

How to prepare General Studies (History Section)

Dear Candidates!

The General Studies section has always been important in the Civil Services Competitive Examination, but in the new syllabus of the Union Public Service Commission introduced in 2013, the General Studies section has gained a more significant role. It has become the determining factor for success, especially after the reduction of the role of CSAT in the preliminary examination. In the main examination, a total of 1000 marks have been allocated for the General Studies papers out of the total 1750 marks.

Upon closer examination, it becomes evident that the four papers of General Studies consist of around 13 sub-sections. Each of these subsections covers a unique and independent topic. When an optional subject is included alongside these topics, the workload for studying increases significantly. Furthermore, although the essay's theme is not distinct, it still requires intellectual training. The combination of all these subjects leads to a comprehensive syllabus, adding further pressure on candidates and overloading their preparation.

In addition to the quantitative aspect, there is also a qualitative aspect to the preparation. This means that the nature of the questions has begun to adopt a more abstract and inferential approach. Consequently, the questions no longer adhere strictly to the boundaries of the curriculum, but tend to transcend its limits. This reality becomes evident when considering the following questions: -

- **How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss.**
- **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.**
- **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.**

Later, Hindu religion or Hindu culture developed with the assimilation of elements of Aryan and non-Aryan cultures. Similarly, any religious cult Brahmins, Buddhists and Jains develop in North India, it must have moved towards the south. Advaita philosophy of Upanishads developed in the north was refined and developed by Shankaracharya in south. Under Ashoka, cave architecture developed and it attained perfection with the construction of Pallava cave temple.

Bhakti and Sufi movement of medieval period expressed as Ganga-Jamuni culture. Similarly, a synthesis of Islamic and Indian features can be seen in the realm of architecture throughout the Sultanate and Mughal periods, which gave rise to a new style. This harmony is also seen in the fields of painting and music etc. Due to these reasons, the form of Indian culture is polyphonic or pluralistic.

■ **How can the understanding of culture and heritage be useful in the studies of other subjects?**

While studying the culture the candidates should adopt an interdisciplinary approach. With this approach, comprehension of other topics will also advance in addition to cultural understanding. Its interconnectivity with various social sciences can be understood through following ways -

Culture emerged as an important component in the conduct of foreign policy.

Culture plays a vital role for the growth of soft power of any nation. At present "Cultural Diplomacy" became an important component of foreign policy. On this basis, India by expanding the neighboring region and eager to reach to the countries of South-East Asia. Similarly, Project 'Mausam' aims to re-connect and re-establish communications between countries of the Indian Ocean world, which would lead to an enhanced understanding of cultural values and concerns, also it emphasis on understanding national cultures in their regional maritime milieu.

The success of India as a nation is the best illustration of the value of cultural understanding in nation-building, and this success can be attributed to our constitution makers that they understand India's diversity and on that basis they provide protection to linguistic and religious minorities. The difference becomes clear if we compare India with the failure of neighboring countries in South Asia, such as Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

In terms of economic success, even effective cultural policy can also play an important role. Raghuram Rajan long ago made it clear that religious conservatism and economic development cannot go hand in hand. Lastly, culture also proves to be an important factor for the internal security of the country. At present, Religious Bigotry is a big threat to internal security and it has taken the form of terrorism. An appropriate cultural

reform could only be achieved through religious reform.

Raja Rammohan Roy actively opposed practices such as child marriage, polygamy, the plight of widows, abolition of sati. In collaboration with William Bentinck, he successfully enacted a law that prohibited the practice of sati. Magazines played a pivotal role in propagating his viewpoints.

Continuing Raja Rammohan Roy's legacy, Vivian Derozio, a professor at Hindu College, furthered the cause of reform. He attracted a group of enthusiastic youth who became the driving force behind the reform movement. The establishment of the Academy Association provided a platform for open debates, and he also launched a newspaper to disseminate his ideas.

Vivian Derozio's views were strongly influenced by Western ideologies, with a notable emphasis on secularism. However, due to the challenge of reconciling traditional values with the forces of Westernization, their impact on Bengal society remained somewhat limited.

In conclusion, it can be inferred that the impetus for social reform was to some extent influenced by Western ideas. The religious and social movements spearheaded by Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj exemplify this influence.

Ques : Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. (150 word, 10 marks)

Answer: At the time of India's independence, merging the princely states emerged as a significant challenge to nation-building. The British government's reluctance to transfer sovereignty to the Indian dominion presented an initial hurdle. Additionally, administrative and socio-cultural factors further complicated the merger process.

Administrative Issues :

1. What will be the position of the ruler in the merged state?
2. What will happen to the soldiers from the respective states?
3. How will the princely states be represented in the Constituent Assembly?
4. The princely states had varying geographical sizes and levels of development. While there were big states like Hyderabad and there were 70 states whose total area was not more than one square mile.
5. Some princely states had reservations for backward areas. This raised the question of their position within the Indian Union, such as the case of the Telangana region in Hyderabad.

