



HISTORY OPTIONAL

MAINS TEST SERIES

2026

Use Code

SNLIVE



Sainil Nagare Senior Faculty, History



12th July 2026

History Mains Test Series 2026

It is said that Optional determines the destiny of UPSC journey. It is the most important weapon to conquer this exam. To get into the final list, one must ace the Optionals.

To help you sail with a comfortable margin in History Optional, StudyIQ is here with its History Mains Test Series.

Merits of History Test Series

1.

The language style and nature of the questions are in line with the questions asked by the Union Public Service Commission and are based on deep understanding and knowledge.

2.

Previous Year Questions and High-Yielding Topics will be covered comprehensively.

3.

The question papers are designed by our team of experts after going through standard sources and references.

 **76-4000-3000**

Features of the Test Series

Mode of the test series will be Online.

There will be a total of 8 tests. (4 Sectional Tests and 4 Full-Length Tests)

The evaluation of papers will be done in 6–7 days after the student uploads the paper.

Discussion of each paper will be done thoroughly.

Synopsis of each test will be provided.

Language used in the tests will be English.

About the Test Series

01

Targeted Audience:

The HOTS PROGRAM has been crafted for those aspirants who have already prepared History as an optional for their IAS Mains Exam but their answers require a certain level of refinement and finesse.

02

Refinement in Writing Capabilities

This program strives to refine the writing capabilities of learners and assist them in creating responses of top-notch quality.

03

Syllabus Completion

The tests have been designed to cover the entire syllabus of the topic. There are a total of 8 tests, out of which 4 are topic-specific and 4 are comprehensive tests. These tests are designed to ensure an in-depth understanding of the subject.

04

Questions Same as UPSC Standards

The questions posed will have similarity in terms of complexity to those asked in the IAS MAINS EXAMINATION

05

Target of 300-330 Marks

This Program will provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to craft excellent responses to any type of question, ensuring a score of 300-330 in the exam.

06

Model Answers

During the class, detailed explanations of each question's model answer will be given, along with tips and strategies to help students score highly.

07

Personalised Attention by Sainil Sir

To ensure every student's mastery of the subject, SAINIL SIR (303 Marks in History Optional) will provide personalized attention to every student to address any issues and ensure satisfactory progress.

Time Table

Test	Date	Syllabus
Test 1 Ancient India (Sectional)	12th July	SOURCES • Archaeological Sources: Exploration, Excavation, Epigraphy, Numismatics, Monuments. • Literary Sources: Indigenous- Primary and Secondary: Poetry, Scientific Literature, Literature in regional Languages, Religious Literature. • Foreign Accounts: Greek, Chinese and Arab writers. PRE-HISTORY AND PROTO – HISTORY • Geographical factors. • Hunting and Gathering (Palaeolithic and Mesolithic). • Beginning of Agriculture (Neolithic and Chalcolithic). • Megalithic Cultures. • Distribution of Pastoral and Farming Cultures Outside the Indus. • Development of Community Life. • Settlements. • Development of Agriculture. • Development of Crafts. • Development of Pottery. • Development of Iron Industry. INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION • Origin. • Date. • Extent. • Characteristics. • Decline. • Survival. • Significance. • Art and architecture. ARYANS AND VEDIC PERIOD • Expansions of Aryans in India. • Religious and Philosophic Literature. • Transformation from Rig Vedic Period to the Later Vedic Period. • Political. • Social. • Economical Life. • Significance of the Vedic Age. • Evolution of Monarchy and Varna System.



