



SARTHAK

General Studies Mains Test Series 2023

Test Code: 01

(Modern History, World History, Art & Culture)

Time Allowed: 2 Hours 30 Mins

Maximum Marks: 190

Question Paper Specific Instructions.

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

- There are total 15 questions in test printed in **ENGLISH**.
- **All questions are compulsory.**
- Answer must be written in **medium authorized in the Admission Certificate**, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. no marks will be allotted for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
- Any page or portion of the **page left blank** in the Question -Cum- Answer booklet must be **clearly struck off**.
- **Word limit** in question should be adhered to.
- The number of **marks** carried by question/part is **indicated against it**.

Note : All questions are compulsory

1. How did Indo-Pak War of 1970 alter South Asia's political environment? What are its consequences for the present-day India? Discuss. (250 words) 15
2. Describe the philosophy of "Swadeshi" and how it influenced India's struggle for independence. (250 words) 15
3. The Vaikom Satyagraha played a pivotal role in Indian independence movement by bringing attention to inequalities in the caste system and necessity for social reform. Discuss. (250 words) 15
4. How would you characterize the true nature of revolt of 1857 as historians have conflicting views regarding it? Substantiate your answer with examples (250 words) 15
5. What does the term "Intangible Cultural Heritage" encompass? Why was Durga Puja chosen to be included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity? (250 words) 15
6. What are the key aspects and teachings of the Vedanta school of Philosophy? Elaborate. (250 words) 15
7. The mid-18th century in Britain witnessed the confluence of several factors that set the stage for the rise of the Industrial Revolution. Discuss. (250 words) 15
8. Elaborate on contributions made in scientific literature during Ancient India. (250 words) 15
9. How did science and technology evolved during the Gupta age? Comment (150 words) 10
10. The Harappan people had very distinct customs, values and way of life. Comment (150 words) 10
11. "What were the major causes and events of the French Revolution, and how did it shape the course of modern European history? (150 words) 10
12. What were the main causes of decolonization and how did it influence administration of newly independent countries? Elucidate. (150 words) 10
13. Examine feature that were borrowed from Persian, Central Asian and Indian tradition in Mughal paintings while focusing specially on techniques used. (150 words) 10
14. Critically examine post-independence political and social impacts of continuous caste-based moments in India. (150 words) 10
15. Discuss the causes for 1980's Punjab unrest. What is its implication on present day India? (150 words) 10

Toppers 2022



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1. How did Indo-Pak War of 1970 alter South Asia's political environment? What are its consequences for the present-day India? Discuss. (250 words)

Why the question: The event was celebrated as a part of 75th Anniversary of India's Independence.

Key demand of the question: Indo-Pak war and their effect on Asia's political environment.

How to approach answer:

Directive word: Discuss means an in-depth answer that considers all aspects of the debate concerning the topic which includes reasoning skills by using evidence to make a case for or against a topic.

Structure of answer:

- **Introduction:** Briefly introduction 1971 Indo-Pak war by highlighting its importance.
- **Body:** Explain how the Indo-Pak War altered the political climate in South Asia and then discuss its ramifications.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the relevance of this war in shaping contemporary South Asian politics in the conclusion.

ANSWER:

The 1971 Indo-Pak War, also known as the Bangladesh Liberation War, was a military confrontation between India and Pakistan which resulted in the independence of Bangladesh from West Pakistan.

This war had a profound impact on the political environment of South Asia in the following ways:

1. **Emergence of Bangladesh:** The war resulted in the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation. East Pakistan seceded from West Pakistan and emerged as a sovereign state. This event significantly altered the political map of South Asia and introduced a new player in regional affairs.
2. **Weakening of Pakistan:** Pakistan's defeat in the war weakened its position in the region. The war exposed the internal divisions within Pakistan and contributed to a sense of insecurity within the country.
3. **Rise of India's Regional Influence:** India's military intervention in support of Bangladesh solidified its position as a regional power. The war showcased India's military capabilities and its willingness to protect its interests and support the aspirations of a fellow South Asian nation. This increased India's influence and shaped its foreign policy approach in the region.
4. **Non-Alignment Policy Shift:** The war marked a shift in India's non-alignment policy. This strategic shift signaled India's desire to engage more assertively in international politics and forge alliances based on its own interest.
5. **Impact on Regional Security:** The Indo-Pak War had implications for regional security dynamics. It reduced the risk of a two-front war for India by eliminating the threat from East Pakistan. However, it also heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, leading to a more volatile security environment in South Asia that persists to this day.
6. **India-Bangladesh Relations:** The war laid the foundation for strong bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh. India's support for Bangladesh's independence created a sense of gratitude and goodwill, which has translated into close political, economic, and cultural ties between the two nations. Bangladesh has become an important ally for India in the region.
7. **Present-Day Consequences:** The consequences of the Indo-Pak War continue to reverberate in the present. The war's aftermath has shaped the political landscape of South Asia and influenced India's foreign policy approach towards its neighbors.

