



**Drishti IAS**

# UPSC MAINS TEST SERIES 2025

## HISTORY (Optional Subject)

Available in **English & Hindi** Medium

**STARTING : 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

**Total 16 Tests**

**8 Sectional**

**8 Full Syllabus**

Available in **Online** and **Offline** Mode

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### **Salient Features**

- The language-style and nature of the questions are in line with the questions asked by the Union Public Service Commission and based on deep understanding and knowledge.
- The topics asked in the question are based on the important and relevant topics asked by the Commission which will be directly and indirectly helpful in the main examination.
- Simple and effective presentation of model answers with interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.
- Emphasis on preparing better answers through illustrations, examples, graphic analysis, etc. required in answer writing by adopting scientific approach.
- Use of only standard books and sources during model answer writing.
- Necessary interval between each test for proper preparation.

Test Code	Date	Syllabus
<b>Test-1 OPT-H-2501</b>	12 January, 2025 (Sunday)	Sources, Pre-history and Proto-history, Indus Valley Civilization, Megalithic Cultures, Aryans and Vedic Period, Period of Mahajanapadas, Mauryan Empire, Post-Mauryan Period
<b>Test-2 OPT-H-2502</b>	19 January, 2025 (Sunday)	Early Medieval India (750 AD-1200 AD), Cultural Traditions in India (750 AD-1200 AD), Delhi Sultanate (13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> Century), Society, Culture and Economy in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries
<b>Test-3 OPT-H-2503</b>	2 February, 2025 (Sunday)	European Penetration into India, British Expansion in India, Early Structure of the British Raj, Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule, Social and Cultural Developments; Social and Religious Reform Movements in Bengal and Other Areas, Indian Response to British Rule, Factors leading to the birth of Indian Nationalism, Rise of Gandhi
<b>Test-4 OPT-H-2504</b>	9 February, 2025 (Sunday)	Enlightenment and Modern ideas, Origins of Modern Politics, Industrialization, Nation-State System; Imperialism and Colonialism, Revolution and Counter-Revolution, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> World Wars, The World after World War II
<b>Test-5 OPT-H-2505</b>	16 February, 2025 (Sunday)	The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century-Political Developments and Economy, The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century- Society and culture, Akbar; Mughal Empire in the Seventeenth Century, Economy and society, in the 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> Centuries, Culture during Mughal Empire, The Eighteenth Century
<b>Test-6 OPT-H-2506</b>	2 March, 2025 (Sunday)	Early State and Society in Eastern India, Deccan and South India, Guptas, Vakatakas and Vardhanas, Regional States during Gupta Era, Themes in Early Indian Cultural History

*\*For detailed breakup of syllabus, kindly refer to the subsequent pages.*



Test Code	Date	Syllabus
<b>Test-7</b> <b>OPT-H-2507</b>	9 March, 2025 (Sunday)	Constitutional Developments in the Colonial India, Other strands in the National Movement, politics of Separatism; Consolidation as a Nation; Caste and Ethnicity after 1947; Economic development and political change;
<b>Test-8</b> <b>OPT-H-2508</b>	16 March, 2025 (Sunday)	Liberation from Colonial Rule, Decolonization and Underdevelopment, Unification of Europe, Disintegration of Soviet Union and the Rise of the Unipolar World
<b>Test-9</b> <b>OPT-H-2509</b>	1 June, 2025 (Sunday)	<b>Full Length Paper-I</b>
<b>Test-10</b> <b>OPT-H-2510</b>	15 June, 2025 (Sunday)	<b>Full Length Paper-II</b>
<b>Test-11</b> <b>OPT-H-2511</b>	22 June, 2025 (Sunday)	<b>Full Length Paper-I</b>
<b>Test-12</b> <b>OPT-H-2512</b>	29 June, 2025 (Sunday)	<b>Full Length Paper-II</b>
<b>Test-13</b> <b>OPT-H-2513</b>	13 July, 2025 (Sunday)	<b>Full Length Paper-I</b>
<b>Test-14</b> <b>OPT-H-2514</b>		<b>Full Length Paper-II</b>
<b>Test-15</b> <b>OPT-H-2515</b>	27 July, 2025 (Sunday)	<b>Full Length Paper-I</b>
<b>Test-16</b> <b>OPT-H-2516</b>		<b>Full Length Paper-II</b>



