

Before you write, know where to look.

A glimpse into the weekly advance-reading architecture behind our Mains Answer Writing & Mentorship Programme.

The question is not the beginning of preparation. The reading list is.

Each week begins with a focused route through the syllabus: what to read, which part matters, and what to notice. No indiscriminate pile of PDFs. No reading without a purpose.

TWO WEEKS • 16 QUESTION-LINKED READING ROUTES • GS I

Illustrative reading sampler from the October intake. The November 7 intake follows its own published academic calendar; regular writing begins 9 November 2026.

WEEK 01 / OPENING WEEK / 7-9 OCTOBER

07 OCT | Q001 • Temple architecture

READ NCERT Class XI, An Introduction to Indian Art, Part I — Temple Architecture and Sculpture

EXPLORE Nagara vs Dravida: plan, shikhara/vimana, gateways; choose one defensible example of each.

07 OCT | Q002 • Non-Cooperation Movement

READ NCERT Class X, India and the Contemporary World II — Nationalism in India

EXPLORE Boycott, students, lawyers, peasants, workers, merchants; locate social-group examples.

08 OCT | Q003 • Princely states and integration

READ NCERT Class XII, Politics in India Since Independence — Challenges of Nation Building

EXPLORE Accession, diplomacy, Hyderabad, Junagadh, Kashmir; distinguish integration from reorganisation.

08 OCT | Q004 • French Revolution

READ NCERT Class IX, India and the Contemporary World I — The French Revolution

EXPLORE Estates, abolition of feudal privileges, Declaration of Rights, citizenship and its limits.

09 OCT | Q005 • Diversity in Indian society

READ NCERT Class XII, Indian Society — The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society; Social Institutions: Continuity and Change

EXPLORE Language, religion, caste, tribe, region; connect each dimension to an illustrative example.

09 OCT | Q006 • Women's organisations

READ NCERT Class VIII, Our Pasts III — Women, Caste and Reform; NCERT Class XII, Social Change and Development in India — Social Movements

EXPLORE Bharat Stree Mahamandal, WIA, AIWC; girls' education, reform and organised advocacy.

WEEK 02 / 12-16 OCTOBER

Ten fresh assignments. Each reading route corresponds to the final corrected question schedule. The previously issued urbanisation question is excluded.

12 OCT | Q021 • Regional identities

READ NCERT Class XII, Indian Society — The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society; Social Institutions: Continuity and Change

EXPLORE Linguistic regions, local traditions, festivals and the relationship between regional and national identities.

12 OCT | Q008 • Indian monsoon

READ NCERT Class XI, India: Physical Environment — Climate

EXPLORE Land-sea contrast, ITCZ migration, pressure reversal and cross-equatorial winds.

13 OCT | Q009 • Coal-bearing regions

READ NCERT Class XII, India: People and Economy — Mineral and Energy Resources

EXPLORE Gondwana basins: Damodar, Mahanadi, Son, Godavari; distinguish geological age and location.

13 OCT | Q010 • Earthquakes

READ NCERT Class XI, Fundamentals of Physical Geography — Interior of the Earth; Distribution of Oceans and Continents

EXPLORE Convergent and transform plate boundaries; mechanisms and contrasting examples.

14 OCT | Q011 • Temple patronage

READ NCERT Class XI, An Introduction to Indian Art, Part I — Temple Architecture and Sculpture

EXPLORE Materials, geography, dynastic patronage and regional architectural adaptation.

14 OCT | Q012 • Civil Disobedience

READ NCERT Class X, India and the Contemporary World II — Nationalism in India

EXPLORE Salt March, different social constituencies, geographic spread and limits of participation.

15 OCT | Q013 • Linguistic reorganisation

READ NCERT Class XII, Politics in India Since Independence — Challenges of Nation Building

EXPLORE Andhra, linguistic demands, States Reorganisation Commission, 1956.

15 OCT | Q014 • Industrial Revolution

READ NCERT Class XI, Themes in World History — The Industrial Revolution (check edition); alternatively NCERT Class X, India and the Contemporary World II — The Age of Industrialisation

EXPLORE Factories, migration, urban growth, working conditions and class relations.

16 OCT | Q015 • Caste relations

READ NCERT Class XII, Indian Society — Social Institutions: Continuity and Change; Patterns of Social Inequality and Exclusion

EXPLORE Education and urbanisation as drivers of change; continuity of discrimination.

16 OCT | Q016 • Women's status

READ NCERT Class XII, Social Change and Development in India — Social Movements; Cultural Change

EXPLORE Education, collective mobilisation, rights and the limits of social reform.

The point is not to read more. It is to read with intent.

NOVEMBER 7 INTAKE • Orientation and resource access: 7 November 2026 • Writing begins: Monday, 9 November.

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