

Art & Culture Questions in UPSC Mains GS 1

Indian Heritage and Culture UPSC Questions (Year-Wise)

The tables below will provide Art & Culture questions for UPSC Mains GS 1 from the year 2013-2020. Candidates can refer to the detailed [GS 1 Structure, Syllabus and Strategy](#) in the linked article.

2020

Art & Culture – Indian Heritage & Culture Questions – UPSC Mains

1. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss.
2. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate.
3. Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss.
4. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment.

Read about the topics from where questions are inspired from the links below:

1. [Cave Architecture in India](#)
2. [Pala Empire](#)

2019

Art & Culture – Indian Heritage & Culture Questions – UPSC Mains

1. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art.

To practice this question, aspirants can first read about the [difference between the Gandhara School of Art and Mathura School of Art](#) in the linked article.

2018

Art & Culture – Indian Heritage & Culture Questions – UPSC Mains

1. Safeguarding the Indian Art Heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss.

2. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab Travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India.

3. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss

To practice above-mentioned Indian Heritage, Art and Culture questions asked in 2016 UPSC Mains, aspirants can check the below-given links:

1. [Bhakti Movement](#)
2. [Difference Between Bhakti and Sufi Movements](#)
3. [Important topics on Indian Heritage and Culture for UPSC](#)

2017

Art & Culture – Indian Heritage & Culture Questions

1. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times?

2. Examine how the decline of the traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy.

To practice above-mentioned Indian Heritage, Art and Culture questions asked in 2017 UPSC Mains, aspirants can check the below-given links:

1. [Legacy and Decline of Gupta Empire](#)
2. [Impact of British Rule in India](#)

2016

Art & Culture – Indian Heritage & Culture Questions – UPSC Mains

1. Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate.

2. Krishnadeva Raya, the King of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a

great patron of learning and literature. Discuss.

Candidates can take help from the article [Vijayanagara Empire](#) where they can form the basic understanding of the empire and then with reference books, can complement their answer.

2015

Art & Culture – Indian Heritage & Culture Questions – UPSC Mains

1. The ancient civilization in the 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.

2. 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.

Candidates can first read about [Indus Valley Civilization](#) in the linked article and then compare the features of it with the present-day Indian features.

To understand Mesolithic age, aspirants should first read about the basics of the [Prehistoric Age of India](#), and then with the help of reference books, complement their answer.

2014

Art & Culture – Indian Heritage & Culture Questions – UPSC Mains

1. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss.

2. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain.

3. Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with 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.

4. 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.

Read about Sufism related articles in the linked pages below:

1. [Sufism](#)
2. [Sufi Saints](#)

2013

Art & Culture – Indian Heritage & Culture Questions – UPSC Mains

1. 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.

2. Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions.

3. Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss.

To practice above-mentioned questions, candidates can get a basic understanding of the topics from the below-mentioned links:

1. [Sangam Literature](#)
2. [Chola Temples](#)

Additionally, candidates can check the Art and Culture Notes and Previous Years' UPSC Prelims Art & Culture Questions from the linked articles below:

1. [Art and Culture Notes](#)
2. [Art and Culture Previous Year Questions in UPSC Prelims \[2013-2020\]](#)