### Test Schedule

Test Code	Test Date	Subject
Test-1 OPT-H-2501	12 January, 2025 (Sunday)	<p><b>Archaeological sources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Archaeological sources: Exploration, excavation, epigraphy, numismatics, monuments. Literary sources, Indigenous: Primary and secondary; poetry, scientific literature, literature, literature in regional languages, religious literature. Foreign account: Greek, Chinese and Arab writers.</li></ul> <p><b>Pre-history and Proto-history</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Geographical factors; hunting and gathering (paleolithic and mesolithic); Beginning of agriculture (neolithic and chalcolithic).</li></ul> <p><b>Indus Valley Civilization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Origin, date, extent, characteristics-decline, survival and significance, art and architecture.</li></ul> <p><b>Megalithic Cultures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Distribution of pastoral and farming cultures outside the Indus, Development of community life, Settlements, Development of agriculture, Crafts, Pottery, and Iron industry.</li></ul> <p><b>Aryans and Vedic Period</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 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.</li></ul> <p><b>Period of Mahajanapadas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 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 Mecedonian invasions and their impact</li></ul> <p><b>Mauryan Empire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 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</li></ul> <p><b>Post-Mauryan Period</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Contact with outside world; growth of urban centres, economy, coinage, development of religions, Mahayana, social conditions, art, architecture, culture, literature and science.</li></ul>
Test-2 OPT-H-2502	19 January, 2025 (Sunday)	<p><b>Early Medieval India (750 AD-1200 AD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Indian science and technology</li><li>● Polity: Major political developments in Northern India and the peninsula, origin and the rise of Rajputs.</li><li>● The Cholas: village economy and society, Indian Feudalism</li></ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agrarian economy and urban settlements</li> <li>● Trade and commerce</li> <li>● Society: the status of the Brahman and the new social order</li> <li>● Condition of women</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Cultural Traditions in India (750 AD-1200 AD)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Philosophy: Skankaracharya and Vedanta, Ramanuja and Vishishtadvaita, Madhva and Brahma-Mimansa.</li> <li>● Religion: Forms and features of religion, Tamil devotional cult, growth of Bhakti, Islam and its arrival in India, Sufism.</li> <li>● Literature: Literature in Sanskrit, growth of Tamil literature, literature in the newly developing languages, Kalhan's Rajtarangini, Alberuni's India.</li> <li>● Art and Architecture: Temple architecture, sculpture, painting.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Delhi Sultanate (13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Century)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate: The Ghurian invasions - factors behind Ghurian success.</li> <li>● Economic, Social and cultural consequences.</li> <li>● Foundation of Delhi Sultanate and early Turkish Sultans.</li> <li>● Consolidation: The rule of Iltutmish and Balban.</li> <li>● The Khalji Revolution.</li> <li>● Alauddin Khalji: Conquests and territorial expansion, agrarian and economic measure.</li> <li>● Muhammad Tughluq: Major projects, agrarian measures, bureaucracy of Muhammad Tughluq.</li> <li>● Firuz Tughluq: Agrarian measures, achievements in civil engineering and public works, decline of the Sultanate, foreign contacts and Ibn Battuta's account</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Society, Culture and Economy in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Society: composition of rural society, ruling classes, town dwellers, women, religious classes, caste and slavery under the Sultanate, Bhakti movement, Sufi movement.</li> <li>● 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.</li> <li>● Economy: Agricultural Production, rise of urban economy and non-agricultural production, trade and commerce.</li> </ul>
<p>Test-3 OPT-H-2503</p>	<p>2 February, 2025 (Sunday)</p>	<p><b><u>European Penetration into India</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>British Expansion in India</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bengal-Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim; The Battle of Buxar; Mysore; The Marathas; The three Anglo-Maratha Wars; The Punjab.</li> </ul>



### **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.

### **Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule**

- 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.
- 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Indian Response to British Rule**

