

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

HISTORY OPTIONAL PYQs TILL 2025

(Optional + GS + Forest Exam)

Most Useful Categorization



BY NIKHIL SIR & VISHAL SIR

FOURTH EDITION

Preface

We are very happy to bring out the second edition of this book.

When the first edition came out in 2024, it filled a big gap. Everyone knows the importance of Previous Year Questions (PYQs), especially in History Optional. Not only are PYQs the best guide to understanding the syllabus and question trends, but in History Optional they carry even more weight because of the high repetition of questions—directly or indirectly—year after year. So, a reliable and well-organized PYQ book becomes essential, both for comprehensive preparation and for scoring high.

Earlier, many question banks were already in the market. But most of them simply listed questions chapter-wise, without any deeper thought. Students often found them confusing or unhelpful in structuring their preparation. This book tried to solve that problem. Instead of just compiling questions, we organized them within the UPSC syllabus framework, breaking them into sub-sections. This made the syllabus look much clearer and helped students plan their study in a more systematic way.

In the past one year, we have also seen the book being used in ways we didn't even imagine. Many students told us they are using it to check whether their chosen textbooks, coaching notes, or videos are complete enough to cover the exam's needs. In that sense, the book has slowly become a kind of standard for History Optional preparation.

For this new edition, we have made some key changes:

- After one year of feedback, the categorization has been refined further. Some sections have been reworked to make them sharper and more logical.
- We have also added PYQs from GS Paper 1 and the Forest Service exam. This is not only for wider coverage, but also because we noticed a trend: sometimes UPSC first asks advanced or nuanced questions in GS/Forest, and later they come in Optional. Including them here makes preparation more complete.

We hope this edition, like the previous one, will help students in a big way.

All the best!

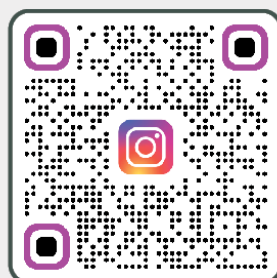
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For all history related updates:



UPSC CSE: Official History Optional Syllabus

Paper I Syllabus

1. **Sources Archaeological sources:** Exploration, excavation, epigraphy, numismatics, monuments.
 - **Literary sources:** Indigenous: Primary and secondary; poetry, scientific literature, literature, literature in regional languages, religious literature.
 - **Foreign account:** Greek, Chinese and Arab writers.
2. **Pre-history and Proto-history:** Geographical factors; hunting and gathering (paleolithic and mesolithic); Beginning of agriculture (neolithic and chalcolithic)
3. **Indus Valley Civilization:** Origin, date, extent, characteristics-decline, survival and significance, art and architecture.
4. **Megalithic Cultures:** Distribution of pastoral and farming cultures outside the Indus, Development of community life, Settlements, Development of agriculture, Crafts, Pottery, and Iron industry.
5. **Aryans and Vedic Period:** Expansions of Aryans in India: Vedic Period: Religious and philosophic literature; Transformation from Rig Vedic period to the later Vedic period; Political, social, and economical life; Significance of the Vedic Age; Evolution of Monarchy and Varna system.
6. **Period of Mahajanapadas:** Formation of States (Mahajanapada): Republics and monarchies; Rise of urban centres; Trade routes; Economic growth; Introduction of coinage; Spread of Jainism and Buddhism; Rise of Magadha and Nandas. Iranian and Macedonian invasions and their impact.
7. **Mauryan Empire:** Foundation of the Mauryan Empire, Chandragupta, Kautilya, and Arthashastra; Ashoka; Concept of Dharma; Edicts; Polity, Administration, Economy; Art, architecture, and sculpture; External contacts; Religion; Spread of religion; Literature. Disintegration of the empire; Sungas and Kanvas.
8. **Post-Mauryan Period (Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, Western Kshatrapas):** Contact with outside world; growth of urban centres, economy, coinage, development of religions, Mahayana, social conditions, art, architecture, culture, literature, and science.
9. **Early State and Society in Eastern India, Deccan, and South India:** Kharavela, The Satavahanas, Tamil States of the Sangam Age; Administration, Economy, land grants, coinage, trade guilds, and urban centres; Buddhist centres; Sangam literature and culture; Art and architecture.
10. **Guptas, Vakatakas and Vardhanas:** Polity and administration, Economic conditions, Coinage of the Guptas, Land grants, Decline of urban centres, Indian feudalism, Caste system, Position of women, Education and educational institutions; Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi, Literature, scientific literature, art, and architecture.
11. **Regional States during Gupta Era:** The Kadambas, Pallavas, Chalukyas of Badami; Polity and Administration, Trade guilds, Literature; growth of Vaishnava and Saiva religions. Tamil Bhakti movement, Shankaracharya; Vedanta; Institutions of temple and temple architecture; Palas, Senas, Rashtrakutas, Paramaras, Polity, and administration; Cultural aspects. Arab conquest of Sind; Alberuni, The Chalukya as of Kalyana, Cholas, Hoysalas, Pandyas; Polity and Administration; Local Government; Growth of art and architecture, religious sects, Institution of temple and Mathas, Agraharas, education and literature, economy and society.

12. Themes in Early Indian Cultural History: Languages and texts, major stages in the evolution of art and architecture, major philosophical thinkers and schools, ideas in Science and Mathematics.

13. Early Medieval India, 750-1200:

- Polity: Major political developments in Northern India and the peninsula, origin, and the rise of Rajputs.
- The Cholas: administration, village economy and society “Indian Feudalism”.
- Agrarian economy and urban settlements.
- Trade and commerce.
- Society: the status of the Brahman and the new social order.
- Condition of women.
- Indian science and technology.

14. Cultural Traditions in India, 750-1200:

- Philosophy: Skankaracharya and Vedanta, Ramanuja and Vishishtadvaita, Madhva and Brahma Mimamsa.
- Religion: Forms and features of religion, Tamil devotional cult, growth of Bhakti, Islam and its arrival in India, Sufism.
- Literature: Literature in Sanskrit, growth of Tamil literature, literature in the newly developing languages, Kalhan's Rajtarangini, Alberuni's India.
- Art and Architecture: Temple architecture, sculpture, painting.

15. The Thirteenth Century:

- Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate: The Ghurian invasions - factors behind Ghurian success.
- Economic, Social and cultural consequences.
- Foundation of Delhi Sultanate and early Turkish Sultans.
- Consolidation: The rule of Iltutmish and Balban.

16. The Fourteenth Century:

- “The Khalji Revolution”.
- Alauddin Khalji: Conquests and territorial expansion, agrarian and economic measure.
- Muhammad Tughluq: Major projects, agrarian measures, bureaucracy of Muhammad Tughluq.
- Firuz Tughluq: Agrarian measures, achievements in civil engineering and public works, decline of the Sultanate, foreign contacts and Ibn Battuta's account.

17. Society, Culture and Economy in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries:

- Society: composition of rural society, ruling classes, town dwellers, women, religious classes, caste and slavery under the Sultanate, Bhakti movement, Sufi movement.
- Culture: Persian literature, literature in the regional languages of North India, literature in the languages of South India, Sultanate architecture and new structural forms, painting, evolution of a composite culture.
- Economy: Agricultural Production, rise of urban economy and non-agricultural production, trade, and commerce.

18. The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century-Political Developments and Economy:

- Rise of Provincial Dynasties: Bengal, Kashmir (Zainul Abedin), Gujarat.
- Malwa, Bahmanids.
- The Vijayanagara Empire.

- Lodis. — Mughal Empire, First phase: Babur, Humayun.
- The Sur Empire: Sher Shah's administration.
- Portuguese colonial enterprise, Bhakti, and Sufi Movements.

19. The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century- Society and culture:

- Regional cultures specificities.
- Literary traditions.
- Provincial architectural.
- Society, culture, literature, and the arts in Vijayanagara Empire.

20. Akbar:

- Conquests and consolidation of empire.
- Establishment of jagir and mansab systems.
- Rajput policy.
- Evolution of religious and social outlook. Theory of Sulh-i-kul and religious policy.
- Court patronage of art and technology.

21. Mughal Empire in the Seventeenth Century:

- Major administrative policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan, and Aurangzeb.
- The Empire and the Zamindars.
- Religious policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan, and Aurangzeb.
- Nature of the Mughal State.
- Late Seventeenth-Century crisis and the revolts.
- The Ahom kingdom.
- Shivaji and the early Maratha Kingdom.

22. Economy and society, in the 16th and 17th Centuries:

- Population Agricultural and craft production.
- Towns, commerce with Europe through Dutch, English and French companies: a trade revolution.
- Indian mercantile classes. Banking, insurance, and credit systems.
- Conditions of peasants, Condition of Women.
- Evolution of the Sikh community and the Khalsa Panth.

23. Culture during Mughal Empire:

- Persian histories and other literature.
- Hindi and religious literatures.
- Mughal architecture.
- Mughal painting.
- Provincial architecture and painting.
- Classical music.
- Science and technology.

24. The Eighteenth Century:

- Factors for the decline of the Mughal Empire.
- The regional principalities: Nizam's Deccan, Bengal, Awadh.
- Maratha ascendancy under the Peshwas.
- The Maratha fiscal and financial system.
- Emergence of Afghan power Battle of Panipat, 1761.
- State of, political, cultural, and economic, on eve of the British conquest.

Paper II Syllabus

1. **European Penetration into India:** The Early European Settlements; The Portuguese and the Dutch; The English and the French East India Companies; Their struggle for supremacy; Carnatic Wars; Bengal-The conflict between the English and the Nawabs of Bengal; Siraj and the English; The Battle of Plassey; Significance of Plassey.
2. **British Expansion in India:** Bengal-Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim; The Battle of Buxar; Mysore; The Marathas; The three AngloMaratha Wars; The Punjab.
3. **Early Structure of the British Raj:** The Early administrative structure; From diarchy to direct control; The Regulating Act (1773); The Pitt's India Act (1784); The Charter Act (1833); The Voice of free trade and the changing character of British colonial rule; The English utilitarian and India.
4. **Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule:**
 1. Land revenue settlements in British India; The Permanent Settlement; Ryotwari Settlement; Mahalwari Settlement; Economic impact of the revenue arrangements; Commercialization of agriculture; Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society.
 2. Dislocation of traditional trade and commerce; De-industrialisation; Decline of traditional crafts; Drain of wealth; Economic transformation of India; Railroad and communication network including telegraph and postal services; Famine and poverty in the rural interior; European business enterprise and its limitations.
5. **Social and Cultural Developments:** The state of indigenous education, its dislocation; Orientalist-Anglicist controversy, The introduction of western education in India; The rise of press, literature, and public opinion; The rise of modern vernacular literature; Progress of science; Christian missionary activities in India.
6. **Social and Religious Reform Movements in Bengal and Other Areas:** Ram Mohan Roy, The Brahmo Movement; Devendranath Tagore; Iswarchandra Vidyasagar; The Young Bengal Movement; Dayanada Saraswati; The social reform movements in India including Sati, widow remarriage, child marriage, etc.; The contribution of Indian renaissance to the growth of modern India; Islamic revivalism-the Feraizi and Wahabi Movements.
7. **Indian Response to British Rule:** Peasant movement and tribal uprisings in the 18th and 19th centuries including the Rangpur Dhing (1783), the Kol Rebellion (1832), the Mopla Rebellion in Malabar (1841-1920), the Santal Hul (1855), Indigo Rebellion (1859-60), Deccan Uprising (1875) and the Munda Ulgulan (1899-1900); The Great Revolt of 1857 —Origin, character, causes of failure, the consequences; The shift in the character of peasant uprisings in the post-1857 period; the peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930s.
8. **Factors leading to the birth of Indian Nationalism; Politics of Association;** The Foundation of the Indian National Congress; The Safety-valve thesis relating to the birth of the Congress; Programme and objectives of Early Congress; the social composition of early Congress leadership; the Moderates and Extremists; The Partition of Bengal (1905); The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal; the economic and political aspects of Swadeshi Movement; The beginning of revolutionary extremism in India.
9. **Rise of Gandhi;** Character of Gandhian nationalism; Gandhi's popular appeal; Rowlatt Satyagraha; the Khilafat Movement; the Non-cooperation Movement; National politics from the end of the Noncooperation movement to the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement; the two phases

of the Civil Disobedience Movement; Simon Commission; The Nehru Report; the Round Table Conferences; Nationalism and the Peasant Movements; Nationalism and Working-class movements; Women and Indian youth and students in Indian politics (1885-1947); the election of 1937 and the formation of ministries; Cripps Mission; the Quit India Movement; the Wavell Plan; The Cabinet Mission.

10. **Constitutional Developments** in the Colonial India between 1858 and 1935.

11. **Other strands in the National Movement.**

1. The Revolutionaries: Bengal, the Punjab, Maharashtra, U.P. the Madras Presidency, Outside India.
2. The Left; The Left within the Congress: Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, the Congress Socialist Party; the Communist Party of India, other left parties.

12. Politics of Separatism; the Muslim League; the Hindu Mahasabha; Communalism and the politics of partition; Transfer of power; Independence.

13. Consolidation as a Nation; Nehru's Foreign Policy; India and her neighbours (1947-1964); The linguistic reorganisation of States (1935-1947); Regionalism and regional inequality; Integration of Princely States; Princes in electoral politics; the Question of National Language.

14. Caste and Ethnicity after 1947; Backward Castes and Tribes in post-colonial electoral politics; Dalit movements.

15. Economic development and political change; Land reforms; the politics of planning and rural reconstruction; Ecology and environmental policy in post-colonial India; Progress of Science.

16. **Enlightenment and Modern ideas:**

1. Major Ideas of Enlightenment: Kant, Rousseau.
2. Spread of Enlightenment in the colonies.
3. Rise of socialist ideas (up to Marx); spread of Marxian Socialism.

17. **Origins of Modern Politics:**

1. European States System.
2. American Revolution and the Constitution.
3. French Revolution and Aftermath, 1789-1815.
4. American Civil War with reference to Abraham Lincoln and the abolition of slavery.
5. British Democratic politics, 1815-1850: Parliamentary Reformers, Free Traders, Chartists.

18. **Industrialization:**

1. English Industrial Revolution: Causes and Impact on Society.
2. Industrialization in other countries: USA, Germany, Russia, Japan.
3. Industrialization and Globalization.

19. **Nation-State System:**

1. Rise of Nationalism in 19th century.
2. Nationalism: State-building in Germany and Italy.
3. Disintegration of Empires in the face of the emergence of nationalities across the World.

20. **Imperialism and Colonialism:**

1. South and South-East Asia.
2. Latin America and South Africa.
3. Australia.
4. Imperialism and free trade: Rise of neo-imperialism.

21. **Revolution and Counter-Revolution:**

1. 19th Century European revolutions.
2. The Russian Revolution of 1917-1921.
3. Fascist Counter-Revolution, Italy and Germany.
4. The Chinese Revolution of 1949.

22. World Wars:

1. 1st and 2nd World Wars as Total Wars: Societal implications.
2. World War I: Causes and Consequences.
3. World War II: Causes and Consequences.

23. The World after World War II:

1. Emergence of Two power blocs.
2. Emergence of Third World and non-alignment.
3. UNO and the global disputes.

24. Liberation from Colonial Rule:

1. Latin America-Bolivar.
2. Arab World-Egypt.
3. Africa-Apartheid to Democracy.
4. South-East Asia-Vietnam.

25. Decolonization and Underdevelopment:

1. Factors constraining development; Latin America, Africa.

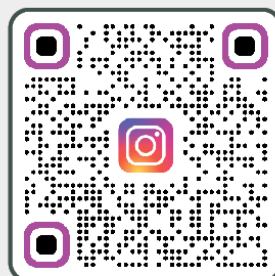
26. Unification of Europe:

1. Post War Foundations; NATO and European Community.
2. Consolidation and Expansion of European Community
3. European Union.

27. Disintegration of Soviet Union and the Rise of the Unipolar World:

1. Factors leading to the collapse of Soviet Communism and Soviet Union, 1985-1991.
2. Political Changes in East Europe 1989-2001.
3. End of the Cold War and US Ascendancy in the World as the lone superpower.

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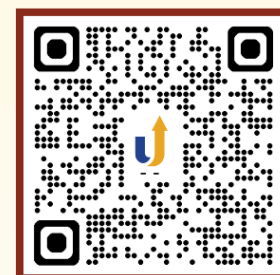


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SCAN FOR DETAILS



Ancient India

01. Sources of History

Literary Sources

- **Indian History Writing Tradition: Generic Questions:**

1. "Ancient Indians had no taste for historiography; their scholars cared more for religious, spiritual and philosophical studies. Indian historiography is essentially an Islamic heritage." Comment upon this statement with special reference to the contemporary writers and their works which help us in the reconstruction of history of the early medieval period of Indian history. [1996, 60 Marks]
2. How did early Indian historical tradition, as reflected in Itihasa-Purana, emerge? What are the distinctive features of this genre? [2018, 20 Marks]

- **Indian History Writing Tradition: Kalhana:**

1. Write a short essay on: "Kalhan as a historian" [2003, 20 Marks]
2. Assess Kalhana's views on History. [2009, 20 Marks]
3. Evaluate Rajtarangini as a source of history. [2012, 10 Marks]
4. Do you consider the Rajtarangini of Kalhana to be a reliable source of the political history of Kashmir? Why? [2017, 10 Marks]
5. Kalhana's Rajtarangini is the best example of history writing tradition in early India. Discuss. [2022, 15 Marks]

- **Foreign Travellers:**

1. In what ways are the accounts of the Graeco Romans and the Chinese helpful in reconstructing the social history of India? How far is their information corroborated by other Contemporary sources? [2009, 60 Marks]
2. "While using the accounts of foreign writers, historians must distinguish between statements based on hearsay and those grounded in perceptive observations." Elaborate with examples. [2014, 15 Marks]
3. Foreign accounts as a source of ancient Indian history may have some advantages but also have a few shortcomings. Citing appropriate examples, examine the statement. [2022. 15 Marks]
4. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. (GS, 2018)

Archaeological Sources

1. "Reconstruction of Early Indian history is hardly possible without the help of inscriptions and coins." Discuss. [2007, 60 Marks]
2. Art and culture are reflected to a far greater extent than political history in the epigraphic sources. Comment. [2017, 15 Marks]

3. Do you agree that archaeological evidence often helps in the better understanding of literary sources? Comment. [2019, 15 Marks]

Historiography

1. Discuss the changing approaches to the study of early Indian history. [2006, 60 Marks]
2. "The current practice of categorization of 'Early Modern India' is based on a shift from the old imperialist periodization of 'Muslim India' – 'British India' to the more secularist one of 'Medieval India' – 'Modern India', which puts Indian history in a universalist chronological Structure." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10 Marks]

Miscellaneous Questions

- **Impact of Geography:**
 1. Explain the geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. (GS, 2023)

02. Pre-historic India

Neolithic Era

1. To what extent archaeological materials are useful in understanding the progress of Neolithic man in India? [2010, 30 Marks]
2. Delineate and account for the regional characteristics of the Neolithic period in India. [2016, 15 Marks]
3. "The Neolithic Age represents a revolution due to significant changes that took place during this period." Examine. [2023, 20 Marks]

Chalcolithic Cultures

1. In the absence of a written script Chalcolithic pottery gives us a fascinating insight into the culture and lifestyles of the people of those times. Comment critically. [2013, 15 Marks]
2. The emergence of Non-Harappan Chalcolithic cultures in Central India and the Deccan mark a change not only in the subsistence pattern of people but an overall transition from pre to proto historic period. Critically analyze. [2017, 15 Marks]
3. "The Chalcolithic people were experts in microliths and were also skilful workers in stone." Elucidate. [2025, 10 Marks]

Megalithic Cultures

1. Discuss the extent, settlement patterns and subsistence economy of the megalithic cultures. [2012, 30 Marks]
2. In what ways can the Megalithic culture be considered a foundational phase of the history of peninsular India? [2014, 15 Marks]
3. Will it be proper to consider the Megaliths to represent a single, homogenous or contemporaneous culture? What kind of material life and culture system is revealed in the megalithic cultures? [2021, 15 Marks]

4. Discuss different types of Megalithic burial practices in India. How far does the archaeological evidence from it help us to know the religious beliefs and cultural practices? [2024, 15 Marks]

Prehistoric Arts

1. 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. (GS, 2015)

03. Harappan Civilization

Origin of Harappa

1. Did the mastery over agriculture act as a leverage for the rise of Harappan towns and cities? Discuss. [2019, 15 Marks]
2. The urban character of the Harappan civilization was a result neither of any outside influence nor a sudden act but a gradual evolution of regional socio-economic factors. Comment. [2022, 20 MARKS]

Features/Characteristics of Harappa

- **Settlements Features:**
 1. Was India civilized before the advent of the Aryans? State briefly the extent and striking features of the earlier civilization, if any. [1982, 20 Marks]
 2. The Indus-Saraswati cultural zone exhibited both homogeneity and diversity. Discuss. [2023, 15 Marks]
 3. Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture. (GS, 2025)
 4. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. (GS, 2014)
 5. What were the main features of the townships of the Harappan Civilization. (15, IFoS 2022)
- **Settlement Ecology:**
 1. Discuss the water management and its conservation planning in the Harappan (Indus-Saraswati) cities. [2013, 20 Marks]
 2. Explain why the majority of the known Harappan settlements are located in the semi-arid areas with saline groundwater. [2016, 20 Marks]
- **Economy: Agriculture, Craft, Trade:**
 1. Do you think the Harappan civilization had a diversity of subsistence base? [2014, 15 Marks]
 2. Discuss the trade, cultural contacts and the extents of the Indus Civilization within and outside India and describe in detail any one of the Indus sites within India. [1980, 60 Marks]
 3. Write a short essay on: "External trade of the Harappans." [1991, 20 Marks]
 4. Discuss the pattern of trade during the Indus Valley civilization. How far did it affect the nature of contemporary settlements in the Indian sub-continent? [1994, 60 Marks]
 5. "The Harappans were not an artistic people." Comment. [2025, 15 Marks]
- **Society and Religion:**
 1. Write a brief essay on: "The burial customs in the Indus Civilization." [1993, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "The Religion of the Indus Civilization." [1996, 20 Marks]

3. Evaluate the significance of seals and sealings in the reconstruction of socio-economic and religious life of the Harappan people. [2012, 30 Marks]
4. Harappan art contributes to our understanding of their aesthetic sensibilities in addition to spiritual and ritualistic life. Comment. [2024, 20 Marks]

Decline of Harappa

- **Overall Causes:**

1. How do you **account** for the decline of the major cities of the Indus Valley Civilization? [1984, 20 Marks]
2. Harappan civilization was spread through a large area. Many factors were responsible for its downfall. What were they? (IFoS 2015, 20 Marks)

- **Ecological factors:**

1. The decline of Harappan civilization was caused by ecological degradation rather than external invasion. Discuss. [2015, 15 Marks]
2. Do you agree that ecological factors influenced the flow and ebb of the Harappan Civilization? Comment. [2021, 15 Marks]

- **Nature: Gradual Process:**

1. "The Indus civilization did not have an abrupt appearance." Discuss the statement. How does the Indus civilization stand, in view of its geographical expansion and chronology, in relations to the Vedic civilization? [1990, 60 Marks]
2. "Archaeological evidence does not give direct access to the possible social and political dimensions of the decline of the Harappan civilization. What it does indicate very clearly is that the Harappan culture underwent a gradual process of de-urbanization"? [2018, 15 Marks]

- **Decline and Survival:**

1. "On circumstantial evidence Indra stands convicted." Explain, and discuss briefly different views about a sudden end of the Indus Valley civilization. How would you explain the presence of those elements in Indian culture and civilization which are found to have existed in the Indus Valley period? [1986, 60 Marks]
2. "The Indus Civilization had an abrupt end." Discuss the statement and explain how the Indus Civilization could influence Indian culture in its later history. [1988, 60 Marks]
3. "The continuity of the Indus Civilization into later ages was not confined to the religious and spiritual fields alone." Analyse the statement. [1997, 60 Marks]

- **Decline and Features together (old type long questions):**

1. Give an appraisal of town planning of the Indus cities and evaluate the various reasons for their decline. [1979, 60 Marks]
2. Discuss salient features of the Indus Valley Civilization. Mention important places from where relics of civilization have been recovered so far. Examine causes of its decline. [1999, 60 MARKS]
3. Analyze the elements of urban civilization in the Harappan Culture. What factors were responsible for its decline? [2002, 60 Marks]

04. Vedic Era

Sources

- **Literature:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Vedic literature" [1995, 20 Marks]
- **Archaeology during 2000 BCE-500 BCE:**
 1. Describe the distinguishing features of important archaeological cultures of the Indian subcontinent datable between c. 2000 B.C. and c. 500 B.C. [1995, 60 Marks]
 2. Assess the pattern of settlement, economy, social organization and religion of India during 2000 to 500 BC from archaeological evidences. [2003, 60 Marks]
- **Comparative:**
 1. "Archaeology knows of no Aryans; only literature knows of Aryans." Examine critically. [2015, 10 Marks]
 2. How do the comparative study of languages, archaeological sources and vast corpus of Vedic literature help to determine the Aryan problem in Indian history? Discuss. [2023, 15 Marks]

Features

- **Vedic Geography:**
 1. Give an account of the geography of the Vedic texts and describe the social life during the Vedic times. [1979, 60 Marks]
 2. Discuss the geographical area known to the Rig Vedic people. Were they familiar with the sea? [1985, 60 Marks]
- **Vedic Polity:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Democratic elements in the political system of the early Vedic period." [1986, 20 Marks]
 2. Discuss the evolution of State institution and taxation system from Rigvedic period to later Vedic period. [2024, 15 Marks]
- **Change and Continuity:**
 - **Overall:**
 1. Bring out the elements of change and continuity between the Early Vedic and Later Vedic Cultures. [1993, 60 Marks]
 - **Economy and Society:**
 1. Give a brief account of the social and economic conditions of the Later Vedic Aryans. [1998, 60 Marks]
 2. Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period. (GS, 2024)
 - **Society: Generic Questions:**
 1. Comment on continuity and change in the Later Vedic Society. (IFoS 2010, 10 Marks)
 2. Write a short essay on: "The formulation of social system in the later Vedic period." [1990, 20 Marks]
 3. Describe the social life of the later Vedic people. How was it different from the Rig Vedic life? [2004, 60 Marks]
 4. In what way was the egalitarian character of the early Vedic society changed during the later Vedic period? [2016, 15 Marks]

- **Society: Varna**
 1. Examine how the transformation of the Varna system from the Rigvedic to the Later Vedic period affected the position of women. [2019, 15 Marks]
- **Society: Women**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Position of women in the Rig Vedic society" [1988, 20 Marks]
- **Vedic Settlements:**
 1. Evaluate various views regarding human settlements as gleaned from the Vedic sources. [2013, 15 Marks]

Vedic Religion

- **Generic Questions:**
 1. Discuss the political pattern and the major religious ideas and rituals of the Vedic age. [1980, 60 Marks]
 2. Evaluate the various approaches to the understanding of Vedic religion. [2009, 30 Marks]
- **Vedic Deities:**
 1. What was the position of Varuna in the Vedic system of Gods? [1984, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a brief essay on: "The Vedic Gods of the terrestrial region." [1993, 20 Marks]
 3. Evaluate the conceptual basis of the Vedic deities. [2011, 30 Marks]
 4. Throw light on the nature of religion and classification of gods mentioned in the Rigveda. [2020, 20 Marks]
- **Vedic Rituals:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Vedic rituals" [1997, 20 Marks]
 2. Examine the view that sacrifice was a ritual and a form of social exchange in Vedic India. [2010, 30 Marks]
- **Upanishads:**
 1. "The Upanishadic principles embody the epitome of the Vedic thought." Discuss. [2014, 15 MARKS]
 2. Do you consider that the Upanishadic principles embody the high point of Vedic religious thought? Comment. [2021, 15 Marks]
 3. In their essence, the Upanishads were completely different from the rest of the body of Vedic literature. Comment. (IFoS 2022, 15 Marks)
- **Present Relevance:**
 1. What were the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? (GS, 2023)

Harappa-Vedic Continuity/Differences

- **Sources:**
 1. Literature doesn't know Harappan people while archaeology doesn't identify Vedic people. Critically examine. [2018]
 2. There is no literary sources for the Harappan culture and no archaeological evidence for the Vedic period. Explain the phenomenon. [2019, 20 Marks]
- **Overall:**

1. Analyse the differences and similarities between Indus Valley and Vedic Cultures. [1992, 60M]
 2. Critically examine various views regarding the Vedic-Harappan relationship in light of the latest discoveries. [2017, 15 Marks]
- **Society and Religion:**
 1. Examine the contribution of Vedic culture in the sphere of social institutions and religion. Was there any continuity between the Indus and the Vedic cultures in this respect? [1983, 60M]
 2. Compare the economic, social and religious life of the Indus Valley (Harappan) people with that of the early Vedic people and discuss the relative chronology of the Indus and the early Vedic cultures. [1987, 60 Marks]
 3. Discuss briefly the development of religious ideas and rituals in the Vedic age. Do they show any parallelism with the religion of the Indus Civilization? [1989, 60 Marks]

05. Post-Vedic Era

Sources

1. How far can the ancient Indian Sruti literature be used as historical sources? [2015, 15 Marks]

Features

- **Political features:**
 - **Magadhan Imperialism:**
 1. Trace the rise of Magadhan imperialism up to the times of the Nandas with particular reference to its policy towards the non-monarchical state. Discuss the factors that contributed to its success. [1990, 60 Marks]
 2. Analyse the causes of the success of the Magadhan imperialism upto the reign of Ashoka the Great. [2001, 60 Marks]
 - **Gana-Sanghas:**
 1. Give an account of the republics in the pre-Maurya period. Discuss the factors which contributed to their decline. [1992, 60 Marks]
 2. Give an account of gana-sanghas (non-monarchical state systems)? Why did they decline? [2018, 15 Marks]
 3. "The origin of the territorial republics has been traced to the reaction against the pattern of life that evolved in the later Vedic period." Analyse. [2025, 15 Marks]
 - **Foreign Invasions:**
 1. A number of scholars considered Alexander as 'The Great', although long term impacts of Alexander's invasion on India need to be re-evaluated. Comment. [2020, 15 Marks]
- **Second Urbanization:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Social and economic conditions of North India during the Pre-Mauryan period (600-325 B.C.)." [1996, 20 Marks]
 2. Examine the relationship among economic growth, urbanization and State formation from c. 7th century to 3rd century BCE. [2016, 15 Marks]
 3. Discuss the factors that played an important role in the process of urbanisation after the Later-Vedic period. [2020, 15 Marks]

