

Punjab Baord 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 physical features of Punjab and their impact on its history.

Solution:

Concept: Punjab's geography—its rivers, plains, and strategic location—has played a crucial role in shaping its historical, economic, and cultural development. Physical features often influence settlement patterns, agriculture, trade, and invasions.

Answer:

Punjab is characterized by fertile alluvial plains formed by five major rivers—Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej. These rivers have made the region one of the most agriculturally productive areas, often referred to as the “Granary of India.” The flat terrain and rich soil have supported dense settlements and prosperous farming communities since ancient times.

Its location in the north-west of the Indian subcontinent has made Punjab a gateway for invasions. Mountain passes like the Khyber Pass allowed invaders such as the Aryans, Persians, Greeks, and Mughals to enter India through this region. As a result, Punjab witnessed numerous battles and cultural exchanges, shaping its diverse heritage.

The abundance of water resources enabled the development of irrigation systems, boosting agricultural growth and economic stability. However, its openness also made it vulnerable to repeated invasions, which influenced its military traditions and resilient culture.

Thus, Punjab's physical features—fertile plains, river systems, and strategic location—have deeply impacted its history by promoting prosperity while also exposing it to external influences and conflicts.

Quick Tip

While answering such questions, always connect physical features (like rivers and location) with their historical effects (agriculture, invasions, culture).

2. Describe the main achievements and administrative reforms of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Solution:

Concept: Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the founder of the Sikh Empire, is known for his strong leadership, efficient administration, and military modernization. His achievements include political unification, secular governance, and reforms in military and revenue systems.

Answer:

Maharaja Ranjit Singh's greatest achievement was the establishment of a powerful and unified Sikh Empire in Punjab. He brought together various misl (confederacies) under one central authority and made Lahore his capital. His empire extended from the Sutlej River to the Khyber Pass, ensuring political stability in the region.

He is also remembered for maintaining a secular administration. People of different religions—Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs—were given equal opportunities in his court. This promoted harmony and unity among diverse communities.

In terms of administrative reforms, Ranjit Singh developed an efficient revenue system based on fair land assessment. He ensured that peasants were not overburdened with taxes. He also strengthened law and order, making his kingdom peaceful and prosperous.

One of his significant reforms was the modernization of the army. He trained his soldiers on European lines and appointed foreign officers to improve military discipline and techniques. This made his army strong and well-organized.

Additionally, he promoted trade, improved infrastructure, and encouraged art and architecture, including the beautification of the Golden Temple.

Thus, Maharaja Ranjit Singh's achievements and reforms laid the foundation of a strong, prosperous, and well-administered state.

Quick Tip

In history answers, mention political, administrative, military, and social aspects to make your answer comprehensive.

3. Discuss the foundation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh Ji and its historical significance.

Solution:

Concept: The foundation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh Ji was a turning point in Sikh history. It aimed to create a disciplined, united, and fearless community committed to justice, equality, and

Answer:

Guru Gobind Singh Ji established the Khalsa on the occasion of Baisakhi in 1699 at Anandpur Sahib. During a large gathering, he called for volunteers who were ready to sacrifice their lives for Five men came forward, who came to be known as the **Panj Pyare** (the Five Beloved Ones). Guru Ji initiated them into the Khalsa by administering *Amrit* (holy nectar), thus founding a new, dedicated Sikh community.

The Khalsa was based on the principles of equality, courage, and self-discipline. Guru Gobind Singh Ji abolished distinctions of caste and creed, giving all members the common surnames **Singh** (for men) and **Kaur** (for women). He also introduced the **Five Ks** (Kesh, Kangha, Kara, Kirpan, and Kachha) as symbols of faith and identity.

The historical significance of the Khalsa is immense. It transformed the Sikhs into a strong and united community capable of resisting oppression and injustice. The Khalsa played a crucial role in defending religious freedom and later contributed to the establishment of Sikh political power in Punjab.

Thus, the foundation of the Khalsa not only strengthened Sikh identity but also promoted ideals of bravery, equality, and righteousness, leaving a lasting impact on Indian history.

Quick Tip

While writing such answers, include the date/event, key features (like Panj Pyare, Five Ks), and its long-term impact.

