



I have segregated all the 94 questions of **UPSC Mains GS-1 History 2013-2025** and arranged them subject-wise and topic-wise. Main theme of each question is marked in bold. Repeated themes are marked in red.

Syllabus Topic	Number of Questions Asked
Literature	5
Art	6
Architecture	9
Ancient/IVC	9
Medieval	4
Freedom Struggle	35
Post-independence	10
World History	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>

#### Literature:

Q1: Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the **Sangam** literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment. (2013)

Q2: Krishnadeva Raya, the king of **Vijayanagar**, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. (2016)

Q3: **Persian** literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. (2020)

Q4: Evaluate the nature of the **Bhakti** Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. (2021)

Q5: Estimate the contribution of **Pallavas** of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. (2024)

#### Art:

Q1: Discuss the **Tandava** dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. (2013).

Q2: How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the **Gupta** numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? (2017)

Q3: Safeguarding the **Indian art heritage** is the need of the moment. Comment (2018)

Q4: Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in **Gandhara art**. (2019)

Q5: **Indian Philosophy and tradition** played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the **monuments and their art** in India. Discuss. (2020)

Q6: Discuss the main contributions of **Gupta** period and **Chola** period to Indian **Heritage and Culture**. (2022)

#### Architecture:

Q1: **Chola** architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of **temple architecture**. Discuss. (2013)

Q2: **Gandhara sculpture** owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. (2014)



Q3: **Mesolithic rock cut architecture** of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. (2015)

Q4: Early **Buddhist Stupa-art**, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. (2016)

Q5: The **rock-cut architecture** represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (2020)

Q6: How will you explain that **medieval Indian temple sculptures** represent the social life of those days? (2022)

Q7: Discuss the significance of the lion and Bull figures in **Indian Mythology art and architecture**. (2022)

Q8: "Though the great **Cholas** are no more yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of **art and architecture**". Comment. (2024)

Q9: The sculptors filled the **Chandela artform** with resilient vigor and breadth of life. Elucidate.

**[Click here for May 2025 onwards Current Affairs Notes segregated Paper-wise as under:](#)**

History

Geography

Society

Polity

Governance

International Relations

Economy

Agriculture

Science

Environment

Security

Misc –  
Personalities,  
Sports, Awards  
etc

**Ancient/IVC:**

Q1: To what extent has the **urban planning and culture** of the **Indus Valley Civilization** provided inputs to the present day urbanization? (2014)

Q2: **Taxila university** was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss. (2014)

Q3: The **ancient civilization in Indian sub-continent** differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without breakdown to the present day. Comment. (2015)

Q4: Assess the importance of the accounts of the **Chinese and Arab travellers** in the reconstruction of the history of India. (2018)

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Q5: **Pala** period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. (2020)

Q6: Explain the role of **geographical factors** towards the development of Ancient India. (2023)

Q7: What are the main features of **Vedic society and religion**? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? (2023)

Q8: Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the **Rig Vedic to the later Vedic** period. (2024)

Q9: Discuss the salient features of the **Harappan architecture**. (2025)

#### **Medieval:**

Q1: The third **battle of Panipat** was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? (2014)

Q2: The **Bhakti movement** received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. (2018)

Q3: What were the major technological changes introduced during the **Sultanate period**? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society? (2023)

Q4: Examine the main aspects of **Akbar's religious syncretism**. (2025)

#### **Freedom Struggle:**

Q1: Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the **Indian women** became the torch bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. (2013)

Q2: Several **foreigners** made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. (2013)

Q3: In many ways, Lord **Dalhousie** was the founder of modern India. Elaborate. (2013)

Q4: **Sufis and medieval mystic saints** failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu / Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. (2014)

Q5: Examine critically the various facets of **economic policies of the British** in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence. (2014)

Q6: In what ways did the **naval mutiny** prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? (2014)

Q7: What were the major political, economic and social **developments in the world** which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? (2014)

Q8: How difficult would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma **Gandhi**? Discuss. (2015)

Q9: Mahatma **Gandhi** and Dr. B R **Ambedkar**, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. (2015)

Q10: It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years, but its experience gained with the **Government of India Act, 1935**. Discuss. (2015)



Q11: Explain how the uprising of **1857** constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. (2016)

Q12: Discuss the role of **women** in the freedom struggle especially during the **Gandhian** phase. (2016)

Q13: Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra **Bose** and Mahatma **Gandhi** in the struggle for freedom. (2016)

Q14: Why did the '**Moderates**' fail to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? (2017)

Q15: Examine how the decline of traditional **artisanal industry** in colonial India crippled the rural economy. (2017)

Q16: Highlight the importance of the new **objectives** that got added to the vision of Indian Independence **since the twenties of the last century**. (2017)

Q17: The **women's** questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th-century **social reform movement**. What are the major issues and debates concerning women in that period? (2017)

Q18: Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the spectre of a **fragmented polity**. (2017)

Q19: Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma **Gandhi** in the present times. (2018)

