regional Aspirations
- Foreign Policy
- Non-Aligned Movement
- Panchsheel
- Wars with Pakistan & China
- Nuclear Policy
- Economy
- Planned Development
- Green Revolution, Operation Flood & Cooperatives
- Agrarian & Land Reforms
- Industrial Reforms
- LPG Reforms
- Era of One-Party Dominance
- Emergence of Opposition Parties
- Emergency: Crisis of Democratic Order
- Rise of Regional Parties
- Coalition Era
- Popular Movements
- Communalism
- Indian Women Since Independence
- Naxalism

## GS Paper 1 Syllabus for World History

History of the World includes events from the 18th century such as the industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism, etc., their forms and effect on the society. The detailed coverage of topics is as under:

- Industrial Revolution
- Renaissance
- Discovery of Sea Routes
- Reformation
- Counter Reformation
- European Nations Settle North America
- Rise of Slave Trade
- American War of Independence
- French Revolution
- Nationalism in Europe
- Rise of Capitalism, Colonialism & Imperialism

- World War I
- Causes of the World War I, along with the Scope & Course of the War
- Russian Revolution
- End of the War & Peace Treaties
- Consequences of the War
- League of Nations
- World Between the Two Wars
- Europe After the War – Fascism & Nazism
- The Great Depression
- Emergence of Soviet Union
- Nationalist Movements in Asia & Africa
- US as a Strong Power
- World War II
- Fascist Aggression & Response of Western Democracies
- Outbreak of the War
- Theatres of the War
- US Entry into the War
- Global Nature of the War
- The Holocaust
- Resistance Movements
- After-effects of the War
- Decolonialisation & Redrawing of National Boundaries
- Europe after World War II
- Cold War
- Rise of Asia & Africa
- Developments in West Asia & North Africa
- Spread of Communism
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Cuban Crisis
- Collapse of Soviet Union
- Concept, Types & Social Impact of Political Philosophies
- Communism
- Capitalism
- Socialism

## GS 1 Syllabus for Art & Culture

Most of the questions ranging from Ancient and Medieval History are asked from the Art & Culture section. The Art & Culture parts cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature, and Architecture from ancient to modern times. The topics includes:

- Indian Art Forms
- Indian Paintings
- Classical Dance Forms
- Folk Dance Forms
- Classical Music
- Puppetry
- Pottery
- Drama/Theatre



- Martial Arts
- Ancient Indian Literature
- Classical Sanskrit Literature
- Literature in Pali and Prakrit
- Early Dravidian Literature
- Medieval Literature
- Women Poets of Bhakti
- Trends in Medieval Literature
- Modern Indian Literature
- Harappan Architecture
- Temple Architecture
- Cave Architecture
- Indo-Islamic Architecture
- Medieval Architecture
- Modern Architecture
- Contribution of Buddhism & Jainism to the Development of Indian Architecture
- Rock Cut Architecture
- Colonial Architecture & the Modern Period

## Geography Syllabus for UPSC GS 1

The Geography section of GS 1 Syllabus include the salient features of the world's physical geography, distribution of key natural resources across the world, factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world, along with the Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, Volcanic activity, cyclones, etc., geographical features and their location changes in critical geographical features.

The detailed topics covered under the Geography section of GS Paper 1 syllabus are:

- Origin & Evolution of Earth
- Interior of the Earth
- Distribution of Continents & Oceans
- Plate Tectonic Theory
- Distribution of Earthquakes & Volcanoes
- Rocks & Rock Cycle
- Geomorphic Processes – Endogenic & Exogenic
- Landforms & their Evolution
- Oceanography
- Hydrological Cycle
- Seafloor Spreading
- Ocean Floor Configuration
- Temperature & Salinity of Oceans
- Movement of Oceans – Waves, Tides, Currents
- Climatology
- Earth's Atmosphere – Composition & Structure
- Solar Radiation, Heat Budget & Temperature
- Atmospheric Circulation & Weather Systems
- World Climate (examples)
- Soil Geography
- Soil & Soil Contents
- Process of Soil Formation

