

HISTORY MAINS PREMIUM QUESTIONS

(answer in 250 words each)

Q. "The decline of the Mughal Empire was less a collapse and more a transformation of power structures." Critically examine with reference to political, economic, and regional dynamics.

Q. How did the jagirdari–mansabdari crisis act as a structural cause of Mughal decline rather than merely an administrative failure?

Q. To what extent did Aurangzeb's policies accelerate existing structural weaknesses rather than create new ones?

Q. Evaluate the role of foreign invasions (Nadir Shah and Abdali) as catalysts rather than causes of Mughal decline.

Q. "The rise of regional states was both a continuation and a rejection of Mughal political traditions." Discuss with typological classification.

Q. Compare successor, rebel, and independent states in terms of legitimacy, military organisation, and long-term viability.

Q. Why did powerful indigenous states like the Marathas and Mysore fail to prevent colonial expansion despite initial successes?

Q. "The 18th century was politically fragmented but economically resilient." Examine this paradox critically.

Q. How did the transformation of European companies from traders to rulers reflect Indian political weaknesses more than European strength?

Q. Critically evaluate the Subsidiary Alliance and Doctrine of Lapse as tools of imperial expansion—were they coercive or consensual?

Q. "The British conquest of India was a combination of diplomacy, deception, and military superiority." Substantiate with examples.

Q. Analyse how colonial administrative reforms (1773–1858) were designed for control rather than governance.

Q. "The economic impact of British rule transformed India from a producer economy to a colonial dependency." Critically analyse.

Q. Examine the Drain of Wealth theory as both an economic critique and a political tool in the nationalist movement.

Q. How did land revenue systems reshape rural society and contribute to agrarian distress and resistance?

Q. Discuss the dual role of colonial infrastructure (railways, telegraph, ports) as instruments of exploitation and agents of modernisation.

Q. “The socio-religious reform movements were not merely cultural but deeply political in their long-term consequences.” Critically examine.

Q. Evaluate the role of Western education in creating both collaborators and critics of colonial rule.

Q. How did caste, gender, and social reform movements contribute to the emergence of modern Indian identity?

Q. “The rise of Indian nationalism was the result of a convergence of economic, social, political, and global factors.” Critically analyse using a multidimensional framework.

Q. “Economic nationalism preceded political nationalism in India.” Examine with reference to early nationalist thought.

Q. How did Western education act as both a tool of colonial control and a catalyst for anti-colonial resistance?

Q. Critically analyse the role of the press as an instrument of political mobilisation rather than mere information dissemination.

Q. To what extent did socio-religious reform movements create the ideological foundations of Indian nationalism?

Q. “The early Congress was an elitist organisation, yet historically indispensable.” Critically evaluate.

Q. Examine the ‘safety valve’ theory in the context of A.O. Hume and the formation of the INC.

Q. “The Moderates failed politically but succeeded intellectually.” Discuss.

Q. How did the limitations of constitutional methods lead to the rise of assertive nationalism?

Q. “The Partition of Bengal transformed Indian nationalism from a petition-based movement into a mass-based struggle.” Analyse.

Q. Compare the ideological and methodological differences between Moderates and Extremists.

Q. To what extent was the Swadeshi Movement an economic programme rather than a political movement?

Q. Critically evaluate the role of education and culture (national schools, literature) in the Swadeshi movement.

Q. “Revolutionary nationalism filled the psychological vacuum left by moderate politics.” Examine.

Q. Assess the impact of international revolutionary networks (Ghadar, Berlin Committee, etc.) on Indian nationalism.

Q. Why did revolutionary movements fail to achieve immediate success despite their ideological appeal?

Q. “How did Gandhi transform Indian nationalism from an elite movement into a mass movement?” Discuss with examples.

Q. Critically examine the Non-Cooperation Movement as both a success and a missed opportunity.

Q. “The Civil Disobedience Movement marked a qualitative shift from protest to parallel sovereignty.” Evaluate.

Q. Analyse the Government of India Act, 1935 as both an instrument of colonial control and a step towards self-governance.

Q. “The Congress ministries (1937–39) were a rehearsal for independent governance.” Critically examine.
