CBSE Class 12 History 2026 - Set 61/5/2

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 the 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 suitable option given below.
In 1859, the British passed the _____ that stated that the loan bonds signed between moneylenders and ryots would have a validity period of three years.

(A) Ilbert Bill
(B) Rowlatt Act
(C) Limitation Law
(D) Arms Act

2. Identify the 'mission' of the colonial period with the help of the following information :
• It presented a scheme for the formation of an interim government at the centre for India.
• It announced its Constitutional Scheme in 1946.

(A) Cripps Mission
(B) Cabinet Mission
(C) Fraser Mission
(D) Simon Commission

3. Two statements labelled as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are given below. Read them carefully and select the correct option :
Assertion (A) : The British easily put down the Revolt of 1857.
Reason (R) :
The British passed a series of laws to quell the insurgency.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of 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 I with Column II regarding important Committees of the Constituent Assembly and their Presidents :

Column I (Committees)	Column II (Presidents)
a. Drafting Committee	i. Jawaharlal Nehru
b. Advisory Committee	ii. Vallabhbhai Patel
c. States Committee	iii. B.R. Ambedkar
d. Steering Committee	iv. Rajendra Prasad

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

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

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

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

(A) Gwalior
(B) Arrah
(C) Singhbhum
(D) Hyderabad

7. Who amongst the following had given the 'average rent' theory ?

(A) David Ricardo
(B) Karl Marx
(C) Adam Smith
(D) Francis Buchanan

8. Read the following statements regarding Ibn Battuta's description of Delhi :
I. Delhi was a vast city.
II. Delhi was a populous city.
III. Delhi had colourful markets.
IV. Delhi was isolated from Asian trade.
Which of the following options are correct ?

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

9. Find the odd one out regarding the rulers of the Vijayanagara empire.

(A) Harihara (B) Rama Raya
(C) Rudradaman (D) Bukka

10. Which of the following lands was kept fallow for three to four years during Akbar's period ?

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

11. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the given options. The chronicle Ain-i-Akbari was authored by Akbar's court historian

(A) Inayat Khan (B) Abu'l Fazl
(C) Abdul Hamid Lahori (D) Abdul Qadir Badayuni

12. Which of the following dynasties was the first to rule Vijayanagara ?

(A) Saluva (B) Tuluva
(C) Aravidu (D) Sangama

13. Which of the following statements about Basavanna are correct ?
I. He was a Brahmana and devotee of Lord Shiva.
II. He founded the Lingayat tradition.
III. His compositions are preserved in Kannada tradition.
IV. He supported funerary rites like cremation.

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

14. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched ? (Travellers) (Country)

(A) Abdur Razzaq – Morocco (B) Seydi Ali Reis – Turkey
(C) Mahmud Wali Balkhi – Uzbekistan (D) Muhammad ibn Ahmad Abu Ralhan al-Biruni – Afghanistan

15. Who amongst the following persuaded the Buddha to admit women in the Sangha ?

(A) Mahapajapati Gotami (B) Rahul
(C) Ananda (D) Punna

16. Match Column I with Column II and choose the correct option.

Column I (Harappan Artefacts)	Column II (Significance)
a. Seals	i. Indicated craftsmanship
b. Weights	ii. Used for administration
c. Beads	iii. Standardized unit for measurement
d. Faience	iv. Used for pottery-making

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

17. Look at the image given below and identify the queen who helped in the preservation of Sanchi Stupa :

(A) Sultan Jehan Begum (B) Shahjehan Begum
(C) Sikandar Begum (D) Qudsia Begum

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

The famous paintings of Ajanta caves are found in which of the following state of India ?

(A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Bihar
(C) Odisha (D) Maharashtra

18. Identify the characters of the Mahabharata with the help the following information and choose the correct option :
• He was a son of Hidimba and Bhima.
• He belonged to the Rakshasa clan from maternal side.
• He promised to help the Pandavas in the time of need.

(A) Hidimba (B) Bakasura
(C) Jatasura (D) Ghatotkacha

19. Arrange the following 'political developments' of the ancient period in chronological order and choose the correct option :
I. Harshavardhana in Kannauj
II. Chandragupta Maurya in Pataliputra
III. Satavahanas in Deccan
IV. Chalukyas in Karnataka

(A) I, III, II, IV (B) II, III, IV, I
(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 select the correct option :
Assertion (A) : Asoka's dhamma emphasized generosity, kindness and respect for religious traditions.
Reason (R) :
Asoka tried to hold his empire together with universally applicable principles.

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

21. 'Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan archaeological site of Shortughai in Afghanistan but not in Punjab or Sindh.' Identify the explanation provided by archaeologists from the following :

(A) Agricultural tools in Afghanistan were more advanced than in Punjab.
(B) Archaeologists have not excavated Punjab and Sindh thoroughly.
(C) Punjab and Sindh had higher rainfall than Shortughai.
(D) Shortughai had access to the perennial rivers of the Himalayas.

Section B

22(a). Imagine you are doing research on Harappan beads and jewellery. Which three aspects would you understand about Harappan craft production and trade from it ? Explain.

OR

22(b). Imagine you are a part of a student archaeology workshop where you have to explain about Harappan burial sites and jewellery. Which three aspects would you present to your classmates about it ? Explain.

23. "The sixth century BCE is often regarded as a major turning point in early Indian history." Explain the statement.

24(a). How did the Vijayanagara Empire expand the Virupaksha Temple ? Explain.

OR

24(b). Why was the Amara-Nayaka system considered a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire ? Explain.

25. Explain the ways in which the European thinkers like Montesquieu and Karl Marx used Bernier's description of India.

26. Describe any three features of the Permanent Settlement.

27. Examine different arguments put forward by the members of the Constituent Assembly for a strong Centre.

Section C

28(a). Describe the growth of Puranic Hinduism in ancient India.

