

General Studies (Test code : 1497)

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Medium - English

Registration No. - 322622

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Date - 12.06.21.

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
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14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks
Obtained →

REMARKS.

1. Trace the evolution of Pahari paintings along with their prominent features.

(150 words) 20 M.

between the 17th and 19th centuries, Pahari painting flourished under the patronage of various kingdoms along Himalayan foothills.

While the exact origin of this school is unclear; it can be associated to the influx of Mughal artists after Aurangzeb discouraged such arts in his court and the painters lost patronage in Delhi.

Pahari school mainly developed in two regions - Basholi and Kangra. The PROMINENT FEATURES of this include-

1) Basholi School

- First patron - Raja Kirpal Singh
- Expressive faces, big eyes like lotus petals
- High use of primary colours
- Themes - Ramayana, Gita Govindam, Bhanudatt's Rasmanjari
- Famous Painters - Devi Das (known

for Radha Krishna paintings).

2) Kangra School

- Patrons - Govardhan Singh and Sansar Chand.
- Paintings contained elements of sensuality and intelligence.
- Themes - love scenes of Krishna, Satsai of Biharilal, Hal-Damyanti.

Thus, pahari paintings are an important example of the regional schools of painting in India.

2. On the vast panorama of world literature, Kalidasa is considered as a literary genius, second to none. Discuss in the context of writings of Kalidasa.

(150 words) 10 M.

Included among one of the Nine Gems (Navratna) of Gupta ruler Chandragupta II, Kalidasa spearheaded the Golden Era of Sanskrit literature in India. He is considered second to none - neither his contemporaries (Bhasa, Amarsimha), nor those who wrote after him.

Kalidasa's works had a unique blend of History and Mythology. For instance, his work ~~Abhis~~ Kumarsambhavam is related to the legend of Shiva-Parvati.

'Meghadootam' reflects his literary finesse. The smart use of metaphors and an imagination that knew no bounds. This establishes him as a literary genius.

His writings also had a clear context. His works shed crucial light on many aspects of Indian history. For instance, 'Malvikagnimitra -am' depicts the story of Shunga king Agnimitra, who fell in love with a courtesan.

Abhigyan Shakuntalam - regarded as his seminal work, mixes history with creativity. It depicts the trials and tribulations faced by Shakuntala & King Dushyant.

Thus, Kalidasa was a literary genius. Sir William Jones had rightly described him as the 'Shakespeare of India'.

3. Tracing the evolution of Shaivism in India, discuss the various philosophical schools associated with it.

(150 words) 10 M.

The roots of Shaivism in India can be traced back to the Later Vedic Period. There is mention of Rudra (the destroyer) associated with Shiva. Even Sangam texts mention Murugan and Kartikeya (Shiva's son) as presiding deities.

The worship of Shiva as the chief lord got further impetus during Gupta period. As Shiva got established as a part of the holy trinity (Brahma, Vishnu & Mahesh).

In early medieval period, Shaivism was popularized by the Nayanars also.

The various philosophical schools associated with Shaivism are -

1) Siddhas - Practice 'sadhna' and condemn idolatry. Are monotheistic ascetics. Also called Togi or Sadhu.

2) Nathpanthi - Adhere to teachings of Goraknath and Matsyendranath.
Worship Shiva as 'Adinath'. Practice Hathayoga. Cover themselves with ashes.

3) Lingayat (aka Virshivism) - Worship Shiva in the form of linga. Set up by Basavanna. Reject Vedas & caste system.

4) Aghoris - worship Shiva manifested as Bhairava. Seek salvation through Sadhna in cremation grounds and removal of bonds of life (fear, greed, anger, etc.).

5) Dashnami Sanyasis - Disciples of Adi Shankaracharya (Advait Vedanti tradition).

6) Siddhars - Attain spiritual perfection through secret sasyanas to perfect their bodies. In Tamil Nadu.

Thus, Shivism has a firmly entrenched tradition in India.

4.

The approach and vision of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose towards the Indian Freedom struggle differed in key aspects from the one adopted by the Congress mainstream. Discuss.
(150 words) 10 M.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was a fierce nationalist, whose defiant patriotism made him a great freedom fighter in Indian history.

While Netaji was a part of Congress for many years; his vision and approach towards the Freedom struggle differed from Congress in key aspects, such as-

- 1) He was a radical socialist while Congress was somewhat Centrist
- 2) Bose wanted complete independence from British rule, based on all out struggle, including use of force.
Congress was committed to Gandhian Satyagraha, based on a 'Struggle Thru Struggle' strategy.

