

CUET PG 2026 History Question Paper with Solutions(Memory Based)

Time Allowed :1 Hour 30 Mins	Maximum Marks :300	Total Questions :75
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- The exam lasts 90 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes).
- There are 75 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) to be answered.
- +4 marks for every correct answer. -1 mark (negative marking) for every incorrect answer. 0 marks for unanswered or un-attempted questions.
- For any discrepancy in questions, the English version is considered final (except for language-specific papers).
- Click one of the four options to choose an answer.
- You must click "Save & Next" to confirm your response. Only saved answers are considered for evaluation.
- Use "Mark for Review & Next" to flag a question for later. You can unselect or change your answer using the "Clear Response" button.
- All calculations must be done on the Rough Sheets provided at the centre. These must be returned to the invigilator after the exam.

1. Who among the following was the first to decipher the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts?

- (A) William Jones
- (B) James Prinsep
- (C) Alexander Cunningham
- (D) Max Muller

Correct Answer: (2) James Prinsep

Solution:

Concept: The Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts are among the earliest writing systems used in ancient India. These scripts were used in many inscriptions, particularly those of the Mauryan period. Deciphering these scripts helped historians understand ancient Indian political, cultural, and administrative history, especially the edicts of Emperor Ashoka.

Step 1: Understanding the Brahmi script.

The Brahmi script was widely used across most parts of the Indian subcontinent. It appears in several ancient inscriptions, including the famous rock and pillar edicts of Emperor Ashoka. For a long time, historians could see these inscriptions but could not read them.

Step 2: Understanding the Kharosthi script.

The Kharosthi script was used mainly in the north-western regions of the Indian subcontinent,

particularly in areas influenced by Persian and Central Asian cultures. Unlike Brahmi, it was written from right to left.

Step 3: Role of James Prinsep.

In 1837, the British scholar and archaeologist **James Prinsep** successfully deciphered both the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts. His work enabled historians to read Ashokan inscriptions for the first time and confirmed that many of these inscriptions were issued by Emperor Ashoka.

Step 4: Importance of the discovery.

The decipherment of these scripts revealed valuable information about the Mauryan Empire, Ashoka's policies, administration, and the spread of Buddhism. It marked a major breakthrough in the study of ancient Indian history.

Quick Tip

James Prinsep (1837) deciphered the **Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts**, which allowed historians to read the **Ashokan edicts** and greatly expanded knowledge of the Mauryan Empire.

2. The Iqta system, a method of land revenue assignment, was introduced in India by which Delhi Sultan?

- (A) Iltutmish
- (B) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
- (C) Alauddin Khalji
- (D) Balban

Correct Answer: (1) Iltutmish

Solution:

Concept: The **Iqta system** was a land revenue administration system used during the Delhi Sultanate. Under this system, the Sultan assigned land (called *Iqta*) to officials and nobles in return for administrative and military services. The holders of these assignments were known as *Muqtis* or *Iqtedars*.

Step 1: Understanding the Iqta system.

The Iqta system involved granting land revenues instead of salaries to officers and nobles. The revenue collected from the assigned land was used by the Muqti to maintain soldiers and manage administration.

Step 2: Introduction of the system in India.

Although the Iqta system existed earlier in the Islamic world, it was **introduced and organized in India by Sultan Iltutmish**. He structured the system effectively to strengthen the administrative and military framework of the Delhi Sultanate.

Step 3: Importance of the reform.

The system helped the Sultan maintain control over vast territories while ensuring efficient tax collection and military support.

Quick Tip

The **Iqta system** was a revenue assignment system introduced in India by **Iltutmish**. The land was granted to officials called **Muqtis**, who collected revenue and maintained troops for the Sultan.

3. Which Buddhist text contains the rules and regulations for those who joined the Sangha?

- (A) Sutta Pitaka
- (B) Vinaya Pitaka
- (C) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- (D) Dhammapada

Correct Answer: (2) Vinaya Pitaka

Solution:

Concept: Buddhist teachings are preserved in the **Tripitaka (Three Baskets)**. These three main divisions contain the teachings, philosophical doctrines, and disciplinary rules of Buddhism.

Step 1: Understanding the Tripitaka.

The Tripitaka consists of three main sections:

- **Vinaya Pitaka** – Contains rules and regulations for monks and nuns.
- **Sutta Pitaka** – Contains the sermons and teachings of the Buddha.
- **Abhidhamma Pitaka** – Contains philosophical and doctrinal analyses.

Step 2: Role of the Vinaya Pitaka.

