

## **Reflections in History Optional 2024 from Test Series and Crash Course by Chandrabhan Singh sir**

<b>Paper</b>	<b>No. of reflection</b>
<b>Paper-1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Paper-2</b>	<b>14</b>

**Please note - Many of the themes asked in the UPSC Exam 2024 were discussed during the crash course value addition classes; they were not asked in tests and daily answer writing practice questions.**

### **Paper I**

#### **Section A**

**UPSC - 2. (a) Harappan art contributes to our understanding of their aesthetic sensibilities in addition to spiritual and ritualistic life. (Spiritual, ritualistic belief system)**

#### **DAW DAY 2 (25/6/24)**

1. Examine the nature of the belief system in the Indus Valley Civilisation and in what ways parallels can be drawn with the religion in later times.

**UPSC - 2 (b) Discuss different types of Megalithic burial practices in India. How far does the archaeological evidence from it help us to know the religious beliefs and cultural practices? 15 marks**

**AITIS (Test 7) - 2 (b) What information can be gleaned from the archaeological excavations about the Megalithic culture in the Indian subcontinent? (15 marks)**

**UPSC - 2(c) Western Kshatrapas are known for their socio-economic contribution, particularly in trade, agriculture and urbanization. Examine the statement. 15 Marks**

*The same theme on development in religion and changes in socio-economy was discussed in the following question*

**Test 5 (Paper I)**

2 (b) The post-Mauryan era witnessed dynamism in the socio-religious domain. Elaborate. In what ways the art forms of this period were influenced by religion? (15 marks)

**DAW Day 5 (28/6/24)**

1. India's trade with the East and the West during 200 BCE-300 CE was not just limited to exchange of goods but to ideas, practices and even beliefs as well. Analyse (15 marks, 250 words)

**UPSC - 4 (a) Highlight the contributions of Aryabhata, Varahamihira and Brahmagupta in the fields of Astronomy and Mathematics.**

**Test 1 (Ancient India) and DAW Day 8 (1/7/24)**

8 a) Ancient Indians were too obsessed with elements of Metaphysics and Philosophy and neglected science. Comment (20 marks, 250 words)

**UPSC 4 (c) Examine the role played by the Agraharas in the promotion of education in the early medieval India. 15 Marks**

**DAW Day 10 (5/7/24)**

1. Throw light on the role of Temples of North India as educational institutions in this (early medieval) period. (15 marks, 250 words)

**UPSC 5 (a) Illustrate the main features of Vesara-style temple architecture. (10 marks)**

**Test 5 3 (a) Discuss the development of art and culture in Deccan during ancient India. (15 marks)**

**Section B**

**UPSC 5 (b) Evaluate Firuz Shah Tughluq's economic policies. (10 marks)**

**Test 5 - 5 (d) Firuz Tughlaq gave a new dimension to the sultanate by focusing more on welfare and all-around prosperity rather than military exploits. Examine**

**UPSC 6 (c) Examine the causes and consequences of peasants uprising during the reign of Aurangzeb.(15 marks)**

**Test 2 7(a) Agricultural problems in the form of peasant revolts, crumbling imbalance of jagairdar - zamindar and peasant equation were mainly responsible for the fall of the Mughal empire. Critically analyse (15 marks)**

**DAW Day 17 (12/7/24) Throw light on the causes and nature of the Agricultural crisis in North India in the late 17th and early 18th Century. (15 marks, 250 words)**

**UPSC 5(e) Highlight the features of Portuguese colonial enterprise. (10 marks)**

**Test 7 8 (c) Examine the process of urbanization caused by the establishment of European trading companies in India. 15 Marks**

**Test 2 8 (a) The arrival of European traders and trading companies from the 16th century significantly impacted the Indian economy, culture, society and even politics. Comment (15 marks)**

**Paper II****Section A**

**UPSC 1(b) The values of utilitarianism prompted the Company administration to attempt reform of Indian society. 10 Marks**

**Test 3 1 (b).** “I shall govern in name, but it shall be you who govern in fact.” – Bentinck. Examine how British Utilitarianism was selectively interpreted and applied to their administration in India. 10 marks

**Test 8 1 (b)** “Sprung from paternalism, English utilitarianism introduced in India emphasised good governance without any connection and warmth between the state and the governed”. Comment (10 marks)

**UPSC 1(c) In the course of the 19th century, the agenda of social reform was gradually replaced by revivalism. 10 Marks**

**Test 3 1 (d)** “No reformation is possible without a renaissance” – Hegel. Do you agree that 19th-century India witnessed its own version of the Renaissance amidst attempts at social reforms? (10 marks)

