QuickNotes

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UGC NET Paper 2

Hindu Studies (102)
Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Vedic Literature
02 Upanishads
03 Vedangas and Smritis
04 Itihasa: Ramayana and Mahabharata
05 Puranas
06 Darshanas (Philosophical Schools)
07 Schools of Vedanta
08 Sampradayas and Bhakti
09 Temples, Rituals and Arts
10 Modern Hindu Thought

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CONTENTS

What's inside

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

01 **Vedic Literature** — The four Vedas and their parts. 3

02 **Upanishads** — Principal Upanishads and their teachings. 4

03 **Vedangas and Smritis** — Auxiliary sciences and law books. 5

04 **Itihasa: Ramayana and Mahabharata** — The two epics. 6

05 **Puranas** — Eighteen Mahapuranas and their features. 7

06 **Darshanas (Philosophical Schools)** — Six orthodox schools. 8

07 **Schools of Vedanta** — Major Vedanta acharyas. 9

08 **Sampradayas and Bhakti** — Shaiva, Vaishnava, Shakta traditions and bhakti saints. 10

09 **Temples, Rituals and Arts** — Temple architecture and ritual. 11

10 **Modern Hindu Thought** — Reform movements and modern thinkers. 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

Vedic Literature

The four Vedas and their parts.

Veda	Key features
Rigveda	10 mandalas, 1,028 hymns; Gayatri mantra (3.62.10)
Yajurveda	Sacrificial formulas; Shukla and Krishna
Samaveda	Chants; basis of Indian music
Atharvaveda	Spells, medicine, daily life

- Each Veda has Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka and Upanishad layers.

★ Key revision points

- Rigveda: 10 mandalas.
- Samaveda = music.
- Gayatri mantra in Rigveda Mandala 3.
- Four layers of each Veda.

UNIT 02

Upanishads

Principal Upanishads and their teachings.

- Principal Upanishads (Shankara commented on ten or more); Muktika lists 108.
- Mahavakyas: *Prajnanam Brahma* (Aitareya), *Aham Brahmasmi* (Brihadaranyaka), *Tat Tvam Asi* (Chandogya), *Ayam Atma Brahma* (Mandukya).
- *Satyameva Jayate* — Mundaka Upanishad.

★ Key revision points

- Tat Tvam Asi = Chandogya.
- Aham Brahmasmi = Brihadaranyaka.
- Satyameva Jayate = Mundaka.
- Four mahavakyas.

UNIT 03

Vedangas and Smritis

Auxiliary sciences and law books.

- Six Vedangas: shiksha, kalpa, vyakarana, nirukta, chhandas, jyotisha.
- Smritis: Manusmriti, Yajnavalkya Smriti; Dharmasutras.
- Purusharthas: dharma, artha, kama, moksha; four ashramas; samskaras (16).

★ Key revision points

- Six Vedangas.
- Four purusharthas.
- Four ashramas.
- Sixteen samskaras.

UNIT 04

Itihasa: Ramayana and Mahabharata

The two epics.

- Ramayana — Valmiki; 7 kandas.
- Mahabharata — Vyasa; 18 parvas; about 100,000 shlokas; Bhagavad Gita in Bhishma Parva.
- Harivamsha is the appendix (khila) of the Mahabharata.

★ Key revision points

- Ramayana: 7 kandas.
- Mahabharata: 18 parvas.
- Gita in Bhishma Parva.
- Harivamsha = appendix.

UNIT 05

Puranas

Eighteen Mahapuranas and their features.

- 18 Mahapuranas (Vishnu, Bhagavata, Shiva, Markandeya etc.) and Upapuranas.
- Pancha-lakshana: sarga, pratisarga, vamsha, manvantara, vamshanucharita.
- Devi Mahatmya is part of the Markandeya Purana.

★ Key revision points

- 18 Mahapuranas.
- Five characteristics (pancha-lakshana).
- Devi Mahatmya = Markandeya Purana.
- Bhagavata Purana: Krishna's life.

UNIT 06

Darshanas (Philosophical Schools)

Six orthodox schools.

Darshana	Founder / text
Nyaya	Gautama — Nyaya Sutra
Vaisheshika	Kanada — atomism
Samkhya	Kapila
Yoga	Patanjali
Mimamsa	Jaimini
Vedanta	Badarayana — Brahma Sutra

★ Key revision points

- Atomism = Vaisheshika (Kanada).
- Brahma Sutra = Badarayana.
- Mimamsa = Jaimini.
- Nyaya = logic (Gautama).

UNIT 07

Schools of Vedanta

Major Vedanta acharyas.

- Advaita — Shankaracharya; Vishishtadvaita — Ramanuja; Dvaita — Madhva.
- Dvaitadvaita — Nimbarka; Shuddhadvaita — Vallabha; Achintya-bhedabheda — Chaitanya.
- Prasthanatrayi: Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Brahma Sutra.

★ Key revision points

- Advaita = Shankara.
- Vishishtadvaita = Ramanuja.
- Dvaita = Madhva.
- Prasthanatrayi = three foundational texts.

UNIT 08

Sampradayas and Bhakti

Shaiva, Vaishnava, Shakta traditions and bhakti saints.

- Shaiva: Shaiva Siddhanta, Kashmir Shaivism (Abhinavagupta), Virashaiva (Basava).
- Vaishnava: Alvars (12); Shaiva: Nayanars (63).
- Bhakti saints: Tulsidas, Surdas, Mirabai, Tukaram, Chaitanya.

★ Key revision points

- 12 Alvars (Vaishnava).
- 63 Nayanars (Shaiva).
- Kashmir Shaivism = Abhinavagupta.
- Virashaiva = Basava.

UNIT 09

Temples, Rituals and Arts

Temple architecture and ritual.

- Styles: Nagara (north), Dravida (south), Vesara (mixed).
- Agamas and Shilpa Shastras guide temple building and worship.
- Pancha mahayajna; festivals; pilgrimages (char dham, jyotirlingas — 12).

★ Key revision points

- Nagara = north Indian style.
- Dravida = south Indian style.
- 12 jyotirlingas.
- Agamas guide temple worship.

UNIT 10

Modern Hindu Thought

Reform movements and modern thinkers.

- Brahmo Samaj (Raja Rammohan Roy, 1828); Arya Samaj (Dayananda Saraswati, 1875).
- Ramakrishna Mission (Vivekananda, 1897); Theosophical Society in India.
- Aurobindo, Radhakrishnan, Gandhi; Hindu studies methods — textual, historical, comparative.

★ Key revision points

- Brahmo Samaj: 1828.
- Arya Samaj: 1875.
- Ramakrishna Mission: 1897.
- Vivekananda at Chicago: 1893.

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