

History & Civics Syllabus

There is one paper of two hours duration carrying 80 marks and an Internal Assessment of 20 marks. The paper will be divided into two parts - Part I and Part II.

Part I (30 marks) contains short answer questions set from the entire syllabus. You are required to answer all questions.

Part II (50 marks) consists of Section A and Section B. You are required to answer two out of three questions from Section A and three out of five questions from Section B.

Section A: Civics

An elementary study is required of this section without verbatim study of the Constitutional Articles in detail.

1. Our Constitution

Definition of Constitution - date of adoption, enactment and date of commencement /implementation of the constitution. Meanings of terms in the Preamble.

2. Salient features of the Constitution

A written and lengthy constitution, Parliamentary / Cabinet system of government, Quasi - Federal government, Single Citizenship Universal Adult Franchise, Fundamental Rights (classification of Rights) and Fundamental Duties, Directive Principles of State Policy (meaning and classification), Welfare State.

3. Elections and Political Parties

(a) The need for elections and a brief mention of Election Commission as a body that conducts elections. Meaning and importance of elections; Kinds of elections: Direct election and Indirect Election (a brief mention). Meaning of General election, Mid-term election and By-election. Meaning of constituency.

(b) Meaning of Political Party ; difference between National/All India parties and Regional parties.

4. Local Self Government

Meaning and significance

(i) Rural : Three-tier system of Panchayati Raj - Village Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zila Parishad - their composition, functions.

(ii) Urban : Municipal committees and municipal corporations - composition, functions.

Section B: History

1. The Harappan Civilization

The meaning of the term 'Civilization'. Origin, extent, urban planning, trade, arts and crafts, religion. Decline. Sources: Great Bath, Citadel, seals, bearded man, dancing girl, Cemeteries, dockyard, script.

2. The Vedic Period

Sources: Literary - Vedas and Epics (brief mention) Archaeological - iron and pottery. A brief comparative study of Early and Later Vedic society and economy.

3. India in the 6th century B.C.

Causes for the rise of Jainism and Buddhism in the 6th century B.C. Doctrines and impact of Jainism and Buddhism.

4. The Mauryan Empire

Sources: Literary - Arthashastra and Indika; Archaeological - Ashokan Edicts, Sanchi Stupa. A brief study of political history and administration. Ashoka's Dhamma.

5. The Sangam Age

Sources: Literary - Tirukkural, poems, grammar and epics (brief mention); Archaeological - megaliths, herostones and inscriptions. A brief study of society and economy.

6. The Age of the Guptas

Sources: Literary - Accounts of Fa-hien and Hiuen Tsang, works of Kalidasa; Archaeological - Allahabad Pillar inscription, Deogarh Temple and Nalanda University. Reigns of Samudragupta and Chandragupta Vikramaditya. A brief study of administrative, scientific and artistic developments.

7. Medieval India

(a) South India and the Cholas. Sources: Literary - Kalingattuparani by Jayamkondar; Archaeological - inscriptions, monuments - Brihadishwara Temple. A brief political history, administration and social life.

(b) The Delhi Sultanate. Sources: Literary - Tariq-i-Firozshahi, Prithvirajraso by Chand - Bardai Archaeological - inscriptions, monuments - Qutab Minar. A brief political history beginning from the invasion of Muhammad Ghor. Administration and social life.

8. The Mughal Empire

Sources: Literary - Abul Fazal's Ain-i-Akbari, Monuments - Humayun's tomb, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort, Taj Mahal, Jama Masjid and Red Fort.

Brief introduction of the chronology of the Mughal dynasty between 1526 - 1707 (From the reign of Babur to Aurangzeb). Administration and social development; emergence of composite culture - Sufism and Bhakti Movement (Guru Nanak, Kabir, Mirabai and Chisti Silsila) Influence of Christianity (Francis Xavier and Robert de Nobili).

9. The beginning of the Modern Age in Europe

(a) Renaissance - definition, causes (Capture of Constantinople, decline of Feudalism, new trade routes, spirit of enquiry and invention of the printing press) and impact on art, literature and science.

(b) The Reformation - causes (dissatisfaction with the practices of the Catholic Church and new learning). Martin Luther's contribution. Impact on Europe (rise of powerful Nation States, Schism within the church, Counter Reformation, Mercantilism).

(c) Industrial Revolution - causes and impact (socialism and capitalism).