- Peasant movement 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

### **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.

### **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.



<p>Test-4 OPT-H-2504</p>	<p>9 February, 2025 (Sunday)</p>	<p><b><u>Enlightenment and Modern ideas</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Major Ideas of Enlightenment : Kant, Rousseau.</li><li>● Spread of Enlightenment in the colonies.</li><li>● Rise of socialist ideas (up to Marx); spread of Marxian Socialism.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Origins of Modern Politics</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● European States System.</li><li>● American Revolution and the Constitution.</li><li>● French Revolution and Aftermath, 1789-1815.</li><li>● American Civil War with reference to Abraham Lincoln and the abolition of slavery.</li><li>● British Democratic politics, 1815-1850 : Parliamentary Reformers, Free Traders, Chartists.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Industrialization</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● English Industrial Revolution : Causes and Impact on Society.</li><li>● Industrialization in other countries : USA, Germany, Russia, Japan.</li><li>● Industrialization and Globalization.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Nation-State System</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Rise of Nationalism in 19th century.</li><li>● Nationalism : State-building in Germany and Italy.</li><li>● Disintegration of Empires in the face of the emergence of nationalities across the World.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Imperialism and Colonialism</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● South and South-East Asia.</li><li>● Latin America and South Africa.</li><li>● Australia.</li><li>● Imperialism and free trade: Rise of neo-imperialism.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Revolution and Counter-Revolution</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 19<sup>th</sup> Century European revolutions.</li><li>● The Russian Revolution of 1917-1921.</li><li>● Fascist Counter-Revolution, Italy and Germany.</li><li>● The Chinese Revolution of 1949.</li></ul> <p><b><u>World Wars</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars as Total Wars : Societal implications.</li><li>● World War I : Causes and Consequences.</li><li>● World War II : Causes and Consequences.</li></ul> <p><b><u>The World after World War II</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Emergence of Two power blocs.</li><li>● Emergence of Third World and non-alignment.</li><li>● UNO and the global disputes.</li></ul>
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<p>Test-5 OPT-H-2505</p>	<p>16 February, 2025 (Sunday)</p>	<p><b><u>The 15<sup>th</sup> and Early 16<sup>th</sup> Century-Political Developments and Economy</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Rise of Provincial Dynasties : Bengal, Kashmir (Zainul Abedin), Gujarat. — Malwa, Bahmanids.</li><li>● The Vijayanagara Empire.</li><li>● Lodis.</li><li>● Mughal Empire, first phase : Babur, Humayun.</li><li>● The Sur Empire : Sher Shah's administration.</li><li>● Portuguese colonial enterprise</li><li>● Bhakti and Sufi movements</li></ul> <p><b><u>The 15<sup>th</sup> and Early 16<sup>th</sup> Century- Society and culture</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Regional cultures specificities.</li><li>● Literary traditions.</li><li>● Provincial architectural.</li><li>● Society, culture, literature and the arts in Vijayanagara Empire.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Akbar</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Conquests and consolidation of empire.</li><li>● Establishment of jagir and mansab systems.</li><li>● Rajput policy.</li><li>● Evolution of religious and social outlook. Theory of Sulh-i-kul and religious policy.</li><li>● Court patronage of art and technology.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Mughal Empire in the Seventeenth Century</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Major administrative policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb.</li><li>● The Empire and the Zamindars.</li><li>● Religious policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb.</li><li>● Nature of the Mughal State.</li><li>● Late Seventeenth Century crisis and the revolts.</li><li>● The Ahom kingdom.</li><li>● Shivaji and the early Maratha Kingdom.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Economy and society, in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Population Agricultural and craft production.</li><li>● Towns, commerce with Europe through Dutch, English and French companies : a trade revolution.</li><li>● Indian mercantile classes. Banking, insurance and credit systems.</li><li>● Conditions of peasants, Condition of Women.</li><li>● Evolution of the Sikh community and the Khalsa Panth.</li></ul>
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		<p><b><u>Culture during Mughal Empire</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Persian histories and other literature.</li> <li>● Hindi and religious literatures.</li> <li>● Mughal architecture.</li> <li>● Mughal painting.</li> <li>● Provincial architecture and painting.</li> <li>● Classical music.</li> <li>● Science and technology</li> </ul> <p><b><u>The Eighteenth Century</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Factors for the decline of the Mughal Empire.</li> <li>● The regional principalities: Nizam's Deccan, Bengal, Awadh.</li> <li>● Maratha ascendancy under the Peshwas.</li> <li>● The Maratha fiscal and financial system.</li> <li>● Emergence of Afghan power Battle of Panipat, 1761.</li> <li>● State of, political, cultural and economic, on eve of the British conquest.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Test-6 OPT-H-2506</b></p>	<p><b>2 March, 2025 (Sunday)</b></p>	<p><b><u>Early State and Society in Eastern India, Deccan and South India</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Guptas, Vakatakas and Vardhanas</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Regional States during Gupta Era</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Kadambas, Pallavas, Chalukyas of Badami; Polity and Administration, Trade guilds, Literature; growth of Vaishnava and Saiva religions. Tamil Bhakit 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.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Themes in Early Indian Cultural History</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Languages and texts, major stages in the evolution of art and architecture, major philosophical thinkers and schools, ideas in Science and Mathematics.</li> </ul>



