CBSE Class 12 History 2025 - Set 61/7/2

Question Paper

Conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours **Maximum Marks: 80**

General Instructions

(i) This question paper contains 34 questions. All questions are compulsory.

(ii) Question paper is divided into five Sections – Sections A, B, C, D and E.

(iii) Section A – questions number 1 to 21 are Multiple Choice type questions. Each question carries 1 mark.

(iv) Section B – questions number 22 to 27 are Short Answer type questions. Each question carries 3 marks. Write answer to each question in 60 to 80 words.

(v) Section C – questions number 28 to 30 are Long Answer (LA) type questions. Each question carries 8 marks. Write answer to each question in 300 to 350 words.

(vi) Section D – questions number 31 to 33 are Source-based questions having three sub-questions. Each question carries 4 marks.

(vii) Section E – question number 34 is Map-based question that includes the identification and location of significant test items. This question carries 5 marks. Attach the Map with the answer-book.

(viii) There is no overall choice. However, an internal choice has been provided in Sections B, C and E of question paper. A candidate has to write answer for only one of the alternatives in such questions.

(ix) In addition to this, Note that a separate question has been provided for Visually Impaired candidates in lieu of questions having visual inputs, Map etc. Such questions are to be attempted by Visually Impaired candidates only.

Section A

1. Two statements labelled as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are given below. Read them carefully and select the correct option :

Assertion (A) : The American Civil War created a panic in the cotton circles in Britain.
Reason (R) : American cotton supplies had dropped drastically which increased the demand for Indian cotton.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).
(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).
(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

2. Choose the correct option from the following to fill in the blank regarding the leaders of the Revolt of 1857. Arrah (Bihar) : Kunwar Singh; _____ : Birjis Qadr

(A) Awadh
(B) Kanpur
(C) Gwalior
(D) Lucknow

3. On whose advice did Gandhiji spend a year travelling around British India upon his return in 1915 ?

(A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(B) Lala Lajpat Rai
(C) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
(D) Bipin Chandra Pal

4. Which of the following pairs of Committees and their Presidents is correct regarding the Constituent Assembly ? (Committees of Constituent Assembly) (Presidents)

(A) Flag Committee – Bhimrao Ambedkar
(B) Steering Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru
(C) Advisory Committee – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(D) States Committee – J.B. Kripalani

5. Why was Awadh referred to as the 'Nursery of the Bengal Army' during the 1850s ? Choose the correct option from the following.

(A) Known for strong resistance to British rule
(B) Major recruiting ground for the Bengal Army
(C) Centre for British military training
(D) Base for British military leaders

6. Which of the following options shows the correct chronological order of events related to Indian National Movement ?

I. Second Round Table Conference
II. Peasant Movement in Bardoli
III. Champaran Satyagraha
IV. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

(A) III, IV, I, II
(B) III, I, II, IV
(C) III, IV, II, I
(D) III, II, IV, I

7. Why did the British prefer the 'Ryotwari system' in Bombay over the 'Permanent Settlement' ?

(A) For simplifying revenue collection
(B) For bringing decentralized control
(C) For maximising their revenue
(D) For empowering the zamindars

8. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched regarding the Vijayanagara empire ? (Events) (Significance)

(A) Defeat of Sultan of Bijapur – Start of Aravidu dynasty
(B) Founding of Nagalapuram – Township named after King's mother
(C) Battle of Talikota – Expansion of Hampi over Orissa
(D) Decline of Vijayanagara – Increased military control of Mackenzie

9. Why are Chola temples at places like Thanjavur significant in ancient history ?

(A) They are known as the very first temples in India.
(B) They mark the peak of Chola patronage in architecture.
(C) They were constructed with the help of the Pandya rulers.
(D) They served as forts during festivals.

10. Fill in the blank :

Karl Marx's concept of 'Asiatic mode of production' depicted rural society as _____.

(A) Constantly evolving
(B) Socio-economic disparities
(C) Egalitarian
(D) Independent from Imperial Court

11. Which of the following features of 'Mulk Abadi' of Ain-i-Akbari helps historians to understand the administrative structure of the Mughal Empire ?

(A) Poetic descriptions
(B) Fiscal records
(C) Architectural designs
(D) Traveller's accounts

12. Which of the following temple's priest provided memories that were crucial for the initial survey of Hampi ?

(A) The Virupaksha Temple
(B) The Brihadiswara Temple
(C) The Vitthala Temple
(D) The Hazara Rama Temple

13. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched ?

