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IAS Modern Indian History Optional Mains Previous Years' Questions [1979-2022]



HISTORY OPTIONAL: TOPIC WISE QUESTION BANK OF MODERN INDIA [1979-2022]

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. European Penetration into India

- (i) The Early European Settlements; The Portuguese and the Dutch;
- (ii) The English and the French East India Companies; Their struggle for supremacy; Carnatic Wars;
- (iii) Bengal -The conflict between the English and the Nawabs of Bengal; Siraj and the English; The Battle of Plassey; Significance of Plassey.

1. European Penetration into India

The Early European Settlements; The Portuguese and the Dutch

No Question has been asked from this part.

The English and the French East India Companies; Their struggle for supremacy; Carnatic Wars

1. "Neither Alexander the Great nor Napoleon could have won the empire of India by starting from Pondicherry as a base and contending with a power which held Bengal and command of the Sea." Comment. [2006, 20m]
2. "Compared to their English counterpart, the French East India Company enjoyed little discretionary power and had to always look up to Paris for all major decisions. This partly explains the failure of the French in India." Evaluate Critically. [2012, 10m]
3. "Dupleix made a cardinal blunder in looking for the key of India in madras: Clive sought and found it in Bengal." Critically examine. [2013, 10m]
4. Comment on the French ambition of building a territorial empire in India. [2016, 10m]
5. Do you subscribe to the view that Anglo-French tussle in Carnatic demonstrated the internal decay of the provincial chieftains of South India? [2019, 10 Marks]
6. "It was Dupleix who had first showed the way the way of intervening in disputes of the Indian rulers and thereby acquiring political control over vast territories- a technique which was later perfected by the English East India Company." Elaborate. [2020, 20 Marks]

Bengal -The conflict between the English and the Nawabs of Bengal; Siraj and the English; The Battle of Plassey; Significance of Plassey

1. "On 23 June 1757, the middle ages of India ended and her modern age began." Comment. [1992, 20m]

2. How did the British conquer Bengal in the 18th century? What circumstances helped them? [1998, 60m]
3. After 1757 there grew up a State of Bengal which was a "sponsored state" as well as a "plundered state". Comment. [1999, 20m]
4. The battle of Plassey was "not a great battle but a great betrayal." Comment. [2000, 20m]
5. Discuss the causes that led to the 'economic drain' in Bengal following the Battle of Plassey. [2004, 60m]
6. "The forces of free trade and the British determination to create a political and administrative environment conducive to trade and investment had shaped the British policy towards India in the first half of the nineteenth century". Elucidate. [2012, 10m]
7. "Plassey did not complete the British conquest of India. Had the English been convincingly defeated in any subsequent battle in India, then (the battle of) Plassey would have remained as a minor episode in the history of India." Critically examine. [2014, 10m]
8. After the Battle of Plassey, how did India transit from the medieval to the modern age? [2016, 10m]
9. "The Battle of Plassey (1757) thus marked the beginning of political supremacy of the English East India Company in India." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]

2. British Expansion in India

- (i) Bengal – Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim; The Battle of Buxar;
- (ii) Mysore;
- (iii) The Marathas; The three Anglo-Maratha Wars;
- (iv) The Punjab.
- (v) Other expansions

2. British Expansion in India

Bengal – Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim; The Battle of Buxar

1. “Buxar takes rank amongst the most decisive battles ever fought.” Comment. [1982, 20m]
2. “Thus ended the famous battle of Buxar, on which depended the fate of India and which was as gallantly disputed as was important in its results.” Comment. [1985, 20m]
3. “The revolution of 1760 (Bengal) was really no revolution.” Comment. [1987, 20m]
4. “By certain of his actions Clive has marred both the glory and usefulness of his work.” Comment. [1995, 20m]
5. “The verdict of Plessey was confirmed by the English victory at Buxar.” Comment. [1996, 20m]
6. “The verdict at Plassey was confirmed by the English victory at Buxar.” Comment. [2002, 20m]
7. How far is it correct to say that if Clive was the founder of the British Empire in India, Warren Hastings was its administrative organizer? [2016, 20m]
8. The East India Company had thought that they had found an ideal puppet in Mir Kasim. Mir Kasim, however, belied the expectation of the company. Examine critically. [2021, 10 Marks]
9. 'The Battle of Plassey (1757) was a skirmish while the Battle of Buxar (1764) was a real war'. Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]

Mysore

1. Why was Mysore considered a threat by the British to their possessions and mercantile interests in the south? Do you think that Tipu Sultan's posturing became his undoing? [2009, 30m]
2. Examine the circumstance which led to the third Mysore War. Could Cornwallis have avoided it? [2006, 60m]
3. "Tipu Sultan was trying to build in Mysore a strong centralised and militarised state, with ambitious territorial design." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]
4. Tipu Sultan had little success in setting forth a course of change significantly different from the general experience of 18th century crisis of Indian politics and society where public life tended over and over to become a system of plundering. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]

The Marathas; The three Anglo-Maratha Wars

1. "The Treaty of Bassein, 1802 was, a step which changed the footing on which we, the English stood in western India. It trebled the English responsibilities in an instant." Comment. [1983, 20m]
2. Trace the course of the Anglo-Maratha relations in the first two decades of the nineteenth century. Account for the ultimate defeat of the Maratha power by the British. [1984, 60m]
3. "Upon the whole, then, I conclude that the treaty of Bassein was wise, just and a politic measure." Comment. [1986, 20m]
4. "..... the hunt of the Pindaris became merged in the Third Maratha War." Comment. [1989, 20m]
5. "Anglo-Maratha War covering nearly nine years from the murder of Narayan Rao to the Treaty of Salbai emphatically discloses the vitality of the Maratha nation which had not been exhausted either by the disaster of Panipat or the death of their great Peshwa Madhavrao." Comment. [1991, 20m]
6. "The treaty of Bassein, by its direct and indirect operations, gave the Company the Empire of India." Comment. [1993, 20m]
7. How did the British establish their control over Maharashtra in the first two decades of the 19th century? Why did the Maratha challenge ultimately collapse? [1994, 60m]
8. The British "fought the First Maratha War in a period when their fortunes were at the lowest ebb". Comment. [1998, 20m]
9. "The Treaty of Salbai (1782) was neither honorable to the English nor advantageous to their interests." Comment. [2004, 20m]

10. "Upon the whole, then, I conclude that the treaty of Bassein was wise, just and a politic measure." Comment. [2005, 20m]
11. "The Maratha polity disintegrated through internal stress." Critically examine. [2017, 10m]
12. While individually the Marathas were clever and brave, they lacked the corporate spirit so essential for national independence. Discuss with reasons. [2021, 10 Marks]

Punjab

1. "Punjab's fate after Ranjit Singh was foredoomed as the impulse of neo-Victorian Imperialism was bound to overwhelm it". Elucidate [2010, 20m]
2. "Annexation of Punjab was part of a broad north-west frontier policy set in motion after the exit of Maharaja Ranjit Singh." Critically examine [2015, 10 Marks]
3. Underline the major considerations of the British imperial power that led to the annexation of Punjab. [2017, 10m]
4. "Maharaja Ranjit Singh died in 1839. His death was the signal for an outburst of anarchy all over the Punjab." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]
5. 'The Treaty of Amritsar (1809) was significant for its immediate as well as potential effects'. Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]

Sind

1. "We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so and a very advantageous, useful, humane piece of rascality it will be." Comment. [1984, 20m]
2. "We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so, and a very advantageous, useful and human piece of rascality it will be." Comment. [1990, 20m]
3. "The British conquest of Sind was both a political and moral sequel to the first afghan war." Comment. [1995, 60m]
4. Sir Charles Napier said, "We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so, and a very advantageous, useful, humane piece of rascality it will be." Comment. [2000, 20m]

