

UPSC 2023 Preparation

Year-Wise Modern Indian History Questions and Solutions in IAS

Prelims (2013-2022)

The IAS Prelims Modern Indian History questions and answers from 2013 to 2022 for UPSC 2023 are given below:

IAS Prelims Modern Indian History Questions 2022

1. In the Government of India Act 1919, the functions of Provincial Government were divided into “Reserved” and “Transferred” subjects. Which of the following were treated as “Reserved” subjects?

1. Administration of Justice
2. Local Self-Government
3. Land Revenue
4. Police

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 2 and 4

2. Consider the following freedom fighters:

1. Barindra Kumar Ghosh
2. Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee
3. Rash Behari Bose

Who of the above was/were actively associated with the Ghadar Party?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 3

(d) 3 only

3. With reference to the proposals of Cripps Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The Constituent Assembly would have members nominated by the Provincial Assemblies as well as the Princely States.
2. Any Province, which is not prepared to accept the new Constitution would have the right to sign a separate agreement with Britain regarding its future status.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements:

1. The Dutch established their factories/warehouses on the east coast on lands granted to them by Gajapati rulers.
2. Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate.
3. The English East India Company established a factory at Madras on a plot of land leased from a representative of the Vijayanagara empire.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

IAS Prelims Modern Indian History Questions 2021

1. In the first quarter of the seventeenth century, in which of the following was/were the factory/factories of the English East India Company located?

- (1) Broach
- (2) Chicacole

(3) Trichinopoly

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

2. With reference to Madanapalle of Andhra Pradesh, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Pingali Venkayya designed the tricolour Indian National Flag here.
- (b) Pattabhi Sitaramaiah led the Quit India Movement of Andhra region from here.
- (c) Rabindranath Tagore translated the National Anthem from Bengali to English here.
- (d) Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott set up headquarters of Theosophical Society first here.

3. Consider the following statements:

- (1) St. Francis Xavier was one of the founding members of the Jesuit Order.
- (2) St. Francis Xavier died in Goa and a church is dedicated to him there.
- (3) The feast of St. Francis Xavier is celebrated in Goa each year.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

4. Consider the following statements:

- (1) The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 recommended granting voting rights to all women above the age of 21.
- (2) The Government of India Act of 1935 gave women reserved seats in the legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. With reference to 8th August 1942 in Indian history, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The Quit India Resolution was adopted by the AICC.
- (b) The Viceroy's Executive Council was expanded to include more Indians.
- (c) The Congress ministries resigned in seven provinces.
- (d) Cripps proposed an Indian Union with full Dominion status once the Second World War was over.

6. Who among the following is associated with 'Songs from Prison', a translation of ancient Indian religious lyrics in English?

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
- (d) Sarojini Naidu

7. Who among the following was associated as Secretary with Hindu Female School which later came to be known as Bethune Female School?

- (a) Annie Besant
- (b) Debendranath Tagore
- (c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- (d) Sarojini Naidu

8. In the context of Colonial India, Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon are remembered as

- (a) leaders of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement
- (b) members of the Interim Government in 1946
- (c) members of the Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly
- (d) officers of the Indian National Army

IAS Prelims 2020 Modern History Questions

1. In the context of Indian history, the Rakhmabai case of 1884 revolved around

- (1) Women's right to gain education
- (2) Age of consent
- (3) Restitution of conjugal rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Indigo cultivation in India declined by the beginning of the 20th century because of

- (a) peasant resistance to the oppressive conduct of planters
- (b) its unprofitability in the world market because of new inventions
- (c) national leaders' opposition to the cultivation of indigo
- (d) Government control over the planters