- **Role of Iron:**

1. What role did iron play in changing their political and economic life? [1998, 60 Marks]
2. Evaluate the introduction of iron technology in the development of human history of ancient India. [2011, 20 Marks]

Philosophy and Religion

- **Emergence of Heterodox Sects:**

- **Generic/Comprehensive:**

1. What were the causes of the origin of the heterodox sects in the sixth century BC? [1984, 20 Marks]
2. Write a short essay on: "The intellectual revolution in the Sixth Century B.C." [1988, 20M]
3. "The Sixth century B.C. was a period of religious and economic unrest in India." Comment. [2003, 60 Marks]
4. Enumerate the causes for the rise of Buddhism and Jainism in ancient times. (IFoS 2018, 10 Marks)

- **Socio-Economic Basis:**

1. How far is it correct to say that changes in the post-Vedic economy gave birth to new religious movements in India? [2015, 15 Marks]
2. Buddhism and Jainism were social movements under the umbrella of religion. Comment. [2017, 15 Marks]
3. "The ideological challenge posed by Jainism and Buddhism was deeply rooted in the socio-economic transformations brought about by the expansion of agrarian settlements in eastern India." Explain. [2025, 20 Marks]

- **Ideological Basis:**

1. Discuss the social & economic factors for the rise of Buddhism. How far was it influenced by Upanisadic thought? [1987, 60 Marks]
2. What were the principal tenets (Arya Satyani) of the teachings of Lord Buddha? (IFoS 2022, 10 Marks)
3. The concept of Shramanic religions, with particular reference to Buddhism, had their roots in Upanisadic ideas. Discuss. [2018, 15 Marks]
4. Though some of the ideas of Buddhism may have had their origin in Vedic-Upanishadic tradition, but it was an altogether new religion with its own specific principles and institutions. Comment. [2022, 15 Marks]

- **Buddhism and Jainism (Other Aspects):**

- **Spread of Buddhism:**

1. Write what you know of the rise and spread of Buddhism before the first century A.D. [2007, 60 Marks]
2. "The political and economic needs of rulers, combined with economic and status needs of the merchant class, together provided the receptive cultural milieu in which Buddhism flourished," Comment. [2021, 15 Marks]
3. Symbiotic relationships between Buddhist establishments, traders, artisan guilds, and royal support led to a close proximity of religion, economy, and polity in the Mauryan and post-Mauryan periods. Examine the statement. [2024, 20 Marks]

- **Decline of Buddhism:**

1. Explain the social aspects of Buddhism and account for its decline in India. [2004, 60M]
- **Legacy of Buddhism:**
 1. Buddha's teachings to a large extent could be helpful in understanding and resolving the problems of today's society. Analyse critically. [2014, 15 Marks]
 - **Jainism:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Essence of early Jainism" [1995, 20 Marks]
 2. Assess the importance of Jain tenets and their relevance to humanity. [2011, 30 Marks]
 - **Comparative:**
 1. Bring out the similarity between the teachings of Buddha and Mahavira. (IFoS, 2024, 15M)

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06. Mauryan Empire

Sources

- **Megasthenes Indica:**
 1. Determine the veracity of Megasthenes' descriptions of Indian society and economy with the help of other contemporary evidences. [1994, 60 Marks]
- **Ashokan Inscriptions:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Inscriptions of Ashoka" [1995, 20 Marks]
 2. Examine sources of information for Mauryan dynasty. Throw light on the historical significance of Ashoka's inscriptions. [1999, 60 Marks]
- **Critical Comparison:**
 1. Critically examine the sources for the study of Mauryan dynasty. How are they useful in understanding the Mauryan administration? [1980, 60 Marks]
 2. Discuss critically the relative importance of the different source for the history of the Mauryan period. [1986, 60 Marks]
 3. Discuss the comparative merit of the Arthashastra, the Indica and Ashokan Inscriptions as sources for the administration, socio-economic conditions and religious life in the Mauryan period. [1989, 60 Marks]

Features

- **Extent of Mauryan Empire:**

1. Examine the importance of Ashoka's Rock Edit XIII for determining the extent of the Maurya Empire. Did Ashoka's policies and reforms contribute to the fall of the empire? [1993, 60 Marks] (first half)
 2. Determine the extent of the Mauryan empire. [2005, 60 Marks]
- **Nature of State and Administration:**
 - **Salient Features:**
 1. **Examine** the administrative system of the Mauryas and discuss briefly the causes of disintegration of the Mauryan Empire. [1984, 60 Marks] (first half)
 2. **Examine the nature** of the Mauryan State. Bring out the features of their administrative system. [2002, 60 Marks]
 3. How would you **characterize the nature** of Mauryan state on the basis of Kautilya's Arthashastra? [2021, 15 Marks]
 4. Discuss the **salient features** of Mauryan administration. (10, IFoS 2010)
 - **Centralized:**
 1. Do you agree with the popular view that Mauryas established a unitary and highly **centralized** if not monolithic state system? [2018, 20 Marks]
 - **Specific Aspects:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Mauryan **municipal** administration." [1996, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "The Maurya policy of **regulating** and controlling economic activities." [1990, 20 Marks]
 3. Examine the role of **adhyaksha** in the Mauryan administration. [2012, 30 Marks]
 - **Mauryan Material Culture:**
 1. How far did the Mauryans facilitate the diffusion of the material culture of the Gangetic plains? Explain. [2025, 15 Marks]
 - **Ashoka's Dhamma:**
 - **Content/Tenets:**
 1. Elaborate the **main tenets** of Samrat Ashok's dhamma. (10, IFoS 2019)
 2. Bring out the elements of change and continuity in the **domestic** and **foreign** policies of Ashoka. [1981, 60 Marks] (*first half*)
 3. **Analyze** Ashoka's policy of **Dhamma** and account for its **failure**. [1983, 60 Marks]
 4. Write a short essay on: "**Contents** of Asoka's dhamma and **reasons** for Asoka's keenness to propagate dhamma." [1991, 20 Marks]
 5. How did Ashoka contribute to the **moral and administrative welfare** of his people? [2000, 60 Marks]
 6. Discuss the **concept** of dhamma as practiced by Ashoka of the Mauryan empire. (15, IFoS 2023)
 - **Ashokan Intent:**
 1. Explain how Ashoka used religion as a tool of political aggrandizement. [2019, 15 Marks]
 2. Ashoka's dhamma was propagated not just for moral upliftment and social harmony but also for the extensions of the state's authority. Analyze the statement. [2022, 15 Marks]
 3. Analyze the contours of imperial ideology as exhibited during the Mauryan period. [2023, 15 Marks]
 - **Religious and Divine Aspects:**

1. “The concept of Ashoka’s Dhamma as found through his inscriptions had **its roots in Vedic—Upanishadic literature.**” Discuss. [2017, 15 Marks]
 2. How did **Buddhist influence** Ashoka in decision making and governance? (IFoS 2014, 12.5 Marks)
 3. For King Ashoka, sacredness meant ruling through **moral example.** Analyze. (IFoS 2021, 10 Marks)
- **Religion:**
 1. Discuss the role of Buddhism in shaping the socio-religious landscape of the Mauryan Empire. [2024, 15 Marks]
 2. Briefly discuss the contribution of Mauryas in the spread of Buddhism. (IFoS 2013, 10 Marks)
 - **Art and Culture:**
 1. Write a short essay on: “Mauryan court art as an alien grafting” [1988, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a brief essay on: “Similarities and differences between the Maurya columns and Achaemenian pillars.” [1993, 20 Marks]
 - **Mauryan Foreign Contact:**
 1. Bring out the elements of change and continuity in the domestic and foreign policies of Ashoka. [1981, 60 Marks] (*second half*)
 2. Delineate the nature and impact of India’s contact with Western Asia and the Mediterranean world during the Mauryan period. [2015, 15 Marks]

Decline and Fall of Mauryan Empire

- **Ashokan Dhamma:**
 1. Discuss the nature of Ashoka’s Dhamma. Was it responsible for the downfall of his empire? [1979, 60 Marks]
 2. Examine the importance of Ashoka’s Rock Edit XIII for determining the extent of the Maurya Empire. Did Ashoka’s policies and reforms contribute to the fall of the empire? [1993, 60 Marks] (*second half*)
 3. Discuss different interpretations of historians about the nature of Asoka’s ‘Dhamma’. Did his principle of ‘Dhamma-vijaya’ render the Mauryan Empire militaristically weak? [2014, 20 Marks]
- **Other Factors:**
 1. Do you think that the economic factors were alone responsible for the disintegration of the Mauryan Empire? [1982, 20 Marks]
 2. Examine the administrative system of the Mauryas and discuss briefly the causes of disintegration of the Mauryan Empire. [1984, 60 Marks] (*second half*)

Significance/Importance

1. What is the importance of Mauryan Empire in India History? (IFoS 2016, 15 Marks)
2. Enumerate the multiple aspects of the Mauryan period that make it a time of great historical interest. (IFoS 2020, 15 Marks)

07. Post-Mauryan Era

Historiography of the Post-Mauryan Era

1. How justified are we in characterizing the post-Mauryan five centuries as the 'Dark Period' of Indian History? Give reasons in support of your answer. [2008, 60 Marks]
2. The period of Indian History from 3rd century B.C.E. to 5th century C.E. was the period of innovation and interaction. How will you react? [2017, 20 Marks]

Regional Polities

- **Overall:**

1. Evaluate the significant political features of the Post Mauryan Northern India. What are the main sources of it? [2020, 15 Marks]

- **Shunga Policy:**

1. The development of art and architecture during the Sunga period belies the belief that they were anti-Buddhist. Discuss. [2019, 15 Marks]

- **Kharavela of Kalinga:**

1. Discuss the military activities of Kharavela of Kalinga. Do you think that his reign is significant for military expeditions alone? [1993, 60 Marks]

- **Western Kshatrapas:**

1. Western Kshatrapas are known for their socio-economic contribution, particularly in trade, agriculture, and urbanization. Examine the statement. [15m, 2024]

- **Kushana Cosmopolitanism, Central Asia and Silk Route:**

1. Write a short essay on "Indian participation in the silk trade through Central Asia." [1990, 20 Marks]
2. Examine the significance of the deities depicted on coins of the Kushanas. [2010, 30 Marks]
3. How does numismatic evidence of the period reflect the political and economic outlook of the Kushanas and the Satavahanas? [2016, 15 Marks]
4. What was the impact of trans-regional and trans-continental trade in the post-Mauryan period on social and cultural life of India? [2018, 20 Marks]
5. The flourishing international trade during the Kushana period gave tremendous impetus to the development of art. Discuss. [2019, 15 Marks]
6. Examine the nature and impact of India's contacts with Central Asia during the 1st to 3rd century CE. How did these interactions influence India's political, cultural and economic spheres? [2025, 20 Marks]

Religion and Culture

- **Religious Development:**

1. "The centuries between c. 200 B.C. and c. A.D. 300 constitute a landmark in the socio-religious history of India." Analyses the proposition. [1995, 60 Marks]

- **Development of Art:**

1. Brief out the salient features of the **religious** development in the Post-Maurya period. How was contemporary art influenced by it? [1988, 60 Marks]

2. Indian **philosophy and tradition** played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. (GS, 2020)
3. Analyze the significance of **external** influences and **indigenous** development on post Mauryan art. [2021, 20 Marks]
- **Buddhist Art:**
 1. Highlights of Buddhist art and architecture in India. (15, IFoS 2012)
- **Stupa Architecture:**
 1. Explain as to how the early Buddhist Stupa art, while using folk motifs and narratives and common cultural symbols, succeeded in transforming these themes for expounding the Buddhist ideals. [2013, 20 Marks]
 2. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. (GS, 2016)
 3. Write a short essay on: "The architectural and artistic features of the great stupa at Sanchi" [1997, 20 Marks]
- **Rock-cut Architecture:**
 1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (GS, 2020)
- **Sculptural Styles:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Origins, chronology, characteristics and geographical spread of Gandhara art." [1991, 20 Marks]
 2. Furnish a critical and comparative account of various schools of art in the Post -Mauryan period (c. 200 B.C. - c. 300 A.D.) [1998, 60 Marks]
 3. Review critically the evolution of different schools of art in the Indian subcontinent between the second century BCE and the third century CE and evaluate the socio-religious factors responsible for it. [2014, 20 Marks]
 4. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. (GS, 2019)
 5. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. (GS, 2014)
- **Language and Literature:**
 1. Write a brief essay on: "Buddhist writing in Sanskrit in the post-Maurya period." [1993, 20M]

History of South India

- **Aspects of Sangam Era:**
 1. How do recent archaeological findings and Sangam literary texts enlighten us about the early **state and society** in South India? [2008, 60 Marks]
 2. "Not only does ancient Tamil literature furnish an accurate picture of widely disparate classes; it also describes the **social** condition of Tamil country as it was." Discuss. [2015, 10 Marks]
 3. The accurate picture of the complex **socio-cultural milieu** of Peninsular India is presented in the early Sangam literature. Delineate. [2017, 15 Marks]
 4. Discuss the salient features of **cultural traditions** of South India as reflected in Sangam Literature. [2020, 20 Marks]
 5. How far the Sangam literature acts as a window into the **social and cultural** traditions of ancient South India? [2023, 20 Marks]

6. 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. (GS, 2013)
- **Indo-Roman Trade:**
 1. How was overseas trade **organized** in South India up to 300 A.D.? Discuss this with special reference to Roman trade and point out its **impact** on Indian economy. [1984, 60 Marks]
 2. Justify **Pliny's statement** the Rome was being drained out of its gold by India during the first century of the Christian era. [2012, 30 Marks]
 3. The discovery of **monsoons** by Hippalus gave a new direction to Indo-Roman trade during the Satavahana period. Comment. [2019, 15 Marks]
 4. Describe the Roman trade with India in the post-Mauryan period with emphasis on main **ports**, internal trade **routes** and **commodities**. (15, IFoS 2019)

08. Gupta-Vakataka Era

Sources:

1. How far do the coins of the Gupta's provide clues regarding trends in economy, polity, religion and arts? Discuss them in the light of corroborating evidence from archaeology and literature. [1981, 60 Marks]
2. Examine the information of Fa-Hien about the political, religious, social and economic conditions of India. Make a comparative study of his account with that of Yuan Chawang. [2003, 60 Marks]

Political Developments:

- **Rise of Guptas and Samudragupta:**
 1. Describe the expansion of the Gupta Empire under Samudragupta with the help of the Allahabad pillar inscription. [1979, 60 Marks]
 2. Describe the expansion of the Gupta Empire under Samudragupta. [2006, 30 Marks]
 3. Write a short essay on: "The significance of the policy of matrimonial alliances for the expansion and consolidation of the Gupta Empire." [1986, 20 Marks]
 4. Critically examine the contributions of Samudragupta as a statesman and as an administrator. (15, IFoS, 2024)
- **Decline of Guptas:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Skandagupta's war with the Hunas" [1997, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Factors that led to the rise and fall of the Gupta Empire." [1996, 20M]

State and Administration:

- **Administrative Features:**
 1. What are the salient features of the administrative system of the Guptas? [2005, 60 Marks]
 2. Discuss the provincial and district administrative units of the Gupta Empire with the designations and functions of the officers. [2014, 15 Marks]
- **Feudalism:**

1. Do you agree that the system of land grants from the Gupta-Vakataka period was connected with the decentralisation of state in any way? [2019, 20 Marks]

Economy:

1. Discuss the conditions of economic life in the age of the Guptas. [1982, 60 Marks]
2. Write a short essay on "The economic prosperity in the Gupta period." [1990, 20 Marks]
3. Give an account of the use of gold coins by commoners in the Gupta Period. [2009, 30 Marks]
4. The second urbanization gave rise to the organized corporate activities that reached their zenith during the Gupta period. Discuss. [2017, 20 Marks]
5. The economic achievements of the Guptas were the culmination of a process which began during the Kushanas. Comment. [2022, 20 Marks]

Society:

1. Throw light on the condition of common man in the Gupta period. [2007, 60 Marks]
2. How did the Varnashrama Dharma manifest the increasing social complexities in the Gupta and post Gupta period arising from social and economic developments? [2021, 20 Marks]
3. Evaluate the status of women in the Gupta period as compared to the pre-Gupta era. [2023, 15 Marks]

Puranic Religion:

1. In what ways does religion as reflected in the Vedic texts differ from the religion of the Gupta period? [1991, 60 Marks]
2. Evaluate the contribution of the Puranas in disseminating secular knowledge among the masses in ancient India. [2013, 15 Marks]
3. Puranas were the innovative genre of literature to popularise and revive Vedic religion. Elaborate with examples. [2020, 15 Marks]

Cultural Features:

• **Overall Achievements:**

1. Examine the development of religion, literature and fine arts under the Guptas. [1980, 60M]
2. "The Gupta period stands at the center of Indian history." Discuss the development of arts and literature in that Gupta period in the light of this statement. [1985, 60 Marks]
3. Highlight the achievements of the Gupta period in the field of literature, science and technology. [1998, 60 Marks]
4. Discuss the experimentations with art and architecture during the Gupta-Vakataka period. [2018, 15 Marks]
5. Write a brief note on the development of literature, science and technology during the Guptas (10, IFoS 2011)

• **Comparative:**

1. Analyses the characteristics features of the **Gupta art** and compare them with those of the **Mauryan art**. [1992, 60 Marks]
2. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable **in later times**? (GS, 2017)

3. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and **Chola period** to Indian heritage and culture. (GS, 2022)
- **Language, Literature (Indian Knowledge Systems):**
 1. Highlight the contributions of Aryabhatta, Varahamihira, and Brahmagupta in the fields of Astronomy and Mathematics. [2024. 20 Marks]
 2. 'Sanskrit literature of classical Gupta Age set standards for the early medieval India'. Evaluate the statement with representative examples. [2020, 15 Marks]

09. Post-Gupta Era (c 550-750 CE)

Post-Gupta North India

- **Maukharis and Harshavardhana:**
 1. Write a short essay on "The Maukharis paving the way for the glory of Harshavardhana" [1988, 20 Marks]
 2. Who were the Maukharis? Discuss their political relations with the Later Guptas of Magadha. [2000, 60 Marks]
 3. Harsha is described as 'the lord of the whole of north India'. Determine the extent of his empire and discuss his political relations with Sasanka, Bhaskaravarman and Pulakesin II. [1985, 60 Marks]
- **Historiography of Harsha:**
 - **Greatness:**
 1. Discuss critically the role Harsha played in the history of his times. [1989, 60 Marks]
 2. "Of all the events that had a singular being on the history of India, Harsha's death in 647 A.D. is significant." Why? Explain. [1996, 60 Marks]
 3. Critically examine the **sources** of information for the study of Harshavardhan and discuss his **religious policy**. [1984, 60 Marks]
 4. Explain the **political and cultural significance** of the reign of Harshavardhana (606-647 CE). (15, IFoS 2023)
 - **Two Famous Men:**
 1. "Harsha owes his greatness largely not to any real achievements but to formulate descriptions by **two famous men**." Discuss. [1987, 60 Marks]
 2. "Harshvardhan was himself great, but he has been made greater by Ban and Yuan Chiang." Critically examine the statement. [1999, 60 Marks]

Post-Gupta Peninsular India (Pallavas/Chalukyas)

- **Peninsular India v/s North India:**
 1. In what ways would the period of the Pallavas of the Kanchi and that of the Chalukyas of Badami mark the beginning of a new historical phase in peninsular India? [1991, 60 Marks]
 2. How far is it true to say that the strength and vigour of Indian history during c. A.D. 500-750 lay in the south of the Vindhyas? [1995, 60 Marks]
 3. Analyse the vibrant cultural activities in peninsular India during 550-750 CE. Compare and contrast it with the situation in contemporary North India. [2012, 30 Marks]
- **Chalukyas: Administration:**

1. Trace the origin and development of the political authority of the Chalukyas of Badami and discuss their contribution to religion and architecture. [1982, 60 Marks] (first half)
- **Pallavas: Administration:**
 1. Discuss critically the main aspects of polity and society under the Pallavas. [1981, 60 Marks]
 2. Assess the achievements of the Pallavas in administration and art. [1997, 60 Marks]
 - **Chalukya-Pallava Comparison:**
 1. Make a comparative study of the administrative system and development of art under the Pallavas of Kanchi and the Chalukyas of Vatapi. [1990, 60 Marks]
 - **Chalukya-Pallava Struggle:**
 1. Trace briefly the history of the struggle between the Chalukyas and the Pallavas. Analyze its causes and bring out its importance. [1985, 60 Marks]
 2. Give an account of the struggle for supremacy in South India between the Chalukyas of Badami and the Pallavas. [2000, 60 Marks]
 3. Give an account of the rise of the Chalukyas of Vatapi and their struggle with other rulers. Write a note on their patronage of arts. [2004, 60 Marks]
 4. Examine the course of Pallava-Chalukya conflicts between sixth and eighth century CE. [2024, 15 Marks]
 5. Discuss the circumstances which led to the conflict between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas and mention how this rivalry shaped the power dynamics in South India. [2025, 15 Marks]

10. Long-term Thematic Questions

Economy

- **Land:**
 1. Discuss the types of lands and the science of agriculture mentioned in the literature and epigraphs of ancient India. [2011, 20 Marks]
 2. Evaluate the ownership of land in ancient India on the basis of literary and epigraphic sources. [2013, 15 Marks]
 3. Critically evaluate the theory and practice of land revenue system in ancient India. [2016, 20 Marks]
- **Guilds:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "The role of **guilds** in the economic life of India from c. 200 B.C. to c. A.D. 300." [1986, 20 Marks]
 2. Examine the role of **guilds** in the economic life of ancient India. [1982, 20 Marks]
 3. Trace the role of **guilds** and trade organizations in the development of early Indian economy. [2015, 15 Marks]
 4. On the basis of contemporary sources assess the nature of **banking** and **usury** in ancient India. [2013, 15 Marks]
- **Trade:**
 1. Discuss ancient India's **trade** with **China**. (8, IFoS 2013)
- **Urbanization:**

1. Trace the development of urbanization from the third millennium B.C.E. to 6th century B.C.E. [2011, 60 Marks]

Society

- **Condition of Women:**

1. Assess the status of women in India from c. 4th century BC to c. 6th century AD. [2005, 60M]
2. What light do early inscriptions and literature throw on the status of women in politico socio-economic spheres? [2010, 60 Marks]
3. Social norms for women in the Dharmasastra and Arthasastra tradition were framed in accordance with the Varnashrama tradition. Evaluate critically. [2013, 20 Marks]

- **Varna System:**

1. "The Varna concept may always have been largely a theoretical model and never an actual description of society." Comment in the context of Ancient India. [2013, 15 Marks]
2. "The copious references to the preservation of Varnashrama system by the kings eulogized in inscriptions are mere reflection of the Smriti tradition." Discuss. [2016, 15 Marks]

Science and Technology

1. How far is it correct to say that the Indians of the ancient period indulged only metaphysical things and not in the development of pure sciences? [1982, 20 Marks]
2. Discuss the scientific and technological developments in ancient India. [1991, 60 Marks]
3. Trace the scientific and technological developments in India up to c. A.D. 750. [1994, 60 Marks]
4. Examine the proficiency of the ancient Indians in various crafts, science and mathematics. [2002, 60 Marks]

Education

1. Write a short essay on: "Nalanda Mahavihara" [1997, 20 Marks]
2. Assess the educational system in early India and identify important educational institutions of the period. [2012, 30 Marks]
3. Examine the role played by the Agraharas in the promotion of education in early medieval India. [15m, 2024]
4. Taxila 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. (GS, 2014)

Art and Culture

1. Discuss the major stages in the evolution of architecture during the ancient period. [2006, 60 M]
2. "The changes in the field of art from the Kushana period to early medieval period are mere reflection of changing outlook." Comment. [2016, 20 Marks]
3. Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. (GS, 2013)
4. Discuss the significance of lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. (GS, 2022)

Cultural Impact Outside India

- **Overall:**

1. India's cultural contacts with the outside world during ancient times. (15, IFoS 2012)

- **South-East Asia:**

1. Discuss the ancient Indian contacts with South-East Asia with reference to **causes, chronology** and original **home** of the migrants. What was the **impact** of these contacts on the art of **Kambuja** and **Java**? [1980, 60 Marks]
2. Discuss the cultural impact of India of the South-East Asia during the **ancient** period. [1982, 60 Marks]
3. Attempt an account of cultural influence of India in the **Indo-China** peninsula. (15, IFoS 2021)
4. How did Indian culture spread in the South-east Asiatic countries during the **Gupta** Age? [1997, 60 Marks]
5. Assess the contribution of the **Cholas** in the expansion of Indian culture outside India. [2011, 30 Marks]

Civilizational Dynamics

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. (GS, 2015)
2. The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate. (GS, 2017)

Heritage Conservation

1. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. (GS, 2018)

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Early Medieval Era

01. Political Developments in North India

- **Arab Invasion:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Historical significance of the advent of the Arabs in India" [1995, 20M]
- **Tripartite Struggle:**
 1. Discuss the role of the Rashtrakutas for the mastery of Kanauj and assess their contribution to art and culture. [1992, 60 Marks] (first half)
 2. "Achieving dominance in the south of the Vindhyas did not satisfy the ambitions of the Rashtrakutas, they also wanted to achieve dominance over the Gangetic Plains." Elaborate and comment. [1997, 60 Marks]
 3. Did the triangular conflict between the Rashtrakutas, Gujara Pratiharas and Palas create a political vacuum in northern India which facilitated the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni? [2001, 60 Marks]
 4. Evaluate the importance of tripartite struggle for the domination over north India during the eighth and ninth centuries. [2022, 20 Marks]

02. Feudalism Debate

- **Overall features:**
 1. What kind of changes were visualized by historians on Indian feudalism? Examine critically. [2012, 30 Marks]
 2. Explain the ingredients of the transitory nature of the early medieval India. [2016, 15 Marks]
 3. Discuss the different stages of Indian feudalism and analyze its impact on Indian political system. [2021, 10 Marks]
 4. Discuss the various proponents of Indian feudalism. [2023, 10 Marks]
- **Samanta System:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Origins and meaning of the samanta system." [1991, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "The Samanta System" [2006, 20 Marks]
- **Economic Aspects:**
 - **Land Grants:**
 1. "Land charters of north India (c. A-D. 750-1200)." Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
 2. Evaluate the socio-economic conditions from the Gupta Period to 1200 C.E. as gleaned from the various types of grants or dana shasana. [2011, 60 Marks]
 3. What were the privileges granted to the donees in land-grant charters of early India? How far were these charters responsible for integration or disintegration socio-political milieu? [2014, 20 Marks]
 4. Do the evidences of land ownership at our disposal support the theory of the prevalence of feudalism in early medieval India? [2015, 15 Marks]

5. What were the 'Brahmadeya' grants? How do you account for the large number of such grants in the early medieval period? [2022, 10 Marks]
- **Agricultural Expansion:**
 1. Critically analyse the agricultural economy from 750 to 1200 CE. [2014, 10 Marks]
 2. Large number of land grants in hitherto non-arable tracts invariably meant expansion of agriculture in early medieval India. How did the management of hydraulic resources (different types of irrigation works) facilitate expansion of agriculture in this period? [2021, 15 Marks]
 - **Monetary System:**
 1. To what extent 'monetary anaemia' afflicted the erstwhile commercial economy during the early medieval period? [2010, 30 Marks]
 - **Social Aspects:**
 - **Overall Features:**
 1. Give an account of the Society in Northern and Central India since the death of Harsha to the Muslim conquest of North India. [1996, 60 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Applicability of the term 'Indian Feudalism' to early Medieval Society." [2009, 20 Marks]
 3. Critically analyze the changing nature of caste and gender relations during the early medieval period. [2018, 15 Marks]
 4. "The dynamics of social mobility in early medieval India were shaped by a complex interplay of caste hierarchies, religious legitimation, economic transformation and political patronage." Critically assess how these factors collectively reconfigured the structure of early medieval Indian society. [2025, 15 Marks]
 - **Rajput Society:**
 1. Bring out the salient features of the polity & social structure of the Rajputs. To what extent were they responsible for the weakness of the Rajputs to the foreign invaders? [1988, 60 Marks] (first half)
 2. Write a short essay on: "Social structure of the Rajputs." [1998, 20 Marks]
 3. "The inferior cavalry of the Rajputs was not the only cause of their defeat at the hands of Turko- Afghans and Mughal." Comment. [2001, 60 Marks]
 - **Al-Beruni:**
 - **Overall:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Al- Biruni's India" [1998, 20 Marks]
 - **Society, Education:**
 1. Discuss the salient features of Indian society on the eve of the campaigns of Mahmud of Ghazni, with particular reference to the observations made by Al-Biruni. [1989, 60 Marks]
 2. Attempt a critical essay of the Indian Science and Civilization in the light of Alberuni's writings. What merits and drawbacks, do you find in his account? [2003, 60 Marks]
 3. Write a short essay on: "Alberuni on science in India" [2007, 20 Marks]
 - **Critical Analysis:**
 1. Evaluate the 'Kitab al-Hind' of Alberuni as a source of history of India. [2014, 15 Marks]
 2. Comment on the veracity of Alberuni's account of the Indian society. [2016, 10 Marks]
 3. Examine the defects in Alberuni's assessment of the Indian society. [2023, 10 Marks]

