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**MODERN INDIAN
HISTORY OPTIONAL
IAS MAINS QUESTION
PAPERS [1979-2015]**

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1. European Penetration into India

- (i) The Early European Settlements; The Portuguese and the Dutch;
- (ii) The English and the French East India Companies; Their struggle for supremacy; Carnatic Wars;
- (iii) Bengal -The conflict between the English and the Nawabs of Bengal; Siraj and the English; The Battle of Plassey; Significance of Plassey.

1. "On 23 June 1757, the middle ages of India ended and her modern age began." Comment. [1992, 20m]
2. How did the British conquer Bengal in the 18th century? What circumstances helped them? [1998, 60m]
3. The battle of Plassey was "not a great battle but a great betrayal." Comment. [2000, 20m]
4. Discuss the causes that led to the 'economic drain' in Bengal following the Battle of Plassey. [2004, 60m]
5. "Neither Alexander the Great nor Napoleon could have won the empire of India by starting from Pondicherry as a base and contending with a power which held Bengal and command of the Sea." Comment. [2006, 20m]
6. "Compared to their English counterpart, the French East India Company enjoyed little discretionary power and had to always look up to Paris for all major decisions. This partly explains the failure of the French in India." Evaluate Critically. [2012, 10m]
7. "The forces of free trade and the British determination to create a political and administrative environment conducive to trade and investment had shaped the British policy towards India in the first half of the nineteenth century". Elucidate. [2012, 10m]
8. "Dupleix made a cardinal blunder in looking for the key of India in madras: Clive sought and found it in Bengal." Critically examine. [2013, 10m]

2. British Expansion in India

- (i) Bengal – Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim; The Battle of Buxar;
- (ii) Mysore;
- (iii) The Marathas; The three Anglo-Maratha Wars;
- (iv) The Punjab.
- (v) Other expansions

(i) Bengal – Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim; The Battle of Buxar

1. “Buxar takes rank amongst the most decisive battles ever fought.” Comment. [1982, 20m]
2. “Thus ended the famous battle of Buxar, on which depended the fate of India and which was as gallantly disputed as was important in its results.” Comment. [1985, 20m]
3. “The revolution of 1760 (Bengal) was really no revolution.” Comment. [1987, 20m]
4. “By certain of his actions Clive has marred both the glory and usefulness of his work.” Comment. [1995, 20m]
5. “The verdict of Plessey was confirmed by the English victory at Buxar.” Comment. [1996, 20m]
6. After 1757 there grew up a State of Bengal which was a “sponsored state” as well as a “plundered state”. [1999, 20m]
7. “The verdict at Plassey was confirmed by the English victory at Buxar.” Comment. [2002, 20m]

(ii) Mysore

1. Why was Mysore considered a threat by the British to their possessions and mercantile interests in the south? Do you think that Tipu Sultan’s posturing became his undoing? [2009, 30m]
2. Examine the circumstance which led to the third Mysore War. Could Cornwallis have avoided it? [2006, 60m]

(iii) The Marathas; The three Anglo-Maratha Wars

1. “The Treaty of Bassein, 1802 was, a step which changed the footing on which we, the English stood in western India. It trebled the English responsibilities in an instant.” Comment. [1983, 20m]
2. Trace the course of the Anglo-Maratha relations in the first two decades of the nineteenth century. Account for the ultimate defeat of the Maratha power by the British. [1984, 60m]
3. “Upon the whole, then, I conclude that the treaty of Bassein was wise, just and a politic measure.” Comment. [1986, 20m]

4. "..... the hunt of the Pindaris became merged in the Third Maratha War." Comment. [1989, 20m]
5. "Anglo-Maratha War covering nearly nine years from the murder of Narayan Rao to the Treaty of Salbai emphatically discloses the vitality of the Maratha nation which had not been exhausted either by the disaster of Panipat or the death of their great Peshwa Madhavrao." Comment. [1991, 20m]
6. "The treaty of Bassein, by its direct and indirect operations, gave the Company the Empire of India." Comment. [1993, 20m]
7. How did the British establish their control over Maharashtra in the first two decades of the 19th century? Why did the Maratha challenge ultimately collapse? [1994, 60m]
8. The British "fought the First Maratha War in a period when their fortunes were at the lowest ebb". Comment. [1998, 20m]
9. "The Treaty of Salbai (1782) was neither honorable to the English nor advantageous to their interests." Comment. [2004, 20m]
10. "Upon the whole, then, I conclude that the treaty of Bassein was wise, just and a politic measure." Comment. [2005, 20m]

(iv) Punjab

1. "Punjab's fate after Ranjit Singh was foredoomed as the impulse of neo-Victorian Imperialism was bound to overwhelm it". Elucidate [2010, 20m]
2. "Annexation of Punjab was part of a broad north-west frontier policy set in motion after the exit of Maharaja Ranjit Singh." Critically examine [2015, 10 Marks]

(v) Others

1. Explain the British policy of 'Subordinate union' of Indian States with British India from 1858 to 1905. How did the Government of India implement this policy during this period? [1993, 60m]
2. "We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so and a very advantageous, useful, humane piece of rascality it will be." Comment. [1984, 20m]
3. "If we could States without political power, but as royal instruments, we should exist in India as long as our naval supremacy was maintained." Comment. [1984, 20m]
4. "The British endeavored as far as possible to live within a Ring-Fence and beyond that they avoided intercourse with the chiefs." Comment. [1987, 20m]
5. "We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so, and a very advantageous, useful and human piece of rascality it will be." Comment. [1990, 20m]

