

General Studies: Paper II

Maximum marks: 250

Total no. of questions: 25

Time: 3 hours

1. The majestic ruins of the Vijayanagar empire in Hampi signify the refined style of temple architecture and sculpture art that was unparalleled. Discuss.
2. "The more I saw, the more I admired the Master's genius — his uncanny ability, through the magic of his brush to depict mood, emotion and atmosphere and to encapsulate the whole story in the selected scene". How far this quote about Raja Ravi Varma describes his art? Analyse.
3. The perception of the western intelligentsia that Indians are effeminate and lack bodily strength inspired many social reformers in India to inculcate masculinity through sports, physical training and meditation. Critically comment.
4. Nineteenth century saw the articulation for woman rights as the clash of cultures- traditional structures of the Indian society and western education. Discuss.
5. The very premise that was used by Gandhi to forge Hindu-Muslim unity turned the tides against the aspiration of a shared nation-state. Examine the statement in light of the Congress-Khilafat cooperation.
6. Persuasion, pressure and politics were the three main tools employed by Dastard Patel to ensure that the India of the 20th century maintained its bodily integrity rather than Balkan into several small pieces. Elucidate.
7. The constitution of the State Reorganization Commission and its recommendations were testimony to the growing realization that regional and linguistic identities were a contemporary social reality and the best way to tackle it was to accept it. Discuss.
8. That negotiations and dialogues serve best in addressing issues of separatism and insurgency is demonstrated aptly by the Jivaro-Walloon and the Izod accords. Critically comment.
9. Many bloody battles were fought in the late 19th and early 20th centuries which devastated lives, cities and economies but hardly changed the status duo. Comment.

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10. The gap of two decades between the world wars was only a break in the continuing struggle of imperialism and colonialism. Do you agree? Substantiate.
11. The ideals of the democratic nation state that we follow today are deeply rooted in the revolutions that took place in the distant west. What do you think? Examine.
12. Even though cold war seems to have occupied the historical landscape of the post World war II era, the most significant historical event of this time was decolonization. Do you agree? Critically comment.
13. How did mercantilism gave rise to capitalism and colonialism? Examine in light of the developments that took place in 18th and 19th century Europe.
14. The widely accepted view that capitalism supports meritocracy and improves efficiency has been proven to be only partially true in the recent past. Why? Substantiate by giving examples.
15. The weakest link in the secular credentials of the Indian state is the psyche of the middle class which desires the bounties of modern market place and economy without disturbing the traditional structures of power.
16. Globalization has transformed the role of various social institutions. Even though the institution of caste has been eroded to an extent, recent events of atrocities against the so called lower caste people paint a different picture. Do you agree? Critically examine.
17. The notion of mutual communication and support in the family has changed remarkably by the advent of social media. It has not only eroded the strength of the family as an institution but also affected traditional values. Do you prescribe to this view? Substantiate.
18. What do you understand by up welling and dispelling? How do these phenomena affect coastal climate and marine productivity?
19. What is so special about the cir cum-Pacific ring? Is there a correlation of the characteristics of the ring with plate tectonics? Explain.
20. Rural and agro based industries in India hold immense potential for rural economic development. Assess this potential by analyzing their locational factors.
21. What is the significance of aluminium industry for India? What are the problems being faced by the aluminium industry in India? Discuss.

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22. What do you mean by ENSO? How does it affect the world climate in general and Indian climate in particular? Explain.
23. Discuss the significance of rare earth minerals. Where do they occur? Why the world is facing a crisis in this valuable resource?
24. Explain the concept of desertification. Which regions of the world are hit worst by desertification and why? What are its implications on food security and livelihood?
25. Land is a valuable resource for economic growth and livelihood creation. Therefore it requires sustainable land use and management practices. Do you agree? Discuss.