

HISTORY OPTIONAL STRATEGY

Don't make notes of event only. Divide into many aspects. For example, Indus valley Civilization, divide it into origin, features, decline, social, economical, religious and political condition etc. this will help you in making the link to next part easier.

Very basic questions are not being asked in IAS exam. So prepare smartly. Think of topics and subtopics and make the notes/points. For example, women condition in ancient India was bad, so prepare some points where the women's condition was good and evaluate accordingly.

Make a list of statements given by different writers/travelers/ sources. You can now compare the views

The statements of modern history are, at time , hard to understand and elaborate. To solve this dilemma you should read only 2 books (Bipin Chandra and B.L Grover) and make a list of such interesting statements.

These statements are questions. Try to solve them and give them to check to your senior/professor

Give more focus on answer writing

Make group of some aspirants and try to tackle history together

Since History is static subject. So try to solve questions of last 30 years

Visualize the events

Use various images to remember art/culture of various places

Practice for map daily for 1 hr

Ancient India

1. Upinder Singh- A history of ancient and early medieval India
2. IGNOU- BA & MA notes
3. Romila Thapar- Early India
4. NCERT- class 6th and 11th

Medieval India

1. NCERT- class 6th and 11th
2. IGNOU- BA & MA notes
3. Satish Chandra- Medieval History

Paper 2

1. IGNOU- BA & MA notes
2. NCERT- class 8th and 12th
3. Shekhar Bandopadhyay- from plassay to Partition
4. Sumit sarkar- modern India
5. Bipin Chandra- freedom struggle and post Independence

Modern World

1. NCERT- class 9th and 10th
2. IGNOU- BA & MA notes
3. Jain and Mathur- world History
4. Ranjan Chakraborty

Approach paper 2

This is the most important part that how we integrate these various sources with our syllabus based on studying the past question papers

In paper 2, French revolution and Russian revolution both are important parts of the syllabus. If one integrates IGNOU, David Thomson and Ranjan Chakravarty and prepare a list of questions in one's mind like

- ❖ Why was the French revolution revolutionary in the understanding of itself
- ❖ What is the concept of revolution
- ❖ Exploring the causes of the French Revolution
- ❖ What led to the overthrow of the ancient regime
- ❖ What were the diverse social interstd that kept supporting or opposing the revolution
- ❖ What were the immediate causes? Focusing the immediate reasons

George lefebue's classification of revolution in four stages—aristocratic revolution, bourgeois revolution, popular and pleasant revolution

Approach paper 1

Most civil services aspirants opt History subject as an optional because it is very easy and it has benefits in G.S and essay also. For History, approach should be objective and very technical. All NCERT books are very much relevant in this regard

Any aspirants from any background can opt history. Students should focus on understanding various aspect of Historiography, themes and archaeological and literary sources, rather than focusing on chronological detail.

Every student should follow given points

If you analyze past 4 years papers, you will realize the shift away from political history towards social and economic history

- Interlinkages continuities and change being explored
- A. Review critically the evolution of different school of art in Indian Sub continent and between 2nd century B.C and 3rd century CE and evaluate the socio-religious factors responsible for it
- B. Historiography being asked almost directly. This includes debates among various schools of historians
 - I. To what extent is segmentary state model relevant for defining the VijayNagr State . critically examine
 - II. Evaluating various theories regarding the Chola state , throw light on its village assemblies
 - III. What kind of changes were visualized by historians on Indian feudalism . Examine critically
 - IV. Discuss different interpretations of Historians about the nature of Ashoka's Dhamma. Did the principle of Dhamma Vijya render the mauryan Empire militaristically weak

Every year one question purely on culture and religion

- I. The Upnishad principles embody the epitome of Vedic thought. Discuss
- II. Give a brief account of the early medieval temple architecture of Kashmir
- III. why is Mamallpuram famous

Every year something on gender

- I. Social norms for women in the Dharmasastra and Arthsastra tradition were framed in accordance with the Varnashram a tradition. Critically evaluate

- II. Analyze the steps taken Razia sultan by strengthen our position as an independent ruler despite various obstacles
- III. Tantrism, if not a practice, at least an conceptual level challenged particularly. Examine Tantrism specially keeping in mind the above context
- IV. Bhakti and Mysticism of LaL Ded emerged as a social force in Kashmir.
Comment

