QuickNotes

FREE STUDY NOTES · PDF

UGC NET Paper 2

History (006)

Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Prehistory and the Harappan Civilisation
02 Vedic Age to the Mauryas
03 Post-Mauryan Period to the Guptas
04 Early Medieval India (c. 600–1200)
05 Delhi Sultanate and Vijayanagara
06 The Mughal Empire
07 European Trade and British Expansion
08 Colonial Economy and Society
09 The National Movement
10 Historiography and Historical Method

getquicknotes.com

Edition: November 2026

CONTENTS

What's inside

Ten units of focused revision notes. Each unit ends with a box of key revision points.

01 **Prehistory and the Harappan Civilisation** — Stone Age cultures, early farming and the Indus/Harappan civilisation. 3

02 **Vedic Age to the Mauryas** — Vedic society, mahajanapadas, Buddhism and Jainism, and the Mauryan empire. 4

03 **Post-Mauryan Period to the Guptas** — Indo-Greeks, Kushanas, Satavahanas, Sangam age and the Gupta 'classical' age. 5

04 **Early Medieval India (c. 600–1200)** — Harsha, the tripartite struggle, south Indian kingdoms and feudalism debates. 6

05 **Delhi Sultanate and Vijayanagara** — Sultanate dynasties and policies, Bhakti and Sufi movements, and Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms. 7

06 **The Mughal Empire** — Mughal rulers, administration, land revenue, culture and decline. 8

07 **European Trade and British Expansion** — European companies, the battles that built British power, and expansion policies. 9

08 **Colonial Economy and Society** — Land revenue systems, deindustrialisation, social reform and the Revolt of 1857. 10

09 **The National Movement** — From the Congress's founding to independence and partition. 11

10 **Historiography and Historical Method** — Schools of history writing, sources and the methods historians use. 12

How to use these notes

- Read one unit at a time, then test yourself with its key revision points.
- Make your own short notes on topics you find difficult.
- Units follow the main areas of the official syllabus — the exact unit list can change between sessions.
- Always check the latest syllabus and notices on the official UGC NET portal: **ugcnet.nta.ac.in**.

UNIT 01

Prehistory and the Harappan Civilisation

Stone Age cultures, early farming and the Indus/Harappan civilisation.

- Palaeolithic → Mesolithic (microliths; Bhimbetka rock art) → Neolithic (farming; Mehrgarh, one of the earliest sites in South Asia).
- **Harappan civilisation** (mature phase c. 2600–1900 BCE): planned cities, grid streets, drainage, standard bricks and weights.

Site	Known for
Harappa	First site excavated (Daya Ram Sahni, 1921); granaries
Mohenjo-daro	Great Bath (R. D. Banerji, 1922)
Lothal	Dockyard
Kalibangan	Ploughed field, fire altars
Dholavira	Water management; signboard

★ Key revision points

- Harappa excavated 1921.
- Great Bath = Mohenjo-daro.
- Dockyard = Lothal.
- Harappan script is still undeciphered.

UNIT 02

Vedic Age to the Mauryas

Vedic society, mahajanapadas, Buddhism and Jainism, and the Mauryan empire.

- Early Vedic (Rigveda) and later Vedic periods; varna system; sabha and samiti.
- 16 mahajanapadas; rise of Magadha.
- **Buddha** (Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path) and **Mahavira** (24th Tirthankara; five vows).
- **Mauryas:** Chandragupta (Kautilya's *Arthashastra*; Megasthenes' *Indica*), Ashoka — Kalinga war (c. 261 BCE), **dhamma**, edicts in Brahmi (deciphered by James Prinsep, 1837).

★ Key revision points

- Ashoka's edicts deciphered by Prinsep, 1837.
- *Indica* = Megasthenes.
- Mahavira = 24th Tirthankara.
- Kalinga war led to Ashoka's dhamma.

UNIT 03

Post-Mauryan Period to the Guptas

Indo-Greeks, Kushanas, Satavahanas, Sangam age and the Gupta 'classical' age.

Dynasty / age	Highlights
Kushanas	Kanishka; Gandhara and Mathura art; Fourth Buddhist Council
Satavahanas	Deccan; Prakrit inscriptions; Nashik
Sangam age	Tamil literature; Cheras, Cholas, Pandyas
Guptas	Samudragupta (Allahabad pillar — Harisena), Chandragupta II (Kalidasa; Fa-Hien's visit), Aryabhata

★ Key revision points

- Gandhara art blends Greek and Indian styles.
- Allahabad pillar inscription by Harisena.
- Fa-Hien visited under Chandragupta II.
- Aryabhata = Gupta-era astronomer.

UNIT 04

Early Medieval India (c. 600–1200)

Harsha, the tripartite struggle, south Indian kingdoms and feudalism debates.

- Harsha (606–647); Hiuen Tsang's visit; Nalanda.
- **Tripartite struggle** for Kannauj: Palas, Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas.
- Cholas: Rajaraja I (Brihadeeswara temple, Thanjavur), Rajendra I (naval expeditions); local self-government (Uttaramerur inscriptions).
- Indian feudalism debate: R. S. Sharma vs critics.

★ Key revision points

- Hiuen Tsang visited under Harsha.
- Tripartite struggle: Palas, Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas.
- Brihadeeswara temple = Rajaraja I.
- Uttaramerur inscriptions: Chola village assemblies.

