



Mains Practice Question

Q. What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? (150 Words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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Approach

- Begin your answer with a brief introduction to Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.
- Discuss ideological differences between Mahatma Gandhi and Tagore.
- Summarize the key points of your comparison.

Introduction

Gandhi and Tagore, key figures in India's independence, had distinct approaches to education and nationalism, despite a common goal of freedom from British rule.

Body

Differences between Mahatma Gandhi and Tagore:

- **Education:**
 - **Gandhi:** Gandhi believed in the concept of 'Nai Talim' or '**Basic Education**'.
 - He advocated for a holistic education that nurtured practical, intellectual, and moral skills.
 - He promoted **practical education to bridge the elite-mass divide**.
 - **Tagore:** Tagore advocated a **more liberal and cosmopolitan education**.
 - He **founded Shantiniketan** to promote arts, creativity, and cultural integration.
 - His philosophy sought to cultivate well-rounded individuals who could value and enrich the world's diverse cultures.
- **Nationalism:**
 - **Gandhi:** His nationalism was **characterized by non-violence and 'Satyagraha'**.
 - Gandhi's nationalism was deeply rooted in the idea of self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and Swaraj.
 - He promoted the idea of boycotting British goods and institutions as a way to weaken British rule.
 - **Tagore:** Tagore's approach was **more cosmopolitan and less confrontational**.
 - He envisioned a **nationalism beyond borders**, focusing on cultural unity and harmony.
 - He saw India's heritage as a bridge between East and West and believed nationalism should unite, not isolate, India within global civilization.

Conclusion

While Gandhi focused on practical education and non-violence, shaping his nationalism. On the other hand, Tagore, with a liberal approach, had a universalistic view of nationalism.

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