Others

1. Explain the British policy of 'Subordinate union' of Indian States with British India from 1858 to 1905. How did the Government of India implement this policy during this period? [1993, 60m]
2. "If we could States without political power, but as royal instruments, we should exist in India as long as our naval supremacy was maintained." Comment. [1984, 20m]
3. "The British endeavored as far as possible to live within a Ring-Fence and beyond that they avoided intercourse with the chiefs." Comment. [1987, 20m]
4. "No native state should be left to exist in India which is not upheld by the British power or the political conduct of which is not under the absolute control." Comment. [1992, 20m]
5. "The British policy towards Indian States in 1818-1858 was one of isolation and noninterference tempered by annexation." Comment. [1996, 20m]
6. The British conquered India, "in a fit of absent minded-ness". Comment. [1997, 20m]
7. Towards the Princes, Canning adopted a policy of "punishing resistance and rewarding obedience." Comment. [2000, 20m]
8. "Dalhousie changed the map of India with speed and thoroughness no campaign could equal." Comment. [2001, 20m]
9. "The rise and expansion of British empire was an accident rather than the result of a deliberate policy and design." Critically examine this statement. [2002, 60m]
10. Examine the essential principles of the Subsidiary Alliance system. How far did it contribute in making the British Company the supreme sovereign authority in India? [2005, 60m]
11. How did the East India Company became the de jure power in India? [2009, 30m]

3. Early Structure of the British Raj

- (i) The early administrative structure; From diarchy to direct control;
- (ii) The Regulating Act (1773);
- (iii) The Pitt's India Act (1784);
- (iv) The Charter Act (1833);
- (v) The voice of free trade and the changing character of British colonial rule;
- (vi) The English utilitarian and India.

3. Early Structure of the British Raj

The early administrative structure; From diarchy to direct control

1. Discuss the basic features of the judicial administration under the East India Company. Did the British introduce the modern concept of the rule of law in India? [1986, 60m]
2. "What kind of administrative change was introduced in India under the East India Company? [1993, 60m]
3. "The Dual System of Government was a complete failure from the outset. In the first place, the abuse of the private trade reached a greater height than ever. In the second place, the demands of the Company for the increase led to gross oppression of the peasantry." Examine. [2014, 20m]
4. Can you explain how, after acquiring Diwani, the government of the East India Company functioned like 'an Indian ruler'? [2022, 10 Marks]

The Regulating Act (1773); The Pitt's India Act (1784); The Charter Act (1833);

1. "The object of the Act (Regulating) was good, but system that it established was imperfect." Comment. [2004, 20m]
2. "The Charter Act of 1833 rung down the curtain on the company's trade and introduced a new concept of government in India." Substantiate. [2011, 20m]
3. "The Regulating Act (1773), the Pitt's India Act (1784) and eventually the Charter Act of 1833 left the East India Company as a mere shadow of its earlier political and economic power in India." Critically examine. [2015, 10m]
4. "The need to impose greater parliamentary control over the Company's affairs increased during the decades (1773 – 1853) after Plassey." Elucidate. [2016, 20m]

The English utilitarian and India

1. Assess the impact of the utilitarian ideas in molding the British attitude towards India. How did the utilitarian try to solve the problem of land revenue? [1992, 60m]
2. "The British Indian State experienced the 'wind of change' with the arrival of Lord William Bentinck." Comment. [1999, 20m]
3. "Sprung from paternalism, the English Utilitarian philosophy as introduced in India rejected its human warmth between rulers and the ruled." Comment. [2008, 20m]
4. "James Mill, the apostle of utilitarian philosophy, proposed a revolution off Indian society through the 'weapon of law' solely. But in actual policy framing, other influences and considerations weighed much more than the colonial State." Elucidate. [2015, 20m]
5. "Peace had her victories no less renowned than war." Examine this statement with reference to Lord William Bentinck. [2016, 20m]
6. How did the English utilitarian thinking impact India in the British era? [2021, 20 Marks]

4. Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule

- (i) Land revenue settlements in British India; The Permanent Settlement; Ryotwari Settlement; Mahalwari Settlement; Economic impact of the revenue arrangements;
- (ii) Commercialization of agriculture; Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society.
- (iii) Dislocation of traditional trade and commerce; Deindustrialisation; Decline of traditional crafts;
- (iv) Drain of wealth;
- (v) Economic transformation of India; Railroad and communication network including telegraph and postal services;
- (vi) Famine and poverty in the rural interior;
- (vii) European business enterprise and its limitations.

4. Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule

Land revenue settlements

Permanent Settlement

1. Trace the circumstances that led to the introduction of the Permanent Settlement in Bengal. Discuss its impact on landlords, peasants and the Government. [1981, 60m]
2. "The Permanent Settlement of land revenue in Bengal was a, bold, brave and wise measure." Comment. [1983, 20m]
3. Show how British rule led to the spread of landlordism in certain parts of India, and how the peasant was progressively impoverished under this rule. [1985, 60m]
4. "The permanent system of Bengal though initiated with best of best of intentions, was a sadly blundering affair." Comment. [1993, 20m]
5. "The Permanent settlement was a bold, brave and wise measures." Comment. [1997, 20m]
6. "Absentee landlordism was a consequential feature of Bengal's Permanent land settlement." Comment. [2003, 20m]
7. "Permanent Settlement disappointed many expectations and introduced there results that were not anticipated." Comment. [2004, 20m]
8. "Though the Permanent Settlement had serious defects, it gave tranquility to the countryside and stability to the government." Comment. [2009, 20m]

9. "The passing of the land from the hands of the peasant proprietors into the hands of non-cultivating landlords brought about increasing polarization of classes in agrarian areas." [2018, 10 Marks]

9. Explain how the Permanent Settlement initiated a rule of property in Bengal and what were its consequences? [2022, 20 Marks]

Ryotwari Settlement

1. Explain the essential features of the ryotwari system of land revenue with special reference to Thomas Munro's contribution to its evolution. [1984, 60m]

2. Discuss the main features of the 'Raiyatwari Settlement' in South India. Did it satisfy the aspirations of the peasantry? [2001, 60m]

3. "Ryotwari falls into three stages – early, middle and late, and the only description common to all is that it is a mode of settlement with small farmers, so small, indeed, that their average holding is, on recent figures, only about 6 ½ acres," Critically examine. [2013, 10m]

Mahalwari Settlement

No question has been asked from this topic

Economic impact of the revenue arrangements

1. "The poverty of the Indian people was the consequence of the Government's land revenue and taxation policy." Discuss this statement with reference to British rule in India in the 19th Century. [1980, 60m]

2. What was the impact of early British land policy in the village communities of North India? [2003, 60m]

3. Examine the major factors shaping the British land-revenue policy in India. How it affected Indian society? [2007, 60m]

Others

1. What role did economic ideas play in the early phase of the British rule in the shaping of land tenure policy? [2010, 30m]

Commercialization of agriculture; Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society

Commercialization of agriculture

1. Bring out the pattern of commercialization of agriculture in the 19th century. Was it a forced process for the vast majority of poorer peasants? [1986, 60m]
2. What do you mean by commercialization of Indian Agriculture? Discuss its result. [2006, 60m]
3. To what extent did the process of commercialization of agriculture affect the rural scene in India? [2010, 30m]

Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society.

