

History & Civics Syllabus

There is one paper of two hours duration carrying 80 marks and an Internal Assessment of 20 marks. The paper is 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 (Civics) and Section B (History). 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

1. The Union Legislature

The Union Parliament - definition of Parliament. A brief idea of the federal setup in India.

(i) Lok Sabha - term, composition, qualification for membership, disqualification of membership. Parliamentary procedures: a brief idea of sessions, quorum, question hour, motions - adjournment and no-confidence motion. Speaker - selection and functions.

(ii) Rajya Sabha - composition, qualification for membership, disqualification of membership, election, term, presiding officer.

Powers and functions of (a) Rajya Sabha (b) Lok Sabha - legislative, financial control over executive, judicial, electoral, amendment of the constitution. Relationship between the two Houses - differences. Anti-defection law.

2. The Union Executive

(a) The President: election, term of office, powers. Qualifications for election, composition of Electoral College, reason for indirect election, term of office, procedure for impeachment. Powers - executive, legislative, financial, judicial, discretionary and emergency. Position of the President in a Parliamentary setup.

(b) The Vice-President: Qualifications for election, term of office and powers.

(c) Prime Minister and Council of Ministers: Appointment, formation of Council of Ministers, tenure, functions - Policy making, administrative, legislative, financial, emergency. Position and powers of the Prime Minister. Collective and individual responsibility of the members of the Cabinet. Distinction between Council of Ministers and Cabinet.

3. The Judiciary

(a) The Supreme Court: Composition, qualification of judges, appointment, independence of judiciary from control of executive and legislature; Powers of the Supreme

Court; Jurisdiction and functions: Original, Appellate settlement of disputes, enforcement of Fundamental Rights, Advisory, Revisory Judicial Review and Court of Record.

(b) The High Courts: Composition, qualifications of judges, appointment, conditions of service; Powers of the High Court; Jurisdiction and functions; Original, Appellate. settlement of disputes; enforcement of Fundamental Rights, Writs, Advisory, Revisory, Judicial Review, Court of Record.

(c) Subordinate Courts: Distinction between Court of the District Judge and Sessions Court. Lok Adalats: meaning and advantages.

Section B: History

1. The Indian National Movement (1857 - 1917)

(a) The First War of Independence, 1857: Only the causes (political, socio-religious, economic and military) and consequences will be tested. The events, however need to be mentioned in order to maintain continuity and for a more comprehensive understanding.

(b) Factors promoting growth of Nationalism, foundation of the Indian National Congress - immediate objectives. Factors promoting the growth of Nationalism - economic exploitation, repressive colonial policies, socio-religious reform movements (brief mention of contribution of Raja Rammohan Roy and Jyotiba Phule), rediscovery of India's past, influence of western education, role of the Press, modern means of transport and communication. The Indian National Association (Surendranath Banerjee) and the East India Association (Dadabhai Naoroji) as precursors of the Indian National Congress should be highlighted. The first two sessions and their presidents should be mentioned.

(c) Programme and achievements of the Early Nationalists. The basic beliefs, objectives, programme, methods of struggle and achievements of the Early Nationalists. Any two contributions of Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendranath Banerjee and Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

(d) The rise of Assertive Nationalism: Causes of the rise of assertive nationalism, the basic beliefs, objectives, programme, methods of struggle and achievements of the Assertive Nationalists and any two contributions of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai.

(e) The Partition of Bengal: Reasons behind the partition of Bengal (1905). Swadeshi and Boycott movements and their impact, Surat split of 1907.

(f) The Muslim League: Factors leading to the formation of the Muslim League and objectives.

(g) Lucknow Pact, Home Rule League and August Declaration. Objectives of Home Rule League, Significance of Lucknow Pact and August Declaration.

2. Mass Phase of the National Movement (1915-1947)

(a) Mahatma Gandhi: Non-Cooperation Movement: causes (Khilafat Movement, Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala Bagh tragedy), programme and suspension - Chauri Chaura incident, and impact of the Movement; the Civil Disobedience Movement causes (Reaction to the Simon Commission, Declaration of Poorna Swaraj at the Lahore Session of 1929), Dandi March, programme and impact of the Movement, Gandhi-Irwin Pact and the Second Round Table Conference; the Quit India Movement causes (failure of Cripps Mission, Japanese threat), Quit India Resolution and the significance of the Movement.

(b) Forward Bloc (objectives) and INA (objectives and achievements).

(c) Independence and Partition of India - Cabinet Mission Plan, (clauses, responses of the Congress and the Muslim League), Mountbatten Plan (clauses and its acceptance) and the Indian Independence Act of 1947 (clauses only).

3. The Contemporary World

(a) The First World War

Causes (Militant Nationalism, Armament Race, division of Europe and Sarajevo Crisis) and results (Treaty of Versailles, Territorial rearrangements, Formation of League of Nations)

(b) Rise of Dictatorships

Causes for the rise of Fascism in Italy and the rise of Nazism in Germany. A comparative study of Fascist and Nazi ideologies.

(c) The Second World War

Causes (Dissatisfaction with the Treaty of Versailles, Rise of Fascism and Nazism, Policy of Appeasement, Japanese invasion of China, Failure of League of Nations and Hitler's invasion of Poland). Brief mention of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Consequences (Defeat of Axis Powers, Formation of the United Nations and Cold War).

(d) United Nations

(i) The purpose, objectives and principles of the U.N. The composition and functions of the General Assembly, Security Council, and the International Court of Justice.

(ii) Major agencies of the United Nations: UNICEF, WHO and UNESCO - functions only.

(e) Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Human Rights - definition and violation (examples only)

(f) Non Aligned Movement: Brief meaning; factors responsible; objectives; role of Jawaharlal Nehru. Names of the Architects of NAM.