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UPSC

Civil Services Examination



MAINS SOLVED PAPERS

Highlights

- ◆ Questions identified with specific topics of the syllabus
- ◆ Detailed and comprehensive model answers
- ◆ Relevant concepts and current examples included in the answers
- ◆ Includes an *Art of Answer Writing*

UPSC CSE PREVIOUS SEVEN YEARS MAINS SOLVED PAPERS (2013-2019)



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Art of Answer Writing

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ART OF ANSWER WRITING

The main examination is intended to assess the overall intellectual traits and depth of understanding of candidates rather than merely the range of their information and memory. So, scoring well in the Civil Services Main Exam is crucial to finally get into the services of one's choice. Thus, one has to master the technique of writing a perfect answer to fetch good marks. A good answer is generally divided into the introduction, body and conclusion.

Introduction

- It is the precursor to the actual content of the answer.
- As it is said, "first impression is the last impression", writing an impressive introduction is the first opportunity to impress an examiner.
- There may be various ways to write an introduction, such as:
 - Relating the answer to a recent happening or event of significance;
 - Writing a precise sentence of what will follow in detail in the answer;
 - Defining the most important concept in the question asked.

Body

- It is the actual content of the answer.
- It should contain all the dimensions/perspectives related to the questions asked. The more the dimensions one includes in an answer, the more chances are there to get good marks.
- It should contain all the relevant concepts, facts and figures.
- One should try to address the positive as well as negative aspects of the initiatives/issues mentioned in the question.
- One's content of the answer should be according to the demand of the question, which is explicitly conveyed by the use of directive words in the question, such as *discuss, analyse, comment, explain, etc.*

Conclusion

- It is again an important component of the answer. It leaves the final impression in the mind of the examiner.
- One should be optimistic and forward-looking in the conclusion but at the same time, be realistic too.
- Conclusion may vary as per the demand of the answer but some of the ways to conclude an answer are:
 - Taking a balanced view weighing the pros and cons of the steps/initiatives;
 - Providing the suggestions/solutions to improve the situation/problem;
 - Relating the main content of the answer to the present situations;
 - Summarising in few words what you have already stated.

Five Steps to Write a Good Answer

- **Step 1:** One should understand the question in its entirety. To get a comprehensive understanding of the question, underline the keywords and read the question at least two times.
- **Step 2:** Brainstorm for a minute or two on the main theme of the question. Without knowledge or clear understanding of the main theme you will not be able to frame a good answer.
- **Step 3:** Organise your answer into headings and sub-headings in advance.
- **Step 4:** Write the answer keeping in mind the essential points under the introduction, body and conclusion.
- **Step 5:** Revise your answer and have a final check for the spelling and grammatical errors. Also underline the essential arguments/keywords of the answer to attract the attention of the examiner.

Question 1: Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. **(150 words) [10]**

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Answer: Gandhara art is a style of Buddhist visual art that developed between the 1st century BCE and the 7th century CE in what is now northwestern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan. The region came under the political influence of a variety of kingdoms which resulted in the emergence of a mixed school of art.

The sculptural tradition in Gandhara had the confluence of Bactria, Parthia and the local Gandhara tradition. However, the real patrons of this school of art were the Scythians and the Kushanas, particularly Kanishka.

Features of Gandhara Art Borrowed from Greco-Bactria

- The Gandhara school drew upon the anthropomorphic traditions of Roman religion and represented the Buddha with a youthful Apollo-like face, dressed in garments resembling those seen on Roman imperial statues. Its significance lies in the fact that until then Buddha was not represented in a human-like figure.
- Wavy hair in a top knot, sometimes a moustache on the face, urna (a dot or third eye) between the eyebrows, elongated earlobes, garment with thick pleats usually covering both shoulders, and muscular formation of the body are other resembling features.
- Other motifs and techniques that Gandhara school incorporated from classical Roman art, include vine scrolls, cherubs bearing garlands, tritons, and centaurs.
- The images having physiognomic features depicting symbolic expression such as of calmness, sharp outlines, smooth surface, expressive images etc. are the centre point of attraction.

Gandhara art not only assimilated the features of Hellenistic art but also borrowed many West Asiatic and Central Asiatic features such as:

- Halo behind the head of Buddha was associated with solar deities of ancient Persian and Greek art.
- Figures with conical and pointed caps on their heads resemble the Scythian caps of similar design.
- The regular depiction of fire worship in the Gandhara art, a trait which was probably derived from Iranian sources.

The foreign elements imbibed in the Gandhara art not only placed it on a high pedestal of artistic achievements but also made possible the naturalistic depiction of the human form for the first time in the Indian art history.

Question 2: The 1857 Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British Rule. Elucidate. **(150 words) [10]**

The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

Answer: The revolt of 1857 was the cumulative effect of British expansionist policies, economic exploitation and administrative innovations over the years which had adversely affected all strata of the Indian society (i.e. the rulers of Indian states, sepoys, zamindars, peasants, traders, artisans, pundits, maulvis, etc). The simmering discontent growing in the last hundred years had busted in the form of a violent storm in 1857 which shook the very foundation of the British Empire.

Genesis of Resentment

The genesis of resentment can be categorised into five broad categories with different causative factors as mentioned below:

Civil Uprising: Rapid changes in the economy, administration and land revenue system which went against several zamindars and poligars due to which they lost control over their land and its revenues. They were further sidelined in rank by government officials and a new class comprising of merchants and money-lender came in scenario. Some of the important Civil Uprisings were Sanyasi Revolt (1763-1800), Revolt of Raja of Vizianagaram (1794), Poligars' Revolt (1795-1805).



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