1. In British India “the impact of the government on the people meant essentially the impact of government on the village.” [1984, 20m]
2. “The impact of government on the people meant essentially the impact of government on the village.” Comment. [1988, 20m]
3. The changing life in Indian village marked best the impact of the British administration on the Indian people. Explain, identifying the process and the extent of the change. [1996, 60m]
4. The Indian Middle Class firmly believed that "Britain had imposed a colonial economy on India which had impoverished the country." Comment. [1999, 20m]
5. “The impact of government on the people meant essentially the impact of government on the village.” Comment. [2005, 20m]
6. “So Long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who having been educated at their expense, pay not the least need to them.” Comment. [2006, 20m]
7. “A self-sufficient village, based on agriculture carried on with the primitive plough and bullock power, and handicraft by means of simple instruments, was a basic feature of pre-British Indian economy.” Comment. [2006, 20m]

Dislocation of traditional trade and commerce; Deindustrialisation; Decline of traditional crafts

1. Assess critically the economic impact of the British rule in India till the end of the nineteenth century. [1979, 60m]
2. Write a critical note on: “Consequences of the ruin of handicraft industries under the rule of the East India Company.” [1981, 20m]
3. Give a brief account of the industrial and agricultural policy of the Government of India between 1858 and 1914. How far is it correct to say that it was more in the interest of British capital than the Indian people? [1981, 60m]

4. Trace the gradual decline of the Indian town handicrafts between 1757 and 1880. In what way did it contribute to the economic unification of India? [1987, 60m]
5. "The hey-day of the British power in India was also the high noon of laissez faire' economic doctrine." Comment. [1990, 20m]
6. "The role of the East India Company proved disastrous to the handicraft industry in India for a number of reasons." Comment. [1991, 20m]
7. "The British Raj had a deeply racist aspect and it ultimately existed to protect colonial exploitation." Comment. [1994, 20m]
8. Discuss the view that the British rule brought about economic changes in India to serve the needs of the imperial economy and establish a dependent form of underdevelopment in this country. [2000, 60m]
9. "The British industrial policy in the nineteenth century ruined the Indian handicrafts." Comment. [2001, 20m]
10. "Instead of serving as the catalyst of an industrial revolution as in Western Europe and the USA, acted in India as 'the catalyst of complete colonization.'" Examine. [2012, 10m]
11. "Weaving", says R.C. Dutt, "was the national industry of the people and spinning was the pursuit of millions of women." Indian textiles went to England and other parts of Europe, to China and Japan and Burma and Arabia and Persia and parts of Africa. Elucidate. [2013, 25m]
12. "Under the forceful thrust of British colonialism, Indian economy was transformed into a colonial one, the structure of which was determined by the requirements of Britain's fast developing industrial economy." Examine. [2015, 20m]
13. Critically examine the causes responsible for the phenomenon called 'de-industrialization' in India during the nineteenth century. [2016, 20m]
14. India has been the world leader in the field of hand spun and hand woven yarn and cloth for many centuries. Many nationalist and Marxist critiques considered that the British dominion deliberately shattered the traditional and world famous handicrafts of India. Comment. [2021, 20 Marks]

Drain of wealth

1. Trace the course and explain the consequences of the drain of wealth from Bengal in the eighteenth century. [1982, 60m]

2. "Our system acts very much like a sponge, drawing up all the good things from the banks of the Ganges, and squeezing them down on the banks of the Thames." Comment. [1985, 20m]
3. Write a critique on the impact of the Drain Theory of Dadabhai Nauroji in the growth of economic nationalism. [2008, 60m]
4. "The need for a unilateral transfer of funds to Britain was constant factor and, in fact, progressively increased over time." Critically evaluate. [2011, 20m]
5. How far was the drain theory a focal point of nationalist critique of colonialism? [2019, 20 Marks]

Economic transformation of India, Railroad and communication network including telegraph and postal services

1. Trace the industrial growth of British India after the First World War. How did the Government's tariff policy influence the growth? [1983, 60m]
2. Identify the main features of industrial development in India from 1914 to 1947 with special reference to the emergence of a class of factory laborers. [1989, 60m]
3. Identify the distinct stages of colonialism in India. How did these stages affect the Indian economy? [1991, 60m]
4. How do you account for the rise and growth of the Business enterprise in India during the first half of the 20th century? [1994, 60m]
5. Economic changes in India from the late 1920s influenced the course of the country's politics. Elucidate. [1995, 60m]

Railways

1. "Railway development in India provides an interesting instance of private enterprise at public risk." Comment. [2010, 20m]
2. "The railways, instead of serving as the catalyst of an industrial revolution as in Western Europe and the USA, acted in India as 'the catalyst of complete colonization'."- Examine. [2012, 20m]
3. "The British railway construction policy in India benefited British economy in the nineteenth century." Critically examine. [2017, 10m]
4. "Not until independence, when economic development became a conscious and pursued policy, did the Railways begin to realize their potential for assisting in the transformation of the Indian economy." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

Famine and poverty in the rural interior

1. "The recurring famines in the 19th century were the inevitable consequence of the British policy and expose the real character of the paternal solicitude for the peasantry on the part of the British administration." Examine this statement critically. [2002, 60m]
2. "India underwent suffering and mortality in the wake of recurring famines in the later half of the 19th century." Comment. [2003, 20m]
3. Trace the development of the famine policy of the British in India 1876 and 1921. Did it provide relief to the people? [2005, 60m]
4. Critically examine the impact of the famine policy on rural India. Describe the official remedial measures undertaken. [2008, 60m]
5. Explain the factors responsible for the recurrence of famines in the nineteenth century. What remedial measures were adopted by the British Indian Government? [2017, 20m]
6. Famines were not just because of foodgrain scarcity, but were a direct result of colonial economic policies'. Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]

European business enterprise and its limitations.

1. "Plantations and mines, jutes mills, banking, insurance, shipping and export-import concerns in India were run through a system of interlocking managing agencies." Critically examine. [2012, 10m]

5. Social and Cultural Developments

- (i) The state of indigenous education, its dislocation; Orientalist-Anglicist controversy, The introduction of western education in India;
- (ii) The rise of press, literature and public opinion; The rise of modern vernacular literature;
- (iii) Progress of science;
- (iv) Christian missionary activities in India.
- (v) Others

5. Social and Cultural Developments

The state of indigenous education, its dislocation; Orientalist-Anglicist controversy, The introduction of western education in India

1. Review the educational policy of the English East India Company. To what extent did it serve the imperial interests of Great Britain? [1988, 60m]
2. What was the Anglicist-Orientalist controversy about? How was it resolved and with what results? [1990, 60m]
3. "The educated middle class in the 19th century often found the domain of reason to be oppressive, as it implied the historical necessity of 'civilizing' colonial rule." Comment. [2010, 20m]
4. Orientalism produced a knowledge of the past to service the needs of the Colonial States." Elucidate. [2011, 20m]
5. What was the significance of Orientalist-Anglicist controversy in nineteenth century India? Analyze. [2018, 10 Marks]
6. The introduction of Western education transformed India in unforeseen ways. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]
7. Was the Western education a harbinger of cultural awakening or an instrument of colonial hegemony? Discuss. [2022, 20 Marks]

The rise of press, literature and public opinion; The rise of modern vernacular literature

1. "The vernacular press in the nineteenth century was both newspaper as well as 'views-papers' that enlightened the dormant masses." Comment. [2008, 20m]

2. "The vernacular press in nineteenth century India served not just as newspapers but more importantly as views-papers." Comment. [2011, 20m]
3. Do you agree with the view that the growth of vernacular literature in the 19th and the 20th centuries paved the way for social reform and cultural revival in India? [2016, 10m]
4. Assess the role of press in arousing awareness on important social issues in the second half of the nineteenth century. [2017, 20m]
5. The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was designed for better control of the vernacular press and to empower the government with more effective means of punishing and repressing seditious writings. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]

Progress of science

1. 'Within a limited scope the Indian Scientists could pursue original scientific research in colonial India'. Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]

Christian missionary activities in India

1. "Nowhere was the influence of the missionaries felt more than in relation to the women's movement." Comment. [1989, 20m]
2. The Christian Missionary propaganda from 1813 onwards was "often insensitive and wounding." Comment. [1999, 20m]
3. Examine the forces at work for the introduction of western education in India. Analyse the thrust given to it by the Christian Missionaries. [2019, 20 Marks]

