

Modern India
2024: Handout 1
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Syllabus:

Prelims Paper I	Main Examination: General Studies I
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Current Affairs (Events) of national and international importance.2. <u>History of India and Indian National Movement.</u>3. Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.4. Indian Polity and Governance – Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.5. Economic and Social Development – Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc.6. General issues on Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change: that do not require subject specialization.7. General Science	<p>Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Indian Culture - Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.2. <u>Modern Indian History from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.</u>3. <u>The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.</u>4. Post-independence Consolidation and Reorganization within the country.5. History of the World will include events from 18th century such as Industrial Revolution, world wars, Redrawing of National Boundaries, Colonization, Decolonization, political philosophies like Communism, Capitalism, Socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.

Mains PYQs – Thematic Division

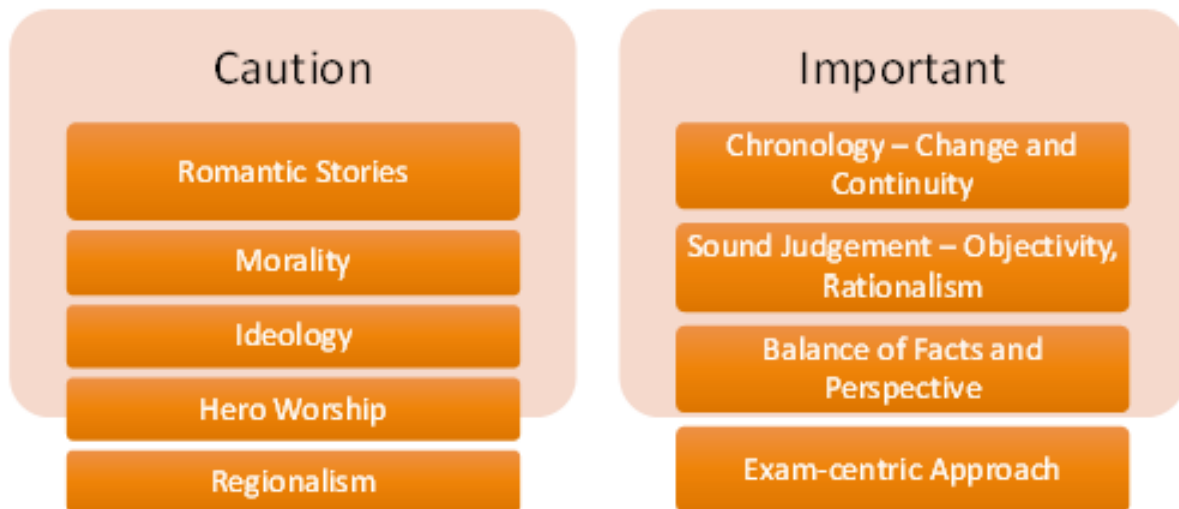
18th Century India	
The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat?	2014
Clarify how mid-eighteenth-century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity.	2017
Colonization	
Why did the armies of the British East India Company – mostly comprising of Indian soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the then Indian rulers? Give reasons.	2022
Colonialism – British Economic and other Policies	
In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate.	2013
Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence.	2014
Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy.	2017
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
Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons.	2022
Colonialism – Socio-Religious Reform Movements	
The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What were the major issues and debates concerning women in that period?	2017
Examine the linkages between 19th centuries 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity.	2019
Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj.	2021
Revolts and Rebellions – 1857	
Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India.	2016
The 1857 Uprising was the culmination the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate.	2019
National Movement – Early Phases	
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
Evaluate the policies of lord Curzon and their long-term implications on the national movement.	2020
Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian independence since twenties of the last century.	2017
Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss.	2020
To what extent did the role of the Moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment.	2021

National Movement – Gandhi and others	
How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss.	2015
Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate.	2015
Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.	2016
Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times.	2018
Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement.	2021
National Movement – Sections	
Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom.	2013
Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torch bearer during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss.	2013
Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.	2016
Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase.	2019
National Movement – Final Phase	
In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India?	2014
Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s.	2019
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 for the experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935. Discuss.	2015

List of NCERTs

	New	Old
Ancient India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Past I – Class 6 • Themes in Indian History 1 – Class 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS Sharma (republished by Oxford) • Makkhan Lal
Medieval India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Past II – Class 7 • Themes in Indian History 2 – Class 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satish Chandra (republished by Orient Blackswan) • Romila Thapar • Meenakshi Jain
Art and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Introduction to Indian Art Part I – Class 11 • An Introduction to Indian Art Part II – Class 12 • Living Craft Traditions of India – Class 11 • Craft Traditions of India – Class 12 	
Modern India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Pasts III – Part 1 – Class 8 • Our Pasts III – Part 2 – Class 8 • Themes in Indian History 3 – Class 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Science I – Class 8 – Arjun Dev • Modern India – Bipin Chandra (republished by Orient Blackswan)
Post-Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politics in India Since Independence – Class 12 	
World History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary World – Class 9 • Contemporary World – Class 10 • Contemporary World Politics – Class 12 • India and the Contemporary World – I • India and the Contemporary World – II • Themes in World History – Class 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story of Civilization Part I – Arjun Dev • Story of Civilization Part II – Arjun Dev • History of the World – Arjun Dev (republished by Orient Blackswan)

Approach to the study of Modern India



Part I – History of Early Modern Era upto 18th c

(A) Early Modern Era (16th to 18th c)

- Europe - Political, Social, Economic
- Advent of Europeans
 - Nature of Asian Trade
 - Portuguese, Dutch, British, French - factories locations, policies
 - Carnatic Wars
- Why did mercantile companies move towards political power?

