



HISTORY OPTIONAL: TOPIC WISE QUESTION BANK OF WORLD HISTORY [1979-2020]

Question bank is the most important for history optional preparation as most of the questions asked in UPSC History Optional Main Exam is directly or indirectly from previous years papers. It is also very important for General Studies Paper I.

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1. Enlightenment and Modern ideas

(i) Major ideas of Enlightenment: Kant, Rousseau
(ii) Spread of Enlightenment in the colonies
(iii) Rise of socialist ideas (up to Marx); spread of Marxian Socialism

Major ideas of Enlightenment: Kant, Rousseau and Spread of Enlightenment in the colonies

- What is meant by the 'rediscovery of ancient civilization'? Show how the 'New Learning' was a major element in the beginning of Modern Europe. [1986, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- "The discovery of the new world, coinciding with the swift diffusion of printed books, taught the Europeans that truth, in Bacon's noble phrase, is the daughter not of authority but of time." Comment. [1989, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- The Renaissance was the discovery of the world and of man." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- "His (Martin Luther's) rebellion was essentially popular and national." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- Assess the intellectual quickening which occurred in Europe in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. How did it influence modern society and civilization? [1993, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- "The Renaissance was not a political or religious movement. It was a state of mind". Comment. [1994, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- "The Renaissance and the Reformation are the two springs of modern history, rival sources of the intellectual and moral freshening of modern life." Comment. [1995, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- "The era of discovery and exploration was but another aspect of the Renaissance interest in the world and man." Comment. [1996, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- "Of all forms assumed by the Protestant Reformation, Calvinism has been the most far reaching in its scope and the most profound in its influence." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- "The Renaissance was the discovery of the world and of man." Comment. [2002, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- "The Renaissance scholars laid the eggs which Luther; the father of the reformation later on hatched." Discuss. [2006, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- Give reasons for the origin of the Renaissance in Italy. [2007, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)

1. "The Enlightenment represented alternative approaches to modernity, alternative habits of mind and heart, of conscience and sensibility." Discuss. [2008, 60 Marks]

2. "The despotic rulers of Europe were influenced by the philosophy of Enlightenment and begun to follow a benevolent policy towards their subjects." Critically examine. [2012, 20 Marks]
3. "Enlightened despots (Europe) were not necessarily politically liberal." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
4. "The principles of Enlightenment were in some ways a continuation of the discoveries and theories of the Scientific Revolution." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Rousseau

1. "Rousseau's political philosophy contains the seeds of Socialism, Absolutism and Democracy." Comment. [2004, 20 Marks]
2. "The promptings of the heart are more to be trusted than the logic of the mind." — Rousseau. Critically evaluate. [2011, 20 Marks]
3. "Rousseau strove to reconcile the liberty of the individual and the institution of Government through a new vision of the Contract-Theory of Government." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
4. Explain the major ideas of Enlightenment. Discuss the contribution of Rousseau in Enlightenment. [2018, 20 Marks]

Kant

1. "...he (Voltaire) was living in the Age of Enlightenment The age itself was not enlightened." — E. Kant. Critically evaluate. [2010, 20 Marks]
2. "For Kant, enlightenment is mankind's final coming of age, the emancipation of the human consciousness from an immature state of ignorance and error." Critically examine. [2013, 20 Marks]
3. "Kant's redefinition of reason and his rehabilitation of conscience marked a high point in the intellectual reaction against dominant rationalism of the Enlightenment." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]

Rise of socialist ideas (up to Marx); spread of Marxian Socialism

- "The Heavenly Land system was significant in that it greatly expanded the idea of equalizing rich and poor and landowning which the peasant wars had put forward in the past." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
1. "Marxian Communism is primarily the offspring of German Hegelianism and French Socialism." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]
 2. "France was more fertile than Britain in producing new Socialist theories and movements, though they bore less concrete results in France than in Britain." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
 3. "If we were to define our conception of the State, our answer would be that the State is the banker of the poor. The government would finance and supervise the purchase of productive equipments and the

formation of workshops." In light of the above statement of Louis Blanc, throw light on the Pre-Marxist Socialist Thought in Europe. [2014, 20 Marks]

4. "France was more fertile than Britain in producing new Socialist theories and movements, though they bore less concrete results in France than in Britain." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]

5. "Karl Marx applied his critical intelligence to Wealth of Nations ... Where Smith had seen only the sunlight, Marx saw only the shadows thrown upon the human scene by the unimpeded exercise of individual liberty..." Elucidate. [2016, 10 Marks]

6. "With the writings of Karl Marx, Socialism assumed the form of Scientific Socialism." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]

7. How would you explain the nature of pre-Marxian Socialism? [2019, 10 Marks]

2. Origin of Modern Politics

(i) European States System.
(ii) American Revolution and the Constitution.
(iii) French revolution and aftermath, 1789-1815.
(iv) American Civil War with reference to Abraham Lincoln and the abolition of slavery.
(v) British Democratic Politics, 1815- 1850; Parliamentary Reformers, Free Traders, Chartists

European States System

- Examine the view that the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) was essentially a contest between the Bourbon and Hapsburg houses for mastery of the Continent of Europe. How far did it settle the issue? [1988, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- From the Thirty Years War finally emerged the modern state system of Europe. Do you agree? [1992, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- “The Peace of Westphalia ended the reign of theology over the European mind and left the road obstructed but passable for the tentative of reason.” Comment. [1997, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)

1. Account for the emergence of the national monarchies in Europe in the sixteenth century. Did the monarchs build the national states less by design than by chance? [1987, 60 Marks]

American Revolution

1. “At the news of the Declaration of Independence crowds gathered to cheer, fire guns and cannon and ring church bells in Philadelphia. Boston and other places, but there were many people in America who did not rejoice.” Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]

2. “The American War of Independence transformed Europeans as well as America.” Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]

3. The American Revolution “was a natural and even expected event in the history of colonial people who had come of age.” Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]

4. The American War of Independence “deprived Great Britain of one empire, but it strengthened the foundations of another”. Comment. [1998, 20 Marks]

5. “No taxation without representation.” Comment. [2006, 20 Marks]

