


SPM IAS ACADEMY
SHAPING BRILLIANCE

APSC Mains 2023 TS - 8 (GS Paper I)
Duration: 3 hrs

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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium:

English ☒

Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	
1	10		Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: • There are 20 questions and printed in ENGLISH. • All questions are compulsory. • The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. • The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 15 marks. • Content is more important than the number of words. • Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one. • Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
2	10		
3	10		
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19	15		
20	15		
TOTAL:	250		

Remarks:

Signature of the Student:

Bayard Kalyan

Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

Detail Feedback

Q1. Rule of the Kushanas can be considered to be the apex of the second urbanization. Discuss. [10 marks/150 words]

Ans → Most famous and impactful Kushan ruler Kanishka introduced various reforms and policies such as -

- 1) Minting more gold coins, highest by any dynasty.
- 2) Promotion of medicine and science.

Famous surgeon - Charak was also present in the Court of Kanishka.

Asuaghosa - Famous mathematician

3) Cultural - Kanishka presided
over the 4th Buddhist council
in Kashmir.

From ^{Yanaskara} Architecture to
Science and Literature. Kushanas
were the apex of second
urbanization.

Q2. The rural-urban continuum has drawn wide attention in recent years. In light of this, discuss the importance of recognizing and addressing the interconnections between rural and urban areas. [10 marks/150 Words]

Ans → Around 69% Indian population lives in villages.
Gandhi highlighted the importance of villages in his quote "India lives in its villages".

Importance of recognizing and addressing interconnection between ~~rural~~ rural and Urban areas

1) Reduce Rural-Urban ~~in~~ Developmental

gap or Deficit.

2) Most people living in urban areas have rural needs.

3) Strengthen Rural-Urban connectivity and reduce inequality

Q3. Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics? [10 marks/150 words]

Ans → Government schemes are directed ^{mostly} only towards welfare of backward classes rather than giving them opportunities to become self-sufficient...

Exclusion in Businesses

1) The Inner Line Permit (ILP) system introduced in many North-Eastern states leads to their exclusion from tourism development.

2) Establishing any backward area ~~also~~ such as 5th or 6th schedule also hampers

the growth and development of businesses in those regions.

- 3) government handholding devoids backward classes from utilizing their own merit which is most need in urban competition.

Measures to promote Inclusion

- 1) Startup schemes for backward classes such as Stand-up India is required to foster business spirit.
- 2) government should put more focus on self-sufficiency while formulating schemes and policies for backward classes.

Q4. What are the Rare Earth Elements? Discuss the importance of Rare Earth Elements. [10 marks/150 Words]

Ans → Rare Earth Elements are a set of 17 elements of the Lanthanide series in the Periodic Table.

Characteristics

- 1) They are lustrous
- 2) They are conductive in nature
- 3) They are of crystalline form

Importance of Rare Earth Elements

- 1) They are used in semi-conductors.
- 2) They also hold the potential

to be used in futureistic
technologies such as Robotics.

3) Rare Earth Elements are
difficult to extract hence
have a good market demand.

Current Issues

- 1) China's monopoly on the
Rare Earth Element market.
- 2) QUAD has taken initiative
to control almost 40% market
to counter china.

India should also set
up separate department for Rare
Earth Elements and conduct
Ocean exploration programs.

Q5. Discuss the measures to ensure the full inclusion and participation of transgender persons in society. [10 marks/150 words]

Ans → A transgender person is someone whose biological gender state cannot be classified under male or female category.

Challenges faced by Transgender persons.

- 1) Social Exclusions → They are even disinherited from their own families.
- 2) Sexual Violence → Increasing sexual violence on members of transgender community.

3) Discrimination → Due to misconceptions regarding gender

Measures to ensure full inclusion

1) Reservation → For more participation in public institutions.

2) Social Awareness → An NGO named 'Queer Pride Guwahati' conducts pride marches every year to raise awareness for transgender rights.

Transgenders are also human beings. They deserve to live their life with respect and full human dignity.

Q6. What led to the Partition of Bengal in 1905? What were its consequences?
[10 marks/150 words]

Ans → On 16th October 1905,
Viceroy Lord Curzon announced
the Partition of Bengal. between
East and West Bengal

Factors Leading to Bengal Partition

By British → Bengal was
being overpopulated and the
partition was done to achieve
administrative efficiency

Real Reason → To create a
rift between Hindu and
Muslim under their Divide

and Rule Policy.