The 1971 Indo-Pak War had a transformative impact on the political environment of South Asia. It led to the emergence of Bangladesh, weakened Pakistan, increased India's regional influence, and altered India's foreign policy orientation. The consequences of this war continue to shape the present dynamics of the region, emphasizing the importance of understanding its historical context in analyzing contemporary South Asian politics.

2. Describe the philosophy of "Swadeshi" and how it influenced India's struggle for independence. (250 words)

Why the Question: Swadeshi Movement is an important historical event in India's freedom struggle and is considered to be blueprint for future movements in India's struggle for Independence.

Key demand of the question: Main idea behind swadeshi movement and its influence on India's freedom struggle.

How to approach answer:

Directive word: Describe means to provide thorough insight into the main characteristics of the topic in a very objective manner.

Structure of answer:

- **Introduction:** Write about the intellectual underpinnings of the Swadeshi movement of 1905 in the introduction.
- **Body:** Describe how Swadeshi philosophy will affect the future of the liberation struggle.
- **Conclusion:** Conclude the answer on a positive note and include the relevant contemporary points.

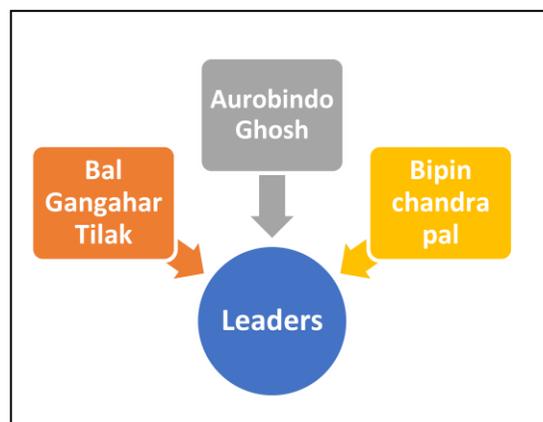
ANSWER:

The philosophy of "Swadeshi" was a key principle that influenced India's struggle for independence. It emerged during the Swadeshi movement of 1905 and played a significant role in mobilizing the masses against British colonial rule.

Swadeshi and its impact on India's freedom struggle:

1. Intellectual Underpinnings of the Swadeshi Movement:

- The Swadeshi movement was a response to the Partition of Bengal by the British in 1905, which was seen as a deliberate attempt to divide the Indian population along religious lines.
- The movement was led by prominent nationalist leaders such as *Aurobindo Ghosh*, *Bal Gangadhar Tilak*, and *Bipin Chandra Pal*, who aimed to create a united front against British rule.
- Swadeshi emphasized on the idea of self-reliance, encouraging Indians to promote indigenous industries and boycott British goods.



2. Promotion of Indigenous Industries:

- The Swadeshi philosophy advocated for the revival of Indian industries and the promotion of indigenous products.
- It encouraged Indians to boycott British goods and instead support locally made products to reduce dependency on foreign-imports.
- The movement aimed to strengthen the Indian economy by promoting self-sufficiency and encouraging entrepreneurship.

3. Cultural Revival and Nationalism:

- Swadeshi was not merely an economic movement but also a cultural and nationalist movement.
- It sought to revive Indian culture, traditions, and values that were being suppressed under British colonial rule.
- The promotion of Indian languages, arts, crafts, and education became integral to the Swadeshi movement's agenda, fostering a sense of national pride and identity.

4. Impact on the Freedom Struggle:

- The Swadeshi movement played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence.
- It served as a unifying force, bringing together people from different backgrounds and regions under a common cause.
- The movement inspired a sense of nationalism, encouraging individuals to take part in the fight against British rule.
- Swadeshi philosophy influenced subsequent movements, such as the Non-Cooperation Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, which advocated for the boycott of British institutions and goods.

5. Future of the Liberation Struggle:

- The philosophy of swadeshi laid the groundwork for a self-reliant and independent India.
- It fostered a spirit of entrepreneurship and encouraged the development of indigenous industries, which became essential for post-independence economic growth.

The philosophy of swadeshi, with its emphasis on self-reliance, promotion of indigenous industries, cultural revival, and nationalism, had a profound impact on India's struggle for independence. It galvanized the Indian population, inspired national pride, and laid the foundation for a future independent India based on economic self-sufficiency and cultural resurgence.

3. The Vaikom Satyagraha played a pivotal role in Indian independence movement by bringing attention to inequalities in the caste system and necessity for social reform. Discuss. (250 words)

Why the question: Vaikom Satyagraha is an important historical event and the year 2024 will mark the 100 years of the event.