3. Wellesley established the Fort William College at Calcutta because
- (a) he was asked by the Board of Directors at London to do so
 - (b) he wanted to revive interest in oriental learning in India
 - (c) he wanted to provide William Carey and his associates with employment
 - (d) he wanted to train British civilians for administrative purpose in India
4. With reference to the history of India, "Ulgulan" or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events?
- (a) The Revolt of 1857
 - (b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
 - (c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859 - 60
 - (d) Birsa Munda's Revolt of 1899-1900
5. Which of the following statements correctly explains the impact of the Industrial Revolution on India during the first half of the nineteenth century?
- (a) Indian handicrafts were ruined.
 - (b) Machines were introduced in the Indian textile industry in large numbers.
 - (c) Railway lines were laid in many parts of the country.
 - (d) Heavy duties were imposed on the imports of British manufacturers.
6. With reference to the book "Deshar Katha" written by Saktharam Ganesh Deuskar during the freedom struggle, consider the following statements :
- (1) It warned against the Colonial State's hypnotic conquest of the mind.
 - (2) It inspired the performance of swadeshi street plays and folk songs.
 - (3) The use of 'desh' by Deuskar was in the specific context of the region of Bengal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

7. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following?

- (1) Invitation to Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference
- (2) Withdrawal of Ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement
- (3) Acceptance of Gandhiji's suggestion for enquiry into police excesses
- (4) Release of only those prisoners who were not charged with violence

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

IAS Prelims 2019 Modern History Questions

1. With reference to land reforms in independent India, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The ceiling laws were aimed at family holdings and not individual holdings.
- (b) The major aim of land reforms was to provide agricultural land to all the landless.
- (c) It resulted in the cultivation of cash crops as a predominant form of cultivation.
- (d) Land reforms permitted no exemptions to the ceiling limits.

2. Consider the following statements about 'the Charter Act of 1813':

- (1) It ended the trade monopoly of the East India Company in India except for trade in tea and trade with China.
- (2) It asserted the sovereignty of the British Crown over the Indian territories held by the Company.
- (3) The revenues of India were now controlled by the British Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

3. With reference to the Swadeshi Movement, consider the following statements:

- (1) It contributed to the revival of the indigenous artisan crafts and industries.
- (2) The National Council of Education was established as a part of the Swadeshi Movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following pairs:

Movement/Organization Leader

1. All India Anti-Untouchability League Mahatma Gandhi
2. All India Kisan Sabha Swami Sahajanand Saraswati
3. Self-Respect Movement E. V. Ramaswami Naicker

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements:

- (1) Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'
- (2) In Lord Chelmsford's 'War Conference', Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
- (3) Consequent upon the breaking of Salt Law by Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. With reference to the Indian National Movement, consider the following pairs:

Person Position Held

1. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru President, All India Liberal Federation
2. K. C. Neogy Member, The Constituent Assembly
3. P. C. Joshi General Secretary, Communist Party of India

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

IAS Prelims 2018 Modern History Questions

1. Regarding Wood's Dispatch, which of the following statements are true?

- (1) Grants-in-Aid system was introduced
- (2) Establishment of universities was recommended
- (3) English as a medium of instruction at all levels of education was recommended.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to educational institutes during colonial rule in India, consider the following pairs:
Institution Founder

- 1. Sanskrit College at Benaras William Jones
- 2. Calcutta Madrasa Warren Hastings
- 3. Fort William College Arthur Wellesley

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

3. Which among the following events happened earliest?

- (a) Swami Dayanand established AryaSamaj.
- (b) Dinabandhu Mitra wrote Neeldarpan.
- (c) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath.
- (d) Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services Examination.

4. In 1920, which of the following changed its name to "Swarajya Sabha"?

- (a) All India Home Rule League
- (b) Hindu Mahasabha
- (c) South Indian Liberal Federation
- (d) The Servants of India Society

5. Which of the following led to the introduction of English Education in India?

- (1) Charter Act of 1813
- (2) General Committee of Public Instruction, 1823
- (3) Orientalist and Anglicist Controversy

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. Economically, one of the results of the British rule in India in the 19th century was the

- (a) increase in the export of Indian handicrafts
- (b) growth in the number of Indian owned factories
- (c) commercialization of Indian agriculture
- (d) rapid increase in the urban population

7. After the Santhal Uprising subsided, what was/were the measure/measures taken by the colonial government?

- (1) The territories called 'Santhal Parganas' were created.
- (2) It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. He wrote biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji and Shrikrishna; stayed in America for some time; and

was also elected to the Central Assembly. He was

- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh
- (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) Motilal Nehru

9. Which one of the following statements does not apply to the system of Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley?