6. "No native state should be left to exist in India which is not upheld by the British power or the political conduct of which is not under the absolute control." [1992, 20m]
7. "The British conquest of Sind was both a political and moral sequel to the first afghan war." Comment. [1995, 60m]
8. "The British policy towards Indian States in 1818-1858 was one of isolation and noninterference tempered by annexation." Comment. [1996, 20m]
9. The British conquered India, "in a fit of absent minded-ness". [1997, 20m]
10. Sir Charles Napier said, "We have no right to seize Sind, yet we shall do so, and a very advantageous, useful, humane piece of rascality it will be." Comment. [2000, 20m]
11. Towards the Princes, Canning adopted a policy of "punishing resistance and rewarding obedience." Comment. [2000, 20m]
12. "Dalhousie changed the map of India with speed and thoroughness no campaign could equal." Comment. [2001, 20m]
13. "The rise and expansion of British empire was an accident rather than the result of a deliberate policy and design." Critically examine this statement. [2002, 60m]
14. Examine the essential principles of the Subsidiary Alliance system. How far did it contribute in making the British Company the supreme sovereign authority in India? [2005, 60m]
15. How did the East India Company became the de jure power in India? [2009, 30m]

3. Early Structure of the British Raj

- (i) The early administrative structure; From diarchy to direct control;
- (ii) The Regulating Act (1773);
- (iii) The Pitt's India Act (1784);
- (iv) The Charter Act (1833);
- (v) The voice of free trade and the changing character of British colonial rule;
- (vi) The English utilitarian and India.

1. Discuss the basic features of the judicial administration under the East India Company. Did the British introduce the modern concept of the rule of law in India? [1986, 60m]
2. "What kind of administrative change was introduced in India under the East India Company? [1993, 60m]
3. "The Charter Act of 1833 rung down the curtain on the company's trade and introduced a new concept of government in India." Substantiate. [2011, 20m]
4. "The Regulating Act (1773), the Pitt's India Act (1784) and eventually the Charter Act of 1833 left the East India Company as a mere shadow of its earlier political and economic power in India." Critically examine. [2015, 10m]

The English utilitarian and India

1. Assess the impact of the utilitarian ideas in molding the British attitude towards India. How did the utilitarian try to solve the problem of land revenue? [1992, 60m]
2. "Sprung from paternalism, the English Utilitarian philosophy as introduced in India rejected its human warmth between rulers and the ruled." Comment. [2008, 20m]
3. "James Mill, the apostle of utilitarian philosophy, proposed a revolution off Indian society through the 'weapon of law' solely. But in actual policy framing, other influences and considerations weighed much more than the colonial State." Elucidate. [2015, 20m]

4. Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule

- (i) Land revenue settlements in British India; The Permanent Settlement; Ryotwari Settlement; Mahalwari Settlement; Economic impact of the revenue arrangements;
- (ii) Commercialization of agriculture; Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society.
- (iii) Dislocation of traditional trade and commerce; Deindustrialisation; Decline of traditional crafts;
- (iv) Drain of wealth;
- (v) Economic transformation of India; Railroad and communication network including telegraph and postal services;
- (vi) Famine and poverty in the rural interior;
- (vii) European business enterprise and its limitations.

Land revenue settlements

1. "The poverty of the Indian people was the consequence of the Government's land revenue and taxation policy." Discuss this statement with reference to British rule in India in the 19th Century. [1980, 60m]
2. Trace the circumstances that led to the introduction of the Permanent Settlement in Bengal. Discuss its impact on landlords, peasants and the Government. [1981, 60m]
3. "The Permanent Settlement of land revenue in Bengal was a, bold, brave and wise measure." Comment. [1983, 20m]
4. Explain the essential features of the ryotwari system of land revenue with special reference to Thomas Munro's contribution to its evolution. [1984, 60m]
5. "The permanent system of Bengal though initiated with best of best of intentions, was a sadly blundering affairs." [1993, 20m]
6. "The Permanent settlement was a bold, brave and wise measures." Comment. [1997, 20m]
7. Discuss the main features of the 'Raiyatwari Settlement' in South India. Did it satisfy the aspirations of the peasantry? [2001, 60m]
8. "Absentee landlordism was a consequential feature of Bengal's Permanent land settlement." Comment. [2003, 20m]
9. "Permanent Settlement disappointed many expectations and introduced there results that were not anticipated." Comment. [2004, 20m]
10. Examine the major factors shaping the British land-revenue policy in India. How it affected Indian society? [2007, 60m]
11. What was the impact of early British land policy in the village communities of North India? [2003, 60m]

12. "Though the Permanent Settlement had serious defects, it gave tranquility to the countryside and stability to the government." Comment. [2009, 20m]

13. What role did economic ideas play in the early phase of the British rule in the shaping of land tenure policy? [2010, 30m]

14. "Ryotwari falls into three stages – early, middle and late, and the only description common to all is that it is a mode of settlement with small farmers, so small, indeed, that their average holding is, on recent figures, only about 6 ½ acres," Critically examine. [2013, 10m]

Commercialization of agriculture; Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society

1. In British India "the impact of the government on the people meant essentially the impact of government on the village." [1984, 20m]

2. Show how British rule led to the spread of land-lordism in certain parts of India, and how the peasant was progressively impoverished under this rule. [1985, 60m]

