



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)



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)

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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 extent 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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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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