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Test	Date	Syllabus
		PERIOD OF MAHAJANAPADAS OR POST VEDIC AGE • Formation of States (Mahajanapada) – Republics and Monarchies. • Rise of Urban Centres. • Trade Routes. • Economic Growth. • Introduction of Coinage. • Spread of Jainism and Buddhism. • Rise of Magadha and Nandas. IRANIAN AND MACEDONIAN INVASIONS AND THEIR IMPACT
		MAURYAN EMPIRE • Foundation of the Mauryan Empire. • Chandragupta, Kautilya and Arthashastra. • Ashoka’s Concept of Dharma. • Ashokan Edicts. • Polity. • Administration. • Economy. • Art, Architecture and Sculpture. • External Contacts. • Religion. • Spread of Religion. • Literature. • Disintegration of the Empire. POST – MAURYAN PERIOD • Sungas and Kanvas. • Indo – Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, Western Kshatrapas. • Contact with Outside World. • Growth of Urban Centres. • Economy. • Coinage. • Development of Religions. • Mahayana. • Society & Culture. • Art & Architecture. • Culture. • Literature. • Science. EARLY STATE AND SOCIETY IN EASTERN INDIA, DECCAN AND SOUTH INDIA • Kharavela. • The Satavahanas and Tamil States of the Sangam Age – their Administration and Economic Life. • Land Grants. • Coinage. • Trade Guilds. • Urban Centres. • Buddhist Centres. • Sangam Literature and Culture. • Art and Architecture.



Test	Date	Syllabus
		GUPTAS, VAKATAKAS AND VARDHANS AGE • Polity and Administration. • Economic Conditions. • Coinage of the Guptas. • Land Grants. • Decline of Urban Centres. • Indian Feudalism. • Caste System. • Position of Women. • Education. • Education Institutions - Nalanda, Vikramashila and Vallabhi. • Literature Including Scientific Literature. • Art and Architecture. REGIONAL STATES DURING GUPTA ERA • The Kadambas. • Pallavas - Polity and Administration. • Chalukyas of Badami and Kalyani - Polity and Administration. • Trade Guilds. • Literature. • Institutions of Temple and Temple Architecture. • Palas, Senas, Rashtrakutas, Paramaras, Polity and Administration. • Cultural Aspects. • Arab Conquest of Sind. • Alberuni. • Hoysalas, Pandyas - Polity and Administration. • Growth of Art and Architecture. • Religious Sects. • Institution of Temple and Mathas. • Agraharas. • Education and Literature. • Economy and Society. EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA, 750 – 120 • Major Political Developments in Northern India and the Peninsula. • Origin and the Rise of Rajputs. • The Cholas: Administration, Village Economy and Society. • Indian Feudalism. • Agrarian Economy and Urban Settlements. • Trade and Commerce. • Society: ◦ The Status of the Brahman and the New Social Order. ◦ Condition of Women. • Indian Science and Technology. • Philosophy: ◦ Shakaracharya and Vedanta ◦ Ramanuja and Vishistadwaita ◦ Madhava and Brahma – Mimamsa.



Test	Date	Syllabus
		• Religion: ◦ Forms and Features of Religion. ◦ Tamil Bhakti Movement – Growth of Vaishnava and Shaiva Religions. ◦ Islam and its Arrival in India Sufism. • Literature: ◦ Literature in Sanskrit. ◦ Growth of Tamil Literature. ◦ Literature in the Newly Developing Languages. ◦ Kalhana’s Rajatarangini Alberuni’s India. • Art and Architecture : ◦ Temple Architecture. ◦ Culpture. ◦ Painting. THEMES IN EARLY INDIAN CULTURAL HISTORY • Languages and Texts. • Major Stages in the Evolution of Art and Architecture. • Major Philosophical Thinkers and Schools. • Ideas in Science and Mathematics.
Test 2 Medieval India (Sectional)	20th July	DELHI SULTANATE • The Ghaurian invasions – Factors Behind Ghaurian Success. • Economic, Social and Cultural Consequences Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. • Foundation of Delhi Sultanate. • Consolidation: The Rule of Iltutmish and Balban. • The Khalji Revolution. ◦ Conquests and Territorial Expansion. ◦ Agrarian and Economic Measures • Muhammad Tughluq: ◦ Major Projects. ◦ Agrarian Measure. ◦ Bureaucracy of Muhammad Tughluq. • Firuz Tughluq: Agrarian Measures Achievements in Civil Engineering and Public Works. • Decline of the Sultanate. • Foreign contacts; Ibn Battuta’s Account. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ECONOMY DURING 15TH AND EARLY 16TH CENTURY • Rise of Provincial Dynasties: Bengal, Kashmir (Zainul Abidin), Gujarat, Malwa, Bahmanis. • The Vijayanagar Empire. • Lodhis. • The Sur Empire: Sher Shah’s administration. • Portuguese Colonial enterprise. • Bhakti and Sufi Movements. THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CENTURIES • Society: ◦ Composition of Rural Society. ◦ Ruling Classes. ◦ Town Dwellers. ◦ Women Religious Classes. ◦ Caste and Slavery under the Sultanate. ◦ Bhakti Movement Sufi Movement.



