

Haryana Board Class 12 History Question Paper with Solutions(Memory Based)

Time Allowed :3 Hour	Maximum Marks :60	Total Questions :24
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
- You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes
- This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
- The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers,
- The paper has four Sections.
- Section A is compulsory - All questions in Section A must be answered.
- You must attempt one question from each of the Sections B, C and D and one other question from any Section of your choice.

1. Explain the unique features of the domestic architecture and drainage system of Mohenjodaro.

Correct Answer: Mohenjodaro had well-planned houses made of baked bricks and an advanced drainage system that showed a high level of urban planning.

Solution:

Concept: Mohenjodaro, one of the major cities of the **Indus Valley Civilization**, is famous for its highly developed **urban planning**, well-built houses, and a sophisticated drainage system.

Step 1: Domestic Architecture

The houses of Mohenjodaro had several advanced features:

- Houses were built using **baked bricks**, which made them strong and durable.
- Most houses had **two or more rooms** arranged around a **central courtyard**.
- Many houses had **private wells** for water supply.
- Houses also had **bathrooms** with proper flooring and water outlets.
- Some buildings had **two storeys**, showing advanced construction techniques.

Step 2: Drainage System

The drainage system of Mohenjodaro was highly organized:

- Almost every house was connected to a **covered drainage system**.

- Drains were made of **bricks** and were covered with stone slabs.
- Wastewater from houses flowed into **street drains**.
- The drains were regularly cleaned through **inspection holes**.
- The system ensured proper **sanitation and hygiene** in the city.

Step 3: Significance

- These features show that the people of Mohenjodaro had advanced knowledge of **engineering and town planning**.
- It indicates the importance given to **public health and cleanliness**.

Quick Tip

The cities of the Indus Valley Civilization were famous for their **planned streets, strong brick houses, and one of the earliest drainage systems in the world**.

2. Discuss the various reasons proposed by historians for the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Correct Answer: Historians believe that the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization was caused by a combination of factors such as natural disasters, climate change, river shifts, and economic decline.

Solution:

Concept: The Indus Valley Civilization, one of the earliest urban civilizations in the world, flourished around 2600–1900 BCE. However, it gradually declined due to several possible environmental and social factors.

Step 1: Natural Disasters

Some historians believe that **frequent floods** in the Indus River region may have damaged cities such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa, leading to the decline of the civilization.

Step 2: Climate Change

Changes in climate may have caused **droughts** and reduced agricultural productivity. This could have forced people to migrate to other regions in search of better living conditions.

Step 3: Shifting of Rivers

Geographical changes such as the **shifting or drying up of rivers** like the Ghaggar-Hakra might have affected water supply and farming, contributing to the decline of settlements.

Step 4: Economic and Trade Decline

The civilization depended heavily on **trade with other regions**. A decline in trade relations with distant areas may have weakened the economy.

Step 5: Other Possible Factors

Some scholars also suggest other possible reasons:

- Invasion by external groups
- Internal social or political instability

- Gradual migration of people to other areas

Step 6: Conclusion

Most historians agree that the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization was likely due to a **combination of environmental, economic, and social factors** rather than a single cause.

Quick Tip

The decline of the Indus Valley Civilization was likely a **gradual process** caused by multiple environmental and socio-economic factors.

3. Who was Alexander Cunningham, and what was his contribution to Indian archaeology?

Correct Answer: Alexander Cunningham was a British archaeologist who is known as the founder of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). He made significant contributions to the study and excavation of ancient Indian sites.

Solution:

Concept: The study of ancient monuments, artifacts, and historical sites to understand past civilizations is known as **archaeology**. In India, the development of modern archaeology is closely associated with the work of Alexander Cunningham.

Step 1: Who was Alexander Cunningham

- Alexander Cunningham was a **British army engineer and archaeologist**.
- He is often called the **Father of Indian Archaeology**.
- In **1861**, he became the first Director-General of the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.

Step 2: Contribution to Indian Archaeology

- He conducted **systematic surveys and excavations** of many ancient historical sites.
- He studied and identified important places mentioned in the writings of Chinese travelers like **Xuanzang**.
- Cunningham played an important role in the **exploration of Buddhist monuments and stupas**.
- His work helped in locating and identifying many ancient cities and archaeological remains in India.

Step 3: Importance of his Work

- He laid the **foundation for scientific archaeological research** in India.
- His surveys and reports provided valuable information about **India's ancient history and heritage**.

Quick Tip

Alexander Cunningham is known as the **Father of Indian Archaeology** and the first Director-General of the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.

4. Explain the main features of the Mauryan Administration as described in the Arthashastra and Indica.

Correct Answer: The Mauryan administration was a highly organized and centralized system of governance with the king as the supreme authority, supported by ministers, officials, and a well-structured bureaucracy.

Solution:

Concept: Information about the Mauryan administration comes mainly from the **Arthashastra** written by **Kautilya (Chanakya)** and the book **Indica** written by the Greek ambassador **Megasthenes**. These sources describe a well-organized administrative system during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya.