- Soil Forming Factors
- Types of Soils (examples)
- Soil Erosion & Conservation
- Types of Resources- On the Basis of Origin, Ownership, Exhaustability, etc.
- Land Resources
- Land Utilisation
- Land Use Pattern
- Land Degradation & Conservation
- Forest Resources
- Types & Distribution – Grasslands, Forests etc.
- Causes of Depletion
- Conservation of Forests
- Water Resources
- Marine & Freshwater
- Water Scarcity & Need For Conservation
- Integrated Water Resources Management
- Agricultural Resources
- Types of Farming
- Cropping Patterns
- Contribution to Economy, Employment & Output
- Food Security
- Mineral & Energy Resources
- Classification of Minerals – Ferrous & Non-Ferrous
- Occurrence of Minerals
- Conservation of Minerals
- Classification of Energy Resources – Conventional & Non-Conventional
- Occurrence of Energy Resources
- Conservation of Energy Resources
- Classification of Industries
- Location & Distribution of the Industries
- Raw Material
- Labour
- Market
- Capital
- Land
- Grants & Financial Incentives
- Power
- Transport
- Water
- Communication
- Distribution of Major Industries – Iron & Steel, IT, Cotton Textile
- Agglomeration & Footloose Industries
- Earthquakes
- Why Does Earth Shake?
- Earthquake Waves
- Shadow Zone
- Types of Earthquake
- Measuring Earthquake
- Effects of Earthquake
- Tsunami
- What Causes Tsunami

- Effect of Tsunami
- Mitigating the Impact of Tsunami
- Volcanoes
- Types of Volcanoes
- What Causes Volcanoes?
- Volcanic Landforms
- Cyclone
- Tropical Cyclones
- Anti-Cyclone
- Extra-Tropical Cyclones
- Factors Causing Changes in Critical Geographical Features
- Examples of Changing Geographical Features - Melting of Ice Sheets, Desertification, etc.
- Impact of Changing Geographical Features

## GS 1 Syllabus for Indian Society

The GS 1 syllabus for Indian Society includes the Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India, Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems, and their remedies. It also covers the effects of globalization on Indian society and the concepts of social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

The topics include:

- Diversity– caste, linguistic, social and religious, race, tribe and ethnicity, culture
- Challenges posed by Diversity
- Unity
- Pluralism
- Unity in Diversity
- Inequality and Exclusion
- Family System
- Women's Organisations – Empowerment through Action
- 19th Century Social Reform Movements and Early Women's Organisations – Agrarian Struggles and Revolt, Participation in Freedom Struggle
- Women's Organisations Post 1947
- Resurgence of Women's Movement in the 70s: Emergence of New Organisations, Approaches, and Issues
- Contemporary Women's Issues & Organisation Response
- Women's Organisations and SHGs
- Challenges faced by Women's Organisations
- Basic Demography of India
- Population Trends in India and their Implications
- Causes and Effects of Over Population
- Challenges of Population Explosion
- Changing Age Structure of Indian Population
- Demographic Dividend: Boon or Bane for India
- Population Aging in India
- India's Population Policy & Initiatives
- Concept of Development and Poverty
- Types of Poverty
- Measurement of Poverty – Poverty Line

- Causes of Poverty
- Poverty as a Social Problem
- Socio-economic Spread of Poverty
- Consequences of Poverty
- Inequality
- Who are worst affected by poverty?
- Problem of Rising Urban Poverty
- Poverty Alleviation Initiatives
- Policy shift from “Trickle Down” Economics to Inclusive or Pro-poor Development to Reduce Poverty
- Relation between Poverty Reduction and Development: Poverty-Inequality-Development Nexus
- Urbanisation Trends in India and Their Implications - Demographic and Social Dimensions
- Factors Driving Urbanisation
- State of Service Delivery and Challenges posed by Urbanisation
- Problems of Urban Areas
- Social Consequences of Urbanisation
- Impact of Urbanisation in Rural Areas
- Urban Planning and Role of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)
- Reforms Required and Government Initiatives Taken So Far
- Problems of Slums
- Understanding Globalisation – Its Different Dimensions
- Globalisation & Culture - Homogenisation vs. Glocalisation
- Factors Driving Globalisation
- Globalisation & India
- Impact of Globalisation on India - Socio-cultural, economic, on women, agrarian sector, etc.
- Does Globalisation Cause Poverty?
- Which are the Socially Disadvantaged Groups?
- Dimensions of Social Empowerment
- Government Initiatives to Aide Social Empowerment
- Communalism – Its Characteristics
- Communalism in India in the Past
- Communalism in Contemporary India
- Causes of Communalism
- Consequences of Communalism
- Measures to Control & Eradicate Communalism
- Secularism as an Antidote to Communalism
- Concept of Region & Regionalism
- Different Forms of Regionalism
- Regionalism in India
- Causes of Regionalism
- Concept of 'Sons of Soil'
- Consequences of Regionalism
- Federalism & Regionalism
- Role of Regional Parties
- Measures to Contain Regionalism
- Regionalism in the International Sphere
- Concept of Secularism
- Indian Model of Secularism



- Secularism in India
- Nature & Practice of Secularism in India
- Uniform Civil Code
- Challenges faced by Secularism in India
- Measures to Make India Truly Secular