Consequences

- 1) Social → People tied rakhi with each other and dipped in the holy river Ganga
- 2) Political → Emergence of Extremist within the congress. More violent form of protests to follow.
- 3) Economic → Swadeshi movement induced boycott of British goods.

Bengal Partition both in long and short term had severe consequences on British Administration

Q7. Examine the reasons behind rising instances of forest fires in Assam. What measures are needed to mitigate the adverse impacts of forest fires? [10 marks/150 Words]

Ans → Forest Fires are rapid burning of forests due to natural or anthropogenic factors. It is also a reason for global warming.

Reasons for Forest Fire

- 1) Thinning or slash and burn cultivation practised in North Eastern States
- 2) Absence of rain which dries up the forests and can catch fire easily.
- 3) Human induced forest fires to clear land for personal use.

Consequence of Forest Fires

- 1) Rise in temperature
- 2) Destruction of ecological habitat
- 3) As per Forest Survey, almost all North East states lost forest cover.

Measures to Mitigate Forest Fires

- 1) Use of helicopters to put down fires on large area
- 2) Create awareness among farming communities about the ill effects of burning forests.
- 3) Strict law under Wildlife Protection act 1972 to deter any notorious activity in Forests.

Q8. In what ways the Non Cooperation Movement was different from the Civil Disobedience Movement. Discuss. [10 marks/150 words]

Ans → Both Non-cooperation movement and Civil Disobedience Movement were landmarks crucial during the Freedom Struggle Movement.

However, both these movements also had differences

Differences

<u>Non-Cooperation</u> <u>Movement</u>	<u>Civil Disobedience</u> <u>Movement</u>
1) To <u>not cooperate</u> with Britishers.	1) Non-cooperation along with <u>violation</u> of laws made by Britishers.
2) Huge <u>Muslim</u> <u>Participation</u>	

3) No resignation
from government
services

2) Muslim
Participation was
low compared to
Non-cooperation.

4) Ended with
the Chauri-Chaura
incident on
Feb 5, 1922

3) Government
servants resigned

4) Gandhi called
off the movement
after Gandhi-
Irwin Pact
1931

Despite its differences,
Both movements were directed
against British cruelty and
their draconian policies. Both had
single objective to free India.

Q9. The uneven spatial distribution of population in India suggests its close relationship with physical, social and historical factors. Elaborate. [10 marks/150 words]

Ans → India is the second most populated country in the world with a population over 1.4 billion.

However, the huge population is not distributed uniformly throughout the country.

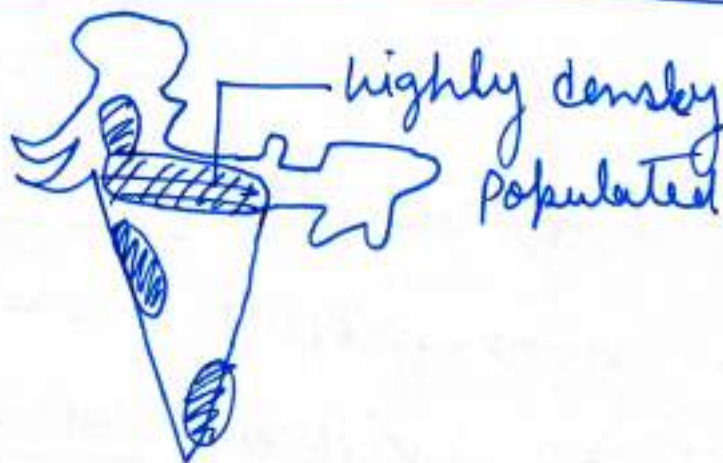


Figure → Population concentration in India.

Factors affecting population distribution

Physical → Distribution of Rivers

↳ The Ganga Basin induces a great fertile plain suitable for farming. Thus places like U.P., Bihar are highly populated.

Social → Concentration of towns around holy places such as Kamaksha Temple, Kedarnath, etc.

Historical → The arrival of Aryans pushed the Austro-Asiatic people living in North-West towards the South.

Thus, multiple factors contribute to population distribution.

Q10. What are the differences between Classical Dance and Folk Dance? Throw light on the features of the classical dance form Kathak. [10 marks/150 words]

Ans → Both classical and Folk dances give an unique identity and description of different cultures across India.