Key demand of the question: Vaikom Satyagraha and associated social reform.

How to approach answer:

Directive word: Discuss means a debate where reasoning is backed up with evidences for and against an argument to finally arrive at a conclusion.

Structure of answer:

- **Introduction:** Begin the answer by giving brief introduction of Vaikom Satyagraha.
- **Body:** Mention significance and impact of Vaikom Satyagraha.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize social reform by Vaikom Satyagraha on positive note in conclusion.

ANSWER:

Vaikom Satyagraha was the first organised agitation in Kerala against orthodoxy which took place in 1924. It was India's first organised campaign against untouchability. The Satyagraha sought to guarantee equal access to the public roads leading to the **Sri Mahadevar Temple in Vaikom** for all segments of society. The extreme injustice imposing out to Dalits was what gave rise to agitation.

Vaikom Satyagraha:

- It plays a significant role in Kerala's Renaissance movement.
- It began when **T.K. Madhavan** gave a report on discrimination in Kerala and the problems facing backward Hindus at the *Kakinada Congress meeting in 1923*.
- The gathering voted to support anti-untouchability movements.

Significance of Vaikom Satyagraha:

- It led **Travancore government's Temple Entry Proclamation**, which during the country's freedom war represented a movement for justice and equality.
- Gandhi and the Congress fully back the Vaikom Movement and agreed to include the abolition of untouchability in their constructive programmes.
- For the untouchables and other backward castes in Kerala, this was the first time an organized movement was being carried out on such a big scale.
- The Vaikom Satyagraha was an effort to rid Hindu society of its flaws as it was not a campaign for political freedom. **Narayana Guru** also made this effort through his actions and ideas.

Impact of Vaikom Satyagraha:

- The Gandhian principles of Satyagraha were put to the test at the Vaikom Satyagraha. For the first time, it was evaluated and found to be the most effective approach.
- During the struggle for freedom, it became an important turning point in the civil rights movements.
- People from different religious communities, castes, and provinces participated in it, giving it a cosmopolitan character.

- Untouchables, or Harijans, were allowed to walk on the streets around the temple. They were given access to the temple in 1936. The subsequent Temple Entry Act was made possible by the Satyagraha.

Vaikom Satyagraha developed into India's human rights campaign and a trial ground for important tactics like Satyagraha. Currently, the Kerala administration has made the decision to celebrate the movement by organizing an array of cultural activities. Vaikom is a representation of social justice and the abolition of caste discrimination.

4. How would you characterize the true nature of revolt of 1857 as historians have conflicting views regarding it? Substantiate your answer with examples (250 words)

Why the question: Revolt of 1857 is the important landmark of Indian Freedom Struggle and it's an important topic as per the analysis of previous year question of UPSC.

Key demand of the question: True nature of 1857 Revolt and views of different historians regarding it.

How to approach answer:

Directive word: Substantiate means to pass a sound judgement about the truth of the statement in the question based on evidences.

Structure of answer:

- **Introduction:** Begin the answer with brief introduction about the Revolt of 1857.
- **Body:** and different views and perspective. Such as Dr. R. C. Majumdar, Dr. S. N. Sen and J. L. Nehru there nationalistic and feudal-sepoy mutiny perceptions.
- **Conclusion:** Conclude the answer by summarizing its importance in shaping India's modern national movement.

ANSWER:

The revolt of 1857 is an important event which marks India first freedom struggle for independence from British government. Historians have a various perception regarding the 1857 revolt and can be divided into two groups, **first as Indians-Nationalists and second as Europeans-Marxists.**

Conflicting views and observations regarding revolt of 1857:

1. Indian-Nationalistic:

- According to **Nehru**, the movement began as a mutiny among Indian soldiers but quickly evolved into a general uprising with feudal overtones despite having some nationalistic elements.
- **N. Sen** called this uprising as the "**Sepoy Mutiny**" since it was a military outburst where other organizations started taking part in it due to its increasing influence.
- **Savarkar** referred it to be "wholly, first national war of independence".
- **RC Majumdar** asserts that "the revolt was neither the first, nor was it national, nor was it a war of independence" as there was a tradition of revolts with the onset of British occupation in India.

2. European-Marxists:

- According to **Outram**, the revolt was a "**Muslim Conspiracy**" to overthrow the British from India. His views that Muslims wanted to bounce back into the ruling system, and thus conspired against the British rule is definitely not a valid ground of expression.
- According to **Holmes**, this revolt represented a "**clash of civilization and barbarians**"

- **Reese** said that the revolt, was a "**war against Christianity**" since conservative sections of Indian society opposed the imposition of Christianity upon them.
- **Benjamin Disraeli** referred it as a "**National Revolt**"
- **Marxist historians** considered the 1857 revolt as "**the struggle of the soldier-peasant democratic combine against foreign as well as feudal bondage.**"
- **Lawrence and Seeley** agreed in part with the Indian point of view, particularly with **S.N. Sen's** assertion that it was a military revolt in the real sense.

