

MAINS 2016

GS- Paper 1 Analysis

Section Wise Analysis:

Culture:

The theme on Buddhism was very common, though the question was looking at details.
For a change, the question on a personality was asked.

History:

Like the past trend, comparison of different personalities and women issues were asked.

The uprising of 1857 was a common theme.

Africa again appeared in the paper (quite a visible trend about what should be the focus area in World History).

Linguistic diversity gave representation to post-Independence history as well, which means the balanced coverage of entire syllabus was secured in History.

Social Issues:

Globalization, poverty, tribes and regionalism were the very general themes which were asked – explicitly mentioned in the syllabus.

Smart city programme was from basic Current Affairs.

Geography:

Air mass and landslides were very basic Geography (easier compared to last years – Himalayas again come as question).

Effective management of resources and flood were basic themes (related highly with the current events).

Indus Water Treaty and South China Sea were the basic Current Affairs (UPSC has made it clear that gone are the days when plain geography was asked but actually now questions on applied geography would also be asked).

Emerging sustainable themes like micro-watershed development projects have always found mention in the paper.

Inland water transport has been in lot of news (candidates from next year onwards try to read newspaper by singling out topics that could be asked in Geography – beyond the traditional questions).

Overall Analysis:

The paper was simple if Current Affairs were properly covered. Answer quality and writing practice becomes most important in such papers.