6. “The American Revolution was essentially an economic conflict between American capitalism and British mercantilism.” Critically examine. [2012, 10 Marks]

7. “American Revolution seems to have come with remarkable suddenness. A roster of talented leaders emerged during 1763 to 1775 to make it happen.” Elucidate. [2014, 20 Marks]

8. "The American War of Independence transformed Europe as well as America." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]

American Constitution

1. What were the factors that worked in the drafting of the American Constitution? Do you agree with Beard's view of the Constitution being an Economic Document? [2005, 60 Marks]

2. How far is it correct to say that every feature of the American Constitution was ultimately of English Origin? [2010, 20 Marks]

3. Explain the main features of the US Federal Constitution. [2016, 10 Marks]

American Civil War with reference to Abraham Lincoln and the abolition of slavery

1. "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks]

2. Examine the issues involved in the American Civil War. Was it a contest between two separate nations? [1991, 60 Marks]

3. "Six hundred thousand men had died. The union was preserved, the slaves freed. A nation 'conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal' had survived its most terrible ordeal." Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks]

4. "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free" Explain Abraham Lincoln's perspective. [2016, 20 Marks]

5. "Lincoln's main thesis was that the Slavery issue had to be decided one way or the other and could no longer be evaded by compromise." Comment in the light of his role in the American Civil War. [2020, 20 Marks]

French revolution and aftermath, 1789-1815

- "Louis XIV was the first French sovereign to make of monarchy a serious profession." Comment. [1989, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- Discuss the view that Louis XIV of France was a great king- "the grand monarch". [1991, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- "The scale, splendor and organized power of the monarchy of Louis XIV were something new in Europe." Comment. [1993, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)

1. What were the ideals of the French Revolution of 1789? How far is it correct to say that it overthrew mercantilism and the surviving relics of feudalism and contributed to the political supremacy of the middle class? [1979, 60 Marks]

2. "The writings of the philosophers had a tremendous influence on the minds of the people and created a revolutionary awakening in their minds and formed the intellectual creed of the French Revolution." Comment. [1983, 20 Marks]
3. "What mattered in 1789 - and what made men revolutionary almost in spite of themselves - was the whole 'revolutionary situation'; and in producing that situation the work of the philosophers played no very important role." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]
4. The French Revolution (1789) really achieved far less than what it intended to effect. Do you agree? [1989, 20 Marks]
5. "French political writers of the eighteenth century were influenced by Locke and also by the curious contrasts which they perceived between the government of his country and their own." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]
6. The French Revolution (1789) sought to remove both "the religious and secular props of the existing social order." Elucidate. [1996, 20 Marks]
7. "If monarchical misrule ignited the French revolution, lofty ideas both inspired and sustained it." Comment. [1997, 20 Marks]
8. "To some extent, the American War of Independence inspired the French Revolution." Comment. [1999, 20 Marks]
9. "If monarchical misrule ignited the French Revolution, lofty ideas both inspired and sustained it." Comment. [2002, 20 Marks]
10. "The French Revolution attacked privileges and not property." Comment. [2003, 20 Marks]
11. "The writings of the philosophers had a tremendous influence on the minds of the people and created a revolutionary awakening in their minds and formed the intellectual creed of the French Revolution." Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
12. "No event as encompassing as the French Revolution occurs in an intellectual vacuum." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]
13. "The connection between the philosophers' ideas and the outbreak of the French Revolution (1789) is somewhat remote and indirect." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10 Marks]
14. "The Declaration of Rights was the death-warrant of the system of privilege, and so of the ancient regime ... Yet in the history of ideas it belonged rather to the past than to the future." Examine. [2014, 20 Marks]
15. "The multiple contradictions that quickly undermined the new edifice had been expressed even before the meeting of the Estate General in France. The internal conflict among Estates had manifested itself." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]

16. Critically examine the statement that the French Revolution was not caused by the French philosophers but by the conditions of national life and by the mistakes of the government. [2016, 20 Marks]

17. "The causes of the French Revolution of 1789 included both long term and structural factors, as well as more immediate events." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Napoleon Bonaparte

1. "Napoleon was the child of the Revolution, but in many ways, he reversed the aims and principles of the movement from which he sprang." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks]

2. "Napoleon was the child of the Revolution, but in many ways he reversed the aims and principles of the movement from which he sprang." Comment. [1992, 60 Marks]

3. How did Napoleon Bonaparte heal the wounds of France inflicted by the Revolution and correct the errors perpetrated by its leaders? [2000, 20 Marks]

4. "The Napoleonic Empire was doomed because of its inherent and self-defeating contradictions." Elucidate. [2001, 20 Marks]

5. "Napoleon was the child of the Revolution, but in many ways he reversed the aims and principles of the movement from which he sprang." [2004, 20 Marks]

6. How did Napoleon Bonaparte fuse the old France with the new? [2009, 30 Marks]

7. To what extent did Napoleon's economic war with England become his undoing? [2010, 20 Marks]

8. How did Napoleon fuse the French of the ancient regime with the France of the Post Revolutionary era? [2012, 30 Marks]

9. "The Continental Blockade was a misconceived idea of economically defeating Great Britain." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]

10. "The spirit behind the great reforms of Napoleon's Consulate at home was the transference of the methods of Bonaparte the general to the task of Bonaparte the statesman." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]

11. How far did the Napoleonic preferential stance to help out the French economy result in embroiling France in continental conflict? [2019, 10 Marks]

12. "Napoleon was not a revolutionary but he solidified many of the revolutionary changes of 1789-1791 and he himself supported most of the ideas and proposals of Enlightenment philosophers." Substantiate. [2020, 20 Marks]

British Democratic Politics, 1815-1850; Parliamentary Reformers, Free Traders, Chartists

- “The Bill of Rights (1689) set the seal on Parliamentary supremacy in England.” Comment. [1997, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- What issues involved in the conflict between the King and Parliament in England in the seventeenth century? Discuss. [1990, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)

