



UPSC Mains 2020

GS - 1

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General Studies Paper-I

1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
2. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
3. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long-term implications on the national movement. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
4. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
5. The process of desertification does not have climate boundaries. Justify with example. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
6. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resource of India? (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
7. Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
8. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustration. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
9. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
10. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.
11. Indian philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words). 15 marks.
12. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. (Answer in 250 words). 15 Marks.
13. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss (Answer in 250 words). 15 Marks.
14. The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.
15. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.
16. India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.
17. Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.
18. Is diversity and Pluralism in India under threat due to globalization? Justify your answer. (Answer in 250 words). 15 marks.

19. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.
20. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer. (Answer in 250 words). 15 marks.

Broader Analysis of GS-1

History: 75 Marks

3x10 + 3x15 = 75 Marks

Culture: 2x10 + 2x15

Modern India: 1x10 + 1x15

Geography: 100 Marks

4x10 + 4x15 = 100 Marks

Physical Geography: 2x10 + 1x15

Climatology: 1x10

Economic Geography + Urbanisation: 1x10 + 3x15

Social Issues: 75 Marks

3x10 + 3x15 = 75 Marks

Static: 2x10 + 2x15

Current: 1x10 + 1x15

History

- 1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.**

Rock-cut architecture – Definition

Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka -> socio-economic set-up

Rock-cut caves – e.g Barabar Caves – Ajivikas -> major philosophical movement/sect of the time

Deccan caves – Buddhism -> rise of Buddhism

Chaityas and Viharas – Buddhism – rise and rise of Buddhism

Ajanta Caves – Buddhism -> further rise of Buddhism

Ellora Caves – Buddhism + Shaivism + Vaishnavism -> multitude of faiths ->

Rock-Cut temples – Pallavas – Mahabalipuram e.g. Shore Temple – Mahabalipuram – Rock-Cut Temple

Kailash Temple – Ellora – Rock-Cut

- 2. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.**

From Mains Crash Course 2020 - What were the contributions of Palas to Buddhism?

Palas, patrons of Mahayana Buddhism, ruled eastern India from Pataliputra between the ninth and early twelfth centuries. Rulers such as Dharmapala and his son Devpala gave great impetus for Buddhism to flourish

- Learning centres: Buddhist centres such as Vikramashila and Nalanda universities were developed. Dharmapala built a grand vihara in modern Paharapura and a monastery at Odantapuri
- Patronisation: Dharmapala patronised Haribhadra, a Buddhist writer, and made him his preceptor. Noted Buddhist scholars include Atisha, Santaraksita, Saraha, Tilopa
- Restoration: Mahipala I ordered construction and repairs of sacred structures at Sarnath, Nalanda, and Bodhi Gaya. Devpala also restored and enlarged Vikramsila and Somapura Mahavihara
- Propagation: Buddhist scholars from Pala empire travelled from Bengal to other regions to propagate Buddhism. Atisha preached in Tibet and Sumatra
- Promotion: Devpala granted five villages for the construction of Nalanda monastery at the request of Sailendra dynasty king Balaputradeva

Bengal remained one of the few places where Buddhist monasteries continued to exist. The kingdom as well as Buddhism soon suffered decline because of large-scale conversion of merchants and artisans to Islam.

- 3. Policies of Lord Curzon -> impact on national movement**

Reactionary policies of Curzon such as the Calcutta Corporation Act (1899), the Official Secrets Act (1904), the Indian Universities Act (1904) and partition of Bengal (1905).

- 4. Indian philosophy and tradition -> conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art**

Buddhism -> stupas; chaityas and viharas;

While construction of stupas continued, Brahmanical temples and images of gods also started getting constructed

Temples were decorated with the **images of gods** -> myths mentioned in the Puranas became part of narrative representation of the Brahmanical religion

Pallava architecture – monolithic and structural temples – Hindu temples but Buddhist influence;

Descent of the Ganga

Cholas; Vijaynagara Empire;

Every region and period produced its own distinct style of images with its regional variations -> river goddesses (Ganga and Yamuna) are usually found at the entrance of a garbhagriha in a Nagara temple, dvarapalas (doorkeepers) are usually found on the gateways or gopurams of Dravida temples, similarly, mithunas (erotic images), navagrahas (the nine auspicious planets) and yakshas are also placed at entrances to guard them