Test	Date	Syllabus
		• Culture: ◦ Persian Literature. ◦ Literature in the Regional Languages of North India. ◦ Literature in the Languages Of South India. ◦ Sultanate Architecture and New Structural Forms. ◦ Painting. ◦ Evolution of a Composite Culture. • Economy: ◦ Agricultural Production. ◦ Rise of Urban Economy and Non–Agricultural Production. ◦ Trade and Commerce. THE FIFTEENTH AND EARLY SIXTEENTH CENTURY – SOCIETY AND CULTURE • Regional Cultural Specificities. • Literary Traditions. • Provincial Architecture. • Society, Culture, Literature and the Arts in Vijayanagara Empire.
		MUGHAL PERIOD • Nature of the Mughal State. • First Phase: Babur and Humayun. • Akbar: ◦ Conquests and Consolidation of the Empire. ◦ Establishment of Jagir and Mansab Systems. ◦ Rajput Policy. ◦ Evolution of Religious and Social Outlook. ◦ Theory of Sulh –i– Kul. ◦ Religious Policy. ◦ Court Patronage of Art and Technology. • Major Administrative Policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb. • The Empire and the Zamindars. • Religious Policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb. • Late Seventeenth Century Crisis and the Revolts. • The Ahom Kingdom. • Shivaji and the Early Maratha Kingdom. ECONOMY AND SOCIETY IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES • Population, Agricultural Production, Craft Production. • Towns, Commerce with Europe Through Dutch, English and French Companies – a Trade Revolution. • Indian Mercantile Classes, Banking, Insurance and Credit Systems. • Condition of Peasants, Condition of Women. • Evolution of the Sikh Community and the Khalsa Panth. • Culture in the Mughal Empire. • Persian Histories and the Other Literature. • Hindi and the Other Religious Literature. • Mughal Architecture. • Mughal Painting. • Provincial Architecture and Painting. • Classical Music. • Science and Technology.

Test	Date	Syllabus
		THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY • Factors for the Decline of the Mughal Empire. • The Regional Principalities: ◦ Nizam’s Deccan. ◦ Bengal. ◦ Awadh.
Test 3 Modern India (Sectional)	30th July	EUROPEAN PENETRATION INTO INDIA • The Early European Settlements. • The Portuguese and the Dutch. • The English and the French East India Companies. • Their Struggle for Supremacy: Carnatic Wars. • Bengal – The Conflict between the English and the Nawabs of Bengal; Siraj and the English; The Battle of Plassey, Significance of Plassey. BRITISH EXPANSION IN INDIA • Bengal – Mir Zafar and Mir Kasim. • The Battle of Buxar. • Mysore. • The Marathas. • The Three Anglo – Maratha Wars. • The Punjab. EARLY STRUCTURE OF THE BRITISH RAJ • The Early Administrative Structure – From Diarchy to Direct Control. • The Regulating Act (1773). • The Pitt’s India Act (1784). • The Charter Act (1833). • The Voice of Free Trade and the Changing Character of British Colonial Rule. • The English Utilitarian and India. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BRITISH COLONIAL RULE • Land Revenue Settlements in British India –The Permanent Settlement, Ryotwari Settlement, Mahalwari Settlement. • Economic Impact of the Revenue Arrangements. • Commercialization of Agriculture. • Rise of Landless Agrarian Labourers. • Impoverishment of the Rural Society. • Dislocation of Traditional Trade and Commerce. • De – Industrialization. • Decline of Traditional Crafts. • Drain of Wealth. • Economic Transformation of India. • Railroad and Communication Network Including Telegraph and Postal Services. • Famine and Poverty in the Rural Interior. • European Business Enterprise and its Limitations. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS • The State of Indigenous Education and its Dislocation. • Orientalists–Anglicists Controversy. • The Introduction of Western Education in India. • The Rise of Press, Literature and Public Opinion. • The Rise of Modern Vernacular Literature. • Progress of Science. • Christian Missionary Activities in India.