<p>Test-7 OPT-H-2507</p>	<p>9 March, 2025 (Sunday)</p>	<p><b>Constitutional Developments in the Colonial India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Constitutional Developments in the Colonial India between 1858 and 1935.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other strands in the National Movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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</li> </ul> <p><b>Politics of Separatism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Muslim League; the Hindu Mahasabha; Communalism and the politics of partition; Transfer of power; Independence.</li> </ul> <p><b>Consolidation as a Nation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nehru's Foreign Policy; India and her neighbours (1947-1964); The linguistic reorganisation of States (1935-1947); Regionalism and regional inequality; Integration of Princely States; Princes in electoral politics; the Question of National Language.</li> </ul> <p><b>Caste and Ethnicity after 1947</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Backward Castes and Tribes in post-colonial electoral politics; Dalit movements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic development and political change;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Land reforms; the politics of planning and rural reconstruction; Ecology and environmental policy in post-colonial India; Progress of Science.</li> </ul>
<p>Test-8 OPT-H-2508</p>	<p>16 March, 2025 (Sunday)</p>	<p><b>Liberation from Colonial Rule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Latin America-Bolivar      ● Arab World-Egypt      ● Africa-Apartheid to Democracy      ● South-East Asia-Vietnam</li> </ul> <p><b>Decolonization and Underdevelopment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Factors constraining Development ; Latin America, Africa</li> </ul> <p><b>Unification of Europe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Post War Foundations ; NATO and European Community.</li> <li>● Consolidation and Expansion of European Community</li> <li>● European Union.</li> </ul> <p><b>Disintegration of Soviet Union and the Rise of the Unipolar World</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Factors leading to the collapse of Soviet Communism and Soviet Union, 1985-1991.</li> <li>● Political Changes in East Europe 1989-2001.</li> <li>● End of the Cold War and US Ascendancy in the World as the lone superpower.</li> </ul>
<p>Test-9 OPT-H-2509</p>	<p>1 June, 2025 (Sunday)</p>	<p>Full Length Paper-I</p>
<p>Test-10 OPT-H-2510</p>	<p>15 June, 2025 (Sunday)</p>	<p>Full Length Paper-II</p>
<p>Test-11 OPT-H-2511</p>	<p>22 June, 2025 (Sunday)</p>	<p>Full Length Paper-I</p>



Test-12 OPT-H-2512	29 June, 2025 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper-II
Test-13 OPT-H-2513	13 July, 2025 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper-I
Test-14 OPT-H-2514		Full Length Paper-II
Test-15 OPT-H-2515	27 July, 2025 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper-I
Test-16 OPT-H-2516		Full Length Paper-II

### UPSC (2024) & Drishti IAS Mains Test Series (History Optional) Comparative Analysis

#### PAPER-I

Test Series (Code)	Question Code	Drishti IAS Test Series Question	UPSC Question Number	UPSC Question	Marks
H-2401 H-2401 H-2409 H-2413	1. (e) 6. (a) 2. (c) 2. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore the key urban characteristics of the Indus Valley Civilization.</li> <li>● In terms of development of art and crafts, the Indus Valley Civilization was one of the most developed civilizations of that time. Discuss.</li> <li>● What is the significance of seals discovered in the Indus Valley and what do they tell us about society?</li> <li>● ‘The Civilization died but the idea continues to flourish till date.’ Explain the statement with reference to the Indus Valley Civilization.</li> </ul>	2. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Harappan art contributes to our understanding of their aesthetic sensibilities in addition to spiritual and ritualistic life. Comment.</li> </ul>	20
H-2401	2. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Megalithic culture should be regarded as a seminal phase in the historical development of peninsular India. Analyze.</li> </ul>	2. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss different types of Megalithic burial practices in India. How far does the archaeological evidence from it help us to know the religious beliefs and cultural practices?</li> </ul>	15