Socio-cultural Issues :

Communal divisions, present throughout

YEAR 2019

Ques : Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art. (150 word, 10 marks)

Answer: Gandhara art flourished in the regions surrounding Taxila and is a product of the blending of Indo-Greek artistic traditions. Following Alexander's conquests, there was an increase in economic and cultural interactions between the Mediterranean regions and India, resulting in a cultural fusion that is evident in Gandhara art.

Gandhara art exhibits distinct influences from various cultures, including Central Asian and Greek-Bactrian elements.

The impact of Greek art is notable through the use of dark blue and black stones for crafting idols and the emphasis on realistically depicting the human body, with attention given to muscular details and body proportions.

The influence of Roman art can also be seen in Gandhara art, particularly in the lavish decoration of idols, such as intricate crowns and ornamental adornments.

Gandhara art reflects the influence of Central Asian elements:-

For instance, the triangular cap worn by the idols are indicative of Central Asian styles. Additionally, the use of lime for idol-making is

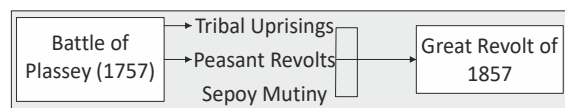
another characteristic feature.

Lastly, Gandhara art displays the influence of Indian art, as seen in the attempts to capture spirituality on the faces of the idols.

In summary, the distinct characteristics of Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art are evident from the above description. Furthermore, it is worth noting that a significant number of Buddha statues were made in India under the Gandhara art.

Ques : 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. (150 word, 10 marks)

Answer : The Revolt of 1857 marked a major crisis in the history of the British Empire in India. It stood as one of the great uprisings and movements against British rule, stemming from the growing discontent among the Indian population.



The exploitative practices of British colonial power in India served as the main cause that ignited various popular uprisings against their dominion. These uprisings eventually culminated in the Rebellion of 1857,

In conclusion, the aforementioned changes represented a significant shift towards modernization.

Ques : Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples. (150 word, 10 marks)

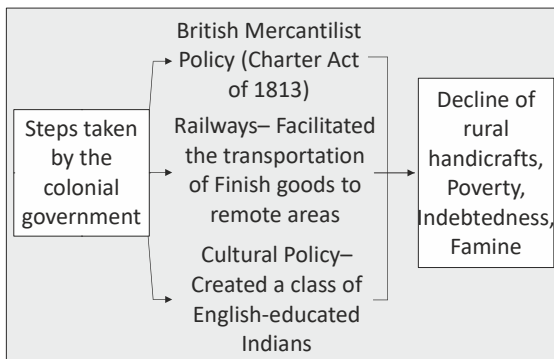
Answer : The significance of forming provinces based on linguistic considerations in India is underscored by its remarkable cultural diversity. While 22 languages are recognized as national languages, in reality numerous dialects and variations exist within them. Historical and geographical factors have led to mixed populations in almost all provinces. Migration throughout Indian history has resulted in diverse communities residing in various regions. Telugu-speaking communities can be found in Bengal, Marathi-speaking communities in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and Odia communities in Gujarat. Gujaratis reside in Mumbai and southern states,

while Hindi Speaking populations have settled in Maharashtra. Marathi communities have popularized the Ganesh festival across India, and Bihari communities in Delhi are known for the Kanwariya pilgrimage during Shravan. The Bengali community in Delhi's Chittaranjan Park creates a mini-Calcutta during Dussehra. This cultural diversity highlights the need to go beyond linguistic factors in forming provinces, as almost every province has a significant population belonging to other linguistic groups. Sensitivity towards diverse linguistic identities is crucial for both the central and state governments. For instance, Maithili and Bhojpuri speakers in Bihar and Nepali speakers in the Gorkhaland region of West Bengal deserve recognition. Therefore, while linguistic considerations play a significant role, the acceptance of diversity should encompass the sensitivity of regional cultures by both state and central governments.



primary emphasis is on examining the effects. However, it is equally important to address the colonial India aspect. It is essential to note the subtle distinction between 'explain' and 'examine'. When explaining, you provide clarification on a subject that someone may already have some knowledge of but lacks complete understanding, whereas when examining, you present information that the individual may not be aware of.)

Answer: Every step taken by the colonial government made the mother country prosperous on the one hand and brought misery to the colony on the other. Thus, the colonization brought by Britain in the 19th century forced deindustrialization in India and almost ruined India's rural economy.