Differences between Classical and Folk Dance

<u>Classical</u> <u>Dance</u>	<u>Folk</u> <u>Dance</u>
1) <u>Origin</u> → <u>Bharat</u> <u>Muni's Natya</u> <u>Shashtra</u> .	1) <u>No definite</u> <u>origin</u>
2) <u>Definite</u> <u>Definite</u> <u>set of rules</u>	2) <u>No defined</u> <u>Rules or</u> <u>guidelines</u>

and guidelines

3) Performed in Hindustani or Carnatic music.

4) Example -
Kathak, Sattriya,
Kuchi pudi, etc.

3) Performed in local and regional music

4) Example -

Bihu, Bagumcha,
etc.

Features of Kathak Dance

→ Initially performed as Ras -
-leela (Radha-Krishna story)

→ Performed in Hindustani
Classical Music.

→ Divided into Multiple Gharanas
such as Lucknow, Gwalior, etc.

→ Takla and Sitar are used.

Q11. The development of hydropower projects in the Himalayas has been controversial. Discuss. Also suggest some alternatives to hydropower which can minimize the potential impact on the environment and local communities. [15 marks/250 words]

Ans →

Issues with development of
Hydro power projects in the
Himalayas

1) Earthquake Prone Region



According to BIS, almost

The entire Himalayan region lies in seismic zone - V thus ~~not~~ raising questions on feasibility of such projects on the Himalayas.

2) Displacement of Communities

Hydropower projects take up a large area and displaces the native communities living nearby.

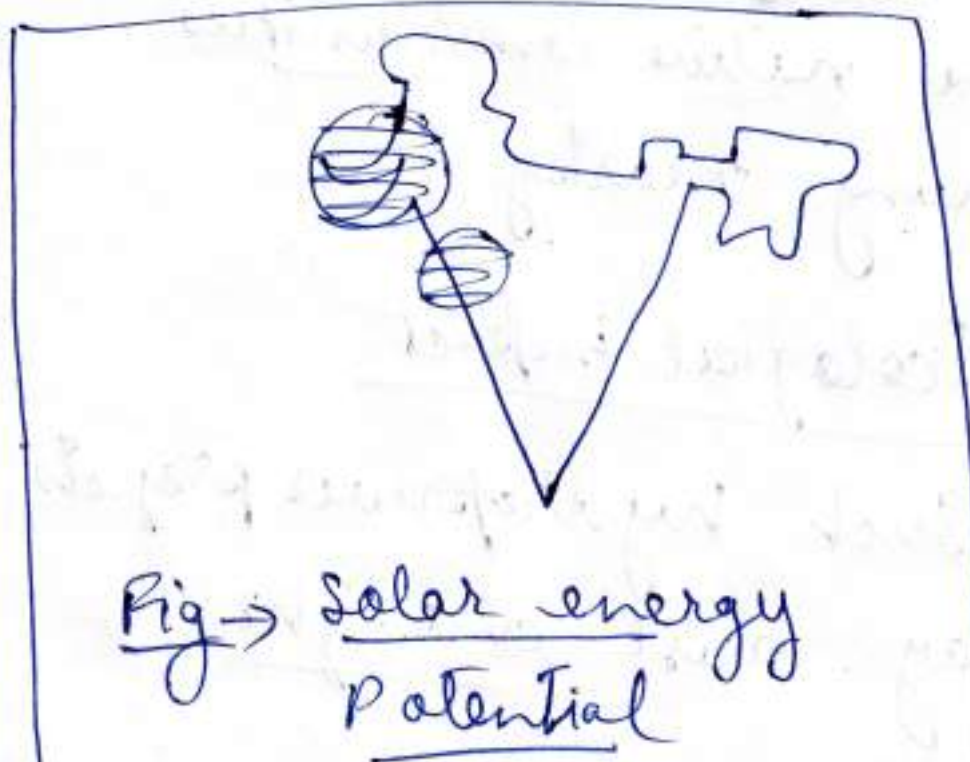
3) Ecological impact

Such hydropower projects may cause drought.

deforestation and damage
aquatic life and wildlife
habitats.

Alternatives to
Hydropower

1) Solar Energy



→ Solar energy is clean and India located in sub-tropical region can benefit from abundance of solar power.

2) Wind Energy

↳ In Deccan and Coastal regions.

3) Translocation of flora, fauna

4) Rehabilitation of affected communities.

Q12. the Smart Cities Mission help in upgradation of existing cities in the country?
Critically evaluate it. [15 marks/250 words]

Ans → Smart Cities Mission was launched in 2015 to improve the infrastructure and quality of living in Indian Cities.

The first phase included around 100 cities and was to be completed by 2020.