(Sufi) (Region)

(A) Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi – Agra
(B) Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki – Delhi
(C) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya – Ajmer
(D) Shaikh Nasiruddin Chiragh-i-Dehli – Jaipur

14. Match the following Column I with Column II and choose the correct option :

Column I (Traveller)	Column II (Country)
a. Afanasii Nikitin	i. Spain
b. Duarte Barbosa	ii. Turkey
c. Antonio Monserrate	iii. Portugal
d. Seydi Ali Reis	iv. Russia

(A) a-i, b-iii, c-ii, d-iv
(B) a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv
(C) a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii
(D) a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i

15. Identify the ancient ruler of India with the help of following information and choose the correct option :

- Was the best known ruler of the Satavahana dynasty.
- Claimed to be a unique Brahmana.
- Was the son of Rishi Vashistha.

(A) Bhaskaravarman
(B) Rudradaman
(C) Gotami-puta Siri-Satakani
(D) Vikramaditya II

16. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the given options. In Jaina philosophy, the cycle of birth and rebirth is influenced by _____.

(A) Dharma
(B) Moksha
(C) Karma
(D) Ahimsa

17. Which of the following statements accurately describes the coinage of ancient India ?

I. Ancient Parthian gold coins showed extensive trade in north India.
II. Ancient Roman coins in South India indicated trade beyond borders.
III. Ancient Yaudheyas issued copper coins that highlighted their economic activity.
IV. Ancient Gupta rulers issued silver coins that facilitated trade.

(A) I, II and IV are correct.
(B) II, III and IV are correct.
(C) I, III and IV are correct.
(D) I, II and III are correct.

18. Look at the image given below and identify the historical artefact :

(A) Ashoka's Lion Capital
(B) Guptas' Lion Capital
(C) Shungas' Lion Capital
(D) Cholas' Lion Capital

18-VI. For visually impaired candidates only, in lieu of the corresponding visual question:

Which of the following was the role of the Dhamma Mahamattas during Ashoka's reign ?

(A) To oversee military operations
(B) To administer justice to people
(C) To promote the principles of Dhamma
(D) To manage trade and commerce

19. Two statements labelled as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are given below. Read them carefully and select the correct option :

Assertion (A) : Shahjehan Begum was a patron of art and architecture in the 19th century, known for her contribution for Sanchi's preservation.
Reason (R) : Sanchi Stupa is a classical example of early Buddhist architecture.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).
(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).
(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

20. Which of the following statement is correct about the Shungas and Kanvas ?

(A) The Shungas supported Buddhism and the Kanvas supported Hinduism.
(B) The Shungas and the Kanvas were the immediate successors of the Mauryas.
(C) The Shungas and the Kanvas ruled after the Gupta rulers.
(D) The Shungas succeeded the Mauryas and the Kanvas succeeded the Gupta rulers.

21. The presence of granaries at Harappan sites most likely implies which of the following about their agricultural practices ?

(A) Surplus Production
(B) Plantation Farming
(C) Shifting Cultivation
(D) Nomadic Lifestyle

Section B

22(a). How did different types of marriages reflect the social systems of ancient India during the Mahabharata Period ? Explain with examples.

OR

22(b). How did familial relations impact the social systems of India during the Mahabharata Period ? Explain with examples.

23. How did the restoration of Sanchi by Shahjehan Begum impact the study of ancient Indian history ? Explain.

24(a). "Panchayats played a crucial role in the Mughal rural society." Justify the statement with suitable arguments.

OR

24(b). "Many forest-dwelling communities maintained a significant level of political independence." Examine the statement in the context of Mughal empire.

25. Analyse the conditions of Ryots in the Ryotwari system.

26. Explain the grievances of Indian Sepoys in the British East India Company during the 1850s.

27. Imagine you are creating a project on Mirabai's life. How would you explain the emotions of devotion in her poetry ?

Section C

28(a). How do Harappan artifacts contribute to our understanding of the Indus Valley Civilization ? Explain with examples.

OR

28(b). Explain with examples the different views of archaeologists and historians on the religion of Harappans.

29(a). The Virupaksha Temple is a historic temple located in Hampi. What features make it a key architectural and cultural landmark of the Vijayanagara Empire ? Explain.

OR

29(b). The Royal Centre in Vijayanagara was significant. Which architectural features make it an important cultural landmark ? Explain.

