

## World History · GS - I

**What problems are germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula?**

**EXAM YEAR**

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**PAPER**

GS - I

**SUBJECT**

World History

**MARKS**

10

**WORD LIMIT**

~150 words

### Answer Hint

**Colonial legacy; ethnic diversity; Malay-Chinese-Indian relations; citizenship debates; communist insurgency; Malayan Emergency; economic inequalities; constitutional negotiations; regional integration**

### Model Answer

#### Introduction

The decolonisation of the Malay Peninsula, culminating in the independence of the Federation of Malaya in 1957, involved complex political, ethnic, economic and security challenges.

#### Major Problems

- 1. Ethnic Diversity:** Malays, Chinese and Indians had different historical experiences, political aspirations and economic positions. Creating a common national identity was a major challenge.
- 2. Citizenship and Representation:** Disagreements over citizenship rights, political representation, and the position of Malay rulers complicated constitutional negotiations.
- 3. Communist Insurgency:** The Malayan Communist Party's armed struggle led to the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), creating serious security challenges during the transition.
- 4. Economic Inequalities:** Colonial economic structures concentrated different communities in different sectors, contributing to disparities and intercommunal tensions.

**5. Constitutional Arrangements:** Negotiations had to reconcile representative government, the role of traditional Malay rulers, minority rights and the special position of Malays.

**6. British Strategic Interests:** Britain sought to protect economic interests and maintain regional influence while managing the transition to self-government.

**7. Regional Challenges:** The formation of Malaysia in 1963 and Singapore's separation in 1965 reflected continuing challenges in regional integration.

## **Conclusion**

Decolonisation in the Malay Peninsula required more than the transfer of power. It demanded political compromise, management of ethnic diversity, economic restructuring and the development of stable national institutions.