Step 1: Central Administration

- The **king** was the supreme authority and controlled the entire administration.
- He was assisted by a **council of ministers** called the **Mantri Parishad**.
- Important decisions regarding governance, defense, and economy were taken with the advice of ministers.

Step 2: Provincial Administration

- The Mauryan Empire was divided into **provinces**.
- Each province was governed by a **royal prince or governor**.
- Provinces were further divided into **districts and villages** for efficient administration.

Step 3: Revenue and Economic Administration

- Land revenue was the main source of income for the state.
- Officers were appointed to supervise **agriculture, trade, forests, mines, and industries**.
- Strict rules were followed for **tax collection and financial management**.

Step 4: Military Administration

- The Mauryan Empire maintained a **large standing army**.
- According to Megasthenes, a **war office** with several committees managed different military departments.
- The army included **infantry, cavalry, chariots, and elephants**.

Step 5: Spy System and Law Enforcement

- The Arthashastra describes an extensive **spy system** used to maintain law and order.
- Spies were employed to gather information about officials and enemies.
- Strict laws and punishments ensured discipline in the administration.

Step 6: Local Administration

- Villages were the basic units of administration.
- A **village headman** managed local affairs.
- Officials supervised irrigation, agriculture, and public works.

Quick Tip

The Mauryan administration was characterized by **centralized authority, an organized bureaucracy, efficient revenue system, strong military, and an extensive spy network.**

5. Discuss the role of Stupas in Buddhism and explain the architecture of the Sanchi Stupa.

Correct Answer: Stupas are sacred Buddhist monuments built to preserve the relics of the Buddha and other important monks. The Sanchi Stupa is one of the most famous examples of Buddhist architecture.

Solution:

Concept: In Buddhism, stupas are important religious structures that symbolize the presence of the Buddha and serve as places for worship and meditation. They also represent Buddhist teachings and spiritual ideas.

Step 1: Role of Stupas in Buddhism

- Stupas were built to **preserve the relics** of the Buddha and other important monks.
- They served as **places of worship and pilgrimage** for Buddhists.
- Stupas symbolized important aspects of **Buddhist philosophy**, such as enlightenment and the path to Nirvana.
- Devotees performed **pradakshina** (circumambulation) around the stupa as a form of religious practice.

Step 2: Sanchi Stupa

The **Great Stupa at Sanchi**, located in present-day Madhya Pradesh, is one of the most important and well-preserved Buddhist monuments. It was originally built by **Emperor Ashoka** in the 3rd century BCE and later enlarged during the Shunga period.

Step 3: Architecture of the Sanchi Stupa

The Sanchi Stupa has several distinctive architectural features:

- **Hemispherical dome (Anda):** Represents the mound that contains sacred relics.
- **Harmika:** A square railing on top of the dome symbolizing the abode of the gods.
- **Chhatra (umbrella):** A central pillar with three umbrellas representing honor and protection.
- **Medhi:** A circular terrace used for circumambulation by devotees.
- **Toranas (gateways):** Four elaborately carved gateways depicting scenes from the life of the Buddha and Jataka stories.

Step 4: Significance

- The Sanchi Stupa is an important example of **early Buddhist architecture and art**.
- It reflects the development of **religious symbolism and architectural skills** in ancient India.

Quick Tip

The **Sanchi Stupa**, built by Emperor Ashoka, is one of the most important Buddhist monuments and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

6. Compare the perceptions of Indian society as described by Al-Biruni and Ibn Battuta.

Correct Answer: Al-Biruni and Ibn Battuta provided different perspectives on Indian society based on their experiences and interests. Al-Biruni focused on Indian culture, religion, and learning, while Ibn Battuta described social life, administration, and daily practices in India.

Solution:

Concept: Al-Biruni and Ibn Battuta were foreign travelers who visited India at different times and recorded their observations about Indian society. Their writings provide valuable historical information about social customs, religion, and administration.

Step 1: Al-Biruni's Perception of Indian Society

- Al-Biruni was a Persian scholar who visited India in the 11th century during the reign of Mahmud of Ghazni.
- He wrote a famous book called **Kitab-ul-Hind**.
- He studied Indian **religion, philosophy, astronomy, and mathematics**.
- Al-Biruni described the **caste system** in detail and noted the social divisions in Indian society.
- His approach was **scholarly and analytical**, as he tried to understand Indian culture objectively.

Step 2: Ibn Battuta's Perception of Indian Society

- Ibn Battuta was a Moroccan traveler who visited India in the 14th century during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
- He wrote his travel account called **Rihla**.
- He described the **political administration, trade, and everyday life** in India.
- Ibn Battuta also recorded information about **cities, markets, roads, and postal systems**.
- His accounts focused more on **practical aspects of society and governance**.

Step 3: Comparison

Aspect	Al-Biruni	Ibn Battuta
Time period	11th century	14th century
Origin	Persia	Morocco
Famous work	Kitab-ul-Hind	Rihla
Focus of study	Religion, culture, and science	Administration and daily life
Approach	Scholarly and analytical	Descriptive travel account

Quick Tip

Al-Biruni focused on Indian culture and knowledge systems, while **Ibn Battuta** described social life, administration, and travel experiences in India.