Various forms or aspects of the main divinity are to be found on the outer walls of the sanctum

5. Persian literary sources of medieval India

Ziauddin Barani (13th-14th Centuries) - Tarikh-i-Firoze Shahi - preserves the history of the Delhi Sultanate for one full Century

Ain-i-Akbari - administrative and statistical record of Akbar government

Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri

Padshah-nama

Shah Jahan-nama

6. Post-1920's – different ideological strands

Swarajists – entering the councils

Responsivists – subset of Swarajists – hold the councils

Marxist and Socialist ideas – SC Bose and Congress

Communists – MN Roy

Socialism – HSRA – Bhagat Singh

Peasants Agitation – e.g. Bardoli Satyagraha

Trade Unionism – AITUC

Caste Movements – Justice Party, Self-Respect Movement (Periyar), Mahars under Dr. Ambedkar etc.

Social Issues

7. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustration. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

Caste – Important

Modern Impact – Class

But Caste still active: Dynamism (don't see it as Varna, it's caste)

Caste not an institution but an empirical reality. Strengthened by – Culture, Economy, Religion, Ideology.

Ritual Structure of Caste (gradually diluting): like Pollution & Purity, Deity worship, Language spoken, Food habit, Mannerism.

Caste active as Secular Structure is gaining ground: like Access to Power, Wealth, Education still show consistent features amongst castes.

Still very important from Politics perspective, Reservation, anti-reservation drives, desanskritisation movements (asking for reservation).

Crash Course

The presence of sub castes and dominant castes does not make the questioning of reservation system anti-Dalit. Elucidate

8. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

Existing inequalities and poverty in India.

How poverty is more than an economic problem (role of policies, globalization, natural causes)

How Covid accelerated it.

Government policies to tackle it.

Govt. Policies Programs on Poverty (4 ways):

1. Wage employment
2. Self employment
3. Food surety
4. Social security

Test Series

What is child labour? Discuss the impact of pandemic on the same. s

9. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

10. Is diversity and Pluralism in India under threat due to globalization? Justify your answer. (Answer in 250 words). 15 marks.

FLT -1 – Social Issues

Discuss how globalization is coming to impact Indian society in various ways. What has been the reaction of the Indian society?

11. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

Ethics – Crash Course

“Now I have become death, the destroyer of the worlds”. In the light of the above statement discuss how ancient “values” have come to hinder the lives of the present-day citizens of the world.

12. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer. (Answer in 250 words). 15 marks.