(B) First half of 18th century:

- Mughal disintegration
- Emergence of regional States: Variety of types
- Foreign invasions - Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah
- Expansion of Marathas and the Third Battle of Panipat
- Dark Age?

Second half of the 18th century:

- From Company to State - Success of British in Bengal: Plassey and Buxar
- Conquest of Mysore, Maratha, Punjab
- Nature of British Conquest

Part II – Phases of Colonization

Phase	Mercantile Phase (1757-1813)	Industrial Phase (1813-1858)	Financial Phase (1858-onwards)
Overall Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monopoly Trade Maximize revenue to finance Indian trade and commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To convert India as a market for British manufactured goods and supplier of raw material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To open India for British investment To avert situation of great revolt of 1857
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ring-fence policy, Subsidiary Alliance Conquest of Bengal and Mysore, Two Anglo-Maratha Wars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annexationism: Third Anglo-Maratha War, Mysore, Punjab Dalhousie: Doctrine of Lapse Great Game: Frontier/Buffer states (Nepal, Burma, NE, Sindh, Afghanistan, Sikkim etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company to Crown No more annexationism, respecting treaties Indirect expansion: Paramountcy
Admin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain old Mughal structure with modifications: Clive Dyarchy, Hastings/Cornwallis attempted some judicial reforms, civil service reforms. Regulating Act (1773), Pitts India Act (1784) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Overhaul L&O: Thuggee, Pindaris Europeanization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Law, Penal Code, Application of British laws Civil Service, Army, Judiciary etc Charter Acts: 1813, 1833, 1853 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the grip without antagonizing people. Administrative reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1861 Act - Power sharing Statutory Civil Service, ICS, Police Act 1861, Military Reforms Local Self Government Lytton, Ripon and Curzon

Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in BoT: Stop Bullion Import, Revenue investment, Origin of DoW • Decline in Handicraft • Zamindari/Permanent settlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryotwari, Mahalwari bypassing zamindars • Commercialisation of agriculture: Opium, Indigo, Cotton etc • Deindustrialization • Railways, Telegraph • Intensified DoW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial investment → DoW even more intense after 1857 • Plantation Economy • Railway, Telegraph, Canals • Long list of Famines • Rise of modern industries
Social-cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-interference to avoid cost and not to antagonize people. • Orientalism: William Jones' Asiatic Society, Wellesley's Fort Williams College, Translations, study of History and languages, codification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberalism, Utilitarianism • Indomania → Indophobia • Civilizing Mission: Social change through legislation and English education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-interference as far as possible. Social reform only under popular pressure. • Racial discrimination • Communal Policies: Divide and Rule

Part III – Nationalism and Freedom Movement

- What is nationalism?
- Nature of Indian nationalism
- Proto Nationalist Resistance: initial sparkles
 - Peasants Movements + Tribal Revolts
 - Nature: Before and after 1857
 - List: Names, Leaders, Sequence
 - Great Revolt 1857
- Modern Nationalism
 - 19th c Socio-religious reform movement --> consciousness of being one nation.
 - Growing political consciousness (1885-1907)
 - History of Press and role of Literature
 - Formation of INC
 - Impact of western elements - Moderate phase of Congress -
 - Larger impact of past and culture - Extremist phase
 - Lord Curzon and Swadeshi Movement
 - Calcutta session and Surat split
 - National Movement (1907-1914)
 - Moderates lost credibility, extremists disintegrated.
 - Rise of revolutionary nationalism in India
 - Act of 1909
 - British policy of divide and rule, formation of Muslim League
 - World War I (1914-1919)
 - Home Rule
 - Revolutionary Movement outside India
 - Lucknow Unity
 - Impact of WW1
 - Act of 1919
 - Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919)
 - National Movement (1920-1929):
 - Popular Gandhian phase
 - Khilafat and NCM
 - Internal conflict within INC (split avoided)
 - Swarajist movement
 - No changers and the Village Reconstruction Program
 - Progress of Nationalism
 - Revival of Revolutionary Politics: HRA, HSRA
 - Simon Commission, Nehru Report, Lahore Session and Purna Swaraj, Karachi Session
 - Peasant Movements (Eka movement, Bardoli etc)
 - Working class movements, formation of CPI
 - Progress of communalism
 - Jinnah and Delhi Declaration (14 points)
 - Formation of Hindu Mahasabha and RSS

- National Movement (1929-35)
 - CDM and Round Table Conferences
 - Gandhi's Harijan program, Ambedkar, Poona Pact
 - Impact of Great Depression: Peasants, workers, capitalists
 - Rise of Socialism
- National Movement (1935-45)
 - 1935 Act
 - Election of 1937, Congress Ministries of 27 months
 - India's participation in WW2: Congress negotiation and opposition
 - Gandhi's re-entry in politics: August offer (1940), Individual Satyagraha (1940)
 - Cripps Mission (1942) and QIM (leaders, nature, parallel governments)
 - Progress of communalism
 - Closeness between Jinnah and British
 - Jinnah received veto power in return of support - used in Wavell Plan (1945)
 - INA and Subhash Chandra Bose
- Freedom with Partition (1945-47)
 - End of WW2 and decline of the British Empire
 - Change in British Policy
 - Rejection of partition and Cabinet Mission
 - Formation of Interim Government (1946)
 - Change in ML Policy, Direct Action
 - INA Movement, RIN Mutiny etc
 - Atlee Declaration, Mountbatten Plan, Radcliffe Commission, Freedom with Partition