

# Civil Services Exam History (Optional) Syllabus

## Paper 1

### Ancient India

#### 1. Sources:

##### **Archaeological sources:**

- Exploration & Excavation
- Epigraphy & Numismatics
- Monuments

##### **Literary sources:**

- Indigenous: Primary and secondary
  - Poetry, scientific literature, literature in regional languages, religious literature.
- Foreign accounts:
  - Greek, Chinese and Arab writers

#### 2. Pre-history and Proto-history:

- Geographical factors
- Hunting and gathering (Palaeolithic and Mesolithic)
- Beginning of agriculture (Neolithic and Chalcolithic)

#### 3. Indus Valley Civilization:

- Origin, date, extent, decline
- Characteristics, Survival and significance
- Art and architecture

#### 4. Megalithic Cultures:

- Distribution of pastoral & farming cultures outside the Indus
- Development of community life & settlements
- Development of agriculture, Crafts, Pottery, & Iron industry

#### 5. Aryans and Vedic Period:

- Expansions of Aryans in India
- Vedic Period: Religious and philosophic literature
- Transformation from Rig Vedic period to the later Vedic period - Political, social and economic life
- Significance of the Vedic Age
- Evolution of Monarchy and Varna system



## 6. Period of Mahajanapadas:

- Formation of States (Mahajanapada): Republics and monarchies
- Economic growth
  - Rise of urban centres
  - Trade routes
  - Introduction of coinage
- Spread of Jainism and Buddhism
- Rise of Magadha and Nandas
- Iranian and Macedonian invasions and their impact

## 7. Mauryan Empire:

- Foundation of the Mauryan Empire – Chandragupta
- Kautilya and Arthashastra
- Ashoka
  - Concept of Dharma
  - Edicts
- Polity & Administration
- Economy & External contacts
- Art, architecture and sculpture
- Religion - Spread of religion
- Literature
- Disintegration of the empire
  - Sungas and Kanvas

## 8. Post - Mauryan Period

### (Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, Western Kshatrapas)

- Contact with outside world
- Economy
  - Growth of urban centres
  - Coinage
- Development of religions – Mahayana
- Social conditions
- Art, architecture, culture, literature and science

## 9. Early State and Society in Eastern India, Deccan and South India:

- **States: Kharavela, 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



## 10. Guptas, Vakatakas and Vardhanas:

- Polity and administration
- Economic conditions
  - Coinage of the Guptas
  - Land grants
  - Decline of urban centres
- Indian feudalism
- Caste system
- Position of women
- Education & educational institutions -Nalanda, Vikramshila&Vallabhi
- Literature, scientific literature
- Art and architecture

## 11. Regional States during Gupta Era:

### The Kadambas, Pallavas, Chalukyas of Badami

- Polity and Administration
- Trade guilds
- Literature
- Growth of Vaishnava and Saiva religions
- Tamil Bhakti 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

## 12. Themes in Early Indian Cultural History:

- Languages and texts
- Major stages in the evolution of art and architecture
- Major philosophical thinkers and schools
- Ideas in Science and Mathematics



## Paper 1

### Medieval India

#### 13. Early Medieval India, 750-1200:

- Polity: Major political developments in Northern India and the Peninsula
- Origin and the rise of Rajputs
- The Cholas:
  - administration
  - village economy
  - society
- “Indian Feudalism”
  - Agrarian economy and urban settlements
- Trade and commerce
- Society
  - The status of the Brahman and the new social order
  - Condition of women
- Indian science and technology

#### 14. Cultural Traditions in India, 750- 1200:

- Philosophy:
  - Shankaracharya and Vedanta
  - Ramanuja and Vishishtadvaita
  - Madhva and BrahmaMimansa
- Religion:
  - Forms and features of religion
  - Tamil devotional cult - Growth of Bhakti
  - Islam and its arrival in India
  - Sufism
- Literature:
  - Literature in Sanskrit
  - Growth of Tamil literature
  - Literature in the newly developing languages
  - Kalhana’sRajtarangini
  - Alberuni’s India
- Art and Architecture: Temple architecture, sculpture, painting



## 15. The Thirteenth Century:

### Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate:

- The Ghurian invasions
  - Factors behind Ghurian success
  - Economic, social and cultural consequences
- Foundation of Delhi Sultanate and early Turkish Sultans
  - Consolidation: Rule of Iltutmish and Balban

## 16. The Fourteenth Century:

- “The Khalji Revolution”
- **AlauddinKhalji:**
  - Conquests and territorial expansion
  - Agrarian and economic measures
- **Muhammad Tughluq:**
  - Major projects, agrarian measures
  - Bureaucracy of Muhammad Tughluq
- **FiruzTughluq:**
  - Agrarian measures
  - Achievements in civil engineering and public works
- Decline of the Sultanate
- Foreign contacts and Ibn Battuta’s account