The Significance of Smart Cities Mission are-

- 1) Provide continuous water supply in cities. [Eg] JICA Water supply project in Gummati
- 2) To boost up the public infra infrastructure in cities. [Eg] Smart Air conditioned bus stops which have provisions for mother breastfeeding to children
- 3) Make cities more cleaner and improve sanitation facilities. [Eg] Smart Public

toilets.

Failure of Smart City Mission

- 1) Laden with corruption
- 2) Projects are getting delayed.
- 3) Some projects have not even yet started yet.
- 4) Indian cities are one of the most polluted and worst case of living in the world.

Way Forward

- 1) PPP Model - With MNCs to ramp up modernization plans.
- 2) Corporatisation of Urban administrative bodies.

The Assam government's recent introduction of Assam Urban Administrative Cadre will help get required manpower to implement development project in urban areas fulfilling SDG-11.

Q13. Throw light on different types of potteries that came into existence in India during the ancient age. [15 marks/250 words]

Ans → Potteries were found in India even during pre-historic ~~Neolithic~~ period.

The recent excavation of potteries containing food in Dima Hasao district of Assam.

They were different types of potteries in ancient India. One such example is Painted Greyware.

Pottery .

Pottery was designed in
the Indus Valley civilization
too .

Q14. Discuss the role of such factors that are responsible for varying vertical and latitudinal distribution of temperature of the oceans. [15 marks/250 words]

Ans → Oceans are spread across the globe inter-connected with each other. Thus there are several factors responsible for varying vertical and latitudinal distribution of temperature.

Vertical Distribution

↳ Depth → Oceans are ~~cooler~~ warmer at the surface due to presence of more sunlight. However, as we move deeper the temperature decreases but this decrease

in temperature is non-uniform.

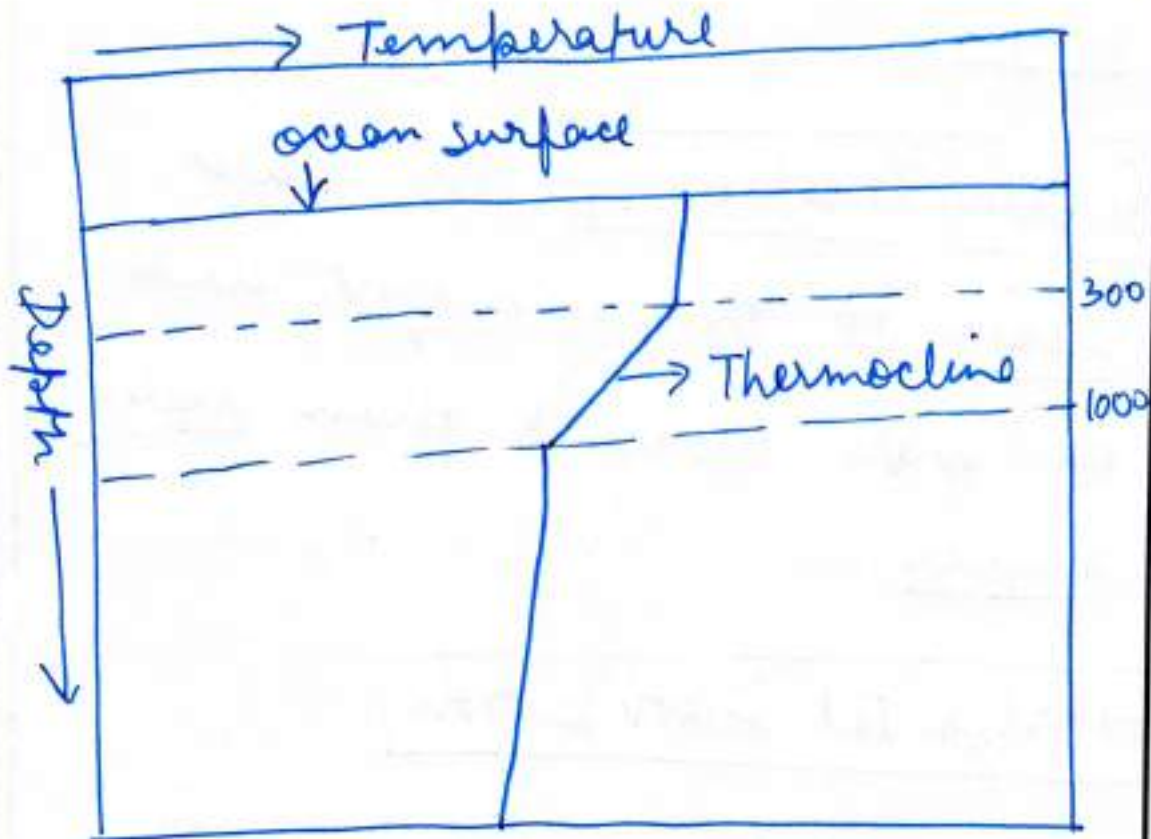


Fig → change in ocean temperature with depth

From the figure, it is observed that at a certain depth of 300 - 1000 km, the decrease in temperature in Ocean is very

