

2026 Edition

UPSC-CSE MAINS

PREVIOUS

YEAR

QUESTIONS

**Topic-wise Classification &
Year-wise Papers**

Essay, GS1, GS2, GS3 & GS4 (Ethics)
Since New Pattern (2013-2025)



Compiled by
Abhijeet Pimparkar
(B. Tech COEP, M.A. Political Science)

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UPSC-CSE Mains PYQ Book (2013-2025)

Compiled by: **Abhijeet Pimparkar** [B. Tech (COEP), M.A. Political Science]

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Sixth Edition 2025-26

Published by,

Politics for India

22nd September 2025

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MRP: Rs. 249/- (Rupees Two Hundred and Forty Nine Only)

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MAKING BEST USE OF THIS BOOK

The final ranking in UPSC-CSE largely depends on the marks secured in UPSC Mains. Unfortunately, even at this stage, the preparation of students seems to lack a good strategy.

This book tries to address this issue. It does two things: First, it classifies the Official UPSC Syllabus into various subjects and second, the book divides the previous year questions (PYQs) into these various subjects and topics.

This classification brings all the PYQs under one subject/topic together. This gives a better insight into what UPSC expects from that particular subject and particular topic. It additionally also provides plenty of practice questions when we're studying the subject topic-by-topic.

Further, the book makes use of graphs to help us better understand the relative weightage of each subject/topic. These graphs also compare the last twelve years (2013-2025) weightage with last four years (2022-2025). This will help us understand the changing trend of UPSC in recent past.

Note that each question is accompanied with a code which denotes, in given order, i) the year in which question was asked ii) question no. in official question paper iii) maximum marks and iv) word limit. For example [2021/Q2/10m/150w] denotes a 2nd question from year 2021, which was asked for 10 marks, to be written in 150 words.

We would also like to stress that the exam pattern of UPSC-CSE changed drastically in 2013. Hence, the book contains questions only from 2013. Considering old question papers is not just unnecessary but also misleading. Further, thirteen years is a sufficient time to trace out a new pattern and provide plenty of practice questions.

Along with topic-wise questions, PART III of the book contains year-wise papers from 2013 onwards. This is provided so that you can have a look at entire question paper(s) at once.

So, do make use of all that the book provides and accordingly strategize your preparation. We really wish that your efforts do not go waste and you are able to systematically cover all of GS syllabus within stipulated time.

Have a wonderful and educational journey!

Regards,
Abhijeet Pimparkar
Politics for India™ Publications

PART I

UPSC MAINS SYLLABUS

DISCUSSION

It is important to take note the syllabus for examination before beginning your preparation. **As provided in the UPSC Notification:**

“The main Examination is intended to assess the overall intellectual traits and depth of understanding of candidates rather than merely the range of their information and memory. The nature and standard of questions in the General Studies papers (Paper II to Paper V) will be such that a well-educated person will be able to answer them without any specialized study. The questions will be such as to test a candidate’s general awareness of a variety of subjects, which will have relevance for a career in Civil Services. The questions are likely to test the candidate’s basic understanding of all relevant issues, and ability to analyze, and take a view on conflicting socio-economic goals, objectives and demands. The candidates must give relevant, meaningful and succinct answers.”

Following is the paper-wise syllabus provided in the UPSC notification. We’ve done further breakup of the syllabus into standard subjects.

PAPER I – ESSAY

There is no syllabus provided by the UPSC for Essay. However, the notification does mention the following:

“Essay: Candidates may be required to write essays on multiple topics. They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay to arrange their ideas in orderly fashion, and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.”

PAPER II - GENERAL STUDIES 1

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

A] HISTORY

- 1] Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature & Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- 2] Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- 3] The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- 4] Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- 5] History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc. — their forms and effect on the society.

B] SOCIETY & SOCIAL ISSUES

- 6] Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- 7] Role of women and women’s organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- 8] Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- 9] Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

C] GEOGRAPHY

- 10] Salient features of world's physical geography.
- 11] Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- 12] Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

PAPER III - GENERAL STUDIES 2**Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.****A] CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**

- 1] Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- 2] Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- 3] Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- 4] Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- 5] Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- 6] Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- 7] Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
- 8] Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- 9] Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

B] SOCIAL JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

- 10] Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- 11] Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- 12] Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- 13] Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- 14] Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- 15] Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

16] Role of civil services in a democracy.

C] INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

17] India and its neighbourhood- relations.

18] Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

19] Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

20] Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

PAPER IV - GENERAL STUDIES 3

Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

A] INDIAN ECONOMY

1] Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

2] Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

3] Government Budgeting.

4] Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

5] Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

6] Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.

7] Land reforms in India.

8] Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

9] Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

10] Investment models.

B] SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

11] Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

12] Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

13] Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

C] ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

14] Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

D] DISASTER MANAGEMENT

15] Disaster and disaster management.

E] INTERNAL SECURITY

- 16] Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- 17] Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- 18] Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.
- 19] Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- 20] Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

PAPER V - GENERAL STUDIES IV**Ethics, integrity and aptitude.**

“This paper will include questions to test the candidates’ attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem-solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects.”

The following broad areas will be covered:

- 1] Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- 2] Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- 3] Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
- 4] Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- 5] Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
- 6] Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
- 7] Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

Case Studies on above issues.

PART II

TOPIC-WISE QUESTIONS

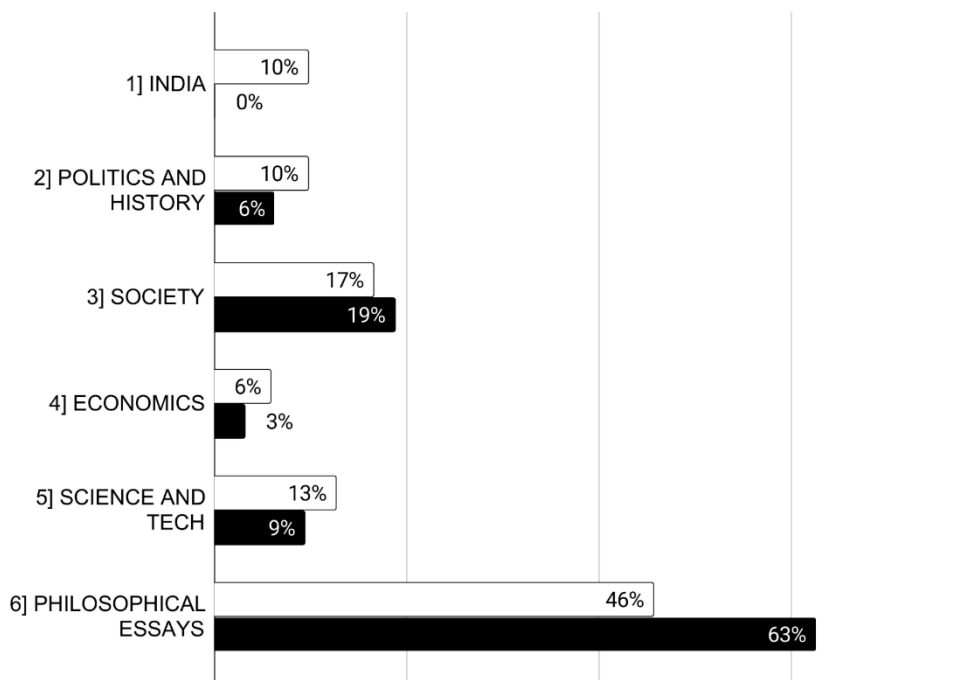
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PAPER 1 – ESSAY

PAPER 1: ESSAY

□ 2013-2025 ■ 2022-2025



1] INDIA

1. Neglect of primary health care and education in India are reasons for its backwardness [2019/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Management of Indian border disputes – a complex task [2018/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India. [2017/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Fulfilment of 'new woman' in India is a myth. [2017/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Crisis faced in India – moral or economic. [2015/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Dreams which should not let India sleep. [2015/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Fifty Golds in Olympics: Can this be a reality for India? [2014/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Tourism: Can this be the next big thing for India? [2014/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
9. Is the Colonial Mentality Hindering India's Success? [2013/Q2/250m/2500w]