03. Imperial Cholas in South India

- **Overall Achievements of Cholas:**
 1. Critically assess the period of the Cholas in the history of South India. [1991, 60 Marks]
 2. Assess the importance of the Cholas in the history of South India. [1996, 60 Marks]
 3. Critically evaluate the achievements of the Cholas. [1998, 60 Marks]
- **Expansion under Rajaraja/Rajendra Chola:**
 1. Describe the development of Chola power under Rajaraja and Rajendra I. Form an estimate of their cultural contributions. [1980, 60 Marks]
 2. Discuss the contribution of Rajaraja I and Rajendra I for the expansion of the Chola Empire. Analyse the causes and impact of the naval expeditions of the Cholas. [1993, 60 Marks]
 3. "The Chola rulers were not only mighty conquerors, efficient administrators but also builders of fine temples." Comment. [2021, 15 Marks]
 4. Chola maritime expansion was driven largely by concerns of overseas commerce. Elucidate. [2022, 20 Marks]
- **Nature of Chola State and Administration:**
 1. What were the salient features of the bureaucratic machinery of the Cholas? [1985, 20 Marks]
 2. Show that the administrative system in India reached a very high level during the Chola period. [2007, 60 Marks]
 - **Local Government:**
 1. Describe the village administration of the Chola period as known from the Uttaramerur inscriptions. [1979, 60 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Local self-government under the Cholas." [1992, 20 Marks]
 3. Analyze the significance of the Uttaramerur inscriptions of the Chola King Parantaka I. [2016, 10 marks]
 - **Local Government and Democratic Nature?:**
 1. Were the Chola village assemblies democratic in nature? Give reasons for your answer. [2000, 60 Marks]
 2. How far can the village assemblies or communities under the Cholas be really called democratic? [2009, 30 Marks]
 - **Local Government and Nature of Chola State:**
 1. The Cholas are said to have established a strong and well-organized administration with an element of self-government at the local level. Do you agree? Give reasons. [2004, 60M]
 2. "Doubtless it was not a free state; it was any rate a state" (K A N Sastri). Reflect upon the nature of local self-government institutions in the Chola country. [2018, 15 Marks]
 3. Evaluating various theories regarding the Chola State, throw light on its village assemblies. [2014, 15 Marks]
 4. How could the local self-government under the Cholas adjust with their centralized administration structure? [2015, 10 Marks]
- **Chola Economy:**
 - **Urbanization:**
 1. Evaluate the role of nadu and nagaram in the growth of urbanisation under the Cholas. [2012, 30 Marks]
 - **Temple Institutions:**

1. How far do you agree with the view that temples in early medieval period were catalysts in spreading education? [2010, 30 Marks]
2. How did the temples of South India, as financial institutions, have deep impact on the social institutions of early medieval period? Critically examine. [2016, 15 Marks]

04. Religious Developments

- **Overall:**
 1. Is it correct to say that the post-Gupta period was remarkable for the expansion of religious cults in India? [2023, 15 Marks]
- **Tantricism:**
 1. "Tantrism, if not in practice, at last on conception level challenged patriarchy." Examine Tantrism specially keeping in mind the above context. [2015, 10 Marks]
 2. Trace and identify the changing pattern of Tantrism in Ancient India with examples. [2020, 15 Marks]
- **Tamil Bhakti: Origin and Characteristics:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Origin of the Bhakti Movement" [2002, 20 Marks]
 2. What are the manifestations of Tamil devotional cults? How do you account for their growth between C. 750 and C. 1200 CE? [2008, 60 Marks]
 3. "Utpanna dravide bhaktih, Karnate vriddhimagata I Sthita kinchit maharashtre gurjare jirnatam gata II" Account for the emergence of bhakti in Dravida desa. [2018, 15 Marks]
 4. Throw light on the chief characteristics of Tamil Bhakti movement during the early medieval period. [2022, 15 Marks]
 5. Trace the growth of Bhakti movement in South India. (10, IFoS 2017)
- **Adi Shankaracharya's Contribution:**
 1. How did Sankaracharya seek to integrate the different religions cults in India? [1981, 20 M]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Shankaracharya's philosophy and its impact." [1987, 20 Marks]
 3. "Sankaracharya brought about a synthesis of ideas and philosophies." Discuss the statement and analyse the historical significance of his life and thought. [1990, 60 Marks]
 4. Write a short essay on: "The Vedanta of Sankaracharya" [2001, 20 Marks]
 5. Assess the statement that 'the philosophy of Shankaracharya revolutionized religious thoughts in India.' [2019, 20 Marks]
- **Other Acharyas:**
 1. Analyze the contributions of Acharya Triumvirate to Indian Vedanta. [2024. 20 Marks]
- **Relationship between Acharyas and Bhakti:**
 1. Assess the contribution of the Acharyas in the development of the ideological basis of Bhakti. [2012, 10 Marks]
 2. "The Advaita doctrine of Shankara cut at the very root of Bhaktivada. "Do you agree? [2016, 15 Marks]
 3. Trace the rise of Bhakti Movement. Discuss its nature with respect to Dvaita and Advaita Vada. (15, IFoS 2019)

- **Lingayat Movement:**

1. The Virshaiva movement of Southern Deccan in the 12th century was essentially an attempt at social reform. Discuss. [2022, 15 Marks]

05. Cultural Features

- **Stages/Phases:**

1. The 11th-12th centuries C.E. saw eventful progression in the cultural history of India. Discuss. [2017, 10 Marks]
2. Critically evaluate the major stages in the development of art and architecture in early medieval India and explain how these stages reflect the socio-political and economic milieu of the period. [2025, 20 Marks]

- **Dynastic Contribution:**

- **Early Chalukya:**

1. Trace the origin and development of the political authority of the Chalukyas of Badami and discuss their contribution to religion and architecture. [1982, 60 Marks] (second half)
2. What was the contribution of the Chalukyas of Badami to Indian architecture? [1984, 20 Marks]

- **Pallavas:**

1. Discuss the contribution of the Pallavas to South Indian art. Was this art wholly indigenous? [1979, 60 Marks]
2. Who were the Pallavas? Review briefly their contribution to art and administration [1983, 60 Marks]
3. Write a short essay on: "The contributions of the Pallavas to Indian architecture." [1986, 20 Marks]
4. Evaluate the importance of the contributions of the Pallavas in the history of the development of art and administration in South India. [1988, 60 Marks]
5. Describe the evolution and development of regional temple architecture of South India with special reference to Pallavas. [2020, 20 Marks]
6. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. (GS, 2024)

- **Rashtrakutas:**

1. Discuss the role of the Rashtrakutas for the mastery of Kanauj and assess their contribution to art and culture. [1992, 60 Marks] (second half)
2. Critically evaluate the contribution of Rashtrakutas to art and culture. [1999, 60 Marks]

- **Palas:**

1. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate (GS, 2020)

- **Cholas:**

1. Describe the salient features of Chola art. (12.5, IFoS 2014)
2. How far temple architecture under the Cholas became more refined and grandiose as compared to the early South Indian temple architecture style? [2023, 15 Marks]

3. "Though the great Cholas are no more yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of art and architecture." Comment. (GS, 2024)
 4. Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. (GS, 2013)
- **Temple Architecture:**
 1. Trace the origin and development of temple architecture in India with reference to regional styles and variations. [2017, 20 Marks]
 2. With the help of representative examples, delineate the main differences between the Nagara and Dravida style of temple architecture. [2022, 15 Marks]
 - **Nagara Style:**
 1. Give a brief account of the early medieval temple architecture of Kashmir. [2015, 10M]
 - **Vesara Style:**
 1. Illustrate the main features of Vesara style temple architecture. [10m, 2024]
 - **Dravidian Style:**
 1. Do you agree with the view that the form and content of temple architecture in South India between c. A.D. 750 and 1200 were products of a specific economic and political milieu? [1994, 60 Marks]
 2. Bring out the regional variations in the early South Indian Temple's architectural styles. [2009, 60 Marks]
 - **Kailas Temple at Ellora:**
 1. Assess Ellora as a unique art centre of the different cultural streams. [2011, 20 Marks]
 2. Kailasa Temple built at Ellora marks the culmination of rock-cut architecture in India. Elucidate. [2015, 15 Marks]
 - **Sculptures:**
 1. How will you explain that medieval Indian temple *sculptures* represent the social life of those days. (GS, 2022)
 2. 'The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life.' Elucidate. (GS, 2025)
 - **Painting:**
 1. Discuss the Caurapancashika and Jain styles of paintings. Can the Caurapancashika style truly be called the precursor of pothi format? [2012, 10 Marks]
 - **Language and Literature:**
 1. Discuss the relationship between emergence of literature in vernacular languages and formation of regional identities in early medieval India. [2021, 20 Marks]

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Medieval India

01. Delhi Sultanate

Sources

- **Overall:**
 1. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. (GS, 2020)
 2. Write a short note on: "Main sources of information for the history of the 13th century." [1987, 20 Marks]
- **Arabic Histories:**
 1. Provide a comparative analysis of the development of Arabic and Persian historiography. [2010, 20 Marks]
- **Persian Chronicles:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Ziauddin Barani as a historian." [1994, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Amir Khusrau was an eminent poet not a historian." [2000, 20 Marks]
 3. Give a critical assessment of the contributions of Amir Khusrau and Barani to Indo – Persian Literature. [2009, 30 Marks]
 4. Evaluate the contents of the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri as a source of medieval history. [2016, 10 Marks]
- **Sufi Literature:**
 1. Evaluate the Malfuzat texts sources of medieval history. [2013, 10 Marks]
 2. Discuss the importance of Sufic literature as an important source of history. [2023, 10 Marks]
- **Ibn Battuta:**
 1. What is your assessment of Ibn Batutah's Rehla as an important source of Indian history. [2011, 20 Marks]

Turkish Conquest

1. Bring out the salient features of the polity & social structure of the Rajputs. To what extent were they responsible for the weakness of the Rajputs to the foreign invaders? [1988, 60 Marks] (second half)
2. "The inferior cavalry of the Rajputs was not the only cause of their defeat at the hands of Turko-Afghans and Mughal." Comment. [2001, 60 Marks]
3. "The battles of Tarain and Chandawar laid the foundations of Turkish rule in India". Elaborate. [2018, 10 Marks]
4. Internal strife and conflict beset with personal ambitions was enough of an invitation for the Ghurids to invade India. Discuss. [2019, 15 Marks]
5. Assess the causes of the defeat of Northern Indian States against the Turkish invasion. [2020, 20M]

Political History of Delhi Sultanate

- **Mamluks/Slave Dynasty (Ilbari Turks):**
 - **Iltutmish:**

1. Write a short essay on: "The 'Corps of Forty' and its relations with the Sultans." [2004, 20 Marks]
2. Assess the contribution of Iltutmish for the expansion and consolidation of the Delhi Sultanate. [2011, 20 Marks]
3. Do you consider Sultan Iltutmish to be the real founder of the Delhi Sultanate? Discuss. [2021, 10 Marks]
- **Turkan-i-Chahalgani:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "The 'Corps of Forty' and its relations with the Sultans." [2004, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "The 'Corps of Forty' and its relations with the Sultan." [2008, 20 Marks]
 3. Analyse the social composition and the role of nobility under the successors of Iltutmish. How did it affect contemporary politics? [2012, 30 Marks]
 4. Much of the political instability after the death of Iltutmish was the doing of the Chahalgan. Elucidate. [2022, 10 Marks]
- **Razia Sultana:**
 1. Analyze the steps taken by Razia Sultan to strengthen her position as an independent ruler despite various obstacles. [2013, 10 Marks]
- **Balban's Policy and Theory of Kingship:**
 1. What were the problems Balban faced? How far did he succeed in solving them? Was he a trendsetter in his theory of kingship? [1985, 60 Marks]
 2. Comment on "Balban's theory of kingship." [1995, 20 Marks]
 3. Give an estimate of Ghasiuddin Balban. [1996, 60 Marks]
 4. Critically examine the 'blood and iron' policy of Balban. [2017, 10 Marks]
 5. Why did Balban prefer 'consolidation' over 'expansion' of the Delhi Sultanate? [2023, 15 Marks]
- **Mongol Invasion:**
 1. How did the Mongol invasions affect the Delhi Sultanate and the north-western frontier policy of the Delhi Sultans? [2012, 30 Marks]
 2. What measures did Balban adopt to combat the Mongol menace? [2015, 10 Marks]
- **Khaljis:**- **Khalji Revolution:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "The Khalji Revolution" [2006, 20 Marks]
 2. Why is the reign of the Khaljis known as the 'Khalji Revolution'? [2021, 15 Marks]
- **Alauddin Khalji's Southern Campaign:**
 1. What, in your opinion, was the significance of the extensive military expeditions undertaken during the time of Alauddin Khalji? Do you think his reign is considered significant in terms of such expeditions alone? [1991, 60 Marks]
- **Theory of kingship:**
 1. Discuss Balban's concept of kingship. How was it modified by Alauddin Khalji? [2002, 60M]
- **Administrative Reforms/Features:**
 1. Bring out the essential features of the administration of Ala-ud-din Khalji. [1979, 60 M]
 2. Examine the significance of Alauddin Khalji's administrative reforms. Was he really successful in implementing these measures? [1993, 60 Marks]

3. Discuss the implications of Khilji imperialism with reference to administration and economic regulations on the State and people of India. [1997, 60 Marks]
4. Write a short essay on: "Alauddin Khilji was a typical despot" [1999, 20 Marks]
- **Economic Regulation and Imperialism:**
 1. Critically examine the economic regulations of Ala-ud-din Khalji. [1983, 60 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "The significance of Alauddin Khilji economic regulations for his imperialism." [1989, 20 Marks]
 3. Examine critically the agrarian and economic reforms of Alauddin Khalji. How did it strengthen the Sultanate? [2011, 20 Marks]
 4. The economic measures of Alauddin Khalji were aimed at greater political control. Discuss. [2019, 10 Marks]
 5. "Alauddin Khilji's economic measures aimed at centralising political authority in the Delhi Sultanate." Elucidate. [2025, 10 Marks]
- **Market Regulations:**
 1. What were the aims of Alauddin Khalji behind his market regulations, and how far were they achieved? [1981, 60 Marks]
 2. Critically examine the price control measures of Alauddin Khilji. What was the main objective behind them and how far was he able to put them into effect? [1987, 60 M]
 3. Assess the impact of the market reforms of Alauddin Khilji on contemporary economy and society. [2001, 60 Marks]
 4. Analyse the ordinances mentioned by Barani which Alauddin Khalji promulgated for market control. [2014, 10 Marks]
 5. The market regulations of Alauddin Khilji were useful for the Sultan's military might but harmful for the economy of the Sultanate. Comment. [2022, 15 Marks]
- **Agrarian Reforms:**
 1. Make a comparative review of the agrarian reforms of Alau-ud-Din Khalji and Sher Shah Suri. [1995, 60 Marks]
 2. Elaborate upon the agrarian reforms of Alauddin Khilji. [2020, 20 Marks]
 3. The motive of Alauddin Khilji's agrarian policy was to curb the powers of the intermediaries. Examine the measures which he adopted to achieve his objective. [2023, 10 Marks]
- **Tughlaqs:**
 - **Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq's personality/experiments:**
 1. Do you agree with the view that Muhammad Tughluq was 'transcendent failure'? Why did he fail to achieve the ideals he had set for himself? [1984, 60 Marks]
 2. Muhammad Bin Tughlaq's contradictory qualities were beyond the grasp knowledge and commonsense. Evaluate the significance of his administrative measures and policies in the light of this statement. [1992, 60 Marks]
 3. Write a short essay on: "Experiments of Muhammad Tughluq". [2003, 20 Marks]
 4. Do you agree that the schemes of Muhammad bin Tughluq were correctly conceived, badly executed and disastrously abandoned? Discuss. [2017, 15 Marks]
 - **Specific Reforms by MBT:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "The Token Currency System introduced by Muhammad Tughluq." [2004, 20 Marks]

2. Write a short essay on: "Muhammad Tughluq as an agrarian innovator." [2009, 20 Marks]
- **Firuz Tughluq:**
 1. Why was Firuz Tughluq regarded as an ideal Muslim king of medieval times? [1983, 20 M]
 2. Examine the responsibility of Firuz Tughluq for the fall of his dynasty. [1985, 20 Marks]
 3. "Firuz Tughluq has been overshadowed by Muhammad Tughluq." In the light of this statement evaluate the significance of the policies and actions of Firuz Tughluq. [1990, 60 Marks]
 4. Form an estimate of the personality of Firoz Shah Tughlaq with special reference to his religious policy and public works. [2000, 60 Marks]
 5. Evaluate Firuz Shah Tughluq's economic policies. [2024, 10 Marks]
- **Nobility during Tughlaqs:**
 1. "The policy of creating heterogeneous nobility by Muhammad Tughlaq started the process of disintegration of Delhi Sultanate". Explain. [2018, 20 Marks]
 2. Critically evaluate the Muslim Nobility during the period of Tughlaq dynasty. [2020, 10 M]
- **Lodhis:**
 1. How was the Afghan nobility responsible for the decline of the Afghan Empire? Discuss. [2012, 30 Marks]
 2. Give your assessment of Bahlol Lodi's relation with his nobility. [2021, 15 Marks]
- **Decline of Delhi Sultanate:**
 1. What factors do you attribute for the decline of the Delhi Sultanate? [2023, 10 Marks]

Kingship, Polity and Administration

- **Theories of Kingship:**
 1. Critically examine the views of Balban, Ala-ud-din Khalji and the Tughluq on the nature of Kingship under the Delhi Sultanate. [1982, 60 Marks]
 2. Evaluating the theory of kingship of the Sultanate, discuss the deviations seen in the reigns of different Sultans. [2014, 20 Marks]
 3. "Barani's 'Fatwa-i-Jahandari' was not a proper account of the Delhi Sultanate, rather a lament." Elucidate. [2025, 15 Marks]
- **Theocracy/Caliphate:**
 1. Was the state in the Sultanate period a theocracy? Discuss the new orientation of state policies and administrative principles under Muhammad bin Tughluq. [1988, 60 Marks]
 2. To what extent was the Caliphate the source and sanction to the legal authority of the Sultans of Delhi? [2017, 15 Marks]
- **Administrative Consolidation:**
 1. Bring out the main features of the administration system under Delhi Sultanate during Turko-Afghan Period. [2006, 60 Marks]
 2. What measures were initiated by the Sultans for the consolidation of the Delhi Sultanate? Discuss. [2016, 20 Marks]
 3. Discuss the importance of Iqta system. How did it help in centralization of administration of the Delhi Sultanate. [2021, 15 Marks]
- **Land-revenue system:**
 1. Throw light on the Land Revenue System of Sultanate period. [1998, 60 Marks]

2. Discuss in brief the land-revenue system and judicial administration of the Delhi Sultanate. [2015, 15 Marks]

Economy

- **Overall:**
 1. Do you agree with the view that the advent of the Turks and the Mughals in India heralded many changes in the means of production? Give reasons in support of your answer. [1995, 60 Marks]
- **Technology:**
 2. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did these technological changes influence Indian society? (GS, 2023)
- **Agriculture and Irrigation:**
 1. Delineate the state of agriculture during Sultanate period. [2019, 15 Marks]
 2. Discuss the principal sources of irrigation in the Sultanate period. (10, IFoS 2010)
- **Industry:**
 1. Evaluate the conditions of industries in India from 1200 to 1500 CE. [2013, 20 Marks]
 2. Delineate non—agricultural production and urban economy in the 13th and 14th centuries C.E. [2017, 20 Marks]
 3. Discuss the advancement made in Textile Technology under the Delhi Sultans. [2018, 10 Marks]
 4. Some new crafts production were introduced by the Turks. Comment. [2020, 15 Marks]
- **Urbanization:**
 1. Identify the main factors that sustained the expansion of urban economy in the Delhi Sultanate. [2009, 30 Marks]
 2. How did international trade support urbanisation in North India during the 13th-14th century CE. [2020, 10 Marks]
 3. The establishment of large number of settlements in North India in the 13th century was principally owing to the deployment of Turkish garrisons across lands. Comment. [2022, 10 M]
- **Maritime Trade:**
 1. Examine the increasing importance of maritime trade of India during thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. [2010, 30 Marks]

Social Feature

- **Labour:**
 1. Evaluate critically the conditions of labour from 1200 to 1500 CE on the basis of historical sources. [2013, 15 Marks]
- **Common People:**
 1. Do you think that the economic measures introduced by the Sultanate rulers were beneficial to the common people as well? Illustrate with examples. [2016, 20 Marks]
- **Women:**
 1. Discuss evidence of slavery provided by Ibn Batuta with special reference to female slaves. [2018, 10 Marks]
 2. Compare and contrast the position of Hindu and Muslim women in 13th and 14th century India. [15m, 2024]

- **Education:**

1. Critically evaluate the educational development during Sultanate period. [2013, 15 Marks]

Cultural Developments

- **Architecture:**

1. Write a short essay on: "Indo-Islamic architecture during the Khalji and Tughluq period." [1992, 20 Marks]
2. Trace the technological and stylistic development in the architecture of the Sultanate period. [2014, 15 Marks]
3. Describe the new architecture features added by successive Sultans in the construction of Tombs in India. [2018, 20 Marks]

- **Language and Literature:**

1. Where, when and how did Urdu originate? [1985, 20 Marks]
2. "The period of Delhi Sultans witnessed the emergence of Indo-Persian culture." Discuss the statement with reference to developments in the fields of language. [1986, 60 Marks]
3. Identify the different categories of Persian literature which emerged during the Delhi Sultanate. [2021, 10 Marks]

02. Regional History (14th-16th century)

North India

- **Gujarat:**

1. Assess the Lekhapaddhati as an important source for evaluating the society and economy of the thirteenth century CE with special reference to Gujarat. [2013, 15 Marks]

- **Kashmir:**

1. Evaluate Jonaraja's account of the reign of Zain-ul- Abidin. [2016, 10 Marks]
2. Assess the rule of Zainul Abedin in Kashmir. [2019, 10 Marks]

- **Rajasthan:**

1. Analyze how the political processes of state formation of Mewar, from 10th-15th century CE was challenged in the 16th century CE by the imperialist policy of Akbar. [2013, 15]
2. Make an estimate of Rana Kumbha as a patron of literature and art. [2015, 15 Marks]

Portuguese Colonial enterprise

1. Write a short essay on: "Portuguese **control of the Indian Ocean** and its **impact**." [1992, 20 Marks]
2. Write a short essay on: "**Significance** of the arrival of the Portuguese in India." [2008, 20 Marks]
3. How was **cartaz system** used by the Portuguese to maintain their control over the oceanic trade? [2014, 10 Marks]
4. Highlight the **features** of Portuguese colonial enterprise. [2024, 10 Marks]
5. Portuguese maritime power **disrupted the character of trade in the Indian Ocean** in the 16th century. Review. [2025, 15 Marks]

03. Vijayanagara-Bahmani Empires

Vijayanagara Empire

- **Origin Story:**
 1. Discuss the origin of the Vijayanagara Kingdom. Do you agree with the view that Krishnadevaraya was an ideal ruler of this dynasty? [1980, 60 Marks] (first half)
- **Hindu Resistance:**
 1. Do you agree that convergence of political vacuum and impact of Islamic culture and polity in peninsular India has much to do with the growth of Vijayanagara kingdom? [2018, 15 Marks]
 2. The prolonged conflict between the Vijayanagara Kingdom and Bahmani successor states was influenced less by cultural factors, and more by strategic and economic considerations. Comment. [2022, 20 Marks]
- **Nature of State/Polity:**
 1. What light do inscriptions and accounts of **European travelers** throw on the antecedents and legacy of the **administrative structure** of the Vijayanagar Empire? [1994, 60 Marks]
 2. To what extent is 'Segmentary State' model relevant for defining the Vijayanagar State? Critically examine. [2014, 20 Marks]
- **Krishnadevaraya:**
 - **Polity:**
 1. Give an account of the polity and society of Vijayanagara empire under Krishnadevaraya. [1979, 60 Marks] (first half)
 2. Discuss the origin of the Vijayanagara Kingdom. Do you agree with the view that Krishnadevaraya was an ideal ruler of this dynasty? [1980, 60 Marks] (second half)
 3. Mention the salient features of the polity of Vijayanagara Empire under Krishnadevaraya. [2015, 10 Marks]
 4. Amuktamalyada dwells much upon the relationship of fort, Brahmanas and dispersed tribal groups. Comment. [2020, 15 Marks]
 - **Overall Greatness:**
 1. Do you think that the reign of Krishnadevaraya inaugurated a new epoch in the history of Vijayanagar? [1983, 20 Marks]
 2. Krishnadeva Raya, the King of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. (GS, 2015)
 3. Briefly highlight the achievements of Krishnadeva Raya (10, IFoS 2011)
- **Foreign Accounts:**
 1. Evaluate the accounts of foreign travellers about the Vijayanagar Empire. [2017, 10 Marks]
 2. Describe in details about the foreign travellers' accounts which gave information of Vijayanagar kingdom. [2020, 10 Marks]
- **Economy:**
 1. On the basis of contemporary sources evaluate the system of agriculture and irrigation of the Vijayanagar kingdom. [2013, 15 Marks]
- **Society:**
 1. Give an account of the polity and society of Vijayanagara empire under Krishnadevaraya. [1979, 60 Marks] (second half)
 2. Discuss the social dynamics in the Vijayanagara Empire. [2010, 20 Marks]

- **Culture:**

- **Overall:**

1. Discuss the development of art and culture under the Vijayanagar Empire. [1987, 60 Marks]
2. "Art, literature and culture reached a high level of development in the Vijayanagar Empire." Discuss. [1989, 60 Marks]
3. Discuss how the Vijayanagar empire became the cultural capital of the south? [2019, 10 Marks]

- **Architecture:**

1. Write a short essay on: "Architecture of the Vijayanagara Empire." [2000, 20 Marks]

Bahmani Kingdom

- **Generic:**

1. Write a short essay on: "The Bahmani kingdom" [2005, 20 Marks]
2. Write a short essay on: "The Bahmani Kingdom" [2007, 20 Marks]

- **Socio-cultural aspects:**

1. Discuss the state of society and economy of the Bahmani kingdom as gleaned from historical sources. [2013, 10 Marks]
2. Assess the contribution of Firoz Shah Bahamani and Mahmud Gawan in the field of education. [2016, 15 Marks]
3. Discuss the contributions of Bahmani Sultans to the development of Indo-Islamic architecture. [20m, 2024]

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04. Religious-Cultural Developments

- **Overall:**

1. Discuss briefly the **causes** that contributed to the religious movements of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Analyze their **approach** to the realities of contemporary life. [1985, 60 Marks]

- **Influence of Islam:**

1. Give an account of the impact of Islam on Indian culture in respect of society, religion and fine arts. [1980, 60 Marks]
2. Trace influence of Islam on Indian culture and civilization. [1999, 60 Marks]

- **Bhakti Movement:**
 - **Overall:**
 1. Discuss and **evaluate** critically various **trends** in the historiography of Bhakti. [2013, 15 Marks]
 2. The medieval Bhakti movement and its major **strands** (15, IFoS 2012)
 - **Sagun Bhakti:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Chaitanyadeva and Vaishnavism" [2005, 20 Marks]
 2. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. (GS, 2018)
 - **Nirgun Bhakti: Kabir, Nanak, Sikhism**
 1. What was the most significant contribution of Kabir and Guru Nanakdev to Bhakti movement? [1983, 20 Marks]
 2. What impact did Kabir and Nanak leave on Indian Society and Culture? [2003, 60 Marks]
 3. Discuss the growth of the Nirguna School of Bhakti Movement emphasising the contribution of Kabir and Nanak to it. [2004, 60 Marks]
 4. The mission of Kabir was to preach a religion of love which would unite all castes and creeds. Explain. [2020, 20 Marks]
 5. "The principles of Sikhism represented a harmonious blend of Islamic and Indic religious beliefs and practices." Comment. [2025, 10 Marks]
 - **Kashmir:**
 1. Bhakti and mysticism of Lal Ded emerged as a social force in Kashmir. Comment. [2013, 10 Marks]
- **Sufism:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Sufi Movements" [2003, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Sufism in North India" [2006, 20 Marks]
 3. Evaluate the contribution of Qalandariyyah to medieval Indian culture. [10m, 2024]
- **Bhakti-Sufi Syncretism and Impact/Significance:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Significance of the Bhakti Movement." [1987, 20 Marks]
 2. "The tenets of Hindu and Muslim mystics were similar enough that the ground was ripe for syncretic movements involving adherents of both religious." Elucidate. [2005, 2007 60 Marks]
 3. "Bhakti and Sufi movements served the same social purpose." Discuss. [2017, 15 Marks]
 4. Write a short essay on: "The Sufi Movement and its role in promoting communal harmony." [2000, 20 Marks]
 5. "Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Islamic/Hindu societies to any appreciable extent." Comment for/against. [2015, 10 Marks] + (GS, 2014)
 6. Sufi and Bhakti thoughts ennobled Indian psyche amidst the vagaries of time. Elucidate. [2019, 15]
 7. Analyze the tenets, spread and impact of the Bhakti Movement. [2023, 20 Marks]
- **Language and Literature:**
 1. Comment on: "Growth of regional languages and literature during the medieval period." [1995, 20 Marks]
 2. Evaluate the impact of the Sufi and Bhakti Movements on vernacular languages and life and thought of the common people. [2001, 60 Marks]

3. Evaluate the contribution of Vaishnava saints to the growth of medieval Bhakti literature. [2014, 10 Marks]
4. Why should the sixteenth century be regarded as the period of Indian Renaissance? [2015, 15 Marks]
5. What was the role of Sufi Folk literature in the diffusion of Islam in India in general and Deccan in particular. [2018, 15 Marks]
6. The Vaishnava Bhakti tradition of the 15th century contributed to the flourishing of provincial literature. Discuss with appropriate examples. [2022, 20 Marks]
7. "Religious themes inspired a large section of literature in provincial languages in late medieval India." Comment. [2025, 10 Marks]
8. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. (GS, 2021)