1. Write a critical note on: Effect of British liberalism on the social or economic life of the people of England. [1981, 20 Marks]
2. Account for the growth of Liberalism in Britain in the nineteenth century. How far did it influence the contemporary social and economic issues in the country? [1984, 60 Marks]
3. “Though reform was inevitable, the Act (1832) by which it was accomplished was open to grave criticism.” Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
4. “Change in Britain came comparatively peacefully through democratic process in the first half of the nineteenth century and a model of a functioning democracy through ballot box was successfully put in place.” Elaborate. [2013, 25 Marks]
5. “... the passing of the ‘Reform Act’ marked the real beginning of modern party organisation in England... In a real sense, the present political system of England dates from 1832.” Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]

Free Traders

1. “The arguments of the free traders were a curious mixture of economic hard-headedness, social benevolence, cosmopolitan idealism and class prejudice.” Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

Chartists

1. Review the background of the Chartist Movement. Despite its failure how had their demands been met in the succeeding years? [2004, 60 Marks]
2. “The roots of Chartism are partly political and partly economic.” Elaborate. [2011, 20 Marks]
3. “The roots of the Chartist movement in Great Britain were partly political and partly economic.” Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]

3. Industrialization

(i) English Industrial Revolution: Causes and Impact on Society

(ii) Industrialization in other countries: USA, Germany, Russia, Japan

(iii) Industrialization and Globalization

- The period 1500 to 1700 in Europe has been called ‘the heyday of the Commercial Revolution.’ Explain the causes that led to this Revolution and examine its impact on society. [1979, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- Give an account of the revolutionary developments in agriculture in Western Europe between 16th and 18th centuries. How far were they affected by the Commercial Revolution? [1980, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- Explain the main features of the Technological Revolution and discuss its impact on society. [1980, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- “Mercantilist philosophy was based upon a belief that private and social interests are not necessarily in harmony.” Comment. [1983, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- “The novelty in sixteenth century mercantilism its extension from city to nation and the transfer of its chief agency from local guild to national monarch.” Comment. [1986, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- “Attempts to put mercantilist doctrine into practice characterized the history of most of the nations of Western European in the 16th and 17th centuries.” Comment. [1988, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- To what extent were the advances in scientific knowledge in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries a product of the needs of a changing society? [1994, 60 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)

1. Give a critical account of the progress of mercantalism in the 17th century. How far is it correct to say that it paved the way for the Industrial Revolution? [1981, 60 Marks]

2. Trace the growth of Capitalism in England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. How did it affect the Wage System in the country? [1982, 60 Marks]

3. Trace the growth of capitalism in Britain in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Why was France, as compared to Britain, late in developing the capitalist spirit and the institutional framework of capitalism? [1985, 60 Marks]

4. “The Industrial Revolution put mobility in the place of stability.” Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]

5. “Protestantism contributed substantially to the rise of capitalism.” Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]

6. The Industrial Revolution “Changed England in character and culture.” Comment. [1996, 20 Marks]

7. The Industrial Revolution brought about great changes in the social and economic life of Europe. Explain. [1998, 60 Marks]
8. What was the extent of industrialisation in Western Europe by the end of the nineteenth century? [2009, 30 Marks]
9. "Whoever says Industrial Revolution, says cotton." Comment. [2011, 20 Marks]
10. The process of industrialisation in some other countries of Europe was different from that in England." [2012, 20 Marks]
11. "The oppressive exploitation of the working class in the wake of Industrial Revolution had jolted the social conscience of England." Elucidate. [2015, 10 Marks]
12. Explain why England became the harbinger of Industrial Revolution. Also throw light on its social consequences. [2017, 20 marks]
13. "The Industrial Revolution put mobility in the place of stability." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]
14. Discuss how Japan industrialised after the Meiji Restorations. What were the consequences for its neighbours? [2018, 20 Marks]
15. How did the policies of governments facilitate the process of industrialisation in Europe? [2019, 20 Marks]
16. "Industrial Revolution had far reaching social and political consequences with the advent of assembly line factories, urbanization and rise of the urban working class." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

4. Nation-State System

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| (i) Rise of Nationalism in 19th century |
| (ii) Nationalism: State building in Germany and Italy |
| (iii) Disintegration of Empires through the emergence of nationalities. |

Rise of Nationalism in 19th century

1. How did Japan develop between 1868 and 1894? Did the 'Restoration of Meiji' mark a sharp break with the past? [1987, 60 Marks]
2. "The characteristic motive of this period (1830-1871) was not so much Liberalism as Nationalism." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
3. "The Crimean War was the most useless war ever waged." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]
4. "... the European nations in emphasizing their solidarity, their Europeanness in dealing with Asian countries inevitably gave rise to a feeling of Asianness." Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]
5. "Asian Nationalism is just a product of Western impact on the Asian intelligentsia in the last decades of the nineteenth century." Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]
6. Lord Beaconsfield after his return from the Congress of Berlin (1878) boasted: "I have brought peace with honour." Comment. [1998, 20 Marks]
7. The years 1853-1894 witnessed the transformation of Japan. Explain. [1998, 60 Marks]
8. Do you subscribe to the view that the Greek War of Independence was mired in contrasts of the best and the worst episodes? How did it affect the Concert of Europe? [2019, 20 Marks]

Nationalism: State building in Germany and Italy

Italy and Germany

1. "The comparison between Cavour's and Bismarck's achievements reveals striking points of resemblance and no less striking points of dissimilarity." Comment. [1990, 20 Marks]
2. "Comparison of the fascist regime in Italy with the National Socialist regime of Germany is almost inevitable. The similarities are obvious, but there is one point of difference which is worth mentioning." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]
3. The unification of Italy and that of Germany constituted a contrast in respect of the ways they were affected and impact they left on later international politics. Elucidate. [1995, 60 Marks]

Italy

1. Trace the various stages that led to the Unification of Italy between 1848 and 1870. [1980, 60 Marks]
2. Trace the course of the movement for Italian Unification from 1848 with special reference to the contribution of Mazzini. [1983, 60 Marks]
3. "They have stopped me from making Italy by diplomacy from the North; I will make it by revolution from the South." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]
4. What were the obstacles to Italian unification till 1852? How and with what methods was the unification of Italy achieved? [1993, 60 Marks]
5. "The unification of Italy completed...the destruction of the European order." Comment. [1997, 20 Marks]
6. "They have stopped me from making Italy by diplomacy from the North; I will make it by revolution from the South." Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
7. "Mazzini's conception of Italian nationality was not exclusive, and his dominant ideal was the recreation of moral unity of mankind." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]
8. How was Italy transformed from 'a geographical expression' to a nation-state? [2019, 20 Marks]

