

How To Prepare for Modern Indian History and Art & Culture for Civil Services Examination

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Essentials to Prepare

- Syllabus
- Trend Analysis/Weightage
- Previous Year Questions
- Sources


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Prelims



- History of India and Indian National Movement

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| Section | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | TOTAL |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Art & Culture | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 26 |
| Ancient History | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | 7 |
| Medieval History | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| Modern History | 5 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 38 |
| Post Independence | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |

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Art & Culture

- Topics/Themes are predictable to an extent
- Sources are identifiable
- Questions range from easy to difficult

Buddhism & Jainism

Q. Which reference to the religious practices in India, the "Sthanakvasi" sect belongs to (2018)

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Vaishnavism
- (d) Shaivism

Q. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements: (2017)

1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

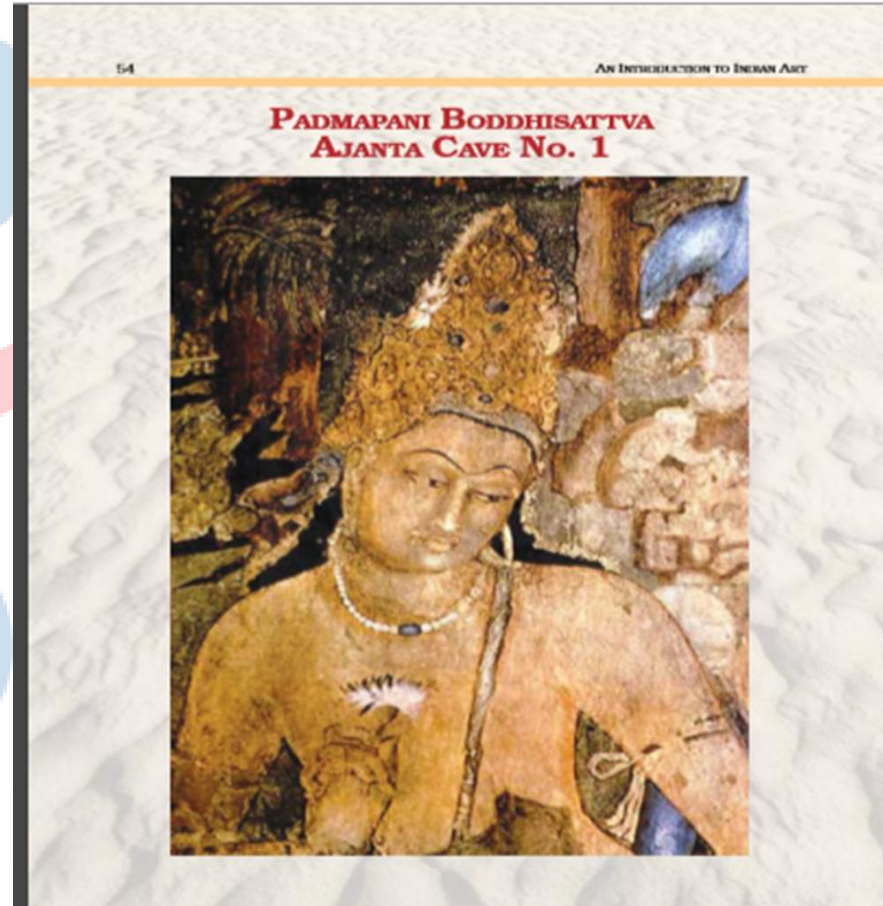
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q. The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at (2017)

- (a) Ajanta**
- (b) Badami**
- (c) Bagh**
- (d) Ellora**

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Q. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements : (2016)

- 1. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Hinayana sect of Buddhism.**
- 2. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.**
- 3. Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3**

Q. Which of the following kingdoms were associated with the life of the Buddha?(2015 and 2014)

- 1. Avanti**
- 2. Gandhara**
- 3. Kosala**
- 4. Magadha**

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 3 and 4 only**

Other Predictable Themes

- UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List/UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Dances and Festivals
- Tribes & their regions
- Architecture – Temple , Monuments, etc

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Current Affairs aspect to Art & Culture

Why In News?

Q. Which reference to the religious practices in India, the "Sthanakvasi" sect belongs to (2018)

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Vaishnavism
- (d) Shaivism

- Nearly 5000 Jains had assembled at a place in Ranigunj (Secunderabad) and chanted "**Navkar Manthra**" for **36 lakh times for world peace on July 16, 2017** under the **aegis of Shri Vardhaman Sthanakvasi Jain Shravak Sangh Secunderabad**.
- Navkar Manthra is to Jains what Gayatri Manthra is to Hindus - a highly revered and the most significant mantra in Jainism.

