



Mains Notes for IAS and PCS

GS-1 Indian Heritage and Culture

1. Early Buddhist Stupa art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. **(Civil Services Examination 2016)**
2. Krishnadevaraya, the king of Vijayanagara, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss **(Civil Services Examination 2016)**
3. 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. **(Civil Services Examination 2015)**
4. Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. **(Civil Services Examination 2015)**
5. To what extent has the urban planning and culture in the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
6. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
7. Taxila University was one of the oldest universities of the world which were associated with 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. **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
8. 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. **(Civil Services Examination 2014)**
9. 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. **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
10.
 - (a) Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in early Indian inscriptions.
 - (b) Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss **(Civil Services Examination 2013)**
11. The 'Flute Playing Krishna' theme is very popular in Indian art. Discuss **(Civil Services Examination 2012)**
12. Comment on the significance of Rasarnava in studying the history of Indian Chemistry. **(Civil Services Examination 2012)**
13. What are the groups into which musical instruments in India have traditionally been classified? **(Civil Services Examination 2012)**
14. Comment on the significance of fire in Zoroastrianism. **(Civil Services Examination 2012)**
15. Why is Laurie Baker called 'the conscience keeper of Indian architecture'? **(Civil Services Examination 2012)**
16. Comment on each of the following in about 20 words each.
 - (a) The significance of Patharughat in the Indian Freedom Struggle.
 - (b) Bagurumba folk dance. **(Civil Services Examination 2012)**

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17. Distinguish either between the 'Moatsu' and 'Yemshe' festivals of Nagaland or the 'Losar' and 'Khan' festivals of Arunachal Pradesh. **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
18. Write a sentence each on any five of the following traditional theatre forms. Bhand Pather, Swang, Maach, Bhaona, Mudi yettu, Dashavatar. **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
19. What are the major different styles of unglazed pottery making in India? **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
20. List the classical dance forms of India as per the Sangeet Natak Akademi. **(Civil Services Examination 2011)**
21. Distinguish between the following four literary awards. **(Civil Services Examination 2010)**
- (i) Jnanpith Award (ii) Sahitya Akademi Award
(iii) Vyas Samman (iv) Saraswati Samman
22. Write brief notes on each of the following in about 20 words each. **(Civil Services Examination 2010, 1997)**
1. Bodhisattva
 2. Megasthenes
 3. Brihadeshwara Temple
 4. Perini Shivatandavam
 5. Allasani Peddina
 6. Chisti Silsila
 7. Rama Sethu
 8. Age of Sangam Literature
 9. Bhakti
 10. Ashtadhyayi of Panini
 11. Charvaka
 12. Ajivikas
 13. Gandhara art
 14. Mlechchhas
 15. Lingayats
 16. Nagarjuna
 17. Rudramadevi
 18. Sati
 19. Ramanuja
 20. Kalhana
 21. Yakshagana
 22. Natya Shastra
 23. Tabaqat – i – Nasiri
 24. Madhura Vijayam
 25. Panduranga Mahatmyam
 26. Prithviraj Raso
 27. Yajnavalkya Smriti
 28. Suttapitaka
 29. Bhagwati Sutra
 30. Gangaikonda Cholapuram
 31. Nizamuddin Auliya

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32. Raidas
33. Tavernier
34. Upanishads
35. Vajrayana
36. Kumarasambhava
37. Razmnama
38. Mirza Haider
39. Jadong
40. Jadunath Sarkar
41. Nazir Hussain
42. Arthashastra
43. Sarnath Pillar
44. Mahayana Cult
45. Anand Math
46. Aryabhatta
47. Banabhatta
48. Jayadeva
49. Brahmagupta
50. Amir Khusrau
51. Sangam Literature
52. Chola Architecture
53. Baisakhi
54. Neo – Art Movement
55. Kullu School
56. Gopuram
57. Wahabi Movement
58. Bharat Dharma Mahamandala
59. Chaitya
60. Vijayanagara Art
61. Khayal
62. Lalit Kala Academy

23. While bringing out their salient features, distinguish between either 'Madhubani' art and 'Manjusha' art or 'Rajasthani' schools of painting and the 'pahari' school of painting.

(Civil Services

Examination 2010)

24. Difference between natural and cultural heritage.

(Civil Services Examination 2010)

25. What are the important similarities and difference between the Hindustani and the Carnatic styles of classical music?

(Civil Services Examination

2009)

26. List the salient features of the important folk dances of either central India or North – Eastern India.

(Civil Services Examination

2009)

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27. Write a note on Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage in about 125 words.

(Civil Services Examination 2003)

28. Write notes on Lalit Kala Academy.

(Civil Services Examination 2001)