3. Bring out the pattern of commercialization of agriculture in the 19th century. Was it a forced process for the vast majority of poorer peasants? [1986, 60m]

4. "The impact of government on the people meant essentially the impact of government on the village." Comment. [1988, 20m]

5. The changing life in Indian village marked best the impact of the British administration on the Indian people. Explain, identifying the process and the extent of the change. [1996, 60m]

6. The Indian Middle Class firmly believed that "Britain had imposed a colonial economy on India which had impoverished the country." Comment. [1999, 20m]

7. "The impact of government on the people meant essentially the impact of government on the village." Comment. [2005, 20m]

8. What do you mean by commercialization of Indian Agriculture? Discuss its result. [2006, 60m]

9. "So Long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance , I hold every man a traitor who having been educated at their expense, pay not the least need to them." Comment. [2006, 20m]

10. "A self-sufficient village, based on agriculture carried on with the primitive plough and bullockpower, and handicraft by means of simple instruments, was a basic feature of pre-British Indian economy." Comment. [2006, 20m]

11. To what extent did the process of commercialization of agriculture affect the rural scene in India? [2010, 30m]

12. "Plantations and mines, jutes mills, banking, insurance, shipping and export-import concerns in India were run through a system of interlocking managing agencies." Critically examine. [2012, 10m]

Dislocation of traditional trade and commerce; Deindustrialisation; Decline of traditional crafts

1. Assess critically the economic impact of the British rule in India till the end of the nineteenth century. [1979, 60m]

2. Write a critical note on: "Consequences of the ruin of handicraft industries under the rule of the East India Company." [1981, 20m]

3. Give a brief account of the industrial and agricultural policy of the Government of India between 1858 and 1914. How far is it correct to say that it was more in the interest of British capital than the Indian people? [1981, 60m]

4. Trace the gradual decline of the Indian town handicrafts between 1757 and 1880. In what way did it contribute to the economic unification of India? [1987, 60m]

5. "The hey-day of the British power in India was also the high noon of laissez faire' economic doctrine." Comment. [1990, 20m]

6. "The role of the East India Company proved disastrous to the handicraft industry in India for a number of reasons." Comment. [1991, 20m]

7. "The British Raj had a deeply racist aspect and it ultimately existed to protect colonial exploitation." Comment. [1994, 20m]

8. Discuss the view that the British rule brought about economic changes in India to serve the needs of the imperial economy and establish a dependent form of underdevelopment in this country. [2000, 60m]

9. "The British industrial policy in the nineteenth century ruined the Indian handicrafts." Comment. [2001, 20m]

10. "Instead of serving as the catalyst of an industrial revolution as in Western Europe and the USA, acted in India as 'the catalyst of complete colonization." Examine. [2012, 10m]

11. "Weaving", says R.C. Dutt, "was the national industry of the people and spinning was the pursuit of millions of women." Indian textiles went to England and other parts of Europe, to China and Japan and Burma and Arabia and Persia and parts of Africa. Elucidate.[2013, 25m]

12. "Under the forceful thrust of British colonialism, Indian economy was transformed into a colonial one, the structure of which was determined by the requirements of Britain's fast developing industrial economy." Examine. [2015, 20m]

Drain of wealth

1. Trace the course and explain the consequences of the drain of wealth from Bengal in the eighteenth century. [1982, 60m]
2. "Our system acts very much like a sponge, drawing up all the good things from the banks of the Ganges, and squeezing them down on the banks of the Thames." Comment. [1985, 20m]
3. Write a critique on the impact of the Drain Theory of Dadabhai Nauroji in the growth of economic nationalism. [2008, 60m]
4. "The need for a unilateral transfer of funds to Britain was constant factor and, in fact, progressively increased over time." Critically evaluate. [2011, 20m]

Economic transformation of India

1. Trace the industrial growth of British India after the First World War. How did the Government's tariff policy influence the growth? [1983, 60m]
2. Identify the main features of industrial development in India from 1914 to 1947 with special reference to the emergence of a class of factory laborers. [1989, 60m]
3. Identify the distinct stages of colonialism in India. How did these stages affect the Indian economy? [1991, 60m]
4. How do you account of the rise and growth of the Business enterprise in India during the first half of the 20th century? [1994, 60m]
5. Economic changes in India from the late 1920s influenced the course of the country's politics. Elucidate. [1995, 60m]
6. "Railway development in India provides an interesting instance of private enterprise at public risk." Comment. [2010, 20m]

Famine and poverty in the rural interior

1. "The recurring famines in the 19th century were the inevitable consequence of the British policy and expose the real character of the paternal solicitude for the peasantry on the part of the British administration." Examine this statement critically. [2002, 60m]
2. "India underwent suffering and mortality in the wake of recurring famines' in the later half of the 19th century." Comment. [2003, 20m]
3. Trace the development of the famine policy of the British in India 1876 and 1921. Did it provide relief to the people? [2005, 60m]
4. Critically examine the impact of the famine policy on rural India. Describe the official remedial measures undertaken. [2008, 60m]

5. Social and Cultural Developments

- (i) The state of indigenous education, its dislocation;
- (ii) Orientalist-Anglicist controversy, The introduction of western education in India;
- (iii) The rise of press, literature and public opinion; The rise of modern vernacular literature; Progress of science;
- (iv) Christian missionary activities in India.