Q20: The **1857** Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate (2019)

Q21: Examine the linkages between the 19th century '**Indian Renaissance**' and the emergence of national identity. (2019)

Q22: Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the **Gandhian** phase. Elaborate. (2019)

Q23: Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of **transfer of power** during the 1940s. (2019)

Q24: Evaluate the policies of Lord **Curzon** and their long term implications on the national movements. (2020)

Q25: Since the **decade of the 1920s**, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. (2020)

**Various successful candidates of UPSC CSE-24 were part of Ethics/Essay Modules & Other Initiatives. Some of them, with their clickable feedback, are AIR-2, 28, [32](#), [35](#), 53, [54](#), [55](#), 57, [61](#), 72, [91](#), [119](#), [217](#), 219, 247, 256, [261](#), 287, [299](#), 328, 351, 450, 525, 579, 590, 728, 813, 871, 905 etc.**

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Q26: Trace the rise and growth of **socio-religious reform movements** with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj. (2021)

Q27: To what extent did the role of the **moderates** prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. (2021)

Q28: Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma **Gandhi** during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. (2021)

Q29: Why did the armies of the **British East India company** – mostly comprising of Indian soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped **armies of then Indian rulers**? Give reasons. (2022)

Q30: Why was there a sudden spurt in **famines** in colonial India since the mid-18th century? Give reasons. (2022)

Q31: What was the difference between Mahatma **Gandhi** and Rabindranath **Tagore** in their approach towards education and nationalism? (2023)

Q32: How did the colonial rule affect the **tribals** in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? (2023)

Q33: What were the events that led to the **Quit India Movement**? Point out its results. (2024)

Q34: How far was the **Industrial Revolution** in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India? (2024)

Q35: Mahatma **Jotirao Phule's writings and efforts** of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss. (2025)

#### Post Independence:

Q1: Critically discuss the objectives of **Bhoodan and Gramdan** movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. (2013)

Q2: Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan “**Jai Jawana Jai Kisan**”. (2013)

Q3: Discuss the contribution of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** to pre-and post independent India. (2013)

Q4: Analyze the circumstances that led to **Tashkent** Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the agreement. (2013)

Q5: Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive roles in the emergence of **Bangladesh**. (2013)

Q6: Has the formation of **linguistic states** strengthened the cause of Indian unity? (2016)

Q7: Discuss whether the **formation of new states** in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. (2018)

Q8: Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian **Princely States**. (2021)



Q9: The political and administrative **reorganization of states** and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. (2022)

Q10: Trace **India's consolidation process** during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations. (2025)

#### World History:

Q1: "Latecomer" **Industrial revolution** in **Japan** involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had experience. (2013)

Q2: **Africa** was chopped into states artificially created by accident of European competition. Analyse. (2013)

Q3: **American Revolution** was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate. (2013)

Q4: What policy instruments were deployed to contain the **great economic depression**? (2013)

Q5: What were the events that led to the **Suez Crisis** in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain's self-image as a world power? (2014)

Q6: The **New Economic Policy – 1921** of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. (2014)

Q7: Why did the **industrial revolution** first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present times? (2015)

Q8: To what extend can **Germany** be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically. (2015)

Q9: The anti-colonial struggles in **West Africa** were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine. (2016)

Q10: What problems are germane to the decolonization process in **the Malay Peninsula**? (2017)

Q11: Why **indentured labour** was taken by the British from India to their colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? (2018)

Q12: Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the **American and French Revolutions**. (2019)

Q13: There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System **between the two World Wars**. Evaluate the statement. (2021)

Q14: Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of **railways** in different countries of the world. (2023)

Q15: How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of **balance of power**? (2024)

Q16: The **French Revolution** has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain. (2025)



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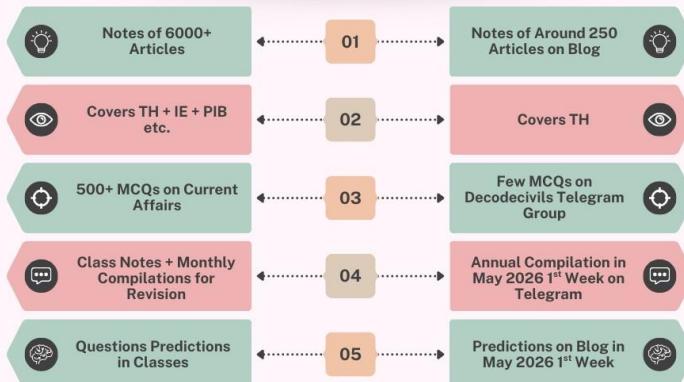
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### Current Affairs Course is now Live.

Course will start in October 2025 1st week.

Modules will include class notes, monthly compilation, quarter compilation and annual compilation. This will help in regular revision r/t in the fag-end of preparation.

I will provide my annual compilation, like last year, on Telegram in May 1st week.

[Last year I had promised 20 questions in Prelims from my notes & 28+ Questions could be answered from the same.](#)

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