3) He was open to the idea of taking foreign assistance to achieve freedom, as seen in the formation of Indian National Association.

Congress was not too enthusiastic about this.

4) Bose advocated Economic planning, and heavy industrialization.

While Gandhi Ji wanted a village-based economy; Congress (except for Pt. Nehru and few others) was ambiguous.

In conclusion, the ~~own~~ end of both were same, their means were different.

5. Despite various shortcomings, the Moderate phase of freedom struggle was key to giving birth to economic nationalism in India. Comment.
(150 words) 10M.

The early phase of Congress, starting from its establishment (1885) was mainly dominated by Moderates.

They had faith in British benevolence and espoused Constitutional agitation (prayers, petitions, etc). However, they were also criticized as -

SHORT
COMINGS

→ couldn't understand the true (exploitative) face of colonialism

Failed to expand mass base of freedom struggle

Failed to get any substantial reforms.

At the same time, there achievement was the development of Economic Critique of colonialism. This gave birth to Economic Nationalism in India.

- Dadabhai Naoroji - Indians were getting poorer everyday. This poverty was not natural, but man-made, thus capable of being removed.
- Reason for Poverty - Drain of Wealth from India to Britain through Home Charges, etc.
- Foreign capital was a way to further strengthen India's subservience. So, industrialization should be based on Indian capital.
- British went for deliberate deindustrialization in India to benefit British manufacturers
- condemned high expenditure on army to suit British ambitions.

Thus, they argued that the essence of colonialism lay in transforming India to a supplier of raw materials, and market for British goods.

This undermined ideological hegemony of the British.

6. The huge strides India took towards modernisation under Lord Dalhousie were borne out of necessity rather than their benevolence. Examine.

(150 words) 10M

The ideological justification provided by the British to colonise India lay in their idea of 'White Man's burden'; and their responsibility to 'Modernize' India.

However, the Economic critique of colonialism exposes this myth. While there were huge strides towards Modernization under ~~Lord~~ Lord Dalhousie; they were borne out of Necessity rather than benevolence -

1) India's first railway line between Mumbai & Thane (1853) -

- Need to connect ports to hinterland
- Facilitate rapid movement of troops between various parts of India
- Facilitate transport of British imported goods throughout India.

2) First Telegraph line (Calcutta to Diamond Harbour) - 1851 and Postal Reforms -

- Need for swift communication with troops
- Easy communication between all branches of government.

3) Ganga Canal declared Open (1854)

- Boost agrarian output -
 - i) Increase exports
 - ii) Earn more revenue

4) Social Reforms like Religious Disabilities Act

- Removes barriers to conversion to Christianity

5) Public Works department in every province -

- Oversee expenditure of Foreign capital in India, and boost returns

6) Military reforms - Separate Corkha Regiment -

- Declining trust on Indian troops.

Thus, modernization was to suit British ambitions rather than Indian needs.

7. Indian women, cutting across identities, increasingly participated in the anti-colonial & democratic movements since 1930s. Discuss.

(150 words) 10M.

The success of Indian National Movement lies in its broad mass-base, of which women formed an integral part.

In the early phases, their participation was limited to the confines of domesticity and patriarchy. This barrier was broken by 1930s, as women cutting across identities participated in the struggle -

1) Sarojini Naidu - First Indian woman to become President of Congress in 1925.

- Represented women at Round Table Conference in London.
- Led Dharasana salt Mill raid (1930)

2) Rani Gandhinu - led the Naga resistance against British and was arrested

- Also supported Civil Disobedience Movement.

3) Durgabai Deshmukh - organized salt satyagraha (1931) in Madras presidency

4) Sucheta Kriplani - coordinated activities of Quit India Movement on ground.

5) Aruna Asaf Ali - led all underground activities of Quit India Movement.

- Hosted tricolour at Gowalia Tank to start the struggle.

6) Usha Mehta - set up & operated an underground radio to help freedom fighters

7) Pratibha Waddekar - conducted the Chittagong Armoury raid along with Surya Sen.

- Martyred during the raid.

8) Capt. Lakshmi Sahgal - led the Rani Jhansi Regiment of Indian National Army.

Thus, Indian women from all backgrounds contributed to the movement in all ways possible.

8.

Bring out the differences in the views of Babasaheb Ambedkar & Mahatma Gandhi on the question of upliftment of dalits.

(150 words) 10M.

Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhi Ji were two foremost personalities, working for the upliftment of the downtrodden.

Despite having similar ends, there were fundamental differences between them on the question of upliftment of dalits. This includes -

1) Being a ~~strong~~ follower of Hindu dharma, Gandhi Ji did not support the abolition of caste and varna. He considered untouchability as a moral and social problem.

Babasaheb believed that Brahminism and Hinduism were just the same. He called for annihilation of caste.

2) Gandhi Ji encouraged people of all castes to fight for the rights of dalits.

Dr. Ambedkar believed that upper castes can not fight

for the dalit cause. Thus, only dalits will have to fight for their rights.

3) Gandhi Ji saw villages as India's backbone, and wanted autonomy for them.

Babasaheb saw villages as dens of ignorance, perpetuating exploitation of dalits.

4) Gandhi Ji's general approach to protest was through extra-constitutional mass struggle.

Babasaheb believed that a fair just constitution can lead to upliftment of dalits.

5) Gandhi Ji believed in political unity of all. Babasaheb wanted separate electorates for dalits.

Thus, despite similar ends, both had different means.

9. North-east India ~~through~~ threw up constant challenges to the British hegemony in India. Discuss in the context of anti-colonial struggles in the region. (150 words) 10M.

British government in India wanted to establish scientific frontiers in India. This, along with the search for new markets and cheap labour, led them to attack North-East India.

This, however, was problematic for the British as they had to face constant challenges. This includes -

1) Ahom Revolt (1828)

Leaders - Gomdhar Komwar, Dhanjoy Bonghain, Jairam Phukan

Reasons - British did not withdraw from Assam after First Burma war.

British had to follow a conciliatory approach, and restored a part of the Empire to the king.

2) Singhpoo Rebellion (1843)

Leader - Nirang Phidu

Reason - Against British interference.

3) Khasi Uprising

Leader - Treath Singh

Reason - EIC wanted to build a road linking Sylhet with Bramhaputra valley and brought Bengali labour. Outsider's presence caused resentment

• Khasis, Garo, Kampter and Singhpoo took part

4) Kuki Revolt (1917)

For independence from British

5) Jehangrong Movement

Leader - Jadonang

Coincided with Non-cooperation Movement -nt

6) Rani Gardinilu's Naga Struggle

Against British oppression and for Naga self determination.

7) Tripura Revolt (1942-43)

Leader - Ratnamani (Khang tribe)

Thus, North East India saw a series of revolts against interference and oppression by the outsiders.

10. Give an account of developments in India and across the world that influenced the Indian trade union movement. (150 words) 10M.

The growth of industries in India under British rule gradually led to the formations of trade unions, and growth in labour consciousness by 1920s.

The Indian Trade Union Movement was influenced by various developments from-

A. WORLD -

- 1) October revolution (1917) in Russia showed the significance of working-class solidarity.
- 2) Formation of Comintern and its call for proletariat internationalism ('workers of the world, unite!')
- 3) Establishment of International Labour Organisation under the aegis of League of Nations.
- 4) Social democratic ideas of the British Labour Party.

B. INDIA

- 1) Economic crisis after World War I
 - a) Food shortage ~~and~~
 - b) Rise in general price levels
 - c) Decrease in wages
 - d) Conscription, indentured labour
- 2) Gandhi Ji's emphasis on making freedom struggle mass-based by involving various sections.
- 3) Formation of All India Trade Union Congress (1920), and leaders like Tilak, Pt. Nehru, Sarojini Naidu.
- 4) Exploitative legislations of the British, fueled discontent -
 - a) Public Safety Ordinances
 - b) Trade Disputes Act.

Thus, Indian Trade Union movement was a cumulative result of various developments, both home and abroad.

11. Starting from the creation of world's first dock, India's maritime history is simply astonishing. Elucidate.

(250 words) 15M.

Being situated at the heart of Indian ocean, and surrounded by water on three sides; India has a unique maritime advantage.

Moreover, Indians, over centuries, have successfully harnessed this position; and India's maritime history is simply astonishing.

1) Indus Valley Civilization -

a) People in IVC knew ship-building and traded with Mesopotamia.

b) A dry dockyard has been found at Lothal.

2) Vedic Period

There are references to Lord Varuna, God of seas and upholder of the natural order.

3) Mauryan Empire

a) First recorded instance of navy in the world is from Magadha.

b) A separate division of Chandragupta Maurya's army was dedicated to navy

c) Arthashastra mentions a department of waterways, various types of boats, etc.

