

UPSC 16 YEARS IAS Mains Q&A

HISTORY

2009-2024 Topicwise PYQ Solved Papers



HISTORY

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HISTORY

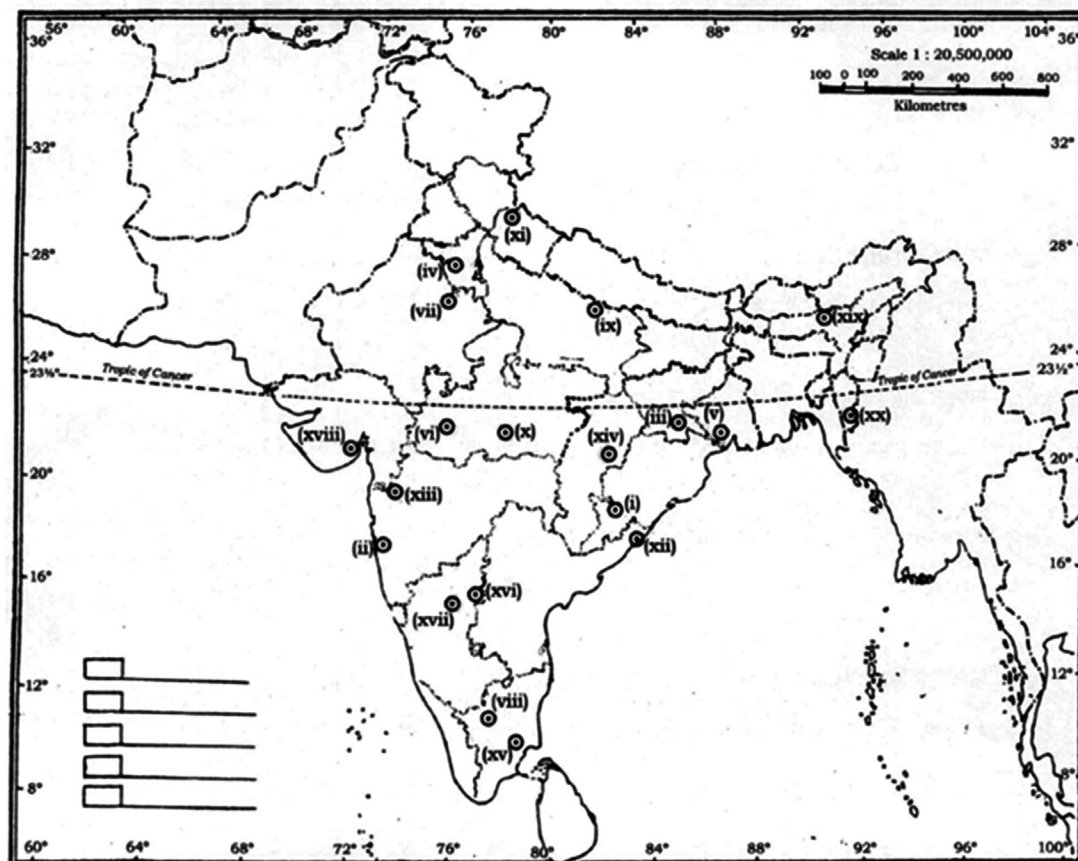
PAPER-I

Map Section

Q. Identify the following places marked on the map supplied to you and write a short note of about 30 words on each of them in your Question-cum-Answer Booklet. Locational hints for each of the places marked on the map are given below seriatim:

- (i) Prehistoric site
- (ii) Area of petroglyphs
- (iii) Neolithic site
- (iv) Harappan site
- (v) Buddhist monastery
- (vi) Chalcolithic site
- (vii) Neo-Chalcolithic site

- (viii) Megalithic site with rock art
- (ix) One of the Mahajanapadas' capital and associated with Buddha's miracle
- (x) Hominid fossil find site
- (xi) Major rock edict of Ashoka
- (xii) Ancient trade centre
- (xiii) Stone inscription recording land grants with tax exemptions
- (xiv) Shiva temples named after family relationships
- (xv) Place of art-related inscription
- (xvi) Place of inscription of three languages
- (xvii) Temple site where three styles of temple architecture are found
- (xviii) Jain pilgrimage site
- (xix) Shiva temple of Gupta period
- (xx) Megalithic monumental site



2 ■ IAS MAIN EXAM 2024 HISTORY SOLVED PAPER-I

Answers:

