

RAJASTHAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, AJMER
SYLLABUS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION
FOR THE POST OF CURATOR IN
ARCHAEOLOGY & MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

Part-A

- 40 Questions

Unit-I: History, Culture & Heritage of Rajasthan -

Pre & early history of Rajasthan. Age of Rajputs: Major dynasties of Rajasthan and the achievements of prominent rulers. Emergence of Modern Rajasthan: factors of socio-political awakening of 19th century; Peasants and tribal movements of 20th century; Political struggle of 20th century and the integration of Rajasthan.

Visual Art of Rajasthan - Architecture of forts and temples of Rajasthan; Sculpture traditions of Rajasthan and various schools of painting of Rajasthan.

Performing Arts of Rajasthan - Folk music and musical instruments of Rajasthan; folk dance and folk drama of Rajasthan.

Various religious cults, saints and folk deities of Rajasthan.

Various dialects and its distribution in Rajasthan; literature of Rajasthani language.

Unit-II: Geography, Natural Resource & Socio-Economic Development of Rajasthan -

Geography of Rajasthan: Broad physical features- Mountains, Plateaus, Plains & Desert; Major rivers and lakes; Climate and Agro-climatic regions; Major soil types and distribution; Major forest types and distribution; Demographic characteristics; Desertification, Droughts & Floods, Deforestation, Environmental Pollution and Ecological Concerns.

Economy of Rajasthan: Major Minerals- Metallic & Non- Metallic; Power Resources- Renewable and Non Renewable; Major agro based industries- Textile, Sugar, Paper & Vegetable oil; Poverty and Unemployment; Agro food parks.

Unit-III: Current Events and Issues of Rajasthan and India -

Important Persons, Places and Current events of the State. National and International events of importance. New Schemes & Initiatives taken recently for welfare & development in Rajasthan.

Part-B

110 Questions

Unit I - Sources, Vedic Period and Mahajanapadas -

Sources of ancient history, Vedic society and culture, The political organization of the vedic tribes- Caste and other social institutions-Vedic religion, Sixteen Mahajanapadas; The political disintegration of northern India; The Sunga dynasty, Western Kshatrapas, Kharavela of Kalinga, Indo-Greek kings, the Sakas, Kushana and Satavahanas.

Unit II - Second Urbanisation -

Emergence of second urbanisation: causes and results, the rise of Heterodox sects - Jainism and Buddhism. Charvakas & Ajivikas. Rise of the Kingdom of Magadha.

Haryank & Sishunaga. The rule of the Nandas-North Western India, contacts with Persia; Alexanders invasion and its impact.

Unit III - Mauryan Period -

The Mauryan kings- Mauryan contacts with neighbouring states, society and economic activities- Mauryan administration. Ashoka and policy of Dhamma- Ashoka and his successors, the decline of the Mauryas. Kalinga war & administrative change made by Ashoka, Ashoka's relations with neighbouring countries.

Unit IV- Guptas and Post Gupta Period -

Early history and political expansion of Gupta dynasty, Cultural developments in the Gupta-Vakataka period. Important rulers such as Samudragupta, Chandragupta II, Skandgupta. Education and Literature- Buddhist art and architecture- Mahayan Buddhism & Huna invasion; post-Gupta dynasties; social and political structure of later Guptas, Maukharis and Chalukyas of Badami; Harshvardhan – his conquest and rise, Administration, Religious policy and personality; Changing agrarian relation-trade; the pattern of living, education and learning.

Unit V - Architecture, Science and Trade and contacts -

Architecture in ancient India; Science and technology in ancient India; South Indian kingdoms- trade routes and communications. Rise of the mercantile community 200 BCE to 300 CE; roman Trade with south India, Interaction and hellenic ideas in northern India. India's contacts with China and Southeast Asia.

Unit VI- Beginning of Medieval India, Delhi Sultanate and Rajput -

An overview of the Geopolitical contexts of Arabian Peninsula - continuities and changes (7th to 11th centuries) and major dynasties (750-1200 CE) of Early medieval india; Early muslim invasions; Political geography of the sultanate; concept of state and kingship; Political trajectories under the Sultans- Ilbaris (1206-1290) – expansion under Qutbuddin Aibak and Iltutmish – the Chalisa (the new regime under Balbans) – Khaljis (1290-1320)– Mongol invasions– Tughluqs (1320-1414)– Sayyids and Lodhis (1414-1526); disintegration of the sultanate and regional reconfiguration; state formation and evolution of rajput polity with special focus on Mewar, Jodhpur, Jaipur; Urbanization– The growth of cities and towns, Urban life; Agrarian economy; The system of land holding and revenue assessment and collection (*Iqta*, *Mansabdari*, *Jagirdari*, *Zamindari*, *Nayankara*, *Poligar* and *Paik* system); Trade and commerce; social Structure- nobility and social hierarchy, stratification within *zamindars* and peasants; position of castes and tribes; vibrant medieval composite culture.

