

# Mastering Mains Answer Writing (Ep-1)

## Modern Indian History, GS Paper-I

### Question

Examine the impact of global events on Indian freedom struggle and how India's Independence influenced other countries.

### Command Word

'Examine' - Analyse what is being asked about the theme of the question in close detail and support the answer by giving facts and issues surrounding the topic.

### Answer Structure

- **Introduction** – Brief description of India's Freedom Struggle.
- **Body of the Answer** – It will be divided into two parts:
  - Highlighting the broad link between global events and India's struggle for freedom. And then discussing one by one, impact of global events such as French Revolution, Russian revolution and world wars on the freedom struggle.
  - We will first describe the importance of India's independence for world. To substantiate this, we will draw attention to the influence of India's independence on predominantly – the developing and least developed countries of Africa and Asia.
- **Conclusion** – Sum up our answer by providing relevance of our freedom struggle in the contemporary era.

### Representative Answer

#### Introduction

The Indian Freedom Struggle comprises a series of activities and movements including Movement of 1857, formation of Indian National Congress (1885), Swadeshi Movement (1905), Non Cooperation Movement (1922), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) and Quit India Movement (1942) whose ultimate aim was to end the colonial British rule in India. This struggle was not isolated from global events happening at the same time or that had happened earlier.

#### Body

##### Impact of Global Events on Indian Freedom Struggle

The global events such as renaissance, enlightenment and American, French, Irish and Russian Revolutions as well as the world wars had significant impact on the Indian Freedom Struggle.

- The **Enlightenment**, also known as the Age of Reason, was a philosophical movement that took place during the late 17th and 18th century. It was primarily a European movement but global in its impact. The ideals of enlightenment such as popular sovereignty, constitutionalism, participation and separation of power influenced Indian Freedom Struggle in its spirit.
- **American Revolution** also known as American War of Independence occurred during 1765 to 1783. It broke the myth of British invincibility and became the first country to adopt a written democratic constitution.
- **French Revolution** ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity inspired the freedom movement to topple down a powerful British totalitarian regime.
- **Irish Revolution** inspired Home Rule Movements led by Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1916.
- **Russian Revolution** of 1917 inculcated ideals of socialism and communism in our freedom struggle which attracted peasants and workers and made them an integral part of the struggle.
- **World Wars:**
  - **First World War** – Use of Indian people and resources created great resentment among the Indians especially when they were not even consulted before joining the war. Moreover, the British were fighting against the Turkish Empire which was ruled by the Caliph (Khalifa), to whom the Muslims had great respect. The Indian Muslims joined the Khilafat Movement for the defence of Turkey against the British.
  - **Second World War** – Exhausted by the war in men and material both, Britain was more inclined to grant its war time promise of liberating colonies.

### **Influence of India's Independence on Other Countries**

After a long drawn out freedom struggle of more than 150 years, eventually India became an independent nation on 15 August, 1947. The Indian Independence became a lighthouse for the peaceful freedom fight around the world.

- It inspired nationalist movements and provided a model for decolonisation and independence all over the world. By 1950, the old colonial order seemed to have lost its force, its historical relevance.
  - The change was most striking in Africa. France granted independence to almost all its African colonies in a single year, 1960; Britain, more gradually, from 1957 to 1965 (Libya in 1951, Ghana in 1957, Morocco in 1956 and Nigeria in 1960).
  - The influence was also felt on South East Asian countries, as Myanmar and Indonesia got independence in 1948 and 1949 respectively.
- Moreover, India's freedom struggle also gave the idea of non-violence to the world inspiring the leaders elsewhere, with Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela being the most prominent.

### **Conclusion**

The solution to contemporary issues like tolerance and secularism, post truth phenomena and disharmony in the society can be sought in the values of non violence, satyagraha, peaceful coexistence and unity in diversity established and propagated by India's national movement.