4) Gupta Period

a) Trade and commerce with Byzantine empire, Romans, etc.

b) Fa-hien records contain the advanced art of oceanic navigation

c) Tamralipi was an important port of Guptas

5) Satavahanas

a) Controlled the Eastern coasts

b) Their coins had inscription of ships

6) Chola, Chera, Pandyas

a) Being coastal kingdoms, all had trade links with foreign kingdoms

b) Cheras used knowledge of monsoon winds to sail between Tyndis and Muzeri ports in India & ports of Greece and Arabia.

c) Cholas fought with and defeated Sri Vijaya empire, Cambodians, etc.

- Achieved dominance on seas
- Bay of Bengal was called 'Chola Lake'

7) Mughal Empire

a) While it was primarily a continental Empire, Mughals had links with English as well as Portuguese.

b) Surat was a major port

8) Marathas

had a navy with 500 ships.

Thus, Indians have a splendid maritime record.

42. Highlighting the unique features of Vesera style, discuss how it symbolizes confluence of Dravida & Nagara temple architectures.

(250 words) 10M

Temples have been an important part of socio-political life in India. India thus has a strong temple building tradition, broadly as Nagara architecture in North and Dravida in Southern India.

From c. 700 CE, there was a development of a Hybrid style, under the patronage of Chalukya rulers; called the Vesera style. It was further patronised by Hoysalas and Rashtrakutas.

Example - Lakkhan temple (Aihole)
Virupaksha temple (Pattadakal).

The UNIQUE FEATURES of the Vesera temples include -

- 1) stellate (star-shaped) ground plan
- 2) Open (rather than covered) circum-ambulatory passages (pradakshinpatha)
- 3) Intricate carvings on pillars,

doorways and ceilings

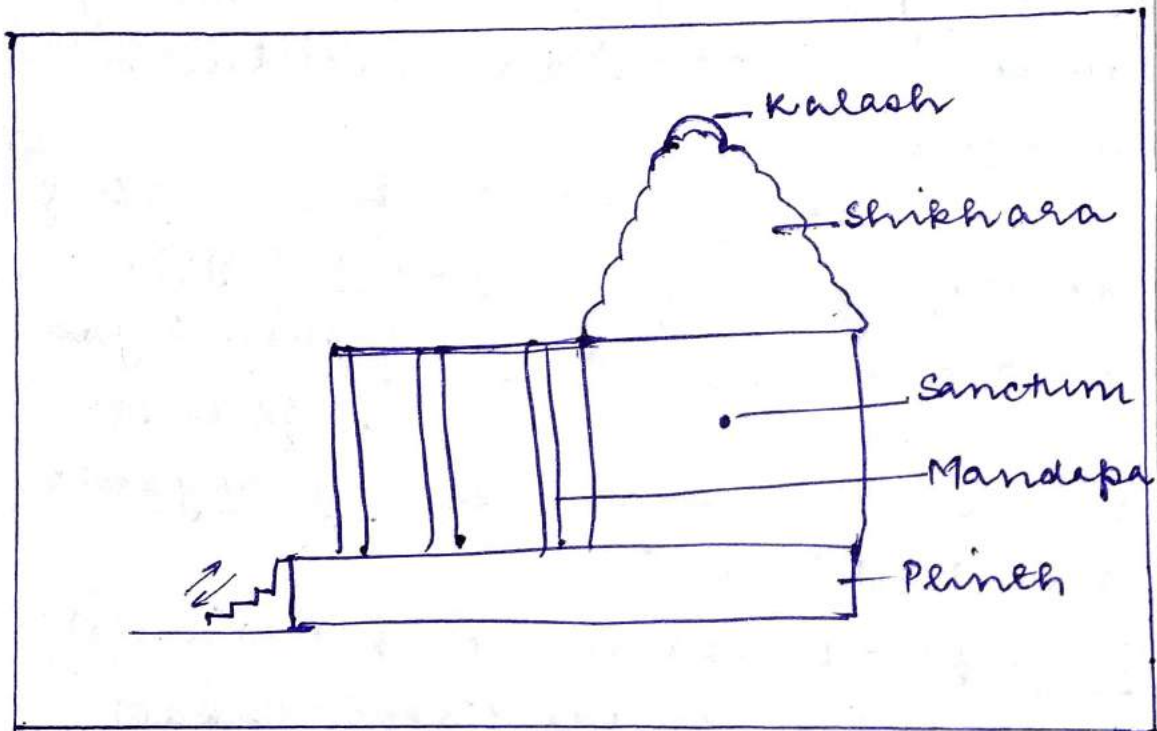
4) A raised temple platform, called Jagati.

