CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2025

HISTORY

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 94

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper contains **40 questions.** All questions are **compulsory.**

ii. This question paper is divided into **4 sections.**

iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 4** are case based questions

iv. **Section B** – questions number **5 to 26** are multiple choice questions

v. **Section C** – questions number **27 to 34** are short answer

vi. **Section D** – questions number **35 to 40** are long answer

vii. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.

viii. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1.

Harappan Settlements

So far, more than 2000 Harappan archaeological sites have been discovered in the Indian sub-continent. Most of the sites are found located between the Indus and the Saraswati River basins. Nearly two-thirds of these settlements are in the Saraswati basin, suggesting its immense importance for the Harappan Civilisation. Among these, five major cities have been identified. These are Rakhigarhi, Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Dholavira and Ganweriwala. The remaining sites come under different categories such as Regional Centres, agricultural villages, ports and manufacturing centres.

(1) Examine the significance of the concentration of Harappan settlements in the Saraswati Basin.

[1 Marks]

(2) Examine the role of rivers in sustaining the Harappan settlements.

[2 Marks]

(3) Examine the importance of classifying Harappan sites.

[1 Marks]

Question 2.

The bird leaves its nest:

This is an excerpt from the Rihla: My departure from Tangier, my birthplace, took place on Thursday... I set out alone, having neither fellow-traveller... nor caravan whose party I might join, but swayed by an overmastering impulse within me and a desire long-cherished in my bosom to visit these illustrious sanctuaries. So I braced my resolution to quit all my dear ones, female and male, and forsook my home as birds forsake their nests ... My age at that time was twenty-two years. Ibn Battuta returned home in 1354, about 30 years after he had set out.

(1) Analyse any one challenge that Ibn Battuta faced during his journey.

[1 Marks]

(2) Analyse the symbolism of the bird leaving its nest in the context of Ibn Battuta.

[1 Marks]

(3) Analyse the significance of Ibn Battuta’s journey in the context of culture.

[2 Marks]

Question 3.

Two rebels of 1857

- Shah Mal:

Shah Mal lived in a large village in pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh. He belonged to a clan of Jat cultivators whose kinship ties extended over chaurasee des (eighty-four villages). The lands in the region were irrigated and fertile, with rich dark loam soil. Many of the villagers were prosperous and saw the British land revenue system as oppressive: the revenue demand was high and its collection inflexible. Consequently cultivators were losing land to outsiders, to traders and moneylenders who were coming into the area. Shah Mal mobilised the headmen and cultivators of chaurasee des, moving at night from village to village, urging people to rebel against the British. As in many other places, the revolt against the British turned into a general rebellion against all signs of oppression and injustice. Cultivators left their fields and plundered the houses of moneylenders and traders. Displaced proprietors took possession of the lands they had lost. Shah Mal's men attacked government buildings, destroyed the bridge over the river, and dug up metalled roads – partly to prevent government forces from coming into the area, and partly because bridges and roads were seen as symbols of British rule. They sent supplies to the sepoys who had mutinied in Delhi and stopped all official communication between British headquarters and Meerut. Locally acknowledged as the Raja, Shah Mal took over the bungalow of an English officer, turned it into a 'hall of justice', settling disputes and dispensing judgments. He also set up an amazingly effective network of intelligence. For a period the people of the area felt that firangi raj was over, and their raj had come. Shah Mal was killed in battle in July 1857.

(1) How did the rebellion led by Shah Mal challenge the authority of the British?

[1 Marks]

(2) How does Shah Mal's establishment of a 'hall of justice' reflect his vision of governance?