05. Mughal Empire

Source

1. Write a short essay on: "Mughal official histories and auto-biographical works." [1992, 20 Marks]
2. Write a short essay on: "Babarnama as a source of history." [2002, 20 Marks]
3. How does Tuzuk-i-Babri testify that Babar had been a cultured man? [2015, 10 Marks]

Early Mughals

1. Write a short essay on: "The empire-builder in North India of the sixteenth century." [1989, 20 M]
2. Examine the causes of Babur's success against the Ibrahim Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat. [2021, 10 Marks]

The Sur Empire

- **Personality:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Sher Shah combined in himself qualities of **lion and fox**." [1999, 20M]
- **Sher Shah's administration:**
 1. Examine the major **contributions** of the Sur rulers to the **administrative** system. [1981, 20M]
 2. Bring out the **significance** of the **reign** of Sher Shah in the history of India. [1986, 60 Marks]
 3. Write short note on the **administration** of Sher Shah Suri. (8, IFoS 2013)
 4. Evaluate the contribution of Sher Shah towards trade and **commerce, administration and agricultural** reforms. [2020, 15 Marks]
- **Comparative:**
 1. Sher Shah established a reputation for being a military genius as great as **Babur** and also for being an administrative genius as great of **Akbar**. Explain. (15, IFoS 2021)
 2. Compare Akbar with Sher Shah in regard to their administrative policies and revenue administration. [1990, 60 Marks] (*only second half provided here, thus 30m*)
 3. Make a **comparative review** of the agrarian reforms of Alauud-Din Khalji and Sher Shah Suri. [1995m 60 Marks]

Akbar's Rajput Policy

- **Akbar:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Rana Pratap's patriotism was his only offence." [1999, 20 Marks]
 2. "Akbar built the Mughal Empire by enlisting the support Rajputs." Do you agree? [2003, 60 M]
 3. Do you think that Akbar's Rajput policy was a conscious attempt to incorporate the Indian ruling elite with the Mughal Imperial System? [2017, 15 Marks]
 4. Discuss with relevant illustrations the relations between Akbar and the Rajput states. [2021, 15 Marks]
 5. Akbar's Rajput policy was shaped by considerations of factional politics in the Mughal court. Discuss. [2025, 15 Marks]
- **Comparative:**
 1. Akbar built the Mughal Empire by enlisting the support of the Rajputs; Aurangzeb destroyed it by alienating the Rajputs." Discuss critically. [2007, 60 Marks]
 2. Describe the Rajput policy of the Mughal emperors. Do you agree with the view that the reversal of Akbar's Rajput policy by Aurangzeb was responsible for the disintegration of the Mughal Empire? [2000, 60 Marks]
 3. In what ways were Aurangzeb's Rajput and religious policies different from those of his predecessors? What were the consequences of the changes made by him? [2004, 60 Marks]

Akbar's Religious Policy

- **Harmony/Sulh-i-Kul:**
 1. Highlight the catholicity of Akbar's regime with suitable examples. [1997, 60 Marks]
 2. Trace the evolution of the religious views of Akbar. Write a note on his policy of Sulh-i kul. [2002, 60 Marks]
 3. Write a short essay on: "Religious tolerance of Akbar." [2006, 20 Marks]
 4. "In medieval Indian history Akbar was unique for his religio-political ideas and policies." Analyse this statement. [2015, 15 Marks]
 5. Write a short Essay on: "Implications of Akbar's notion of Sulh-i-kul." [2009, 20 Marks]
 6. "Akbar wished to assert his strong belief in God, but his concept of the way God is to be worshipped was independent of either orthodox Islam or Hindustan." Comment. [2018, 10 Marks]
 7. Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism. (GS, 2025)
 8. Discuss the efforts and strategy of Akbar towards social harmony. (12.5, IFoS 2014)
- **Ibadat Khana:**
 1. "Instead of bringing credit, the Ibadat Khana brought growing discredit to Akbar." Comment. [2024, 20 Marks]
- **Din-i-Ilahi:**
 1. What motivated Akbar to enunciate Din-i-Ilahi? How far did he succeed in spreading it? [1983, 20 Marks]
 2. Was Din-i-Ilahi 'a monument of Akbar's folly'? [2004, 20 Marks]
- **Comparative/Evolutionary:**
 1. "In medieval Indian history Akbar is **unique** for his religio-political ideas and policies." Discuss the statement. [1990, 60 Marks] (*only first half provided here, thus 30m*)

2. Analyze the religious policy of the Mughal emperors from **Akbar to Aurangzeb**. How did it affect the stability of the Mughal Empire? [1985, 60 Marks]

Jagir and Mansab systems

- **Overall/During Akbar:**

1. Write a short essay on: "Mansabdari System" [2002, 20 Marks]
2. Bring out the main features of the Mansab and Jagir systems with special reference to the reign of Akbar. [1987, 60 Marks]
3. Examine the nature of the mansabdari system during the reign of Akbar. [2022, 15 Marks]
4. Analyse the merits and demerits of the Mansabdari System. How did it work under Akbar's successors? [1993, 60 Marks] (*first half*)
5. Critically analyse whether the success of the Mughals is to be credited to their robust Jagirdari and Mansabdari system. [2019, 15 Marks]

- **Compared to Iqta:**

1. How was Iqta system of the Sultans different from the Jagir system under the Mughals? [2014, 15 Marks]

- **Post-Akbar:**

1. Analyse the merits and demerits of the Mansabdari System. How did it work under Akbar's successors? [1993, 60 Marks] (*second half*)
2. Examine the Mansab and Jagir system by Akbar and its subsequent failure in the 18th century. [2011, 30 Marks]

Jahangir and Nur Jahan

1. Write a short essay on: "Nurjahan" [1998, 20 Marks]
2. Discuss the role of Nur Jahan in the Mughal court politics during the reign of Jahangir. [2023, 20 marks]

Aurangzeb and Mughal Decline

- **Causes of Mughal Decline:**

1. Explain with illustrative detail the part played by the following factors in the disintegration of the Mughal Empire: [1981, 60 Marks]
 - i. Aurangzeb's alleged departure from the policies of his predecessors, [1981, 20 Marks]
 - ii. Growth of new political forces in the provinces. [1981, 20 Marks]
 - iii. Inherent defects of the Mansab and Jagir system. [1981, 20 Marks]

- **Role of Aurangzeb:**

1. In which respects did the policies of Aurangzeb contribute to the disintegration of the Mughal Empire? [1979, 60 Marks]
2. "Aurangzeb is a much-maligned monarch." Argue the case for and against the proposition. [1994, 60 Marks]
3. "Aurangzeb's religious policy was a reflection of the changed political realities of the Mughal Empire." Elucidate. [2025, 15 Marks]
4. To what extent Aurangzeb be held responsible for the decline of the Mughal Empire? (10, IFoS 2020)

- **Rise of Marathas:**

- **Deccan Ulcer:**
 1. "The expansion of Mughal Empire in Deccan brought about its decline." Discuss. [1988, 60 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Spanish ulcer ruined Napoleon Bonaparte, the Deccan ulcer ruined Aurangzeb." [1999, 20 Marks]
 3. Aurangzeb's Deccan policy was a major factor in Mughal decline. Discuss. [2022, 15 Marks]
 4. Describe the Deccan policy of Aurangzeb with special reference to Marathas. (15, IFoS 2015)
- **Rise of Marathas:**
 1. To what extent can the decline of the Mughal Empire be attributed to the rise of Maratha power? Explain. (10, IFoS, 2024)
 2. The Marathas posed a significant threat to the integrity of the Mughal Empire. Discuss. [2023, 20 Marks]
- **Agrarian and Jagirdari Crisis:**
 1. Analyze the cause of the agrarian crisis of the Mughal Empire and briefly discuss the agrarian aspects of the peasant revolt against the Empire. [1982, 60 Marks]
 2. "The major cause of revolts against the Mughal Empire during the latter half of the 17th century was economic, rather than religious." Discuss. [2009, 30 Marks]
 3. On the basis of the accounts of Europeans bring out the agrarian crisis of the 17th century CE India. [2013, 20 Marks]
 4. Do you think that the agrarian crisis of the 17th century led to the disintegration of the Mughal empire? Discuss. [2016, 20 Marks]
 5. The late seventeenth century Mughal India is considered to be a period of Jagirdari crisis. Discuss. [2021, 20 Marks]
 6. Examine the causes and consequences of peasants uprising during the reign of Aurangzeb. [15m, 2024]
- **Other Factors:**
 1. "The **Afghan invasions** in the Eighteenth Century not only signified the military irrelevance of the Mughal Empire but also hastened its decline". Explain. [2018, 15 Marks]
 2. It was as much the **court intrigues** as also the **defiance of the provincial powers** that hastened the decline of the Mughals in the 18th century. Comment. [2019, 20 Marks]

Mughal State and Nobility

- **Nature of Mughal State:**
 1. What were the major features of the administrative system of the Mughal State? To what extent did other Indian powers model their administration on this system in the late medieval period? [1991, 60 Marks]
 2. Comment on the Turko-Mongol theory of sovereignty. To what extent was it adopted by Babur and Humayun? [2010, 30 Marks]
 3. Discuss the nature of the Mughal State under Akbar. [2023, 15 Marks]
- **Military/Warfare:**

1. Gunpowder changed the character of warfare in India during the Mughal era. Elucidate. [2025, 10 Marks]
- **Mughal Nobility:**
 1. Changes in the composition of nobility from Akbar to Aurangzeb. Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
 - **Foreign Policy:**
 1. Identify the broad contours of the Mughal foreign policy and their impacts on the Mughal empire. [2016, 15 Marks]
 - **Personalities:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Hemu Vikramaditya" [2001, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Dara Shikoh" [2006, 20 Marks]

Mughal Era Economy

- **Generic:**
 1. Delineate the striking features of agricultural and craft production during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in India. How did they impact the social fabric of the country? [2008, 60 Marks]
- **Agriculture:**
 1. "An important feature of agriculture in Mughal India has been the large number of crops raised by the peasants". Illustrate by giving examples. [2018, 15 marks]
- **Land Revenue System:**
 - **Overall:**
 1. Discuss the patterns of land revenue system developed in Medieval India and examine their significant features. [1980, 60 Marks]
 2. Review briefly the methods of land-revenue assessment adopted by the Mughals. [1983, 60 Marks]
 3. Analyses the distinguishing features of the land revenue system under the Mughals and point out its influence on the strength of the Mughal State. [1989, 60 Marks]
 4. Evaluate the impact of Mughal revenue administration on the agrarian structure of North India. To what extent did it bring continuity and change in the rural socio-economic fabric? [2025, 20 Marks]
 - **Akbar/Todar Mal:**
 1. Discuss the structural features of Todar Mal's revenue system and evaluate its effectiveness in standardised land revenue assessment in India. [2025, 15 Marks]
 2. The revenue reforms of Akbar were admirable and benevolent. Discuss. (10, IFoS 2011)
- **Craft Production:**
 - **Karkhanas**
 1. Discuss the different types of Karkhanas in Mughal India. How was the production organized in the different Karkhanas? [2010, 30 Marks]
 2. Critically assess the role of imperial Karkhanas in Mughal India. How did they reflect the ideological and functional imperatives of the Mughal State? [2025, 10 Marks]
 - **Craft Production:**
 1. "India had been for hundreds of years the Lancashire of the Eastern world." Critically examine this view. [2014, 15 Marks]
- **Rural Economy:**

1. Will it be correct to say that the rural economy in Mughal India was relatively self-sufficient? [2015, 10 Marks]
2. Describe village polity and economy of medieval Deccan. [2020, 15 Marks]
- **Trade and Commerce:**
 - **Indian mercantile classes, banking, insurance and credit systems:**
 1. Analyse the Mughal monetary system and examine their policy of minting of coins. [2014, 20 Marks]
 - **Commercialisation:**
 1. The emergence of early capitalism in the Mughal period was primarily due to urbanisation and commercialisation. Comment. [2019, 20 Marks]
 2. Trade and commerce in the Mughal Empire brought about the integration of the Indian subcontinent into a single market. Comment. [2022, 15 Marks]
 - **European Trade:**
 1. Examine the factors which were responsible for opening and development of European trade in India during the 16th and 17th centuries. [1981, 60 Marks]
 2. Which were the major European Powers engaged in trade with India in the medieval period? How did they organise their trade and what were the chief items of trade? [1984, 60 Marks]
 3. Write a short essay on: "The Mughals and the European trading companies." [1989, 20 Marks]
 4. Give a sketch of Indian trade with Europe during the Mughal period. [2013, 10 Marks]
 5. Trade and commerce in the Mughal Empire brought about the integration of the Indian subcontinent into a single market. Comment. [2022, 15 Marks]
 6. List the main items exported from India by the European trading companies in the seventeenth century. (10, IFoS 2010)
- **Urbanization:**
 1. Give your opinion on the urban development in India during the Mughal times. [2005, 60 M]
 2. Critically evaluate various approaches to study medieval Indian towns. [2010, 20 Marks]
 3. Medieval Indian towns were merely as extension of villages. Comment. [2012, 10 Marks]
 4. Examine the process of urbanization caused by the establishment of European trading companies in India. [15m, 2024]
- **Estimate of Population:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Estimates of population of Mughal India." [2009, 20 Marks]
- **Science and technology:**
 1. Do you agree with the view that the advent of the Turks and the Mughals in India heralded many changes in the means of production? Give reasons in support of your answer. [1995, 60 Marks]
 2. Give an estimate of Akbar as a promoter of technology. [2009, 30 Marks]
 3. What was the Indian response to European Technology? [2010, 30 Marks]
 4. Assess the development of Science and Technology in the Mughal period. [2013, 20 Marks]

Mughal Era Society

- **Zamindari system:**

1. Discuss the working of Zamindari System under the Mughal rulers. Also describe the role played by the Zamindars in the agrarian economy of Mughal Indian. [2018, 20 Marks]
- **Village Society, Condition of Peasantry/Artisans:**
 1. Examine the economic condition of the rural agricultural classes and of the urban artisans and traders during the Mughal period. [1979, 60 Marks]
 2. State the structure of medieval village society in Northern India. What were the passive forms of resistance of the peasants in the medieval period? [2012, 30 Marks]
 3. Assess the condition of peasantry during 13th to 17th centuries CE. [2017, 15 Marks]

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Mughal Era Art and Culture

- **Generic:**
 1. The medieval period of Indian history witnessed an efflorescence in the literary, spiritual and artistic realms. Discuss. (10, IFoS 2010)
- **Composite Culture/Syncretism:**
 1. Identify the traces of Persian and Rajput traditions and show how they were synthesized in the field of painting, architecture and literature at the Mughal court. [1981, 60 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "The emergence of composite culture during the period 16th to 18th centuries." [1989, 20 Marks]
 3. Trace the development of art and architecture under the Mughals and point out mingling of Hindu elements in them. [1998, 60 Marks]
 4. Mughal architecture was syncretic in character. Comment. [2023, 20 Marks]
 5. Define the rise of distinct provincial architectural styles under the Mughal Empire in light of structural diversity, cultural interaction and the nature of provincial power dynamics. [2025, 15 Marks]
- **Mughal architecture:**
 - **Features:**
 1. Describe the characteristic features of Mughal architecture. (15, IFoS 2018)
 2. The Mughals built like Titans and embellished like jewellers. Comment. [2019, 15 Marks]
 - **Akbar, Shahjahan:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "The zenith of Mughal architecture under Shahjehan" [2001, 20M]
 2. Explain the principal features of architecture during Akbar's rule. What changes were made in them by Shahjahan? [2002, 60 Marks]

3. "The art of building was carried to highest degree of perfection under Shahjahan". Illustrate by giving architecture details of two of his most celebrated buildings. [2018, 15 Marks]
- **Mughal paintings:**
 - **Generic Features:**
 1. Write a short Essay on: "Mughal painting" [2005, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short Essay on: "Mughal painting" [2007, 20 Marks]
 3. Make an estimate of the development of paintings under Mughal rulers with special reference to colours, technique, themes and influences on them. [2020, 15 Marks]
 - **Jahangir's contribution:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Narrative paintings under Jahangir and Akbar." [1994, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "During the reign of Jaliangir Mughal painting reached its zenith." [2000, 20 Marks]
 3. Delineate the development of the Mughal painting during the reign of Jahangir. [2016, 10 Marks]
 - **European Contact:**
 1. Examine the European impact on Mughal paintings. [2019, 10 Marks]
 2. What features of European paintings were incorporated in the Mughal miniature painting? [2023, 15 Marks]
 - **Interpretation:**
 1. Mughal paintings reflect the contemporary socio-political conditions. Discuss. [2011, 30 Marks]
 2. "Mughal paintings reflect social harmony in contemporary society." Discuss. [2017, 15 Marks]
 - **Other Paintings:**
 1. The Rajput school of painting was Mughal in style and Rajput in its content. Comment. [2022, 10 Marks]
 2. Discuss the main features of Malwa school of painting with examples. [2024, 10 Marks]
 - **Language and Literature:**
 - **Overall:**
 1. What was the contribution of the Mughals to the development of **education** and **literature**? [1984, 60 Marks]
 2. Write a short Essay on the development of Literature during Mughal Period. [2006, 60 M]
 - **Hindi**
 1. Discuss the literature written in Hindi in Mughal India. [2018, 10 Marks]
 2. Discuss the development of Hindi literature under Mughal patronage. How did the Bhakti and Sufi Movements influence it? [2025, 20 Marks]
 - **Sanskrit:**
 1. Examine the status of Sanskrit in Mughal India. [2019, 10 Marks]
 2. Evaluate the aim and impact of the translation of Sanskrit scriptures into Persian language during Mughal period. [2020, 10 Marks]

06. 17th century Regional History

- **Sikhism:** Evolution of the Sikh community and the Khalsa Panth
 1. Write a short essay on: "Evolution of the Khalsa Panth" Comment. [2008, 20m]
 2. The religion of the Sikhs was the main force of their unity. Comment. [2017, 10 Marks]
 3. Discuss the transformation of Sikh community from a Nirguna Bhakti sect into a politico-military organization. [2021, 20 Marks]
- **The Ahom Kingdom:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "The Ahom Kingdom" [2008, 20 Marks]
 2. Give a brief account of resistance offered by Ahom State against the Mughal rule. [2014, 10M]

07. History of Marathas

- **Factors behind Maratha Rise:**
 1. Account for the rise of the Marathas as a political power. How did they influence the course of history? [1986, 60 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Meaning and features of the Maharashtra Dharma." [1994, 20 Marks]
 3. Shivaji's rise to power cannot be treated as an isolated phenomenon in Maratha history. It was as much the result of his personal daring and heroism as of the peculiar geographical situation of the Deccan country and the unifying religious influences that were animating the people with new hopes and aspirations in the 15th and 16th centuries. Explain. [1996, 60 M]
 4. Examine circumstances leading to rise of Shivaji. Throw light on his legacy. [1999, 60 Marks]
 5. Give social background to the rise of the Maratha movement during the seventeenth century. [2012, 10 Marks]
 6. How did the Maratha guerrilla warfare tactics contribute to their military successes against larger and more established armies? [15m, 2024]
- **Shivaji Maharaj:**
 - **Sources:**
 1. Examine the sources of the history of Chhatrapati Shivaji with special reference to Shivabharat and Sabhasad Bakhar. [2020, 10 Marks]
 - **Military Expansion:**
 1. Trace the development of Maratha power under Shivaji. [1980, 60 Marks]
 2. Review the efforts made by Shivaji in consolidating his power in the Deccan in the 17th century. [1982, 60 Marks]
 - **Civil Rule:**
 1. Shivaji was a great organizer and builder of civil institutions, examine this statement in the light of the difficulties of administration and the extent of success achieved by him. [1992, 60 Marks]
 2. How did Shivaji organize his administration and finances to consolidate his power? [2010, 30 Marks]
 3. Shivaji was not merely a military conqueror but also was an enlightened ruler. Discuss. [2019, 15 Marks]
 - **Interpretation:**

1. Was Shivaji a nationalist leader? [1985, 20 Marks]
- **Peshwas:**
 - **Bajirao I:**
 1. How far did Peshwa Bajirao I succeed in establishing Maratha supremacy in the Deccan and political hegemony in the North? [1983, 60 Marks]
 - **Maratha Ascendancy:**
 1. How will you view the Maratha policy of expansion? Delineate. [2017, 20 Marks]
 2. Account for the rise of Maratha power in the 18th century. [2022, 10 Marks]
 - **Peshwas Administrative System:**
 1. Write a short answer on: "Structure and role of the Maratha Confederacy." [1987, 20 Marks]
 2. Compare the Peshwas' bureaucratic management with that of the Imperial Mughal administration. [2015, 10 Marks]
 - **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Chauth and Sardeshmukhi" [2003, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "The system of the collection of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi by the Maratha rulers." [2004, 20 Marks]
 3. Write a short answer on: "Chauth and Sardeshmukhi of the Maratha rulers." [2007, 20 M]
- **Decline and Fall:**
 - **Third Battle of Panipat:**
 1. Write a short essay on: "Third Battle of Panipat" [1998, 20 Marks]
 2. Write a short essay on: "Consequences of the Third Battle of Panipat." [2002, 20 Marks]
 3. Evaluate the impact of the Third Battle of Panipat on the political economy of 18th century India. [2024, 15 Marks]
 4. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? (GS, 2014)
 - **Maratha Limitations:**
 1. **Why** did the Marathas fail in establishing a lasting empire in India? [1981, 20 Marks]
 2. Were the Marathas restricted by their **geopolitical limitations** from becoming the paramount power of India? [2001, 60 Marks]
 3. Is it true that the **court intrigues and weak revenue system** led to the collapse of the Maratha empire? Comment. [2016, 15 Marks]
 4. Critically examine the **political, military and administrative factors** that led to the transformation of the Maratha character in the 18th century. How did these changes influence its rise and eventual decline? [2025, 20 Marks]

08. 18th century Debate

- **Historiography:**
 1. How would you like to characterize the eighteenth century in Indian history? [2005, 60 Marks]
 2. What are the distinguishing components of the debate on "The Eighteenth Century"? [2008, 60 Marks]
- **Political Developments:**

1. Discuss the causes of the rise and growth of regional kingdoms with special reference to Deccan in the 18th century. [2011, 30 Marks]
 2. Clarify how mid-eighteenth-century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity. (2018)
 3. How far is it justified to consider the states like Bengal, Awadh and Hyderabad as 'successor states' of the Mughal state? [2021, 20 Marks]
 4. Examine the role of Asaf Jahi Dynasty in the political transformation of the State of Hyderabad. [2024, 15 Marks]
 5. Clarify how mid-eighteenth-century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity. (GS, 2017)
- **Socio-economic Features:**
 1. The political disintegration was responsible for the socio—economic decline in India during the 18th century.” Comment [2017, 20 Marks]
 2. The economy of India was not stagnant in the eighteenth century. Discuss. [2023, 15 Marks]
 - **Cultural Features:**
 1. Write a short essay on: “Sawai jai Singh, the astronomer” [2001, 20 Marks]
 2. Critically evaluate history of the Eighteenth-century India with reference to culture and economy. [2020, 20 Marks]
 3. The various Gharanas of Hindustani Classical Music were outcomes of patronage by regional princely courts, rather than central imperial ones. Discuss. [2022, 15 Marks]

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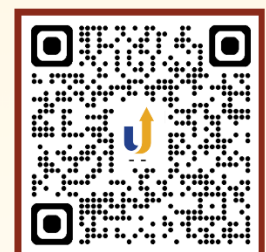
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Modern India

01. Mercantile Capitalism: Political Developments

Anglo-French Rivalry and the Carnatic Wars

- **Method of the French intervention:**

1. Comment on the French ambition of building a territorial empire in India. [2016, 10 Marks]
2. Do you subscribe to the view that Anglo-French tussle in Carnatic demonstrated the internal decay of the provincial chieftains of South India? [2019, 10 Marks]
3. "It was Dupleix who had first showed the way of intervening in disputes of the Indian rulers and thereby acquiring political control over vast territories a technique which was later perfected by the English East India Company." Elaborate. [2020, 20 Marks]

- **Reasons for French failure:**

1. "Neither Alexander the Great nor Napoleon could have won the empire of India by starting from Pondicherry as a base and contending with a power which held Bengal and command of the Sea." Comment. [2006, 20 Marks]
2. "Compared to their English counterpart, the French East India Company enjoyed little discretionary power and had to always look up to Paris for all major decisions. This partly explains the failure of the French in India." Evaluate Critically. [2012, 10 Marks]
3. "Dupleix made a cardinal blunder in looking for the key of India in Madras: Clive sought and found it in Bengal." Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks]
4. "During the Carnatic Wars, the French position, which at one time dazzled the Indian world by its political successes, was destined to end in humiliation and failure." Explain. [2025, 20 Marks]

- **Long Term Question on French:**

1. The Carnatic Wars, the Anglo-Mysore Wars and the Anglo-Maratha Wars had virtually eliminated the French from the contest of supremacy in South India. Discuss. [2023, 20 Marks]

Conquest of Bengal

- **Generic Question:**

1. How did the British conquer Bengal in the 18th century? What circumstances helped them? [1998, 60 Marks]

- **Battle of Plassey:**

1. The battle of Plassey was "not a great battle but a great betrayal." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]
2. "The Battle of Plassey that decided the fate of Bengal was won by Clive through intrigues." Explain. [2014, 15m, medieval]
3. After 1757 there grew up a State of Bengal which was a "sponsored state" as well as a "plundered state". Comment. [1999, 20 Marks]
4. "The Battle of Plassey that decided the fate of Bengal was won by Clive through intrigues." Explain. [2014, 15 Marks]

5. "The Battle of Plassey (1757) thus marked the beginning of political supremacy of the English East India Company in India." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]
- **Developments between Plassey and Buxar:**
 1. "The revolution of 1760 (Bengal) was really no revolution." Comment. [1987, 20 Marks]
 2. Discuss the causes that led to the 'economic drain' in Bengal following the Battle of Plassey. [2004, 60 Marks]
 3. The East India Company had thought that they had found an ideal puppet in Mir Kasim. Mir Kasim, however, belied the expectation of the company. Examine critically. [2021, 10 Marks]
 4. After the battle of Plassey, the mercenary became the Kingmaker. [10m, 2024]
- **Battle of Buxar:**
 1. "Buxar takes rank amongst the most decisive battles ever fought." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
 2. "Thus ended the famous battle of Buxar, on which depended the fate of India and which was as gallantly disputed as was important in its results." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]
 3. How did the East India Company become the de jure power in India? [2009, 30 Marks]
- **Plassey-Buxar Comparison:**
 1. "Plassey did not complete the British conquest of India. Had the English been convincingly defeated in any subsequent battle in India, then (the battle of) Plassey would have remained as a minor episode in the history of India." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
 2. "The verdict of Plassey was confirmed by the English victory at Buxar." Comment. [1996, 20M]
 3. "The verdict at Plassey was confirmed by the English victory at Buxar." Comment. [2002, 20M]
 4. 'The Battle of Plassey (1757) was a skirmish while the Battle of Buxar (1764) was a real war.' Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]

Anglo-Mysore Wars

- **Tipu's modernization efforts:**
 1. Why was Mysore considered a threat by the British to their possessions and mercantile interests in the south? Do you think that Tipu Sultan's posturing became his undoing? [2009, 30 Marks]
 2. "Tipu Sultan was trying to build in Mysore a strong centralised and militarised state, with ambitious territorial design." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]
 3. Tipu Sultan had little success in setting forth a course of change significantly different from the general experience of 18th century crisis of Indian politics and society where public life tended over and over to become a system of plundering. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]
- **Third Anglo-Mysore War:**
 1. Examine the circumstance which led to the Third Mysore War. Could Cornwallis have avoided it? [2006, 60 Marks]
- **Reasons for failure:**
 1. "Haidar Ali was born to build an empire, and Tipu Sultan to lose one". Comment. [2023, 15 Marks]

Anglo-Maratha Wars

- **First War:**
 1. "Anglo-Maratha War covering nearly nine years from the murder of Narayan Rao to the Treaty of Salbai emphatically discloses the vitality of the Maratha nation which had not been

exhausted either by the disaster of Panipat or the death of their great Peshwa Madhavrao." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]

2. The British "fought the First Maratha War in a period when their fortunes were at the lowest ebb". Comment. [1998, 20 Marks]
 3. "The Treaty of Salbai (1782) was neither honorable to the English nor advantageous to their interests." Comment. [2004, 20 Marks]
 4. Twenty years of peace secured by the treaty of Salbai proved very costly to the Marathas in strategic terms. – Elucidate. [20m, 2024]
- **Second War:**
 1. "The Treaty of Bassein, 1802 was, a step which changed the footing on which we, the English stood in western India. It trebled the English responsibilities in an instant." Comment. [1983, 20 Marks]
 2. "Upon the whole, then, I conclude that the treaty of Bassein was wise, just and a politic measure." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks] (Ramsay Muir)
 3. "The treaty of Bassein, by its direct and indirect operations, gave the Company the Empire of India." Comment. [1993, 20 Marks]
 4. "Upon the whole, then, I conclude that the treaty of Bassein was wise, just and a politic measure." Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
 - **Third War:**
 1. "..... the hunt of the Pindaris became merged in the Third Maratha War." Comment. [1989, 20 Marks]
 - **Reasons for Maratha Decline:**
 1. Trace the course of the Anglo-Maratha relations in the first two decades of the nineteenth century. Account for the ultimate defeat of the Maratha power by the British. [1984, 60 M]
 2. How did the British establish their control over Maharashtra in the first two decades of the 19th century? Why did the Maratha challenge ultimately collapse? [1994, 60 Marks]
 3. "The Maratha polity disintegrated through internal stress." Critically examine. [2017, 10 M]
 4. While individually the Marathas were clever and brave, they lacked the corporate spirit so essential for national independence. Discuss with reasons. [2021, 10 Marks]
 5. "The seeds of domestic dissensions were thickly and deeply sown in the Maratha system under the Peshwas." [2025, 10 Marks]

Native States: Ring Fence and Subsidiary Alliance

1. "The British endeavored as far as possible to live within a Ring-Fence and beyond that they avoided intercourse with the chiefs." Comment. [1987, 20 Marks]
2. Examine the essential principles of the Subsidiary Alliance system. How far did it contribute in making the British Company the supreme sovereign authority in India? [2005, 60 Marks]

Historiography of the British Conquest

- **Overall:**
 1. Was it the weakening of the Mughal empire or the rise of regional powers that led to the British conquest of India? Discuss. [2016, 15 Marks, medieval]

2. 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 then Indian rulers? Give reasons. (GS, 2022)
- **Fit of Absentmindedness:**
 1. The British conquered India, “in a fit of absent minded-ness”. Comment. [1997, 20 Marks]
 2. “The rise and expansion of British empire was an accident rather than the result of a deliberate policy and design.” Critically examine this statement. [2002, 60 Marks]

02. Features of Mercantile Capitalism

Legal-Administrative Arrangement

- **Regulating Act of 1773:**
 1. “The object of the Act (Regulating) was good, but system that it established was imperfect.” Comment. [2004, 20 Marks]
- **Administration, Dual Government:**
 1. “The Dual System of Government was a complete failure from the outset. In the first place, the abuse of the private trade reached a greater height than ever. In the second place, the demands of the Company for the increase led to gross oppression of the peasantry.” Examine. [2014, 20 Marks]
 2. How far is it correct to say that if Clive was the founder of the British Empire in India, Warren Hastings was its administrative organizer? [2016, 20 Marks]
- **Personalities: Robert Clive and Warren Hastings**
 1. “By certain of his actions, Clive has marred both the glory and usefulness of his work.” Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]

Zamindari Settlement

- **Overall Land Revenue Policy – Long Term Factors:**
 1. Examine the **major factors** shaping the British land-revenue policy in India. How it affected Indian society? [2007, 60 Marks]
 2. What role did **economic ideas** play in the early phase of the British rule in the shaping of land tenure policy? [2010, 30 Marks]
- **Zamindari System:**
 1. Trace the **circumstances** that led to the introduction of the Permanent Settlement in Bengal. Discuss its **impact** on landlords, peasants and the Government. [1981, 60 Marks]
 2. “The Permanent Settlement of land revenue in Bengal was a, **bold, brave and wise** measure.” Comment. [1983, 20 Marks] [1997, 20 Marks]
 3. Show how British rule led to the **spread of landlordism** in certain parts of India, and how the **peasant was progressively impoverished** under this rule. [1985, 60 Marks]
 4. “The permanent system of Bengal though initiated with **best of intentions**, was a sadly **blundering affair**.” Comment. [1993, 20 Marks]
 5. “**Absentee landlordism** was a consequential feature of Bengal’s Permanent land settlement.” Comment. [2003, 20 Marks]

6. "Permanent Settlement disappointed many expectations and introduced the **results that were not anticipated.**" Comment. [2004, 20 Marks]
7. "Though the Permanent Settlement had serious **defects**, it gave **tranquillity** to the countryside and **stability** to the government." Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]
8. "The **passing of the land** from the hands of the peasant proprietors into the hands of non-cultivating landlords brought about increasing **polarization of classes** in agrarian areas." [2018, 10 Marks]
9. Explain how the Permanent Settlement **initiated a rule of property** in Bengal and what were its **consequences**? [2022, 20 Marks]
10. Do you agree that the idea of permanent fixation of land revenue of 1793 in Bengal was highly **influenced by the Physiocratic school** of thinking? Discuss. [2025, 20 Marks]

Ideology and Socio-cultural Policy: Orientalism

1. Orientalism produced a knowledge of the past to service the needs of the Colonial States." Elucidate. [2011, 20 Marks]
2. Can you explain how, after acquiring Diwani, the government of East India Company functioned like 'an Indian ruler'? [2022, 10 Marks]

Beginning of Modernity?