Others

1. Write a critical note on: "Impact of western contact on social changes in the first half of 19th century." [1981, 20m]
2. "The Government of India from Canning to Curzon was regarded, as a white man's burden rather than as a call to creative effort or the preparation for a new era." Comment. [1995, 20m]
3. "India broke her British fetters with western hammers." Comment. [1997, 20m]
4. "India broke her British fetters with Western hammers." Comment. [2002, 20m]
5. Examine the impact of British rule on Indian Society in the 19th Century. [2004, 60m]

6. "The current practice of categorization of 'Early Modern India' is based on a shift from the old imperialist periodization of 'Muslim India' – 'British India' to the more secularist one of 'Medieval India' – 'Modern India', which puts Indian history in a universalist chronological Structure." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10m]

7. "An ideology of paternalistic benevolence, occasionally combined with talk of trusteeship and training towards self-government, thinly veiled the realities of a Raj uncompromisingly white and despotic." [2018, 10m]

8. "Faced with the challenge of the intrusion of colonial culture and ideology an attempt to reinvigorate traditional institutions and to realize the potential of traditional culture developed during the nineteenth century." [2018, 10m]

6. Social and Religious Reform movements in Bengal and Other Areas

- (i) Ram Mohan Roy, The Brahmo Movement;
- (ii) Devendranath Tagore;
- (iii) Iswarchandra Vidyasagar;
- (iv) The Young Bengal Movement;
- (v) Dayanada Saraswati;
- (vi) The social reform movements in India including Sati, widow remarriage, child marriage etc.;
- (vii) The contribution of Indian renaissance to the growth of modern India;
- (viii) Islamic revivalism – the Feraizi and Wahabi Movements.

6. Social and Religious Reform movements in Bengal and Other Areas

Ram Mohan Roy, The Brahmo Movement, Devendranath Tagore, Iswarchandra Vidyasagar

1. "Ram Mohan Roy presents a most instructive and inspiring study for the New India of which he is the type and pioneer." Comment. [1982, 20m]
2. "Ram Mohan thus presents a most instructive and inspiring study for the New India of which he is the type and pioneer." Comment. [1986, 20m]
3. "The contact of the new Indian middle class with the West proved to be a catalyst. The social and religious movements launched by Ram Mohan or Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar have to be understood in this context." – Elucidate. [2012, 10m]
4. "The chief value of Raja's (Raja Rammohan Roy) labours seems to lie in his fight against the forces of medievalism in India." Critically examine. [2017, 10m]

The Young Bengal Movement

1. "Young Bengal left little distinctive or permanent impression on the plane of religion and philosophy." Critically evaluate. [2011, 30m]

Dayanada Saraswati

1. The Arya Samaj "did not; however, succeed in capturing the imagination of modern India as a whole." Comment. [1998, 20m]
2. "The Arya Samaj may quite logically be pronounced as the outcomes of conditions imported into India by the west." Comment. [2009, 20m]
3. "Swami Dayanand's philosophy represents both elements of extremism and social radicalism." Substantiate. [2015, 20m]
4. "The Arya Samaj may quite logically be pronounced as the outcome of conditions imported into India from the West." Critically examine. [2017, 10m]

The social reform movements in India including Sati, widow remarriage, child marriage etc.; The contribution of Indian renaissance to the growth of modern India

1. Examine the main trends in social reform and social change in India between 1829 and 1929. [1979, 60m]
2. Review the main trends in the Social Movements in India from 1900 to 1947 with particular reference to the changing position of women in the country. [1984, 60m]
3. "These religion-reform movements were national in content but religious in form. It was in the later stages of our national existence, that nationalism found exclusively or predominantly secular forms." Comment. [1985, 20m]
4. To what extent did the socio-religious movements contribute to the emancipation of women in the 19th century? [1993, 60m]
5. "Widow Remarriage Act was, in many ways, a logical sequel to the abolition of Sati." Comment. [1994, 20m]
6. "The religious reform movements of the 19th century were endeavours to recast the old religion (Hinduism) into a new form suited to meet the needs of the new society." Comment. [1996, 20m]
7. "The religious reform movements of the 19th century were endeavours to recast the old religion (Hinduism) into a new form suited to meet the needs of the new society." Comment. [1996, 20m]
8. The 19th century Indian renaissance was both an acceptance and rejection of western values. Do you agree? [1997, 60m]
9. Discuss the important social reform legislation passed in the 19th century and elucidate the reaction of Indian leaders to the measures adopted. [2000, 60m]

10. "The national democratic awakening of the Indian people found expression also in the religious sphere." Comment. [2005, 20m]
11. "There is no other instance in the history of mankind of a poet and philosopher working such as a miracle in shaping the destiny of his people." Comment. [2007, 20m]
12. "Of the evils which corroded Indian society in the nineteenth century were probably those which stunted its womanhood." Comment. [2007, 20m]
13. How did social legislation in the nineteenth century improve the condition of women in India? [2009, 30m]
14. Discuss the extent to which the Indian Renaissance movement contributed towards the rise of nationalist consciousness. [2010, 30m]
15. "The first point to note is the continuing importance of religion and philosophy as vital ingredients in the modern Indian renaissance. Indeed, there is as much reason for regarding it as a reformation as there is for treating it as a renaissance." Critically examine. [2013, 25m]
16. Swami Vivekananda opined that "we should give our ancient spirituality and culture and get in return Western Science, technology, methods of raising the standard of life, business integrity and technique of collective effort." Critically examine. [2013, 10m]
17. "Though Sri Ramakrishna became the prophet of neo-Hinduism, he never claimed to have founded any new religion." Elaborate. [2014, 20m]
18. "Two important intellectual criteria which informed the reform movements were rationalism and religious universalism." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]
19. How far was the widow remarriage movement effective in arousing social concern for Indian women? [2019, 10 Marks]
20. "In the initial stages, when Indian nationalism was immature, just sprouting, it found expression in many liberal religio-reform movements." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Caste Movements

1. What led to the Caste Movements in Western and Southern India? How did they affect the local socio-political life? [1989, 60m]
2. Analyses the main contours of Non-Brahmin Movements in Western and South India in the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. [1991, 60m]
3. Trace the course and comment on the character of caste movements in south India in the 20th century. How far was their object achieved? [1995, 60m]

4. How did Dr. B.R. Ambedkar try to seek a political solution to the problem of caste in India? [2016, 10m]

5. "Sri Narayana guru's was a major intervention in the social reform movement from a subaltern perspective." Critically examine. [2017, 10m]

Islamic revivalism – the Feraizi and Wahabi Movements

No question has been asked from this topic

7. Indian Response to British Rule

- (i) Peasant movements and tribal uprisings in the 18th and 19th centuries including the Rangpur Dhing (1783), the Kol Rebellion (1832), the Mopla Rebellion in Malabar (1841-1920), the Santal Hul (1855), Indigo Rebellion (1859-60), Deccan Uprising (1875) and the Munda Ulgulan (1899-1900);
- (ii) The Great Revolt of 1857 - Origin, character, causes of failure, the consequences;
- (iii) The shift in the character of peasant uprisings in the post-1857 period;
- (iv) The peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930s.

