

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
Syllabus for Ph.D Admissions Test 2026-27 onwards

SECTION-B

The Ph.D. entrance test paper would include questions from the following topics:

1. Sources of History: Archaeological sources: Exploration, Excavation, Epigraphy and Numismatics; Dating of Archaeological sites. Literary sources: Primary and Secondary; Indigenous literature and Foreign accounts.
2. Pre-history and Proto-history: Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures: Sites, features, tools and patterns of exchange
3. Indus Valley Civilisation: Origin, date, geographical extent, major sites, features, decline
4. Megalithic cultures: Pastoral and Farming communities outside the Indus Valley Civilisation
5. Vedic Period and later Vedic periods: Expansion of Aryans in India; Political, Economic and Social life; Advent of Iron; Religious and philosophical literature
6. Mahajanapada Period: Formation of States: Republics and monarchies; Economic and Social developments
7. Emergence of heterodox sects: Buddhism, Jainism and Ajivikas
8. Formation of Empire: The rise of Magadh; Greek invasion; Mauryan Empire: Polity, Economy, Society, Art and Architecture, Decline
9. Post-Mauryan Period: Emergence of regional powers: Indo-Greeks, Indo-Parthians, Sakas and Kushanas
10. State formation in South India: Kharvela; Satvahana; The Sangam Age
11. Trade and Commerce from 2nd century BCE to 3rd century CE, trade with the Roman world; Emergence of Mahayana Buddhism; Post- Mauryan Art and Architecture
12. Gupta and Vakataka Period: Polity, Economy, Land grants, Gupta Coins, Society; Religion; Development of Sanskrit literature; Developments in Science and Technology
13. Schools of temple architecture: Nagara, Dravida and Vesara
14. Post-Gupta period: Harshavardhana: Administration and Religion
15. Indian Feudalism: Its main characteristics; feudalism debate
16. Regional kingdoms: Chalukyas of Badami, Pala, Pratiharas, Rashtrakuta, Pallavas, Cholas, Pandyas etc; their art and architecture
17. Characteristics of Early Medieval India: Polity and Administration; agrarian economy; trade and urbanisation; growth of religious sects: Vaisnavism and Saivism; Educational institutions
18. Arab conquest of Sindh; Origin and the rise of Rajputs
19. Cultural traditions in India: Schools of philosophy; Bhakti movement and Sufism
20. Sources of Medieval Indian History: Archaeological and Literary

21. Ghorian conquests: factors behind its success; its economic, social and cultural consequences.
22. Foundation of Delhi Sultanate: Political, economic and administrative policies of Sultans of Delhi; art and architecture.
23. Provincial dynasties: Sharqis of Jaunpur; Ahom Kingdom of Assam; Kashmir; Gujarat; Malwa etc; their art and architecture
24. The Bahmani Kingdom and Vijaynagar Empire
25. Babar and Humayun: Foundation of Mughal Empire in India
26. The Sur Empire (Sher Shah Suri)
27. Expansion and consolidation from Akbar to Aurangzeb: Major conquests; Political, economic, religious policies; art and architecture; science and technology; Aurangzeb's Deccan policy
28. Mansabdari and Jagirdari system
29. Nature of Mughal State
30. Shivaji and the establishment of the Maratha power; Political, administrative and economic policies of the Marathas under the Peshwas
31. Evolution of Sikh community and the Khalsa Panth
32. Factors behind the decline of Mughal Empire; the later Mughals and the successor states (Bengal, Awadh and Hyderabad)
33. The Eighteenth Century debate
34. Sources of Modern Indian History: Archival materials, memoirs, newspaper reports, paintings, monuments, coins etc
35. Arrival of European companies in India: Portuguese; Dutch; English; French; the Carnatic Wars
36. Mysore: Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan; Anglo-Mysore wars
37. Establishment of British power in India: British relations with principal Indian states; Anglo-Maratha Wars; Anglo-Sikh Wars; Battle of Plassey and Buxar etc; the policies of Subsidiary Alliance, Doctrine of Lapse etc
38. Constitutional development in India (1773-1947): The Regulating Acts, Charter Acts and Government of India Acts
39. Administration of the Company and the Crown: Evolution of Central and Provincial Structure
40. British Policy and Paramountcy in the Princely States
41. Land Revenue settlements: Permanent (Zamindari); Ryotwari; Mahalwari
42. British Industrial Policy: Industrialisation and De-Industrialisation in India during colonial period; Drain of wealth
43. Economic transformation of India: Railways; communication network; commercialisation of agriculture
44. Famines Epidemics and the Government policy
45. Education during colonial period: Orientalist-Anglicist debate
46. Journalist activity and Public opinion: The rise of press (English and Vernacular)
47. Tribal and Peasant revolts in the 18th and 19th centuries
48. Indian Renaissance: Socio-Religious reform movements of 19th century

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49. The Revolt of 1857: Causes, Nature and Impact
50. Rise of Indian Nationalism: Social and economic basis of nationalism
51. Formation of Indian National Congress: Moderates and Extremists; Swadeshi movement (1905)
52. Mahatma Gandhi in Indian National Movement: Gandhian ideas and philosophy; his early movements in India (Champaran; Ahmedabad, and Kheda); Rowlatt Satyagrah; Khilafat Movement; Non-Cooperation to the Quit India Movement
53. Simon Commission, Nehru Report (1928) and the Round Table Conferences
54. The Communal Award and the Poona Pact (1932)
55. Nationalism and Peasant movements, working class movements, lower-caste movements; Indian youths and students in Indian politics
56. Participation of women in National Movement; Role of middle class in National Movement
57. The Revolutionaries: Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, outside India
58. The elections of 1937 and the formation of Congress ministries
59. August Offer (1940); Cripps Mission (1942); Wavell Plan (1945) and Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)
60. S.C. Bose and the Indian National Army; RIN Mutiny (1946)
61. Communalism and the politics of partition: The Muslim League; the Hindu Mahasabha
62. Mountbatten Plan: Partition and Independence of India
63. The Making of Indian Constitution: Its Features
64. Post-Independence India: Challenges of Partition; Integration of Princely states; economic policy and five year plans; re-organisation of states; foreign policy; LPG reforms
65. European Renaissance and Reformation
66. Major ideas of Enlightenment: Emmanuel Kant and J.J. Rousseau
67. American Revolution and the Constitution; American Civil War with reference to Abraham Lincoln and the abolition of Slavery; the French Revolution and aftermath (1789-1815)
68. British Democratic politics (1815-1850): Parliamentary Reformers, Free traders, Chartists
69. Rise of Socialist ideas: Karl Marx
70. Industrial Revolution in England and Europe: Causes and impact; Industrialisation and Globalisation
71. Rise of nationalism in Europe: Unification of Germany and Italy
72. The First World War (1914-18); Russian Revolution (1917) and rise of USSR
73. The Economic Depression and the Second World War (1939-45)
74. Post- WW-II era: Power blocks and Cold war; non-alignment movement; UNO and global disputes
75. Decolonisation of Asia and Africa
76. Disintegration of Soviet Union: Factors