1. "On 23 June 1757, the middle ages of India ended and her modern age began." Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]
2. After the Battle of Plassey, how did India transit from the medieval to the modern age? [2016, 10 Marks]

03. Industrial Capitalism Phase: Political Developments

Punjab

- **Rise of Punjab and Ranjit Singh:**
 1. Analyze the rise of the Sikhs under Ranjit Singh. [2023, 15 Marks]
 2. 'The Treaty of Amritsar (1809) was significant for its immediate as well as potential effects.' Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]
- **British Annexation of Punjab:**
 1. "Punjab's fate after Ranjit Singh was foredoomed as the impulse of neo-Victorian Imperialism was bound to overwhelm it". Elucidate [2010, 20 Marks]
 2. "Annexation of Punjab was part of a broad north-west frontier policy set in motion after the exit of Maharaja Ranjit Singh." Critically examine [2015, 10 Marks]
 3. Underline the major considerations of the British imperial power that led to the annexation of Punjab. [2017, 10 Marks]
 4. "Maharaja Ranjit Singh died in 1839. His death was the signal for an outburst of anarchy all over the Punjab." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]
- **Overall:**

1. "The Sikh monarchy was Napoleonic in the suddenness of its rise, the brilliancy of its success and the completeness of its overthrow." [2025, 10 Marks]

Sindh

1. "We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so and a very advantageous, useful, humane piece of rascality it will be." Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]
2. "We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so, and a very advantageous, useful and human piece of rascality it will be." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]
3. "The British conquest of Sind was both a political and moral sequel to the first Afghan war." Comment. [1995, 60 Marks]
4. Sir Charles Napier said, "We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so, and a very advantageous, useful, humane piece of rascality it will be." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]

Native States: Paramountcy and Annexationism

1. "No native state should be left to exist in India which is not upheld by the British power or the political conduct of which is not under the absolute control." Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]
2. "The British policy towards Indian States in 1818-1858 was one of isolation and noninterference tempered by annexation." Comment. [1996, 20 Marks]
3. "Dalhousie changed the map of India with speed and thoroughness no campaign could equal." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]

04. Features of Industrial Capitalism

Legal-Administrative Arrangement

- **The Charter Act (1833):**
 1. The Charter Act of 1833 rung down the curtain on the company's trade and introduced a new concept of government in India." Substantiate. [2011, 20 Marks]
- **Logn-term Legal Change:**
 1. "The Regulating Act (1773), the Pitt's India Act (1784) and eventually the Charter Act of 1833 left the East India Company as a mere shadow of its earlier political and economic power in India." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]
 2. "The need to impose greater parliamentary control over the Company's affairs increased during the decades (1773 – 1853) after Plassey." Elucidate. [2016, 20 Marks]
- **Long Term Administrative Change:**
 1. "What kind of administrative change was introduced in India under the East India Company? [1993, 60 Marks]
- **Judicial Administration:**
 1. Discuss the basic features of the judicial administration under the East India Company. Did the British introduce the modern concept of the rule of law in India? [1986, 60 Marks]

Revenue Settlement: Ryotwari Settlement

1. Explain the essential features of the ryotwari system of land revenue with special reference to Thomas Munro's contribution to its evolution. [1984, 60 Marks]
2. Discuss the main features of the 'Raiyatwari Settlement' in South India. Did it satisfy the aspirations of the peasantry? [2001, 60 Marks]
3. "Ryotwari falls into three stages – early, middle and late, and the only description common to all is that it is a mode of settlement with small farmers, so small, indeed, that their average holding is, on recent figures, only about 6 ½ acres," Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks]

Economy

- **Commercialization of Agriculture:**

1. Bring out the pattern of commercialization of agriculture in the 19th century. Was it a forced process for the vast majority of poorer peasants? [1986, 60 Marks]
2. What do you mean by commercialization of Indian Agriculture? Discuss its result. [2006, 60M]
3. To what extent did the process of commercialization of agriculture affect the rural scene in India? [2010, 30 Marks]
4. "Colonialism had a twisted logic of its own for commercialization. It emerges on analysis to have been often an artificial and forced process." Critically examine [2023, 10 Marks]
5. The pace of commercialization of agriculture increased as a result of British revenue policies in India. - Critically examine. [2024, 20 Marks]

- **Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society:**

1. "The poverty of the Indian people was the consequence of the Government's land revenue and taxation policy." Discuss this statement with reference to British rule in India in the 19th Century. [1980, 60 Marks]

- **Impact on Villages:**

1. In British India "the impact of the government on the people meant essentially the impact of government on the village." [1984, 20 Marks]
2. "The impact of government on the people meant essentially the impact of government on the village." Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]
3. The changing life in Indian village marked best the impact of the British administration on the Indian people. Explain, identifying the process and the extent of the change. [1996, 60 Marks]
4. What was the impact of early British land policy in the village communities of North India? [2003, 60 Marks]
5. "The impact of government on the people meant essentially the impact of government on the village." Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
6. "A self-sufficient village, based on agriculture carried on with the primitive plough and bullock power, and handicraft by means of simple instruments, was a basic feature of pre-British Indian economy." Comment. [2006, 20 Marks]

- **Deindustrialization:**

- **Causes of Decline (Debate):**

1. "The rule of the East India Company proved disastrous to the handicraft industry in India for a **number of reasons**." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]
2. "The British **industrial policy** in the nineteenth century ruined the Indian handicrafts." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]

3. **"Weaving"**, says R.C. Dutt, "was the **national industry** of the people and spinning was the pursuit of millions of women." Indian textiles went to England and other parts of Europe, to China and Japan and Burma and Arabia and Persia and parts of Africa. Elucidate. [2013, 25 Marks]
4. Critically examine the **causes** responsible for the phenomenon called 'de-industrialization' in India during the nineteenth century. [2016, 20 Marks]
5. India has been the world leader in the field of hand spun and hand-woven yarn and cloth for many centuries. Many nationalist and Marxist critiques considered that the British dominion **deliberately shattered** the traditional and world-famous handicrafts of India. Comment. [2021, 20 Marks]
6. Do you agree that the decline of traditional Indian artisan production was a fact, **sad but inevitable**? Discuss. [2023, 20 Marks]
7. "The colonial rule opened the Indian markets for **British-manufactured goods** and led to 'deindustrialization' or destruction of indigenous handicraft industries." [2025, 10 Marks]
8. How far was the **Industrial Revolution** in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India? (GS, 2024)
- **Process and Consequences of Decline:**
 1. Write a critical note on: "Consequences of the ruin of handicraft industries under the rule of the East India Company." [1981, 20 Marks]
 2. Trace the gradual decline of the Indian town handicrafts between 1757 and 1880. In what way did it contribute to the economic unification of India? [1987, 60 Marks]
 3. Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. (GS, 2017)

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Ideology and Socio-cultural Policy

- **Utilitarians:**
 1. Assess the impact of the utilitarian ideas in molding the British attitude towards India. How did the utilitarian try to solve the problem of land revenue? [1992, 60 Marks]
 2. "Sprung from paternalism, the English Utilitarian philosophy as introduced in India rejected its human warmth between rulers and the ruled." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
 3. "James Mill, the apostle of utilitarian philosophy, proposed a revolution off Indian society through the 'weapon of law' solely. But in actual policy framing, other influences and considerations weighed much more than the colonial State." Elucidate. [2015, 20 Marks]

4. How did the English utilitarian thinking impact India in the British era? [2021, 20 Marks]
 5. The values of utilitarianism prompted the Company administration to attempt reform of Indian society. [2024, 10 Marks]
- **Free Traders:**
 1. "The forces of free trade and the British determination to create a political and administrative environment conducive to trade and investment had shaped the British policy towards India in the first half of the nineteenth century". Elucidate. [2012, 10 Marks]
 - **Social Reform:**
 1. "The British Indian State experienced the 'wind of change' with the arrival of Lord William Bentinck." Comment. [1999, 20 Marks]
 2. Discuss the important social reform legislation passed in the 19th century and elucidate the reaction of Indian leaders to the measures adopted. [2000, 60 Marks]
 3. Discuss the various aspects of social legislation introduced by the EIC in the first half of the 19th century. (15, IFoS 2016)
 - **Lord Bentinck:**
 1. "Peace had her victories no less renowned than war." Examine this statement with reference to Lord William Bentinck. [2016, 20 Marks]
 - **Educational Policy:**
 1. Review the educational policy of the English East India Company. To what extent did it serve the imperial interests of Great Britain? [1988, 60 Marks]
 2. What was the Anglicist-Orientalist controversy about? How was it resolved and with what results? [1990, 60 Marks]
 3. What was the significance of Orientalist-Anglicist controversy in nineteenth century India? Analyze. [2018, 10 Marks]
 4. Was the Western education a harbinger of cultural awakening or an instrument of cultural hegemony? Discuss. [2022, 20 Marks]
 - **Later Developments:**
 1. Assess the growth and development of Technical education during the British rule. (10, IFoS 2016)
 2. 'Within a limited scope the **Indian scientists** could pursue original scientific research in colonial India.' Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]
 - **Christian missionaries in India:**
 1. "Nowhere was the influence of the missionaries felt more than in relation to the women's movement." Comment. [1989, 20 Marks]
 2. The Christian Missionary propaganda from 1813 onwards was "often insensitive and wounding." Comment. [1999, 20 Marks]
 3. Examine the forces at work for the introduction of western education in India. Analyse the thrust given to it by the Christian Missionaries. [2019, 20 Marks]

05. Financial Capitalism Phase: Political Developments

The Great Revolt of 1857

- **Overall:**

1. Analyze the popular revolt of 1857 as First War of India's Independence. (10, IFoS 2020)
- **Origin/Causes:**
 1. What was the immediate cause behind the Great Revolt of 1857? (10, IFoS 2022)
 2. "The Mutiny was not inevitable in 1857, but it was **inherent** in the constitution of the Empire." Comment. [1983, 20 Marks]
 3. "The **annexation of Awadh** shook the loyalty of these Sepoys, as it was for them an ultimate proof of untrustworthiness of the British." Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]
 4. For long, the Revolt of 1857, has been mistaken to be a mere mutiny of the Indian sepoy in the Bengal army. However, its causes need to be searched for not only in the dissatisfaction of the army, but in a **long-drawn process of fundamental social and economic change** that upset the peasant communities. [2020]
 5. The British rule had a **differential impact** on Indian society. Describe in what ways, the Indians responded to the revolt of 1857. [2022, 20 Marks]
 6. The 1857 Uprising was the **culmination** the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate. (GS, 2019)
 - **Nature:**
 1. Critically examine the nature of the Revolt of 1857. How did it affect the British policy in India after 1858? [1980, 60 Marks] (*first half*)
 2. Examine the nature of the Revolt of 1857 and indicate the manifold changes in British civil and military administration of India after 1857. [1998, 60 Marks] (*first half*)
 - **Nationalist and First War of Independence:**
 1. "On the whole, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the so-called First National War of Independence was neither First, nor National, nor a war of Independence." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]
 2. Do you believe that the uprising in 1857 was nationalist in nature? If not, what was its character? [1999, 60 Marks]
 3. "The military, feudal and traditional overtones of the Revolt of 1857 were overshadowed by its nationalist or proto-nationalist character." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
 4. "The Mutiny of 1857 was much more than a Mutiny of Sepoys and much less than a National Rebellion." Comment. [2016, 10 Marks]
 5. Why was the Great Revolt of 1857 confined only to North India? How did it change the character of British rule in the subcontinent? Explain. [10+10=20m, 2024] (*first half*)
 - **Causes of Failure:**
 1. "The Revolt of 1857 seemed to call the very presence of the British into question. What it did not do was reverse these changes." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]
 2. "In 1857, the rebel sepoy showed a remarkable centripetal tendency to congregate at Delhi." Do you agree? Substantiate. [2011, 30 Marks]
 - **Consequences (Change in British Policy):**
 1. "1858 is the Great Divide in modern Indian history, as the policy, practice and ideals of the government that followed differed fundamentally from the government of the Company which it displaced." Discuss. [1979, 60 Marks]
 2. Critically examine the nature of the Revolt of 1857. How did it affect the British policy in India after 1858? [1980, 60 Marks] (*second part*)

3. "The new attitude of caution and conservatism can be detected in almost every sphere of British activity in India after the Revolt of 1857." Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]
 4. Examine the nature of the Revolt of 1857 and indicate the manifold changes in British civil and military administration of India after 1857. [1998, 60 Marks] (*second half*)
 5. "In terms of administrative structure, the Government of India act of 1858, ... meant more continuation than change." Do you agree? Substantiate. [2010, 20 Marks]
 6. Why was the Great Revolt of 1857 confined only to North India? How did it change the character of British rule in the subcontinent? Explain. [2024, 10+10=20 Marks] (*second half*)
 7. Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. (GS, 2016)
- **Significance for the Freedom Struggle:**
 1. "Whatever might have been its original character, it (Rebellion of 1857) soon became a symbol of challenge to the mighty British power in India." Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]
 2. "Whatever might have been its original character, it (Rebellion of 1857) soon became a symbol of challenge to the mighty British power in India." Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]

Native States Post-1857

1. Review the relations of the Government of India with Indian States in the period 1858-1918 with particular reference to the cases where the doctrine of paramount was asserted by the Government. [1983, 60 Marks]
2. "If we could States without political power, but as royal instruments, we should exist in India as long as our naval supremacy was maintained." Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]
3. What changes did the British attitude undergo towards the Princely states after 1858? Was the Government of India Act of 1858 intended to introduce direct relations between the Princes and the Crown? [1985, 60 Marks]
4. "It is sometimes asked by Ruling Chiefs, as well as by the public in India and in Europe what our policy towards Native States is. I can tell you that the basis of the policy was laid in Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858 and repeated in the Coronation message of His Majesty the King Emperor." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks]
5. "If the paramount power cast its imperial cloak over the princes, it was also entitled to see that what was sheltered was in the main creditable." Comment. [1989, 200 words]
6. "The relations of the Native States, however conducted are essentially relations with the British Crown and not with the Indian Government." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]
7. Explain the British policy of 'Subordinate union' of Indian States with British India from 1858 to 1905. How did the Government of India implement this policy during this period? [1993, 60 Marks]
8. Towards the Princes, Canning adopted a policy of "punishing resistance and rewarding obedience." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]

Miscellaneous

1. Discuss the Indo-Tibetan relations during the British period. (15, IFoS 2015)

06. Features of Financial Capitalism Phase

Role of Dalhousie

1. In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate. (GS, 2013)

Railways

1. "Railway development in India provides an interesting instance of private enterprise at public risk." Comment. [2010, 20 Marks]
2. "Instead of serving as the catalyst of an industrial revolution as in Western Europe and the USA, Railway in India acted as 'the catalyst of complete colonization.'" Examine. [2012, 10 Marks]
3. "The British railway construction policy in India benefited British economy in the nineteenth century." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]
4. "Not until independence, when economic development became a conscious and pursued policy, did the Railways begin to realize their potential for assisting in the transformation of the Indian economy." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

Famines

1. "The recurring famines in the 19th century were the inevitable consequence of the British policy and expose the real character of the paternal solicitude for the peasantry on the part of the British administration." Examine this statement critically. [2002, 60 Marks]
2. "India underwent suffering and mortality in the wake of recurring famines in the later half of the 19th century." Comment. [2003, 20 Marks]
3. Trace the development of the famine policy of the British in India 1876 and 1921. Did it provide relief to the people? [2005, 60 Marks]
4. Critically examine the impact of the famine policy on rural India. Describe the official remedial measures undertaken. [2008, 60 Marks]
5. Explain the factors responsible for the recurrence of famines in the nineteenth century. What remedial measures were adopted by the British Indian Government? [2017, 20 Marks]
6. 'Famines were not just because of foodgrain scarcity but were a direct result of colonial economic policy.' Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]
7. Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons. (GS, 2022)

Indentured Labour

1. Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? (GS, 2018)

Free Trade: European business enterprise and its limitations

1. "The hey-day of the British power in India was also the high noon of laissez faire' economic doctrine." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]
2. "Plantations and mines, jutes mills, banking, insurance, shipping and export-import concerns in India were run through a system of interlocking managing agencies." Critically examine. [2012, 10 Marks]

Overall: Colonial Economy

- **Impact:**

1. Assess critically the economic impact of the British rule in India till the end of the nineteenth century. [1979, 60 Marks]
2. Trace the course and explain the consequences of the drain of wealth from Bengal in the eighteenth century. [1982, 60 Marks]
3. Discuss the view that the British rule brought about economic changes in India to serve the needs of the imperial economy and establish a dependent form of underdevelopment in this country. [2000, 60 Marks]
4. "Under the forceful thrust of British colonialism, Indian economy was transformed into a colonial one, the structure of which was determined by the requirements of Britain's fast developing industrial economy." Examine. [2015, 20 Marks]

- **Phases:**

1. Give a brief account of the industrial and agricultural policy of the Government of India between 1858 and 1914. How far is it correct to say that it was more in the interest of British capital than the Indian people? [1981, 60 Marks]
2. Identify the distinct stages of colonialism in India. How did these stages affect the Indian economy? [1991, 60 Marks]
3. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence. (GS, 2014)

Ideology and Socio-cultural Change: Paternalistic Despotism

- **Long Term Impact:**

1. Examine the impact of British rule on Indian Society in the 19th Century. [2004, 60 Marks]

- **Racism, Paternalism, Despotism:**

1. "The British Raj had a deeply racist aspect and it ultimately existed to protect colonial exploitation." Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]
2. "An ideology of paternalistic benevolence, occasionally combined with talk of trusteeship and training towards self-government, thinly veiled the realities of a Raj uncompromisingly white and despotic." [2018, 10 Marks]

- **White Man's Burden:**

1. "The Government of India from Canning to Curzon was regarded, as a white man's burden rather than as a call to creative effort or the preparation for a new era." Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]

07. Peasant movements and tribal uprisings in 18th – 19th c.

- **Causes:**

1. How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? (GS, 2023)
2. "Tribal revolts were a reaction to an alien, unfeeling administration." Elucidate with reference to the British tribal policy in **Eastern India** in the nineteenth century. [1982, 60 Marks]

- **Nature:**

1. Discuss briefly the tribal revolts in **Eastern India** from 1817 to 1857. Were they directed against landlordism and colonialism? [1988, 60 Marks]
- **Specific Revolts:**
 - **Rangpur Dhing (1783), Kol Rebellion (1832):**
 1. "... the Kol insurrection was mainly a war of the tribal inhabitants of Chotanagpur against the non tribal settlers and service holders." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]
 - **Santhal Hul (1855):**
 1. "The Santhal hool began in July 1855. The core of the movement was economic, the basic cause of the uprising was agrarian discontent." – Elucidate [2012, 10 Marks]
 2. Do you feel that the Santhal Hool (rebellion) 1855-56, was the most effective tribal movement in pre-1857 India? [2020, 10 Marks]
 3. 'Penetration of outsiders - called Dikus by the Santhals - completely destroyed their familiar world, and forced them into action to take possession of their lost territory.' Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]
 - **Munda Ulgulan (1899-1900):**
 1. Comment on the significance and present-day relevance of Birsa Munda's contributions to the National Movement. (10m, IFoS 2009)
- **Subaltern Nationalism Debate:**
 1. Discuss the origins and character of major peasant and tribal uprisings in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Were these protest movements **backwards-looking**? [1992, 60 Marks]
 2. Tribal movements should be viewed as, '**History from below**'. Discuss the objects and nature of the movements in 19th century India. [1997, 60 Marks]
 3. "Tribals revolted more often and far more **violently** than any other community including peasants in India." Elaborate [2011, 30 Marks]
 4. How far is it correct to say that the 19th century tribal uprisings are a part of **subaltern nationalism**? [2016, 20 Marks]
 5. The historical significance of tribal and peasant uprisings in India 'lies in that they established strong and valuable **traditions of resistance** to British rule. Discuss. [2023, 20 Marks]
 6. In what ways did the tribal and peasant prisings of the 19th century contribute to the rise and growth of **nationalism** in India? Examine. [2025, 20 Marks]

The shift in the character of peasant uprisings in the post-1857 period:

- **Trend and Characteristics:**
 1. Identify the various forms of 'rural protest' in India in the second half of the nineteenth century. Were they expressions of anti-landlord or anti-foreign discontent? [1987, 60 Marks]
 2. "The peasant movements of the second half of the nineteenth century lacked a positive conception which would unite the people in a common struggle on a wide regional and all-India plane and help develop long-term political developments." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10 Marks]
 3. After 1857, "the peasants emerged as the main force in agrarian movements." Critically examine [2023, 10 Marks]
- **Indigo Rebellion (1859-60):**
 1. "The Indigo Revolt of 1859-60 holds a very significant place in our history of national liberation movement. For the first time in the history of our anti-colonial struggle, its two independent

currents-- spontaneous peasant resistance and constitutional agitation in defence of peasantry – came into mutual contact.” Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]

2. “The root of the whole question behind the Indigo Revolt is the struggle to make the raiyats grow indigo plants without paying them the price of it”. Analyse. [2023, 10 Marks]

The peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930s

Covered in later section (during Interwar Years)

08. Modernization and Emergence of Modern Nationalism

Emergence of Modern Nationalism

1. Examine the economic and social factors which led to the rise of Indian nationalism in the second half of the nineteenth century. [2001, 60 Marks]

The rise of press, literature and public opinion; The rise of modern vernacular literature

- **Vernacular Press Contribution:**

1. “The vernacular press in the nineteenth century was both newspaper as well as ‘views-papers’ that enlightened the dormant masses.” Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
2. "The vernacular press in nineteenth century India served not just as newspapers but more importantly as views-papers." Comment. [2011, 20 Marks]
3. Assess the role of press in arousing awareness on important social issues in the second half of the nineteenth century. [2017, 20 Marks]
4. To accomplish the aims of education, 'political propaganda and formation as well as propagation of nationalist ideology', the press became the chief instrument. Comment. [2023, 10 Marks]

- **Press Control:**

1. The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was designed for better control of the vernacular press and to empower the government with more effective means of punishing and repressing seditious writings. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]
2. "The tug of war between the two principles of freedom and control of the press made its influence felt on the colonial rulers' attitude to the press" Discuss. [2025, 20 Marks]

- **Vernacular Literature:**

1. Do you agree with the view that the growth of vernacular literature in the 19th and the 20th centuries paved the way for social reform and cultural revival in India? [2016, 10 Marks]

Specific Socio-Religious Reform Movements

- **The Young Bengal Movement:**

1. “Young Bengal left little distinctive or permanent impression on the plane of religion and philosophy.” Critically evaluate. [2011, 30 Marks]

- **Ram Mohan Roy, The Brahmo Movement, Devendranath Tagore:**

1. "Ram Mohan Roy presents a most instructive and inspiring study for the New India of which he is the type and pioneer." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
 2. "Ram Mohan thus presents a most instructive and inspiring study for the New India of which he is the type and pioneer." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks]
 3. "The contact of the new Indian middle class with the West proved to be a catalyst. The social and religious movements launched by Ram Mohan or Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar have to be understood in this context." – Elucidate. [2012, 10 Marks]
 4. "The chief value of Raja's (Raja Rammohan Roy) labours seems to lie in his fight against the forces of medievalism in India." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]
- **Dayananda Saraswati and Arya Samaj:**
 1. The Arya Samaj "did not; however, succeed in capturing the imagination of modern India as a whole." Comment. [1998, 20 Marks]
 2. "The Arya Samaj may quite logically be pronounced as the outcomes of conditions imported into India by the west." Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]
 3. "Swami Dayanand's philosophy represents both elements of extremism and social radicalism." Substantiate. [2015, 20 Marks]
 4. "The Arya Samaj may quite logically be pronounced as the outcome of conditions imported into India from the West." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]
 - **Ramakrishna-Vivekananda:**
 1. "So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who having been educated at their expense, pay not the least need to them." Comment. [2006, 20 Marks]
 2. Swami Vivekananda opined that "we should give our ancient spirituality and culture and get in return Western Science, technology, methods of raising the standard of life, business integrity and technique of collective effort." Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks]
 3. "Though Sri Ramakrishna became the prophet of neo-Hinduism, he never claimed to have founded any new religion." Elaborate. [2014, 20 Marks]

Analysis of Socio-Religious Reforms

- **Evolution/Trends/Phases:**
 1. Examine the main **trends** in social reform and social change in India between 1829 and 1929. [1979, 60 Marks]
 2. **Trace** the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj. (GS, 2021)
 3. Discuss the contribution of various **organizations** in the social and religious reform movement during the 19th century. (10, IFoS 2018)
 4. How did the social and religious movements provide a fillip in the social **reforms** of modern India? (10, IFoS, 2024)
- **Modernity:**
 - **Generic:**
 1. "Two important intellectual criteria which informed the reform movements were **rationalism** and **religious universalism**." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]
 - **Western/Colonial Import?**
 1. Write a critical note on: "Impact of **western contact** on social changes in the first half of 19th century." [1981, 20 Marks]