7. Explain the Permanent Settlement system implemented by the British in 1793.

Correct Answer: The Permanent Settlement was a land revenue system introduced by the British in 1793 under Lord Cornwallis, which fixed the land revenue to be paid by zamindars permanently.

Solution:

Concept: The British introduced several land revenue systems in India to collect taxes from agriculture. One of the earliest systems was the **Permanent Settlement**, introduced in **1793** in Bengal, Bihar, and parts of Odisha during the governorship of **Lord Cornwallis**.

Step 1: Meaning of Permanent Settlement

The Permanent Settlement was a system in which the **land revenue was fixed permanently**. The responsibility of collecting revenue from farmers was given to the **zamindars (landlords)**.

- Zamindars were required to pay a fixed amount of revenue to the British government.
- If they failed to pay the revenue on time, their land could be **confiscated and auctioned**.

Step 2: Main Features

- The amount of **land revenue was fixed permanently**.
- **Zamindars were recognized as landowners**.

- Zamindars collected rent from the **peasants or cultivators**.
- The system aimed to ensure a **regular and stable income** for the British government.

Step 3: Impact of the Permanent Settlement

- It created a class of **powerful landlords**.
- Many peasants were **exploited by zamindars** through high rents.
- Agricultural productivity did not improve significantly.
- It strengthened British control over the rural economy.

Quick Tip

The **Permanent Settlement of 1793**, introduced by Lord Cornwallis, fixed land revenue permanently and made **zamindars responsible for tax collection**.

8. Analyze Mahatma Gandhi's role in the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Quit India Movement.

Correct Answer: Mahatma Gandhi played a crucial role in both the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Quit India Movement by mobilizing masses through non-violent resistance against British rule.

Solution:

Concept: Mahatma Gandhi was the central leader of the Indian national movement who promoted the principles of **non-violence (Ahimsa)** and **truth (Satyagraha)**. His leadership during the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Quit India Movement significantly strengthened India's struggle for independence.

Step 1: Role in the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–1922)

- Gandhi launched the **Non-Cooperation Movement** in 1920 to protest against British rule and injustices such as the **Rowlatt Act** and the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre**.
- He urged Indians to **boycott British institutions**, including schools, courts, and titles.
- People were encouraged to promote **Swadeshi goods** and spin **khadi**.
- The movement became the first **mass-based national movement**, involving students, peasants, and workers.
- Gandhi called off the movement in 1922 after the **Chauri Chaura incident**, where violence occurred.

Step 2: Role in the Quit India Movement (1942)

- Gandhi launched the **Quit India Movement** in August 1942 during World War II.
- He gave the famous slogan **“Do or Die”**, urging Indians to demand immediate independence.

- The movement called for the **end of British rule in India**.
- Gandhi and other leaders were **arrested soon after the movement began**, but the movement spread widely across the country.
- It became one of the most powerful and widespread movements against British rule.

Step 3: Significance of Gandhi's Role

- Gandhi transformed the freedom struggle into a **mass movement**.
- His emphasis on **non-violence and civil disobedience** inspired millions of Indians.
- These movements greatly weakened the **British authority** in India and accelerated the process of independence.

Quick Tip

Mahatma Gandhi's leadership through **non-violent mass movements** like the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Quit India Movement played a key role in India's struggle for independence.

9. Describe the challenges faced during the making of the Indian Constitution and the debate over the powers of states.

Correct Answer: The making of the Indian Constitution faced several challenges such as partition, integration of princely states, and deciding the balance of power between the central government and the states.

Solution:

Concept: The Constitution of India was drafted by the **Constituent Assembly** between 1946 and 1949. During this period, the Assembly faced many political, social, and administrative challenges while framing the Constitution.

Step 1: Challenges During the Making of the Constitution

- **Partition of India (1947):** The country was divided into India and Pakistan, which caused communal violence, migration of millions of people, and administrative difficulties.
- **Integration of Princely States:** India had more than **560 princely states** that had to be integrated into the Indian Union.
- **Diversity of India:** India had great diversity in terms of **language, religion, culture, and regional interests**. The Constitution had to accommodate all these differences.
- **Economic and Social Inequality:** The Constitution needed to address issues such as poverty, social discrimination, and inequality.

Step 2: Debate Over the Powers of States

One major debate in the Constituent Assembly was about how power should be distributed between the **central government** and the **state governments**.

- Some members supported a **strong central government** to maintain unity and stability in the newly independent country.
- Others believed that **states should have more autonomy** to manage their regional affairs.
- Finally, a **federal system with a strong centre** was adopted.

Step 3: Distribution of Powers

The Constitution divided powers between the centre and the states through three lists:

- **Union List** – Subjects under the control of the central government.
- **State List** – Subjects under the authority of state governments.
- **Concurrent List** – Subjects where both the centre and states can make laws.

Step 4: Conclusion

Despite many challenges, the Constituent Assembly successfully framed a Constitution that balanced the powers of the centre and the states while maintaining national unity and democratic governance.

Quick Tip

The Indian Constitution established a **federal system with a strong central government** to maintain unity in a diverse country.