1. Write a critical note on: "Impact of western contact on social changes in the first half of 19th century." [1981, 20m]
2. Review the educational policy of the English East India Company. To what extent did it serve the imperial interests of Great Britain? [1988, 60m]
3. Nowhere was the influence of the missionaries felt more than in relation to the women's movement. [1989, 20m]
4. What was the Anglicist-Orientalist controversy about? How was it resolved and with what results? [1990, 60m]
5. "The Government of India from Canning to Curzon was regarded, as a white man's burden rather than as a call to creative effort or the preparation for a new era." Comment. [1995, 20m]
6. "India broke her British fetters with western hammers." Comment. [1997, 20m]
7. The Christian Missionary propaganda from 1813 onwards was "often insensitive and wounding." Comment. [1999, 20m]
8. The British Indian State experienced the 'wind of change' with the arrival of Lord William Bentinck. Comment. [1999, 20m]
9. "India broke her British fetters with Western hammers." Comment. [2002, 20m]
10. Examine the impact of British rule on Indian Society in the 19th Century. [2004, 60m]
11. "The vernacular press in the nineteenth century was both newspaper as well as 'views-papers' that enlightened the dormant masses." Comment. [2008, 20m]
12. "The educated middle class in the 19th century often found the domain of reason to be oppressive, as it implied the historical necessity of 'civilizing' colonial rule." Comment. [2010, 20m]
13. Orientalism produced a knowledge of the past to service the needs of the Colonial States." Elucidate. [2011, 20m]
14. "The vernacular press in nineteenth century India served not just as newspapers but more importantly as views-papers." Comment. [2011, 20m]

15 .“The current practice of categorization of ‘Early Modern India’ is based on a shift from the old imperialist periodization of ‘Muslim India’ – ‘British India’ to the more secularist one of ‘Medieval India’ – ‘Modern India’, which puts Indian history in a universalist chronological Structure.” Critically evaluate. [2012, 10m]

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

- (i) Ram Mohan Roy, The Brahmo Movement; Devendranath Tagore;
- (ii) Iswarchandra Vidyasagar;
- (iii) The Young Bengal Movement;
- (iv) Dayanada Saraswati;
- (v) The social reform movements in India including Sati, widow remarriage, child marriage etc.;
- (vi) The contribution of Indian renaissance to the growth of modern India;
- (vii) Islamic revivalism – the Feraizi and Wahabi Movements.

1. Examine the main trends in social reform and social change in India between 1829 and 1929. [1979, 60m]

2. “Ram Mohan Roy presents a most instructive and inspiring study for the New India of which he is the type and pioneer.” Comment. [1982, 20m]

3. “These religion-reform movements were national in content but religious in form. It was in the later stages of our national existence, that nationalism found exclusively or predominantly secular forms.” Comment. [1985, 20m]

4. “Ram Mohan thus presents a most instructive and inspiring study for the New India of which he is the type and pioneer.” Comment. [1986, 20m]

5. What led to the Caste Movements in Western and Southern India? How did they affect the local socio-political life? [1989, 60m]

6. Analyses the main contours of Non-Brahmin Movements in Western and South India in the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. [1991, 60m]

7. To what extent did the socio-religious movements contribute to the emancipation of women in the 19th century? [1993, 60m]

8. Review the main trends in the Social Movements in India from 1900 to 1947 with particular reference to the changing position .of women in the country. [1984, 60m]

9. “The religious reform movements of the 19th century were, endeavours to recast the old religion (Hinduism) into a new form suited to meet the needs of the new society.” Comment. [1996, 20m]

10. “These religion-reform movements were national in content but religious in form. It was in the later stages of our national existence, that nationalism found exclusively or predominantly secular forms.” Comment.[1985, 20m]

11. “Widow Remarriage Act was, in many ways, a logical sequel to the abolition of Sati.” Comment. [1994, 20m]

12. Trace the course and comment on the character of caste movements in south India in the 20th century. How far was their object achieved? [1995, 60m]
13. "The religious reform movements of the 19th century were ,endeavours to recast the old religion (Hinduism) into a new form suited to meet the needs of the new society." Comment. [1996, 20m]
14. The 19th century Indian renaissance was both an acceptance and rejection of western values. Do you agree? [1997, 60m]
15. The Arya Samaj "did not; however, succeed in capturing the imagination of modern India as a whole." Comment. [1998, 20m]
16. Discuss the important social reform legislation passed in the 19th century and elucidate the reaction of Indian leaders to the measures adopted. [2000, 60m]
17. "The national democratic awakening of the Indian people found expression also in the religious sphere." Comment. [2005, 20m]
18. "There is no other instance in the history of mankind of a poet and philosopher working such as a miracle in shaping the destiny of his people." Comment. [2007, 20m]
19. "Of the evils which corroded Indian society in the nineteenth century were probably those which stunted its womanhood." Comment. [2007, 20m]
20. How did social legislation in the nineteenth century improve the condition of women in India? [2009, 30m]
21. "The Arya Samaj may quite logically be pronounced as the outcomes of conditions imported into India by the west." Comment. [2009, 20m]
22. Discuss the extent to which the Indian Renaissance movement contributed towards the rise of nationalist consciousness. [2010, 30m]
23. "Young Bengal left little distinctive or permanent impression on the plane of religion and philosophy." Critically evaluate. [2011, 30m]
24. "The contact of the new Indian middle class with the West proved to be a catalyst. The social and religious movements launched by Ram Mohan or Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar have to be understood in this context." – Elucidate. [2012, 10m]
25. Swami Vivekananda opined that "we should give our ancient spirituality and culture and get in return western science, technology, methods of raising the standard of life. Business integrity and technique of collective effort." [2013, 10m]
26. "The first point to note is the continuing importance of religion and philosophy as vital ingredients in the modern Indian renaissance. Indeed, there is as much reason for

regarding it as a reformation as there is for treating it as a renaissance.” Critically examine. [2013, 25m]