7. Indian Response to British Rule

Peasant movements and tribal uprisings in the 18th and 19th centuries

1. "Tribal revolts were a reaction to an alien, unfeeling administration." Elucidate with reference to the British tribal policy in Eastern India in the nineteenth century. [1982, 60m]
2. Discuss briefly the tribal revolts in Eastern India from 1817 to 1857. Were they directed against landlordism and colonialism? [1988, 60m]
3. Discuss the origins and character of major peasant and tribal uprisings in the late 18th and 19th centuries were these protest movements backwards-looking? [1992, 60m]
4. Tribal movements should be viewed as, 'History from below'. Discuss the objects and nature of the movements in 19th century India. [1997, 60m]
5. "The tribal and peasant rebellion laid the foundation of the revolt of 1857." Comment. [2001, 20m]
6. "Tribals revolted more often and far more violently than any other community including peasants in India." Elaborate [2011, 30m]
7. How far is it correct to say that the 19th century tribal uprisings are a part of subaltern nationalism? [2016, 20m]

Rangpur Dhing (1783)

No question has been asked from this topic

Kol Rebellion (1832)

1. "... the Kol Insurrection was mainly a war of the tribal inhabitants of Chotanagpur against the non-tribal settlers and service-holders." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

Mopla Rebellion in Malabar (1841-1920)

1. "The roots of Moplah discontent were clearly agrarian...." Comment. [1986, 20m]
2. The roots of the Moplah uprising (1921) were clearly agrarian. Do you agree? [1990, 60m]
3. The 1921 Moplah rebellion was "in essence an expression of long-standing agrarian discontent which was intensified by the religious and ethnic identity." Comment. [2000, 20m]
4. Was the Moplah Rebellion in Malabar an expression of anti-landlord and anti-foreign discontent? Discuss. [2018, 20 Marks]

Santal Hul (1855)

1. "The Santhal hool began in July 1855. The core of the movement was economic, the basic cause of the uprising was agrarian discontent." – Elucidate [2012, 10m]
2. Do you feel that the Santhal Hool (rebellion) 1855-56, was the most effective tribal movement in pre-1857 India? [2020, 10 Marks]
3. 'Penetration of outsiders- called dikus by the Santhals- completely destroyed their familiar world, and forced them into action to take possession of their lost territory'. Critically examine. [2022, 10 Marks]

Indigo Rebellion (1859-60)

1. "The Indigo Revolt of 1859-60 holds a very significant place in our history of national liberation movement. For the first time in the history of our anti-colonial struggle, its two independent currents-- spontaneous peasant resistance and constitutional agitation in defence of peasantry – came into mutual contact." Critically examine. [2015, 10m]

Deccan Uprising (1875)

No question has been asked from this topic

Munda Ulgulan (1899-1900)

No question has been asked from this topic

The Great Revolt of 1857, - Origin, character, causes of failure, the consequences

1. Critically examine the nature of the Revolt of 1857. How did it affect the British policy in India after 1858? [1980, 60m]

2. "The Mutiny was not inevitable in 1857, but it was inherent in the constitution of the Empire." Comment. [1983, 20m]
3. "On the whole, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the so-called First National War of Independence was neither First, nor National, nor a war of Independence." Comment. [1985, 20m]
4. "Whatever might have been its original character, it (Rebellion of 1857) soon became a symbol of challenge to the mighty British power in India." Comment. [1988, 20m]
5. "The new attitude of caution and conservatism can be detected in almost every sphere of British activity in India after the Revolt of 1857." Comment. [1994, 20m]
6. Examine the nature of the Revolt of 1857 and indicate the manifold changes in British civil and military administration of India after 1857. [1998, 60m]
7. Do you believe that the uprising in 1857 was nationalist in nature? If not, what was its character? [1999, 60m]
8. "Whatever might have been its original character, it (Rebellion of 1857) soon became a symbol of challenge to the mighty British power in India." Comment. [2005, 20m]
9. "The Revolt of 1857 seemed to call the very presence of the British into question. What it did not do was reverse these changes." Comment. [2007, 20m]
10. "The annexation of Awadh shook the loyalty of these Sepoys, as it was for them an ultimate proof of untrustworthiness of the British." Comment. [2009, 20m]
11. "In 1857, the rebel sepoy showed a remarkable centripetal tendency to congregate at Delhi." Do you agree? Substantiate. [2011, 30m]
12. "The military, feudal and traditional overtones of the Revolt of 1857 were overshadowed by its nationalist or proto-nationalist character." Critically examine. [2014, 10m]
13. "The Mutiny of 1857 was much more than a Mutiny of Sepoys and much less than a National Rebellion." Comment. [2016, 10m]
14. For long, the Revolt of 1857, has been mistaken to be a mere mutiny of the Indian sepoy in the Bengal army. However, its causes need to be searched for not only in the dissatisfaction of the army, but in a long drawn process of fundamental social and economic change that upset the peasant communities. Discuss. [2020, 20 Marks]
15. The British rule had differential impact on the Indian society. Describe in what ways the Indians responded to the Revolt of 1857. [2022, 20 Marks]

The shift in the character of peasant uprisings in the post-1857 period

1. Identify the various forms of 'rural protest' in India in the second half of the nineteenth century. Were they expressions of anti-landlord or anti-foreign discontent? [1987, 60m]
2. "The peasant movements of the second half of the nineteenth century lacked a positive conception which would unite the people in a common struggle on a wide regional and all-India plane and help develop long-term political developments." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10m]

The peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930s

1. Write a brief essay on the peasant movement in India between 1921 and 1947. [1980, 60m]
3. Analyze the nature of peasant movements during the nationalist phase and bring out their shortcomings. [2015, 20m]
4. Discuss the nature of peasant movements under the Kisan Sabhas during 1920-1940. [2017, 10m]

8. Early Indian Nationalism

- (i) Factors leading to the birth of Indian Nationalism;
- (ii) Politics of Association; The Foundation of the Indian National Congress; The Safety-valve thesis relating to the birth of the Congress;
- (iii) Programme and objectives of Early Congress; the social composition of early Congress leadership; the Moderates and Extremists;
- (iv) The Partition of Bengal (1905); The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal; the economic and political aspects of Swadeshi Movement;
- (v) The beginning of revolutionary extremism in India.

8. Early Indian Nationalism

Factors leading to the birth of Indian Nationalism

1. Describe the nature of Indian Nationalism with special reference to the character of its leadership in the period between 1885 and 1905. [1982, 60m]
2. "The Ilbert Bill was the most extreme but by no means isolated expression of white racism." Comment. [1987, 20m]
3. "The national democratic awakening of the Indian people found expression of white racism." Comment. [1987, 20m]
4. "The new India was not to be built up, as late nineteenth century patriots had thought, by copious draught from the past, but rather by frequent injections from the energetic contemporary west." Comment. [1990, 20m]
5. "It was in this almost unrecognizable form that the Ilbert Bill was finally enacted....it was primarily a failure of the Viceroy." Comment. [1992, 20m]
6. Examine the economic and social factors which led to the rise of Indian nationalism in the second half of the nineteenth century. [2001, 60m]
7. "Rabindranath Tagores's nationalism was based on a Catholic internationalism." Comment. [2003, 20m]
8. What were the various ways in which nationalism manifested itself in India during colonial rule? [2021, 20 Marks]

Politics of Association; The Foundation of the Indian National Congress; The Safety-valve thesis relating to the birth of the Congress;

1. Discuss 'the safety valve' theory. Does it satisfactorily explain the foundation of the Indian National Congress? [1991, 60m]
2. To what extent was the emergence of the Congress in 1885 the culmination of a process of political awakening that had its beginning in the 1870s? [2000, 60m]
3. "The 'safety-valve thesis' does not adequately explain the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885." Critically examine. [2014, 10m]
4. In its political behaviour the Indian National Congress in its early career was never a radical organisation, besides the founders of the Congress involved A.O. Hume in their project. Do these facts verify that the Congress was founded as a 'Safety valve'? Explain. [2020, 20 Marks]

Programme and objectives of Early Congress; the social composition of early Congress leadership; the Moderates and Extremists

1. Describe briefly the ideals and programme of the Indian National Congress between 1885 and 1905 and assess official response to it. [1980, 60m]
2. Trace the factors which led to a split in the Indian national Congress in 1907. What was its impact on the course of the nationalist movement? [2003, 60m]
3. Analyze the social composition of the early Congress leadership. [2009, 30m]
4. "Politics remained for the bulk of the Moderates very much a part-time affair. The Congress was not a political party, but an annual three-day show..." Elucidate. [2014, 20m]
5. "At the dawn of the twentieth century Lord Curzon, the viceroy of India, was full of hostility towards the Indian National Congress and he confidentially reported to the secretary of state in November 1900: My own belief is that the congress is tottering to its fall, and one of my greatest ambitions while in India is to assist it to a peaceful demise." Examine. [2013, 25m]
6. Can method and politics of the moderates be referred to as 'political mendicancy? [2018, 10 Marks]
7. Discuss the policies and programmes of the early nationalists (moderates). To what extent they were able to fulfil the aspirations of the people. [2022, 20 Marks]

