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UGC NET Paper 2

Museology and Conservation (066)

Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Museum: Definition and Functions
02 History of Museums
03 Collections Management
04 Exhibition and Display
05 Museum Education and Communication
06 Agents of Deterioration
07 Preventive Conservation
08 Curative Conservation and Restoration
09 Conservation Institutions and Charters
10 Heritage Laws

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Edition: November 2026

CONTENTS

What's inside

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

01 **Museum: Definition and Functions** — What a museum is and what it does. 3

02 **History of Museums** — Development of museums in the world and in India. 4

03 **Collections Management** — Acquisition, documentation and storage. 5

04 **Exhibition and Display** — Types of exhibitions and design principles. 6

05 **Museum Education and Communication** — Engaging visitors and communities. 7

06 **Agents of Deterioration** — What damages museum objects. 8

07 **Preventive Conservation** — Environmental control and care. 9

08 **Curative Conservation and Restoration** — Treatment of objects by material type. 10

09 **Conservation Institutions and Charters** — National and international conservation bodies and charters. 11

10 **Heritage Laws** — Indian and international laws protecting heritage. 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

Museum: Definition and Functions

What a museum is and what it does.

- ICOM (International Council of Museums), founded 1946; latest museum definition adopted 2022.
- Functions: collection, documentation, conservation, research, exhibition, education.
- Types: art, history, science, natural history, archaeological site museums, ecomuseums.

★ Key revision points

- ICOM: 1946.
- New ICOM definition: 2022.
- Six core functions.
- Ecomuseum = community and territory.

UNIT 02

History of Museums

Development of museums in the world and in India.

Museum	Year
Ashmolean, Oxford — early public museum	1683
British Museum	1753
Louvre opened to the public	1793
Indian Museum, Kolkata (Asiatic Society) — first in India	1814
National Museum, New Delhi	1949

★ Key revision points

- First Indian museum: Kolkata, 1814.
- Louvre public: 1793.
- Ashmolean: 1683.
- National Museum: 1949.

UNIT 03

Collections Management

Acquisition, documentation and storage.

- Acquisition: field collection, purchase, gift, bequest, exchange; due diligence on provenance.
- Documentation: accession register, catalogue cards, digital databases.
- Storage and handling; deaccessioning policy.

★ Key revision points

- Accession register is the primary record.
- Provenance = ownership history.
- Deaccessioning = formal removal.
- Bequest = gift by will.

UNIT 04

Exhibition and Display

Types of exhibitions and design principles.

- Permanent, temporary, travelling, online exhibitions.
- Design: storyline, circulation, labels, lighting, accessibility.
- Dioramas; interactive displays.

★ Key revision points

- Travelling exhibitions move between museums.
- Labels interpret objects.
- Dioramas are 3D scenes.
- Circulation plans visitor flow.

UNIT 05

Museum Education and Communication

Engaging visitors and communities.

- Guided tours, workshops, outreach, mobile exhibitions.
- Visitor studies; museums as learning spaces.
- International Museum Day: 18 May.

★ Key revision points

- International Museum Day: 18 May.
- Outreach takes museums to people.
- Visitor studies improve services.
- Mobile exhibitions travel to communities.

UNIT 06

Agents of Deterioration

What damages museum objects.

- Physical forces, theft, fire, water, pests, pollutants, light, incorrect temperature and relative humidity, dissociation.
- Organic materials (paper, textiles, wood) are sensitive to light, humidity and pests.

★ Key revision points

- Light damage is cumulative.
- RH fluctuations crack wood.
- Pests attack organic objects.
- Dissociation = losing object information.

UNIT 07

Preventive Conservation

Environmental control and care.

- Relative humidity usually kept stable around 45–55% for mixed collections.
- Light: about 50 lux for highly sensitive items (textiles, paper, watercolours); eliminate UV.
- Integrated pest management; safe handling and storage.

★ Key revision points

- Stable RH ~45–55%.
- 50 lux for sensitive items.
- Remove UV light.
- IPM = integrated pest management.

UNIT 08

Curative Conservation and Restoration

Treatment of objects by material type.

- Principles: minimum intervention, reversibility, documentation.
- Metals: removing active corrosion ('bronze disease' — chlorides).
- Stone, paintings, manuscripts, textiles — material-specific treatments.

★ Key revision points

- Reversibility is a key principle.
- Bronze disease = chloride corrosion.
- Document before treatment.
- Minimum intervention.

UNIT 09

Conservation Institutions and Charters

National and international conservation bodies and charters.

- NRLC — National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow (1976).
- Venice Charter (1964); ICCROM (Rome).
- INTACH (1984).

★ **Key revision points**

- NRLC: Lucknow, 1976.
- Venice Charter: 1964.
- ICCROM is in Rome.
- INTACH: 1984.

UNIT 10

Heritage Laws

Indian and international laws protecting heritage.

Law / convention	Year
Indian Treasure Trove Act	1878
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act	1958
Antiquities and Art Treasures Act	1972
UNESCO Convention on illicit traffic	1970
UNESCO World Heritage Convention	1972

★ Key revision points

- AMASR Act: 1958.
- Antiquities Act: 1972.
- UNESCO illicit traffic convention: 1970.
- World Heritage Convention: 1972.

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