Germany

1. "Napoleon kindled the national sentiment, but German unity was achieved by Bismarck." Discuss. [1981, 60 Marks]
2. "It is one of the ironies of history that Napoleon was the creator of modern Germany." Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]
3. "The Unification of Germany was the one thing Bismarck was determined to prevent." Comment. [1987, 20 Marks]
4. "At the end of the battle of Sedan (1870), Europe lost a mistress and gained a master." Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
5. Isolation of France constituted the keystone of Bismarck's foreign policy. Elucidate. [1997, 60 Marks]
6. "The political unification of Germany was accomplished solely by Bismarck." Comment. [1999, 20 Marks]
7. "Bismarck created a new Germany with the policy of 'blood and iron'." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]
8. "Napoleon kindled the national sentiment, but German unity was achieved by Bismarck." Discuss. [2002, 60 Marks]

9. Bismarck united Germany not by majority of votes and speeches but by a policy of "Blood and Iron". In the light of this statement assess the contribution of Bismarck to the unification of Germany. [2003, 60 Marks]
10. "To Bismarck the conclusion of the Treaty of May 20, 1882, was the culmination of his system." Comment. [2004, 20 Marks]
11. Was German unification achieved more by 'coal and iron' than by 'blood and iron'? [2012, 30 Marks]
12. "The language of narrow nationalism held at Frankfurt destroyed the German Revolution; as the fatal idea of aggrandizement of the House of Savoy destroyed the Italian Revolution." Discuss. [2014, 20 Marks]
13. What determinant factors, along with diplomatic, shaped the process of German Unification? [2017, 20 Marks]
14. "18 January 1871 had been a day of triumph for the strength and pride of Germany and 28 June 1919 was the day of chastisement." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]
15. At the end of the Battle of Sedan (1870), "Europe lost a mistress and gained a master". Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]
16. Examine the role of Bismarck in state building in Germany. [2018, 20 Marks]
17. "From Bismarck's 'Blood and Iron' speech and his forceful actions to achieve German unification, Bismarck came to be known as the Iron Chancellor." Critically examine. [2020, 20 Marks]

Disintegration of Empires through the emergence of nationalities

1. "Under Mustafa Kemal's dictatorship; Turkey was rapidly nationalized." Comment. [1986, 20 Marks]
2. "The Eastern Question has always been an international question." Comment. [1989, 20 Marks]
3. "Nominally the new Turkey was republican and democratic." Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]
4. Turkish renaissance guided by Kemal Pasha revolutionized the Turkish life at many levels. Amplify. [1996, 60 Marks]
5. "The Eastern Question has always been an international question". Elucidate. [2010, 30 Marks]

5. Imperialism and Colonialism

(i) South and South-East Asia
(ii) Latin America and South Africa
(iii) Australia
(iv) Imperialism and free trade: Rise of neo-imperialism.

- “Portugal and Spain, the pioneers in world exploration, were also first in the race to conquer overseas countries.” Comment. [1999, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)
- 5. One great effect of the geographical discoveries of the 15th century was “the growing belief that America, Asia and Africa were to be used extensively for the benefit of Europeans.” Comment. [1998, 20 Marks] (Not in the syllabus now)

1. What do you understand by Imperialism? How did it affect the people of Asia in the nineteenth century? [1979, 60 Marks]
2. “Imperialism and Colonialism have long employed as instruments of national policy.” Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
3. “If imperialism is viewed as a phase of the struggle for power between States, its result must be judged in terms of its role in power politics.” Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]
4. “The Anglo-Japanese Treaty (1902) marks a milestone in the development of Japan as an Asiatic power.” Comment. [1988, 20 Marks]
5. “The sponsors of the overseas expansion of Europe were national monarchies.” Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]
6. “Colonies are like fruits which cling to the tree only till they ripen.” Comment. [2006, 10 Marks]
7. “Colonialism not only deprives a society of its freedom and its wealth, but of its very character, leaving its people intellectually and morally disoriented.” Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks]
8. Critically examine the socio-cultural and economic impact of migration in Europe and Asia in the 18th and 19th centuries. [2014, 20 Marks]
9. Discuss the nature of American overseas expansion in Asia and explain the consequences. [2014, 10 Marks]
10. “The Russo-Japanese War helped in the rise of Japan as a great power.” [2014, 10 Marks]

New Imperialism (Neo-Imperialism)

1. Write a critical note on: Theory of ‘The New imperialism’ after 1870. [1981, 20 Marks]

2. Write a critique on the partition of Africa from 1870 to 1914, with particular reference to Germany's imperial designs in the Continent. [1989, 60 Marks]
3. Trace the stages in the partition of Africa after 1870. How did it affect international relations? [1996, 60 Marks]
4. "The simultaneous expansion of European powers overseas during the last quarter of the 19th century brought them into frequent collisions at a remote point all over Africa and Asia." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]
5. Trace the various stages of European imperialism in Africa in the nineteenth century. [2001, 60 Marks]
6. "New imperialism was a nationalistic, not an economic phenomenon." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]
7. Discuss the emergence of neo-imperialism in the late nineteenth century. [2009, 30 Marks]
8. "In all the long annals of Imperialism, the partition of Africa is a remarkable freak." Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]
9. What do you understand by imperialism? State briefly its unique features in the case of Africa? [2010, 20 Marks]
10. "New imperialism was a nationalistic, not an economic phenomenon." Critically examine. [2013, 25 Marks]
11. "The commercial and industrial interests created a veritable hothouse atmosphere in Europe for the establishment of colonies." Critically examine. [2014, 10 Marks]
12. To what extent did the expansion of European Powers in the late 19th century help in the modernization of Africa? [2014, 10 Marks]
13. "History of Africa appears to be simply an extension or mere sub-theme under the broad headings of European and American history. According to this historiography, Africa seems to be without any history before the European scramble." Elucidate. [2015, 20 Marks]