The Partition of Bengal (1905); The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal; the economic and political aspects of Swadeshi Movement;

1. Write a critical note on: Significance of the Swadeshi Movement 1905-07 in the freedom struggle. [1981, 20m]

2. "Curzon's political obtusely created a breach between government and people which was never wholly closed in the remaining forty-two years of British rule." Comment. [1984, 20m]
3. "Curzon was an unconscious catalyst who did not understand, let alone desire, what the new century was about to bring forth, but who helped it to be born." Comment. [1989, 20m]
4. "The tragedy of Curzon lay in that, with such abundance of trained talent; he was denied the crowning qualities. He was never an administrator of the first rank." Comment. [1991, 20m]
5. "Curzon's partition of Bengal gave the unwitting initiative to events of magnitude and returned many years later to port with the cargo of freedom." Comment. [1997, 20m]
6. "India after 1905 had new interests and objectives and compelled new lines of policy." Comment. [1996, 20m]
7. "The Anti-Partition Agitation (1905) had an economic character in Bengal unlike the Extremist Agitation in Maharashtra which had a religious character." Examine. [2014, 20m]
8. Explain "Constructive Swadeshi" Characterised by atmashakti (self-reliance), which propelled the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal. [2016, 10m]
9. How would you explain the major trends of the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal? [2019, 20 Marks]

The beginning of revolutionary extremism in India

All questions of Revolutionary Extremist is compiled at one place in chapter 11

9. Nationalism under Gandhi's leadership

- (i) Rise of Gandhi; Character of Gandhian nationalism; Gandhi's popular appeal;
- (ii) Rowlatt Satyagraha; the Khilafat Movement; the Non-cooperation Movement;
- (iii) National politics from the end of the Noncooperation movement to the beginning of the Civil Disobedience movement; Simon Commission; The Nehru Report; the Round Table Conferences; the two phases of the Civil Disobedience Movement;
- (iv) Nationalism and the Peasant Movements; Nationalism and Working class movements;
- (v) The election of 1937 and the formation of ministries;
- (vi) The Cripps Mission;
- (vii) The Quit India Movement;
- (viii) The Wavell Plan; The Cabinet Mission
- (ix) Women and Indian youth and students in Indian politics (1885-1947).

9. Nationalism under Gandhi's leadership

Rise of Gandhi; Character of Gandhian nationalism; Gandhi's popular appeal

1. How would you explain Gandhiji's 'rise to power' or 'capture' of national leadership in the course of 1919-20? Was it a very skillful top-level political game? [1987, 60m]
2. Gandhi restrained mass-movements yet he retained his popularity among the masses. How do you explain this paradox? [1994, 60m]
3. "Gandhi's mystique consisted of a union of original ideas with a remarkable flair for tactics and an uncanny insight in the mass mind." Elucidate. [1999, 60m]
4. "Gandhi restrained mass movements, yet he retained his popularity among the masses." Comment. [2002, 20m]
5. "Is moral law, the laws of conscience, higher than the law of the State which is oppressive?" Comment. [2008, 20m]
6. Discuss how the Satyagrahas of Gandhi removed the spell of fear among Indians and thus knocked off an important pillar of imperialism. [2017, 20m]
7. "In the divided and contestable space of Indian politics, Gandhiji could claim for himself a centrist position because he alienated neither and tactically combined the goal of the moderates with the means of the extremists." Discuss. [2020, 20 Marks]

Rowlatt Satyagraha; the Khilafat Movement; the Non-cooperation Movement

1. What were the circumstances that led Mahatma Gandhi to start the Non-cooperation Movement? Examine its contribution to India's struggle for freedom. [1980, 60m]
2. Explain the circumstances leading to the alliance between the Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movements. Was it a politically wise step on the part of the Congress? [2007, 60m]
3. "Many of us who worked for the congress programme lived in a kind of intoxication during the year 1921. We were full of excitement and optimism... we had a sense of freedom and pride in that freedom." Critically examine. [2013, 10m]
4. "M.K Gandhi made a gross mistake in championing the Khilafat cause, an extra-territorial issue which cut at the very roots of Indian nationality." Critically examine. [2014, 10m]
5. "This retention of Rowlatt legislation in the teeth of universal opposition is an affront to the nation. Its repeal is necessary to appease national honour." Critically examine. [2015, 10m]
6. Do you consider the suspension of Non-Cooperation Movement a "national calamity"? [2018, 20 Marks]

National politics from the end of the Non-cooperation movement to the beginning of the Civil Disobedience movement; Simon Commission; The Nehru Report; the Round Table Conferences; the two phases of the Civil Disobedience Movement;

1. Identify the main strands in the Civil Disobedience Movement with particular reference to the changing role of 'business pressures' in the country [1985, 60m]
2. Show how the Civil Disobedience was marked by much scattered potentially radical manifestations. Was the Karachi Congress an indication of certain basic weakness of the entire movement? [1992, 60m]
3. Analyse the factors responsible for the Civil Disobedience movement (1930-31). How far were its aims realised in the Government of India Act of 1935? [2005, 60m]
4. "At Karachi in 1931, the congress defined what Swaraj would mean for the masses." Comment. [2007, 20m]
5. "Gandhi's body is in jail, but his soul is with you, India's prestige is in your hands, you must not use any violence under any circumstances. You will be beaten but you must not resist, you must not raise a hand to ward off blows." Critically examine. [2013, 10m]

6. Do you agree with the fact that the virtual failure of the Non-Cooperation Movement and the gloom that descended on the nationalistic scene, created conditions for the revolutionary activities? Discuss. [2020, 20 Marks]

7. The same Gandhiji who withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement on the issue of violence at Chauri-Chaura, refused to condemn people's violence during the Quit India Movement. Do you think that he was losing faith in the efficacy of non-violence and was willing to deviate from this path? Elucidate. [2021, 20 Marks]

Nationalism and the Peasant Movements; Nationalism and Working class movements

1. "The nationalist political movements for liberation such as the non-cooperation and civil disobedience movements and their leadership depended heavily on the peasantry." Comment. [1993, 20m]

The election of 1937 and the formation of ministries

1. "The developments during 1937-39 greatly undermined the ability of the Indian National Congress to push through the agenda of national unity." Comment. [2010, 20m]

The Cripps Mission

1. "The Cripps Mission gave India, a post-dated cheque." Comment. [1982, 20m]

2. "The Cripps Mission was plagued throughout, and ultimately torpedoed." Critically examine. [2019, 10 Marks]

Quit India Movement

1. "In the summer of 1942 Gandhi was in a strange and uniquely militant mood." Comment. [2003, 20m]

2. Do you think that Quit India movement was a Spontaneous Revolution? [2009, 30m]

3. "To characterize the Quit India Movement as 'Spontaneous Revolution' would be partial interpretation, so also would be to look up at it as the culmination of Gandhian Satyagraha movements." Elucidate. [2015, 20m]

4. Why is the Quit India Movement characterised as a 'Spontaneous Revolution'? Did it accelerate the process of Indian independence? [2019, 20 Marks]

The Wavell Plan; The Cabinet Mission

1. "The Cabinet Mission Plan, seemed to open an avenue for the reconciliation of a united India with Muslim autonomy'." Comment. [1983, 20m]
2. "The Simla Conference (1945) afforded the last opportunity of the forces of nationalism to fight a reargued action to preserve the integrity of the country and when the battle was lost, the waves of communalism quickly engulfed it." Comment. [1988, 20m]
4. "... instead of rejecting the plan (Cabinet Mission Plan), they (the Congress Leadership) resorted to a half-baked legalistic stratagem to reserve their position on its long-term arrangements and accepted its short-term provisions." Critically examine. [2014, 20m]