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Q. The well-known painting "Bani Thani" belongs to the

- (a) Bundi school
- (b) Jaipur school
- (c) Kangra school
- (d) Kishangarh school

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Bani-Thani paintings to welcome passengers at Kishangarh airport

TNN | May 1, 2017, 06:16 IST



A-

A+



AJMER: There will be a display of famous Bani-Thani paintings of Kishangarh style in the galleries and halls of the newly built Kishangarh airport. The Airports Authority of India has nearly completed all formalities for aviation services and now it is gearing up for beautification programme for the airport.

Medieval History

- Selective study
- Topic identification based on trend analysis
- Questions range from difficult to easy.

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- **Important Topics-**

1. Bhakti Sufi traditions
2. Terminologies based questions- socio, eco., administrative terminologies
3. Bhakti Sufi traditions
4. Vijaynagar Empire
5. Mughals



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Bhakti Sufi traditions

Q. With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following statements:
(2018)

1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
4. Annamacharya kirtanas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

Q. With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements: (2016)

1. Siddhas (Sittars) of Tamil region were monotheistic and condemned idolatry.
2. Lingayats of Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

1. "Bijak" is a composition of the teachings of Saint Dadu Dayal.

2. The Philosophy of Pushti Marg was propounded by Madhvacharya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q. Consider the following statements (2015)

Q. Consider the following Bhakti Saints: (2013)

1. Dadu Dayal
2. Guru Nanak
3. Tyagaraja

Who among the above was/were preaching when the Lodi dynasty fell and Babur took over?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 2

Q.

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Terminology Based Questions

Q. Banjaras during the medieval period history of medieval India, the term of Indian history were generally (2016) Araghatta' refers to (2016)

- (a) agriculturists
- (b) warriors
- (c) weavers
- (d) Traders

- (a) bonded labour
- (b) land grants made to military officers
- (c) waterwheel used in the irrigation of land
- (d) wastel and converted to cultivated land

Q. With reference to the economic

Q. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs: (2016)

Term

Description

1. Eripatti : Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
2. Taniyurs : Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
3. Ghatikas : Colleges generally attached to the temples

Which of the pairs given above correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 3

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Q. In Medieval India, the designations 'Mahattara' and 'Pattakila' were used for (2014)

- (a) military officers
- (b) village officers
- (c) specialists in Vedic rituals
- (d) chiefs of craft guilds

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Ancient India

Topics based on PYP

- SOCIAL & ECONOMIC LIFE OF ANCIENT INDIA
- INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION
- ASHOKA, GUPTA, MAURYAN PERIOD
- SANGAM PERIOD & SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY
- MEDICINE, SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS

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MAINS SYLLABUS



Indian Heritage & Culture

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times

Trend Analysis – Ancient, Medieval & Culture

| Year | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| No. of questions | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Marks weightage | 20 | 40 | 25 | 25 | 10 | 35 |

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How to Prepare???

- **TEMPORAL APPROACH –**
because the syllabus itself
says Ancient to modern
times

What is Art/Art Forms?

- **Visual Art** (includes Architecture) – – Dances, **Performing Art** – – Music, Theatre , **Literary Art-** Paintings , sculpture, architecture like caves , stupas, temples, etc Pupperty Vedic , Classical Sanskrit, Sangam, etc

Time to use Temporal Approach

VISUAL ART

- Painting
- **Mural** - Prehistoric-Harappan-Mauryan-Guptas-Dravidian
Cant do away with paintings in Ajanta and Ellora
- **Miniature** –
 - I. THE PALA SCHOOL (11th to 12th centuries)
 - II. THE WESTERN INDIAN SCHOOL (12th - 16th centuries)

III. THE MUGHAL SCHOOL (1560-1800 A.D.)- Akbar, Jahangir, etc

IV. THE DECCANI SCHOOLS (CIRCA 1560-1800 A.D.)- Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Golconda, Tanjore etc