27. “Swami Dayanand’s philosophy represents both elements of extremism and social radicalism.” Substantiate. [2015, 20m]

7. Indian Response to British Rule

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

Peasant movements and tribal uprisings in the 18th and 19th centuries

1. Tribal revolts were a reaction to an alien, unfeeling administration. Elucidate with reference to the British tribal policy in Eastern India in the nineteenth century. [1982, 60m]
2. Discuss briefly the tribal revolts in Eastern India from 1817 to 1857. Were they directed against land lordism and colonialism? [1988, 60m]
3. Discuss the origins and character of major peasant and tribal uprisings in the late 18th and 19th centuries' were these protest movements backwards-looking? [1992, 60m]
4. Tribal movements should be viewed as, 'History from below'. Discuss the objects and nature of the movements in 19th century India. [1997, 60m]
5. "The tribal and peasant rebellion laid the foundation of the revolt of 1857." Comment. [2001, 20m]
6. "Tribals revolted more often and far more violently than any other community including peasants in india." Elaborate [2011, 30m]
7. "The Santhal hool began in July 1855. The core of the movement was economic, the basic cause of the uprising was agrarian discontent." – Elucidate [2012, 10m]

The Great Revolt of 1857

1. Critically examine the nature of the Revolt of 1857. How did it affect the British policy in India after 1858? [1980, 60m]
2. "The Mutiny was not inevitable in 1857, but it was inherent in the constitution of the Empire." Comment. [1983, 20m]
3. "On the whole, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the so-called First National War of Independence was neither First, nor National, nor a war of Independence." Comment. [1985, 20m]
4. "Whatever might have been its original character, it (Rebellion of 1857) soon became a symbol of challenge to the mighty British power in India." Comment. [1988, 20m]

5. "The new attitude of caution and conservatism can be detected in almost every sphere of British activity in India after the Revolt of 1857." Comment. [1994, 20m]
6. Examine the nature of the Revolt of 1857 and indicate the manifold changes in British civil and military administration of India after 1857. [1998, 60m]
7. Do you believe that the uprising in 1857 was nationalist in nature? If not, what was its character? [1999, 60m]
8. "Whatever might have been its original character, it (Rebellion of 1857) soon became a symbol of challenge to the mighty British power in India." Comment. [2005, 20m]
9. "The Revolt of 1857 seemed to call the very presence of the British into question. What it did not do was reverse these changes." Comment. [2007, 20m]
10. "The annexation of Awadh shook the loyalty of the Sepoy's, as it was for them an ultimate proof of untrustworthiness of the British." Comment. [2009, 20m]
11. "In 1857, the rebel sepoys showed a remarkable centripetal tendency to congregate at Delhi." Do you agree? Substantiate. [2011, 30m]

The shift in the character of peasant uprisings in the post-1857 period

1. Identify the various forms of 'rural protest' in India in the second half of the nineteenth century. Were they expressions of anti-landlord or anti-foreign discontent? [1987, 60m]
2. "The peasant movements of the second half of the nineteenth century lacked a positive conception which would unite the people in a common struggle on a wide regional and all-India plane and help develop long-term political developments." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10m]
3. "The Indigo Revolt of 1859-60 holds a very significant place in our history of national liberation movement. For the first time in the history of our anti-colonial struggle, its two independent currents-- spontaneous peasant resistance and constitutional agitation in defence of peasantry – came into mutual contact." Critically examine. [2015, 10m]

The peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930s

1. Write a brief essay on the peasant movement in India between 1921 and 1947. [1980, 60m]
2. "The roots of Moplah discontent were clearly agrarian..." Comment. [1986, 20m]
4. The roots of the Moplah uprising (1921) were clearly agrarian. Do you agree? [1990, 60m]
5. The 1921 Moplah rebellion was "in essence an expression of long-standing agrarian discontent which was intensified by the religious and ethnic identity." Comment. [2000, 20m]

6. Analyze the nature of peasant movements during the nationalist phase and bring out their shortcomings. [2015, 20m]

8. Early Indian Nationalism

- (i) 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;
- (ii) Programme and objectives of Early Congress; the social composition of early Congress leadership; the Moderates and Extremists;
- (iii) The Partition of Bengal (1905); The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal; the economic and political aspects of Swadeshi Movement;
- (iv) The beginning of revolutionary extremism in India.