OR

28(b). Describe the life of the followers of Buddhism in the ancient Sanghas.

29(a). Examine the life of forest dwellers during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in the northern part of India.

OR

29(b). Examine the vivid aspects of agricultural production during the Mughal era.

30(a). To what extent was the Non-Cooperation Movement successful in mobilizing the masses against the British rule ? Explain with suitable examples.

OR

30(b). How are different sources to know about Gandhiji's political career helpful in understanding his contribution towards India ? Explain with examples.

Section D

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

The Revolt of 1857

Late in the afternoon of 10 May 1857, the sepoys in the cantonment of Meerut broke out in mutiny. It began in the lines of the native infantry, spread very swiftly to the cavalry and then to the city. The ordinary people of the town and surrounding villages joined the sepoys. The sepoys captured the bell of arms where the arms and ammunition were kept and proceeded to attack white people, and to ransack and burn their bungalows and property. Government buildings — the record office, jail, court, post office, treasury, etc. — were destroyed and plundered. The telegraph line to Delhi was cut. As darkness descended, a group of sepoys rode off towards Delhi.

The sepoys arrived at the gates of the Red Fort early in the morning on 11 May. It was the month of Ramzan, the Muslim holy month of prayer and fasting. The old Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah, had just finished his prayers and meal before the sun rose and the fast began. He heard the commotion at the gates. The sepoys who had gathered under his window told him: "We have come from Meerut after killing all the Englishmen there, because they asked us to bite bullets that were coated with the fat of cows and pigs with our teeth. This has corrupted the faith of Hindus and Muslims alike." Another group of sepoys also entered Delhi, and the ordinary people of the city joined them. Europeans were killed in large numbers; the rich of Delhi were attacked and looted. It was clear that Delhi had gone out of British control. Some sepoys rode into the Red Fort, without observing the elaborate court etiquette expected of them. They demanded that the emperor give them his blessings. Surrounded by the sepoys, Bahadur Shah had no other option but to comply. The revolt thus acquired a kind of legitimacy because it could now be carried on in the name of the Mughal emperor.

31.1. Why was Bahadur Shah's involvement important for the rebels ?

31.2. How did the actions of the rebels in Delhi indicate a breakdown of British control ?

31.3. How did the sepoys and religious sentiments play an important role in this uprising ? Explain.

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

Eight forms of marriage

Here are the first, fourth, fifth and sixth forms of marriage from the Manusmriti :

First: The gift of a daughter, after dressing her in costly clothes and honouring her with presents of jewels, to a man learned in the Veda whom the father himself invites.

Fourth: The gift of a daughter by the father after he has addressed the couple with the text, "May both of you perform your duties together," and has shown honour to the bridegroom.

Fifth: When the bridegroom receives a maiden, after having given as much wealth as he can afford to the kinsmen and to the bride herself, according to his own will.

Sixth: The voluntary union of a maiden and her lover … which springs from desire …

32.1. Explain why jewels and costly clothes were given in the first form of marriage.

32.2. Explain the underlying idea behind the father honouring the bridegroom in the fourth form of marriage.

32.3. How had these marriages influenced the social practices in the later Indian society ?

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

A demon ?

This is an excerpt from a poem by Karaikkal Ammaiyar in which she describes herself :

The female Pey (demoness) with … bulging veins, protruding eyes, white teeth and shrunken stomach, red haired and jutting teeth lengthy shins extending till the ankles, shouts and wails while wandering in the forest.

This is the forest of Alankatu, which is the home of our father (Shiva) who dances … with his matted hair thrown in all eight directions, and with cool limbs.

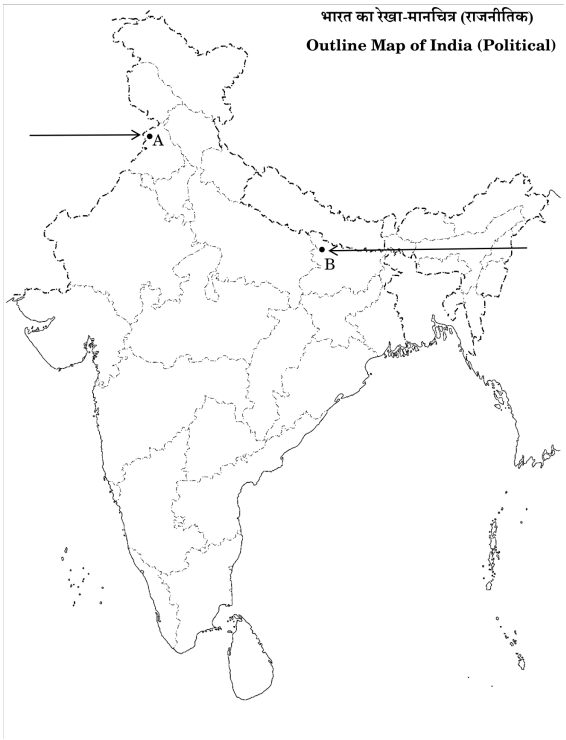
33.1. Who was Karaikkal Ammaiyar ?

33.2. How is Lord Shiva described in the poem ?

33.3. Analyse the central contrast depicted in the poem.

Section E

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



34.1(i). Kalibangan – A mature Harappan site

34.1(ii). Ajanta – An ancient Buddhist site

34.1(iii)(a). Panipat – A territory under the Mughals

OR

34.1(iii)(b). Golconda – A medieval period state

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

(34.2) Mention one ancient Buddhist site in Bihar. 1

(34.3) (a) Name any one territory which was under the Mughal empire. 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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