China

1. The years 1840 to 1860 confronted the Ching dynasty and the people of China with unprecedented crises due to imperialist designs of western powers. Discuss critically. [1980, 60 Marks]
2. Write a critical note on: Importance of the Opium War in the history of China. [1981, 20 Marks]
3. How did the Treaty Port System in China develop between 1840 and 1860? What was its inference on Chinese attitude to foreigners? [1982, 60 Marks]
4. "The Treaty of Nanking is the basic act in the imposing but unstable structure of international relations which governed China for a hundred years." Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]

5. "By 1861, China may be said to have been fully though grudgingly opened to the Westerner." Comment. [1987, 20 Marks]
6. Why is the period from 1842 to 1900 considered as half a century of humiliations in the history of China? What was the reaction of China? [1988, 60 Marks]
7. Divided into spheres of influence by foreign powers, China in the 19th century presented a sorry spectacle. How did China react to it? [1995, 60 Marks]
8. To what extent did the Western powers bring China under their domination without annexation? [2000, 60 Marks]

South-East Asia: Indonesia

1. "Holland was engaged in a systematic exploitation of Indonesia in the nineteenth century." Elucidate. [1979, 60 Marks]
2. What was the culture system in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) during the 19th century? Why was it dismantled? [1981, 60 Marks]
3. Critically examine the culture system in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) during the nineteenth century. Why was it dismantled? [1985, 60 Marks]
4. Critically examine the Dutch colonial policy in Indonesia. [2010, 30 Marks]
5. Explain how American imperialism in Philippines differed with European imperialism in Indonesia and Indo-China. [2011, 30 Marks]
6. Examine the nature of Dutch imperialism in Indonesia. [2017, 10 Marks]
7. Which factors would you attribute to the British colonial intervention in Malaya in the 19th century? How did Malays react to British colonial rule? [2019, 20 Marks]

South Africa

1. Trace the growth of British imperialism in South Africa from 1800 to 1907. [2016, 10 Marks]

6. Revolution and Counter-Revolution

(i) 19th Century European revolutions
(ii) The Russian Revolution of 1917-1921
(iii) Fascist Counter-Revolution, Italy and Germany
(iv) The Chinese Revolution of 1949

19th Century European revolutions

1. "For a tired and timid generation Metternich was the necessary man." Comment. [1993, 20 Marks]
2. "Most of the European Revolutions of 1848 were nationalist as well as popular insurrections against foreign rule and repressive policy of Metternich." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
3. "The whole episode that is known as the July Revolution (1830) was fought and won not for the establishment of an extreme democracy but to get rid of the aristocratic and clericalist attitude of the restored Bourbons." Critically examine. [2015, 10 Marks]
4. What is Metternich system? Assess its impact on Europe. [2016, 10 Marks]
5. Discuss how agrarian crisis accompanied by severe industrial depression triggered the Revolutions of 1848. [2017, 10 Marks]
6. "The 1848 revolutions frightened the crowned heads of Europe and caused several to abdicate. Those who remained were cognizant of the threats posed by liberalism, nationalism and socialism." Comment. [2020, 10 Marks]

The Russian Revolution of 1917-1921

1. What were the causes for the success of Bolshevik Revolution of 1917? Discuss its significance in the history of the world. [1980, 60 Marks]
2. Write a critical note on: Lenin's role in the Russian Revolution of 1917. [1981, 20 Marks]
3. "The bold knight, Lenin, having rescued the fair maiden of the Revolution from the evil sorcerer, Kerensky, everyone lived happily hereafter." Comment. [1983, 20 Marks]
4. Analyze the causes of the Russian Revolutions of 1917. Why was the second Revolution Significant in more than one way? [1985, 60 Marks]
5. The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a single revolution which developed two phases. Elucidate. [1992, 60 Marks]
6. In Russia, Lenin was "the father of socialism, organizer of the revolution and the founder of the new Russian society." Examine the statement. [1998, 60 Marks]

7. Examine the causes of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and indicate its significance in world history. [2003, 60 Marks]
8. "The Russian Revolution (1917) was an economic explosion hastened by the stupidities of the autocratic Government". Comment. [2005, 20 Marks]
9. Account for the overthrow of the Tsarist regime in Russia. [2009, 30 Marks]
10. "The impact of the French Revolution (1789) was initially confined to Europe, but that of the Russian Revolution (1917) was global." – Critically review. [2012, 30 Marks]
11. "If the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia (that resulted in the creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or Soviet Union) inaugurated an international competition for the hearts and minds of people all over the globe, the Chinese revolution raised the stakes of that struggle." Critically examine. [2013 10 Marks]
12. How did Lenin achieve an abrupt transition from a Monarchical autocratic to a Socialist State? [2016, 20 Marks]
13. Examine the statement that "the danger of 'Bolshevism' dominated not only the history of the years immediately following the Russian Revolution of 1917 but the entire history of the world since that date". [2017, 20 Marks]
14. How did Stalin build on Lenin's legacy of Bolshevik Revolution and introduce new elements of totalitarianism to transform USSR as a superpower? [2020, 20 Marks]

Fascist Counter-Revolution, Italy and Germany

1. "Extreme nationalism of the Fascist Variety has various faces in various countries, but it has everywhere certain common characteristics." Comment. [1989, 20 Marks]
2. "Comparison of the fascist regime in Italy with the National Socialist regime of Germany is almost inevitable. The similarities are obvious, but there is one point of difference which is worth mentioning." Comment. [1991, 20 Marks]

Italy

1. 'Corporate State' was Mussolini's answer to sociopolitical problems of his country. Elucidate. [1995, 60 Marks]
2. "The roots of the rise of Fascism lay in Peace Treaties." Comment. [2003, 20 Marks]
3. Discuss the main characteristics of Fascism. [2007, 60 Marks]
4. Examine the circumstances which led to the overthrow of democracy and the establishment of Fascist dictatorship in Italy. [2017, 20 Marks]

