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PUNJAB PCS

MAINS

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

2014-2021

HISTORY-2

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PPSC MAINS PYQ GENERAL STUDIES PAPER 1: HISTORY

2018

1. "The Industrial Revolution was a mixed blessing." Comment. (200 words)

Component	Explanation
Understanding of the Question	You must explain why the Industrial Revolution had both positive and negative effects—"mixed blessing."
Directive: Comment	Present both sides with a reasoned judgement supported by examples.
Keywords	Industrial Revolution, mixed blessing, advantages, disadvantages.
Scope	Economic, social, technological, environmental impacts with examples.
Common mistakes	Writing only benefits or only drawbacks; ignoring worker conditions and global implications.

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Answer:

Introduction

The Industrial Revolution (mid-18th to 19th century) transformed global production, technology, and society. While it accelerated economic growth and scientific progress, it also produced deep social and environmental challenges. Hence, historians often describe it as a "mixed blessing."

Main Body

Positive Outcomes of the Industrial Revolution

- **Economic growth and productivity:** Mechanisation, steam power, and factories increased production and reduced costs.
- **Technological innovation:** Inventions by **James Watt, Hargreaves, Arkwright** revolutionised textiles, transport, and communication.
- **Urbanisation and new opportunities:** Expanding industries created jobs and stimulated towns like Manchester and Birmingham.
- **Rise of the middle class:** Merchants, engineers, and industrialists gained wealth and influence.
- **Global impact:** Railways, steamships, and modern industries laid foundations for modern capitalism.

Negative Outcomes / Costs

- **Poor working conditions:** 14–16 hour workdays, child labour, and unsafe factories created human suffering.
- **Urban problems:** Overcrowding, slums, pollution, and disease became widespread in new industrial cities.
- **Social inequalities:** Industrialists grew rich while workers remained underpaid, leading to class conflict.

- **Environmental degradation:** Coal smoke, deforestation, and industrial waste damaged ecosystems.
- **Colonial exploitation:** European states expanded imperialism to secure raw materials for factories, intensifying global inequality.

Conclusion

The Industrial Revolution brought unprecedented economic and technological advancement, but it also generated severe social and environmental problems. Its legacy remains dual—driving modern progress while highlighting the need for humane labour laws and sustainable development.

2. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Sangam age was the Golden age in the history of Tamil Nadu. (100 words)

Component	Explanation
Understanding of the Question	Explain why the Sangam Age is considered Tamil Nadu's Golden Age in terms of culture, society, polity and literature.
Directive: Write short notes	Give a brief but comprehensive explanation of key features with examples.
Keywords	Sangam, Tamil culture, literature, society.
Scope	Literature, economy, polity, art, society.
Common mistakes	Only listing literature; ignoring social and economic vibrancy.

Answer:

Introduction

The Sangam Age (c. 300 BCE–300 CE) is regarded as the Golden Age of Tamil Nadu because it marked the peak of Tamil literary, cultural, and socio-political development. The period reflects a mature society with rich traditions.

Main Body

Why Sangam Age is called the Golden Age

- **Flourishing literature:** Works like *Ettuthogai* and *Pattuppattu* highlight life, love, war, and ethics.
- **Advanced society:** Clear social groups—Vellalars, farmers, merchants, artisans—reflect an organised structure.
- **Political organisation:** Chera, Chola, and Pandya kingdoms showed strong administration and warfare traditions.
- **Economic prosperity:** Active maritime trade with Rome (evidence from Arikamedu) and thriving urban centres.
- **Cultural richness:** Hero stones, music, dance, and refined poetic conventions flourished.

(b) Zenith of Mughal painting under Jahangir. (100 words)

Component	Explanation

Understanding of the Question	Describe how Mughal painting reached its artistic peak under Jahangir, with examples.
Directive: Write short notes	Give key features and examples concisely.
Keywords	Mughal painting, Jahangir, naturalism.
Scope	Techniques, themes, painters, innovations.
Common mistakes	Only praising Jahangir; ignoring technical developments.

Answer:

Introduction

Jahangir (1605–1627) elevated Mughal painting to its highest artistic refinement. A lover of nature and realism, he encouraged painters to experiment with detail, portraiture, and observation.