Rise of Nationalism

1. Describe the nature of Indian Nationalism with special reference to the character of its leadership in the period between 1885 and 1905. [1982, 60m]
2. "The Ilbert Bill was the most extreme but by no means isolated expression of white racism." Comment. [1987, 20m]
3. "The national democratic awakening of the Indian people found expression of white racism." Comment. [1987, 20m]
4. "The new India was not to be built up, as late nineteenth century patriots had thought, by copious draught from the past, but rather by frequent injections from the energetic contemporary west." Comment. [1990, 20m]
5. "It was in this almost unrecognizable form that the Ilbert Bill was finally enacted it was primarily a failure of the Viceroy." Comment. [1992, 20m]
6. Examine the economic and social factors which led to the rise of Indian nationalism in the second half of the nineteenth century. [2001, 60m]
7. "Rabindranath Tagores's nationalism was based on a Catholic internationalism." Comment. [2003, 20m]

Indian National Congress

1. Describe briefly the ideals and programme of the Indian National Congress between 1885 and 1905 and assess official response to it. [1980, 60m]
2. Discuss 'the safety valve' theory. Does it satisfactorily explain the foundation of the Indian National Congress? [1991, 60m]
3. To what extent was the emergence of the Congress in 1885 the culmination of a process of political awakening that had its beginning in the 1870s? [2000, 60m]
4. Trace the factors which led to a split in the Indian national Congress in 1907. What was its impact on the course of the nationalist movement? [2003, 60m]

5. Analyze the social composition of the early Congress leadership. [2009, 30m]
6. "At the dawn of the twentieth century Lord Curzon, the viceroy of India, was full of hostility towards the Indian National Congress and he confidentially reported to the secretary of state in November 1900 : My own belief is that the congress is tottering to its fall, and one of my greatest ambitions while in India is to assist it to a peaceful demise." Examine. [2013, 25m]

The Partition of Bengal (1905); The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal

1. Write a critical note on: Significance of the Swadeshi Movement 1905-07 in the freedom struggle. [1981, 20m]
2. "Curzon's political obtusely created a breach between government and people which was never wholly closed in the remaining forty-two years of British rule." Comment. [1984, 20m]
3. "Curzon was an unconscious catalyst who did not understand, let alone desire, what the new century was about to bring forth, but who helped it to be born." Comment. [1989, 20m]
4. "The tragedy of Curzon lay in that, with such abundance of trained talent; he was denied the crowning qualities. He was never an administrator of the first rank." Comment. [1991, 20m]
5. "Curzon's partition of Bengal gave the unwitting initiative to events of magnitude and returned many years later to port with the cargo of freedom." Comment. [1997, 20m]
6. "India after 1905 had new interests and objectives and compelled new lines of policy." Comment. [1996, 20m]

The beginning of revolutionary extremism in India

1. Discuss the nature, methods and activities of the Terrorist Revolutionary Movement and assess its place in India's Freedom Struggle. [1979, 60m]
2. Examine the causes of the rise and progress of revolutionary movements in India from 1905 to 1931. [2003, 60m]
3. "The very idea of the bomb and the secret society, and of propaganda through action and sacrifice were import from the West." Critically examine. [2015, 10m]

9. Nationalism under Gandhi's leadership

- (i) Rise of Gandhi; Character of Gandhian nationalism; Gandhi's popular appeal;
- (ii) Rowlatt Satyagraha; the Khilafat Movement; the Non-cooperation Movement; National politics from the end of the Noncooperation 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;
- (iii) Nationalism and the Peasant Movements; Nationalism and Working class movements; Women and Indian youth and students in Indian politics (1885-1947);
- (iv) The election of 1937 and the formation of ministries; Cripps Mission; the Quit India Movement; the Wavell Plan; The Cabinet Mission.

1. What were the circumstances that led Mahatma Gandhi to start the Non-cooperation Movement? Examine its contribution to India's struggle for freedom. [1980, 60m]
2. Write a critical note on: "Gandhiji's role in solving the communal problem." [1981, 20m]
3. "The Cripps Mission gave India ,a post-dated cheque." Comment. [1982, 20m]
4. "The Cabinet Mission Plan, seemed to open an avenue for the reconciliation of a united India with Muslim autonomy'." Comment. [1983, 20m]
5. Identify the main strands in the Civil Disobedience Movement with particular reference to the changing role of 'business pressures' in the country [1985, 60m]
6. How would you explain Gandhiji's 'rise to power' or 'capture' of national leadership in the course of 1919-20? Was it a very skilful top-level political game? [1987, 60m]
7. "The Simla Conference (1945) afforded the last opportunity of the forces of nationalism to fight a reargued action to preserve the integrity of the country and when the battle was lost, the waves of communalism quickly engulfed it." Comment. [1988, 20m]
8. Identify the main features of industrial development in India from 1914 to 1947 with special reference to the emergence of a class of factory laborers. [1989, 60m]
9. Show how the Civil Disobedience was marked by much scattered potentially radical manifestations. Was the Karachi Congress an indication of certain basic weakness of the entire movement? [1992, 60m]
10. "The nationalist political movements for liberation such as the non-cooperation and civil disobedience movements and their leadership depended heavily on the peasantry." Comment. [1993, 20m]
11. "To glorify the strength of the Congress and deny that of the League is to be blind." (P.C. Joshi, 1945) Comment. [1994, 20m]
12. Gandhi restrained mass-movements yet he retained his popularity among the masses. How do you explain this paradox? [1994, 60m]