2] POLITICS & HISTORY

1. Supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting. [2025/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
2. History is a series of victories won by the scientific man over the romantic man. [2022/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
3. History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as a farce. [2021/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Technology as the silent factor in international relations [2020/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy [2019/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Has the Non- Alignment Movement (NAM) lost its relevance in a multipolar world. [2017/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Water disputes between states in federal India [2016/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Cooperative federalism: Myth or reality [2016/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
9. Was it the policy paralysis or the paralysis of implementation which slowed the growth of our country? [2014/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]

10. Is sting operation an invasion on privacy? [2014/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]

3] SOCIETY

1. Forests precede civilizations and deserts follow them. [2024/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Social media is Triggering 'Fear of Missing Out' amongst the youth, precipitating depression and loneliness. [2024/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Girls are weighed down by restrictions, boys with demands- two equally harmful disciplines. [2023/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
4. A society that has more justice is a society that needs less charity. [2023/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
5. Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school. [2023/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world. [2022/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. [2021/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Culture is what we are, civilization is what we have [2020/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
9. There can be no social justice without economic prosperity but economic prosperity without social justice is meaningless [2020/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
10. Patriarchy is the least noticed yet the most significant structure of social inequality [2020/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
11. South Asian societies are woven not around the state, but around their plural cultures and plural identities [2019/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
12. Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere [2018/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
13. If development is not engendered, it is endangered [2016/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
14. Character of an institution is reflected in its leader. [2015/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
15. Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man more clever devil. [2015/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
16. Is the growing level of competition good for the youth? [2014/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
17. Are the standardized tests good measure of academic ability or progress? [2014/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]

4] ECONOMICS

1. Forests are the best case studies for economic excellence [2022/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Impact of the new economic measures on fiscal ties between the union and states in India. [2017/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Near jobless growth in India: An anomaly or an outcome of economic reforms [2016/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Can capitalism bring inclusive growth? [2015/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
5. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) along with GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) would be the right Indices for judging the well-being of a country [2013/Q3/250m/2500w]

5] SCIENCE AND TECH

1. The Empires of the future will be the empires of the mind. [2024/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
2. The doubter is a true man of science. [2024/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Mathematics is the music of reasons. [2023/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
4. The process of self-discovery has now been technologically outsourced. [2021/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
5. What is research, but a blind date with knowledge! [2021/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
6. Rise of Artificial Intelligence: the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling [2019/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Alternative technologies for a climate change resilient India [2018/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
8. Social media is inherently a selfish medium. [2017/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
9. Innovation is the key determinant of economic growth and social welfare [2016/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
10. Cyberspace and internet: Blessing or curse to the human civilization in the long run [2016/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
11. Digital economy: A leveller or a source of economic inequality [2016/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
12. Technology cannot replace manpower. [2015/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]

13. Science and technology is the panacea for the growth and security of the nation. [2013/Q4/250m/2500w]

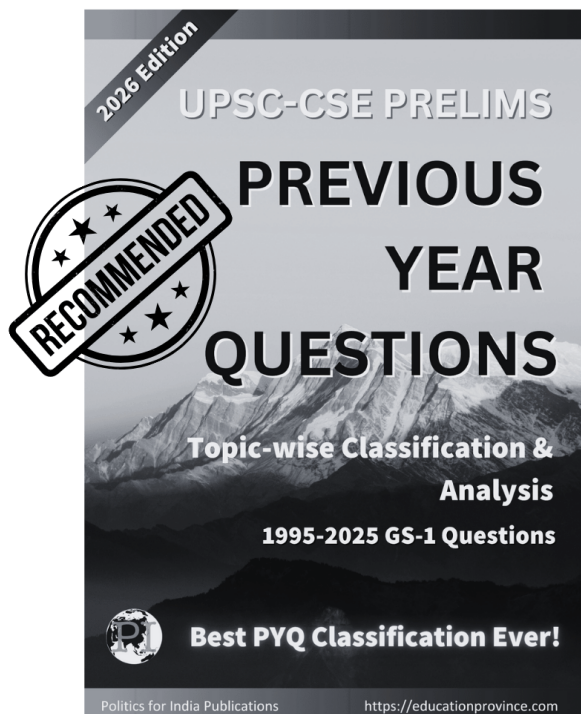
6] PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAYS

1. Truth knows no colour. [2025/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
2. Thought finds a world and creates one also. [2025/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
3. Best lessons are learnt through bitter experiences. [2025/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
4. Muddy water is best cleared by leaving it alone. [2025/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
5. The years teach much which the days never know. [2025/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
6. It is best to see life as a journey, not as a destination. [2025/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
7. Contentment is natural wealth; luxury is artificial poverty. [2025/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
8. There is no path to happiness; Happiness is the path. [2024/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
9. Nearly all men can stand adversity, but to test the character, give him power. [2024/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
10. All ideas having large consequences are always simple. [2024/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
11. The cost of being wrong is less than the cost of doing nothing. [2024/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
12. Thinking is like a game; it does not begin unless there is an opposite team. [2023/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
13. Visionary decision-making happens at the intersection of intuition and logic. [2023/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
14. Not all who wander are lost. [2023/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
15. Inspiration for creativity springs from the effort to look for the magical in the mundane. [2023/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
16. A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ship is for. [2022/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
17. The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining? [2022/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
18. You cannot step twice in the same river. [2022/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
19. A smile is the chosen vehicle for all ambiguities. [2022/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
20. Just because you have a choice, it does not mean that any of them has to be right. [2022/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
21. There are better practices to "best practices". [2021/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
22. Your perception of me is a reflection of you; my reaction to you is an awareness of me. [2021/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
23. Philosophy of wantlessness is Utopian, while materialism is a chimera. [2021/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
24. The real is rational and the rational is real. [2021/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
25. Life is long journey between human being and being humane [2020/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
26. Mindful manifesto is the catalyst to a tranquil self [2020/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
27. Ships do not sink because of water around them, ships sink because of water that gets into them [2020/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
28. Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication [2020/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
29. Wisdom finds truth [2019/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
30. Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be [2019/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
31. Best for an individual is not necessarily best for the society [2019/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
32. Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success [2019/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
33. A good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge [2018/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
34. Customary morality cannot be a guide to modern life [2018/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
35. "The past" is a permanent dimension of human consciousness and values [2018/Q B2/125m/1000-1200w]
36. A people that values its privileges above its principles loses both [2018/Q B3/125m/1200w]
37. Reality does not conform to the ideal, but confirms it [2018/Q B4/125m/1000-1200w]
38. Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms. [2017/Q A3/125m/1000-1200w]
39. Joy is the simplest form of gratitude. [2017/Q B1/125m/1000-1200w]
40. We may brave human laws but cannot resist natural laws. [2017/Q B3/125m/1000-1200w]
41. Need brings greed, if greed increases it spoils breed [2016/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]

42. Lending hands to someone is better than giving a dole. [2015/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]
43. Quick but steady wins the race. [2015/Q A2/125m/1000-1200w]
44. With greater power comes greater responsibility. [2014/Q A1/125m/1000-1200w]

45. Words are sharper than the two-edged sword. [2014/Q A4/125m/1000-1200w]
46. "Be the change you want to see in others" – Gandhiji [2013/Q1/250m/2500w]