**UPSC 1(d) The federal provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935 foundered on the rock of princely intransigence. 10 Marks**

**Day 26 (23/7/24)** “We are provided with a car, all brakes and no engine.” - Jawaharlal Nehru on Government of India Act, 1935. Comment (15 marks, 250 word)

**UPSC 1(e) The strength of the Pakistan programme was its vagueness. It meant everything to everyone. 10 Marks**

**Test 3 6 (b)** How did the demand for a separate state 'Pakistan' develop and succeed during British rule? (15 marks).

**UPSC 2 (a)** The pace of commercialisation of agriculture increased as a result of British revenue policies in India. Critically examine. 20 Marks

**DAW Day 19 (16/7/24)** Commercialisation of agriculture in British India from the second half of 19th century CE was an outcome of the needs of an Industrialising nation and also driven by international factors. Examine. To what extent commercialisation of agriculture contributed to recurring famines in India. (20 marks)

**UPSC 2 (b)** Why was the Great Revolt of 1857 confined only to North India? How did it change the character of British rule in the subcontinent? 20 marks

*The theme of development in North India was discussed in the solution* **Test 6 3 (a)** "The revolt of 1857 had initially a military, feudal and patriotic character later to be overshadowed by proto-nationalism and nationalism. Analyse (15 marks)

**DAW Day 22 (19/7/24)** 1857 Revolt was a great divide in the history of British rule in India. Substantiate. (15 marks, 250 words)

**UPSC 2(c)** Why did the demand for land reform never become an agenda in national politics after 1947? Elucidate. 10 Marks

**Test 3 5 (c)** The development of Land reforms between 1947 and the early 1960s didn't have similar success across India. Examine. (10 marks)

**UPSC 3 (b)** Regionalism in India after 1947 was occasioned by developmental imperatives as much as linguistic particularism. – Elucidate. 20 Marks

**Test 3 8(c) a)** Trace the evolution of the demand for linguistic reorganisation of states before and after 1947. To what the creation of newer states achieve the intended objectives? (15 marks)

**UPSC 4 (a) The Swadeshi movement of 1905 anticipated many of the tactics that were later developed during the Gandhian mass movement. – Critically examine. 20 Marks**

*The theme of development, growth and decline of mass politics was discussed in the solutions and how Gandhi built from it* **Test 6 3(c)**  
“The Swadeshi movement began with a bang and ended with a whimper.” Critically examine why the movement declined by 1907 despite the initial euphoria. (20 marks)

**UPSC 4 (b) The trade union movement joined forces with the mainstream of nationalist politics to strengthen each other in their struggle against colonial rule. – Comment. 20 Marks**

**Day 29 (26/7/24)** Throw light on the working class movement during the British Raj. (15 marks, 250 words)

*The theme of trade unionism under communist influence from 1920s is a significant part of the solution to this question* **Test 6 4(c)** How did the rise of the left in Indian politics during the 1920s and 1930s radicalise the Indian freedom struggle? (20 marks)

## **Section B**

**UPSC 5 (a) The ideas raised by Enlightenment thinkers were profoundly unsettling and challenging to old regime society and political order. 10 Marks**

**Day 31 (30/7/24)** Discuss the background for the emergence of Enlightenment. (15 marks, 250 words)

**Test 6 5(a)** Enlightenment represented a new philosophy free from Intellectual and theological authority in the realm of ideas. Comment

**UPSC 7 (b) Trace the different stages of European economic integration 20 Marks**

**Test 4 6 (c)** Efforts towards Europe's political and economic integration began after the end of WWII, but it could be achieved over decades fraught with a number of challenges, eventually culminating in the European Union in 1993. Examine (20 marks, 300 words)

**DAW Day 39 (8/8/24)** The Europe that emerged out of the World Wars was a politically disorganised, economically crippled and ideologically divided entity, which addressed all this in the next 50 years. Discuss (20 marks, 300 words)

**UPSC 7 (c) The nature of apartheid regime undermined South Africa's claim of being a democratic polity. 10 Marks**

**Test 6 8 (a)** Explain the features of Apartheid in South Africa and the anti-apartheid movement. (15 marks)

**UPSC 8 (c) How did Ho Chi Minh emerge as the central figure in the Vietnamese independence movement? 10 Marks**

*The contribution of Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam was discussed in the solution* **DAW Day 41 (10/8/24)** Throw light on the process of decolonisation in SouthEast Asia. (20 marks, 300 words)