5) zig-zag patterns of walls and stairs

6) NO use of mortar, to allow more ventilation and light.

7) Presence of miniature decorative pillars

8) Multiple entrances to the temple.



↑
Vesara Temple

At the same time, Vesara style symbolizes a CONFLUENCE of Nagara and Dravida styles, this can be seen in -

a) Nagara Influence -

- Presence of a curvilinear shikhara
- Panchayatana style - one main shrine surrounded by four subsidiary shrines
- Plan of vestibule joining the sanctum to mandapa resembles Odisha temples.

b) Dravida Influence -

- Terraced shikhara and design of Vimana
- Presence of gopuram (entrance)
- Presence of theppam (water tank).

Thus, Vesara temple architecture is a hybrid of Nagara & Dravida styles.

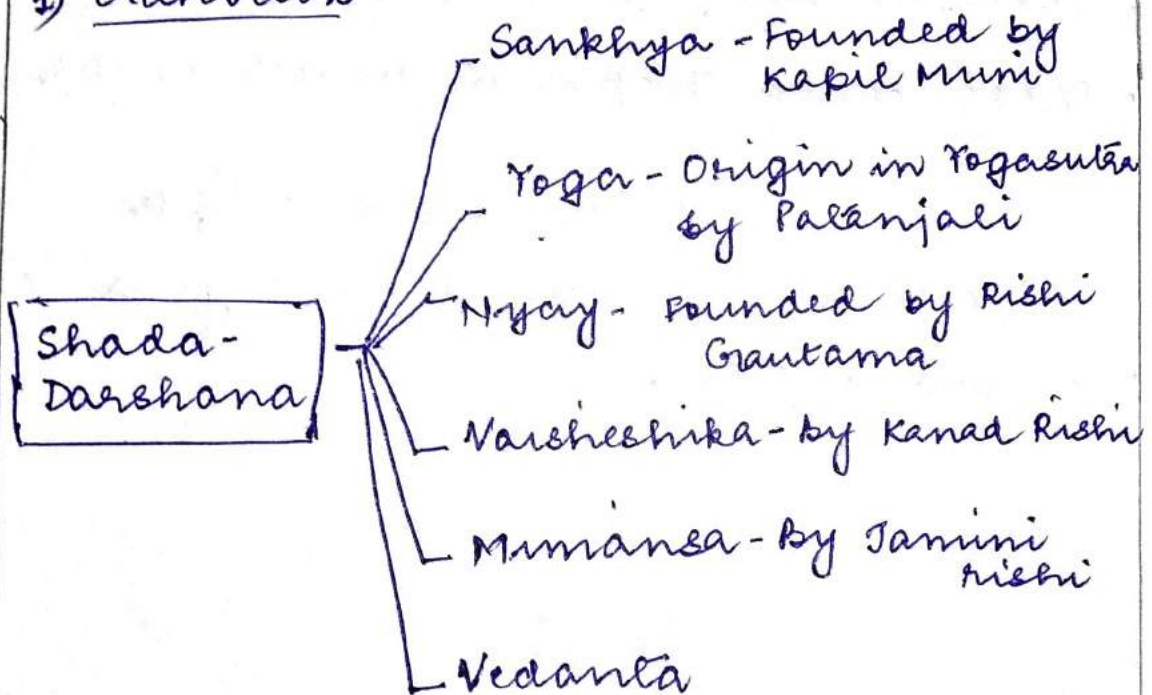
13.

Given its inward-looking approach, the Indian school of philosophies still remains relevant in the 21st century. Analyse.