Main Body

Features of Mughal Painting under Jahangir

- **Naturalism & realism:** Detailed studies of birds, animals, and flowers.
- **Mastery of portraiture:** Individualised, lifelike portraits became a hallmark.
- **Famous painters:** Abu'l Hasan ("Wonder of the Age"), Bishandas, Mansur.
- **Technical innovation:** Fine brushwork, subtle colours, depth and shading improved.
- **Influence of European art:** Use of perspective, halos, realism inspired by Jesuit paintings.
- **Notable works:** *Jahangir Preferring a Sufi Shaikh*, animal studies by Mansur, *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri* illustrations.

3. Describe the contribution of revolutionary activities outside India with special reference to Ghadar Party and Udham Singh? (200 words)

Component	Explanation
Understanding of the Question	Describe how overseas revolutionaries strengthened India's freedom struggle, focusing especially on Ghadar Party and Udham Singh.
Directive: Describe	Provide a clear narration of activities, methods, and impact with examples.
Keywords	Ghadar Party, Udham Singh, overseas revolutionaries.
Scope	Activities in USA, Canada, Europe → organisation → actions → contribution → impact.
Common mistakes	Writing biographies instead of explaining their revolutionary contribution.

Answer:

Introduction

Revolutionary activities abroad became a powerful extension of India's freedom struggle. Indian migrants, students, and political exiles used foreign countries as centres to organise anti-British

activities, circulate nationalist ideas, and internationalise the Indian cause. The Ghadar Party and Udham Singh were two major pillars of this global revolutionary phase.

Main Body

Role of the Ghadar Party

- **Foundation & Objective (1913):** Formed by Indian immigrants in San Francisco, especially Punjabi Sikhs, to overthrow British rule through armed revolt.
- **Propaganda & Publications:** Its weekly paper *Ghadar* was printed in multiple languages, spreading revolutionary ideas across Asia, North America, and India.
- **Mobilising Migrant Workers:** It united Indian labourers in Canada, USA, Hong Kong, and the Far East, creating a global anti-colonial network.
- **WWI Plan:** During the First World War, Ghadar leaders attempted to spark a nationwide uprising by sending trained volunteers and weapons to India. Though suppressed, the attempt shook the British administration.
- **Ideological Contribution:** It injected the spirit of militant nationalism and inspired later revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh.

Role of Udham Singh

- **Assassination of Michael O'Dwyer (1940):** Executed in London to avenge the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- **Global Impact:** His act exposed British brutality to the world, revived international sympathy for India, and symbolised uncompromising resistance.

Conclusion

Revolutionary activities abroad, especially those of the Ghadar Party and Udham Singh, globalised the Indian freedom struggle, energised militant nationalism, and kept international pressure alive against British rule.

4. "Jawahar Lal Nehru was the architect of modern India." Comment. (200 words)

Component	Explanation
Understanding of the Question	Evaluate how Nehru shaped India's political system, economy, science, and foreign policy after independence.
Directive: Comment	Present key contributions, mention limitations, and give a balanced conclusion.
Keywords	Modern India, Nehru, planning, democracy, NAM.
Scope	Nation-building, institutions, industrialisation, scientific temper, foreign policy.
Common mistakes	Writing only praise or only criticism; ignoring institutional contributions.

Answer:

Introduction

Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, played a decisive role in shaping India's post-1947 direction. His vision guided the country's political, economic, scientific, and diplomatic foundations, making him widely regarded as the architect of modern India.

Main Body

Political and Institutional Foundations

- **Democratic System:** Nehru safeguarded parliamentary democracy, rule of law, civil liberties, and secularism despite global trends toward authoritarianism.
- **Institution-building:** Strengthened institutions such as the Planning Commission, Election Commission, and independent judiciary.

Economic and Industrial Vision

- **Planned Economic Development:** Launched Five-Year Plans and promoted a mixed economy balancing public and private sectors.
- **Industrial Infrastructure:** Established steel plants, heavy machinery units, and major public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- **Agriculture:** Initiated community development and irrigation projects like **Bhakra Nangal** and **Hirakud**.

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Scientific and Educational Advances

- **Scientific Temper:** Founded **IITs, AIIMS, CSIR, DRDO**, and national laboratories.
- **Technical Education:** Promoted engineering and research institutes to modernise society.

Foreign Policy Legacy

- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):** Advocated independent foreign policy during the Cold War.
- **Peace and Diplomacy:** Supported decolonisation and Asian solidarity.

Critical Aspects

- Overemphasis on state-led economy caused slow growth; China policy was criticised after 1962.

Conclusion

Despite limitations, Nehru's vision built the core political, industrial, scientific, and diplomatic structures of independent India, justifying his title as the "architect of modern India."

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