CBSE Class 12 History 2026 - Set 61/3/2

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. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the options given below :
The Deccan Riots Commission produced a report that was presented to the _____ Parliament in 1878.

(A) Spanish (B) Italian
(C) French (D) British

2. Identify the Indian social reformer of the nineteenth century with the help of the following information and choose the correct option :
- Opposed child marriage
- Advocated for social justice
- Campaigned for reform of Hinduism
- Known for Vedantic theory

(A) Jyotiba Phule (B) Swami Vivekananda
(C) M.G. Ranade (D) Gopal Hari Deshmukh

3. Two statements labelled as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are given below. Read them carefully and choose the correct option :
Assertion (A) : The Sepoys proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leader in the Revolt of 1857.
Reason (R) :
Bahadur Shah Zafar's acceptance gave legitimacy to the Revolt of 1857.

(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.

4. Match Column A with Column B regarding important Committees of the Constituent Assembly and its Presidents and choose the correct option :

Column A (Committee)	Column B (President)
a. Rules of Procedures Committee	i. J.B. Kripalani
b. Union Power Committee	ii. Vallabhbhai Patel
c. Provincial Constitution Committee	iii. Jawaharlal Nehru
d. Flag Committee	iv. Rajendra Prasad

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

5. Choose the correct option from the following to fill in the blank regarding the regions of nationalist leaders of India :
Bipin Chandra Pal : Bengal; Lala Lajpat Rai : _____

(A) Maharashtra (B) Gujarat
(C) Punjab (D) Delhi

6. Which of the following was not a major centre of the Revolt of 1857 ?

(A) Delhi (B) Jhansi
(C) Arrah (D) Bombay

7. Who amongst the following British Governor Generals introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal ?

(A) Charles Cornwallis (B) Warren Hastings
(C) William Bentinck (D) George Barlow

8. Read the following statements carefully regarding Al-Biruni's "Kitab-ul-Hind" and choose the correct option :
I. It is a voluminous text of eighty chapters.
II. It is written in Arabic, Urdu and Hindavi.
III. Each of its chapters begins with a question.
IV. It covers many subjects like astronomy, festivals, etc.

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

9. Find the odd one out regarding the main teachers of Sufi Silsila : (Sufi teachers) (Dargah)

(A) Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i Shakar – Ajodhan
(B) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya – Agra
(C) Shaikh Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Delhi – Delhi
(D) Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki – Delhi

10. Which of the following types of land was cultivated every year without leaving it fallow during the reign of Akbar ?

(A) Chachar
(B) Parauti
(C) Polaj
(D) Banjar

11. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the options given below :
The Shah Nahar Canal in Punjab was repaired during the reign of

(A) Babur
(B) Akbar
(C) Jahangir
(D) Shahjahan

12. Which of the following battles in 1565 led to the decline of the Vijayanagara empire ?

(A) Battle of Panipat
(B) Battle of Buxar
(C) Battle of Talikota
(D) Battle of Plassey

13. Which of the following statements accurately describes Amir Khusrau ?
I. He was a great poet and musician.
II. He introduced the qaul in Chishti Sama.
III. He was a disciple of Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi.
IV. He laid the foundation of qawwali tradition.

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

14. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched ?
Column A (Traveller)
Column B (Their Country)

(A) Antonio Monserrate – Italy
(B) Duarte Barbosa – France
(C) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier : – Portugal
(D) Peter Mundy – England

15. Identify the system of succession that was emphasised by ruling dynasties from the sixth century BCE onwards and reinforced in the Mahabharata.

(A) Electoral succession
(B) Fraternal succession
(C) Patriliny succession
(D) Matriliny succession

16. Match Column A with Column B and choose the correct option :

Column A (Harappan Site)	Column B (Feature)
a. Dholavira	i. Great Bath
b. Mohenjodaro	ii. Ploughed Fields
c. Kalibangan	iii. Craft Centre
d. Nageshwar	iv. Water Reservoir

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

17. Look at the image of Bodhisatta given below and identify the ancient school of art from the following options :

(A) Gandhara (B) Mathura
(C) Amaravati (D) Sarnath

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

Who amongst the following rulers of Bhopal provided money for the preservation of Sanchi ?

(A) Sikandar Begum (B) Rukhsar Begum
(C) Shahjehan Begum (D) Qudsia Begum

18. Identify the character from the Mahabharata with the help of the following information and choose the correct option :

- He was the elder brother of Pandu.
- He was the king of Hastinapur.
- He was the husband of Gandhari.

(A) Dushasana (B) Duryodhana
(C) Dhritarashtra (D) Dushkarna

19. Arrange the following rulers in chronological order and choose the correct option :

I. Kanishka
II. Mahapadma Nanda
III. Samudragupta
IV. Chandragupta Maurya

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

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

Assertion (A) : Most Asokan inscriptions were in the Prakrit language.

Reason (R) :

The use of Prakrit shows his attempt to spread the message amongst the common people.

(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.

21. Which of the following statements about the Harappan economy are correct ?

I. Urban centres provide remains of organized craft production.
II. Use of iron tools for agriculture was common.
III. Evidence of seals indicates long distance trade.
IV. Standardised weights point towards regulated trade contacts.

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

Section B

22(a). Imagine you are a research scholar studying Harappan seals displayed in the National Museum. Explain any three aspects about the role of Harappan seals in trade and administration.