Germany

1. Critically examine the main features of the foreign policy of Nazi Germany. [1982, 60 Marks]
2. Hitler was “a creature flung to the top by the tides of revolutionary change, or the embodiment of the collective unconsciousness of a people obsessed with violence and death.” Comment. [1984, 20 Marks]
4. “There was an element of system in Hitler’s foreign policy.... His outlook was continental.” Comment. [1995, 20 Marks]
5. What were the weaknesses and difficulties of the Weimer Republic? How did Hitler succeed in establishing his dictatorship? [2004, 60 Marks]
6. How did the policy of appeasement escalate the problem of Nazi aggrandizement? [2011, 30 Marks]

The Chinese Revolution of 1949

1. Discuss the internal problem of China after the First World War and account for the establishment of Communist rule in the China in 1949. [1979, 60 Marks]
2. Review the political circumstances in China in the years 1945-49 leading to the establishment of the Communist rule in the land. How did the United States seek to resolve the conflict between the Nationalists and the communists in the period? [1984, 60 Marks]
3. “The turn of the tide against the Kuomintang, consequently, was due as much to its weakness as to Communist strength.” Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]
4. Discuss the Self-strengthening movement in China. [1986, 60 Marks]
5. Trace the distinct phases of the Sino-Japanese War. Assess its political economic and cultural impact on China, both “occupied and free.” Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]
6. With the proclamation in Nanking of a Chinese Republic with Sun-Yat-Sen as the President in 1911, “the old China wilted rapidly.” Comment. [1999, 20 Marks]
7. Examine the circumstances in china in the years 1945-49. What did the United States do to resolve the conflict between the Nationalists and the Communists there? [2002, 60 Marks]
8. Discuss the circumstances leading to the Chinese Revolution of 1949 and analyze its significance. [2005, 60 Marks]
9. Critically analysis the cause and the results of the Chinese revolution of 1949. [2006, 60 Marks]
10. “All long marches begin with small steps.” Critically evaluate. [2010, 10 Marks]
11. “The announcement of the creation of the Peoples’ Republic of China on October 1, 1949 by Mao Zedong ended the civil war between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Nationalist Party (KMT).” – Elaborate. [2012, 30 Marks]

12. "The failure of Kuomintang against the communist onslaught was unimaginable and it was Mao Tse-tung whose tenacity and innovative approach had accomplished the unthinkable." Discuss. [2015, 20 Marks]

13. In the Chinese Revolution of 1949, the elements of communism and nationalism were discernible. Explain the statement in the light of Mao's strategy which was different from that of Lenin. [2018, 20 Marks]

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7. World Wars

(i) 1st and 2nd World Wars as Total Wars: Societal implications

(ii) World War I: Causes and consequences

(iii) World War II: Causes and consequence

World War I

1. "By 1914, the sick man of Europe was no longer just Turkey: it was Europe itself." Explain. [2011, 20 Marks]
2. "Any single explanation for the outbreak of the First World War likely to be too simple. An amalgam of factors intellectual, social, economic as well as political and diplomatic contributed to this horrifying conflict of monumental proportions." – Explain. [2012, 30 Marks]
3. How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of the balance of power? [2015, 20 Marks]
4. "The Berlin Congress (1878) failed to unlock the Eastern Question. Though there was no longer major war in Europe for nearly three decades after the Treaty of Berlin, it contained the seeds of many future wars." Critically Evaluate. [2015, 20 Marks]
5. Why was the first World War termed as the first 'total' war in modern history? [2017, 20 Marks]
6. "There are many ways in which the war of 1914-18 was unprecedented, and in human history, entirely novel." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

Paris Peace Treaties

1. "The international situation that confronted the peacemakers in Paris was in the brutal realities of history, the result of a temporary redistribution of the balance of power in the world." Comment. [1987, 60 Marks]
2. The treaties made at the Paris Peace conference in 1919-20 were replete with unstable compromises, reflecting more materialism than idealism. Elucidate. [1990, 60 Marks]
3. "The Treaty of Versailles was merely an armistice for twenty years." Comment. [1993, 20 Marks]
4. Analyze the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles of 1919 and examine the validity of Germany's objections to the Treaty. [2000, 60 Marks]
5. "The most important single factor ... in the year following 1919 was the French demand for security." Comment. [2004, 10 Marks]
6. "Treaty of Versailles contained the seeds of future conflicts." Comment. [2006, 10 Marks]

7. "A clever conquer will always impose his demands on the conquered by installments." Comment. [2006, 10 Marks]
8. "There was not only a difference of principles at Paris (Peace Conference) but a clash of personalities." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]
9. "The peace of Versailles lacked moral validity from the start." Critically evaluate. [2011, 20 Marks]
10. Do you agree with the view that the Treaty of Versailles was a bad compromise between a treaty based upon force and a treaty based on ideas? [2016, 20 Marks]
11. "18 January, 1871 had been a day of triumph for the strength and pride of Germany and 28 June, 1919 was the day of chastisement." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]

League of Nations

1. "Thus the League sought to achieve to profoundest of all psychological revolutions to transform the war mentality of man into a peace mentality." Comment. [1992, 20 Marks]
2. "The Manchurian crisis decided the fate of the league of Nations." Comment. [1993, 20 Marks]
3. "The Communist international and the League of Nations both announced the end of the Balance of Power." Comment. [1996, 20 Marks]
4. "League of Nations is a League of Notions." Comment. [2016, 10 Marks]
5. "The effectiveness of the League of Nations to prevent or to check Japanese aggression against China was the first serious blow to its prestige as an agency for providing security." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

Between World War I and World War II

1. Account for the rise of militarism in Japan between the two World Wars. How did it affect the peace of the world? [1979, 60 Marks]
2. "Japanese policy in relation to Manchuria reacted back upon Japan affecting her both economically and politically." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
3. What led to the formation of the Berlin-Rome Tokyo axis? Indicate its impact on international politics. [1986, 60 Marks]
4. Critically examine the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Did he want to introduce a sort of socialism? [1987, 60 Marks]
5. Show how the Spanish Civil War was a prelude to World War II. [1991, 60 Marks]
6. "The perpetuation of the economic malaise was the main cause of the political instability of Europe during the next two decades (1919-1939)." Explain. [1994, 60 Marks]