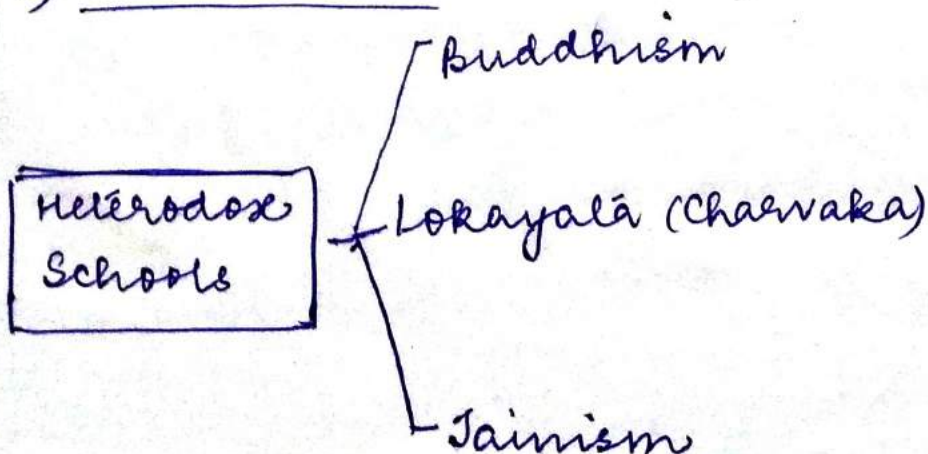
In India, philosophy arose as an enquiry into the mystery of life and existence.

Gradually, there developed Six orthodox schools of Indian philosophies, as well as various unorthodox schools. These are -

1) Orthodox -



2) Unorthodox -



The Indian school of philosophies is usually criticized on the grounds that it has an inward-looking approach. It makes the individual as subservient to the atman (soul). This is in contrast to Western philosophy - that is highly centred on the individual and her/his reason.

However, the Indian school of philosophies still remains RELEVANT in the 21st century. This is because -

- 1) Pragmatism - Philosophies like Charvaka give a practical approach of living life, as it is; instead of aspiring towards some unknown, higher self.
- 2) Scientific - Vaisheshika provides realism and objectivity in one's approach.
- 3) Empiricism - Nyaya stresses on logical analytical tools of hearing, inference and analogy.
 - It also promotes systematic reasoning and thinking.

4) Ethics - laws of karma, etc.
encourage living as per ethical
standards, and doing good deeds.

5) Tolerance - presence of many even
contrasting philosophies together
reflects a spirit of acceptance &
acomodation of different view-
points.

Thus, despite certain
flaws, Indian school of philosophy
is still relevant.

44. The roots of Indian classical music date back to ancient India. Elucidate. Also, distinguish between Hindustani and Carnatic music.

(250 words) 15M.

Music in India is an ancient art. It is believed that sage Narada introduced music to the universe. The universe is said to emit an eternal sound, called Naad Brahma.

The roots of Indian classical Music can be traced back to the Sama Veda. It contains shlokas that were in the form of music. Its upveda is Grandharvaveda - the science of Music.

Music was first theorized in Bharata Muni's Natyashastra. It contains around six chapters on music.

Matanga's 'Brihaddesi' (c. 900-1000 CE) named Ragas for the first time, and described them. Further, Sarangadeva's Sangeet Ratnakar contained 264 ragas.

This period also led to

the development of various Music Instruments like Pakhawaj, Veena, flutes, etc.

classical music got patronage from various ancient kings also. Gupta ruler Samudragupta was himself an accomplished Veena and flute player.

Indian ~~#~~ classical Music is divided into two categories. These are -

Hindustani Music	Carnatic Music
In North India Persian in origin	In South India. Founder - Purandar Das
It has adopted a scale of Shuddha Swara Saptaak - an octave of natural notes.	Played in the traditional octave
Focus more on the music structure and possibilities of improvisation	Focus more on the lyric note quality of the musical piece.

Accompanied by instruments like Pakhawaj, Sarangi.

Based on ragas

Has various sub-styles (Charanas)

Elaboration is from note to note

More importance to vocals.

Famous Singers - Amir Khusrau, Tansen

Always accompanied by the Mridangam

based on keerti

Only one specific style of singing.

Phrase to phrase elaboration

Equal importance to vocals & instruments.

Famous Personalities Tyagaraja, Shyama Shastri

Thus, classical music has a deep-rooted tradition in India.

15)

The socio-religious reform movements had a deep influence on cultural as well as national consciousness of Indians in the 19th century. Analyze. (250 words) 15M.

The ideological justification for British colonialism was based on 'White Man's burden' - the moral duty of the British to reform a decadent society like India.

To counter this narrative, and to rid India of various societal ills, 19th century witnessed various socio-religious reform movements.

These movements had a deep influence on cultural as well as national consciousness of Indians in the 19th century. This is reflected in -

1) Emancipation of Women -

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy worked to ban sati and other practices derogatory to women.
- Vidyasagar campaigned for women's education.
- Panditā Ramabai emphasized women's economic self-dependence.

2) Social divisions and Prejudices -

- Jyotiba Phule, Periyar and others worked against caste rigidities.
- Focus on increasing access of dalits to basic amenities, education, etc.
- Emphasis on religious unity and harmony.