True nature of revolt: Between a nationalistic and sepoy-feudal level mutiny

- The revolt of 1857 can be placed between the two extreme views of Indians-Nationalists and Europeans-Marxists as the idea of a common nationality and nationhood was already there at the time which sowed seeds of nationalism and anti-imperialism. Also, it was the first significant revolt of Indian against British rule by established local traditions of neo-resistance.

The Revolt played a role in uniting the Indian people and opening the door for the modern nationalist movement by highlighted unity among Indians, particularly between Hindus and Muslims.

5. What does the term "Intangible Cultural Heritage "encompass? Why was Durga Puja chosen to be included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity? (250 words)

Why the question: As the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was in news, it also highlights importance of protecting Cultural Heritage for India.

Key demand of the question: Recognition of Durga Puja by UNESCO-ICH and significance of it.

How to approach answer:

Structure of answer:

- **Introduction:** Briefly introduce answer by writing about the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- **Body:** Mention definition, features of Intangible Cultural Heritage and reasons for inclusion of Durga Puja in the list.
- **Conclusion:** Conclude the answer by mentioning importance of the festival.

ANSWER:

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has inscribed 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. **It is the first festival in Asia to achieve recognition as UNESCO- ICH of Humanity.**

Intangible Cultural Heritage:

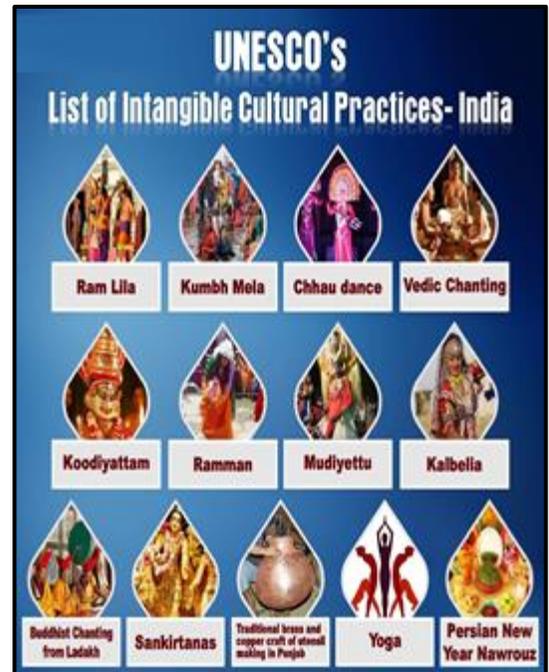
It refers to cultural practices, traditions, expressions, knowledge, and skills. It includes oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, social practices, festive events, traditional craftsmanship, and knowledge of nature and the universe.

Features:

1. Intangible Cultural Heritage is transmitted from generation to generation. It is achieved through oral traditions and practical demonstrations.
2. It is often closely related to a community's identity and helps to strengthen social cohesion.
3. It is an important way for communities to maintain a connection with their cultural history.
4. Intangible Cultural Heritage recognizes the significance of safeguarding and promoting cultural diversity.

Reasons why Durga Puja was chosen for this prestigious recognition:

1. Cultural Diversity: Durga Puja is celebrated in various regions of India, particularly in West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, and other parts of the country. It represents the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of Indian society, showcasing the different traditions, customs, and artistic expressions associated with the festival.
2. Artistic Expression: Durga Puja involves elaborate artistic creations and installations. Skilled artisans and craftsmen create magnificent clay idols of the goddess Durga and her entourage, along with intricately designed pandals (temporary structures) that house these idols. The craftsmanship, creativity, and innovation displayed during Durga Puja make it a significant artistic endeavor.
3. Social Harmony and Community Participation: Durga Puja is a community-driven festival that promotes social harmony and inclusivity. People from diverse backgrounds come together to organize and participate in the festivities. The festival transcends barriers of caste, religion, and socio-economic status, fostering a sense of unity and communal harmony.
4. Rituals and Performances: The festival involves traditional rituals like prayers, offerings, chanting of hymns, and immersion of the idols. Cultural programs, dance performances, music concerts, and theatrical performances are also organized during the celebration, showcasing the rich performing arts associated with the festival.



By including Durga Puja in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, UNESCO recognizes its significance as a living cultural tradition that contributes to the cultural diversity and heritage of humanity. The festival's ability to bring communities together, promote artistic expressions, and foster social cohesion were key factors in its selection.



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