H-2406 H-2409	2. (a) 3. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Buddhism and Jainism emerged under similar circumstances, but reflected both equality and inequality at the level of principles and practice.</li> <li>● How has Buddhism spread and evolved over time, and what are its major cultural and historical impacts in different regions of the world?</li> </ul>	3. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Symbiotic relationships between Buddhist establishments traders, artisan guilds, and royal support led to a close proximity of religion economy and Polity in the Mauryan and post-Mauryan periods. Examine the statement.</li> </ul>	20
H-2411	4. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore the Contents of Ashoka's Dhamma and the reasons for Ashoka's enthusiasm to propagate Dhamma.</li> </ul>	3. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss the role of Buddhism in shaping the socio-religious landscape of Mauryan Empire</li> </ul>	15
H-2409 H-2401	4. (a) 4. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Compare and contrast the early and later Vedic periods in terms of social and political developments. What were the key transitions between the two phases?</li> <li>● Compared to the Rig Veda, later Vedic literature reveals greater complexity in political organization, social life, and economic activities. Analyze.</li> </ul>	3. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss the evolution of State institution and taxation system from Rigvedic and period to later Vedic period.</li> </ul>	15
H-2406	3. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do you agree that "the Indians of the ancient period indulged only in metaphysical things and not in the development of pure Science"?</li> </ul>	4. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Highlight the contributions of Aryabhata, Varahamihira and Brahmagupta in the fields of Astronomy and Mathematics.</li> </ul>	20
H-2406	4. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assessing the educational system in early medieval India, identify important educational institutions of the period.</li> </ul>	4. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Examine the role played by the Agraharas in the promotion of education in the early medieval India.</li> </ul>	15
H-2411	3. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The early medieval period saw remarkable developments and regional variations in art and architecture. Discuss.</li> </ul>	5. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Illustrate the main features of Vesara style temple architecture.</li> </ul>	10
H-2413	5. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Critically analyze Firoz Shah Tughlaq as a ruler.</li> </ul>	5. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluate Firuz Shah Tughluq's economic policies.</li> </ul>	10
H-2415	5. (e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Briefly comment on the condition of women in Delhi Sultanate.</li> </ul>	5. (e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Compare and contrast the position of Hindu and Muslim women in 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century India.</li> </ul>	10



**PAPER-II**

Test Series (Code)	Question Code	Drishti IAS Test Series Question	UPSC Question Number	UPSC Question	Marks
H-2403 H-2414	2. (c) 1. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The seeds of British imperialism sown at Plassey flowered after the Battle of Buxar. Examine.</li> <li>The victory at Plassey meant nothing without the verdict of Buxar.</li> </ul>	1. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the battle of Plassey, the mercenary became the Kingmaker</li> </ul>	10
H-2410	3. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The English Utilitarianism ideas manifested in Indian as well, but its form and content were entirely colonial. Comment.</li> </ul>	1. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The values of utilitarianism prompted the Company administration to attempt reform of Indian society.</li> </ul>	10
H-2407	4. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of India Act 1935 was called the charter of slavery by Jawaharlal Nehru. In this regard critically analyze the features of the Government of India Act of 1935.</li> </ul>	1. (d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The federal provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935 foundered on the rock of princely intransigence</li> </ul>	10
H-2403	4. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did the commercialisation of agriculture during British rule affect the Indian economy and its rural populace?</li> </ul>	2. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pace of commercialisation of agriculture increased as a result of British revenue policies in India. Critically examine</li> </ul>	20
H-2403 H-2412	8. (b) 3. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ideological disunity and regional heterogeneity precipitated the collapse of the revolt of 1857. Comment.</li> <li>What were the immediate causes of failure of revolt of 1857? Discuss.</li> </ul>	2. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why was the Great Revolt of 1857 confined only to North India? How did it change the character of British rule in the subcontinent?</li> </ul>	20
H-2407	6. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was a single ideological thread that cultivated the character of Indian Nationalism in India's struggle for freedom. Critically evaluate.</li> </ul>	3. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political extremism in colonial India often converged with cultural nationalism, but not always. Comment.</li> </ul>	20

