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(IAS Academy by IAS Officers)

UPSC Mains-2018 GS Paper1

History:

Art & Culture

GS1 Syllabus Topic:

Salient aspects of Art, Architecture, literature from Ancient to Modern Times

Highlight the Central Asian and Greco Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art	2019
Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss.	2018
Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India.	2018
The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss.	2018
How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times?	2017
Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate.	2016

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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
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
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

History:

India before Independence

GS1 Syllabus Topic: Mid-18th century -

Present (significant events, personalities, issues); Freedom Struggle (various stages, important contributors from different parts of the country)

Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate	2019
Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity	2019

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The 1857 uprising was the culmination of the recurrent, big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate	2019
Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s	2019
Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times.	2018
Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity.	2017
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
Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy.	2017
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?	2017
Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian independence since twenties of the last century.	2017

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Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India.	2016
Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.	2016
Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.	2016
How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss.	2015
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

History: world

GS1 Syllabus Topic:

18th century events (e.g. Industrial revolution, WWs, redrawn boundaries, colonisation, decolonisation); Political philosophies (e.g. communism, capitalism, socialism) and their effect on society

Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French Revolutions	2019
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Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there?	2018
What problems were germane to the decolonization process of Malay Peninsula.	2017
The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine.	2016
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?	2015
To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically	2015

Social Science:

Caste, Religion, Region, Globalization

GS1 Syllabus Topic: Communalism, Regionalism, Secularism; Social Empowerment

Salient features of Indian Society; Diversity of India;

Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples	2019
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What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism?	2019
What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss	2019
“Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India.” Comment.	2018
How the Indian concept of secularism is different from the western model of secularism? Discuss.	2018
‘Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation. Argue by giving suitable illustrations.	2018
The spirit 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.	2017
Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India.	2017
In the context of diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint.	2017
What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence, addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?	2017

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Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity?	2016
Why are the tribals in India referred to as the Scheduled Tribes? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment.	2016
What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer.	2016
Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate.	2015
Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity.	2015
Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste.	2015

Social Science:

Poverty, Population, Globalization

GS1 Syllabus Topic: Poverty, Population; Development and associated issues

'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing.' Explain by giving reasons.	2018
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Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India.	2018
Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success.	2018
“An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from deprivation.” Substantiate this statement with suitable examples	2016
Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.	2015
Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades.	2015

Social Science: Globalization

GS1 Syllabus Topic: Globalisation (effects on Indian society)

Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss	2019
‘Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian Society. Elucidate.	2018
Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India. (2013, Asked about Globalization effect on Elderly)	2015

Social Science: Women

GS1 Syllabus Topic: Role of women and women's organisation;

Although some of the following questions fall under population globalization categories, but if a person cultivates habit of noting down women related topics under one head, it'll benefit in both GS1, GS2 and Essay.

What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space?	2019
"Empowering women is the key to control population growth." Discuss	2019
'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata. Substantiate your view.	2018
How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes?	2015

Geography:

Physical

GS1 Syllabus Topic:

Salient Features of World Physical Geography; Important Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, tsunami, volcanoes, cyclones); Geographical features and location;

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Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation?	2018
Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics.	2018
How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth?	2017
“The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides.” Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.	2016

Geography:

Climate, Disaster related

GS1 Syllabus Topic:

Critical geographical features, flora, fauna (changes and effects thereof)

How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism?	2019
How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and coastal environment? Give suitable examples	2019
Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology	2019

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Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples	2019
What are the consequences of spreading of 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystem?	2018
In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development." Discuss.	2017
Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulse because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations.	2017
How does the cryosphere affect global climate?	2017
Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects.	2017
In what way can flood be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India?	2017
What characteristics can be assigned to monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the won population residing in Monsoon Asia?	2017
Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes.	2016
Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing and navigation?	2015

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How far do you agree that the behavior of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscapes? Discuss.	2015
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Geography:

Resources Distribution

GS1 Syllabus Topic:

Distribution of key Natural Resources (world, S. Asia, Indian subcontinent)

Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India?	2019
What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India?	2019
Why is India taking keen interest in resources of Arctic Region?	2018
The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain	2016
South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment.	2016
Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations.	2016

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Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India.	2016
In what way micro-watershed Development projects help in water conservation in drought prone and semi-arid regions of India.	2016
What are the economic significances of discovery of oil in Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences?	2015
India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.	2015
The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand reaching the limits of their ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate.	2015

Geography: factors affecting industrial locations

GS1 Syllabus Topic:

Factors responsible for location of Industries (primary, secondary, tertiary; India, world)

Discuss the factors for localisation of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India	2019
Define blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India.	2018
What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identify industrial	2018

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corridors, explain their main characteristics.	
Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications.	2017

Geography: Urbanization

GS1 Syllabus Topic: Urbanization: problems and remedies

How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development in India?	2019
“The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system.” How can it be made effective in urban areas?	2018
The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues employment but has also created new problems. Substantiate this statement with examples. Urbanization	2017
With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the ‘Smart City Programme’.	2016
Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss.	2016

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Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three mega cities of the country but the air pollution is much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so?	2015
Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration.	2015