3) Rediscovery of Past

- Works of Swami Vivekananda, etc. stressed upon a glorious Indian past and rich heritage.
- Provided a psychological boost to Indians and broke the myth of British superiority.

4) Education

- Works of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Dayanand Saraswati promoted modern Scientific education.

5) Nationalism

- Promoted the concept of service to the nation, etc. through Gokhale's 'Servant of India Society', etc.

At the same time, there were some Negative impacts as well, like -

1) Revivalism

- Over-emphasis on purity of religion, etc.
- Had communal overtones like Shuddhi Movement.

2) Elitism

- Mostly limited to upper classes
- Less ~~practical~~ impact on the downtrodden

3) Mysticism

- Some movements focused too much on reverence to a particular person, bordering on hero-worship and mysticism.

Despite these issues, the socio-religious reform movements fundamentally altered the socio-cultural scenario of India.

16. World War 1 brought in socio-economic dislocation for nearly all sections of the Indian population, paving way for the necessary social mobilization for an impending mass upsurge.
Elaborate.

(250 words) 15 M.

The First World War (1914-18) had widespread consequences all across the world. India too bore the brunt of various war-time hardships. Nearly all sections of the Indian population faced socio-economic dislocation -

- 1) Inflation -
 - Rise in general prices for various goods
 - Increase in taxes and introduction of newer taxes like income tax.
- 2) crop failure - acute food shortage and rising food prices
- 3) Conscription - villages were forced to send men abroad to fight for Britain
- 4) Trade suffered -
 - Demand for Indian exports reduced
 - Fluctuating rupee - sterling

exchange rate.

- collapse of global prices due to Great depression.

5) Industry -

- Forced to produce goods required by British in war
- Wages for workers declined despite increased cost of living

6) Unemployment -

- Rising literacy rates among youth but lack of economic opportunities
- Unemployment and under-employment _{-nt}

This paved way for the necessary social mobilization for an impending mass upsurge.

- War-time miseries revealed the true (exploitative) face of colonial rule.
- Huge discontent among all sections - workers, students, peasants, women.
- Various localized protests were organized like Kisan Sabha Movement.
- Formation of Home rule league increased political awareness

among people.

- Grandhi Ji recognized the spirit of this atmosphere and called upon all sections to unite against British rule.

- This successfully culminated in the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Thus, First world war accelerated anti-British sentiments in India.

17. The end of the civil disobedience movement resulted in serious dissension within congress, in the same way, as it happened after the withdrawl of Non-cooperation movement. Comment.

(250 words) 15M

Non-cooperation Movement (NCM) and Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) were two landmark movements in the history of Indian Freedom struggle.

NCM (1920-22) was triggered by Punjab wrongs and Khilafat wrongs. CDM was triggered by ban on salt manufacture and demand of Purna Swaraj.

In the aftermath of the Chauri-Chaura incident (Feb, 1922), Gandhi Ji called off the NCM repulsed by the violence.

This withdrawl resulted in dissensions within congress as well -

a) Withdrawl was seen as a pro-Zamindari class by many left-leaning leaders.

b) Since Gandhi Ji was arrested, there was conflict over future course -

- i) Pro-changers like CR Das and Motilal Nehru advocated council entry and formed the Swaraj party
- ii) No changers like Sardar Patel and Rajendra Prasad advocated doing constructive work.

Similarly, CDM was withdrawn after the Gandhi-Irwin pact, and British invited Gandhi Ji to participate in Round Table conferences in London.

This also created dissensions within the Congress -

1) Pt. Nehru and Netaji Bose did not agree with the 'Struggle - Trust - Struggle' Strategy.

2) A section of leaders including Asaf Ali, MA Ansari and Bhulabhai Desai advocated a return to legislative councils while Gandhi Ji advocated constructive work.

He resigned from Congress in 1934.

3) Gandhi Ji's inability to get the British to wave off death sentences of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev alienated the radical function.

4) Leftists criticized both Council Entry and constructive work and favoured resumption of mass struggle.

Congress was always an umbrella movement. It comprised of many different view-points and ideologies. Thus, the dissensions were natural.

18. The Indian Press not only fought severe censorship imposed during the colonial rule, but also played a critical role in India's struggle for independence - Discuss.

(250 words) 15M

Generally referred to as the Fourth Estate, the press played a crucial role in the Indian Freedom Struggle.