13. "Gandhi's mystique consisted of a union of original ideas with a remarkable flair for tactics and an uncanny insight in the mass mind." Elucidate. [1999, 60m]
14. "Gandhi restrained mass movements, yet he retained his popularity among the masses." Comment. [2002, 20m]
15. "In the summer of 1942 Gandhi was in a strange and uniquely militant mood." Comment. [2003, 20m]
16. Analyse the factors responsible for the Civil Disobedience movement (1930-31). How far were its aims realised in the Government of India Act of 1935 ? [2005, 60m]
17. "At Karachi in 1931 , the congress defined what Swaraj would mean for the masses." Comment. [2007, 20m]
18. Explain the circumstances leading to the alliance between the Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movements. Was it a politically wise step on the part of the Congress? [2007, 60m]
19. "Us moral law, the laws of conscience, higher than the law of the state, which is oppressive." Comment. [2008, 20m]
20. Do you think that Quit India movement was a Spontaneous Revolution? [2009, 30m]
21. "Many of us who worked for the congress programme lived in a kind of intoxication during the year 1921. We were full of excitement and optimism... we had a sense of freedom and pride in that freedom." Critically examine. [2013, 10m]
22. "Gandhi's body is in jail but his soul is with you, India's prestige is in your hands, you must not use any violence under any circumstances. You will be beaten but you must not resist, you must not raise a hand to ward off blows." Critically examine. [2013, 10m]
23. "To characterize the Quit India Movement as 'Spontaneous Revolution' would be partial interpretation, so also would be to look up at it as the culmination of Gandhian Satyagraha movements." Elucidate. [2015, 20m]
24. "The Royal Indian Navy Revolt was seen as an event which marked the end of the British rule almost as finally as Independence Day." Explain. [2015, 10m]
25. "This retention of Rowlatt legislation in the teeth of universal opposition is an affront to the nation. Its repeal is necessary to appease national honour." Critically examine. [2015, 10m]

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

1. "1858 is the Great Divide in modern Indian history, as the policy, practice and ideals of the government that followed differed fundamentally from the government of the Company which it displaced." Discuss. [1979, 60m]
2. The Reforms of 1909 introduced 'a cardinal problem and ground of controversy at every revision of the Indian electoral system.' Comment. [1982, 20m]
3. Explain the main features of Mont-Ford Reforms. How far did they implement the policy of administrative devolution? [1983, 60m]
4. Review the relations of the Government of India with Indian States in the period 1858-1918 with particular reference to the cases where the doctrine of paramount was asserted by the Government. [1983, 60m]
5. What changes did the British attitude undergo towards the Princely states after 1858? Was the Government of India Act of 1858 intended to introduce direct relations between the Princes and the Crown? [1985, 60m]
6. "It is sometimes asked by Ruling Chiefs, as well as by the public in India and in Europe what our policy towards Native States is. I can tell you that the basis of the policy was laid in Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858 and repeated in the Coronation message of His Majesty the King Emperor." Comment. [1986, 20m]
7. "Dyarchy was Introduced with high hopes and it must be said that, on a theoretical analysis and if worked under ideal conditions, it is not without merits." Comment. [1988, 20m]
8. "Diarchy provided by the Mont-Ford Reforms, certainly created suspicion without the frictions within." Comment. [1995, 20m]
9. The Montague Declaration (20 August 1917) was observed more closely in the "realm of imperial relations" than anything else. Comment. [1998, 20m]
10. Explain the attitude of the Indian National Congress towards the constitutional changes of 1909, 1919 and 1935. [1998, 60m]
11. "The object of the Act (Regulating) was good, but system that it established was imperfect." Comment. [2004, 20m]
12. "In terms of administrative structure, the Government of India act of 1858, ... meant more continuation than change." Do you agree? Substantiate. [2010, 20m]
13. "Though the Act of 1919 was supersede by that of 1935, the preamble to the former was not repealed- the preservation of the smile of Cheshire cat after its disappearance, and the latter said nothing about dominion status." Comment. [2013, 25m]

14. "Although the Government of India Act of 1935 replaced diarchy with Provincial, the overriding powers of the Governor diluted the spirit of autonomy." Elucidate. [2015, 10m]

11. Other strands in the National Movement

- (i) The Revolutionaries: Bengal, the Punjab, Maharashtra, U.P, the Madras Presidency, Outside India.
- (ii) The Left; The Left within the Congress: Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, the Congress Socialist Party; the Communist Party of India, other left parties.
- (iii) Other aspects

1. Assess the role of the Left Wing within the Indian National Congress between 1920 and 1947. [1981, 60m]
2. Account for the rise and growth of Left-wing within the Congress. Did Jawaharlal Nehru believe in a socialistic approach to Indian and world problems and if so why? [1986, 60m]
3. At different periods and at various levels, the National Movement assumed social, cultural and economic dimensions. Amplify. [1988, 60m]
4. "If the paramount power cast its imperial cloak over the princes, it was also entitled to see that what was sheltered was in the main creditable." Comment.
5. "The National Movement has shown concern for problems other than the constitutional one.' Discuss the factors that helped the rise of a left wing in the Indian National Congress." Comment. [1990, 60m]
6. "The relations of the Native States, however conducted are essentially relations with the British Crown and not with the Indian Government." Comment. [1991, 20m]
7. Trace the course of the people's movement in Indian States after 1937. How did the Congress leadership react to it? [1996, 60m]
8. Account for the rise and growth of leftism in the Congress movement. What impact did it have on contemporary Indian politics? [1997, 60m]
9. Discuss the nature of the leadership and programme of the Congress Socialist party. [2002, 60m] "The ideology of Subhash Chandra Bose was a combination of nationalism, fascism and communism." Comment. [2002, 20m]
10. Account for the emergence of the left-wing within the congress. How far did it influence the programme and policy of the congress. [2006, 60m]
11. Describe the changing nature of revolutionary activities in India between 1905 - 1946. [2008, 60m]
- 12."The active participation of Aruna Asaf Ali in 1942 movement symbolized the role of women in India's freedom struggle." Comment. [2010, 20m]
- 13."The developments during 1937-39 greatly undermined the ability of the Indian National Congress to push through the agenda of national unity." Comment. [2010, 20m]

14. The emergence of left-wing group in the congress radicalized its social economic agenda." Critically evaluate. [2011, 20m]

15. A powerful left-wing group developed in India in the late 1920s and 1930s, contributing to the radicalization of national movement." Critically Examine. [2015, 10m]

12. Politics of Separatism and Independence

- (i) The Muslim League; the Hindu Mahasabha; Communalism and the politics of partition;
- (ii) Transfer of power; Independence.