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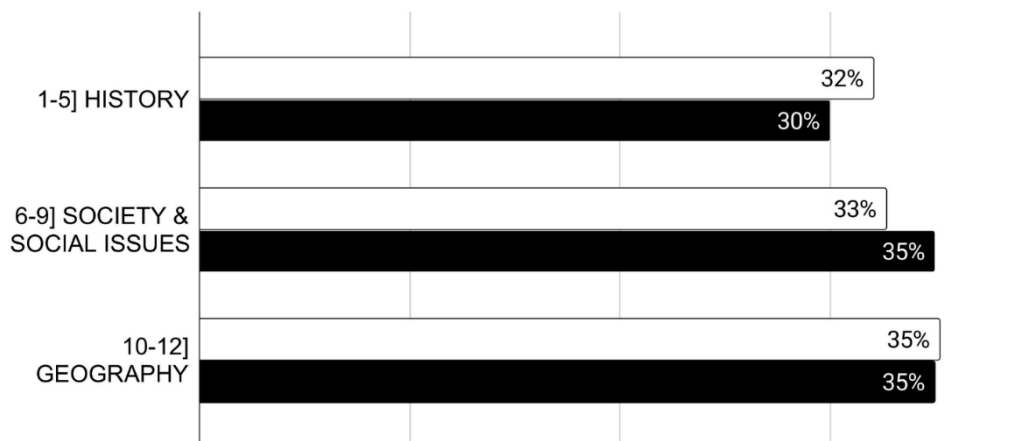
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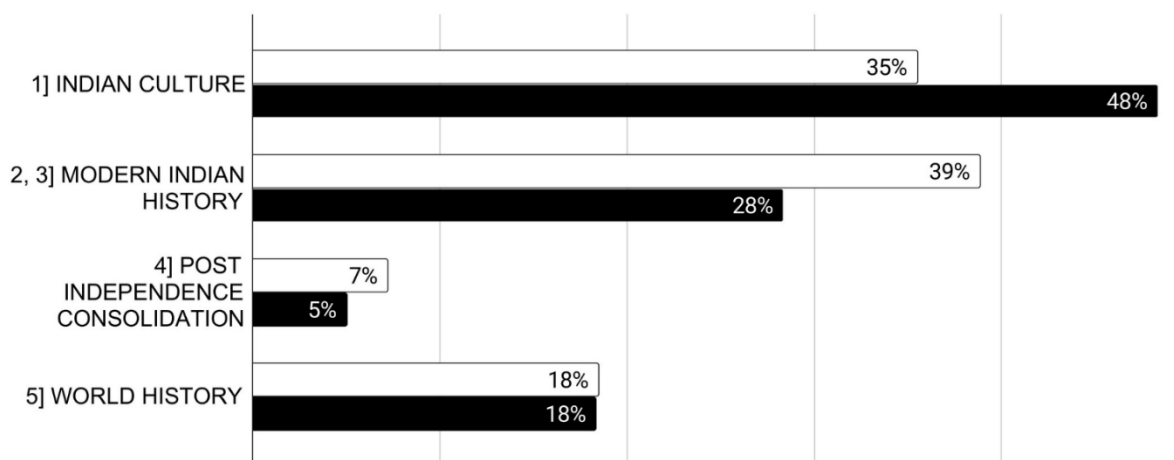
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1-5] HISTORY

GS 1: HISTORY

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1] INDIAN CULTURE:

1.1] VARIOUS ART FORMS

- The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life. Elucidate. [2025/Q3/10m/150w]
- Highlight the Central Asian and Greco -Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. [2019/Q1/10m/150w]
- Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Comment [2018/Q1/10m/150w]
- How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? [2017/Q1/10m/150w]

5. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. [2014/Q2/10m/150w]
6. Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. [2013/Q2a/5m/100w]

1.2] LITERATURE

1. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. [2024/Q2/10m/150w]
2. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. [2021/Q1/10m/150w]
3. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. [2020/Q12/15m/250w]
4. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. [2018/Q2/10m/150w]
5. Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. [2016/Q2/12.5m/200w]
6. 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. [2014/Q3/10m/150w]
7. 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. [2013/Q1/10m/200w]

1.3] ARCHITECTURE

1. Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture. [2025/Q1/10m/150w]
2. "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. [2024/Q11/15m/250w]
3. How will you explain that medieval India temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? [2022/Q1/10m/150w]

4. Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. [2022/Q13/15m/250w]
5. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. [2020/Q1/10m/150w]
6. Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. [2020/Q11/15m/250w]
7. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. [2016/Q1/12.5m/200w]
8. Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. [2015/Q2/12.5m/200w]
9. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. [2014/Q1/10m/150w]
10. Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. [2013/Q2b/5m/100w]