- (i) **Prehistoric site:** The Gudahandi Hills and caves in Kalahandi, Odisha is a prehistoric site that has yielded evidence of early human activity. Stone tools for hunting and gathering, stone flakes, polished burins and borers, etc. have been found from the site.
- (ii) **Area of petroglyphs:** There are two separate petroglyph sites at Niwali found in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra. Recently more than 1000 rock carvings were discovered from the site.
- (iii) **Neolithic site:** Barudih is a Neolithic archaeological site in Khunti district of Jharkhand, India. Iron slag heaps found here indicate the early stages of the Iron Age in India. Wheel-made pottery suggests that the region may have been more developed than other parts of India.
- (iv) **Harappan site:** Rakhigarhi is an archaeological site located in the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain in Hisar district of Haryana. It is one of the oldest and largest cities of the Indus Valley or Harappan Civilization, the oldest known Bronze Age urban culture of the subcontinent, dating back to about 6500 BCE. The site was first discovered in the 1960s by the Archaeological Survey of India.
- (v) **Buddhist monastery:** Moghalmari Monastery is a Buddhist monastic site in the village of Moghalmari in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district. The site has stucco work that resembles Nalanda of Bihar and the Raktamrittika Mahavihara of Bengal. The site has a brick stupa and a central temple with several square-shaped courtyards.
- (vi) **Chalcolithic site:** Navdatoli is a chalcolithic site on the Narmada River in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh, excavated by H.D. Sankalia, S.B. Deo, and Z.D. Ansari. Major findings are pottery and microliths, circular and rectangular houses with bamboo roofs and walls, fragments of copper or bronze tools, faience, steatite beads and chert blade assemblage.
- (vii) **Neo-Chalcolithic site:** Jodhpura is a Neo-Chalcolithic site located in Jaipur district of Rajasthan, particularly known for its association with the "Ganeshwar-Jodhpura Culture" which is characterized by the production of copper tools and artefacts, dating back to around 2800 - 2200 BCE.
- (viii) **Megalithic site with rock art:** Chandrapuram in Tirupathur district, Tamil Nadu, has rock paintings in a cavern called Kalyanagugai. The paintings depict horses, humans, and an elephant. The site is a megalithic site.
- (ix) **One of the Mahajanapadas' capital and associated with Buddha's miracle:** Sravasti was the capital of Kosala Mahajanpada. Buddha spent most of his monastic life in Sravasti. Buddha performed his great miracle in Sravasti.
- (x) **Hominid fossil find site:** The Hathnora site in the Narmada Valley of Madhya Pradesh (Sehore district) is where a partial skull of a Homo erectus hominin was found in 1983. Other finds at Hathnora include two clavicles, a ninth rib, six femora, three humeri, and two sacra.
- (xi) **Major rock edict of Ashoka:** Kalsi rock edict is situated in Dehradun of Uttarakhand state. Kalsi edict reflects the policies for the commitment to non-violence and restriction of war. It was inscribed in 250 BC and a quartz stone of 10 ft in length and 8 ft breadth was used for the script.
- (xii) **Ancient trade centre:** Dantapuram situated in the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh was an important trade centre. From this centre, Buddhism and Hinduism spread to South-east Asia.
- (xiii) **Stone inscription recording land grants with tax exemptions:** The earliest stone inscriptions recording land grants with tax exemptions are Satvahana and Kshatrapa epigraphs found at Nashik. The mid-4th century Pallava and Shalankayana grants are the earliest surviving copper plate grants.
- (xiv) **Shiva temples named after family relationships:** Devrani and Jethani Temples are located in Tala village of Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh. These are famous as Shiva temples. The distance between both the Temples is about 15 kilometers. Jethani Temple is in a dilapidated condition. Both Temples have excellent carving work and pillars and are very famous for Indian sculpture and art.
- (xv) **Place of art-related inscription:** The Sittanavasal cave temple is located in the Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu. It has Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions that date back to the 100 BCE to around 900 CE. The cave also contains frescoes and sculptures that are believed to be the earliest examples of Jain art in South India.
- (xvi) **Place of inscription of three languages:** Raichur Fort is located on a hilltop in the middle of Raichur district in North Karnataka. Stone inscriptions in Persian, Urdu and Arabic have been found here, which mention its construction in 1294.
- (xvii) **Temple site where three styles of temple architecture are found:** The Pattadakal temple site in Karnataka, India, features a mix of Dravida, Nagara, and Rekha styles of temple architecture. Pattadakal located in Bijapur district of Karnataka was not only popular for Chalukyan architectural activities but also a holy place for royal coronation, 'Pattadakisuvalal'.

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HISTORY

PAPER-II

British Expansion in India

Q. After the battle of Plassey, the mercenary became the Kingmaker. Critically examine.

Ans: After the Battle of Plassey in 1757, Robert Clive, a British mercenary, became the kingmaker in Bengal. He used bribery and treachery to make Mir Jafar the Nawab of Bengal, and then betrayed him.

Clive as a Kingmaker

- Clive started his service in east India Company as a clerk who later switched to the British Company's military service. His bravery and tactical skills earned him quick promotion and wealth.
- During the Battle of Plassey, Clive bribed Mir Jafar, the commander of the Nawab's army, to help the English side. The Company easily won the battle and with the support of Clive, Mir Jafar became the Nawab of Bengal.

How Clive used Mir Jafar

- Clive used Mir Jafar as a puppet ruler to cede control of most of Bengal to the British.
- Clive became the Governor of Bengal and secured the right to collect taxes and revenues for Bengal from the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II after the Battle of Buxar.

Thus, the Battle of Plassey was a turning point in India's history. It set the stage for the British to gain control of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, and ultimately the entire Indian subcontinent.

Q. Twenty years of peace secured by the treaty of Salbai proved very costly to the Marathas in strategic terms. Elucidate.