UNIT 05

Delhi Sultanate and Vijayanagara

Sultanate dynasties and policies, Bhakti and Sufi movements, and Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms.

Dynasty	Period	Notable
Slave (Mamluk)	1206–1290	Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Iltutmish (iqta), Balban
Khalji	1290–1320	Alauddin — market reforms
Tughlaq	1320–1414	Muhammad bin Tughlaq — token currency, capital shift
Sayyid	1414–1451	
Lodi	1451–1526	Ended at First Battle of Panipat (1526)

Vijayanagara (founded 1336 by Harihara and Bukka); Krishnadevaraya; Battle of Talikota (1565). Bhakti (Kabir, Nanak, Mirabai) and Sufi (Chishti) movements.

★ Key revision points

- Iqta system = Iltutmish.
- Market reforms = Alauddin Khalji.
- Vijayanagara founded 1336.
- First Battle of Panipat: 1526.

UNIT 06

The Mughal Empire

Mughal rulers, administration, land revenue, culture and decline.

- Babur (1526) → Humayun → (Sher Shah Suri: rupiya, Grand Trunk Road) → **Akbar** (mansabdari, Din-i-Ilahi, Todar Mal's *zabt* system) → Jahangir → Shah Jahan (Taj Mahal) → Aurangzeb.
- Sources: *Baburnama*, *Akbarnama* and *Ain-i-Akbari* (Abul Fazl).
- Decline debates after 1707; rise of regional states and the Marathas (Shivaji, ashtapradhan).

★ Key revision points

- Mansabdari system = Akbar.
- *Ain-i-Akbari* = Abul Fazl.
- Zabt revenue system = Todar Mal.
- Aurangzeb died in 1707.

UNIT 07

European Trade and British Expansion

European companies, the battles that built British power, and expansion policies.

Event	Year	Significance
Vasco da Gama reaches Calicut	1498	Sea route to India
English East India Company founded	1600	Royal charter
Battle of Plassey	1757	British control of Bengal begins
Battle of Buxar	1764	Diwani of Bengal, Bihar, Odisha (1765)
Subsidiary alliance	1798	Wellesley
Doctrine of lapse	1848–56	Dalhousie

★ Key revision points

- Plassey 1757; Buxar 1764.
- Subsidiary alliance = Wellesley.
- Doctrine of lapse = Dalhousie.
- EIC chartered 1600.

UNIT 08

Colonial Economy and Society

Land revenue systems, deindustrialisation, social reform and the Revolt of 1857.

Settlement	Who / where
Permanent Settlement (1793)	Cornwallis; Bengal — zamindars
Ryotwari	Munro and Read; Madras, Bombay — directly with peasants
Mahalwari	North-western provinces — village communities

- **Drain of wealth** — Dadabhai Naoroji (*Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*).
- Reformers: Raja Ram Mohan Roy (sati abolished 1829), Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (Widow Remarriage Act 1856), Jyotiba Phule.
- **Revolt of 1857**; Crown rule from 1858.

★ Key revision points

- Permanent Settlement: 1793, Cornwallis.
- Sati abolished 1829.
- Widow Remarriage Act: 1856.
- Drain theory = Naoroji.

UNIT 09

The National Movement

From the Congress's founding to independence and partition.

Event	Year
Indian National Congress founded	1885
Partition of Bengal; Swadeshi movement	1905
Muslim League founded	1906
Jallianwala Bagh massacre	1919
Non-Cooperation Movement	1920–22
Purna Swaraj resolution (Lahore)	1929
Civil Disobedience; Dandi March	1930
Government of India Act	1935
Quit India Movement	1942
Independence and partition	1947

★ Key revision points

- INC founded 1885.
- Dandi March 1930.
- Quit India 1942.
- Purna Swaraj: Lahore session, 1929.

UNIT 10

Historiography and Historical Method

Schools of history writing, sources and the methods historians use.

School	Key idea / names
Colonial / imperialist	James Mill (*History of British India*) — periodisation into Hindu, Muslim, British
Nationalist	R. C. Majumdar, K. P. Jayaswal
Marxist	D. D. Kosambi, R. S. Sharma, Irfan Habib
Subaltern Studies	Ranajit Guha (1982 onwards) — history from below
Annales school	Bloch, Febvre, Braudel — long duration (*longue durée*)

Method: primary vs secondary sources; external criticism (authenticity) and internal criticism (credibility).

★ Key revision points

- Subaltern Studies = Ranajit Guha.
- *Longue durée* = Braudel (Annales).
- James Mill's three-period scheme.
- External criticism checks authenticity.

QuickNotes

Learn Quickly. Prepare Smartly.

More free study notes

Free PDFs for UGC NET Paper 1, every Paper 2 subject, IBPS RRB and SSC CHSL — no sign-up.

www.getquicknotes.com

Free for personal study — not for sale. You may share this PDF unchanged and free of charge.

QuickNotes is an independent educational platform. It is not affiliated with, endorsed by or connected to the University Grants Commission (UGC), the National Testing Agency (NTA) or any government examination authority. These are original revision notes; always refer to the official notification for exam dates, eligibility, pattern and syllabus.

Found a mistake? Email support@getquicknotes.com · Edition: November 2026