V. THE CENTRAL INDIAN AND RAJASTHANI SCHOOLS (17TH-19TH CENTURIES)- Mewar, Malwa, Bundi, Kishangarh, etc

VI. THE PAHARI SCHOOLS (17TH TO 19TH CENTURIES)- Basohli, Guler, Pahari, etc

- *Architecture*

- I. Harappan/Indus Valley

- II. Buddhist

- III. Temple

- IV. Indo – Islamic

- V. Modern



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PERFORMING ART

- Classical Dances - Bharatnatyam, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Kathak, Manipuri, Odissi , Sattriya and Mohiniyattam
- Music – Hindustani , Carnatic , Regional , Musical Instruments
- Theatre Forms- Swang, Bhand Pather, Nautanki, etc
- Puppet Forms – String, Shadow, Rod, etc

LITERARY ART

- Vedic literature – Puranas, Upanishads, Ramayana, etc
- Classical Sanskrit (**cant do away with Kalidasa**)
- Dravidian literature(**cant do away with Sangam literature**)
- Medieval literature/Bhakti Literature
- Modern Indian literature- Indian Renaissance, Freedom Struggle, Role of Press.

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Nature of Questions over the years....

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2018 MAINS

- Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Comment (10)
- Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. (10)
- The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. (15)

| YEAR | QUESTIONS |
|------|---|
| 2013 | Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. |
| 2013 | 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 | Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. |
| 2016 | Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. |
| 2016 | Krishnadeva Raya, the King of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. |
| 2017 | How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? |

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| YEAR | QUESTIONS |
|------|---|
| 2014 | 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 | To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss. |
| 2014 | 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. |
| 2015 | 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. |

SOURCES – Ancient , Medieval & Culture

- **Old NCERT Class 11th Ancient India by RS SHARMA**
- **Old NCERT Class 11th Medieval India SATISH CHANDRA (selective study)**
- **New NCERT Class 11th Introduction to Indian Art Part-I**
- **CCRT Website**
- **NIOS Material/Tamil Nadu History Text Books esp for South Indian History**

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Modern Indian History

- Most Important Section
- Maximum questions from this section
- Questions range from easy to difficult

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Type of questions –

1. Act Based questions
2. Event based questions – Freedom Struggle
3. Congress Sessions based questions
4. Movement based questions – Tribal, peasant, etc
5. Governor General – Reforms , Initiatives
6. Socio- Religious Movements
7. Personality based questions – Important contributions

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Act Based Questions

- Q. In the Federation established by The Government of India Act of 1935, residuary powers were given to the (2017) (2018)
- (a) Federal Legislature
 - (b) Governor General
 - (c) Provincial Legislature
 - (d) Provincial Governors
- (a) Division of the central legislature into two houses.
 - (b) Introductions of double government i.e., Central and State governments.
 - (c) Having two sets of rulers; one in London and another in Delhi.
 - (d) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories.

Q. In the context of Indian history, the principle of „Dyarchy (diarchy)“ refers to

Q. The Montague-Chelmsford Proposals were related to (2016)

- (a) social reforms
- (b) educational reforms
- (c) reforms in police administration
- (d) constitutional reforms

Q. What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria's Proclamation (1858)?

1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian States
2. To place the Indian administration under the British Crown
3. To regulate East India Company's trade with India

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3



Mains Preparation History &

Culture

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MODERN INDIAN HISTORY – MAINS

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Trend Analysis – Modern Indian History

| Year | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| No. of questions | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Marks weightage | 30 | 30 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 65 | 10 |

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THE SYLLABUS

- 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.

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DECODING The SYLLABUS

- Modern Indian history from about the
 - middle of the eighteenth century until the present
 - significant events,
 - personalities,
 - issues
- Freedom Struggle - its various stages
 - important contributors
 - contributions from different parts of the country.

Indian history from about the *middle of the eighteenth* century until the present - **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- **2016 - Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India.**
- **2014 - The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat?**

Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present -
SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

• **2017 - Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity.**

• **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?**

• **2014 – Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-18th century till independence.**

Indian history from about the *middle of the eighteenth century until the present* -
SIGNIFICANT PERSONALITIES

- **2015 - Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate.**
- **2015 - How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss.**
- **2016 - Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.**
- **2013 - In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate.**



2018

Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. (10)

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Freedom Struggle – Stages, Contributors, Contributions from diff parts of the country

2013 - Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss.

2013 - Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom.

2014 - In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India?

• **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.**

• **2016 - Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.**

• **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 - Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian independence since twenties of the last century.**

SOURCES –

- To begin with OLD NCERT CLASS 12th by Bipin Chandra
- Indian Struggle for Independence – Bipin Chandra
- Spectrum “ Brief History of Modern India”
- For Fringe Areas – Shekhar Bandopadhyaya’s “ Plassey to Partition”

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SUCCESS
is dependent on effort.

– Sophocles

ALL THE BEST