- (a) To maintain a large standing army at others expense
- (b) To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger
- (c) To secure a fixed income for the Company
- (d) To establish British paramountcy over the Indian States

10. Who among the following were the founders of the "Hind Mazdoor Sabha" established in 1948 ?

- (a) B. Krishna Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodiripad and K.C. George
- (b) Jayaprakash Narayan, Deen Day al Upadhyay and M.N. Roy
- (c) C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, K. Kamaraj and Veeresalingam Pantulu
- (d) Ashok Mehta, T.S. Ramanujam and G.G. Mehta

11. Which one of the following is a very significant aspect of the Champaran Satyagraha?

- (a) Active all-India participation of lawyers, students and women in the National Movement
- (b) Active involvement of Dalit and Tribal communities of India in the National Movement

- (c) Joining of peasant unrest to India's National Movement
 - (d) Drastic decrease in the cultivation of plantation crops and commercial crops
12. The staple commodities of export by the English East India Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century were
- (a) Raw cotton, oil-seeds, and opium
 - (b) Sugar, salt, zinc, and lead
 - (c) Copper, silver, gold, spices, and tea
 - (d) Cotton, silk, saltpeter, and opium

IAS Prelims 2017 Modern History Questions

1. Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of the Ryotwari Settlement in India during British rule?

- (1) Lord Cornwallis
- (2) Alexander Read
- (3) Thomas Munro

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following pairs:

- (1) Radhakanta Deb — First President of the British Indian Association
- (2) Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty — Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha
- (3) Surendranath Banerjee — Founder of the Indian Association

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

3. The Government of India Act of 1919 clearly defined

- (a) the separation of power between the judiciary and the legislature
- (b) the jurisdiction of the central and provincial governments
- (c) the powers of the Secretary of State for India and the Viceroy
- (d) None of the above

4. With reference to Congress Socialist Party, consider the following statements:

- (1) It advocated the boycott of British goods and evasion of taxes
- (2) It wanted to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat.
- (3) It advocated a separate electorate for minorities and oppressed classes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

5. Who of the following was/were economic critic/ critics of colonialism in India?

- (1) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (2) G. Subramania Iyer
- (3) R. C. Dutt

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. With reference to Rowlatt Satyagraha, which of the following statements is/ are correct?

- (1) The Rowlatt Act was based on the recommendations of the 'Sedition Committee'.
- (2) In Rowlatt Satyagraha, Gandhiji tried to utilize the Home Rule League.
- (3) Demonstrations against the arrival of the Simon Commission coincided with Rowlatt Satyagraha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

7. Which one of the following movements has contributed to a split in the Indian National Congress resulting in the emergence of 'moderates' and 'extremists'?

- (a) Swadeshi Movement
- (b) Quit India Movement
- (c) Non-Cooperation Movement
- (d) Civil Disobedience Movement

8. With reference to Indian history, which of the following is/are the essential elements of the feudal system?

- (1) A very strong centralized political authority and a very weak provincial or local political authority
- (2) The emergence of administrative structure based on control and possession of the land
- (3) Creation of the lord-vassal relationship between the feudal lord and his overlord

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

IAS Prelims 2014 Modern History Questions

1. The Partition of Bengal made by Lord Curzon in 1905 lasted until

- (a) the First World War when Indian troops were needed by the British and the partition was ended.
- (b) King George V abrogated Curzon's Act at the Royal Darbar in Delhi in 1911
- (c) Gandhiji launched his Civil Disobedience Movement
- (d) the Partition of India, in 1947 when East Bengal became East Pakistan