1.4] CULTURE AND RELIGION

1. Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism. [2025/Q2/10m/150w]
2. Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period. [2024/Q1/10m/150w]
3. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. [2023/Q1/10m/150w]
4. What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? [2023/Q11/15m/250w]
5. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society? [2023/Q12/15m/250w]
6. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. [2022/Q12/15m/250w]
7. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. [2020/Q2/10m/150w]

8. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. [2018/Q11/15m/250w]
9. The ancient civilization in Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to the present day. Comment. [2015/Q1/12.5m/200w]
10. Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu / Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. [2014/Q5/10m/150w]

2 & 3] MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

2.1] 18TH CENTURY & ESTABLISHMENT OF EAST INDIA COMPANY

1. Why did the armies of the British East India Company – mostly comprising of Indian soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the then Indian rulers? Give reasons. [2022/Q2/10m/150w]
2. Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons. [2022/Q3/10m/150w]
3. Clarify how mid-eighteenth-century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity. [2017/Q2/10m/150w]
4. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? [2014/Q4/10m/150w]

2.2] EAST INDIA COMPANY TO BRITISH RAJ

1. 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. [2019/Q2/10m/150w]
2. Explain how the uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. [2016/Q3/12.5m/200w]
3. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence. [2014/Q6/10m/150w]
4. In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate. [2013/Q5/10m/200w]

2.3] EARLY FREEDOM STRUGGLE

1. The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. [2022/Q11/15m/250w]
2. To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. [2021/Q11/15m/250w]
3. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long-term implications on the national movements. [2020/Q3/10m/150w]
4. Why did the 'Moderates' fail to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? [2017/Q3/10m/150w]

2.4] GANDHIAN PHASE TO INDEPENDENCE

1. What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results. [2024/Q3/10m/150w]
2. What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? [2023/Q2/10m/150w]
3. Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. [2021/Q12/15m/250w]
4. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. [2020/Q13/15m/250w]
5. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate [2019/Q11/15m/250w]
6. Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. [2019/Q12/15m/250w]
7. Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. [2018/Q3/10m/150w]
8. Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian Independence since the twenties of the last century. [2017/Q13/15m/250w]
9. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. [2016/Q5/12.5m/200w]
10. How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without

Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss.
[2015/Q3/12.5m/200w]

11. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. [2015/Q4/12.5m/200w]
12. 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. [2015/Q5/12.5m/200w]
13. In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? [2014/Q7/10m/150w]
14. Discuss the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre-and post-independent India. [2013/Q8/10m/200w]

2.5] PEASANTS/ TRIBAL/ WOMEN/ FOREIGNERS/ SOCIAL REFORMERS ETC.

1. Mahatma Jotirao Phule's writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss. [2025/Q11/15m/250w]
2. How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? [2023/Q13/15m/250w]
3. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj. [2021/Q2/10m/150w]
4. Examine the linkages between 19th centuries 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity. [2019/Q3/10m/150w]
5. Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. [2017/Q12/15m/250w]
6. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. [2016/Q4/12.5m/200w]
7. Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. [2013/Q3/10m/200w]
8. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. [2013/Q4/10m/200w]

4] POST INDEPENDENCE CONSOLIDATION

1. Trace India's consolidation process during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations. [2025/Q12/15m/250w]
2. Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. [2021/Q3/10m/150w]
3. The New Economic Policy – 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. [2014/Q10/10m/150w]
4. Critically discuss the objectives of Bhoodan and Gramdan movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. [2013/Q6/10m/200w]
5. Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan "Jai Jawana Jai Kisan". [2013/Q7/10m/200w]
6. Analyse the circumstances that led to Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the agreement. [2013/Q9/10m/200w]
7. Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the emergence of Bangladesh. [2013/Q10/10m/200w]

5] WORLD HISTORY

1. The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain. [2025/Q13/15m/250w]
2. How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power? [2024/Q12/15m/250w]
3. How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India? [2024/Q13/15m/250w]
4. Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world. [2023/Q3/10m/150w]
5. "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement. [2021/Q13/15m/250w]
6. Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French revolution. [2019/Q13/15m/250w]