2. "The new India was not to be built up, as late nineteenth century patriots had thought, by copious draught from the past, but rather by frequent injections from the energetic **contemporary west**." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]
 3. India broke her British fetters with **western hammers**." Comment. [1997, 20 Marks] [2002, 20 Marks]
 4. The 19th century Indian renaissance was both an **acceptance and rejection of western values**. Do you agree? [1997, 60 Marks]
 5. "The educated middle class in the 19th century often found the **domain of reason to be oppressive**, as it implied the historical necessity of 'civilizing' colonial rule." Comment. [2010, 20 Marks]
 6. "Faced with the **challenge of the intrusion of colonial culture and ideology** an attempt to reinvigorate traditional institutions and to realize the potential of traditional culture developed during the nineteenth century." [2018, 10 Marks]
 7. The introduction of Western education transformed India in unforeseen ways. **Critically examine**. [2021, 10 Marks]
 8. In course of the 19th century, the agenda of social reform was gradually replaced by **revivalism**. [2024, 10 Marks]
 9. "The **tensions between cultural revivalism and modernization** shaped the trajectory of the socio-religious reform movements in 19th century India." Discuss. [2025, 20 Marks]
- **Religious Content:**
 1. "These religion-reform movements were **national in content but religious in form**. It was in the later stages of our national existence, that nationalism found exclusively or predominantly secular forms." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]
 2. "The religious reform movements of the 19th century were endeavours to recast the old **religion (Hinduism) into a new form** suited to meet the needs of the **new society**." Comment. [1996, 20 Marks]
 3. "The national **democratic awakening** of the Indian people found expression also in the **religious sphere**." Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
 4. "The first point to note is the continuing importance of **religion and philosophy** as vital ingredients in the modern Indian renaissance. Indeed, there is as much reason for regarding it as a reformation as there is for treating it as a **renaissance**." Critically examine. [2013, 25 Marks]
 5. "In the initial stages, when Indian nationalism was immature, just sprouting, it found expression in many **liberal religious reform movements**." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]
 - **Nationalist Consciousness:**
 1. Discuss the extent to which the Indian Renaissance movement contributed towards the rise of **nationalist consciousness**. [2010, 30 Marks]
 2. The universalist perspective of socio-religious reform movements was not a purely philosophic concern; it strongly influenced the **political and social outlook** of the time'. Examine. [2023, 20 Marks]
 3. Examine the linkages between 19th centuries 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of **national identity**. (GS, 2019)

Women's Movement

- **Main Issues:**
 1. "Of the evils which corroded Indian society in the nineteenth century were probably those which stunted its womanhood." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]
 2. The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What were the major issues and debates concerning women in that period? (GS, 2017)
- **Stages/Phases:**
 1. Review the main **trends** in the Social Movements in India from 1900 to 1947 with particular reference to the changing position of women in the country. [1984, 60 Marks]
 2. "Widow Remarriage Act was, in many ways, a logical sequel to the abolition of Sati." Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]
- **Critical Analysis:**
 1. How did social legislation in the nineteenth century improve the condition of **women** in India? [2009, 30 Marks]
 2. To what extent did the socio-religious movements contribute to the emancipation of women in the 19th century? [1993, 60 Marks]
 3. How far was the widow remarriage movement effective in arousing social concern for Indian women? [2019, 10 Marks]

Caste Movements

- **Regional Picture (West and South):**
 1. What led to the Caste Movements in Western and Southern India? How did they affect the local socio-political life? [1989, 60 Marks]
 2. Analyses the main contours of Non-Brahmin Movements in Western and South India in the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. [1991, 60 Marks]
 3. Trace the course and comment on the character of caste movements in south India in the 20th century. How far was their object achieved? [1995, 60 Marks]
- **Personalities:**
 1. **Mahatma Jotirao Phule's** writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss. (GS, 2025)
 2. How did **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** try to seek a political solution to the problem of caste in India? [2016, 10 Marks]
 3. "**Sri Narayana guru's** was a major intervention in the social reform movement from a subaltern perspective." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]
 4. Describe how in the late 19th and early 20th century, people of 'depressed classes' became more assertive under the leaders like **Jyotiba Phule** and **Periyar**. (15, IFoS 2017)

09. Before Congress Formation

Drain of Wealth Theory

1. "Our system acts very much like a sponge, drawing up all the good things from the banks of the Ganges, and squeezing them down on the banks of the Thames." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]

2. The Indian Middle Class firmly believed that "Britain had imposed a colonial economy on India which had impoverished the country." Comment. [1999, 20 Marks]
3. Write a critique on the impact of the Drain Theory of Dadabhai Nauroji in the growth of economic nationalism. [2008, 60 Marks]
4. "The need for a unilateral transfer of funds to Britain was constant factor and, in fact, progressively increased over time." Critically evaluate. [2011, 20 Marks]
5. How far was the drain theory a focal point of nationalist critique of colonialism? [2019, 20 Marks]
6. Highlight the contribution of Dadabhai Nauroji to the early phase (1885-1905) of India's freedom struggle. (10, IFoS 2021)

Ilbert Bill, White Racism

1. "The Ilbert Bill was the most extreme but by no means isolated expression of white racism." Comment. [1987, 20 Marks]
2. "The national democratic awakening of the Indian people found expression of white racism." Comment. [1987, 20 Marks]
3. "It was in this almost unrecognizable form that the Ilbert Bill was finally enacted....it was primarily a failure of the Viceroy." Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]

10. Early phase of Congress (1885-1919)

Safety Valve Theory

1. Discuss 'the safety valve' theory. Does it satisfactorily explain the foundation of the Indian National Congress? [1991, 60 Marks]
2. To what extent was the emergence of the Congress in 1885 the culmination of a process of political awakening that had its beginning in the 1870s? [2000, 60 Marks]
3. "The 'safety-valve thesis' does not adequately explain the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
4. In its political behaviour the Indian National Congress in its early career was never a radical organisation, besides the founders of the Congress involved A.O. Hume in their project. Do these facts verify that the Congress was founded as a 'Safety valve'? Explain. [2020, 20 Marks]
5. Why has the 'safety valve theory' related to the foundation of the Indian National Congress been thoroughly discredited by recent researchers? Analyze. [2025, 20 Marks]

Early Congress, Moderates, Extremists

- **Moderates:**
 1. Describe briefly the **ideals** and **programme** of the Indian National Congress between 1885 and 1905 and assess official response to it. [1980, 60 Marks]
- **Critical Analysis of Moderates:**
 1. "Politics remained for the bulk of the Moderates very much a part-time affair. The Congress was not a political party, but an annual three-day show..." Elucidate. [2014, 20 Marks]
 2. Can method and politics of the moderates be referred to as 'political mendicancy'? [2018, 10 Marks]

3. Discuss the policies and programs of the early nationalists (moderates). To what extent they were able to fulfil the aspirations of the people? [2022, 20 Marks]
 4. To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. (GS, 2021)
 5. 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? (GS, 2017)
- **Social Composition:**
 1. Describe the **nature of Indian Nationalism** with special reference to the character of its **leadership** in the period between 1885 and 1905. [1982, 60 Marks]
 2. Analyze the social composition of the early Congress leadership. [2009, 30 Marks]
 - **Extremists:**
 1. Political extremism in colonial India often converged with **cultural nationalism**, but not always. - Comment. [2024, 20 Marks]
 2. Analyze how **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** introduced the method of 'Passive Resistance' in the freedom struggle of India. (10, IFoS 2023)

11. Curzon and Swadeshi Movement

Impact of Curzon's Policies

1. "Curzon's political obtusely created a breach between government and people which was never wholly closed in the remaining forty-two years of British rule." Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]
2. "Curzon was an unconscious catalyst who did not understand, let alone desire, what the new century was about to bring forth, but who helped it to be born." Comment. [1989, 20 Marks]
3. "The tragedy of Curzon lay in that, with such abundance of trained talent; he was denied the crowning qualities. He was never an administrator of the first rank." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]
4. "At the dawn of the twentieth century Lord Curzon, the viceroy of India, was full of hostility towards the Indian National Congress and he confidentially reported to the secretary of state in November 1900: My own belief is that the congress is tottering to its fall, and one of my greatest ambitions while in India is to assist it to a peaceful demise." Examine. [2013, 25 Marks]
5. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long-term implications on the national movement. (GS, 2020)

Swadeshi Movement

- **Partition of Bengal:**
 1. "Curzon's partition of Bengal gave the unwitting initiative to events of magnitude and returned many years later to port with the cargo of freedom." Comment. [1997, 20 Marks]
- **Character and trends:**
 1. "The Anti-Partition Agitation (1905) had an economic character in Bengal unlike the Extremist Agitation in Maharashtra which had a religious character." Examine. [2014, 20 Marks]
 2. Explain "Constructive Swadeshi" characterised by atmashakti (self-reliance), which propelled the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal. [2016, 10 Marks]
 3. How would you explain the major trends of the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal? [2019, 20 Marks]

4. The Swadeshi movement of 1905 anticipated many of the tactics that were later developed during the Gandhian mass movement. – Critically examine. [2024, 20 Marks]
 5. Write a note on the rise of various ideological streams in the national movement in India between 1905-1914. (10, IFoS 2011)
- **Surat Split:**
 1. Trace the factors which led to a split in the Indian national Congress in 1907. What was its impact on the course of the nationalist movement? [2003, 60 Marks]
 - **Significance:**
 1. Write a critical note on: Significance of the Swadeshi Movement 1905-07 in the freedom struggle. [1981, 20 Marks]
 2. "India after 1905 had new interests and objectives and compelled new lines of policy." Comment. [1996, 20 Marks]

12. Constitutional Developments: 1909, 1919

Long-term Trend

1. Discuss the major constitutional developments in India after 1858 and their impact on society and polity. [2021, 20 Marks]
2. Explain the attitude of the Indian National Congress towards the constitutional changes of 1909, 1919 and 1935. [1998, 60 Marks]

Acts

- **Act of 1892:**
 1. "The significant feature of the Indian Councils Act of 1892 was the principle of election which it introduced, though the word 'election' was very carefully avoided in it." [2025, 10 Marks]
- **The Indian Councils Act 1909:**
 - **Separate electorate:**
 1. The Reforms of 1909 introduced 'a cardinal problem and ground of controversy at every revision of the Indian electoral system.' Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
 2. "Please remember, in granting separate electorates, we are sowing dragon's teeth, and the harvest will be bitter." Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]
 3. "Please remember, in granting separate electorates we are sowing the dragon's teeth and harvest will be bitter." Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]
- **The Government of India Act, 1919:**
 - **Declaration:**
 1. The Montague Declaration (20 August 1917) was observed more closely in the "realm of imperial relations" than anything else. Comment. [1998, 20 Marks]
 - **Failure of Dyarchy:**
 1. Explain the main features of Mont-Ford Reforms. How far did they implement the policy of administrative devolution? [1983, 60 Marks]
 2. "Dyarchy was Introduced with high hopes, and it must be said that, on a theoretical analysis and if worked under ideal conditions, it is not without merits." Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]

3. Diarchy provided by the Mont-Ford Reforms “certainly created suspicion without the frictions within.” Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
4. “Montague-Chelmsford reform proposals introduced 'dyarchy' but blurred the lines of responsibility.” Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
5. Could Dyarchy (1919) satisfy the national sentiments of the Indians? [2018, 10 Marks]

13. Gandhi: Leadership, Philosophy, Program, Significance

- **Gandhi's Rise to Power:**

1. How would you explain Gandhiji's 'rise to power' or 'capture' of national leadership in the course of 1919-20? Was it a very skillful top-level political game? [1987, 60 Marks]
2. "In the divided and contestable space of Indian politics, Gandhiji could claim for himself a centrist position because he alienated neither and tactically combined the goal of the moderates with the means of the extremists." Discuss. [2020, 20 Marks]
3. Trace the circumstances that led to the rise of Gandhiji in national movement. (10, IFoS 2011)
4. How can one explain Gandhi's 'rise to power'? (15, IFoS 2017)

- **Gandhian Leadership:**

1. Gandhi restrained mass-movements, yet he retained his popularity among the masses. How do you explain this paradox? [1994, 60 Marks]
2. "Gandhi's mystique consisted of a union of original ideas with a remarkable flair for tactics and an uncanny insight in the mass mind." Elucidate. [1999, 60 Marks]
3. "Gandhi restrained mass movements, yet he retained his popularity among the masses." Comment. [2002, 20 Marks]

- **Early Gandhian Movements:**

1. "Is moral law, the laws of conscience, higher than the law of the State which is oppressive?" Comment. [2008, 20 Marks] (*Hint: the statement is made during Kheda satyagraha by Gandhiji*)
2. Assess the importance of **Champan Satyagraha**. (12.5, IFoS 2014)

- **Gandhian Philosophy:**

1. "Gandhi's body is in jail, but his soul is with you, India's prestige is in your hands, you must not use any violence under any circumstances. You will be beaten but you must not resist, you must not raise a hand to ward off blows." Critically examine. [2013, 10 M] (*context of CDM*)
2. Discuss how the **Satyagrahas** of Gandhi removed the spell of fear among Indians and thus knocked off an important pillar of imperialism. [2017, 20 Marks]
3. "The emergence of Gandhi signified the **Indianization of the national movement**." Analyze with reference to his early movements between 1917-1922. [2025, 10 Marks]

- **Constructive Program:**

1. Bring out the **constructive programmes** of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. (GS, 2021)
2. Write a critical note on: "Gandhiji's role in solving the **communal problem**." [1981, 20 Marks]

- **Gandhi vs Others:**

1. What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath **Tagore** in their approach towards education and nationalism? (GS, 2023)

2. Highlight the differences in the approach of **Subhash Chandra Bose** and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. (GS, 2016)
- **Gandhi's Significance:**
 1. Throw light on the **significance** of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. (GS, 2018)
 2. How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence **without** Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss. (GS, 2015)

13. Early Gandhian Movements

Rowlatt Satyagraha

1. "This retention of Rowlatt legislation in the teeth of universal opposition is an affront to the nation. Its repeal is necessary to appease national honour." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]

NCM-Khilafat Movement

- **Causes:**
 1. What were the circumstances that led Mahatma Gandhi to start the Non-cooperation Movement? Examine its contribution to India's struggle for freedom. [1980, 60 Marks]
 2. "Awakened political consciousness of Indian masses, bound with dishonourable and cowardly insults of the British led to the movement of Non-Cooperation." Critically examine [2023, 10 Marks]
- **Nature:**
 1. "Many of us who worked for the Congress programme lived in a kind of intoxication during the year 1921. We were full of excitement and optimism... we had a sense of freedom and pride in that freedom." Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks] (*Note: It's a comment by Jawaharlal Nehru*)
- **Communal Dimension:**
 - **NCM-Khilafat Connection:**
 1. Explain the circumstances leading to the alliance between the Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movements. Was it a politically wise step on the part of the Congress? [2007, 60 Marks]
 2. "M.K Gandhi made a gross mistake in championing the Khilafat cause, an extra-territorial issue which cut at the very roots of Indian nationality." Critically examine. [2014, 10 M]
 - **Mopla Rebellion in Malabar:**
 1. "The roots of Moplah discontent were clearly agrarian...." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks]
 2. The roots of the Moplah uprising (1921) were clearly agrarian. Do you agree? [1990, 60M]
 3. The 1921 Moplah rebellion was "in essence an expression of long-standing agrarian discontent which was intensified by the religious and ethnic identity." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]
 4. Was the Moplah Rebellion in Malabar an expression of anti-landlord and anti-foreign discontent? Discuss. [2018, 20 Marks]
- **Sudden Withdrawal:**

1. Do you consider the suspension of Non-Cooperation Movement a "**national calamity**"? [2018, 20 Marks]

14. Inter-war Sectoral Developments

Nature and Character of the National movement

- **Overall:**
 1. At different periods and at various levels, the National Movement assumed social, cultural and economic dimensions. Amplify. [1988, 60 Marks]
 2. What were the various ways in which nationalism manifested itself in India during colonial rule? [2021, 20 Marks]
 3. Do you think that the Indian National Movement was a 'multi class movement' which represented the anti-imperial interests of all classes and strata? Give reasons in support of your answer. [2022, 20 Marks]
 4. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. (GS, 2019)
- **1920s and After:**
 1. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. (GS, 2020)
 2. Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian independence since twenties of the last century. (GS, 2017)

The Revolutionaries

- **Evolutionary:**
 1. Examine the causes of the rise and progress of revolutionary movements in India from 1905 to 1931. [2003, 60 Marks]
 2. Describe the changing nature of revolutionary activities in India between 1905 - 1946. [2008, 60 Marks]
- **First Phase:**
 1. "The very idea of the bomb and the secret society, and of propaganda through action and sacrifice were import from the West." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]
 2. In the first decade of the 20th century, the atmosphere was ripe for the emergence of revolutionary groups to fill up the vacant space in the political map of the country. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]
- **During World War 1:**
 1. Trace the origin of the Ghadar movement and discuss its impact on the revolutionaries in India. [2017, 20 Marks]
- **Interwar Years:**
 1. Do you agree with the fact that the virtual failure of the Non-Cooperation Movement and the gloom that descended on the nationalistic scene, created conditions for the revolutionary activities? Discuss. [2020, 20 Marks]

2. "**Bhagat Singh** and his comrades significantly expanded the meaning and scope of revolution, redefining it beyond mere political upheaval to include social and ideological transformation." [2025, 10 Marks]
- **Impact and Significance:**
 1. Discuss the nature, methods and activities of the Terrorist Revolutionary Movement and assess its place in India's Freedom Struggle. [1979, 60 Marks]
 2. Analyze how the revolutionaries taught people self-confidence and widened the social base of the freedom movement. [2022, 10 Marks]

Modern Industrialization

1. Trace the industrial growth of British India after the First World War. How did the Government's tariff policy influence the growth? [1983, 60 Marks]
2. Identify the main features of industrial development in India from 1914 to 1947 with special reference to the emergence of a class of factory labourers. [1989, 60 Marks]
3. How do you account for the rise and growth of the Business enterprise in India during the first half of the 20th century? [1994, 60 Marks]

Rise of Left

- **General:**
 1. A powerful left-wing group developed in India in the late 1920s and 1930s, contributing to the radicalization of national movement." Critically Examine. [2015, 10 Marks]
 2. Underline the growth of various forms of Socialist ideologies in the Indian National Movement between World War I and II. [2018, 20 Marks]
 3. What were the circumstances which led to the emergence of socialist ideology which became the new and potent force in the late 1920s and early 1930s in Colonial India? (10, IFoS 2023)
- **Left within Congress, CSP:**
 1. Assess the role of the Left Wing within the Indian National Congress between 1920 and 1947. [1981, 60 Marks]
 2. Account for the rise and growth of Left-wing within the Congress. Did Jawaharlal Nehru believe in a socialistic approach to Indian and world problems and if so why? [1986, 60 Marks]
 3. 'The National Movement has shown concern for problems other than the constitutional one.' Discuss the factors that helped the rise of a left wing in the Indian National Congress. [1990, 60 Marks]
 4. Account for the rise and growth of leftism in the Congress movement. What impact did it have on contemporary Indian politics? [1997, 60 Marks]
 5. Discuss the nature of the leadership and programme of the Congress Socialist party. [2002, 60 Marks]
 6. Account for the emergence of the left-wing within the Congress. How far did it influence the programme and policy of the congress? [2006, 60 Marks]
 7. The emergence of left-wing group in the Congress radicalized its social economic agenda." Critically evaluate. [2011, 20 Marks]
 8. The Congress Socialist Party agenda was not to cut-off from the Congress, but 'intended to give the Congress and the national movement a socialist direction'. Analyze. [2023, 20 Marks]

- **Communism and Trade Unionism:**

1. "The Trade Union Movement in India not only supported the call for national struggle at critical junctures, but also impacted its course and character in several ways." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]
2. The rise of Communist Movement in India in the 1920s lent a militant and revolutionary content to the Trade Union Movement. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]
3. The trade union movement joined forces with the mainstream of nationalist politics to strengthen each other in their struggle against colonial rule. – Comment. [2024, 20 Marks]

- **Subhashchandra Bose:**

1. "The **ideology** of Subhash Chandra Bose was a combination of nationalism, fascism and communism." Comment. [2002, 20 Marks]
2. Assess the **role** of Subas Chandra Bose in India's struggle for independence. [2019, 20 Marks]

The peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930s

- **Trend and Characteristics:**

1. Write a brief essay on the peasant movement in India between 1921 and 1947. [1980, 60 M]
2. "The nationalist political movements for liberation such as the non-cooperation and civil disobedience movements and their leadership depended heavily on the peasantry." Comment. [1993, 20 Marks]
3. Analyze the nature of peasant movements during the nationalist phase and bring out their shortcomings. [2015, 20 Marks]
4. Discuss the nature of peasant movements under the Kisan Sabhas during 1920-1940. [2017, 10 Marks]
5. Write about the efforts of the Congress Party to solve the problems of peasants in the pre-independence period. (8, IFoS 2013)

Women

- **Role of Women:**

1. "The active participation of **Aruna Asaf Ali** in 1942 movement symbolized the role of women in India's freedom struggle." Comment. [2010, 20 Marks]
2. What significant **role** did **women** play in the Indian National Movement? [2016, 20 Marks]
3. Discuss the **role of women** in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. (GS, 2016)
4. Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. (GS, 2013)

- **Women's Movement:**

1. "In the early twentieth century, there came into existence a number of **women's organisations**, which operated more actively in the public arena and focused more directly on women's political and legal rights." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Overall Politics

1. "The developments during 1937-39 greatly undermined the ability of the Indian National Congress to push through the agenda of national unity." Comment. [2010, 20 Marks]

Communalism

- **Muslims League and Pakistan Movement:**

1. Trace the origin and growth of the Indian Muslim League. [1999, 60 Marks]
2. "There is no other instance in the history of mankind of a poet and philosopher working such as a miracle in shaping the destiny of his people." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]

Other Trends

- **The people's movement in Indian States:**

1. Trace the course of the people's movement in Indian States after 1937. How did the Congress leadership react to it? [1996, 60 Marks]

- **Indian youth and students in Indian politics (1885-1947):**

- No Questions so far.

15. Civil Disobedience Movement

- **Causes:**

1. Analyse the factors responsible for the Civil Disobedience movement (1930-31). How far were its aims realised in the Government of India Act of 1935? [2005, 60 Marks] (*first half*)
2. When Gandhiji launched the Civil Disobedience Movement he was "desperately in search of an effective formula." Critically examine [2023, 10 Marks]

- **Business Pressure:**

1. Identify the main strands in the Civil Disobedience Movement with particular reference to the changing role of 'business pressures' in the country [1985, 60 Marks]
2. Economic changes in India from the late 1920s influenced the course of the country's politics. Elucidate. [1995, 60 Marks]

- **Karachi Congress:**

1. Show how Civil Disobedience was marked by much scattered potentially radical manifestations. Was the Karachi Congress an indication of certain basic weakness of the entire movement? [1992, 60 Marks]
2. "At Karachi in 1931, the congress defined what Swaraj would mean for the masses." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]

16. Act of 1935

The Government of India Act of 1935

- **Connection with CDM:**

1. Analyse the factors responsible for the Civil Disobedience movement (1930-31). How far were its aims realised in the Government of India Act of 1935? [2005, 60 Marks] (*second half*)

- **Preamble:**

1. "Though the Act of 1919 was superseded by that of 1935, the preamble to the former was not repealed- the preservation of the smile of Cheshire cat after its disappearance, and the latter said nothing about dominion status." Comment. [2013, 25 Marks]
- **Provincial Autonomy:**
 1. "Although the Government of India Act of 1935 replaced diarchy with provincial autonomy, the overriding powers of the Governor diluted the spirit of autonomy." Elucidate. [2015, 10M]
 - **Limitations:**
 1. Is it justified to say that the Government of India Act of 1935 had all brakes, but no engine? [2019, 20 Marks]
 - **Federal Structure:**
 1. The federal provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935 foundered on the rock of princely intransigence. [2024, 10 Marks]
 - **Significance for Constitution:**
 1. 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. (GS, 2015)

17. Cripps Mission, QIM, INA

Cripps Mission

1. "The Cripps Mission gave India, a post-dated cheque." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
2. "The Cripps Mission was plagued throughout, and ultimately torpedoed." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

QIM

- **Overall:**
 1. What were the **events** that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its **results**. (GS, 2024)
- **Gandhiji and Violence:**
 1. "In the summer of 1942 Gandhi was in a strange and uniquely militant mood." Comment. [2003, 20 Marks]
 2. The same Gandhiji who withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement on the issue of violence at Chauri-Chaura, refused to condemn people's violence during the Quit India Movement. Do you think that he was losing faith in the efficacy of non-violence and was willing to deviate from this path? Elucidate. [2021, 20 Marks]
- **Spontaneous Revolution:**
 1. Do you think that Quit India movement was a Spontaneous Revolution? [2009, 30 Marks]
 2. "To characterize the Quit India Movement as 'Spontaneous Revolution' would be partial interpretation, so also would be to look up at it as the culmination of Gandhian Satyagraha movements." Elucidate. [2015, 20 Marks]
 3. Why is the Quit India Movement characterised as a 'Spontaneous Revolution'? Did it accelerate the process of Indian independence? [2019, 20 Marks]

INA

1. Describe the achievements of Indian National Army during the British period. (8, IFoS 2013)

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18. Final Phase (1942-47)

Chronological Analysis

- **Overall Trend/events:**

1. Analyze the circumstances, between 1942 and 1947, that led to freedom and partition of India. [1979, 60 Marks]
2. Explain why the efforts at finding solution to India's constitutional impasse failed during 1942-1946. [2017, 20 Marks]
3. Critically examine the turns and twists in the politics of partition in 1930's and 1940's. [2018, 20 Marks]
4. Trace the main events of Modern Indian History from the Cripps Mission to Independence of India. (15, IFoS 2018)

- **Shimla Conference (June/July 1945):**

1. "The Simla Conference (1945) afforded the last opportunity of the forces of nationalism to fight a reargued action to preserve the integrity of the country and when the battle was lost, the waves of communalism quickly engulfed it." Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]

- **RIN Mutiny (Feb 1946):**

1. "The Royal Indian Navy Revolt was seen as an event which marked the end of the British rule almost as finally as Independence Day." Explain. [2015, 10 Marks]
2. In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? (GS, 2014)

- **Cabinet Mission (March-June 1946):**

1. "The Cabinet Mission Plan, seemed to open an avenue for the reconciliation of a united India with Muslim autonomy'." Comment. [1983, 20 Marks]
2. "We are therefore unable to advise the British Government that the power which at present resides in British hands should be handed over to two entirely separate sovereign States." Comment. [2004, 60 Marks] (Note: This is a statement by the Cabinet Mission)
3. "... instead of rejecting the plan (Cabinet Mission Plan), they (the Congress Leadership) resorted to a half-baked legalistic stratagem to reserve their position on its long-term arrangements and accepted its short-term provisions." Critically examine. [2014, 20 Marks]

Why Independence?

1. "Why did the British finally quit India on 15th August 1947? The Imperialist answer is that independence was simply the fulfilment of British self-appointed mission to assist the Indian people to self-government." Examine. [2014, 20 Marks]

Why Partition?