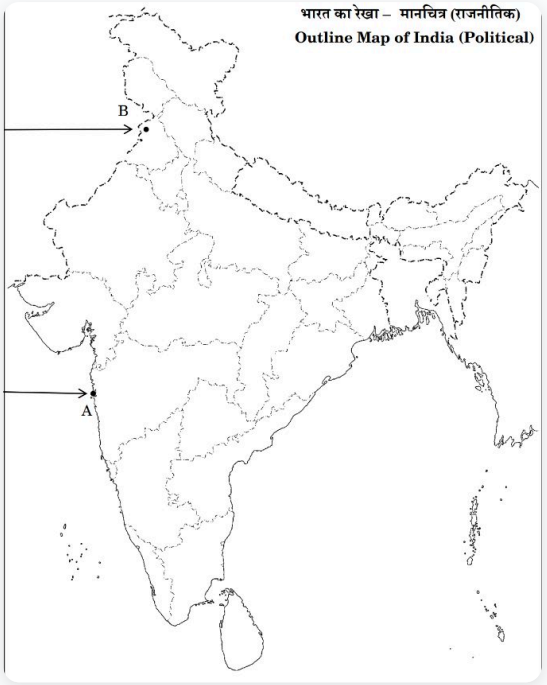
[2 Marks]

(3) How did Shah Mal's leadership contribute to the spread of the rebellion?

[1 Marks]

Question 4.

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



(1)

Amravati – Stupa

[1 Marks]

(2)

Banawali – Indus Valley Site

[1 Marks]

(3)

On the same outline map of India, two places have been markedas ‘A’ and ‘B’, as the centres of the Indian National Movement.Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawnnear them.

[2 Marks]

(4)

Vijayanagara – Capital of Vijayanagara Empire

[1 Marks]

(5)

Ajmer – Territory under the control of the Mughals

[1 Marks]

(6)

Mention any one territory under the Mughal Empire.

[1 Marks]

(7)

Mention any two ancient Buddhist sites in Central India.

[1 Marks]

(8)

Name the capital of Vijayanagara Empire.

[1 Marks]

(9)

Mention any two centres of the Revolt of 1857.

[2 Marks]

Section B

Question 5. Which of the following is the primary method archaeologists used to study social differences within the Harappan society?

[1 Marks]

(A) Studying cropping pattern

(B) Analysing designs of seals

(C) Examining burial customs

(D) Studying religious beliefs

Question 6. Which of the following is a characteristic of the narrative sections of the Mahabharata?

[1 Marks]

(A) They contain economic descriptions

(B) They contain compiled stories

(C) They describe cultural rituals

(D) They are philosophical discussions

Question 7.

Two statements labelled as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are given below.

Read them carefully and select the correct option :

Assertion (A): James Prinsep's work was crucial for understanding the political history of ancient India.
Reason (R): Deciphering inscriptions provided insights into political events and rulers.

[1 Marks]

(A) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(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 false, but Reason (R) is true

(D) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A)

Question 8. Which one of the following correctly associates a city with its primary route of communication during the sixth century BCE?

[1 Marks]

(A) Pataliputra – Sea route; Ujjayini – Land route; Puhar – Riverine route; Mathura – Coastal route

(B) Pataliputra – Land route; Ujjayini – Coastal route; Puhar – Riverine route; Mathura – Sea route

(C) Pataliputra – Riverine route; Ujjayini – Land route; Puhar – Coastal route; Mathura – Land route

(D) Pataliputra – Coastal route; Ujjayini – Land route; Puhar – Coastal route; Mathura – Sea route

Question 9.

Match Column I with Column II regarding the Buddhist texts and choose the correct option:

[1 Marks]

	Column I (*Buddhist Text*)		*Column II* (*Description*)
a.	*Vinaya Pitaka*	i.	Rules and regulations for monastic order
b.	*Abhidhamma Pitaka*	ii.	Chronicle of the island
c.	*Dipavamsa*	iii.	Regional histories of Buddha
d.	*Mahavamsa*	iv.	Dealt with philosophical matters

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

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

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

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

Question 10.

Identify the ancient Indian text:

• Sanskrit text compiled between c. 200 BCE and 200 CE

• Provided a comprehensive code of laws

• Offered guidelines on social life

[1 Marks]

(A) Vedas

(B) Ramayana

(C) Upanishads

(D) Manusmriti

Question 11.

In which of the following regions are the ‘Barabar Caves’ located in India ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Rajasthan

(B) Bihar

(C) Maharashtra

(D) Odisha

Question 12.