4. Analyze the causes and consequences of the First and Second Anglo-Sikh Wars.**Solution:**

Concept: The Anglo-Sikh Wars were fought between the Sikh Empire and the British East India Company. These wars marked the decline of Sikh political power and the expansion of British control in Punjab. Understanding both causes and consequences helps explain this transition.

Answer:

Causes of the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–46): After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, political instability arose in Punjab. Weak successors, court intrigues, and conflicts among nobles weakened the administration. The British, stationed near the Sutlej, viewed this instability as an opportunity to expand their control. Mutual distrust and the aggressive posture of both sides led to the outbreak of war.

Consequences of the First Anglo-Sikh War: The Sikhs were defeated, and the Treaty of Lahore (1846) was signed. The British gained control over parts of Punjab and installed a British Resident at Lahore, reducing Sikh sovereignty. The Sikh army was also weakened.

Causes of the Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848–49): The immediate cause was the revolt of Mulraj, the governor of Multan, against British authority. This rebellion soon spread, and many Sikh chiefs joined the uprising. Continued resentment against British interference and loss of independence further fueled the conflict.

Consequences of the Second Anglo-Sikh War: The British decisively defeated the Sikhs, leading to the annexation of Punjab in 1849. Maharaja Dalhousie declared Punjab a part of

the British Empire, ending Sikh rule completely. The famous Koh-i-Noor diamond was also taken by the British.

Conclusion:

The Anglo-Sikh Wars resulted in the end of the powerful Sikh Empire and established British dominance in north-western India. They marked a significant turning point in Indian history.

Quick Tip

For such questions, divide your answer clearly into causes and consequences of each war for better clarity and scoring.

5. Write a detailed note on the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Solution:

Concept: Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's martyrdom is a significant event in Indian history, symbolizing the protection of religious freedom and human rights. His sacrifice represents courage and resistance against oppression.

Answer:

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the ninth Sikh Guru, is remembered for his supreme sacrifice in defense of religious freedom. During the reign of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, forced conversions and religious persecution were widespread, particularly against Kashmiri Pandits.

Seeking protection, the Kashmiri Pandits approached Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. He stood firmly for their rights and decided to confront the Mughal authority. He was arrested and brought to Delhi, where he was asked to convert to Islam or face death.

Guru Ji refused to abandon his faith and principles. As a result, he was executed in 1675 at Chandni Chowk, Delhi. His companions were also martyred in brutal ways.

His martyrdom is historically significant as it upheld the principle of **freedom of religion**. He sacrificed his life not for his own faith alone, but for the rights of others to practice their religion freely. Therefore, he is known as "**Hind Di Chadar**" (Protector of India).

Quick Tip

Always highlight the cause, event, and significance while writing about historical personalities.

6. Discuss the rise and role of the Sikh Misls in the 18th century.

Solution:

Concept: The Sikh Misls were military confederacies that emerged after the decline of Mughal authority. They played a key role in establishing Sikh power in Punjab and laid the foundation for a unified empire.

Answer:

In the 18th century, after the decline of the Mughal Empire and repeated invasions by Ah-

mad Shah Abdali, Punjab faced political instability. During this period, the Sikhs organized themselves into independent military groups called **Misls**.

There were around twelve major Misls, each led by a chief. These Misls functioned as autonomous units but were united by a common identity and purpose. They followed the principles of the Khalsa and worked collectively when needed.

The Misls played a crucial role in resisting foreign invasions and maintaining law and order in Punjab. They protected the people from oppression and gradually expanded their territories. The system of Misls also promoted democratic values, as decisions were often taken collectively in assemblies known as *Sarbat Khalsa*.

Eventually, Maharaja Ranjit Singh united these Misls and established a strong Sikh Empire. Thus, the Misls were instrumental in the rise of Sikh political power in Punjab.

Quick Tip

In such answers, mention origin, structure, role, and final outcome for a complete explanation.

7. Explain the contributions of Banda Singh Bahadur to the Sikh struggle.

Solution:

Concept: Banda Singh Bahadur was one of the earliest Sikh military leaders who transformed the Sikh movement into an organized political and military force. His contributions laid the foundation for Sikh sovereignty in Punjab.

