

Indian Heritage and Culture, History

Syllabus:

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

Year - 2013

1. 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.
2. Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions.
3. Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss.
4. Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss.
5. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom
6. In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate.
7. Critically discuss the objectives of Bhoo dan and Gram dan movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success.
8. Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan “Jai Jawana Jai Kisan”.
9. Discuss the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre-and post-independent India.
10. Analyze the circumstances that led to Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the agreement.
11. Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the emergence of Bangladesh.
12. Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss.

Year - 2014

1. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss.
2. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain.
3. 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.
4. 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.

5. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat?
6. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence.
7. In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India?
8. The New Economic Policy – 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate.
9. 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?
10. What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India?

Year - 2015

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.
2. 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.
3. How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss.
4. 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.
5. 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?
6. To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically.
7. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate.

Year - 2016

1. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate.
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.
3. Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India.
4. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.
5. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.
6. Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity?
7. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine.

Year - 2017

1. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? (150 words)
2. Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity. (150 words)
3. Why did the 'Moderates' failed to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? (150 words)
4. What problems are germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula? (150 words)
5. Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. (250 words)
6. Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian Independence since the twenties of the last century. (250 words)

Year 2018

1. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss.
2. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India.
3. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri ChaitanyaMahaprabhu. Discuss.
4. Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times.
5. Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there?

Year 2019

1. The Revolt of 1857 was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule.
2. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate.
3. Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's "Indian Renaissance" and the emergence of national identity.
4. Explain how the foundation of the modern world was laid by the American and French Revolutions.
5. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art.

Year 2020

1. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment.
2. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long term implications on the national movement.
3. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss.

Year 2021

1. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture
2. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj.
3. To what extent did the role of moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? comment
4. Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement.

5. There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars.” Evaluate the statement.

Edge IAS