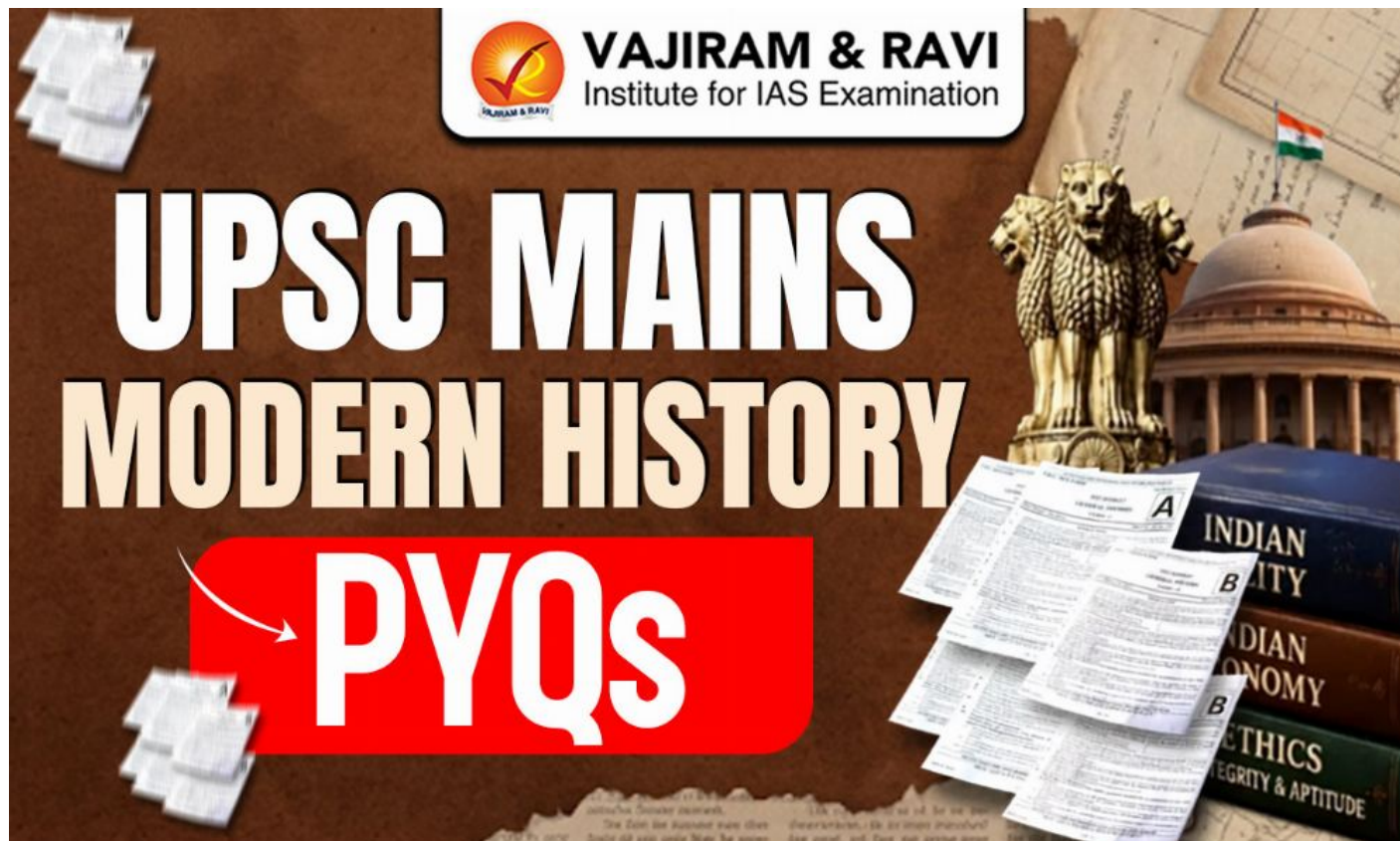


UPSC Mains Modern History PYQs (2025-2013)

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UPSC Mains Modern History PYQs (2025-2013) help candidates understand the type of questions asked in the examination and the important topics that are frequently covered. Practising these previous year questions improves conceptual clarity, answer-writing skills, and time management. It also helps identify recurring themes from the freedom struggle, social reform movements, and British administration, making preparation more focused and effective.

UPSC Mains Modern History PYQs (2025-2013)

1. Mahatma Jotirao Phule's writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) **2025**
2. The ethos of civil service in India stand for the combination of professionalism with nationalistic consciousness – Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words) **2025**
3. What were the events that led to Quit India Movement? Point out its results. 2024 (10 M)
4. How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India? 2024 (15 M)

5. What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? 2023 (10 M)
6. How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? 2023 (15 M)
7. Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons. 2022 (10 M)
8. Why did the armies of the British East India Company – mostly comprising of Indian Soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the then Indian rulers? Give reasons. 2022 (10 M)
9. To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. 2021
10. Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during the Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. 2021
11. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long-term implications on the national movements. 2020
12. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. 2020
13. The 1857 Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate. 2019
14. Examine the linkages between 19th centuries 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity. 2019
15. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. 2019
16. Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. 2019
17. Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. 2018
18. Why indentured labour was taken by British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? 2018
19. Clarify how mid-eighteenth-century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity. 2017
20. Why did the 'Moderates' fail to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? 2017
21. Examine how the decline of the traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. 2017
22. The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th-century social reform movement. What were the major issues and debates concerning women in that period? 2017
23. Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian independence since twenties of the last century. 2017
24. Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. 2016
25. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. 2016
26. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. 2016

27. How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss. 2015
28. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. 2015
29. It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years but for the experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935. Discuss. 2015
30. The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? 2014
31. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence. 2014
32. In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? 2014
33. What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? 2014
34. Defying the barriers of age, gender and religion, the Indian women became the torchbearers during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss. 2013
35. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various Movements. Analyse their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. 2013
36. In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate. 2013

How to Prepare Modern History Using UPSC Mains PYQs

Practising **UPSC Mains Modern History PYQs** helps you understand the exam pattern, identify important themes, and improve answer-writing skills for better performance in the Mains examination.

- **Analyze Previous Year Questions:** Go through at least the last 10–15 years of Modern History questions to identify recurring topics and trends.
- **Study the Syllabus:** Read the Modern History syllabus carefully and connect each PYQ with the relevant topic in the syllabus.
- **Focus on Important Topics:** Give extra attention to frequently asked themes such as the Revolt of 1857, Governor-Generals, socio-religious reform movements, freedom struggle, Gandhian era, constitutional developments, and partition.
- **Prepare Short Notes:** Make concise notes covering important events, personalities, committees, acts, and timelines for quick revision.
- **Practice Answer Writing:** Write answers to PYQs regularly within the prescribed word limit and time to improve speed and presentation.
- **Use Facts and Examples:** Support your answers with important dates, committees, historical events, and relevant examples to make them more effective.
- **Revise Regularly:** Revise your notes and previously attempted answers multiple times to strengthen concepts and improve retention.
- **Evaluate Your Performance:** Review your answers to identify mistakes, improve structure, and enhance content quality before the examination.