Test	Date	Syllabus
		SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS IN BENGAL AND OTHER AREAS • Ram Mohan Roy. • The Brahmo Movement. • Devendranath Tagore. • Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. • The Young Bengal Movement. • Dayananda Saraswati. • The Social Reform Movements in India Including Sati, Widow Remarriage, Child Marriage etc. • The Contribution of Indian Renaissance to the Growth of Modern India. • Islamic Revivalism – The Faraizi and Wahabi Movements. INDIAN RESPONSE TO BRITISH RULE • Peasant Movements and Tribal Uprisings in the 18th and 19th Centuries including: ◦ The Rangpur Dhing (1783). ◦ The Kol Rebellion (1832). ◦ The Mopla Rebellion in Malabar (1832 – 1920). ◦ The Santhal Hul (1855). ◦ Indigo Rebellion (1859 – 60). ◦ Deccan Uprising (1875). ◦ The Munda Ulgulan (1899 – 1900) • The Great Revolt of 1857 – Origin, Character, Causes of Failure, the Consequences. • The Shift in the Character of Peasant Uprisings in the Post – 1857 Period. • The Peasant Movements of the 1920s and 1930s.
		FIRST PHASE OF INDIAN NATIONALISM • Factors Leading to the Birth of Indian Nationalism. • Politics of Association. • The Foundation of the Indian National Congress. • The Safety – Valve Thesis Relating to the Birth of the Congress. • Programme and Objectives of Early Congress. • The Social Composition of Early Congress Leadership • The Moderates and Extremists. • The Partition of Bengal (1905). • The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal. • The Economic and Political Aspects of Swadeshi Movement. • The Beginning of Revolutionary Extremism in India. SECOND PHASE OF INDIAN NATIONALISM • Rise of Gandhi. • Character of Gandhian Nationalism. • Gandhi’s Popular Appeal. • Rowlatt Satyagraha. • The Khilafat Movement. • The Non – Cooperation Movement. • National politics from the End of the Non – • Cooperation Movement to the Beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement. • The Two Phases of the Civil Disobedience Movement. • Simon Commission. • The Nehru Report. • The Round Table Conferences. • Nationalism and the Peasant Movements. • Nationalism and Working Class Movements. • Women and Indian Youth and Students in Indian Politics (1885 – 1947). • The Election of 1937 and the Formation Of Ministries. • Cripps Mission. • The Quit India Movement. • Cripps Mission. • The Wavell Plan. • The Cabinet Mission.