- **British Role:**

1. Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. (GS, 2019)
2. The role of British imperial power under Churchill in complicating India's independence issue in the 1940s. (15, IFoS 2012)

- **Mountbatten's role:**

1. "Lord Mountbatten came with an order to organise retreat, in military parlance an operation." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]
2. "Mountbatten's task was, therefore, merely to work out details and effect the partition, demanded by the League and accepted by both British Government and the Congress; and this the new Viceroy moved commandingly to perform." Comment. [1993, 20 Marks]
3. "Based on his discussion with Indian leaders, as well as his own perception, Lord Mountbatten soon came to the conclusion that partition was the only practicable and feasible solution." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]
4. "If abdication of British responsibility at the time of transfer of power was callous, the speed with which it was done made it worse." Critically examine. [2023, 10 Marks]

- **Muslim League and Communalism:**

1. Examine the main aspects of Muslim League politics from 1937 to 1947. Was the partition of the country unavoidable? [1989, 60 Marks]
2. "To glorify the strength of the Congress and deny that of the League is to be blind." (P.C. Joshi, 1945). Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]
3. "The Pakistan movement converted a cultural and religious entity of a people into a separatist political force." Elucidate. [1996, 60 Marks]
4. The strength of the Pakistan programme was its vagueness. It meant everything to everyone. [2024, 10 Marks]

- **Middle Class:**

1. "Both freedom and partition were the work of Indian middle classes." Comment. [1998, 20 M]

- **Congress' Acceptance:**

1. "I felt that if we did not accept partition, India would be split into many bits and would be ruined." Comment. [2006, 20 Marks]
2. Discuss as to why the Congress accepted the partition of India in 1947. [2009, 30 Marks]

Miscellany

1. To what extent did the Freedom Movement in India influence the Liberation Movement in **Africa**? [2014, 10 Marks]
2. Several **foreigners** made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. (GS, 2013)

3. Discuss the contribution of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** to pre-and post-independent India. (GS, 2013)

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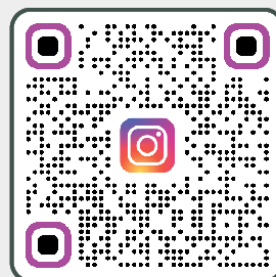
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India Since Independence

Generic:

1. Trace India's consolidation process during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations. (GS, 2025)

01. Politics of National Integration

Integration of Princely States

1. "With great skill and masterful diplomacy and using both persuasion and pressure, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel succeeded in integrating the hundreds of princely states with the Indian Union." Discuss. [2007, 60 Marks]
2. "Sardar Patel accomplished a silent revolution by ensuring the absorption and assimilation of a multitude principalities without shedding even a drop of blood." Elucidate. [2014, 10 Marks]
3. Throw light on the nature of 'Instrument of Accession' and 'Standstill Agreement' signed by the Princely States with the Indian Union. [2017, 10 Marks]
4. How were the Princely States integrated in the Indian Union after the partition? What role did Sardar Patel play in it? [2021, 10 Marks]

Linguistic reorganisation and Regionalism

- **Causes:**
 1. Regionalism in India after 1947 was occasioned by developmental imperatives as much as linguistic particularism. – Elucidate. [2024, 10 Marks]
- **Opposition to Linguistic States:**
 1. "The movement for linguistic States generated deep apprehensions among the nationalist elite. They feared it would lead to the Balkanization of India. Examine. [2025, 10 Marks]
- **Outcome:**
 1. Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity? (GS, 2016)
- **Better Unity?:**
 1. "The reorganization resulted in rationalizing the political map of India without seriously weakening its unity. If anything, its result has been functional, in as much as it removed what had been a major source of discord, and created homogeneous political units which could be administered through a medium that vast majority of the population understood. Indeed, it can be said with the benefit of hindsight that language, rather than being a force for division has proved a cementing and integrating influence." Examine. [2013, 25 Marks]
 2. "The Reorganisation of the states on the basis of language was major aspects of national consolidation and integration." Comment. [2020, 10 Marks]
- **Some problems remain:**
 1. "States's reorganization did not, of course, resolve all the problems relating to linguistic conflicts." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]

2. The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. (GS, 2022) (combination of modern + post-independence)

Federalism

1. "India's need for a federal system was more an imperative than a political choice." Do you agree? [2016, 10 Marks]

Tribal Policy

1. "Nehru favored the policy of integrating the tribal people in Indian society, of making them as integral part of the Indian nation even while maintaining their distinct identity and culture." - Elaborate with special reference to Northeastern India. [2012, 30 Marks]

02. Foreign Policy

Nehruvian Non-alignment

1. Jawaharlal Nehru was the architect of India's policy of non-alignment. In the light of this statement discuss India's relations with the two 'Power Blocks' between 1947-1964. [2001, 60 Marks]
2. Analyse Indian foreign policy of Non-alignment between 1947 and 1964. [2004, 60 Marks]
3. Would you agree that India's effort to pursue an independent foreign policy was a highlight of post-1947 politics? [2011, 30 Marks]
4. "Nehru's policy of Non-Alignment came to symbolised the struggle of India and other newly independent nations to retain and strengthen their independence from colonialism." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10 Marks]

India-China Relations

1. "After Indian Independence India-China relations started on a high note, but during the course of the coming years India had to face a bitter experience due to the Chinese aggression." Elaborate. [2020, 20 Marks]
2. In the light of contentions over the McMahon Line, analyse the India-China relations in the 1950s and 1960s. [2022, 20 Marks]

1965 War

1. Analyze the circumstances that led to the Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the Agreement. (GS, 2013)

1971 War

1. Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the emergence of Bangladesh. (GS, 2013)

03. Developmental Economics

Planning

1. **Planning** was seen as a powerful instrument that could be used to remove regional inequality. Examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Science and Education

1. "Nehru's 'temple of Modern India' consisted not only of steel and power plants, irrigation dams, but included institutions of higher learning, particularly in the **scientific field**." Elaborate. [2011, 30 Marks]

Rural Sector

- **Land Reforms:**
 1. Trace the development of land reforms in India between 1947 and early 1960's. [2018, 20 Marks]
 2. Why did the demand for land reform never become an agenda in national politics after 1947? Elucidate. [2024, 10 Marks]
- **Bhoodan:**
 1. Critically discuss the objectives of Bhoodan and Gramdan Movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. (GS, 2013)
- **Rural Reconstruction:**
 1. How did the introduction of Community Development Programme and Panchayati Raj promote welfare of rural India? [2019, 10 Marks]
- **Agriculture:**
 1. From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons. (GS, 2023)
 2. Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan, 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. (GS, 2013) (*Party economics, partly security, partly foreign policy*)

Critical Analysis

- **Scope/Theme:**
 1. "Having won political freedom, India had to win economic and cultural freedom." Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
- **Ideology vs Pragmatism:**
 1. "Jawaharlal Nehru, though a declared **socialist**, was **pragmatist** enough to focus on providing building blocks to the making of new India." Examine. [2015, 20 Marks]
 2. India's developmental strategy after independence was influenced by economic **imperatives**, not **ideological** considerations. – Comment. [2024, 10 Marks]
 3. The New Economic Policy – 1921 of **Lenin** had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. (GS, 2014)
- **Economics → Social Modernity:**
 1. "Notwithstanding the quest of modernity and the antagonism that guided Nehru's attitude towards the inequalities inherent in the social structure in rural India, the Congress party did

not carry out concerted campaign against discrimination based on caste. Nehru's own perception was that industrial growth was bound to break the stranglehold of this feudal remnant. This however, did not happen in India." Examine. [2013, 25 Marks]

2. How far the developments in science and technology in post-Independence period put India on the path of modernity. [2017, 20 Marks]

04. Social Movements

Environmental Movements

1. "The **Chipko** became famous as the first major environmental movement in post-colonial India and gave to the understanding that environment issues are often women's issues because they suffer most from its deterioration." – Explain. [2012, 30 Marks]
2. Critically examine the nature and scope of environmental **movements** in independent India. [2016, 10 Marks]
3. How did the popular **movements** help us to understand the nature of environmental crisis in post-colonial India? [2022, 10 Marks]

Caste related developments

- **State Policies:**

1. "In exercising its exclusive power, the Parliament additionally enacted the Untouchability (Offences) Act in 1955." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
2. Discuss the major initiatives taken by the Government of India for the removal of caste injustice and inequality after 1947. [2025, 10 Marks]

- **Dalit Movement:**

1. Discuss the factors that led to the growth of Dalit consciousness and mention the major movements aimed at their empowerment. [2010, 30 Marks]
2. "Dalit Movements for empowerment in independent India have essentially been for carving out political space through electoral politics." Discuss. [2014, 10 Marks]
3. Analyse various trends in Dalit Movements in various parts of post-independent India. [2018, 20 Marks]
4. Discuss the changing nature of Dalit assertion in India in the twentieth century. [2021, 20 Marks]
5. How did the factionalised Dalit leadership in Hyderabad undergo a period of intense re-organization between 1948 and 1953? [2023, 10 Marks]

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World History

01. Older Topics

National Monarchies (Not in the syllabus anymore)

1. Account for the emergence of the national monarchies in Europe in the sixteenth century. Did the monarchs build the national states less by design than by chance? [1987, 60 Marks]

Renaissance (Not in the syllabus anymore)

- **Meaning/Character:**

1. What is meant by the 'rediscovery of ancient civilization'? Show how the 'New Learning' was a major element in the beginning of Modern Europe. [1986, 60 Marks]
2. The Renaissance was the discovery of the world and of man." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]
3. Assess the intellectual quickening which occurred in Europe in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. How did it influence modern society and civilization? [1993, 60 Marks]
4. "The Renaissance was not a political or religious movement. It was a state of mind". Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]
5. "The Renaissance was the discovery of the world and of man." Comment. [2002, 20 Marks]
6. Give reasons for the origin of the Renaissance in Italy. [2007, 60 Marks]

- **Renaissance and Reformation:**

1. "His (Martin Luther's) rebellion was essentially popular and national." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]
2. "The Renaissance and the Reformation are the two springs of modern history, rival sources of the intellectual and moral freshening of modern life." Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
3. "Of all forms assumed by the Protestant Reformation, Calvinism has been the most far reaching in its scope and the most profound in its influence." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]
4. "The Renaissance scholars laid the eggs which Luther; the father of the reformation later on hatched." Discuss. [2006, 60 Marks]

- **Discovery and Exploration:**

1. "The discovery of the new world, coinciding with the swift diffusion of printed books, taught the Europeans that truth, in Bacon's noble phrase, is the daughter not of authority but of time." Comment. [1989, 20 Marks]
2. "The era of discovery and exploration was but another aspect of the Renaissance interest in the world and man." Comment. [1996, 20 Marks]

02. Enlightenment

Emergence/Causes

- **Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment:**

1. "The principles of Enlightenment were in some ways a continuation of the discoveries and theories of the Scientific Revolution." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]
 2. Enlightenment was not confined to scientific revolution alone, but humanism and ideas of progress too were its inseparable constituents. Examine. [2023, 10 Marks]
- **Anglomania**
 1. "French political writers of the eighteenth century were influenced by Locke and also by the curious contrasts which they perceived between the government of his country and their own." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]

Ideas and Character:

1. "The Enlightenment represented alternative approaches to modernity, alternative habits of mind and heart, of conscience and sensibility." Discuss. [2008, 60 Marks]
2. Explain the major ideas of Enlightenment. Discuss the contribution of Rousseau in Enlightenment. [2018, 20 Marks] (first half)
3. What was "enlightened" about the Age of Enlightenment? [2021, 20 Marks]
4. The ideas raised by Enlightenment thinkers were profoundly unsettling and unknowable to old regime society and political order. [2024, 10 Marks]
5. "Anti-clericalism of the Enlightenment echoed the sentiments of the Renaissance and the Reformation. Yet it neither endorsed the paganism of the Renaissance nor did it share the faith of Reformation." Discuss. [2025, 10 Marks]

Two Thinkers

- **Rousseau:**
 1. "Rousseau's political philosophy contains the seeds of Socialism, Absolutism and Democracy." Comment. [2004, 20 Marks]
 2. "The promptings of the heart are more to be trusted than the logic of the mind." — Rousseau. Critically evaluate. [2011, 20 Marks]
 3. "Rousseau strove to reconcile the liberty of the individual and the institution of Government through a new vision of the Contract - Theory of Government." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
 4. Explain the major ideas of Enlightenment. Discuss the contribution of Rousseau in Enlightenment. [2018, 20 Marks] (second half)
 5. 'Rousseau kindled a hope which became the spirit of Enlightenment.' Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]
- **Kant:**
 1. "For Kant, enlightenment is mankind's final coming of age, the emancipation of the human consciousness from an immature state of ignorance and error." Critically examine. [2013, 20 Marks]
 2. "Kant's redefinition of reason and his rehabilitation of conscience marked a high point in the intellectual reaction against dominant rationalism of the Enlightenment." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]

Spread of Enlightenment

1. "...he (Voltaire) was living in the Age of Enlightenment The age itself was not enlightened." — E. Kant. Critically evaluate. [2010, 20 Marks]

Enlightened Despots

1. "The despotic rulers of Europe were influenced by the philosophy of Enlightenment and begun to follow a benevolent policy towards their subjects." Critically examine. [2012, 20 Marks]
2. "Enlightened despots (Europe) were not necessarily politically liberal." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]

03. American Revolution and Constitution

American Revolution

- **Causes:**

1. The American Revolution "was a natural and even expected event in the history of colonial people who had come of age." Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
2. "No taxation without representation." Comment. [2006, 20 Marks]
3. "The American Revolution was essentially an economic conflict between American capitalism and British mercantilism." Critically examine. [2012, 10 Marks]
4. "American Revolution seems to have come with remarkable suddenness. A roster of talented leaders emerged during 1763 to 1775 to make it happen." Elucidate. [2014, 20 Marks]
5. Do you understand that the lack of statesmanship in London during the 1760s and 1770s was an important contributory factor in precipitating the American Revolution? Analyse. [2022, 20 Marks]
6. "The American Revolution was, in many respects, a manifestation of the Enlightenment in political, civil and ecclesiastical spheres." Explain. [2025, 20 Marks]

- **Nature:**

1. "At the news of the Declaration of Independence crowds gathered to cheer, fire guns and cannon and ring church bells in Philadelphia. Boston and other places, but there were many people in America who did not rejoice." Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]

- **Consequences:**

1. "The American War of Independence transformed Europeans as well as America." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]
2. The American War of Independence "deprived Great Britain of one empire, but it strengthened the foundations of another". Comment. [1998, 20 Marks]
3. "The American War of Independence transformed Europe as well as America." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]
4. The American war of independence finally ended in 1783 when Britain acknowledged the independence of the United States of America. [2023, 10 Marks]

American Constitution:

1. What were the factors that worked in the drafting of the American Constitution? Do you agree with Beard's view of the Constitution being an Economic Document? [2005, 60 Marks]

2. How far is it correct to say that every feature of the American Constitution was ultimately of English Origin? [2010, 20 Marks]
3. Explain the main features of the US Federal Constitution. [2016, 10 Marks]

04. French Revolution

Causes

- **Role of the Philosophers:**

1. "The writings of the philosophers had a tremendous influence on the minds of the people and created a revolutionary awakening in their minds and formed the intellectual creed of the French Revolution." Comment. [1983, 20 Marks]
2. "What mattered in 1789 - and what made men revolutionary almost in spite of themselves - was the whole 'revolutionary situation'; and in producing that situation the work of the philosophers played no very important role." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]
3. "If monarchical misrule ignited the French revolution, lofty ideas both inspired and sustained it." Comment. [1997, 20 Marks]
4. "If monarchical misrule ignited the French Revolution, lofty ideas both inspired and sustained it." Comment. [2002, 20 Marks]
5. "The writings of the philosophers had a tremendous influence on the minds of the people and created a revolutionary awakening in their minds and formed the intellectual creed of the French Revolution." Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
6. "No event as encompassing as the French Revolution occurs in an intellectual vacuum." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]
7. "The connection between the philosophers' ideas and the outbreak of the French Revolution (1789) is somewhat remote and indirect." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10 Marks]
8. Critically examine the statement that the French Revolution was not caused by the French philosophers but by the conditions of national life and by the mistakes of the government. [2016, 20 Marks]
9. The philosophers and thinkers may have laid the foundation of the French Revolution, but it was precipitated by social and economic reasons. Explain. [2023, 20 Marks]

- **Other factors:**

1. "To some extent, the American War of Independence inspired the French Revolution." Comment. [1999, 20 Marks]
2. "The multiple contradictions that quickly undermined the new edifice had been expressed even before the meeting of the Estate General in France. The internal conflict among Estates had manifested itself." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]
3. "The causes of the French Revolution of 1789 included both long term and structural factors, as well as more immediate events." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Objectives and Achievements:

1. What were the ideals of the French Revolution of 1789? How far is it correct to say that it overthrew mercantilism and the surviving relics of feudalism and contributed to the political supremacy of the middle class? [1979, 60 Marks]
2. The French Revolution (1789) sought to remove both "the religious and secular props of the existing social order." Elucidate. [1996, 20 Marks]
3. "The French Revolution attacked privileges and not property." Comment. [2003, 20 Marks]
4. The French Revolution (1789) really achieved far less than what it intended to effect. Do you agree? [1989, 20 Marks]
5. "The Declaration of Rights was the death-warrant of the system of privilege, and so of the ancient regime ... Yet in the history of ideas, it belonged rather to the past than to the future." Examine. [2014, 20 Marks]
6. "The French Revolution started and led to the victory in its first phase by the aristocracy." Critically examine. [2025, 10 Marks]

05. Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon and Revolution

1. "Napoleon was the child of the Revolution, but in many ways, he reversed the aims and principles of the movement from which he sprang." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks]
2. "Napoleon was the child of the Revolution, but in many ways he reversed the aims and principles of the movement from which he sprang." Comment. [1992, 60 Marks]
3. How did Napoleon Bonaparte heal the wounds of France inflicted by the Revolution and correct the errors perpetrated by its leaders? [2000, 20 Marks]
4. "Napoleon was the child of the Revolution, but in many ways he reversed the aims and principles of the movement from which he sprang." [2004, 20 Marks]
5. How did Napoleon Bonaparte fuse the old France with the new? [2009, 30 Marks]
6. How did Napoleon fuse the French of the ancient regime with the France of the Post Revolutionary era? [2012, 30 Marks]
7. "Napoleon was not a revolutionary but he solidified many of the revolutionary changes of 1789-1791 and he himself supported most of the ideas and proposals of Enlightenment philosophers." Substantiate. [2020, 20 Marks]

Internal Reforms by Napoleon

1. "The spirit behind the great reforms of Napoleon's Consulate at home was the transference of the methods of Bonaparte the general to the task of Bonaparte the statesman." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]
2. 'The codification of French Law was perhaps the most enduring of Napoleon's achievements.' Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]

Failure of Napoleon

1. "The Napoleonic Empire was doomed because of its inherent and self-defeating contradictions." Elucidate. [2001, 20 Marks]

2. To what extent did Napoleon's economic war with England become his undoing? [2010, 20 Marks]
3. "The Continental Blockade was a misconceived idea of economically defeating Great Britain." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]
4. How far did the Napoleonic preferential stance to help out the French economy result in embroiling France in continental conflict? [2019, 10 Marks]
5. Napoleon's continental system may be reckoned as the greatest blunder and may be described as a "monument of misdirected energy". Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]

Long Term Impact of American and French Revolutions

1. The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain. (GS, 2025)
2. Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French revolution. (GS, 2019)
3. American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate. (GS, 2013)

06. Industrial Revolution (IR)

IR in England

- **Causes**

1. "Whoever says Industrial Revolution, says **cotton**." Comment. [2011, 20 Marks]
2. Explain why England became the **harbinger** of Industrial Revolution. Also throw light on its social consequences. [2017, 20 Marks] (first half)
3. There were many reasons why the industrial revolution **first** happened in **England**. Critically examine [2021, 10 Marks]
4. 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? (GS, 2015) (first half)

- **Nature:**

1. The course of the English industrialization was too **long drawn** to be considered a revolution. - Comment. [2024, 20 Marks]

Impact of Industrial Revolution

- **Specific to England:**

1. The Industrial Revolution "Changed England in **character** and **culture**." Comment. [1996, 20M]
2. "The oppressive exploitation of the working class in the wake of Industrial Revolution had **jolted the social conscience** of England." Elucidate. [2015, 10 Marks]
3. Explain why England became the harbinger of Industrial Revolution. Also throw light on its **social consequences**. [2017, 20 Marks] (second half)
4. 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? (GS, 2015) (second half)

- **General Impact:**

1. "The Industrial Revolution put **mobility** in the place of **stability**." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks], Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]
 2. The Industrial Revolution brought about great changes in the **social** and **economic** life of Europe. Explain. [1998, 60 Marks]
 3. "Industrial Revolution had far reaching **social** and **political** consequences with the advent of assembly line factories, urbanization and rise of the urban working class." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]
 4. Do you agree that the economic effects of the Industrial Revolution were to add enormously to **wealth** and **capital** on the one hand, and to degrade the masses to permanent **poverty** on the other? Elucidate. [2022, 20 Marks]
- **Impact of Railways:**
 1. Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world. (GS, 2023)

Spread of Industrial Revolution to other countries

- **Overall Questions:**
 1. What was the **extent** of industrialisation in Western Europe by the end of the nineteenth century? [2009, 30 Marks]
 2. The **process** of industrialisation in some other countries of Europe was **different** from that in England. Discuss. [2012, 20 Marks]
 3. How did the **policies of governments** facilitate the process of industrialisation in Europe? [2019, 20 Marks]
- **Germany:**
 1. Examine the impact of the links between scientific education and industrial expansion on German society in the early 20th century. [2025, 10 Marks]
- **Russia:**
 1. The state was the most important factor in the industrialization of Russia. - Comment. [2024, 10 Marks]
- **Japan:**
 1. How did Japan develop between 1868 and 1894? Did the 'Restoration of Meiji' mark a sharp break with the past? [1987, 60 Marks]
 2. The years 1853-1894 witnessed the transformation of Japan. Explain. [1998, 60 Marks]
 3. "Latecomer" Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had experience. (GS, 2013)
 4. Discuss how Japan industrialised after the Meiji Restorations. What were the consequences for its neighbours? [2018, 20 Marks] (*first half*)

07. Socialism and Marxism

Pre-Marx Developments

1. "If we were to define our **conception of the State**, our answer would be that the State is the banker of the poor. The government would finance and supervise the purchase of productive

equipment and the formation of workshops." In light of the above statement of **Louis Blanc**, throw light on the Pre-Marxist Socialist Thought in Europe. [2014, 20 Marks]

2. How would you explain the **nature** of pre-Marxian Socialism? [2019, 10 Marks]
3. "The pre-Marxian socialist thinkers envisioned socialist societies **without fully considering the practical mechanisms** for achieving or maintaining them." Critically examine. [2025, 10 Marks]

Karl Marx

1. "Marxian Communism is primarily the offspring of German Hegelianism and French Socialism." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]
2. "Karl Marx applied his critical intelligence to Wealth of Nations ... Where Smith had seen only the sunlight, Marx saw only the shadows thrown upon the human scene by the unimpeded exercise of individual liberty..." Elucidate. [2016, 10 Marks]
3. "With the writings of Karl Marx, Socialism assumed the form of Scientific Socialism." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]
4. Marxian socialism claims itself to be a scientific socialist theory capable of explaining the history of humankind. Discuss. [2023, 20 Marks]

Spread of Marxian Ideas

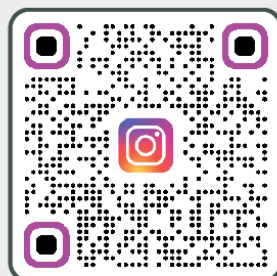
- **France vs England:**

1. "France was more fertile than Britain in producing new Socialist theories and movements, though they bore less concrete results in France than in Britain." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
2. "France was more fertile than Britain in producing new Socialist theories and movements, though they bore less concrete results in France than in Britain." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]

- **Friedrich Engels:**

1. 'Engels did much more than Marx himself to popularize the ideas of Marxism.' Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]

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08. British Democratic Politics (1815-1850)

British Liberalism and Free Traders

1. Write a critical note on: Effect of British liberalism on the social or economic life of the people of England. [1981, 20 Marks]
2. Account for the growth of Liberalism in Britain in the nineteenth century. How far did it influence the contemporary social and economic issues in the country? [1984, 60 Marks]
3. "The arguments of the free traders were a curious mixture of economic hard-headedness, social benevolence, cosmopolitan idealism and class prejudice." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]
4. The impact of industrial revolution on the middle-class world view is reflected in the views of Adam Smith, Thomas Malthus and Jeremy Bentham. Comment. [2023, 20 Marks]

Reforms Act 1832

1. "Though reform was inevitable, the Act (1832) by which it was accomplished was **open to grave criticism**." Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
2. "Change in Britain came comparatively peacefully through democratic process in the first half of the nineteenth century and a **model of a functioning democracy** through ballot box was successfully put in place." Elaborate. [2013, 25 Marks]
3. "... the passing of the 'Reform Act' marked the real beginning of **modern party organisation** in England... In a real sense, the present political system of England dates from 1832." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
4. 'The first Reformation Act (1832) occupies a significant place in the **constitutional development** of Britain.' Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]
5. "With the Reform Act of 1832 began an activity in **reconstructing legislation** to which there had been no parallel in British history." Critically examine. [2025, 10 Marks]

Chartist Movement

1. Review the background of the Chartist Movement. Despite its failure how had their demands been met in the succeeding years? [2004, 60 Marks]
2. "The roots of Chartism are partly political and partly economic." Elaborate. [2011, 20 Marks]
3. "The roots of the Chartist movement in Great Britain were partly political and partly economic." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]
4. The Chartist Movement failed to achieve its stated objective but succeeded in seeding the idea that a representative democracy should include all citizens. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]
5. "The Chartist Movement not only fulfilled some of the demands of the middle class, but its ramifications were felt among the working class and the colonies as well." [2023, 10 Marks]

09. Political Developments in the Continental Europe

Ideological Evolution

- **Conservatism and Metternich System:**

1. "For a tired and timid generation Metternich was the necessary man." Comment. [1993, 20 Marks]
 2. What is Metternich system? Assess its impact on Europe. [2016, 10 Marks]
- **Liberalism and Nationalism:**
 1. "The characteristic motive of this period (1830-1871) was not so much Liberalism as Nationalism." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
 2. The rise of nationalism across nations shattered the chains which held together the empires of modern Europe. Discuss. [2021, 20 Marks]
 - **Nationalism:**
 1. "Nationalism in the 19th century was a driving force for both integration and disintegration." Illustrate with examples from Europe and other parts of the world. [2025, 20 Marks]

European Revolutions

- **Greek War of Independence:**
 1. Do you subscribe to the view that the Greek War of Independence was mired in contrasts of the best and the worst episodes? How did it affect the Concert of Europe? [2019, 20 Marks]
- **Revolutions of 1830:**
 1. "The whole episode that is known as the July Revolution (1830) was fought and won not for the establishment of an extreme democracy but to get rid of the aristocratic and clericalist attitude of the restored Bourbons." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]
- **Revolutions of 1848:**
 - **Overall:**
 1. What were the **causes** and **consequences** of the revolutionary upsurges of the 1840s in Europe? [2021, 20 Marks]
 - **Economic Cause:**
 1. Discuss how agrarian crisis accompanied by severe industrial depression triggered the Revolutions of 1848. [2017, 10 Marks]
 - **Political Ideals:**
 1. "Most of the European Revolutions of 1848 were nationalist as well as popular insurrections against foreign rule and repressive policy of Metternich." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
 2. "The Revolutions of 1848 were shaped by the ideas of democracy and nationalism." Critically Analyze. [2023, 10 Marks]
 - **Feudal/Royal Reaction:**
 1. "The language of narrow nationalism held at Frankfurt destroyed the German Revolution; as the fatal idea of aggrandizement of the House of Savoy destroyed the Italian Revolution." Discuss. [2014, 20 Marks]
 2. "The 1848 revolutions frightened the crowned heads of Europe and caused several to abdicate. Those who remained were cognizant of the threats posed by liberalism, nationalism and socialism." Comment. [2020, 10 Marks]

10. Unification of Italy and Germany

Italian Unification

■ Process and Stages:

1. Trace the various stages that led to the Unification of Italy between 1848 and 1870. [1980, 60 Marks]
2. Trace the course of the movement for Italian Unification from 1848 with special reference to the contribution of Mazzini. [1983, 60 Marks] (*first half*)
3. What were the obstacles to Italian unification till 1852? How and with what methods was the unification of Italy achieved? [1993, 60 Marks]
4. How was Italy transformed from 'a geographical expression' to a nation-state? [2019, 20 Marks]
5. Discuss the different stages of the unification of Italy from 1848 to the occupation of Rome in 1870. [2023, 20 Marks]

■ Role of Mazzini:

1. Trace the course of the movement for Italian Unification from 1848 with special reference to the contribution of Mazzini. [1983, 60 Marks] (*second half*)
2. "Mazzini's conception of Italian nationality was not exclusive, and his dominant ideal was the recreation of moral unity of mankind." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]

● Role of Count Cavour:

1. "They have stopped me from making Italy by diplomacy from the North; I will make it by revolution from the South." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]
2. "They have stopped me from making Italy by diplomacy from the North; I will make it by revolution from the South." Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]

● With Reference to Congress of Vienna:

1. "The unification of Italy completed...the destruction of the European order." Comment. [1997, 20 Marks]

German Unification

■ Process and Stages:

1. What determinant factors, along with diplomatic, shaped the process of German Unification? [2017, 20 Marks]

■ Role of Napoleon:

1. "Napoleon kindled the national sentiment, but German unity was achieved by Bismarck." Discuss. [1981, 60 Marks]
2. "It is one of the ironies of history that Napoleon was the creator of modern Germany." Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]
3. "Napoleon kindled the national sentiment, but German unity was achieved by Bismarck." Discuss. [2002, 60 Marks]

■ Role of Bismarck:

1. "The Unification of Germany was the one thing Bismarck was determined to prevent." Comment. [1987, 20 Marks]

2. "The political unification of Germany was accomplished solely by Bismarck." Comment. [1999, 20 Marks]
 3. "Bismarck created a new Germany with the policy of 'blood and iron'." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]
 4. Bismarck united Germany not by majority of votes and speeches but by a policy of "Blood and Iron". In the light of this statement assess the contribution of Bismarck to the unification of Germany. [2003, 60 Marks]
 5. Was German unification achieved more by 'coal and iron' than by 'blood and iron'? [2012, 30 Marks]
 6. "From Bismarck's 'Blood and Iron' speech and his forceful actions to achieve German unification, Bismarck came to be known as the Iron Chancellor." Critically examine. [2020, 20 Marks]
 7. The unification of Germany was as much a product of coal and iron as it was of blood and iron. [2024, 10 Marks]
- **Post-Unification Domestic Policy:**
 1. Examine the role of Bismarck in state building in Germany. [2018, 20 Marks]
 2. Briefly indicate why and what types of problems were faced by the United Germany consequent on its unification. (GS, 1991)

Comparative Questions

1. "The comparison between Cavour's and Bismarck's achievements reveals striking points of resemblance and no less striking points of dissimilarity." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]
2. The unification of Italy and that of Germany constituted a contrast in respect of the ways they were affected and impact they left on later international politics. Elucidate. [1995, 60 Marks]

11. American Civil War, Lincoln and Slavery

Causes, Issues, Lincoln, Slavery

1. "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks]
2. Examine the issues involved in the American Civil War. Was it a contest between two separate nations? [1991, 60 Marks]
3. "Six hundred thousand men had died. The union was preserved, the slaves freed. A nation 'conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal' had survived its most terrible ordeal." Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks]
4. "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free" Explain Abraham Lincoln's perspective. [2016, 20 Marks]
5. "Lincoln's main thesis was that the Slavery issue had to be decided one way or the other and could no longer be evaded by compromise." Comment in the light of his role in the American Civil War. [2020, 20 Marks]
6. The American Civil War was a result of disparity of needs of industrial north and agrarian south. [2024, 10 Marks]

Consequences

1. In the American civil war, the victory of the North had many consequences. Some of them were direct and obvious. However, its indirect effects on American development were perhaps even more important. Comment. [2021, 20 Marks]

12. Neo-Imperialism: Latin America, Asia and Africa

Old Empires

1. "Colonies are like fruits which cling to the tree only till they ripen." Comment. [2006, 10 Marks]
- **Revolutions in Latin America and Simon Bolivar:**
 1. Explain why Bolivar's efforts failed to fructify in bringing about united stand of the Latin Americans. [2017, 10 Marks]

New Imperialism (Neo-Imperialism)

- **Characteristic features:**
 1. Write a critical note on: Theory of 'The New imperialism' after 1870. [1981, 20 Marks]
 2. "Imperialism and Colonialism have long employed as instruments of national policy." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
 3. "If imperialism is viewed as a phase of the struggle for power between States, its result must be judged in terms of its role in power politics." Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]
 4. "The simultaneous expansion of European powers overseas during the last quarter of the 19th century brought them into frequent collisions at a remote point all over Africa and Asia." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]
 5. "New imperialism was a nationalistic, not an economic phenomenon." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]
 6. Discuss the emergence of neo-imperialism in the late nineteenth century. [2009, 30 Marks]
 7. "New imperialism was a nationalistic, not an economic phenomenon." Critically examine. [2013, 25 Marks]
 8. "The commercial and industrial interests created a veritable hothouse atmosphere in Europe for the establishment of colonies." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
 9. Did new imperialism represent a continuation of old colonial practices or did it mark a fundamental shift in global power structure? Discuss critically. [2025, 10 Marks]
- **Additional Questions:**
 1. Critically examine the socio-cultural and economic **impact of migration** in Europe and Asia in the 18th and 19th centuries. [2014, 20 Marks]