1. Analyze the circumstances, between 1942 and 1947, that led to freedom and partition of India. [1979, 60m]
2. Examine the main aspects of Muslim League politics from 1937 to 1947. Was the partition of the country unavoidable? [1989, 60m]
3. "Lord Mountbatten came with an order to organise retreat, in military parlance an operation." Comment. [1990, 20m]
4. "Please remember, in granting separate electorates, we are sowing dragon's teeth the harvest will be bitter." Comment. [1992, 20m]
5. "Mountbatten's task was, therefore, merely to work out details and effect the partition, demanded by the League and accepted by both British Government and the Congress; and this the new Viceroy moved commandingly to perform." Comment. [1993, 20m]
6. "To glorify the strength of the Congress and deny that of the League is to be blind." (P.C. Joshi, 1945) Comment. [1994, 20m]
7. The Pakistan movement converted a cultural and religious entity of a people into a separatist political force. Elucidate. [1996, 60m]
8. "Both freedom and partition were the work of Indian middle classes." Comment. [1998, 20m]
9. Trace the origin and growth of the Indian Muslim League. [1999, 60m]
10. "We are therefore unable to advise the British Government that the power which at present resides in British hands should be handed over to two entirely separate sovereign States." Comment. [2004, 60m]
11. "I felt that if we did not accept partition, India would be split into many bits and would be ruined." Comment. [2006, 20m]
12. "Please remember, in granting separate electorates we are sowing the dragons's teeth and harvest will be bitter." [2009, 20m]
13. Discuss as to why the congress accepted the partition of India in 1947. [2009, 30m]

13. Consolidation as a Nation

- (i) Nehru's Foreign Policy; India and her neighbours (1947-1964);
- (ii) The linguistic reorganisation of States (1935-1947); Regionalism and regional inequality; Integration of Princely States; Princes in electoral politics; the Question of National Language.

1. Jawaharlal Nehru was the architect of India's policy of non-alignment. In the light of this statement discuss India's relations with the two 'Power Blocks' between 1947-1964. [2001, 60m]
2. Analyse Indian foreign policy of Non-alignment between 1947 and 1964. [2004, 60m]
3. "With great skill and masterful diplomacy and using both persuasion and pressure, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel succeeded in integrating the hundreds of princely states with the Indian Union." Discuss. [2007, 60m]
4. Would you agree that India's effort to pursue an independent foreign policy was a highlight of post-1947 politics? [2011, 30m]
5. "Nehru's policy of Non-Alignment came to symbolised the struggle of India and other newly independent nations to retain and strengthen their independence from colonialism." Critically evaluate. [2012, 10m]
6. "The reorganization resulted in rationalizing the political map of India without seriously weakening its unity. If anything, its result has been functional, in as much as it removed what had been a major source of discord, and created homogeneous political units which could be administered through a medium that vast majority of the population understood. Indeed, it can be said with the vast majority of the population understood. Indeed, it can be said with the benefit of hindsight that language, rather than being a force for division has proved a cementing and integrating influence." Examine. [2013, 25m]
7. "Jawaharlal Nehru, though a declared socialist, was pragmatist enough to focus on providing building blocks to the making of new India." Examine. [2015, 20m]

14. Caste and Ethnicity after 1947

- (i) Backward castes and tribes in post-colonial electoral politics;
- (ii) Dalit movements.

1. Discuss the factors that lead to the growth of Dalit consciousness and mention the major movements aimed at their empowerment. [2010, 30m]
2. "In exercising its exclusive power the Parliament additionally enacted the Untouchability (Offences) Act in 1955." Comment. [2008, 20m]
3. "Nehru favored the policy of integrating the tribal people in Indian society, of making them as integral part of the Indian nation even while maintaining their distinct identity and culture." -Elaborate with special reference to Northeastern India. [2012, 30m]

15. Economic development and political change

- (i) Land reforms; the politics of planning and rural reconstruction;
- (ii) Ecology and environmental policy in post - colonial India;
- (iii) Progress of science.

1. "Having won political freedom, India had to win economic and cultural freedom." Comment. [1995, 20m]
2. "Nehru's 'temple of Modern India' consisted not only of steel and power plants, irrigation dams, but included institutions of higher learning, particularly in the scientific field." Elaborate. [2011, 30m]
3. "The Chipko became famous as the first major environmental movement in post-colonial India and gave to the understanding that environment issues are often women's issues because they suffer most from its deterioration." – Explain. [2012, 30m]
4. "Notwithstanding the quest of modernity and the antagonism that guided Nehru's attitude towards the inequalities inherent in the social structure in rural India, the congress party did not carry out concerted campaign against discrimination based on caste. Nehru's own perception was that industrial growth was bound to break the stranglehold of this feudal remnant. This however, did not happen in India." Examine. [2013, 25 m]