Answer:

Banda Singh Bahadur was a who played a crucial role in the early Sikh struggle against Mughal oppression. He was originally named Madho Das, but later became a disciple of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who entrusted him with the mission to fight injustice.

One of his greatest contributions was leading successful military campaigns against Mughal forces. He defeated the Mughal governor of Sirhind, Wazir Khan, who was responsible for the execution of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons. This victory was a significant moment in Sikh history.

Banda Singh Bahadur also introduced important administrative reforms. He abolished the zamindari system and distributed land among peasants, giving them ownership rights. This was a revolutionary step towards social and economic equality.

He established Sikh rule in parts of Punjab and issued coins in the name of the Sikh Gurus, symbolizing sovereignty. He also promoted justice and fairness in governance.

Despite his eventual capture and execution by the Mughals in 1716, his contributions inspired future Sikh leaders. He transformed the Sikh struggle into a powerful movement for justice, equality, and self-rule.

Quick Tip

While writing about historical figures, include their background, major achievements, reforms, and long-term impact.

8. Explain the main causes and consequences of the Revolt of 1857 in Punjab.

Solution:

Concept: The Revolt of 1857 was a major uprising against British rule. However, its impact in Punjab was different compared to other regions, as Punjab largely remained under British control and played a strategic role.

Answer:

Causes: In Punjab, the revolt did not gain widespread support due to several reasons. The Sikh rulers and chiefs had recently been defeated by the British and were not united. Many of them supported the British to maintain their own positions. Additionally, the British had established strong administrative and military control in Punjab after annexation in 1849. Another reason was the recruitment of Punjabi soldiers in the British army, who remained loyal during the revolt. The lack of coordination among rebels also weakened the chances of a successful uprising in the region.

Consequences: Punjab became a strong base for the British during the revolt. It provided troops, resources, and support to suppress the rebellion in other parts of India. After the revolt, the British strengthened their control over Punjab and continued to recruit heavily from the region into their army.

The revolt also led to administrative changes, with the British Crown taking direct control of India in 1858. Punjab's strategic importance increased, making it a key province in British India.

Quick Tip

Always explain both regional uniqueness and overall impact while answering such historical questions.

9. Discuss the impact of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre on the Indian National Movement.

Solution:

Concept: The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919) was a turning point in India's freedom struggle. It exposed the brutality of British rule and intensified nationalist sentiments across the country.

Answer:

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, which took place on 13 April 1919 in Amritsar, had a profound impact on the Indian National Movement. Under the orders of General Dyer, British troops fired on a peaceful gathering, killing hundreds of unarmed civilians.

This shocked the entire nation and destroyed the faith of Indians in British justice and fairness. It led to widespread anger and resentment against British rule.

One of the major impacts was the rise of mass nationalism. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi intensified their efforts and soon launched the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920. People from all sections of society began to participate actively in the freedom struggle.

The massacre also led to a shift from moderate methods to more assertive and revolutionary approaches. Many young Indians were inspired to join revolutionary movements. Thus, the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre became a turning point that united Indians and strengthened the demand for complete independence from British rule.

Quick Tip

Highlight the emotional impact, political response, and long-term consequences to make your answer strong.

10. Analyze the role of Punjab in the Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience Movements.

Solution:

Concept: Punjab played a significant role in India's national movements despite repression after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. The participation of peasants, students, and leaders made these movements strong in the region.

Answer:

Punjab actively participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22) led by Mahatma Gandhi. People boycotted British goods, educational institutions, and government services. Students left government schools, and lawyers gave up their practices. The movement spread widely among urban and rural populations.

Religious and political leaders in Punjab encouraged people to join the movement. The Akali Movement, which aimed at reforming Sikh gurdwaras, also contributed to the spirit of non-cooperation and resistance against British authority.

During the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930–34), Punjabis participated in protests, boycotts, and refusal to pay taxes. Though the movement was more intense in other regions, Punjab still showed strong resistance through demonstrations and political mobilization.

However, strict British control and repression limited large-scale activities in Punjab. Despite this, the people of Punjab contributed significantly by supporting national leaders and maintaining the momentum of the freedom struggle.

Quick Tip

Mention both participation and limitations to present a balanced analysis.