Sharp also called Thermocline slope.

2) Sun Insolation → The water closer to the sunlight will be more warmer than water deeper.

Horizontal Distribution

→ The water of Ocean near the Equator get more sunlight and thereby is more warm than Ocean in near polar region.

→ However, the ocean water on equator is not warmest

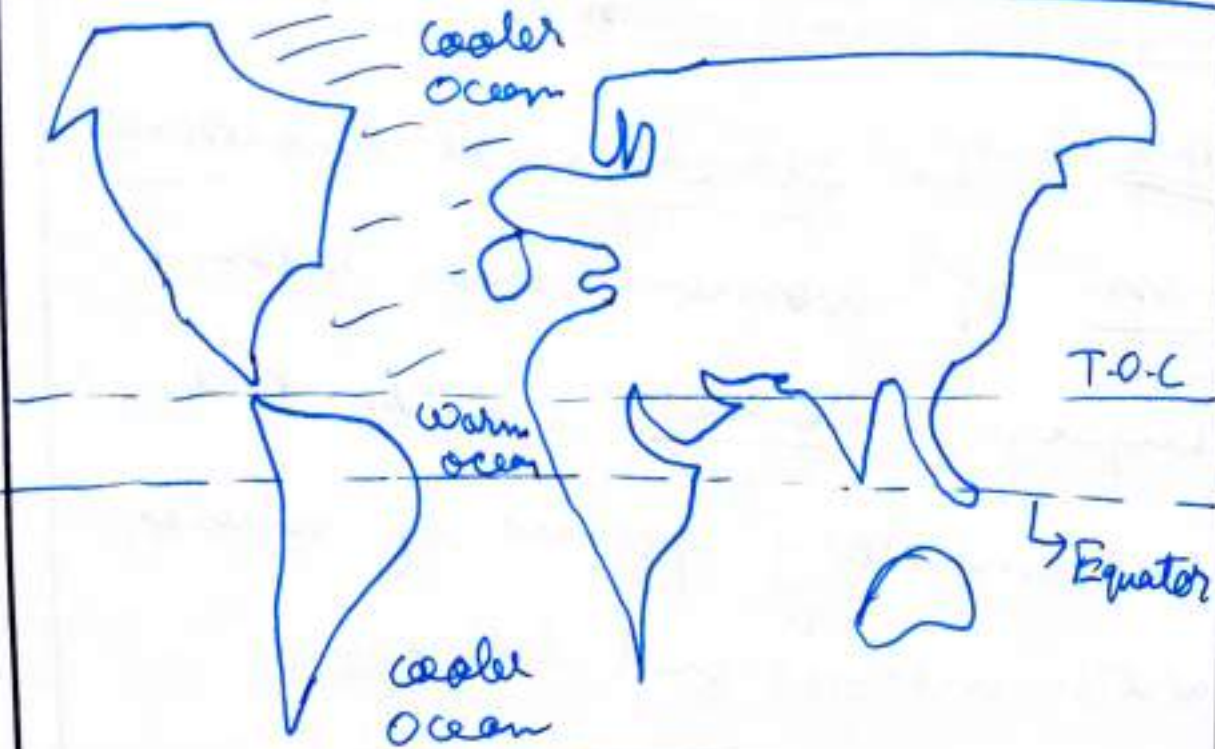


Fig → World Map

due to presence of clouds.

Thus, Ocean temperatures
vary latitudinally across the
~~globe~~ globe due to several
factors.

Q15. Portrayal of stereotypical sensational images of women not only reduces their identity to a mere object of desire but also reinforces the patriarchal structure of the society. Discuss with examples. [15 marks/250 words]

Ans → The stereotypical sensational-
ism of women has been
deeply embibed inside the
contemporary forms of music,
art, movies and literature
reinforcing the patriarchial
structure of society.