## 17. Society, Culture and Economy in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries:

- **Society:** composition of rural society, ruling classes, town dwellers, women, religious classes, caste and slavery under the Sultanate,
- Bhakti movement, Sufi movement
- **Culture:** Persian literature, literature in the regional languages of North India and in South India
- Sultanate architecture and new structural forms, painting, evolution of a composite culture
- **Economy:** Agricultural production, rise of urban economy and non-agricultural production, trade and commerce

## 18. The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century:

### Political Developments and Economy:

- Rise of Provincial Dynasties:
  - Bengal, Kashmir (ZainulAbedin), Gujarat, Malwa,
  - Bahmanids - The Vijayanagra Empire - Lodis
- Mughal Empire - First phase: Babur and Humayun
- The Sur Empire: Sher Shah’s administration
- Portuguese Colonial enterprise
- Bhakti and Sufi Movements



## 19. The Fifteenth and early Sixteenth Century

### Society and Culture:

- Regional cultural specificities -Literary traditions
- Provincial architecture
- Society, culture, literature & arts in Vijayanagara Empire

## 20. Akbar:

- Conquests and consolidation of the Empire
- Establishment of Jagir and Mansab systems
- Rajput policy
- Evolution of religious and social outlook
  - Theory of Sulh-i-kul and religious policy
- Court patronage of art and technology

## 21. Mughal Empire in the Seventeenth Century:

- Major administrative policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan, and Aurangzeb
- The Empire and the Zamindars
- Religious policy- Jahangir, Shahjahan & Aurangzeb
- Nature of the Mughal State
- Late Seventeenth-century crisis and the revolts
- The Ahom Kingdom
- Shivaji and the early Maratha Kingdom

## 22. Economy and Society in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries:

- Population, agricultural production, craft production
- Towns, commerce with Europe through Dutch, English and French companies
- A trade revolution
  - Indian mercantile classes
  - Banking, insurance and credit systems
- Condition of peasants, condition of women
- Evolution of the Sikh community and the Khalsa Panth

## 23. Culture in the Mughal Empire:

- Persian histories and other literature
- Hindi and other religious literature
- Mughal architecture
- Mughal painting
- Provincial architecture and painting
- Classical music
- Science and technology



## 24. The Eighteenth Century:

- Factors for the decline of the Mughal Empire
- The regional principalities: Nizam's Deccan, Bengal, Awadh
- Maratha ascendancy under the Peshwas
- The Maratha fiscal and financial system
- Emergence of Afghan Power, Battle of Panipat: 1761
- State of politics, culture and economy on the eve of the British conquest

## Paper 2 Modern India

### 1. European Penetration into India:

- 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

### 2. British Expansion in India:

- Bengal – Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim
- Battle of Buxar
- Mysore
- The Marathas
- The three Anglo-Maratha Wars
- The Punjab



### 3. 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

### 4. Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule:

(a) 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

(b) Dislocation of traditional trade and commerce;

- De-industrialisation;
- Decline of traditional crafts;
- Drain of wealth;
- Economic transformation of India;
  - Railroad
  - Communication network including telegraph
  - postal services
- Famine and poverty in the rural interior;
- European business enterprise and its limitations

### 5. 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





## 6. Social and Religious Reform movements in Bengal and Other Areas:

- Ram Mohan Roy -The Brahma Movement;
- Devendranath Tagore;
- IswarchandraVidyasagar;
- Young Bengal Movement;
- DayanadaSaraswati;
- 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

## 7. Indian Response to British Rule:

- Peasant movements and tribal uprisings in the 18th and 19th centuries including
  - RangpurDhing (1783),
  - Kol Rebellion (1832),
  - Mopla Rebellion in Malabar (1841-1920),
  - SanthalHul (1855),
  - Indigo Rebellion (1859-60),
  - Deccan Uprising (1875)
  - Munda Ulgulan (1899-1900);

- The Great Revolt of 1857
  - Origin, character, causes of failure, the consequences;
- Character of peasant uprisings - shift in post-1857 period;
  - Peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930s.

## 8. Factors leading to the birth of Indian Nationalism

- Politics of Association;
- Foundation of the Indian National Congress;
  - The Safety-valve thesis - birth of the INC;
  - Programme and objectives of Early Congress;
  - Social composition of early Congress leadership;
  - Moderates and Extremists;
- The Partition of Bengal (1905);
- The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal;
  - Economic & political aspects of Swadeshi Movement;
- The beginning of revolutionary extremism in India



## 9. Rise of Gandhi

- Character of Gandhian nationalism
  - Gandhi's popular appeal
  - Rowlatt Satyagraha
  - Khilafat Movement
- Non-cooperation Movement
  - National politics from the end of the Non-cooperation movement to the beginning of the Civil Disobedience movement
- Civil Disobedience Movement- two phases
  - Simon Commission
  - Nehru Report
  - Round Table Conferences
- Nationalism and the Peasant Movements;
- Nationalism and Working class movements;
- Women and Indian youth and students in Indian politics (1885-1947);
- Election of 1937 and the formation of ministries;
- Cripps Mission;
- Quit India Movement;
- Wavell Plan;
- Cabinet Mission

## 10. Constitutional Developments in the Colonial India between 1858 and 1935

### 11. Other strands in the National Movement:

- 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.

