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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

Modern Indian History — GS-I

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

21 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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21 Questions across 3 Sections

1. Significant events	10Q
2. Personalities	3Q
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Significant events

2023 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q5. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India.

2023 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q6. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society?

2022 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q5. Why did the armies of the British East India Company - mostly comprising of Indian soldiers - win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the then Indian rulers? Give reasons.

2021 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q2. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj.

2019 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q2. 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.

2018 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q6. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India.

2017 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q3. Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity?

2016 GS-I 12.5M · 150W

Q3. Explain how the uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India.

2015 GS-I 12.5M · 150W

Q5. 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.

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q4. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat?

Personalities

2025 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q4. Mahatma Jotirao Phule's writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss.

2023 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q2. What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism?

2013 GS-I 10M · 200W

Q5. "In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India." Elaborate.

Issues

2024 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q5. How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India?

2023 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q3. How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression?

2022 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q4. Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons.

2019 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q3. Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity.

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2018 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q4. Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there?

2017 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q2. 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 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q4. Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy.

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q5. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence.

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