OR

22(b). Imagine you are visiting the National Museum and see the replica of the 'Priest-King' stone statue from Mohenjodaro. Which three conclusions would you make about Harappa from this artefact ? Explain.

23. Describe any three sources to reconstruct the history of the Gupta Empire.

24(a). "Kabir is one of the most outstanding examples of poet-saints of Nirguna Bhakti." Explain the statement.

OR

24(b). "Alvars of the sixth century created a rich cultural legacy." Explain the statement.

25. How did Bernier's account highlight the positive role of Indian women ? Explain.

26. Analyse the impacts of Permanent Settlement on the Zamindars.

27. How did Indian literature depict the valour of Rani Lakshmi Bai ? Explain with examples.

Section C

28(a). "Mahabharata is considered as a dynamic text." Explain the statement with examples.

OR

28(b). "Mahabharata reinforced the ideas of familial values." Explain the statement with examples.

29(a). Examine the factors for the rise and decline of the Vijayanagara empire.

OR

29(b). Examine the structural features of Virupaksha and Vitthala temples of the Vijayanagara empire.

30(a). "The 'Quit India Movement' became a mass movement bringing into its ambit hundreds of thousands of ordinary Indians." Justify the statement with suitable arguments.

OR

30(b). "Gandhiji led India's struggle for independence through Civil Disobedience." Justify the statement with suitable arguments.

Section D

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

Framing the Constitution

The Indian Constitution, which came into effect on 26 January, 1950, has the dubious distinction of being the longest in the world. But its length and complexity are perhaps understandable when one considers the country's size and diversity. At Independence, India was not merely large and diverse, but also deeply divided. A Constitution designed to keep the country together, and to take it forward, had necessarily to be an elaborate, carefully-worked-out, and painstakingly drafted document. For one thing, it sought to heal wounds of the past and the present, to make Indians of different classes, castes and communities come together in a shared political experiment. For another, it sought to nurture democratic institutions in what had long been a culture of hierarchy and deference.

The Constitution of India was framed between December 1946 and November 1949. During this time, its drafts were discussed clause-by-clause in the Constituent Assembly of India.

31.1. Why is the Indian Constitution regarded as the longest in the world ?

31.2. Why was the Constitution seen as essential at the time of Independence ?

31.3. How did the Constitution seek to nurture the democracy in India ?

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

Verses from the Upanishads

Here are two verses from the Chhandogya Upanishad, a text composed in Sanskrit c. sixth century BCE :

The nature of the self

This self of mine within the heart, is smaller than paddy or barley or mustard or millet or the kernel of a seed of millet. This self of mine within the heart is greater than the earth, greater than the intermediate space, greater than heaven, greater than these worlds.

The true sacrifice

This one (the wind) that blows, this is surely a sacrifice ... While moving, it sanctifies all this; therefore it is indeed a sacrifice.

32.1. Where does the soul reside according to the verse ?

32.2. How is the soul described in terms of size ?

32.3. What happens when a person truly knows the self (soul) according to the Chhandogya Upanishad ?

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

How Silver Came to India

This excerpt from Giovanni Careri's account (based on Bernier's account) gives an idea of the enormous amount of wealth that found its way into the Mughal Empire :

That the Reader may form some idea of the Wealth of this (Mughal) Empire, he is to observe that all the Gold and Silver, which circulates throughout the World at last Centres here. It is well known that as much of it comes out of America, after running through several Kingdoms of Europe, goes partly into Turky (Turkey), for several sorts of Commodities; and part into Persia, by the way of Smirna for Silk. Now the Turks not being able to abstain from Coffee, which comes from Hyeman (Oman), and Arabia ... nor Persia, Arabia, and the Turks themselves to go without the commodities of India, send vast quantities of Mony (money) to Moka (Mocha) on the Red Sea, near Babel Mandel; to Bassora (Basra) at the bottom of the Persian Gulgh (Gulf); ... which is afterwards sent over in Ships to Indostan (Hindustan). Besides the Indian, Dutch, English, and Portuguese Ships, that every Year carry the Commodities of Indostan to Pegu, Tanasserri (parts of Myanmar), Siam (Thailand), Ceylon (Sri Lanka) ... the Maldive Islands, Mozambique and other Places, must of necessity convey much Gold and Silver thither, from those Countries. All that the Dutch fetch from the Mines in Japan, sooner or later, goes to Indostan; and the goods carry'd hence into Europe, whether to France, England, or Portugal, are all purchas'd for ready Mony, which remains there.

33.1. How did silver and gold from America reach India ?

33.2. How did ships contribute to the flow of silver and gold to India ?

33.3. How did India benefit from global trade networks in the 17th century ?

Section E

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

34.1(i). Lothal – A mature Harappan site

34.1(ii). Amaravati – A Buddhist site

34.1(iii)(a). Delhi – A territory under Mughals

OR

34.1(iii)(b). Vijayanagara – A medieval period kingdom

34.2. On the same political outline map of India, two places have been marked as 'A' and 'B', as 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 one mature Harappan site in Western India. 1

(34.2) Mention any one ancient Buddhist site in South India. 1

(34.3) (a) Name any one territory which was under the Mughals. 1

OR

(34.3) (b) Name any one neighbouring kingdom of the Vijayanagara Empire. 1

(34.4) Name any two centres of the Indian National Movement. 2

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