The **Vinaya Pitaka** specifically lays down the code of conduct and disciplinary rules for members of the **Sangha** (the Buddhist monastic community). It describes procedures for admission, behavior, and monastic discipline.

Step 3: Importance of these rules.

These regulations helped maintain discipline, unity, and ethical conduct within the Buddhist monastic order.

Quick Tip

Vinaya Pitaka contains the **rules and discipline for monks and nuns** who joined the **Sangha**. It is one of the three parts of the **Tripitaka**.

4. In which year did the Battle of Plassey take place, marking the beginning of British political rule in India?

- (A) 1757
- (B) 1764

- (C) 1748
(D) 1773

Correct Answer: (1) 1757

Solution:

Concept: The **Battle of Plassey** is considered a turning point in Indian history. It marked the beginning of British political dominance in India and laid the foundation for the expansion of the British East India Company's power.

Step 1: Background of the battle.

The battle was fought between the forces of the **British East India Company**, led by **Robert Clive**, and the army of **Siraj-ud-Daulah**, the Nawab of Bengal.

Step 2: The battle and its outcome.

The battle took place on **23 June 1757** at Plassey in Bengal. Due to the betrayal by Mir Jafar and other conspirators, Siraj-ud-Daulah was defeated by the British forces.

Step 3: Historical significance.

After this victory, the British East India Company gained control over Bengal's administration and revenue resources. This victory became the foundation for the expansion of British rule across India.

Quick Tip

The **Battle of Plassey (1757)** was fought between **Robert Clive** and **Siraj-ud-Daulah**. It marked the **beginning of British political rule in India**.

5. The term 'Gajapati', meaning lord of elephants, was a title used by the rulers of which medieval kingdom?

- (A) Vijayanagara Kingdom
(B) Kalinga (Odisha) Kingdom
(C) Chola Kingdom
(D) Bahmani Kingdom

Correct Answer: (2) Kalinga (Odisha) Kingdom

Solution:

Concept: Titles adopted by rulers in medieval India often reflected their military power, achievements, or symbolic authority. The title **Gajapati**, meaning "*Lord of Elephants*", symbolized royal strength and control over large war elephant forces, which were an important part of medieval Indian armies.

Step 1: Meaning of the term Gajapati.

The word is derived from two Sanskrit words:

- **Gaja** – Elephant
- **Pati** – Lord or master

Thus, **Gajapati** literally means *Lord of Elephants*.

Step 2: Use of the title.

The rulers of the powerful **Kalinga (Odisha) kingdom**, especially the **Eastern Ganga and Gajapati dynasties**, used this title to signify their authority and military strength.

Step 3: Historical significance.

Prominent rulers such as **Kapilendra Deva** used the title Gajapati and expanded their empire across large parts of eastern and southern India during the 15th century.

Quick Tip

The title **Gajapati (Lord of Elephants)** was used by the rulers of the **Kalinga/Odisha kingdom**, symbolizing their powerful military and royal authority.

6. Who was the author of the famous Persian work 'Ain-i-Akbari', which provides a detailed account of Akbar's administration?

- (A) Abul Fazl
- (B) Badauni
- (C) Amir Khusrau
- (D) Faizi

Correct Answer: (1) Abul Fazl

Solution:

Concept: Many Persian chronicles written during the Mughal period provide valuable information about administration, culture, economy, and court life. One of the most important of these works is the **Ain-i-Akbari**.

Step 1: About the book Ain-i-Akbari.

The **Ain-i-Akbari** is the third volume of the historical work **Akbarnama**. It contains detailed descriptions of the administration, revenue system, military organization, provinces, and culture of the Mughal Empire under Akbar.

Step 2: Author of the work.

The book was written by **Abul Fazl**, a close advisor, scholar, and court historian of Emperor Akbar.

Step 3: Importance of the text.

It provides detailed statistical and administrative data about the Mughal Empire, making it one of the most important historical sources for studying Akbar's rule.

Quick Tip

Abul Fazl, a close advisor of Akbar, wrote the **Ain-i-Akbari**, which describes the **administration, economy, military, and culture of the Mughal Empire**.

7. The Cabinet Mission arrived in India in 1946 with the primary objective of discussing what?

- (A) Partition of India
- (B) Transfer of power and framing of the Constitution
- (C) Expansion of British rule
- (D) Introduction of new taxation policies

Correct Answer: (2) Transfer of power and framing of the Constitution

Solution:

Concept: As the demand for independence grew stronger in India, the British government sought a political solution. In 1946, a high-level delegation known as the **Cabinet Mission** was sent to India to discuss the future political framework of the country.