Others

1. "The Royal Indian Navy Revolt was seen as an event which marked the end of the British rule almost as finally as Independence Day." Explain. [2015, 10m]
2. Explain why the efforts at finding solution to India's constitutional impasse failed during 1942-1946. [2017, 20m]
3. Do you think that the Indian National Movement was a 'multi class movement' which represented the anti-imperialist interests of all classes and strata ? Give reasons in support of your answer. [2022, 20 Marks]

Women and Indian youth and students in Indian politics (1885-1947)

- 1."The active participation of Aruna Asaf Ali in 1942 movement symbolized the role of women in India's freedom struggle." Comment. [2010, 20m]
2. What significant role did women play in the Indian National Movement? [2016, 20m]
3. "In the early twentieth century, there came into existence a number of women's organisations, which operated more actively in the public arena and focused more directly on women's political and legal rights." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

10. Constitutional Developments in the Colonial India between 1858 and 1935

10. Constitutional Developments in the Colonial India between 1858 and 1935

The Government of India Act 1858

1. "1858 is the Great Divide in modern Indian history, as the policy, practice and ideals of the government that followed differed fundamentally from the government of the Company which it displaced." Discuss. [1979, 60m]
2. What changes did the British attitude undergo towards the Princely states after 1858? Was the Government of India Act of 1858 intended to introduce direct relations between the Princes and the Crown? [1985, 60m]
3. "In terms of administrative structure, the Government of India act of 1858, ... meant more continuation than change." Do you agree? Substantiate. [2010, 20m]
4. Discuss the major constitutional developments in India after 1858 and their impact on society and polity. [2021, 20 Marks]

The Indian Councils Act 1909 (The Minto-Morley Reforms)

1. The Reforms of 1909 introduced 'a cardinal problem and ground of controversy at every revision of the Indian electoral system.' Comment. [1982, 20m]

The Government of India Act, 1919 (Montague-Chelmsford reform)

1. Explain the main features of Mont-Ford Reforms. How far did they implement the policy of administrative devolution? [1983, 60m]
2. "Dyarchy was Introduced with high hopes and it must be said that, on a theoretical analysis and if worked under ideal conditions, it is not without merits." Comment. [1988, 20m]
3. Diarchy provided by the Mont-Ford Reforms "certainly created suspicion without the frictions within." Comment. [1995, 20m]

4. The Montague Declaration (20 August 1917) was observed more closely in the "realm of imperial relations" than anything else. Comment. [1998, 20m]
5. "Montague-Chelmsford reform proposals introduced 'dyarchy', but blurred the lines of responsibility." Critically examine. [2014, 10m]
6. Could Dyarchy (1919) satisfy the national sentiments of the Indians? [2018, 10 Marks]

The Government of India Act of 1935

1. Explain the attitude of the Indian National Congress towards the constitutional changes of 1909, 1919 and 1935. [1998, 60m]
2. "Though the Act of 1919 was superseded by that of 1935, the preamble to the former was not repealed- the preservation of the smile of Cheshire cat after its disappearance, and the latter said nothing about dominion status." Comment. [2013, 25m]
3. "Although the Government of India Act of 1935 replaced diarchy with provincial autonomy, the overriding powers of the Governor diluted the spirit of autonomy." Elucidate. [2015, 10m]
4. Is it justified to say that the Government of India Act of 1935 had all brakes, but no engine? [2019, 20 Marks]

Relationship between British Crown and Princes

1. "If the paramount power cast its imperial cloak over the princes, it was also entitled to see that what was sheltered was in the main creditable." Comment.
2. "The relations of the Native States, however conducted are essentially relations with the British Crown and not with the Indian Government." Comment. [1991, 20m]
3. Review the relations of the Government of India with Indian States in the period 1858-1918 with particular reference to the cases where the doctrine of paramount was asserted by the Government. [1983, 60m]
4. "It is sometimes asked by Ruling Chiefs, as well as by the public in India and in Europe what our policy towards Native States is. I can tell you that the basis of the policy was laid in Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858 and repeated in the Coronation message of His Majesty the King Emperor." Comment. [1986, 20m]

11. Other strands in the National Movement

- (i) The Revolutionaries: Bengal, the Punjab, Maharashtra, U.P, the Madras Presidency, Outside India.
- (ii) The Left; The Left within the Congress: Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, the Congress Socialist Party; the Communist Party of India, other left parties.
- (iii) Other aspects

11. Other strands in the National Movement

The Revolutionaries: Bengal, the Punjab, Maharashtra, U.P, the Madras Presidency, Outside India

1. Discuss the nature, methods and activities of the Terrorist Revolutionary Movement and assess its place in India's Freedom Struggle. [1979, 60m]
2. Examine the causes of the rise and progress of revolutionary movements in India from 1905 to 1931. [2003, 60m]
3. Describe the changing nature of revolutionary activities in India between 1905 - 1946. [2008, 60m]
4. "The very idea of the bomb and the secret society, and of propoganda through action and sacrifice were import from the West." Critically examine. [2015, 10m]
5. Trace the origin of the Ghadar movement and discuss its impact on the revolutionaries in India. [2017, 20m]
6. In the first decade of the 20th century, the atmosphere was ripe for the emergence of revolutionary groups to fill up the vacant space in the political map of the country. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]
7. Analyse how the revolutionaries taught people self confidence and widened the social base of the freedom movement. [2022, 10 Marks]

The Left; The Left within the Congress: Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, the Congress Socialist Party; the Communist Party of India, other left parties.

1. Assess the role of the Left Wing within the Indian National Congress between 1920 and 1947. [1981, 60m]

2. Account for the rise and growth of Left-wing within the Congress. Did Jawaharlal Nehru believe in a socialistic approach to Indian and world problems and if so why? [1986, 60m]
3. 'The National Movement has shown concern for problems other than the constitutional one.' Discuss the factors that helped the rise of a left wing in the Indian National Congress. [1990, 60m]
4. Account for the rise and growth of leftism in the Congress movement. What impact did it have on contemporary Indian politics? [1997, 60m]
5. Discuss the nature of the leadership and programme of the Congress Socialist party. [2002, 60m]
6. "The ideology of Subhash Chandra Bose was a combination of nationalism, fascism and communism." Comment. [2002, 20m]
7. Account for the emergence of the left-wing within the congress. How far did it influence the programme and policy of the congress? [2006, 60m]
8. The emergence of left-wing group in the congress radicalized its social economic agenda." Critically evaluate. [2011, 20m]
9. A powerful left-wing group developed in India in the late 1920s and 1930s, contributing to the radicalization of national movement." Critically Examine. [2015, 10m]
10. Underline the growth of various forms of Socialist ideologies in the Indian National Movement between World War I and II. [2018, 20 Marks]
11. Assess the role of Subas Chandra Bose in India's struggle for independence. [2019, 20 Marks]
12. "The Trade Union Movement in India not only supported the call for national struggle at critical junctures, but also impacted its course and character in several ways." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]
13. The rise of Communist Movement in India in the 1920s lent a militant and revolutionary content to the Trade Union Movement. Critically examine. [2021, 10 Marks]

The people's movement in Indian States

1. Trace the course of the people's movement in Indian States after 1937. How did the Congress leadership react to it? [1996, 60m]

Others

1. At different periods and at various levels, the National Movement assumed social, cultural and economic dimensions. Amplify. [1988, 60m]

12. Politics of Separatism and Independence

- (i) The Muslim League; the Hindu Mahasabha; Communalism and the politics of partition;
 - (ii) Transfer of power; Independence.
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12. Politics of Separatism and Independence