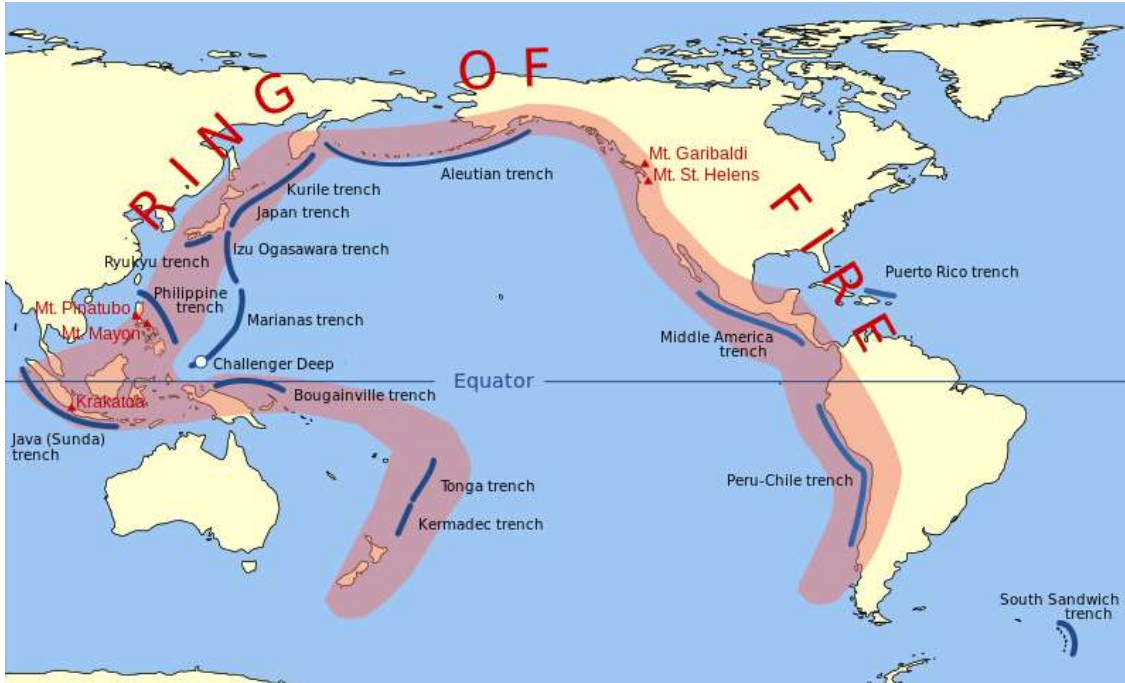
- What is Online Education.
 - Why important at the moment.
 - **Initiatives** like e-Basta (schools’ books in digital form)
 - e-Education (all schools connected with broadband and free WiFi) in all schools
 - Development of pilot MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses)
 - NandGhars (digital tools as teaching aids)
 - SWAYAM (MOOCs based on curriculum taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation)
 - India Skills Online (learning portal for skill training)
- Clearly, the government initiatives go a long way in reaping benefits of online education.
- Other ministry run learning platforms include:
- Diksha

- e-pathasala
 - NROER (National Repository of Open Educational Resources)
 - NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling)
 - IT initiatives like e-yantra (robotics education)
 - FOSSEE (open source software for education)
 - Virtual labs
 - Spoken learning programmes.
-
- Advantages.
 - Disadvantages.

Geography

13. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

“The Ring of Fire is home to 75% of the world's volcanoes and 90% of its earthquakes.” Analyse.



KEYWORDS

- Formation: Plate Tectonics
- Trace the boundaries
- Convergent Boundaries - subduction - Volcanoes
- Transform Boundaries - Plates move past each other - Earthquakes
- Volcanoes and Earthquakes

14. How will the melting of Himalayas glaciers have far reaching impact on water resources of India?

MAD - 2020 - Discuss "water stress in India" and prepare a blueprint for its sustainable management.

KEYWORDS:

Water Resources: Rain patterns + Aquifers recharging + Sea Salinity will get impacted + Silting of Dams & Canals -Ground Water Recharge + Tube wells

Other impacts : Increase in Water Flow - High-elevation communities+ Directions change + Floods + Interlinking of Rivers + Crops + Irrigation + Industries + Changing patterns in Usage - Social and Economic Issues + Political Tensions

15. Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

Test – 1 Geo + Social Issues

Discuss the various factors affecting the location of iron and steel industries in India.

KEYWORDS

Government Policies + Industrial Policy+ Markets + Labour + Availability of water for cooling+ Nearness to Industrial Town+ Power Supply

16. The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter- related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks.

MAD – 2020 – Interlinking of Rivers – Pros and Cons

KEYWORDS:

Droughts

Floods

Interrupted Navigation

17. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures.

FLT – 1 – Geo - In the recent past, Chennai has witnessed the extremes of precipitation, ranging from floods to drought. In the light of above statement, discuss the role of urban planning and climate change in existing urban scenario.

KEYWORDS

Urbanisation : Remedial Measures + Smart City : remedial measures

18. The process of desertification does not have climate boundaries. Justify with example. (Answer in 150 words). 10 marks.

KEYWORDS & Structure:

Yes, it has Climatic Boundaries: Talk about climatic features

Other reasons: Anthropogenic reasons + Natural factors.

19. India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate.

KEYWORDS:

Potential + Development

Reasons - **Ex:** Policies - Roof Top / Land Acquisition / Subsidies /Urbanization / State Electricity + maintenance and operation expenses-losses

20. Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change.

KEYWORDS:

Forest Report – Status

Impact: Carbon Sink + Albedo + Soil Erosion