1. Sensualization of Women

Bollywood and other Indian
form of Movies uses typical
item songs in which the
female model half naked
is dancing and entertaining

a group of drunk men. Songs such as Talebi Bai, Chikni Chameli, etc not only reduces women to sexual objects but also body shames them.

2. Promotion of Violence against Women

Cult Modern masculine cult figures such as Andrew Tate ridicules the notion of equality between male and female.

They also induces incels which are people suffering from a certain form of mental disorder to commit violence

against women.

3. TV Soap Operas - glorification of housewife culture

TV serials such as "Kabhi Saas Bahu Ki", "Pavitra Rishta", etc ~~portray~~ portrays women as typical ~~house~~ housewives whose only duty is to satisfy or please her mother in ~~law~~ law and take care of her husband.

There is total lack of
feminism in modern art,
literary and entertainment
forms of Indian society.

This has caused violence
against women to rise and
strengthen patriarchal society
further.

Q16. Buddhism is a social movement under the name of religion. Discuss.
[15 marks/250 words].

Ans → Buddhism is actually a philosophy which was given by Siddhartha or Gautama and later took the name of religion.

Buddhism as a social movement

1) It focuses on the well being of an individual along with the society rather than focus on pleasing an imaginary being like the

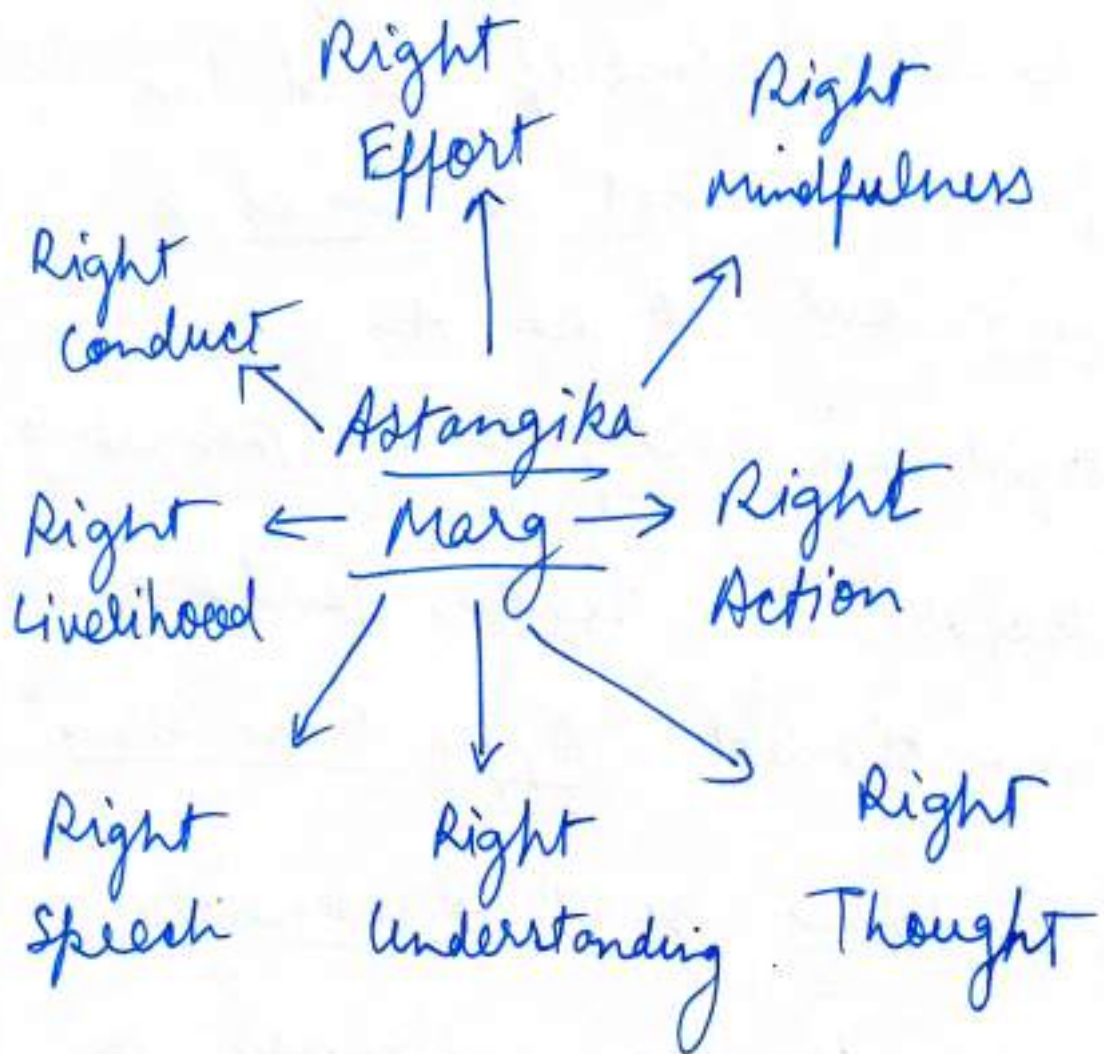
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Abrahamic cults.

