QuickNotes

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UGC NET Paper 2

Visual Art (079)

Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

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02 Prehistoric and Indus Art
03 Mauryan to Gupta Art
04 Murals and Medieval Sculpture
05 Miniature Painting
06 Company and Bengal Schools
07 Modern and Contemporary Indian Art
08 Western Art Movements
09 Printmaking and Media
10 Aesthetics and Art Criticism

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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

Fundamentals of Visual Art

Elements and principles of art; colour theory.

- Elements: line, shape, form, colour, texture, space, value.
- Principles: balance, contrast, emphasis, rhythm, unity, proportion.
- Colour: primary, secondary, tertiary; warm and cool; complementary; hue, value, saturation.
- *Shadanga* — six limbs of Indian painting (Yashodhara's commentary on the Kamasutra).

★ Key revision points

- Seven elements of art.
- Complementary colours are opposite.
- Shadanga = six limbs of painting.
- Value = lightness or darkness.

UNIT 02

Prehistoric and Indus Art

Earliest art in India.

- Rock art: Bhimbetka (UNESCO site).
- Indus: bronze 'dancing girl' (lost-wax), 'priest king' (steatite), Pashupati seal, terracotta figurines.

★ Key revision points

- Bhimbetka = rock art.
- Dancing girl = bronze, lost-wax.
- Priest king = steatite.
- Pashupati seal = Mohenjo-daro.

UNIT 03

Mauryan to Gupta Art

Sculpture from the Mauryas to the Guptas.

School / period	Features
Mauryan	Polished stone; Sarnath lion capital; Didarganj Yakshi
Gandhara	Greco-Roman influence; grey schist
Mathura	Indigenous; red sandstone
Amaravati	White marble; narrative reliefs
Gupta	Classical balance; Sarnath Buddha

★ Key revision points

- Mauryan polish.
- Gandhara = grey schist.
- Mathura = red sandstone.
- Amaravati = white marble.

UNIT 04

Murals and Medieval Sculpture

Ajanta, Ellora, temple sculpture and Chola bronzes.

- Ajanta murals (Padmapani Bodhisattva); Bagh; Sittanavasal.
- Ellora Kailasa temple (Rashtrakuta) — monolithic.
- Chola bronzes — Nataraja (lost-wax casting).

★ Key revision points

- Padmapani = Ajanta.
- Kailasa temple = monolithic (Ellora).
- Nataraja = Chola bronze.
- Lost-wax = cire perdue.

UNIT 05

Miniature Painting

Mughal, Rajput, Pahari and Deccani schools.

- Mughal: Akbar's atelier (*Hamzanama*), Jahangir (natural studies — Mansur), Shah Jahan.
- Rajasthani schools: Mewar, Bundi, Kota, Kishangarh (Bani Thani — Nihal Chand).
- Pahari: Basohli, Guler, Kangra.
- Deccani schools: Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmadnagar.

★ Key revision points

- Bani Thani = Kishangarh.
- Mansur = Jahangir's natural studies.
- Kangra = Pahari school.
- *Hamzanama* = Akbar.

UNIT 06

Company and Bengal Schools

Colonial-era art and the nationalist revival.

- Company painting for British patrons.
- Raja Ravi Varma — oil paintings of mythological themes; oleographs.
- **Bengal School** — Abanindranath Tagore (*Bharat Mata*), E. B. Havell, Nandalal Bose.

★ Key revision points

- Bengal School = Abanindranath Tagore.
- Ravi Varma = oleographs.
- Nandalal Bose = Santiniketan.
- Company painting = British patrons.

UNIT 07

Modern and Contemporary Indian Art

Modernists, progressive artists and later movements.

- Amrita Sher-Gil; Jamini Roy (folk-inspired).
- **Progressive Artists' Group** (Bombay, 1947): F. N. Souza, S. H. Raza, M. F. Husain.
- Baroda school (narrative figuration); Tyeb Mehta, V. S. Gaitonde, Bhupen Khakhar.

★ Key revision points

- Progressive Artists' Group: 1947.
- Raza = bindu.
- Jamini Roy = folk-inspired.
- Baroda school = narrative figuration.

UNIT 08

Western Art Movements

From the Renaissance to Abstract Expressionism.

Movement	Artists
Renaissance	Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael
Baroque	Caravaggio, Rembrandt
Impressionism	Monet, Renoir, Degas
Post-Impressionism	Van Gogh, Cézanne, Gauguin
Cubism	Picasso, Braque
Surrealism	Dalí, Magritte
Abstract Expressionism	Pollock, Rothko

★ Key revision points

- Cubism = Picasso, Braque.
- Impressionism named after Monet's painting.
- Surrealism = Dalí.
- Abstract Expressionism = Pollock.

UNIT 09

Printmaking and Media

Printmaking techniques and artistic media.

- Relief (woodcut, linocut), intaglio (etching, engraving), planography (lithography), stencil (serigraphy/screen printing).
- Media: fresco (buon — wet plaster; secco — dry), tempera, oil, watercolour, gouache.

★ Key revision points

- Etching = intaglio.
- Lithography = planographic.
- Serigraphy = screen printing.
- Buon fresco = wet plaster.

UNIT 10

Aesthetics and Art Criticism

Indian and Western aesthetic theory.

- Indian: rasa theory, *Chitrasutra* of the *Vishnudharmottara Purana*.
- Western: Plato (mimesis), Kant (disinterested pleasure), Clive Bell (significant form).
- Art institutions: Lalit Kala Akademi (1954), NGMA New Delhi (1954).

★ Key revision points

- *Chitrasutra* = Vishnudharmottara.
- Significant form = Clive Bell.
- Disinterested pleasure = Kant.
- Lalit Kala Akademi and NGMA: 1954.

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