### 12. Politics of Separatism

- Muslim League;
- Hindu Mahasabha;
- Communalism and the politics of partition;
- Transfer of power;
- Independence



### 13. Consolidation as a Nation:

- 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;
- Question of National Language

### 14. Caste and Ethnicity after 1947:

- Backward castes and tribes in post-colonial electoral politics;
- Dalit movements

### 15. Economic development and political change:

- Land reforms;
- The politics of planning and rural reconstruction;
- Ecology and environmental policy in post-colonial India;
- Progress of science

## Paper 2 Modern World

### 16. Enlightenment and Modern ideas:

- Major ideas of Enlightenment: Kant, Rousseau
- Spread of Enlightenment in the colonies
- Rise of socialist ideas (up to Marx); spread of Marxian Socialism.

### 17. Origins of Modern Politics:

- European States System.
- American Revolution and the Constitution
- French revolution and aftermath, 1789-1815
- American Civil War
  - with reference to Abraham Lincoln
  - the abolition of slavery



- British Democratic Politics, 1815- 1850
  - Parliamentary Reformers,
  - Free Traders,
  - Chartists

### 18. Industrialization:

- English Industrial Revolution:
  - Causes and Impact on Society
- Industrialization in other countries:
  - USA, Germany, Russia, Japan
- Industrialization and Globalization

### 19. Nation-State System:

- Rise of Nationalism in 19th century
- Nationalism: state-building in Germany and Italy
- Disintegration of Empires in the face of the emergence of nationalities across the world.

### 20. Imperialism and Colonialism:

- South and South-East Asia
- Latin America and South Africa
- Australia
- Imperialism and free trade: Rise of neo-imperialism.

### 21. Revolution and Counter Revolution:

- 19th Century European revolutions
- The Russian Revolution of 1917-1921
- Fascist Counter-Revolution, Italy and Germany.
- The Chinese Revolution of 1949

### 22. World Wars:

- 1st and 2nd World Wars as Total Wars: Societal implications
- World War I: Causes and consequences
- World War II: Causes and consequence

### 23. The World after World War II:

- Emergence of two power blocs
- Emergence of Third World and non-alignment
- UNO and the global disputes.

### 24. Liberation from Colonial Rule:

- Latin America-Bolivar
- Arab World-Egypt
- Africa-Apartheid to Democracy
- South-East Asia-Vietnam



## 25. Decolonization and Underdevelopment:

- Factors constraining development: Latin America, Africa

## 26. Unification of Europe:

- Post War Foundations: NATO and European Community
- Consolidation and Expansion of European Community
- European Union.

## 27. Disintegration of Soviet Union & the Rise of the Unipolar World:

- Factors leading to the collapse of Soviet communism and the Soviet Union, 1985-1991
- Political Changes in Eastern Europe 1989-2001.
- End of the cold war and US ascendancy in the World as the lone superpower

**End of the Syllabus, scroll down for reference books**

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– Walt Disney



+91-9445268829  
gorkyiasacademy@gmail.com





## Reference Books

Name of the Book	Author	Remarks
1. The Wonder that was India Volume 1	AL Basham	Ancient India Text Books
2. Ancient India	VD Mahajan	
3. A political and cultural history of India	R Sathianathaier	
4. IGNOU Books	IGNOU	
5. History of Medieval India Volume I & II	Satish Chandra	Medieval India Text Books
6. Advanced Study in the History of Medieval India Volumes I, II, III	JL Mehta	
7. A New Look at Modern Indian History	B. L. Grover	Modern India Text Books
8. India's struggle for Independence	Bipin Chandra	
9. India After Independence	Bipin Chandra	
10. Mastering Modern World History	Norman Lowe	World History Text Books
11. History of Modern Europe	BV Rao	
NCERT Ancient India	RS Sharma	Basic Learning
NCERT Medieval India	Sathish Chandra	
NCERT Modern India	Bipin Chandra	
NCERT World History	Arjun Dev	
Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan	Allchin & Allchin	Further Readings (if needed)
The Wonder That Was India Volume II	S. A. A. Rizvi	
Modern India, 1885-1947	Sumit Sarkar	
History of Modern World	BV Rao	