2) Buddha himself asked his followers not to worship him but to be their own light by enlightening themselves.

Before his death, Buddha mentioned "Appa Deepo Bhava".

3) Buddha gave 8 meaningful ways to his followers to attain Nirvana. These eight ways are also referred to as Astangika Marg.



Thus, Buddhism though later became a form of religion under Abrahamic classification but in its

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initial form was a
philosophy which guided
its followers throughout
their lives. Buddhism is
a way of life under the
name of religion.

Q17. Ageing in India is seen as a concern for the people. Comment. What can be done to provide the elderly with a decent quality of life in the near future.
[15 marks/250 words]

Ans → Ageing is a natural phenomenon which takes place in every living being. However, in human ageing is also a social phenomenon.

Ageing - a concern for people in India

1) changing demographics

↳ More people opting out of workforce due to age related issues can impact on livelihood of people.

2) Taking Care of

↳ Rapid urbanization can caused many young people to look for better opportunities outside their hometown. Thus, they are not being able to look after the elderly ones or ageing parents.

3) Loneliness

↳ Old people lose their friend circle once they retire and thus they often get lonely which affects their mental health.

Measures to provide elderly with decent quality life

- 1) Pensions for senior citizens to prevent them from getting into economic stress or being an economic burden.
- 2) More Elderly Care homes need to be set up with a specialized staff to look after them.
- 3) Cleaner environment and recreational activities in

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every society must be mandated to improve the health of elderly people.

With almost 50% of its population under the age of 30, India is going to face a big crisis in giving proper care to its ageing population if these measures are not adopted.

Q18. Briefly discuss the Mansabdari system of the Mughals. [15 marks/250 words]

Ans → The Mansabdar Mansabdari system was introduced by Mughal Emperor Akbar to modify the existing Iqtadari systems laced with corruption.

Mansabdari systems

The territory of Mughal Empire was divided into Mansabs. Each Mansab had an a Mansabdar.

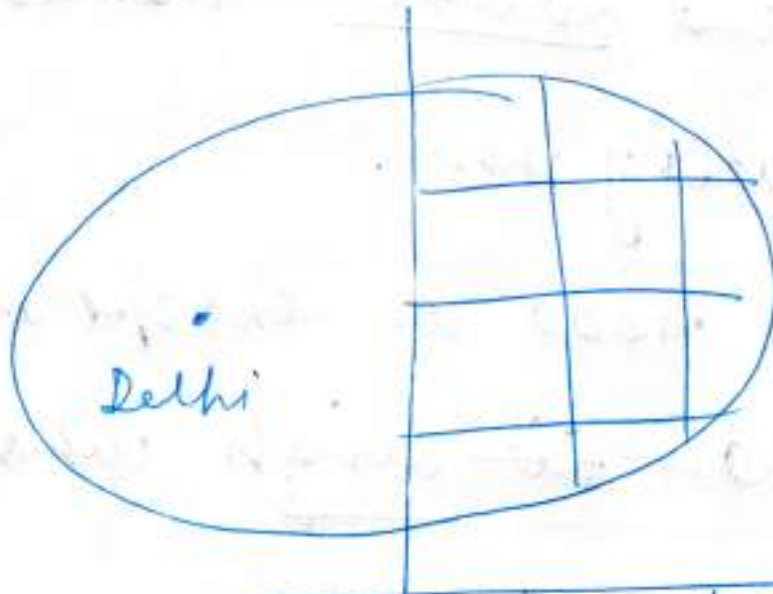


Fig → Mansakdar
System

Features

- 1) Each Mansakdar maintained his ~~own~~ army under him.
- 2) The rank of Mansakdar was determined by

Zat and Sauwar → Number
of Cavalry men.

3) Akbar made an exception
for Man Singh who
had 7000 Sauwars.