Step 1: Composition of the Cabinet Mission.

The Cabinet Mission consisted of three British ministers:

- Lord Pethick-Lawrence
- Sir Stafford Cripps
- A.V. Alexander

Step 2: Purpose of the mission.

The mission was sent to India primarily to negotiate with Indian leaders regarding:

- The **transfer of power from British rule to Indian leadership**
- The **creation of a Constituent Assembly** to draft the Constitution of independent India

Step 3: Outcome of the mission.

The Cabinet Mission proposed a plan for a united India with a federal structure and recommended the formation of a Constituent Assembly.

Quick Tip

The **Cabinet Mission (1946)** aimed to negotiate the **transfer of power** and to establish a **Constituent Assembly** for drafting the Constitution of independent India.

8. Which Harappan site is famous for possessing a sophisticated water management system and a giant reservoir?

- (A) Harappa
- (B) Mohenjo-daro
- (C) Dholavira
- (D) Lothal

Correct Answer: (3) Dholavira

Solution:

Concept: The **Indus Valley Civilization** (Harappan Civilization) is known for its advanced urban planning, drainage systems, and water management structures. Several archaeological sites have revealed remarkable engineering skills.

Step 1: Location of Dholavira.

Dholavira is an important Harappan site located in the **Rann of Kutch in present-day Gujarat.**

Step 2: Water management system.

Dholavira is especially famous for its highly advanced **water conservation and storage system.** The city had:

- Large reservoirs
- Dams and channels
- Sophisticated drainage systems

Step 3: The giant reservoir.

Archaeologists discovered massive stone-built reservoirs designed to collect and store rainwater and seasonal stream water, making Dholavira one of the best examples of ancient water engineering.

Quick Tip

Dholavira, located in Gujarat, is famous for its **advanced water management system and large reservoirs** in the Indus Valley Civilization.

9. The Mansabdari system, a unique military and administrative grading system, was perfected by which Mughal Emperor?

- (A) Babur
- (B) Humayun
- (C) Akbar
- (D) Aurangzeb

Correct Answer: (3) Akbar

Solution:

Concept: The **Mansabdari system** was an important administrative and military system of the Mughal Empire. It organized the nobility and army by assigning ranks, known as *mansabs*, to officials. These ranks determined their position, salary, and the number of soldiers they had to maintain.

Step 1: Meaning of Mansab.

The word **Mansab** means *rank or position*. Officers who held these ranks were called **Mansabdars**.

Step 2: Structure of the system.

Each Mansabdar was given two numerical ranks:

- **Zat** – indicated the personal rank and status of the officer.
- **Sawar** – indicated the number of cavalry soldiers the officer was required to maintain.

Step 3: Development under Akbar.

Although the system had earlier influences, it was **systematically organized and perfected**

by **Emperor Akbar**. He used it to maintain efficient administration and control over the nobility and military.

Step 4: Importance of the system.

The Mansabdari system helped create a centralized administrative structure and strengthened the Mughal Empire by ensuring loyalty and efficiency among officials.

Quick Tip

The **Mansabdari system** was a military and administrative ranking system **perfected by Akbar**. It classified officials based on **Zat (rank)** and **Sawar (number of cavalry maintained)**.

10. Under whose leadership was the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) founded in 1928?

- (A) Bhagat Singh
- (B) Chandrashekhar Azad
- (C) Ram Prasad Bismil
- (D) Subhas Chandra Bose

Correct Answer: (2) Chandrashekhar Azad

Solution:

Concept: The **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** was a revolutionary organization formed to fight against British colonial rule in India. It aimed to establish a socialist republic through revolutionary activities.

Step 1: Background of the organization.

The HSRA evolved from the earlier revolutionary organization known as the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**.

Step 2: Formation of HSRA in 1928.

In 1928, the organization was reorganized and renamed as the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association**. This transformation took place under the leadership of **Chandrashekhar Azad**, who became its main commander.

Step 3: Role of revolutionary leaders.

Several young revolutionaries, including **Bhagat Singh**, joined the HSRA and participated in activities aimed at overthrowing British rule.

Step 4: Historical significance.

The HSRA played a crucial role in inspiring revolutionary movements in India and became widely known after events such as the **Central Legislative Assembly bombing in 1929**.

Quick Tip

The **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** was formed in **1928** under the leadership of **Chandrashekhar Azad**, with revolutionaries like **Bhagat Singh** playing important roles.

