



Ph.D. Entrance Exam Syllabus (History)

Ancient Indian History and Its Archaeological Foundations:

Archaeology: Definition, aim and scope of Archaeology. Historical Archaeology- Exploration, Excavation, Epigraphy, Numismatics, Iconography, Art and Architecture. Dating Methods. Indus valley civilization: origin, date, extent, main features, decline.

Vedic Age and After:

Sources, Vedic polity – sabha and samiti. Marriage and its types. Formation of Mahajanpadas, Republics & Monarchies. Religion- Spread of Jainism and Buddhism. Rise of Magadha and Nandas. Invasion of Alexander and its Impact. The Mauryan Empire- Foundation, Chandragupta, Ashoka and his contribution, Dhamma, Edicts. Disintegration of Empire-Sunga and Kanvas & The Satavahanas; Tamil states of Sangam Age. The Indo-Greek rulers, The Scythians (Saka) and the Kushanas. Main Features of Indian Architecture: Beginning of Rock-cut Tradition- Mauryan Period. Ashokan Pillars and Persian Influence. Buddhist Rock-cut Architecture: Chaitya and Vihara- Hinayana and Mahayana. Origin and Development of Stupa. Emergence of Hindu Structural Temples. Different Temple Styles Nagara, Dravida and Besara.

Golden Age and After:

The Imperial Guptas and Vakatakas, Later- Guptas, the Maukharis- Harshavardhana. Early Cholas. Pallavas, Pandyas & Chola- Administration and Contribution. Rashtrakutas, Rajputs: Pratiharas, Kalachuri-Chedi. Arabian Contact- Conquest of Ghaznavi

Medieval India:

Historiography and Sources- Primary and Secondary. The Sultanate period – Foundation, Expansion and consolidation. Administration under the Sultanate, Decline of Sultanate, Art & Architecture. Socio-Religious Movements- Bhakti & Sufi, Islamic Architecture during the Delhi Sultanate.

Foundation of the Mughal Empire-

Babar, Humayun and the Suri's. Expansion under Akbar and Aurengzeb. Administration under the Mughals: Civil, Judicial, Land Revenue- Mansabdari and Jagirdari. Main Features of Mughal Art & Architecture. Decline of Mughal Empire- Political, administrative and Economic causes. Later Mughals and Disintegration of the Mughal Empire. Marathas under Shivaji and Peshwas. Position of women, Society and culture under Mughals.

Colonial India:

Sources and Historiography- Archival material, biographies and newspapers. European traders- Portuguese, Dutch, French, and the British. British Conquest and consolidation- Colonial transformation. Central & provincial Structure under EIC- Constitutional Development. Colonial economy- Drain of Wealth. Land Tenure and Change in Indian Agrarian Structure. Commercialization of Indian Agriculture and Deindustrialization. Socio-Religious Reforms, Women's position, Printing Press.

National Movement:

Rise of Indian Nationalism, The Revolt of 1857- Causes, Reasons for Failure, Interpretations and its Effect. Tribal and Peasant movements, Formation of the Indian National Congress. 'Moderates' & 'Extremists' in the early period. Partition of Bengal (1905) and Swadeshi movement. Rise of Revolutionary Activities. Formation of the Muslim League and the Congress League Pact, 1916. Jallianwala Bagh, The April Satyagraha (1919), Khilafat Movement and the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22), Chauri- Chaura, Simon Commission. The Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-30 & 1932-34). Act of 1935, Elections & Provincial Governments (1937-39). Communal Politics, Mountbatten Declaration. Towards Independence and Partition. India after Independence- Rehabilitations, Integration of Indian states, Economic policies.

World History:

Humanism, Enlightened Despotism, Supremely of Church, Roman Empire, Slavery, National States, Renaissance, Black Death, Great Depression, Feudalism, Non-alignment, Parliamentary Democracy, Nazism, Commonwealth, Socialism, Balance of Power, Rights of Man, World War I, World War II, Cold War.