→ These Mansabdars were
responsible for revenue
collection and also to
represent the Mughal
Emperor in the
Battle. Eg - Man Singh

~~Rep~~ represented Akbar in the
Battle of Haldighati against
Maharana Pratap.

Mansabdari system
was an integral part of
the Mughal empire.

Q19. Analyse the factors that affect the distribution of rainfall over the India subcontinent? Examine the impact of climate change on rainfall distribution.
 [15 marks/250 words]

Ans → India lies entirely in tropical and sub-tropical ~~the~~ region and thus have a Monsoon type of climate.

Factors affecting Indian Rainfall

1) South West Monsoon

The Northward shift of the sun from April to June heats up the Northern Indian

Plain creating a Low pressure
Zone.

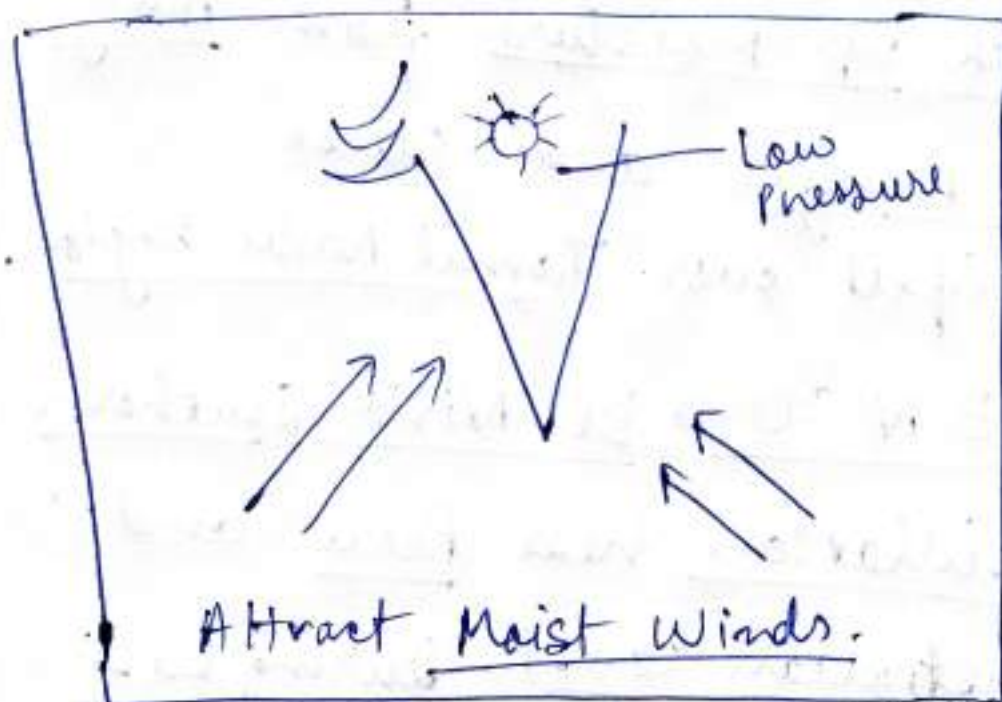


Fig-: South West Monsoon

Thus, the Low pressure zone
attracts moist winds from
South Indian Ocean causing
South West Monsoon.

2) Retreating Monsoon → The North Eastern dry winds pick up moisture from Bay of Bengal and cause rainfall over Tamil Nadu region.

3) ENSO → El-Nino Southern Oscillation near Peru and Australian coast. During La-Nina, the ~~the~~ Trade winds are stronger causing complete walker cycle and thus resulting in good monsoon over India. This is opposite in El-Nino when trade winds are weaker.

Impact of Climate Change

- 1) ^{Rapid} Warming up of Ocean may cause intense precipitation resulting in flooding in some areas and inducing drought like situations in other regions.
- 2) Interference with India's Monsoon cycle - More prevalence of El-Nino phenomenon declining rainfall.
- 3) ~~IMD~~ IMD predicts decline in rainfall in Indian Subcontinent due to Climate Change.

Q20. Examine the major differences between the peasant movements of the 19th and 20th century and their impact on society. [15 marks/250 words]

Ans

19th Century

- Encroachment related protests
- British laws against Tribal practices
- Examples → Santhal rebellion, Bhil uprising

20th Century

- Increase in ~~land~~ taxes
~~tax~~
- Zamindars lost their land.
- Revenue policies such as Permanent Settlement_z drained the peasants.

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