Complete Self-Study Booster Series for UPSC Powered By – Team Self Study Wala

2013 to 2024

About the Author

Mohit Sharma is the Founder and Director of **Sankalp IAS Academy, Amroha, Uttar Pradesh.** He has been guiding civil services aspirants **for the last 14 years.** He has the honour of guiding many selected candidates. Mohit Sharma is also the founder of Self Study Wala and eMT Education.

Dedicated To

All my students whom I have taught or who have given me the opportunity to learn from me in any way and help me to update my knowledge regularly.

1 General Studies I: Syllabus & PYQs

Art & Culture Syllabus

1. Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

History Syllabus

2. Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events,

personalities, issues.

3. The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

Post independence History Syllabus

4. Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

World History Syllabus

5- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as Industrial revolution, World wars, Redraw of national boundaries, Colonization, Decolonization, Political philosophies like Communism, Capitalism, Socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.

Society Syllabus

6. Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

7. Role of women and women's organizations, Population and associated issues, Poverty and developmental issues,

Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

8. Effects of globalization on Indian society.

9. Social empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism.

Geography Syllabus

10. Salient features of world's physical geography.

11. Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent);

factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world

(including India).

12. Important Geophysical phenomena such as Earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, Cyclone etc., geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including Waterbodies and Ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

1.1 Art & Culture

1.1.1 UPSC Syllabus

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

1.1.2 Year wise Marks Weightage

Year	Marks
UPSC Mains 2024	35 Marks
UPSC Mains 2023	40 Marks
UPSC Mains 2022	40 Marks
UPSC Mains 2021	10 Marks
UPSC Mains 2020	50 Marks
UPSC Mains 2019	45 Marks
UPSC Mains 2018	35 Marks
UPSC Mains 2017	10 Marks
UPSC Mains 2016	25 Marks
UPSC Mains 2015	25 Marks
UPSC Mains 2014	40 Marks
UPSC Mains 2013	20 Marks

1.1.3 Year Wise PYQs Collection (2013 - 2024)

1.1.3.1 UPSC 2024

1. Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
2. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
3. "Though the great Cholas are no more yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of art and architecture". Comment. **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**

1.1.3.2 UPSC 2023

1. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
2. What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**
3. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society? **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**

1.1.3.3 UPSC 2022

1. How will you explain that medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
2. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**

3. Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**

1.1.3.4 UPSC 2021

1. Evaluate the nature of Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**

1.1.3.5 UPSC 2020

1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
2. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
3. Indian philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**
4. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**

1.1.3.6 UPSC 2019

1. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco -Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
2. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism? **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks) (Art & Culture + Indian Society)**
3. What makes Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks) (Art & Culture + Indian Society)**
4. Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples. **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks) (Art & Culture + Indian Society)**

1.1.3.7 UPSC 2018

1. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
2. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
3. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**

1.1.3.8 UPSC 2017

1. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**

1.1.3.9 UPSC 2016

1. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. **(Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)**
2. Krishnadeva Raya, the King of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. **(Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)**

1.1.3.10 UPSC 2015

1. The ancient civilization in the Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to the present day. Comment. **(Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)**

2. Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a tine aesthetic sense comparable to modem painting. Critically evaluate this comment. **(Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)**

1.1.3.11 UPSC 2014

1. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
2. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
3. Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
4. Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu / Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**

1.1.3.12 UPSC 2013

1. Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment. **(Answer in 200 words) (10 Marks)**
2.
a. Discuss the 'Tandava' dance as recorded in early Indian inscriptions. **(Answer in 100 words) (05 Marks)**
b. Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. **(Answer in 100 words) (05 Marks)**

1.2   Society

1.2.1   UPSC Syllabus:

Topic 1 - Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Topic 2 - Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Topic 3 - Effects of globalization on Indian society.