1. Analyze the circumstances, between 1942 and 1947, that led to freedom and partition of India. [1979, 60m]
2. Write a critical note on: "Gandhiji's role in solving the communal problem." [1981, 20m]
3. Examine the main aspects of Muslim League politics from 1937 to 1947. Was the partition of the country unavoidable? [1989, 60m]
4. "Lord Mountbatten came with an order to organise retreat, in military parlance an operation." Comment. [1990, 20m]
5. "Please remember, in granting separate electorates, we are sowing dragon's teeth the harvest will be bitter." Comment. [1992, 20m]
6. "Mountbatten's task was, therefore, merely to work out details and effect the partition, demanded by the League and accepted by both British Government and the Congress; and this the new Viceroy moved commandingly to perform." Comment. [1993, 20m]
7. "To glorify the strength of the Congress and deny that of the League is to be blind." (P.C. Joshi, 1945). Comment. [1994, 20m]
8. "The Pakistan movement converted a cultural and religious entity of a people into a separatist political force." Elucidate. [1996, 60m]
9. "Both freedom and partition were the work of Indian middle classes." Comment. [1998, 20m]
10. Trace the origin and growth of the Indian Muslim League. [1999, 60m]
11. "We are therefore unable to advise the British Government that the power which at present resides in British hands should be handed over to two entirely separate sovereign States." Comment. [2004, 60m]
12. "I felt that if we did not accept partition, India would be split into many bits and would be ruined." Comment. [2006, 20m]

13. "Please remember, in granting separate electorates we are sowing the dragon's teeth and harvest will be bitter." Comment. [2009, 20m]

14. Discuss as to why the congress accepted the partition of India in 1947. [2009, 30m]

15. "Why did the British finally quit India on 15th August 1947? The Imperialist answer is that independence was simply the fulfilment of British self-appointed mission to assist the Indian people to self-government." Examine. [2014, 20m]

16. Critically examine the turns and twists in the politics of partition in 1930's and 1940's. [2018, 20 Marks]

17. "Based on his discussion with Indian leaders, as well as his own perception, Lord Mountbatten soon came to the conclusion that partition was the only practicable and feasible solution." Critically examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Others

1. To what extent did the Freedom Movement in India influence the Liberation Movement in Africa? [2014, 10m]

13. Consolidation as a Nation

- (i) Nehru's Foreign Policy; India and her neighbours (1947-1964);
- (ii) The linguistic reorganisation of States (1935-1947); Regionalism and regional inequality;
- (iii) The Question of National Language;
- (iv) Integration of Princely States;
- (v) Princes in electoral politics.

13. Consolidation as a Nation

Nehru's Foreign Policy; India and her neighbours (1947-1964)

1. Jawaharlal Nehru was the architect of India's policy of non-alignment. In the light of this statement discuss India's relations with the two 'Power Blocks' between 1947-1964. [2001, 60m]
2. Analyse Indian foreign policy of Non-alignment between 1947 and 1964. [2004, 60m]
3. Would you agree that India's effort to pursue an independent foreign policy was a highlight of post-1947 politics? [2011, 30m]
4. "Nehru's policy of Non-Alignment came to symbolised the struggle of India and other newly independent nations to retain and strengthen their independence from colonialism." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10m]
- 5 "After Indian Independence India-China relations started on a high note, but during the course of the coming years India had to face a bitter experience due to the Chinese aggression." Elaborate. [2020, 20 Marks]
6. In the light of contentions over the McMahon Line, analyse the India-China relations in the 1950s and 1960s. [2022, 20 Marks]

The linguistic reorganisation of States (1935-1947); Regionalism and regional inequality

1. "The reorganization resulted in rationalizing the political map of India without seriously weakening its unity. If anything, its result has been functional, in as much as it removed what had been a major source of discord, and created homogeneous political units which could be administered through a medium that vast majority of the population understood. Indeed,

it can be said with the benefit of hindsight that language, rather than being a force for division has proved a cementing and integrating influence." Examine. [2013, 25m]

2. "States's reorganization did not, of course, resolve all the problems relating to linguistic conflicts." Critically examine. [2018, 10 Marks]

3. "The Reorganisation of the states on the basis of language was major aspects of national consolidation and integration." Comment. [2020, 10 Marks]

The Question of National Language

No question has been asked from this topic

Integration of Princely States

1. "With great skill and masterful diplomacy and using both persuasion and pressure, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel succeeded in integrating the hundreds of princely states with the Indian Union." Discuss. [2007, 60m]

2. "Sardar Patel accomplished a silent revolution by ensuring the absorption and assimilation of a multitude principalities without shedding even a drop of blood." Elucidate. [2014, 10m]

3. Throw light on the nature of 'Instrument of Accession' and 'Standstill Agreement' signed by the Princely States with the Indian Union. [2017, 10m]

4. How were the Princely States integrated in the Indian Union after the partition? What role did Sardar Patel play in it? [2021, 10 Marks]

Princes in electoral politics

No question has been asked from this topic.

Others

1. "India's need for a federal system was more an imperative than a political choice." Do you agree? [2016, 10m]

14. Caste and Ethnicity after 1947

- (i) Backward castes in post-colonial electoral politics;
- (ii) Tribes in post-colonial electoral politics;
- (iii) Dalit movements.

14. Caste and Ethnicity after 1947

Backward castes in post-colonial electoral politics

No Question has been asked from this topic

Tribes in post-colonial electoral politics

1. "Nehru favored the policy of integrating the tribal people in Indian society, of making them as integral part of the Indian nation even while maintaining their distinct identity and culture." -Elaborate with special reference to Northeastern India. [2012, 30m]

Dalit movements

1. Discuss the factors that led to the growth of Dalit consciousness and mention the major movements aimed at their empowerment. [2010, 30m]

2. "In exercising its exclusive power, the Parliament additionally enacted the Untouchability (Offences) Act in 1955." Comment. [2008, 20m]

4. "Dalit Movements for empowerment in independent India have essentially been for carving out political space through electoral politics." Discuss. [2014, 10m]

5. Analyse various trends in Dalit Movements in various parts of post-independent India. [2018, 20 Marks]

6. Discuss the changing nature of Dalit assertion in India in the twentieth century. [2021, 20 Marks]

15. Economic development and political change

- (i) Land reforms; the politics of planning and rural reconstruction;
- (ii) Ecology and environmental policy in post - colonial India;
- (iii) Progress of science.

15. Economic development and political change

Land reforms; the politics of planning and rural reconstruction

1. "Having won political freedom, India had to win economic and cultural freedom." Comment. [1995, 20m]
2. "Nehru's 'temple of Modern India' consisted not only of steel and power plants, irrigation dams, but included institutions of higher learning, particularly in the scientific field." Elaborate. [2011, 30m]
3. "Notwithstanding the quest of modernity and the antagonism that guided Nehru's attitude towards the inequalities inherent in the social structure in rural India, the congress party did not carry out concerted campaign against discrimination based on caste. Nehru's own perception was that industrial growth was bound to break the stranglehold of this feudal remnant. This however, did not happen in India." Examine. [2013, 25 m]
4. "Jawaharlal Nehru, though a declared socialist, was pragmatist enough to focus on providing building blocks to the making of new India." Examine. [2015, 20m]
5. Trace the development of land reforms in India between 1947 and early 1960's. [2018, 20 Marks]
6. How did the introduction of Community Development Programme and Panchayati Raj promote welfare of rural India? [2019, 10 Marks]
7. Planning was seen as a powerful instrument that could be used to remove regional inequality. Examine. [2020, 10 Marks]

Ecology and environmental policy in post - colonial India

1. "The Chipko became famous as the first major environmental movement in post-colonial India and gave to the understanding that environment issues are often women's issues because they suffer most from its deterioration." – Explain. [2012, 30m]

2. Critically examine the nature and scope of environmental movements in independent India. [2016, 10m]
3. How did the popular movements help us to understand the nature of environmental crisis in post-colonial India ? [2022, 10 Marks]

Progress of science

1. How far the developments in science and technology in post-Independence period put India on the path of modernity. [2017, 20m]

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