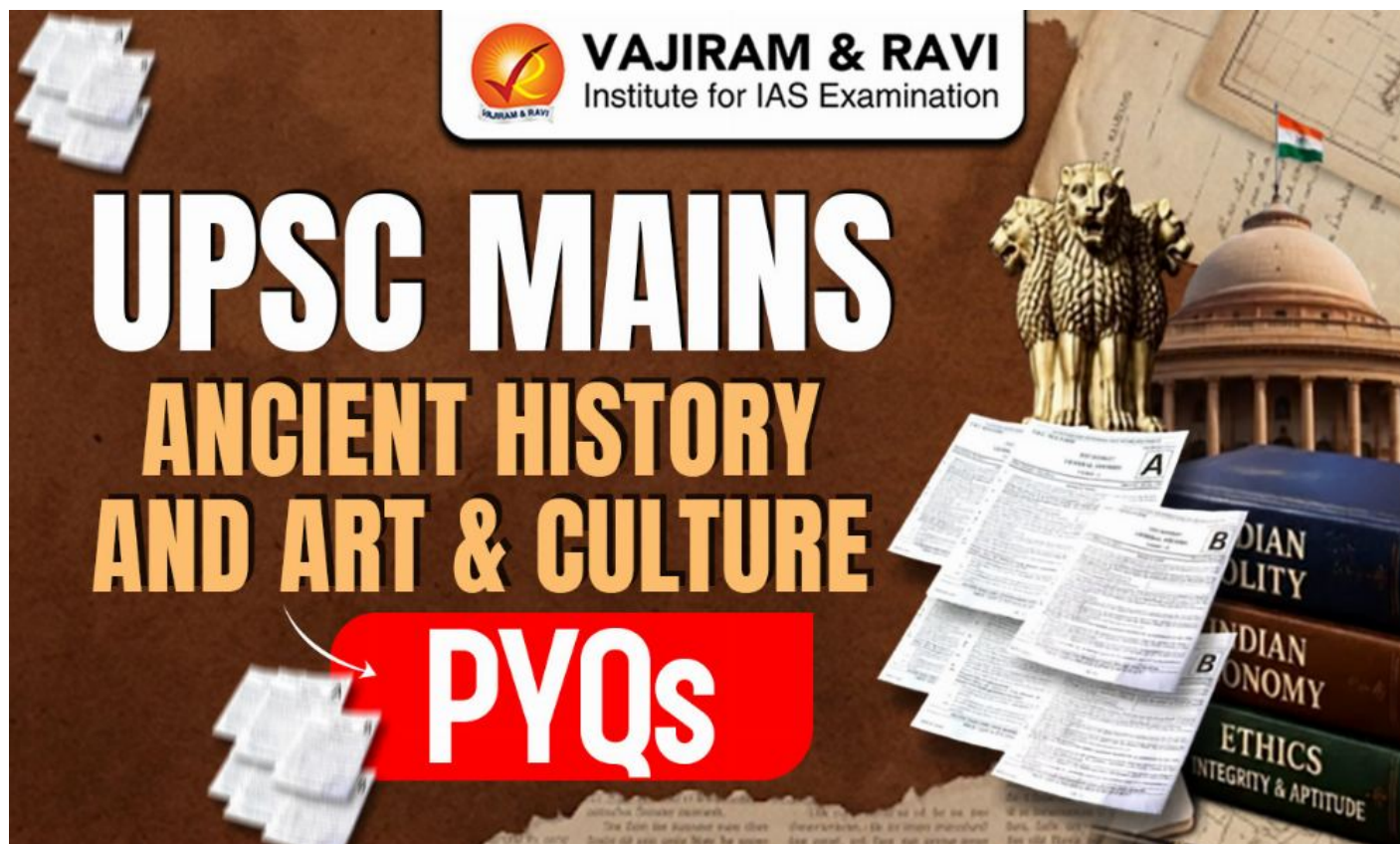


UPSC Mains Ancient History and Art & Culture PYQs (2025-2013)

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UPSC Mains Ancient History and Art & Culture PYQs are an essential resource for understanding the question pattern, important themes, and answer-writing approach required in the UPSC Mains examination. These previous year questions help aspirants identify frequently asked topics and improve conceptual clarity. Regular practice of PYQs also enhances analytical thinking, answer presentation, and overall preparation for **GS Paper I**.

UPSC Mains Ancient History and Art & Culture PYQs (2025-2013)

1. Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture. 2025 (Answer in 150 words) 10
2. Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism. 2025 (Answer in 150 words) 10
3. 'The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life.' Elucidate. 2025 (Answer in 150 words) 10
4. Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period. 2024 (10 M)
5. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. 2024 (10 M)

6. "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. 2024 (15 M)
7. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. 2023 (10 M)
8. What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? 2023 (15 M)
9. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society? 2023 (15 M)
10. How will you explain the medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? 2022 (10 M)
11. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. 2022 (15 M)
12. Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. 2022 (15 M)
13. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. 2021
14. Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. 2020
15. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. 2020
16. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. 2020
17. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. 2020
18. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco -Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. 2019
19. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss 2018
20. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travelers in the reconstruction of the history of India. 2018
21. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. 2018
22. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? 2017
23. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. 2016
24. Krishnadeva Raya, the King of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. 2016
25. The ancient civilization in 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. 2015
26. Mesolithic rock-cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also has a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. 2015
27. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. 2014
28. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. 2014
29. 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. 2014

30. 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. 2014
31. 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. 2013
32. Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. 2013
33. Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. 2013

How to Prepare using UPSC Mains Ancient History and Art & Culture PYQs

Preparing **UPSC Mains Ancient History and Art & Culture PYQs** helps you understand recurring themes, improve answer writing, and focus on topics that are frequently tested in the examination.

- **Solve Previous Year Questions First:** Start with the last 10-12 years of UPSC Mains PYQs to understand the nature of questions.
- **Study the UPSC Syllabus:** Map every PYQ to the GS-I syllabus to identify important Ancient History and Art & Culture topics.
- **Identify Recurring Themes:** Focus on frequently asked areas such as **Buddhism**, **Jainism**, temple architecture, sculpture, paintings, literature, and cultural traditions.
- **Practice Answer Writing:** Write answers within the prescribed word limit and time to improve speed, structure, and presentation.
- **Use Examples and Keywords:** Enrich your answers with historical examples, inscriptions, monuments, archaeological findings, and cultural references.
- **Revise Short Notes Regularly:** Prepare concise notes from PYQs and revise them frequently to retain important facts.
- **Evaluate Your Answers:** Compare your responses with model answers to identify gaps and improve content quality and presentation.
- **Integrate Current Affairs:** Link relevant heritage conservation initiatives, **UNESCO sites**, and cultural developments with static topics wherever applicable.
- **Revise PYQs Multiple Times:** Revisit solved PYQs before the exam to strengthen concepts and boost confidence.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/upsc-mains-ancient-history-and-art-culture-pyqs/>

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