Ans: The Treaty of Salbai (1782) ended the First Anglo-Maratha War, restoring pre-war territories and establishing peace between the British East India Company and the Marathas for two decades.

The Treaty, while establishing a 20-year peace, proved strategically costly for the Marathas as it forced them to relinquish territories, acknowledge British

dominance and ultimately weakened their position for future conflicts, allowing the British to consolidate their power in India.

How the Treaty of Salbai Proved Costly

- **Loss of Territory:** The treaty of Salbai forced the Marathas to cede Salsette and Bassein (Vasai) to the British.
- **Establishment of British Dominance:** The treaty acknowledged the British as a major power in India, which shifted the balance of power in India.
- **Weakened the Position of Marathas:** The Marathas, although regained some territories lost during the war, were unable to fully recover their strength and prestige, setting the stage for future conflicts.
- **Internal Conflicts:** The Maratha Confederacy was already weakened by internal conflicts, and the treaty further exacerbated these divisions, making it difficult for them to unite against a common enemy.
- **Financial Burden:** The Marathas were burdened with the cost of the war and the need to maintain a strong military, further straining their resources.

Strategic Implications

- **Consolidation of British Power:** The treaty allowed the British to consolidate their power and influence in India, which resulted in establishment of British rule in India.
- **Future Conflicts:** The treaty's terms and the Marathas' weakened position laid the groundwork for the Second and Third Anglo-Maratha Wars, which ultimately led to the British control over most of India.
- **Loss of Prestige:** The Marathas' loss of territories and their inability to fully recover from the war damaged their reputation and prestige, further weakening their position.

While the Treaty of Salbai brought a temporary halt to the war, its terms ultimately proved to be strategically costly for the Marathas, contributing to their decline and the rise of British power in India.

Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule

Q. The pace of commercialisation of agriculture increased as a result of British revenue policies in India. Critically examine.

Ans: The introduction of new land revenue policies under British rule had accelerated the commercialisation of agriculture in India. These rules preferred payment of land revenue in cash and they incentivised the production of cash crops. The self-sufficiency in the food crops reduced and dependence on global markets increased substantially.

Factors Responsible for the Increased Commercialisation of Agriculture

- **Incentives for Cash Crops:** British revenue policies, such as the Zamindari and Ryotwari systems, demanded fixed revenue payments in cash, forcing farmers to cultivate crops with high market value (like cotton, jute and indigo) to maintain their rights on land.
- **Integration of Market:** The British facilitated the growth of a market economy by establishing infrastructure like railways and roads, connecting rural areas to ports and urban centres. This allowed for the easier transportation and trade of agricultural produce, further encouraging commercialisation.
- **Decline in Food Crop Production:** The shift towards cash crops led to a decline in the cultivation of traditional food crops, resulting in food shortages and frequency of famines increased.
- **Increased Dependence on Global Markets:** India became a supplier of raw materials for British industries and a market for British manufactured goods, leading to increased dependence on global markets and a decline in self-sufficiency.
- **Exploitation and Impoverishment of Peasant Class:** The high revenue demands and the exploitation of farmers by zamindars and moneylenders under the British revenue systems led to widespread impoverishment and social unrest.
- **Introduction of New Crops:** The British introduced new crops like tea, coffee and opium, which were cultivated on a large scale to meet the demands of the British market.
- **Impact on Land Ownership:** The land revenue policies led to the emergence of a new class of landlords and the dispossession of traditional farmers. The peasants had the right to hold the land till they paid rent.

The commercialisation of agriculture led to significant social and economic transformations in rural India, including the rise of a market economy, the decline of traditional village communities, and the emergence of new social classes.

Social and Cultural Developments

Q. The values of utilitarianism prompted the Company administration to attempt reform of Indian society. Critically examine.

Ans: The values of utilitarianism, focused on maximising overall happiness and well-being, significantly influenced the Company administration's attempts to reform Indian society, particularly in areas like law, social practices, and education.

Core Principles of Utilitarianism

- Utilitarianism, championed by thinkers like Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, advocated for actions that produced the "greatest good for the greatest number". This meant evaluating policies and laws based on their potential to benefit society as a whole, rather than solely upholding traditional customs or religious beliefs.

Company Administration's Reform Efforts

- **Legal Reforms:** Utilitarian principles led to the codification of laws, aiming for a more rational and equitable legal system.
- **Social Reforms:** The Company's administration, influenced by utilitarian ideas, took steps to abolish practices like sati (widow immolation), outlawed female infanticide, legalised widow remarriage, and sought to improve the status of women and address issues like child marriage.
- **Education:** Utilitarianism promoted a focus on modern education, aiming to create a more skilled and enlightened workforce, which would contribute to the overall progress of society.

Examples of Utilitarian Influence

- **Abolition of Sati:** The practice of sati, where widows were forced to immolate themselves on their husband's funeral pyres, was seen as a cruel and barbaric custom that caused widespread suffering. Utilitarian reformers argued that it should be abolished as it went against the principle of maximising happiness and well-being.
- **Widow Remarriage:** The Company administration, influenced by utilitarian ideas, legalised widow remarriage, allowing women to remarry after their husbands' deaths.