

# History Syllabus – Civil Services Mains Exam UPSC

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## History Syllabus – Civil Services Mains Exam UPSC :

UPSC Civil Services Mains Exam Optional Subject consists of 2 papers. Each paper is of 250 marks, making a total of 500 marks.

### PAPER – I

#### 1. Sources:

Archaeological sources:

Exploration, excavation, epigraphy, numismatics, monuments Literary sources:

Indigenous: Primary and secondary; poetry, scientific literature, literature, literature in regional languages, religious literature.

Foreign accounts: Greek, Chinese and Arab writers.

#### 2. Pre-history and Proto-history:

Geographical factors; hunting and gathering (paleolithic and mesolithic); Beginning of agriculture (neolithic and

chalcolithic).

#### 3. Indus Valley Civilization:

Origin, date, extent, characteristics, decline, survival and significance, art and architecture.

#### 4. Megalithic Cultures:

Distribution of pastoral and farming cultures outside the Indus, Development of community life, Settlements, Development of agriculture, Crafts, Pottery, and Iron industry.

#### 5. Aryans and Vedic Period:

Expansions of Aryans in India.

Vedic Period: Religious and philosophic literature; Transformation from Rig Vedic period to the later Vedic period; Political, social and economical life; Significance of the Vedic Age; Evolution of Monarchy and Varna system.

#### 6. Period of Mahajanapadas:

Formation of States (Mahajanapada) : Republics and monarchies; Rise of urban centres; Trade routes; Economic growth; Introduction of coinage; Spread of Jainism and Buddhism; Rise of Magadha and Nandas.

Iranian and Macedonian invasions and their impact.

#### 7. Mauryan Empire:

Foundation of the Mauryan Empire, Chandragupta, Kautilya and Arthashastra; Ashoka; Concept of

Dharma; Edicts; Polity, Administration; Economy; Art, architecture and sculpture; External contacts; Religion; Spread of religion; Literature.

Disintegration of the empire; Sungas and Kanvas.

### **8. Post – Mauryan Period (Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, Western Kshatrapas):**

Contact with outside world; growth of urban centres, economy, coinage, development of religions, Mahayana, social conditions, art, architecture, culture, literature and science.

### **9. Early State and Society in Eastern India, Deccan and South India:**

Kharavela, The Satavahanas, Tamil States of the Sangam Age; Administration, economy, land grants, coinage, trade guilds and urban centres; Buddhist centres; Sangam literature and culture; Art and architecture.

### **10. Guptas, Vakatakas and Vardhanas:**

Polity and administration, Economic conditions, Coinage of the Guptas, Land grants, Decline of urban centres, Indian feudalism, Caste system, Position of women, Education and educational institutions; Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi, Literature, scientific literature, art and architecture.

### **11. Regional States during Gupta Era:**

The Kadambas, Pallavas, Chalukyas of Badami; Polity and Administration, Trade guilds, Literature; growth of Vaishnava and Saiva religions. Tamil Bhakti movement, Shankaracharya; Vedanta; Institutions of temple and temple architecture; Palas, Senas, Rashtrakutas, Paramaras, Polity and administration; Cultural aspects. Arab conquest of Sind; Alberuni, The Chalukyas of Kalyana, Cholas, Hoysalas, Pandyas; Polity and Administration; local Government; Growth of art and architecture, religious sects, Institution of temple and Mathas, Agraharas, education and literature, economy and society.

### **12. Themes in Early Indian Cultural History:**

Languages and texts, major stages in the evolution of art and architecture, major philosophical thinkers and schools, ideas in Science and Mathematics.

### **13. Early Medieval India, 750-1200:**

- Polity: Major political developments in Northern India and the Peninsula, origin and the rise of Rajputs – The Cholas: administration, village economy and society
- “Indian Feudalism”
- Agrarian economy and urban settlements
- Trade and commerce
- Society: the status of the Brahman and the new social order
- Condition of women
- Indian science and technology

### **14. Cultural Traditions in India, 750-1200:**

- Philosophy: Shankaracharya and Vedanta, Ramanuja and Vishishtadvaita, Madhva and Brahma-Mimansa

- Religion: Forms and features of religion, Tamil devotional cult, growth of Bhakti, Islam and its arrival in India, Sufism
- Literature: Literature in Sanskrit, growth of Tamil literature, literature in the newly developing languages, Kalhan's Rajtarangini, Alberuni's India
- Art and Architecture: Temple architecture, sculpture, painting

### **15. The Thirteenth Century:**

- Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate: The Ghurian invasions – factors behind Ghurian success – Economic, social and cultural consequences
- Foundation of Delhi Sultanate and early Turkish Sultans – Consolidation: The rule of Iltutmish and Balban

### **16. The Fourteenth Century:**

- “The Khalji Revolution”
- Alauddin Khalji: Conquests and territorial expansion, agrarian and economic measures
- Muhammad Tughluq: Major projects, agrarian measures, bureaucracy of Muhammad Tughluq
- Firuz Tughluq: Agrarian measures, achievements in civil engineering and public works, decline of the Sultanate, foreign contacts and Ibn Battuta's account

### **17. Society, Culture and Economy in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries:**

- Society: composition of rural society, ruling classes, town dwellers, women, religious classes, caste and slavery under the Sultanate, Bhakti movement, Sufi movement
- Culture: Persian literature, literature in the regional languages of North India, literature in the languages of South India, Sultanate architecture and new structural forms, painting, evolution of a composite culture
- Economy: Agricultural production, rise of urban economy and non-agricultural production, trade and commerce

### **18. The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century – Political Developments and Economy:**

- Rise of Provincial Dynasties: Bengal, Kashmir (Zainul Abedin), Gujarat, Malwa, Bahmanids
- The Vijayanagra Empire
- Lodis
- Mughal Empire, First phase: Babur and Humayun
- The Sur Empire: Sher Shah's administration
- Portuguese Colonial enterprise
- Bhakti and Sufi Movements

### **19. The Fifteenth and early Sixteenth Century – Society and Culture:**

- Regional cultural specificities – Literary traditions
- Provincial architecture

- Society, culture, literature and the arts in Vijayanagara Empire.

