

UPSC Mains 2025 Aug 31, 2025 History (Paper 1) Question Paper and Answer Key PDF

Q. No.	Question	Check Solution
Q1 (i)	Neolithic site	Check Solution
Q1 (ii)	Mesolithic site	Check Solution
Q1 (iii)	Paleolithic site	Check Solution
Q1 (iv)	Neolithic site with stone artefacts	Check Solution
Q1 (v)	Site of Indus Valley Civilization	Check Solution
Q1 (vi)	Early Harappan site with a fire-pit	Check Solution
Q1 (vii)	Late Harappan site	Check Solution
Q1 (viii)	The Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) site	Check Solution
Q1 (ix)	Mesolithic site	Check Solution
Q1 (x)	Megalithic site	Check Solution
Q1 (xi)	Mahajanapada of South India	Check Solution
Q1 (xii)	Site of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana	Check Solution
Q1 (xiii)	Major Rock Edict of Asoka	Check Solution
Q1 (xiv)	Asokan Minor Rock Edict	Check Solution
Q1 (xv)	Commercial centre of the Mauryas	Check Solution
Q1 (xvi)	Saka-Kushan coin hoard	Check Solution
Q1 (xvii)	An inscription mentioning Ashvamedha Sacrifice	Check Solution
Q1 (xviii)	Site of Post-Mauryan period burnt brick house	Check Solution
Q1 (xix)	Terracotta craft centre of Post-Mauryan period	Check Solution
Q1 (xx)	Important port of the Pallava period	Check Solution
Q2 (A)	"The Chalcolithic people were experts in microliths and were also skilful workers in stone." Elucidate.	Check Solution
Q2 (B)	"The Harappans were not an artistic people." Comment.	Check Solution
Q2 (C)	"The ideological challenge posed by Jainism and Buddhism was deeply rooted in the socio-economic transformations brought about by the expansion of agrarian settlements in eastern India." Explain.	Check Solution
Q3 (A)	"The origin of the territorial republics has been traced to the reaction against the pattern of life that evolved in the later Vedic period." Analyse.	Check Solution
Q3 (B)	How far did the Mauryans facilitate the diffusion of the material culture of the Gangetic plains? Explain.	Check Solution
Q3 (C)	Examine the nature and impact of India's contacts with Central Asia during the 1st to 3rd century CE. How did these interactions influence India's political, cultural and economic spheres?	Check Solution

Q4 (A)	"The dynamics of social mobility in early medieval India were shaped by a complex interplay of caste hierarchies, religious legitimization, economic transformation and political patronage." Critically assess how these factors collectively reconfigured the structure of early medieval Indian society.	Check Solution
Q4 (B)	Discuss the circumstances which led to the conflict between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas and mention how this rivalry shaped the power dynamics in South India.	Check Solution
Q4 (C)	Critically evaluate the major stages in the development of art and literature in early medieval India and explain how these stages reflected the broader changes in society and patterns of patronage during the period.	Check Solution
Q5 (A)	"Religious themes inspired a large section of literature in provincial languages in late medieval India." Comment.	Check Solution
Q5 (B)	"Alauddin Khilji's economic measures aimed at centralising political authority in the Delhi Sultanate." Elucidate.	Check Solution
Q5 (C)	Critically assess the role of imperial Karkhanas in Mughal India. How did they reflect the ideological and functional imperatives of the Mughal State?	Check Solution
Q5 (D)	"The principles of Sikhism represented a harmonious blend of Islamic and Indic religious beliefs and practices." Comment.	Check Solution
Q5 (E)	Gunpowder changed the character of warfare in India during the Mughal era. Elucidate.	Check Solution
Q6 (A)	Discuss the structural features of Todar Mal's revenue system and evaluate its effectiveness in standardized land revenue assessment in India.	Check Solution
Q6 (B)	Barani's Fatwa-i-Jahandari" was not a proper account of the Delhi Sultanate, rather a lament. Elucidate.	Check Solution
Q6 (C)	Discuss the development of Hindi literature under Mughal patronage. How did the Bhakti and Sufi Movements influence it?	Check Solution
Q7 (A)	Portuguese maritime power disrupted the character of trade in the Indian Ocean in the 16th century. Review.	Check Solution
Q7 (B)	Akbar's Rajput policy was shaped by considerations of factional politics in the Mughal court. Discuss.	Check Solution
Q7 (C)	Evaluate the impact of Mughal revenue administration on the agrarian structure of North India. To what extent did it bring continuity and change in the rural socio-economic fabric?	Check Solution
Q8 (A)	"Aurangzeb's religious policy was a reflection of the changed political realities of the Mughal Empire." Elucidate.	Check Solution
Q8 (B)	Define the rise of distinct provincial architectural styles under the Mughal Empire in light of structural diversity, cultural interaction and the nature of provincial power dynamics.	Check Solution
Q8 (C)	Critically examine the political, military and administrative factors that led to the transformation of the Maratha character in the 18th century. How did these changes	Check Solution

	influence its rise and eventual decline?	
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