British trade policy, railway policy, and cultural policy all proved disastrous for Indian handicraft industries. Based on the Charter Act of 1813, the door to India was forcibly opened to British goods. Then the railways facilitated the transportation of industrial products to remote areas. Additionally, the British cultural

policy created a class of English-educated Indians in India who served as a market for British goods, resulting in the decline of craft and artisan based industries in India. The artisan industries, both urban and rural, were affected. India became a major importer of cotton textiles from being the largest exporter.

India's rural economy bore the biggest destruction. Before British rule, the industry was also a significant source of income for the people in villages. Women used to engage in spinning and weaving yarn at home, and selling these products brought profit to rural households. Farming, too, was carried out only for a few months a year. During their free time, peasants used to collaborate with rural artisans. However, due to the decline of handicraft industries, rural life experienced a double impact. Firstly, the means of additional income for farmers was lost. Secondly, with the decline of handicraft industries and the absence of compensation through the establishment of modern industries, the surplus population turned to agriculture, leading to an overwhelming dependence on agriculture.

The natural consequence of this was a widespread decline in the purchasing power of farmers, resulting in rural poverty, indebtedness, and famines. A disheartening aspect of this situation is that, even after gaining independence, the government of independent India failed to adopt an

prevent any form of class struggle in a society divided by economic disparities. It is noteworthy that this movement originated in Telangana, where the Communist Party was leading a strong leftist movement.

Additionally, it is believed that this movement aimed to curtail rural-to-urban migration by distributing land among landless individuals in rural areas through Bhoodan. This would ensure that landlords had an adequate supply of agricultural labor.

When assessing its success, it is important to consider that the Bhoodan movement did not achieve overall success. It was relatively more effective in Orissa but proved ineffective in other regions. The land grants received, totaling four million acres, consisted mainly of barren or disputed land. The failure of this movement highlighted the need for strong political will in implementing land reforms.

Ques : Critically write a note on the origin and importance of the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Answer : The slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan," given by Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1965, highlights the connection between national security and food security. This slogan also signifies that both military strength and self-sufficiency in food grains are crucial for an independent foreign policy.

The slogan served as the foundation for the Green Revolution in India. During the 1960s, India relied on American food aid through PL 480. However, when Lyndon Johnson's government attempted to influence India's foreign policy during the 1965 war and afterwards, the Indian government realized the importance of food security for maintaining an independent foreign policy. As a result, Lal Bahadur Shastri and his successor made efforts to increase India's food production through the Green Revolution. The effects of this revolution were visible between 1966 and 1973 in Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh. Hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers, sufficient irrigation, pesticides, and advanced agricultural technology such as tractors played a significant role in bringing about this revolution.

The Green Revolution brought about drastic changes, benefiting India in multiple ways. India achieved self-sufficiency in food grains, with food production increasing from 50 million tonnes to 180 million tonnes. New industries producing chemical pesticides and agricultural equipment were established in India. The purchasing power of Indian farmers increased, and India's standing in the international arena improved. However, the Green Revolution also had its limitations. Not all sections of farmers and regions equally benefited from it. Thus, where the Green Revolution fell short, the Red Revolution

civil wars, and disintegration became frequent occurrences in Africa.

In conclusion, while the Industrial Revolution served as a catalyst for the partition of Africa, it was European diplomacy that played a crucial role in its practical implementation.

Ques : "American Revolution was a conflict between British mercantilism and American capitalism." Examine.

(200 Words, 10 Marks)

Answer : The American Revolution involved a multiplicity of factors, including ideological conflicts and clashes between constitutional notions. However, the clash of economic interests between the American colonies and the British metropolitan state played a decisive role in shaping the revolution.

British mercantilism promoted the notion that the interests of the colonies were subordinate to those of the metropolitan state. This was exemplified by the introduction of navigation laws through the Act of 1651, which aimed to prioritize the British shipping industry at the expense of both rival nations and the colonies themselves. These laws stipulated that three-fourths of the employees on ships engaged in exports or imports had to be of British origin. Additionally, the British government actively discouraged industrialization in the American colonies. The colonists were also restricted in selling certain products exclusively to British merchants.

Furthermore, the British government imposed taxes such as the sugar tax and stamp tax on the American colonies. It became evident that American capitalism could only flourish once Britain relinquished control over the colonies. Consequently, the protests initially centered around taxation issues gradually transformed into a liberation movement.

In this context, it can be argued that the American Revolution primarily represented a revolt of American capitalism against British mercantilism.

Ques : What policy instruments were deployed to contain the Great Economic Depression? (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Answer : The occurrence of recessions is inherent in the science of capitalist economies. Nearly every decade, a cycle of recession emerges in the capitalist economy. However, the global economic recession of 1929–30 differed significantly in terms of intensity and scale. Consequently, the solutions to this recession proved to be equally complex.



This was the first experience for capitalist