Unit VII - Mughals, Maratha and North-East -

Establishment of Mughal rule in India - Babur and Humayun; Second afghan empire: - Sher Shah; Process of consolidation of mughal empire under Akbar, Jahangir and Aurangzeb; Mughals and other regional power centres- Sikh, Rajput, Maratha and other Deccan States; Disintegration of mughal empire; the rise of Marathas under Shivaji – mughal ‘decline’; Vijaynagar and Bahmani kingdoms- polity, society, art and religion; Foreign policy of mughals; North-East polity and administrative structure: - Ahom and Kachari rule in Assam, Jaintia kingdom; The hill-valley relations in medieval period; Northeast states and the mughals.

Unit VIII- Religion, Architecture, Science and Technology in Medieval India -

Bhakti and Sufi Movements; Indo-islamic architecture, Persian wheel, Textile Mining and Metallurgy- iron/steel, copper, use of composite metal, zinc; wood, bamboo and ivory work, paper making, medical system- unani and ayurveda - Swai Jai Singh hydrology and conservation practices.

Unit IX - Monuments of Rajasthan -

Forts and fortified towns: Jaisalmer, Chittor, Ranthambor, Kumbhalgarh, Bharatpur, Junagarh. Palaces- Mehrangarh, Deeg, Lalgarh, City Palace (Jaipur), Gajner Palace; Religious monuments: Temples- Osian, Dilwara, Kiradu, Ranakpur, Kumbhashyam Temple, Kalika Mata Temple, Menal, Ramgarh, Bijolia; Cenotaphs- cenotaphs of Digambar Jain saints at Ajmer, Moosi rani ki chhatri at Alwar, cenotaphs of rulers of Udaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Alwar, Jaipur, Kota, Jaisalmer; Havellis of Shekhawati, Jaisalmer; Mughal architecture with special reference to tombs of Abdulla Khan and his wife at Ajmer, Mughal gate at Bairat.

Unit X - Museums and Museology -

- Origin, meanings and definitions of museum. Role and responsibilities of a museum in contemporary society. Concept and definition of museology and museography.
- History of museums in global context.
- Functions of museum, Types of museums, Eco-museums, Community museums, site museums.
- History and development of museums in India with special reference to Rajasthan.
- Prominent museums in India particularly in Rajasthan.
- Professional organizations (Government and Non-government): UNESCO, ICOM, Museums Association of India.

UNIT XI - Collection Management -

- Purposes of collections; Types of museum collections; Ethics of collection.
- Collection management policy: scope, acquisition, collection records, deaccessioning and disposal, accommodation, loans, insurance, appraisals, authentication, ethics, etc.
- Methods of collecting: Field work, purchase, exchange, gifts and donations etc. Loan agreements – terms and conditions of loans. Methods of disposal.
- Documentation of collections: purposes, policies and procedures. Types of documents: entry, accession, classified, and movement registers; index and catalogue cards. Digital documentation.
- Marking and labelling the objects and specimen: numbering systems, procedure of applying numbers on objects.
- Collection storage: Purpose, care, access, retrieval, and storage systems.

UNIT XII - Preventive Conservation -

- Preventive Conservation: meaning and significance. Role of curator in preventive conservation.
- Nature and properties of material of collections – organic, inorganic and composite. Causes of decay of damage to museum collections.

- Monitoring and control of air pollution, temperature, humidity, light and micro-organisms.
- Integrated Pest Management meaning, purpose and strategy. Common pests found in museums.
- Housekeeping- meaning, scope and significance. Principles of housekeeping.
- Principles and rules of handling of museum collections. Guidelines for packing and transportation of museum collections.

UNIT – XIII: Museum Communication -

- Museum Exhibitions- meaning, significance and types. Exhibition policy. Ethics of exhibition.
- Exhibition planning and design- stages and strategies, exhibition team, exhibition brief; using principles of design, colour, and texture. Exhibition layouts. Exhibition furniture- showcases, pedestals, display boards, etc.
- Exhibition lighting- sources of light and their characteristics; different types of lamps and their characteristics features; Exhibition text types of labels and their purpose.
- Role of museum education and interpretation; Characteristics of learning in museums. Ethics of museum education.
- Educational programmes and provisions for different audiences such as children, adults, families, tourists and people with disabilities. Extension services: community programmes, school loan services, mobile and travelling exhibitions. Museum publications: significance and types.
- Marketing communication: publicity and advertising through different media.

Scheme of Examination

S. No.	Subject	No. of Questions	Total Marks	Examination Duration
Part-A	General Knowledge of Rajasthan	40	40	2.30 Hours
Part-B	Concerned Subject	110	110	
	Total	150	150	

1. The competitive examination shall carry 150 marks and 150 questions of Multiple Choice Type questions.
2. There shall be one paper. Duration of Paper will be Two hours and Thirty Minutes.
3. Negative marking shall be applicable in the evaluation of answers. For every wrong answer one-third of the marks prescribed for that particular question shall be deducted.

Explanation: - Wrong answer shall mean an incorrect answer or multiple answers.