Test	Date	Syllabus
		CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COLONIAL INDIA BETWEEN 1858 AND 1935 OTHER STRANDS IN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT • The Revolutionaries of Bengal, the Punjab, Maharashtra, U.P, the Madras Presidency and outside India. • The Left within the Congress; Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose. • The Congress Socialist Party. • The Communist Party of India and Other Left Parties. SEPARATIST STRANDS IN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT • Politics of Separatism. • The Muslim League. • The Hindu Mahasabha. • Communalism and the Politics of Partition. • Transfer of Power. • Independence. CONSOLIDATION AS A NATION • Nehru’s Foreign Policy. • India and her Neighbours (1947 – 1964). • The Linguistic Reorganization of States (1935 – 1947). • Regionalism and Regional Inequality. • Integration of Princely States. • Princes in Electoral Politics. • The Question of National Language. CASTE AND ETHNICITY AFTER 1947 • Backward Castes and Tribes in Post – Colonial Electoral Politics. • Dalit Movements. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL CHANGE • Land Reforms. • The Politics of Planning and Rural Reconstruction. • Ecology and Environmental Policy in Post– Colonial India. • Progress of Science.
Test 4 World History (Sectional)	10th Aug	ENLIGHTENMENT AND MODERN IDEAS • Major Ideas of Enlightenment; Kant, Rousseau. • Spread of Enlightenment in the Colonies. • Rise of Socialist Ideas (up to Marx); Spread of Marxian Socialism. ORIGINS OF MODERN POLITICS • European States System. • American Revolution and the Constitution. • French Revolution and Aftermath, 1789 – 1815. • American Civil War with Reference to Abraham Lincoln and the Abolition of Slavery. • British Democratic Politics (1815 – 1850) – Parliamentary Reformers, Free Traders, Chartists. INDUSTRIALIZATION • English Industrial Revolution; Causes and Impact on Society. • Industrialization in Other Countries; USA, Germany, Russia, Japan. • Industrialization and Globalization.



Test	Date	Syllabus
		NATION – STATE SYSTEM • Rise of Nationalism in 19th century. • Nationalism ; state – building in Germany and Italy. • Disintegration of Empires in the Face of the Emergence of Nationalities Across the world. REVOLUTION AND COUNTER – REVOLUTION • 19th Century European revolutions. • The Russian Revolution of 1917 – 1921. • Fascist Counter – Revolution, Italy and Germany. • The Chinese Revolution of 1949. WORLD WARS • 1st and 2nd World Wars as Total Wars : Societal implications. • World War I : Causes and Consequences. • World War II : Causes and Consequence.
		THE WORLD AFTER WORLD WAR II • Emergence of Two Power Blocs. • Emergence of Third World and Non – Alignment. • UNO and the Global Disputes. IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM • South and South – East Asia. • Latin America and South Africa. • Australia. • Imperialism and Free Trade; Rise of Neo – Imperialism. LIBERATION FROM COLONIAL RULE • Latin America – Bolivar. • Arab world – Egypt. • Africa – Apartheid to Democracy. • South – East Asia – Vietnam. • Decolonization and Underdevelopment. • Factors Constraining Development: Latin America, Africa. UNIFICATION OF EUROPE • Post War Foundations : NATO and European Community. • Consolidation and Expansion of European Community. • European Union. DISINTEGRATION OF SOVIET UNION AND THE RISE OF THE UNIPOLAR WORLD • Factors Leading to the Collapse of Soviet Communism and the Soviet Union, 1985 – 1991. • Political Changes in Eastern Europe 1989 – 2001. • End of the Cold war and US Ascendancy in the World as the Lone Superpower.



Test	Date	Syllabus
Test 5 Full Length Paper (Paper I - Ancient & Medieval History)	14th Aug	Full Syllabus
Test 6 Full Length Paper (Paper II - Modern & World History)	14th Aug	Full Syllabus
Test 7 Full Length Paper (Paper I - Ancient & Medieval History)	16th Aug	Full Syllabus
Test 8 Full Length Paper (Paper II - Modern & World History)	16th Aug	Full Syllabus

**NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change as circumstances require.
The discussion of tests will be held on Saturdays.**

Our Faculty



Sainil Nagare

Senior Faculty, History Optional

- Brings over 9 years of teaching experience in UPSC preparation
- Consistently successful in UPSC CSE and CAPF interviews, offering real exam insight
- Achieved an impressive 303 marks in History Optional in UPSC Mains 2018
- Has mentored several UPSC toppers, known for his result-oriented guidance and conceptual clarity

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