7. "The countries in the Middle East became, after 1919, the scene of constant effervescence and some striking changes." Comment. [1994, 20 Marks]
8. Show how the presence of a weak and helpless China next door brought about the rise of militarism and collapse of democracy in Japan. [1994, 60 Marks]
9. The Great Depression (1928 – 34) was "attended by momentous consequences in the economic as well as in the political sphere." Comment. [1996, 20 Marks]
10. President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal "had the wit to start the political economy in a fresh, more promising direction." Do you agree? [1997, 60 Marks]
11. Trace the growth of militarism in Japan in the inter-war years. What international reaction did it provoke? [1997, 60 Marks]
12. Trace the rise and growth of the New European Society in the inter-war period. [1999, 60 Marks]
13. The Great Depression (1928 – 34) was "attended by momentous consequences in the economic as well as in the political sphere." Comment. [2002, 20 Marks]
14. "The War's (First World War's) most permanent contribution to the spirit or the post War years was disillusion." Comment. [2007, 60 Marks]
15. "In the long run, the Locarno Treaty (December 1925) was destructive both of the Treaty of Versailles and of the Covenant." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]

World War II

1. One of the most important impacts of the Second World War was the "division of Europe", eastern and western. Comment. [1998, 20 Marks]
2. "Until December 1941 the battlefield of the Second World War was exclusively European and Atlantic; thereafter it became also Asiatic and Pacific." Comment. [2000, 20 Marks]
3. One of the most important consequences of the Second World War was "division of Europe", eastern and western. Comment. [2002, 20 Marks]
4. "Hitler did not really want a World War. His intention was only a short war with Poland." (A. J. P. Taylor). Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]
5. "Until December 1941, the battlefield of the Second World War was exclusively European and Atlantic; thereafter it became also Asiatic and Pacific." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]
6. Was Czechoslovakia served on a dish to Hitler at Munich? What were its implications? [2019, 20 Marks]
7. Do you agree with the statement that the Second World War was history's most destructive war? Elaborate. [2020, 20 Marks]

8. The World after World War II

(i) Emergence of two power blocs
(ii) Emergence of Third World and non-alignment
(iii) UNO and the global disputes

Emergence of two power blocs

1. In the post -Second World War scenario friends in war did not remain friends in peace. Examine the truth of this view in the period of your study. [1999, 60 Marks]
2. "Stalinist Russia was a despotic regime." Critically examine this view. [1999, 60 Marks]
3. Critically examine the various dimensions and phases of the cold war between 1947 and 1962. [2005, 60 Marks]
4. "After World War II, the strategy of the West towards Soviet bloc crystallized as a 'policy of containment'." Comment. [2008, 20 Marks]
5. Discuss the circumstances leading to the Suez Crisis of 1956 and examine its repercussions on global politics. [2014, 10 Marks]
6. "The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan were considered by Russian Bloc as a weapon against Russia in order to restrict her influence." Critically examine. [2015, 20 Marks]
7. Outline the circumstances leading to détente. [2016, 10 Marks]
8. Outline the circumstances leading to the adoption of Marshall Plan. [2018, 10 Marks]

Emergence of Third World and non-alignment

1. Explain the circumstances leading to the emergence of Third World and analyze its impact on world affairs. [2010, 30 Marks]
2. Would you argue that the Non-Aligned Movement played a crucial role in promoting a climate of peace? [2011, 30 Marks]
3. The role of the Non-Alignment Movement in world affairs had suffered greatly due to the theatre of internecine conflicts among the Third World countries who spearheaded it." Elucidate. [2015, 10 Marks]
4. "Non-alignment came to symbolize the struggle of India and other newly independent nations to retain and strengthen their independence from colonialism and imperialism." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

5. "The multiple of newly independent countries came to be known as the 'Third World', belonging neither to the First World of capitalist democracies, nor the Communist Second World." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

UNO and the global disputes

1. "The Security Council is the heart of the United Nations." Comment. [2003, 10 Marks]

2. Examine the peace keeping efforts of the United Nations Organization. [2009, 30 Marks]

3. "In spite of the careful framing of the charter, the role of UNO as Peacekeeper and international mediator has been somewhat lackluster and muted and that continues to be so even after the end of cold war." Elucidate. [2013, 25 Marks]

4. "The UNO was created in the light of the experience of the 'League of Nations', but in spite of the mandate contained in the UNO constitution, its effective role in maintaining world peace had lacked cohesiveness and collective approach." Examine. [2015, 20 Marks]

5. Discuss how far the United Nations has been successful in resolving global disputes from year 1946 to 1991. [2018, 20 Marks]

9. Liberation from Colonial Rule

(i) Latin America-Bolivar
(ii) Arab World-Egypt
(iii) Africa-Apartheid to Democracy
(iv) South-East Asia-Vietnam

Latin America- Bolivar

1. Explain why Bolivar's efforts failed to fructify in bringing about united stand of the Latin Americans. [2017, 10 Marks]

Arab World

1. "The period 1919 to 1945 is important in the history of Egypt for the exploitation of its resources by Great Britain and rise of strong nationalism." Discuss. [1980, 60 Marks]

2. "Mehmet Ali, half an illiterate barbarian, half a consummate statesman, was wholly a genius." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]

3. Identify the main strands in the Egyptian nationalist movement in the first half of the present century and explain the role played in it by Zaghlul Pasha. [1983, 60 Marks]

4. "Mohammad Ali combined ambition with perspicacity to a greater degree than any other Oriental ruler of the nineteenth century." Comment. [1985, 20 Marks]

5. "One of the last Strongholds – of oil imperialism and European colonialism in (Middle East) cultivates a fiery nationalism as a weapon against foreign oppression." Comment. [1987, 20 Marks]

6. Trace the growth of Arab nationalism after the First World War. How far was it a reaction to oil imperialism? [1989, 60 Marks]

7. Arab Nationalism and Oil- these were the principal factors complicating the relations of the West Asian countries with the outside world. Do you agree? [1993, 60 Marks]

8. Discuss the aims of the establishment of the Arab League and assess its role in safeguarding the interests of the Arab nations. [2001, 60 Marks]

9. "Arab nationalism and oil – these were the principal factors in complicating the relations of Middle Eastern countries with the outside world." Comment. [2009, 30 Marks]