The British government, recognizing this potential, enacted a series of measures and imposed a strict censorship on the Press. This includes -

1) Licensing Regulation (1823)

Starting / using press without a license is a penal offence.

2) Vernacular Press Act (1878)

Confiscation of printing press, paper, etc. if government believed that any vernacular paper was publishing 'seditious' material.

• NO right to appeal.

3) Indian Press Act (1970)

Revived the worst features of

Vernacular Press Act.

Despite these restrictions, Indian press used creative ways to carry on their purpose -

- Amrita Bazar Patrika switched from Bengali to English overnight to evade Vernacular Press Act.
- Sarcasm of government used to be prefaced with sentiments of loyalty to government, to evade laws.

Therefore, the press could play a critical role in Indian National Movement, as -

1) Press was the chief instrument of politicization

- Political propaganda against colonial rule
- Formation and propagation of nationalist ideology.

2) The resolutions and proceedings of Congress were propagated through newspapers.

- Nearly one-third of the 72 delegates who founded Congress, were journalists.

3) Press played the institutional role of opposition to the government.

- Sharp scrutiny and criticism of all acts and policies.

4) Influence of press reached beyond its illiterate readers in cities.

- libraries were organized in villages around a single newspaper

- Reading or discussing newspapers became a form of political participation ;

Thus, in spite of various restrictions, Indian press played the role of a mighty nationalizer.

49.

The activities of extremists and the Home Rule Movement is believed to have set the stage for a new era of freedom struggle under the leadership of Gandhi Ji. Comment.
(250 words) 15M.

The first few decades after the establishment of Indian National Congress (INC) was dominated by the 'Moderates'. They believed in British benevolence and constitutional struggle.

Their failure to get any substantial reforms led to the rise of extremists, more radical in approach by extra-constitutional means.

Simultaneously, Home Rule Leagues were formed to popularize the idea of independence among masses, and expand the base of freedom struggle.

Their activities have set the stage for a new era of freedom struggle under the leadership of Gandhi Ji.

1) Extremist revealed the true (exploitative) face ~~and~~ of colonial rule and broke the myth of British benevolence for Indians.

2) They advocated mass struggle and self-reliance, as seen in the Swadeshi Movement.

3) Home rule league built a strong network of nationalist volunteers across India.

- Their branches reached various corners of the country.

4) They lent a sense of urgency to Indian National Movement.

5) Both the Extremists and Home rule leagues stressed on increasing participation of all sections of Indians in the struggle.

- Channelized the energy of youth for struggle.
- A generation of ardent nationalists was created.

Gandhian politics of non-violence, mass struggle built upon these activities only.

Gandhi is capitalised upon youth energy and the organisational network built earlier, as seen in the Rowlatt Satyagraha.

Thus, Gandhian era of freedom struggle was also based

20.

highlighting the circumstances that favoured its growth, throw light on the development of leftist movements in India.

(250 words) 15M.

The history of Leftist Movement in India runs deep into the very heart of freedom struggle. The circumstances that favoured its growth include -

1) The success of Russian Revolution was seen as a defeat of western imperialism. This -

- Gave legitimacy and popularity to Marxist ideas all across the world.

- Showed that a united people can defeat even the mightiest empires

2) Post-World War I socio-economic hardships created huge discontent -

- Inflation & Food shortages

- Decline in workers' wages

3) Rising unemployment and underemployment despite rising literacy

- Turned youth towards leftism

4) withdrawal of Non-cooperation movement left a political vacuum

• Gave space to Communist Party formed by MM Roy, Abani Mukherjee, etc.

i) Took anti-British stance and Kanpur and Meerut conspiracy trials - increased sympathy for communists

ii) Declared illegal in 1934, and attacked British as well as INC left and right wing. This pushed them away from mainstream politics.

iii) Support to Congress Socialist Party later on

iv) In 1942, before Cabinet Mission Plan, they proposed a multi-national India with 16 states.
But, they had lost popularity by then.

5) Presence of leaders with leftist inclinations within Congress.

Eg. Netaji SC Bose, Pt. Nehru, etc.

• 1934 - Congress Socialist Party was formed within the Congress

• i) Condemned Government of India Act (1935) and criticised

Congress for accepting offices in provinces in 1937.

ii) Took a leading part in Quit India movement.

iii) Favoured Hindu-Muslim unity and described partition as an act of surrender by Congress.

• Bose also formed Forward Bloc within Congress later on.

Thus, left politics in India gradually evolved against the backdrop of freedom struggle.