Topic 4 - Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

1.2.2   Year wise Marks Weightage

Year	Marks
UPSC Mains 2024	100 Marks
UPSC Mains 2023	90 Marks
UPSC Mains 2022	60 Marks

UPSC Mains 2021	75 Marks
UPSC Mains 2020	75 Marks
UPSC Mains 2019	75 Marks
UPSC Mains 2018	75 Marks
UPSC Mains 2017	50 Marks
UPSC Mains 2016	50 Marks
UPSC Mains 2015	75 Marks
UPSC Mains 2014	62.5 Marks
UPSC Mains 2013	40 Marks

1.2.3 Society (Topic 1): Year Wise PYQs Collection (2013 - 2024)

Topic 1 - Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

1.2.3.1 UPSC 2024

1. Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities. **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**
2. Inter-caste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**

1.2.3.2 UPSC 2023

1. Do you think marriage as a sacrament in loosing its value in Modern India? (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
3. Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static? (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.3.3 UPSC 2022

1. Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work from Home' on family relationships. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. Given the diversities among tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category? (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
3. Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.3.4 UPSC 2021

1. Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge systems when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.3.5   UPSC 2020

1. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.3.6   UPSC 2019

1. What makes Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks) **(Art & Culture + Indian Society)**
2. Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.3.7   UPSC 2018

1. "Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, the caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)

1.2.3.8   UPSC 2017

1. The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.3.9   UPSC 2016

1. Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity? (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.3.10 UPSC 2015

1. Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)
2. Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.3.11 UPSC 2014

1. The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.4   Society (Topic 2): Year Wise PYQs Collection (2013 - 2024)

Topic 2 - Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

1.2.4.1   UPSC 2024

1. In dealing with socio-economic Issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive? **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
2. Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation? **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**
3. Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries. **(Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)**

4. Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, underprivileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment. **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**

1.2.4.2 UPSC 2023

1. Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian Society. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India? (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)
3. Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises? (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.4.3 UPSC 2022

1. How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption? (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)

1.2.4.4 UPSC 2021

1. Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
3. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.4.5 UPSC 2020

1. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the educational system in the country? Elaborate your answer. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)
3. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.4.6 UPSC 2019

1. "Empowering women is the key to control population growth". Discuss (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)
3. How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India? (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)
4. "The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self- government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process." Comment. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks) **(Polity + Social Justice)**

1.2.4.7 UPSC 2018

1. 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing.' Explain by giving reasons. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. 'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata. Substantiate your view. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)
3. Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.4.8 UPSC 2017

1. The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues of employment but has also created new problems. Substantiate this statement with examples. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.4.9 UPSC 2016

1. "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from deprivation." Substantiate this statement with suitable examples. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)
2. With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme'. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)
3. Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.4.10 UPSC 2015

1. How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes? (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)
2. Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)
3. Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)
4. Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.4.11 UPSC 2014

1. How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India? (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
3. Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)

1.2.4.12 UPSC 2013

1. Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organizations free from gender bias. Comment. (Answer in 200 words) (10 Marks)
2. Discussion of the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India. (Answer in 200 words) (10 Marks)

1.2.5 Society (Topic 3): Year Wise PYQs Collection (2013 - 2024)

Topic 3 - Effects of globalization on Indian society.

1.2.5.1 UPSC 2024

1. Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family? **(Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)**

1.2.5.2 UPSC 2023

1. Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.5.3   UPSC 2022

1. Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.5.4   UPSC 2021

1. What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also? (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.5.5   UPSC 2019

1. Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)
2. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.5.6   UPSC 2018

1. 'Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to these cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian Society. Elucidate. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.5.7   UPSC 2016

1. To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.5.8   UPSC 2015

1. Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.5.9   UPSC 2013

1. Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India. (Answer in 200 words) (10 Marks)

1.2.6   Society (Topic 4): Year Wise PYQs Collection (2013 - 2024)

Topic 4 - Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

1.2.6.1   UPSC 2024

1. What is regional disparity How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India? (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.6.2   UPSC 2022

1. Are tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.6.3   UPSC 2020

1. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)

1.2.6.4 UPSC 2019

2. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism? (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks) **(Art & Culture + Indian Society)**

1.2.6.5 UPSC 2018

1. How is the Indian concept of secularism different from the western model of secularism? Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. 'Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation. Argue by giving suitable illustrations. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)
3. Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.6.6 UPSC 2017

1. In the context of diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint. (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
2. What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence, addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)? (Answer in 150 words) (10 Marks)
3. Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has transformed into the latter in independent India. (Answer in 250 words) (15 Marks)

1.2.6.7 UPSC 2016

1. What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on a regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)
2. Why are the tribals in India referred to as the Scheduled Tribes? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.6.8 UPSC 2015

1. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.6.9 UPSC 2014

1. How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West? (Answer in 200 words) (12.5 Marks)

1.2.6.10 UPSC 2013

1. Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss. (Answer in 200 words) (10 Marks)