

Question Paper

Conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)



Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

- (i) Answer all the questions. Some questions have choice. Marks are indicated against each question.
- (ii) Answers to questions 1 to 3, carrying 2 marks, should not exceed 30 words each.
- (iii) Answers to questions 4 to 9, carrying 4 marks, should not exceed 100 words each. Attempt any 5 questions in this section.
- (iv) Question 10 (for 4 marks) is a value based question and compulsory.
- (v) Answers to questions 11 to 14, carrying 8 marks each, should not exceed 350 words each. Attempt any 3 questions in this section.
- (vi) Questions 15, 16 and 17 are based on sources and have no internal choice.
- (vii) Map Question 18 includes identification and significance test items. Attach the map within the answer scripts.

Part A

1. Why is the sixth century BCE often regarded as a major turning point in the early Indian history ?

2. Name the major anthology compiled by the Alvars which is also described as the Tamil Veda. How did various chiefdoms in the Tamil region help them in the early first millennium CE ?

3. Point out one supportive and one conservative view on the opportunities provided to the Indian women in the colonial cities.

4. Analyse the role of memoirs and oral narratives in constructing the history of the partition of India.

5. "The arguments and evidences offered by the Fifth-Report cannot be accepted uncritically." Give arguments.

6. "Abul Fazl has described the ideal of Sulh-i-Kul of Akbar as the corner-stone of his enlightened rule." Justify.

7. Critically examine the limitations of the inscriptional evidences in understanding political and economic history of India.

8. Explain the strategies used by the archaeologists to understand socio-economic differences among the Harappans.

9. "The rulers of Vijayanagara innovated and developed new traditions in the Virupaksha temple." Elaborate.

10. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows :

"The nationalist movement in the twentieth century drew its inspiration from the events of 1857. A whole world of nationalist imagination was woven around the Revolt. It was celebrated as the First War of Independence in which all sections of the people of India came together to fight against imperial rule."

"The Revolt of 1857 marked first nationalist challenge to the English in India.' Explain giving examples the values imbibed and practised by the rebels to set the beginning for it.

11. Examine the role of Panchayat as the main constituent of the Mughal village community.

12. 'Gandhiji encouraged the communication of the nationalist message in the mother tongue rather than in the language of the ruler.' Examine how he knitted the Non-Cooperation Movement with his philosophy.

13. Explain the structural and sculptural features of the Sanchi Stupa.

14. 'Some scholars see partition of India as a culmination of communal politics that started developing in the opening decades of the twentieth century.' Elucidate.

15. Read the following paragraph carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Draupadi's Questions

Draupadi is supposed to have asked Yudhisthira whether he had lost himself before staking her. Two contrary opinions were expressed in response to this question.

One, that even if Yudhisthira had lost himself earlier, his wife remained under his control, so he could stake her.

Two, that an unfree man (as Yudhisthira was when he had lost himself) could not stake another person. The matter remained unresolved; ultimately, Dhritarashtra restored to the Pandavas and Draupadi their personal freedom.

15.1. How did Draupadi's question unsettle everyone in the assembly ?

15.2. What was the implication of her question ?

15.3. What makes Draupadi's question admirable ?

16. Read the following paragraph carefully and answer the questions that follow :

"No space for divided loyalty"

Govind Ballabh Pant argued that in order to become loyal citizens people had to stop focusing only on the community and the self :

For the success of democracy one must train himself in the art of self-discipline. In Democracies one should care less for himself and more for others. There cannot be any divided loyalty. All loyalties must exclusively be centred round the State. If in a democracy, you create rival loyalties, or you create a system in which any individual or group, instead of suppressing his extravagance, cares nought for larger or other interests, then democracy is doomed.

16.1. Why did Govind Ballabh Pant lay more stress on the art of self discipline ?

16.2. What was considered important for the success of democracy ?

16.3. "In Democracies one should care less for himself and more for others." Give your views on this philosophy.

17. Read the following paragraph carefully and answer the questions that follow :

The Poor Peasant

An excerpt from Bernier's description of the peasantry in the countryside :

Of the vast tracts of country constituting the empire of Hindustan, many are little more than sand, or barren mountains, badly cultivated, and thinly populated. Even a considerable portion of the good land remains untilled for want of labourers; many of whom perish in consequence of the bad treatment they experience from Governors. The poor people, when they become incapable of discharging the demands of their rapacious lords, are not only often deprived of the means of subsistence, but are also made to lose their children, who are carried away as slaves. Thus, it happens that the peasantry, driven to despair by so excessive a tyranny, abandon the country.

In this instance, Bernier was participating in contemporary debates in Europe concerning the nature of state and society, and intended that his description of Mughal India would serve as a warning to those who did not recognize the "merits" of private property.

17.1. Name the book written by the Francois Bernier on the critical insight and reflection on the empire of Hindustan.

17.2. What description Bernier has given on the condition of Indian peasantry during the Mughal Empire ?

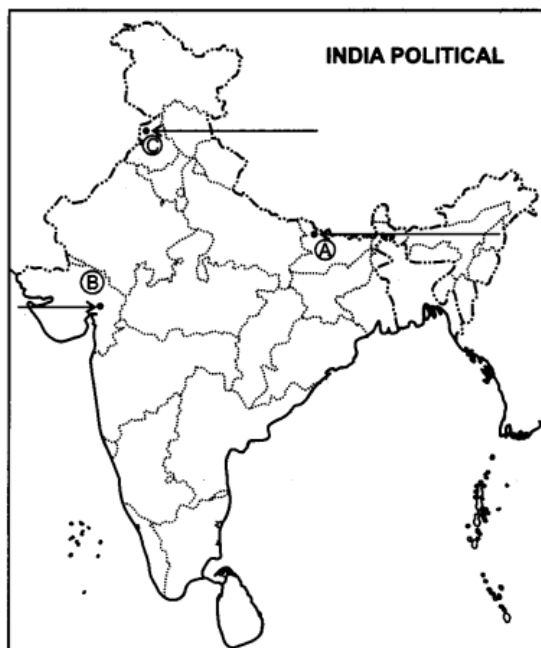
17.3. Which fundamental differences he found between Mughal India and Europe during 16th and 17th century ?

18. Map Question 18 includes 'identification' and 'significance' test items. Students should attach the map within the answer scripts.

18.1. On the given political outline map of India, locate and label the following with appropriate symbols :

- (a) Nageshwar
- (b) The area where Krishna Deva Raya ruled.

18.2. On the same outline map of India three places related to the Indian National Movement have been marked as A, B and C. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.



18. For visually impaired candidates only, in lieu of Question 18:

(18.1) Mention any two mature Harappan sites.

(18.2) Name any three important places related with Indian National Movement.

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