11. Describe the contributions of Bhagat Singh and the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

Solution:

Concept: Bhagat Singh and HSRA played a revolutionary role in India's freedom struggle. They aimed to overthrow British rule through organized resistance and inspire youth towards independence.

Answer:

Bhagat Singh was one of the most prominent revolutionary leaders of India. He was associated with the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), an organization committed to ending British rule through revolutionary means.

One of his major contributions was the assassination of British officer Saunders in 1928 to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. In 1929, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw non-lethal bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly to protest against repressive laws and willingly courted arrest.

Through his actions and writings, Bhagat Singh spread the message of patriotism, sacrifice, and revolution. He used the courtroom as a platform to criticize British rule and inspire people.

The HSRA aimed to establish a socialist republic in India. It organized revolutionary activities, mobilized youth, and challenged colonial authority.

Bhagat Singh's martyrdom in 1931 made him a national hero and inspired countless Indians to join the freedom struggle. The HSRA played a crucial role in keeping the spirit of resistance alive.

Quick Tip

Include key events, ideology, and impact while writing about revolutionary movements.

12. Describe the contributions of Bhagat Singh and the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).**Solution:**

Concept: Bhagat Singh and HSRA represented the revolutionary stream of India's freedom struggle, focusing on direct action, sacrifice, and inspiring mass awakening against British rule.

Answer:

Bhagat Singh was a great revolutionary leader who played a key role in inspiring youth against British rule. As a member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), he aimed to establish a socialist and independent India.

One of his major actions was the assassination of British officer Saunders in 1928 to avenge Lala Lajpat Rai's death. In 1929, along with Batukeshwar Dutt, he threw bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly to protest against unjust laws. The bombs were non-lethal and meant to "make the deaf hear."

Bhagat Singh used his trial to spread revolutionary ideas and awaken national consciousness. His martyrdom in 1931 made him a symbol of courage and sacrifice.

The HSRA organized revolutionary activities, promoted socialist ideals, and mobilized youth. It played a crucial role in keeping the revolutionary spirit alive during the freedom struggle.

Quick Tip

Mention key events, ideology, and impact to make answers on revolutionaries effective.

13. Explain the impact of British land revenue policies on the peasantry of Punjab.

Solution:

Concept: British land revenue policies were designed to maximize income, often at the cost of peasants. These policies had deep economic and social impacts on rural Punjab.

Answer:

The British introduced new land revenue systems in Punjab after its annexation in 1849. Heavy taxes were imposed on farmers, which had to be paid in cash regardless of crop success. This created a financial burden on peasants.

Many farmers were forced to take loans from moneylenders at high interest rates. As a result, indebtedness increased, and peasants often lost their land.

The commercialization of agriculture encouraged the cultivation of cash crops instead of food crops. While this benefited the British economy, it made peasants vulnerable to market fluctuations.

Although canal irrigation improved agricultural productivity in some areas, its benefits were unevenly distributed. Wealthier farmers benefited more, while small farmers continued to struggle.

Overall, British land policies led to poverty, inequality, and exploitation of peasants, causing discontent and occasional agrarian unrest in Punjab.

Quick Tip

Focus on economic impact, social consequences, and farmer conditions while answering such questions.

14. Discuss the causes and effects of the Partition of India (1947) specifically concerning Punjab.**Solution:**

Concept: The Partition of India in 1947 was a major historical event that led to the division of Punjab and caused widespread social, political, and humanitarian consequences.

Answer:

Causes: The main causes of Partition included religious tensions between Hindus and Muslims, the demand for a separate Muslim state (Pakistan), and the British policy of divide and rule. Political disagreements between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League further intensified the situation.

Punjab, being a religiously diverse region, became the center of conflict. The announcement of Partition led to fear, uncertainty, and communal violence.

Effects: Punjab was divided into East Punjab (India) and West Punjab (Pakistan). This division led to one of the largest mass migrations in history, with millions of people forced to leave their homes.

Severe communal riots broke out, resulting in loss of lives and property. Families were displaced, and deep social and emotional scars were left behind.

The economy and agriculture of Punjab were also disrupted due to sudden division of land and resources.

Thus, Partition had devastating consequences for Punjab, shaping its social, political, and cultural landscape for years to come.

Quick Tip

Divide answers into causes and effects, and mention human impact for a strong conclusion.