10. The Arab nationalism had a peculiar character. It stood for nation independence for separate Arab States as well as for the unity of all Arabs irrespective of their state boundaries." – Examine. [2012, 30 Marks]

11. Trace the growth of Arab nationalism after the First World War. How far was it a reaction to Oil Imperialism? [2016, 20 Marks]
12. Analyze the role of Egypt after the Second World War in bringing about Arab unity. [2019, 20 Marks]
13. "The British were slated to withdraw from Palestine in May 1948, and both sides prepared for that day. Violence between Arabs and Jews, already endemic, escalated." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]
14. Discuss the circumstances leading to the French exist from Algeria in 1962. [2020, 10 Marks]

Africa- Apartheid to Democracy

1. Give a brief account of the struggle against 'Apartheid' in South Africa. [2006, 60 Marks]
2. "There must be an end to white monopoly on political power, and a fundamental restructuring of our political and economic systems to ensure that the inequalities of apartheid are addressed, and our society thoroughly democratized." Discuss. [2013, 25 Marks]
3. Explain the features of Apartheid in South Africa. [2018, 10 Marks]

South-East Asia

1. "... nascent nationalism in Indo-China developed within both an Asian and a European context with but scanty reference in either case to traditionalist considerations." Comment. [1982, 20 Marks]
2. Identify the main strands in the Nationalist Movement in Indonesia between the two World Wars. How did Japanese occupation of land influence the course of the Movement? [1984, 60 Marks]
3. How did the Japanese occupation of South-East Asian countries during the Second World War give a boost to nationalism in the regions? Explain with examples. [1990, 60 Marks]
4. Why did Vietnam go through thirty years of war after the Second World War? [2009, 30 Marks]
5. Trace the significant role played by Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam's struggle for freedom. [2016, 10 Marks]

10. Decolonization and Underdevelopment

(i) Factors constraining development: Latin America, Africa

1. Write a critical note on the process of decolonization accelerated by the Second World War. [1988, 60 Marks]
2. "The decolonization led to the break-up of empires." Comment. [2001, 20 Marks]
3. "The Capitalism which gave the European empires their apparent solidarity and permanence also hastened their downfall." Comment. [2009, 20 Marks]
4. "Decolonization has finished. It definitely belongs to the past. Yet somehow it has refused to become history." Critically examine. [2013, 10 Marks]
5. Discuss the factors constraining development of Africa after decolonization. [2018, 20 Marks]
6. Explain why Latin America was beset with chronic political instability and endemic military conflicts throughout most of the 19th century. [2019, 20 Marks]
7. Critically examine whether it was true that after a century of dependency on Europeans, Africans were ill prepared for the task of nation-building. [2020, 10 Marks]

Note: Questions of decolonization is given in topic: "Liberation Colonial Rule"

11. Unification of Europe

(i) Post War Foundations: NATO and European Community
(ii) Consolidation and Expansion of European Community
(iii) European Union

1. "The Brussels Treaty of 17 March 1948 paved the way for the formation of NATO." Comment. [2003, 20 Marks]

2. "NATO in many ways symbolized the key role that the United States had come to play in Europe." Comment. [2007, 20 Marks]

3. Assess the significance of the political developments that took place in Eastern Europe during 1989-2001. [2008, 60 Marks]

4. "Europe faced peace in 1945 politically disorganized and economically crippled." Elaborate. [2010, 30 Marks]

6. "The collapse of Berlin Wall in 1989 brought new ideas of co-operation in Europe." Critically evaluate. [2011, 10 Marks]

7. Examine the challenges confronted by the proponents of European unity after the collapse of Soviet Empire in Eastern Europe. [2011, 30 Marks]

8. "The European union is the new sick man of Europe." critically evaluate. [2013, 25 Marks]

9. "Europe was eclipsed through European folly due to the two world wars." Elucidate. [2014, 20 Marks]

10. "The European Union, a diplomatic marvel, continues to grapple with intermittent fissures arising out of economic contentious issues that pose a challenge to an effective integration of the Union." Critically examine. [2015, 20 Marks]

11. "The collapse of Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989 brought new meaning to the idea of cooperation in Europe." Critically examine. [2017, 10 Marks]

12. Do you agree with the view that the formation of NATO marked a revolution in American attitude to the world problems? [2019, 10 Marks]

12. Disintegration of Soviet Union and the Rise of the Unipolar World

(i) Factors leading to the collapse of Soviet communism and the Soviet Union, 1985-1991
(ii) Political Changes in Eastern Europe 1989-2001
(iii) End of the cold war and US ascendancy in the World as the lone superpower

1. Discuss the main factors leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union. [2002, 60 Marks]
2. Analyze the factors leading to the end of the Cold war and account for the U.S. ascendancy in the world. [2003, 60 Marks]
3. Analyse the factors for the collapse of Soviet Communism and Soviet Union during 1985-1991. [2004, 60 Marks]
4. "By the 1980s, the Communist system of the Soviet Union was incapable of maintaining the country's role as a Superpower." Explain this statement. [2007, 60 Marks]
5. Account for the factors that brought about the end of the Cold War. [2008, 60 Marks]
6. "The essence of Perestroika is for people to feel they are country's master." —Gorbachev. Critically evaluate. [2010, 10 Marks]
7. "With the Cold War over and the Soviet Union gone, the face of international diplomacy has undergone a metamorphosis." Critically examine. [2012, 10 Marks]
8. "By the 1980s, the communist system of the Soviet Union was incapable of maintaining the country's role as a superpower." Elucidate. [2013, 25 Marks]
9. In what way did the political changes in Soviet Union influence the events in Eastern Europe during the closing decades of the 20th Century? [2016, 20 Marks]
10. "By 1980s, the Communist System of Soviet Union was incapable of maintaining the country's role as a Superpower." Substantiate. [2017, 20 Marks]
11. What factors contributed to the emergence of a unipolar world? [2016, 10 Marks]
12. Review the policy of Glasnost adopted by Gorbachev. [2018, 10 Marks]
13. A new configuration of power emerged in world politics after the end of the cold war. Analyse how USA managed to become the sole superpower. [2020, 20 Marks]