## **20. Akbar:**

- Conquests and consolidation of the Empire
- Establishment of Jagir and Mansab systems
- Rajput policy
- Evolution of religious and social outlook, theory of Sulh-i-kul and religious policy
- Court patronage of art and technology

## **21. Mughal Empire in the Seventeenth Century:**

- Major administrative policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb
- The Empire and the Zamindars
- Religious policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb
- Nature of the Mughal State
- Late Seventeenth century crisis and the revolts
- The Ahom Kingdom
- Shivaji and the early Maratha Kingdom.

## **22. Economy and Society in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries:**

- Population, agricultural production, craft production
- Towns, commerce with Europe through Dutch, English and French companies : a trade revolution – Indian mercantile classes, banking, insurance and credit systems
- Condition of peasants, condition of women
- Evolution of the Sikh community and the Khalsa Panth

## **23. Culture in the Mughal Empire:**

- Persian histories and other literature
- Hindi and other religious literature
- Mughal architecture
- Mughal painting
- Provincial architecture and painting – Classical music
- Science and technology

## **24. The Eighteenth Century:**

- Factors for the decline of the Mughal Empire
- The regional principalities: Nizam's Deccan, Bengal, Awadh
- Maratha ascendancy under the Peshwas
- The Maratha fiscal and financial system
- Emergence of Afghan Power, Battle of Panipat:1761
- State of politics, culture and economy on the eve of the British conquest

## **PAPER – II**

### **1. European Penetration into India:**

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

### **2. British Expansion in India:**

Bengal – Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim; The Battle of Buxar; Mysore; The Marathas; The three Anglo-Maratha Wars; The Punjab.

### **3. Early Structure of the British Raj:**

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

### **4. Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule:**

**(a)** Land revenue settlements in British India; The Permanent Settlement; Ryotwari Settlement; Mahalwari Settlement; Economic impact of the revenue arrangements; Commercialization of agriculture; Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society.

**(b)** Dislocation of traditional trade and commerce; De-industrialisation; Decline of traditional crafts; Drain of wealth; Economic transformation of India; Railroad and communication network including telegraph and postal services; Famine and poverty in the rural interior; European business enterprise and its limitations.

### **5. Social and Cultural Developments:**

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

education in India; The rise of press, literature and public opinion; The rise of modern vernacular literature; Progress of science; Christian missionary activities in India.

### **6. Social and Religious Reform movements in Bengal and Other Areas:**

Ram Mohan Roy, The Brahmo Movement; Devendranath Tagore; Iswarchandra Vidyasagar; The Young Bengal Movement; Dayanada Saraswati; The social reform movements in India including Sati, widow remarriage, child marriage etc.; The contribution of Indian renaissance to the growth of modern

India; Islamic revivalism – the Feraizi and Wahabi Movements.

## **7. Indian Response to British Rule:**

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); The Great Revolt of 1857 – Origin, character, causes of failure, the consequences; The shift in the character of peasant uprisings in the post-1857 period; the peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930s.

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

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

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

**11.** Other strands in the National Movement. The Revolutionaries: Bengal, the Punjab, Maharashtra, U.P, the Madras Presidency, Outside India. The Left; The Left within the Congress: Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, the Congress Socialist Party; the Communist Party of India, other left parties.

**12.** Politics of Separatism; the Muslim League; the Hindu Mahasabha; Communalism and the politics of partition; Transfer of power; Independence.

**13.** Consolidation as a Nation; Nehru's Foreign Policy; India and her neighbours (1947-1964); The linguistic reorganization of States (1935-1947); Regionalism and regional inequality; Integration of Princely States; Princes in electoral politics; the Question of National Language.

**14.** Caste and Ethnicity after 1947; Backward castes and tribes in postcolonial electoral politics; Dalit movements.

**15.** Economic development and political change; Land reforms; the politics of planning and rural reconstruction; Ecology and environmental policy in post – colonial India; Progress of science.

## **16. 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.

## **17. Origins 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.

#### **18. Industrialization:**

- (i) English Industrial Revolution: Causes and Impact on Society
- (ii) Industrialization in other countries: USA, Germany, Russia, Japan (iii) Industrialization and Globalization.

#### **19. Nation-State System:**

- (i) Rise of Nationalism in 19th century
- (ii) Nationalism: state-building in Germany and Italy
- (iii) Disintegration of Empires in the face of the emergence of nationalities across the world.

#### **20. 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.

#### **21. 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

#### **22. 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

#### **23. 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.

#### **24. Liberation from Colonial Rule:**

- (i) Latin America-Bolivar

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

**25. Decolonization and Underdevelopment:**

- (i) Factors constraining development: Latin America, Africa

**26. Unification of Europe:**

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

**27. 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.

End of the cold war and US ascendancy in the World as the lone superpower.