30(a). "Gandhiji initiated the Civil Disobedience Movement to challenge British laws." Examine the statement.

OR

30(b). "The 'Quit India Movement' was Gandhiji's call for an end to British rule." Examine the statement.

Section D

31. Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow :

The History of Pataliputra

Each city had a history of its own. Pataliputra, for instance, began as a village known as Pataligrama. Then, in the fifth century BCE, the Magadhan rulers decided to shift their capital from Rajagaha to this settlement and renamed it. By the fourth century BCE, it was the capital of the Mauryan Empire and one of the largest cities in Asia. Subsequently, its importance apparently declined. When the Chinese pilgrim Xuan Zang visited the city in the seventh century CE, he found it in ruins, and with a very small population.

31.1. Examine the main impact of the shift from Rajagaha to Pataliputra, on the Magadhan empire.

31.2. What message did Xuan Zang wish to convey about Pataliputra ?

31.3. What role did Pataliputra play in the history of the Magadhan empire ?

32. Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow :

The imperial karkhanas

Bernier is perhaps the only historian who provides a detailed account of the working of the imperial karkhanas or workshops:

Large halls are seen at many places, called karkhanas or workshops for the artisans. In one hall, embroiderers are busily employed, superintended by a master. In another, you see the goldsmiths; in a third, painters; in a fourth, varnishers in lacquer-work; in a fifth, joiners, turners, tailors and shoe-makers; in a sixth, manufacturers of silk, brocade and fine muslins … The artisans come every morning to their karkhanas where they remain employed the whole day; and in the evening return to their homes. In this quiet regular manner, their time glides away; no one aspiring for any improvement in the condition of life wherein he happens to be born.

32.1. How did Bernier's description reflect the economic significance of the karkhanas in the Mughal empire ?

32.2. How did the crafts in the karkhanas reflect the cultural diversity of the Mughal empire ?

32.3. Analyse the relationship between the Mughal empire and its artisans.

33. Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow :

We say that it is our firm and solemn resolve to have an independent sovereign republic. India is bound to be sovereign, it is bound to be independent and it is bound to be a republic … Now, some friends have raised the question: "Why have you not put in the word 'democratic' here ?" Well, I told them that it is conceivable, of course, that a republic may not be democratic but the whole of our past is witness to this fact that we stand for democratic institutions. Obviously we are aiming at democracy and nothing less than a democracy. What form of democracy, what shape it might take is another matter. The democracies of the present day, many of them in Europe and elsewhere, have played a great part in the world's progress. Yet it may be doubtful if those democracies may not have to change their shape somewhat before long if they have to remain completely democratic. We are not going just to copy, I hope, a certain democratic procedure or an institution of a so-called democratic country. We may improve upon it. In any event whatever system of government we may establish here must fit in with the temper of our people and be acceptable to them. We stand for democracy. It will be for this House to determine what shape to give to that democracy, the fullest democracy, I hope. The House will notice that in this Resolution, although we have not used the word "democratic" because we thought it is obvious that the word "republic" contains that word and we did not want to use unnecessary words and redundant words, but we have done something much more than using the word. We have given the content of democracy in this Resolution and not only the content of democracy but the content, if I may say so, of economic democracy in this Resolution. Others might take objection to this Resolution on the ground that we have not said that it should be a Socialist State. Well, I stand for Socialism and, I hope, India will stand for Socialism and that India will go towards the constitution of a Socialist State and I do believe that the whole world will have to go that way.

33.1. How did defining India as a 'republic' enhance democratic governance ?

33.2. How does economic democracy promote social equality within a republican framework ?

33.3. How did Jawaharlal Nehru view the role of the Constituent Assembly in shaping democracy in India ?

Section E

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

34.1(i). Bodh Gaya – An ancient Buddhist site

34.1(ii). Lothal – A mature Harappan site

34.1(iii)(a). Goa – Territory under Mughal Empire

OR

34.1(iii)(b). Vijayanagara – Capital of Vijayanagara empire

34.2. On the same outline map of India, two places have been marked as A and B, the centres of the Indian National Movement. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.

34-VI. For visually impaired candidates only, in lieu of the corresponding visual question:

(34.1) Mention any two pillar inscriptions of Ashoka. 2

(34.2) (a) Name any one territory under the Mughal empire in Northern India. 1

OR

(34.2) (b) Name any one neighbouring state of the Vijayanagara empire. 1

(34.3) Name any two main centres of the Revolt of 1857. 2

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