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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

## Indian Art, Culture & Heritage — GS-I

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

**26 Questions**

Year range: 2013–2025

Verbatim from official UPSC papers

"Master Mains with PYQs — consistency is key"

— Neil Sir, Founder, UnlockIAS

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26 Questions across 3 Sections

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| 1. Art Forms (ancient to modern)    | 14Q |
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| 3. Architecture (ancient to modern) | 6Q  |

## Art Forms (ancient to modern)

2025 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q2. Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism.

2025 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q3. 'The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life.' Elucidate.

2024 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q2. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of Art and literature of South India.

2022 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q1. How will you explain that medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days?

2022 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q2. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture.

2022 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q3. Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art, and architecture.

2021 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q1. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti literature and its contribution to Indian culture.

2020 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q2. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate.

2019 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q1. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art.

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2017  
Q

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2017 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q1. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times?

2016 GS-I 12.5M · 150W

Q1. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate.

2015 GS-I 12.5M · 150W

Q1. 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.

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q2. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain.

## Literature (ancient to modern)

2020 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q4. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment.

2018 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q1. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss.

2016 GS-I 12.5M · 150W

Q2. Krishnadeva Raya, the King of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss.

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q3. 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 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q16. 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 was a major factor in its growth. Comment.

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## Architecture (ancient to modern)

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**2025** GS-I 10M · 150W

Q1. Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture. (10 M))

**2024** GS-I 15M · 150W

Q3. 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.

**2020** GS-I 10M · 150W

Q1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss.

**2020** GS-I 15M · 150W

Q3. Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss.

**2015** GS-I 12.5M · 150W

Q2. Mesolithic rock-cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also has a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment.

**2013** GS-I 10M · 200W

Q2. (a) Discuss the 'Tandava' dance as recorded in early Indian inscriptions. (100 words) (b) Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. (100 words)