Neo-Imperialism in Africa

- **African Continent:**
 1. Write a critique on the partition of Africa from 1870 to 1914, with particular reference to Germany's imperial designs in the Continent. [1989, 60 Marks]
 2. Trace the stages in the partition of Africa after 1870. How did it affect international relations? [1996, 60 Marks]

3. Trace the various stages of European imperialism in Africa in the nineteenth century. [2001, 60 Marks]
 4. "In all the long annals of Imperialism, the partition of Africa is a remarkable freak." Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]
 5. What do you understand by imperialism? State briefly its unique features in the case of Africa. [2010, 20 Marks]
 6. Africa was chopped into states artificially created by accident of European competition. Analyse. (GS, 2013)
- **South Africa**
 1. Trace the growth of British imperialism in South Africa from 1800 to 1907. [2016, 10 Marks]
 2. "The British imperialism in South Africa from 1867 to 1902 was influenced to a large extent by the capitalist mining of diamonds." [2023, 10 Marks]

Neo-Imperialism in Asia

- **Asia:**
 1. What do you understand by Imperialism? How did it affect the people of Asia in the 19th century? [1979, 60 Marks]
- **South-East Asia:**
 - **Indonesia:**
 1. "Holland was engaged in a systematic exploitation of Indonesia in the nineteenth century." Elucidate. [1979, 60 Marks]
 2. What was the culture system in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) during the 19th century? Why was it dismantled? [1981, 60 Marks]
 3. Critically examine the culture system in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) during the nineteenth century. Why was it dismantled? [1985, 60 Marks]
 4. Critically examine the Dutch colonial policy in Indonesia. [2010, 30 Marks]
 5. Examine the nature of Dutch imperialism in Indonesia. [2017, 10 Marks]
 - **American Empire:**
 1. Explain how American imperialism in Philippines differed with European imperialism in Indonesia and Indo-China. [2011, 30 Marks]
 2. Discuss the nature of American overseas expansion in Asia and explain the consequences. [2014, 10 Marks]
 - **Malaya:**
 1. Which factors would you attribute to the British colonial intervention in Malaya in the 19th century? How did Malays react to British colonial rule? [2019, 20 Marks]

13. International Relations (1890s-1910s)

Balance of Power in Europe (1870s-1910s)

1. "At the end of the battle of Sedan (1870), Europe lost a mistress and gained a master." Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
2. Isolation of France constituted the keystone of Bismarck's foreign policy. Elucidate. [1997, 60 Marks]

3. "To Bismarck the conclusion of the Treaty of May 20, 1882, was the culmination of his system." Comment. [2004, 20 Marks]
4. "18 January 1871 had been a day of triumph for the strength and pride of Germany and 28 June 1919 was the day of chastisement." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]
5. At the end of the Battle of Sedan (1870), "Europe lost a mistress and gained a master". Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]

Eastern Question

1. "The Eastern Question has always been an international question." Comment. [1989, 20 Marks]
2. Lord Beaconsfield after his return from the Congress of Berlin (1878) boasted: "I have brought peace with honour." Comment. [1998, 20 Marks]
3. "The Crimean War was the most useless war ever waged." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]
4. "The Eastern Question has always been an international question". Elucidate. [2010, 30 Marks]
5. "The Berlin Congress (1878) failed to unlock the Eastern Question. Though there was no longer major war in Europe for nearly three decades after the Treaty of Berlin, it contained the seeds of many future wars." Critically Evaluate. [2015, 20 Marks]

Japan's Foreign Policy before World War I

1. "The Anglo-Japanese Treaty (1902) marks a milestone in the development of Japan as an Asiatic power." Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]
2. Discuss how Japan industrialised after the Meiji Restorations. What were the consequences for its neighbours? [2018, 20 Marks] (*second half*)
3. "The Russo-Japanese War helped in the rise of Japan as a great power." [2014, 10 Marks]

Causes of World War 1

1. "By 1914, the sick man of Europe was no longer just Turkey: it was **Europe itself**." Explain. [2011, 20 Marks]
2. "Any single explanation for the outbreak of the First World War likely to be too simple. An amalgam of factors **intellectual, social, economic as well as political and diplomatic** contributed to this horrifying conflict of monumental proportions." – Explain. [2012, 30 Marks]
3. How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for **the preservation of the balance of power**? [2015, 20 Marks], (GS, 2024)

14. Nature and Consequences of World War I

First World War

- **Total War:**
 1. Why was the First World War termed as the first 'total' war in modern history? [2017, 20 Marks]
 2. "There are many ways in which the war of 1914-18 was unprecedented, and in human history, entirely novel." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]
- **Impact of World War 1:**

1. "The War's (First World War's) most permanent contribution to the spirit of the post War years was disillusion." Comment. [2007, 60 Marks]
2. "The First World War did not produce just political consequences; it also had a deep impact on the ways of thinking." Critically examine. [2025, 10 Marks]

Paris Peace Conference

- **Clash of Interests:**
 1. "The international situation that confronted the peacemakers in Paris was in the brutal realities of history, the result of a temporary redistribution of the balance of power in the world." Comment. [1987, 60 Marks]
 2. "The most important single factor ... in the year following 1919 was the French demand for security." Comment. [2004, 10 Marks]
- **Clash of Personalities:**
 1. "There was not only a difference of principles at Paris (Peace Conference) but a clash of personalities." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]
- **Immoral:**
 1. The treaties made at the Paris Peace conference in 1919-20 were replete with unstable compromises, reflecting more materialism than idealism. Elucidate. [1990, 60 Marks]
 2. "The peace of Versailles lacked moral validity from the start." Critically evaluate. [2011, 20 Marks]
 3. Analyze the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles of 1919 and examine the validity of Germany's objections to the Treaty. [2000, 60 Marks]
- **Germany:**
 1. "18 January 1871 had been a day of triumph for the strength and pride of Germany and 28 June 1919 was the day of chastisement." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]
- **Seeds of Future War:**
 1. "Treaty of Versailles contained the seeds of future conflicts." Comment. [2006, 10 Marks]
 2. Do you agree with the view that the Treaty of Versailles was a bad compromise between a treaty based upon force and a treaty based on ideas? [2016, 20 Marks]
 3. Europe was at war with itself in the first half of the twentieth century with a long cease-fire. Comment. [2021, 20 Marks]
 4. The Treaty of Versailles contained in itself the seeds of the Second World War. Examine. [2023, 10 Marks]

15. Russian Revolution (1917-21)

Nature and Causes

- **Causes:**
 1. Analyze the causes of the Russian Revolutions of 1917. Why was the second Revolution Significant in more than one way? [1985, 60 Marks] (first half)
 2. Examine the causes of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and indicate its significance in world history. [2003, 60 Marks] (first half)

3. "The Russian Revolution (1917) was an economic explosion hastened by the stupidities of the autocratic Government". Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
 4. Account for the overthrow of the Tsarist regime in Russia. [2009, 30 Marks]
- **Nature:**
 1. The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a single revolution which developed two phases. Elucidate. [1992, 60 Marks]

Role of Lenin

1. Write a critical note on Lenin's role in the Russian Revolution of 1917. [1981, 20 Marks]
2. "The bold knight, Lenin, having rescued the fair maiden of the Revolution from the evil sorcerer, Kerensky, everyone lived happily hereafter." Comment. [1983, 20 Marks]
3. In Russia, Lenin was "the father of socialism, organizer of the revolution and the founder of the new Russian society." Examine the statement. [1998, 60 Marks]
4. How did Lenin achieve an abrupt transition from a Monarchical autocratic to a Socialist State? [2016, 20 Marks]

Success, Significance, Impact

- **Overall Significance:**
 1. What were the causes for the success of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917? Discuss its significance in the history of the world. [1980, 60 Marks]
 2. Analyze the causes of the Russian Revolutions of 1917. Why was the second Revolution Significant in more than one way? [1985, 60 Marks] (second half)
 3. Examine the causes of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and indicate its significance in world history. [2003, 60 Marks] (second half)
 4. Examine the statement that "the danger of 'Bolshevism' dominated not only the history of the years immediately following the Russian Revolution of 1917 but the entire history of the world since that date". [2017, 20 Marks]
- **Comparative Significance:**
 1. "The impact of the French Revolution (1789) was initially confined the Europe, but that of the Russia Revolution (1917) was global." – Critically review. [2012, 30 Marks]
 2. "If the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia (that resulted in the creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or Soviet Union) inaugurated an international competition for the hearts and minds of people all over the globe, the Chinese revolution raised the stakes of that struggle." Critically examine. [2013 10 Marks]

Stalin's Russia

1. "Stalinist Russia was a despotic regime." Critically examine this view. [1999, 60 Marks]
2. How did Stalin build on Lenin's legacy of Bolshevik Revolution and introduce new elements of totalitarianism to transform USSR as a superpower? [2020, 20 Marks]

16. Interwar Socio-Economic Developments

Great Depression

Consequences:

1. The Great Depression (1928 – 34) was “attended by momentous consequences in the economic as well as in the political sphere.” Comment. [1996, 20 Marks]
2. The Great Depression (1928 – 34) was “attended by momentous consequences in the economic as well as in the political sphere.” Comment. [2002, 20 Marks]

Policies:

1. What policy instruments were deployed to contain the great economic depression? (GS, 2013)

New Deal:

1. Critically examine the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Did he want to introduce a sort of socialism? [1987, 60 Marks]
2. President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal “had the wit to start the political economy in a fresh, more promising direction.” Do you agree? [1997, 60 Marks]

Political Instability in Europe

1. “The perpetuation of the economic malaise was the main cause of the political instability of Europe during the next two decades (1919-1939).” Explain. [1994, 60 Marks]
2. “There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars.” Evaluate the statement. (GS, 2021)

Inter-war Society

1. Trace the rise and growth of the New European Society in the inter-war period. [1999, 60 Marks]
2. 'Roaring Twenties' in Europe and America had many positive points. It helped women to uplift themselves in the region. Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]

17. Fascist Counter-Revolution

Causes of Emergence

Overall Causes:

1. “The roots of the rise of Fascism lay in Peace Treaties.” Comment. [2003, 20 Marks]
2. Discuss how Fascism was a response to the post-war situation arising out of political instability, thwarted nationalist hopes, and fears of the spread of communism? [2022, 20 M]
3. The social and political landscape of Europe after the First World War was uniquely suited to the rise of Fascism. Discuss. [2024, 20 Marks]

Italy:

1. Examine the circumstances which led to the overthrow of democracy and the establishment of Fascist dictatorship in Italy. [2017, 20 Marks]

Germany:

1. What were the weaknesses and difficulties of the Weimer Republic? How did Hitler succeed in establishing his dictatorship? [2004, 60 Marks]
2. Hitler was “a creature flung to the top by the tides of revolutionary change, or the embodiment of the collective unconsciousness of a people obsessed with violence and death.” Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]
3. "By the time of 1932 elections, Germany's ruling classes began to feel that the only way to escape from a deep economic crisis was to hand over political power to a totalitarian agency. Explain. [2025, 20 Marks]

Characteristic Features

- **Overall Features:**

1. Discuss the main characteristics of Fascism. [2007, 60 Marks]

- **Italy:**

1. ‘Corporate State’ was Mussolini’s answer to sociopolitical problems of his country. Elucidate. [1995, 60 Marks]

- **Internal Variation:**

1. “Extreme nationalism of the Fascist Variety has various faces in various countries, but it has everywhere certain common characteristics.” Comment. [1989, 20 Marks]
2. “Comparison of the fascist regime in Italy with the National Socialist regime of Germany is almost inevitable. The similarities are obvious, but there is one point of difference which is worth mentioning.” Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]

18. Japanese Militarism

Interwar Years

1. Account for the rise of militarism in Japan between the two World Wars. How did it affect the peace of the world? [1979, 60 Marks]
2. Trace the growth of militarism in Japan in the inter-war years. What international reaction did it provoke? [1997, 60 Marks]

Japan-China Relations

1. “Japanese policy in relation to Manchuria reacted back upon Japan affecting her both economically and politically.” Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
2. “Japanese policy in relation to Manchuria reacted back upon Japan affecting her both economically and politically.” Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
3. Show how the presence of a weak and helpless China next door brought about the rise of militarism and collapse of democracy in Japan. [1994, 60 Marks]

19. League of Nations

1. "Thus the League sought to achieve to profoundest of all **psychological revolutions** to transform the war mentality of man into a peace mentality." Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]
2. "The **Manchurian crisis** decided the fate of the league of Nations." Comment. [1993, 20 Marks]
3. "The **Communist international** and the **League of Nations** both announced the end of the Balance of Power." Comment. [1996, 20 Marks]
4. "In the long run, the **Locarno Treaty** (December 1925) was destructive both of the Treaty of Versailles and of the Covenant." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
5. "League of Nations is a **League of Nations**." Comment. [2016, 10 Marks]
6. "The effectiveness of the League of Nations to prevent or to check **Japanese aggression** against China was the first serious blow to its prestige as an agency for providing security." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

20. World War II

Causes

- **Hitler's Foreign Policy:**
 1. Critically examine the main features of the foreign policy of Nazi Germany. [1982, 60 Marks]
 2. What led to the formation of the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis? Indicate its impact on international politics. [1986, 60 Marks]
 3. Show how the Spanish Civil War was a prelude to World War II. [1991, 60 Marks]
 4. "There was an element of system in Hitler's foreign policy.... His outlook was continental." Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
 5. "A clever conqueror will always impose his demands on the conquered by installments." Comment. [2006, 10 Marks]
 6. "Hitler did not really want a World War. His intention was only a short war with Poland." (A. J. P. Taylor). Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]
- **Appeasement Policy:**
 1. How did the policy of appeasement escalate the problem of Nazi aggrandizement? [2011, 30 Marks]
 2. Was Czechoslovakia served on a dish to Hitler at Munich? What were its implications? [2019, 20 Marks]
- **Germany?**
 1. To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically. (GS, 2015)

American participation

1. "Until December 1941 the battlefield of the Second World War was exclusively European and Atlantic; thereafter it became also Asiatic and Pacific." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]
2. "Until December 1941, the battlefield of the Second World War was exclusively European and Atlantic; thereafter it became also Asiatic and Pacific." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]

Nature of the Second World War

1. Do you agree with the statement that the Second World War was history's most destructive war? Elaborate. [2020, 20 Marks]
2. The Second World War was a truly global conflict. Discuss. [20m, 2024]

21. Cold War

Beginning of Cold War

1. In the post -Second World War scenario friends in war did not remain friends in peace. Examine the truth of this view in the period of your study. [1999, 60 Marks]
2. The emergence of two power blocs not only symbolized two competing ideologies but also two alternative models of economic growth. Explain. [2024, 20 Marks]

Theatres of Cold War

- **Role of the USA:**

1. "After World War II, the strategy of the West towards Soviet bloc crystallized as a 'policy of containment'." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
2. Outline the circumstances leading to the adoption of Marshall Plan. [2018, 10 Marks]
3. "The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan were considered by Russian Bloc as a weapon against Russia in order to restrict her influence." Critically examine. [2015, 20 Marks]

- **European Theatre:**

- **Europe:**

1. One of the most important impacts of the Second World War was the "division of Europe", eastern and western. Comment. [1998, 20 Marks]
2. One of the most important consequences of the Second World War was "division of Europe", eastern and western. Comment. [2002, 20 Marks]
3. "Europe faced peace in 1945 politically disorganized and economically crippled." Elaborate. [2010, 30 Marks]
4. "Europe was eclipsed through European folly due to the two world wars." Elucidate. [2014, 20 Marks]

- **NATO:**

1. "The Brussels Treaty of 17 March 1948 paved the way for the formation of NATO." Comment. [2003, 20 Marks]
2. "NATO in many ways symbolized the key role that the United States had come to play in Europe." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]
3. Do you agree with the view that the formation of NATO marked a revolution in American attitude to the world problems? [2019, 10 Marks]

- **Cold War in Colonies:**

1. "In the Soviet Union, as also in China, there was a strong belief that anti-imperial movements in the colonies would result in their moving into the socialist orbit." Critically examine. [2025, 10 Marks]

Phases of Cold War

1. Critically examine the various dimensions and phases of the cold war between 1947 and 1962. [2005, 60 Marks]
2. Outline the circumstances leading to détente. [2016, 10 Marks]

End of Cold War

1. Account for the factors that brought about the end of the Cold War. [2008, 60 Marks]

22. Chinese Revolution (1945-49)

Causes + Significance

1. Discuss the circumstances leading to the Chinese Revolution of 1949 and analyze its significance. [2005, 60 Marks]
2. Critically analysis the cause and the results of the Chinese revolution of 1949. [2006, 60 Marks]

Role of Mao Zedong

1. "The turn of the tide against the Kuomintang, consequently, was due as much to its weakness as to Communist strength." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]
2. "The announcement of the creation of the Peoples' Republic of China on October 1, 1949 by Mao Zedong ended the civil war between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Nationalist Party (KMT)." – Elaborate. [2012, 30 Marks]
3. "The failure of Kuomintang against the communist onslaught was unimaginable and it was Mao Tse-tung whose tenacity and innovative approach had accomplished the unthinkable." Discuss. [2015, 20 Marks]
4. In the Chinese Revolution of 1949, the elements of communism and nationalism were discernible. Explain the statement in the light of Mao's strategy which was different from that of Lenin. [2018, 20 Marks]

Role of the USA

1. Review the political circumstances in China in the years 1945-49 leading to the establishment of the Communist rule in the land. How did the United States seek to resolve the conflict between the Nationalists and the communists in the period? [1984, 60 Marks]
2. Examine the circumstances in China in the years 1945-49. What did the United States do to resolve the conflict between the Nationalists and the Communists there? [2002, 60 Marks]

Comparison

1. Revolutions, whether in Russia (1917) or in China (1949), are a disastrous way of transforming a country. Comment. [2021, 10 Marks]

Post-Revolution Developments

1. The new regime in China addressed the peasant question by instituting wholesale land redistribution, which was carried out swiftly and ruthlessly. [10m, 2024]

23. Disintegration of USSR

Causes

1. Discuss the main factors leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union. [2002, 60 Marks]
2. Analyze the factors leading to the end of the Cold war and account for the U.S. ascendancy in the world. [2003, 60 Marks]
3. Analyse the factors for the collapse of Soviet Communism and Soviet Union during 1985-1991. [2004, 60 Marks]
4. "By the 1980s, the Communist system of the Soviet Union was incapable of maintaining the country's role as a Superpower." Explain this statement. [2007, 60 Marks]
5. "By the 1980s, the communist system of the Soviet Union was incapable of maintaining the country's role as a superpower." Elucidate. [2013, 25 Marks]
6. "By 1980s, the Communist System of Soviet Union was incapable of maintaining the country's role as a Superpower." Substantiate. [2017, 20 Marks]

Role of Gorbachev

1. "The essence of Perestroika is for people to feel they are country's master." —Gorbachev. Critically evaluate. [2010, 10 Marks]
2. Review the policy of Glasnost adopted by Gorbachev. [2018, 10 Marks]
3. Discuss how the policies adopted by Mikhail Gorbachev were responsible for the disintegration of the USSR? [2022, 20 Marks]
4. Discuss critically the salient features of Mikhail Gorbachev's domestic reforms. [2025, 20 Marks]

24. Emergence of Unipolar World

1. "With the Cold War over and the Soviet Union gone, the face of international diplomacy has undergone a metamorphosis." Critically examine. [2012, 10 Marks]
2. What factors contributed to the emergence of a unipolar world? [2016, 10 Marks]
3. A new configuration of power emerged in world politics after the end of the cold war. Analyse how USA managed to become the sole superpower. [2020, 20 Marks]
4. The impact of the end of the Cold War and the emergence of the US as the lone superpower has been both, good and bad. Discuss. [2021, 20 Marks]
5. "The supremacy of USA after the end of the Cold War had its challenges as well." [2023, 10 Marks]

25. Unification of Europe

Post Cold War Europe

1. "The collapse of Berlin Wall in 1989 brought new ideas of co-operation in Europe." Critically evaluate. [2011, 10 Marks]
2. Examine the challenges confronted by the proponents of European unity after the collapse of Soviet Empire in Eastern Europe. [2011, 30 Marks]
3. "The collapse of Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989 brought new meaning to the idea of cooperation in Europe." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]

EU

1. "The European union is the new sick man of Europe." critically evaluate. [2013, 25 Marks]
2. "The European Union, a diplomatic marvel, continues to grapple with intermittent fissures arising out of economic contentious issues that pose a challenge to an effective integration of the Union." Critically examine. [2015, 20 Marks]
3. Trace the different stages of European economic integration. [2024, 20 Marks]
4. To what extent did the concept of free trade of European Economic Community contribute to the formation of European Union? Examine. [2025, 20 Marks]

East Europe

1. Assess the significance of the political developments that took place in Eastern Europe during 1989-2001. [2008, 60 Marks]
2. In what way did the political changes in Soviet Union influence the events in Eastern Europe during the closing decades of the 20th Century? [2016, 20 Marks]
3. The revolutions of 1989 did not simply destroy governments; they also ended an ideology. [10m, 2024]

26. UNO and the Global Disputes

Assessment of Success/Failure

1. Examine the peace keeping efforts of the United Nations Organization. [2009, 30 Marks]
2. "In spite of the careful framing of the charter, the role of UNO as Peacekeeper and international mediator has been somewhat lackluster and muted and that continues to be so even after the end of cold war." Elucidate. [2013, 25 Marks]
3. "The UNO was created in the light of the experience of the 'League of Nations', but in spite of the mandate contained in the UNO constitution, its effective role in maintaining world peace had lacked cohesiveness and collective approach." Examine. [2015, 20 Marks]
4. Discuss how far the United Nations has been successful in resolving global disputes from year 1946 to 1991. [2018, 20 Marks]
5. Do you think that the United Nations Organization had played a significant role in resolving international disputes and ensuring peace in the world? [2021, 10 Marks]
6. "UNO was the necessity of the time when the World War II ended." Critically examine its achievements and shortcomings. [2023, 20 Marks]

Security Council

1. "The Security Council is the heart of the United Nations." Comment. [2003, 10 Marks]

27. History of Decolonization

Overall Questions

1. Write a critical note on the process of decolonization **accelerated by the Second World War**. [1988, 60 Marks]
2. "The decolonization led to the **break-up of empires**." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]
3. "The **Capitalism** which gave the European empires their apparent solidarity and permanence also hastened their downfall." Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]

Role of India

1. What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? (GS, 2014)

Nationalism in Asia

1. "... the European nations in emphasizing their solidarity, their solidarity, their Europeanness in dealing with Asian countries inevitably gave rise to a feeling of Asianness." Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]
2. How did the Japanese occupation of South-East Asian countries during the Second World War give a boost to nationalism in the regions? Explain with examples. [1990, 60 Marks]
3. "Asian Nationalism is just a product of Western impact on the Asian intelligentsia in the last decades of the nineteenth century." Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]
4. The historical causes for the rise of anti-colonial movement in South-East Asia were cultural differences, spread of western education and the emergence of Communist ideas. Discuss. [2023, 20 Marks]

Arab Nationalism

- **Overall:**
 1. Arab nationalism was not only a **cultural** movement, but also an **anti-colonial struggle**. Comment. [2023, 10 Marks]
 2. The Arab nationalism had a peculiar character. It stood for **national independence** for separate Arab States as well as for the **unity of all Arabs** irrespective of their state boundaries." – Examine. [2012, 30 Marks]
- **Arab League:**
 1. Discuss the aims of the establishment of the Arab League and assess its role in safeguarding the interests of the Arab nations. [2001, 60 Marks]
- **Oil Imperialism:**
 1. "One of the last Strongholds – of oil imperialism and European colonialism in the Middle East) cultivates a fiery nationalism as a weapon against foreign oppression." Comment. [1987, 20 Marks]

2. Trace the growth of Arab nationalism after the First World War. How far was it a reaction to oil imperialism? [1989, 60 Marks]
3. Arab Nationalism and Oil- these were the principal factors complicating the relations of the West Asian countries with the outside world. Do you agree? [1993, 60 Marks]
4. "Arab nationalism and oil – these were the principal Factors in complicating the relations of Middle Eastern countries with the outside world." Comment. [2009, 30 Marks]
5. Trace the growth of Arab nationalism after the First World War. How far was it a reaction to Oil Imperialism? [2016, 20 Marks]

Decolonization in Arabic Countries

1. "The countries in the Middle East became, after 1919, the scene of constant effervescence and some striking changes." Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]
- **Egypt:**
 1. Discuss the circumstances leading to the **Suez Crisis** of 1956 and examine its repercussions on global politics. [2014, 10 Marks]
 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? (GS, 2014)
 3. Analyze the role of **Egypt** after the Second World War in bringing about **Arab unity**. [2019, 20 Marks]
 4. The Arab countries looked up to **Nasser** as a leader who could withstand the pressure exerted by Western countries on Egypt to make peace with Israel. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]
 - **Turkey:**
 1. "Under Mustafa Kemal's dictatorship; Turkey was rapidly nationalized." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks]
 2. "Nominally the new Turkey was republican and democratic." Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]
 3. Turkish renaissance guided by Kemal Pasha revolutionized the Turkish life at many levels. Amplify. [1996, 60 Marks]
 - **Israel-Palestine:**
 1. "The British were slated to withdraw from Palestine in May 1948, and both sides prepared for that day. Violence between Arabs and Jews, already endemic, escalated." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Decolonization in South-East Asian Countries

- **Vietnam:**
 - **Overall:**
 1. "... **nascent nationalism** in Indo-China developed within both an Asian and a European context with but scanty reference in either case to traditionalist considerations." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
 2. Why did the **non-communist Vietnamese leaders** fail to provide successful leadership for Indo-China's anti-colonial struggle? Discuss. [2025, 20 Marks]
 - **Vietnam War:**
 1. Why did Vietnam go through **thirty years of war** after the Second World War? [2009, 30 Marks]

2. Do you feel that the Vietnamese fought the 20th century's **longest and bloodiest war** for their liberation and integration of their country? Analyse. [2022, 10 Marks]
- **Role of Ho Chi Minh**
 1. Trace the significant **role played** by Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam's struggle for freedom. [2016, 10 Marks]
 2. How did Ho Chi Minh emerge as the **central figure** in the Vietnamese independence movement? [2024, 10 Marks]
- **Indonesia:**
 1. Identify the main strands in the Nationalist Movement in Indonesia between the two World Wars. How did Japanese occupation of land influence the course of the Movement? [1984, 60 Marks]
- **Malaya:**
 1. What happened to Malaya after it was liberated from Japanese occupation in 1945? Discuss. [2022, 10 Marks]
 2. What problems were germane to the decolonization process of Malay Peninsula. (GS, 2017)

Decolonization in African Countries

- **West Africa:**
 1. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine. (GS, 2016)
- **Algeria:**
 1. Discuss the circumstances leading to the French exit from Algeria in 1962. [2020, 10 Marks]
- **South Africa (Apartheid to Democracy):**
 1. Give a brief account of the struggle against 'Apartheid' in South Africa. [2006, 60 Marks]
 2. "There must be an end to white monopoly on political power, and a fundamental restructuring of our political and economic systems to ensure that the inequalities of apartheid are addressed, and our society thoroughly democratized." Discuss. [2013, 25 Marks]
 3. Explain the features of Apartheid in South Africa. [2018, 10 Marks]
 4. The white-minority government of South Africa treated the natives very badly by denying them fundamental rights and made Apartheid an official policy. How were the people able to end Apartheid policy and establish a transitional rule? [2021, 10 Marks]
 5. Why was the apartheid policy introduced in South Africa? What were its main features? [2022, 20 Marks]
 6. The nature of apartheid regime undermined South Africa's claim of being a democratic polity. [10m, 2024]

28. Third World, NAM, Post-Colonial Developments

Emergence of the Third World

1. Explain the circumstances leading to the emergence of Third World and analyze its impact on world affairs. [2010, 30 Marks]

2. "The multiple of newly independent countries came to be known as the 'Third World', belonging neither to the First World of capitalist democracies, nor the Communist Second World." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Non-Alignment

- **Meaning, Purpose, Objective:**

1. "Non-alignment came to symbolize the struggle of India and other newly independent nations to retain and strengthen their independence from colonialism and imperialism." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]
2. During the Cold War, some important leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement wanted to keep the movement away from the military blocs. [2021, 10 Marks]
3. Describe the launching of Non-Alignment Movement. Why the small nations wanted to remain aloof from the powerful nations? [2022, 20 Marks]

- **Success/Failure/Limitations:**

1. Would you argue that the Non-Aligned Movement played a crucial role in promoting a climate of peace? [2011, 30 Marks]
2. The role of the Non-Alignment Movement in world affairs had suffered greatly due to the theatre of internecine conflicts among the Third World countries who spearheaded it." Elucidate. [2015, 10 Marks]

Post-Colonial History

1. "Decolonization has finished. It definitely belongs to the past. Yet somehow it has refused to become history." Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks]
2. "Colonialism not only deprives a society of its freedom and its wealth, but of its very character, leaving its people intellectually and morally disoriented." Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks]
3. "History of Africa appears to be simply an extension or mere sub-theme under the broad headings of European and American history. According to this historiography, Africa seems to be without any history before the European scramble." Elucidate. [2015, 20 Marks]

- **Underdevelopment in Africa:**

1. To what extent did the expansion of European Powers in the late 19th century help in the modernization of Africa? [2014, 10 Marks]
2. Discuss the factors constraining development of Africa after decolonization. [2018, 20 Marks]
3. Critically examine whether it was true that after a century of dependency on Europeans, Africans were ill-prepared for the task of nation building. [2020, 10 Marks]

- **Underdevelopment in Latin America:**

1. Explain why Latin America was beset with chronic political instability and endemic military conflicts throughout most of the 19th century. [2019, 20 Marks]
2. How far did Latin American countries overcome centuries of subjugation and foreign intervention? [2022, 10 Marks]
3. To what extent underdevelopment in Latin America is caused by neo-imperialism? [20m, 2024]