2. The 1929 Session of the Indian National Congress is of significance in the history of the Freedom Movement because the

- (a) attainment of Self-Government was declared as the objective of the Congress
- (b) attainment of Poorna Swaraj Was adopted as the goal of the Congress
- (c) Non-Cooperation Movement was launched
- (d) decision to participate in the Round Table Conference in London was taken

3. The Ghadr (Ghadar) was a

- (a) revolutionary association of Indians with headquarters at San Francisco.
- (b) nationalist organization operating from Singapore
- (c) militant organization with headquarters at Berlin
- (d) communist movement for India's freedom with headquarters at Tashkent

4. What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria's Proclamation (1858)?

- (1) To disclaim any intention to annex Indian States
- (2) To place the Indian administration under the British Crown
- (3) To regulate East India Company's trade with India

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. The Radcliffe Committee was appointed to

- (1) Solve the problems of minorities in India
- (2) Give effect to Independence Bill
- (3) Delimit boundaries between India and Pakistan
- (4) Enquire into riots in East Bengal

IAS Prelims 2013 Modern History Questions

1. With reference to Indian History, the Members of the Constituent Assembly from the Provinces were

- (a) directly elected by the people of those Provinces
- (b) nominated by the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League
- (c) elected by the Provincial Legislative Assemblies
- (d) selected by the Government for their expertise in constitutional matters

2. The demand for the Tebhaga Peasant Movement in Bengal was for

- (a) the reduction of the share of the landlords from one-half of the crop to one-third
- (b) the grant of ownership of land to peasants as they were the actual cultivators of the land
- (c) the uprooting of Zamindari system and the end of serfdom
- (d) writing off all peasant debts

3. The people of India agitated against the arrival of Simon Commission because

- (a) Indians never wanted the review of the working of the Act of 1919
- (b) Simon Commission recommended the abolition of Dyarchy (Diarchy) in the Provinces
- (c) there was no Indian member in the Simon Commission
- (d) the Simon Commission suggested the partition of the country

4. Quit India Movement was launched in response to

- (a) Cabinet Mission Plan
- (b) Cripps Proposals
- (c) Simon Commission Report
- (d) Wavell Plan

5. Annie Besant was

- (1) responsible for starting the Home Rule Movement
- (2) the founder of the Theosophical Society
- (3) once the President of the Indian National Congress

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. The Ilbert Bill controversy was related to the

- (a) imposition restrictions the Indians of certain to carry arms by Indians
- (b) imposition of restrictions on newspapers and magazines published in Indian languages
- (c) removal of disqualifications imposed on the Indian magistrates with regard to the trial of the Europeans
- (d) removal of a duty on imported cotton cloth.

UPSC Prelims Modern History Answers [2013-2021]

The answers to UPSC Modern History Questions asked in Prelims from the year 2013 to 2021 are given in the tables below:

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2022 – Answers	
1. c	3. b
2. d	4.b

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2021 – Answers	
1. a	2. c

3. c	4. b
5. a	6. c
7. c	8. d

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2020 – Answers

1. B	2. B
3. D	4. D
5. A	6. A
7. B	

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2019 – Answers

1. B	2. A
3. C	4. D
5. B	6. A

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2018 – Answers

1. A	2. B
3. B	4. A
5. C	6. C
7. C	8. C
9. C	10. D
11. C	12. D

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2017 – Answers

1. C	2. B
3. D	4. C

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2016 – Answers

1. D	2. B
3. B	4. D
5. C	6. A

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2015 – Answers

1. B	2. B
3. B	4. D
5. D	6. B
7. A	8. B

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2014 – Answers

1. B	2. B
3. A	4. A
5. C	

UPSC Modern History of India Questions in Prelims 2013 – Answers

1. C	2. A
3. C	4. B
5. C	6. C