H-2403	6. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal developed into a self-strengthening movement. Analyze.</li> </ul>	4. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Swadeshi movement of 1905 anticipated many of the tactics that were later developed during the Gandhian mass movement. – Critically examine</li> </ul>	20
H-2404 H-2410	1. (e) 6. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss the contribution of Rousseau in Enlightenment.</li> <li>● What is Enlightenment? Discuss the essential ideals and principles of enlightenment.</li> </ul>	5. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The ideas raised by Enlightenment thinkers were profoundly unsettling and challenging to old regime society and political order</li> </ul>	10
H-2412	6. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Analyse the role of slavery as a fundamental cause of the American Civil War. How did differing economic interests between the North and South contribute to the conflict?</li> </ul>	5. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The American Civil War was a result of disparity of needs of industrial north and agrarian south</li> </ul>	10
H-2412 H-2404	5. (c) 6. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● German unification was achieved through 'coal and iron' rather than 'blood and iron.'</li> <li>● German unification was equally poised between the policy of 'blood and iron' and 'coal and iron'. Examine.</li> </ul>	5. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The unification of Germany was as much a product of coal and iron as it was of blood and iron</li> </ul>	10
H-2416 H-2408 H-2408 H-2408	7. (c) 5. (a) 5. (b) 8. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What were the Key Causes of the Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe?</li> <li>● The communist regime in Bulgaria falls just one day after the fall of the Berlin wall. Analyze the fall of Todor Zhivkov in Bulgaria.</li> <li>● While communist regimes throughout Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans had similar historical foundations, they collapsed in different fashions. Analyze this transition with respect to Hungary.</li> <li>● "Poland was the first to reject communism, closely followed by Hungary and East Germany and the rest, until by the end of 1991 even Russia had ceased to be communist, after 74 years." In the light of the given statement discuss the causes of collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.</li> </ul>	5. (e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The revolutions of (1989) did not simply destroy governments; they also ended an ideology</li> </ul>	10



H-2412 H-2404	5. (b) 2. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Industrial Revolution was the answer to all the British problems.</li> <li>● What were the factors that positioned England at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution?</li> </ul>	6. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The course of the English industrialization was too long drawn to be considered a revolution. Comment</li> </ul>	20
H-2416	5. (d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What were the causes that led to rise of Fascism in Italy? Discuss with reasons.</li> </ul>	6. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The social and political landscape of Europe after the first world war was uniquely suited to the rise of Fascism. Discuss</li> </ul>	20
H-2416	5. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How successful was Stalin in solving Russia's economic problems?</li> </ul>	6. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The state was the most important factor in the industrialization of Russia. Comment</li> </ul>	10
H-2414 H-2412	8. (b) 7. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Second World War is often called the most destructive war in the history of mankind. Justify.</li> <li>● What do you understand by the concept of Total war? Also discuss the characteristic features of the total war.</li> </ul>	7. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The second world war was a truly global conflict. Discuss</li> </ul>	20
H-2404 H-2408 H-2414	5. (d) 1. (b) 6. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How did apartheid's racial classification impact South Africa's social structure and rights?</li> <li>● Write a short note on the policy of apartheid.</li> <li>● What was the genesis of Apartheid? How did Africans finally get away with it?</li> </ul>	7. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The nature of apartheid regime undermined South Africa's claim of being a democratic polity</li> </ul>	10
H-2408 H-2408	6. (c) 8. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss briefly the series of events that led to the development of the Cold war.</li> <li>● "NATO was a military alliance but it forwarded the capitalist propaganda and served the purpose only of the USA." Examine.</li> </ul>	8. (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The emergence of two power blocs not only symbolised two competing ideologies but also two alternative models of economic growth. Explain.</li> </ul>	20
H-2408	7. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 'Although the imperialist countries are to blame for the stunted development in the newly independent countries of Africa and Latin America, the colonies themselves were also at fault.' Explain.</li> </ul>	8. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To what extent underdevelopment in Latin America is caused by neoimperialism?</li> </ul>	20
H-2416	8. (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Critically examine the struggle for Independence of Vietnam in the light of the Vietminh movement.</li> </ul>	8. (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How did Ho Chi Minh emerge as the central figure in the Vietnamese independence movement?</li> </ul>	10