Which of the following is a similarity between the works of Ibn Battuta and Al-Biruni ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Both aimed to spread their culture

(B) Both travelled to seek knowledge

(C) Both focused on political history

(D) Both criticized local customs

Question 13.

If you were to create a documentary on Amir Khusrau, which aspect would best highlight his cultural significance ?

[1 Marks]

(A) His association with the Delhi Sultanate

(B) His poetry and musical sama

(C) His contribution to the development of Urdu

(D) His proficiency in Arabic language

Question 14.

Which one of the following is a famous literary work authored by Raja Krishnadeva Raya ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Amuktamalyada

(B) Ponniyin Selvan

(C) Malatimadhava

(D) Kadambari

Question 15.

If you were researching the economic policies and revenue collection methods of Akbar's reign, which of the following sections of the Ain-i-Akbari would provide the most relevant information ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Manzil-Abadi

(B) Mulk-Abadi

(C) Sipah-Abadi

(D) Daftar-e-Nau

Question 16.

Which of the following options represents the correct chronological order of Mughal rulers in India ?

I. Reign of Aurangzeb

II. Reign of Akbar

III. Reign of Shah Jahan

IV. Reign of Jahangir

[1 Marks]

(A) II, III, IV, I

(B) II, IV, III, I

(C) I, III, II, IV

(D) III, II, I, IV

Question 17.

Bernier compared the Mughal Empire to the French monarchy, and particularly criticized the absence of private property rights in India. How does this comparison reflect Bernier's own socio-political context ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Advocacy for feudalism in Indian governance

(B) Belief in the superiority of European legal structures

(C) Support of private property, leading to underestimating India

(D) Support for absolutism and critiquing India

Question 18.

Fill in the blank with the appropriate option from the following : While historians use the term Vijayanagara Empire, contemporaries described it as the ‘‘Karnataka _____’’.

[1 Marks]

(A) Nagara

(B) Hampl

(C) Empire

(D) Samrajyamu

Question 19.

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

Assertion (A) : The Subsidiary Alliance system introduced by Lord Wellesley, significantly weakened the Indian Princely States.

Reason (R) : Indian rulers lost their military autonomy under the Subsidiary Alliance.

[1 Marks]

(A) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(B) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

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

(D) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

Question 20.

Read the statements about the Deccan Riots Commission. Identify which of the following options is correct.

I. The Government of Bombay established an enquiry commission to investigate the causes of the riots.

II. The Deccan Riots Report was presented to the British Parliament in 1878.

III. The Commission's report included only qualitative data from the eyewitnesses.

IV. The enquiry process involved recording statements from ryots and sahukars.

[1 Marks]

(A) II, III and IV

(B) I, II and III

(C) I, III and IV

(D) I, II and IV

Question 21.

Who amongst the following was the female member from Orissa (Odisha) in the Constituent Assembly ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Malati Chowdhury

(B) Durgabai Deshmukh

(C) Hansa Mehta

(D) Renuka Ray

Question 22.

Which of the following pairs is correctly matched regarding the Constituent Assembly ?Column I (Committees of Constituent Assembly) Column II (Presidents)

[1 Marks]

(A) Provincial Constitution Committee – Vallabhbhai Patel

(B) Union Constitution Committee – Bal Krishna Sharma

(C) Union Power Committee – B.N. Rao

(D) Rules of Procedure Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru

Question 23.

Identify the leader of the Indian National Movement in 1905 with the help of the given information.

• This leader was a part of the trio known as Lal-Bal-Pal, signifying their all-India character despite being from different provinces.

• He belonged to Maharashtra.

[1 Marks]

(A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

(B) Bhagat Singh

(C) Lala Hardayal

(D) Lala Lajpat Rai

Question 24.

Which one of the following policies by the British led to discontent among Indian soldiers, contributing to the Revolt of 1857 ?

[1 Marks]

(A) The introduction of western education system

(B) The policy of Subsidiary Alliance

(C) The use of Enfield Rifles with greased cartridges

(D) The Doctrine of Lapse of Dalhousie

Question 25.

Which of the following was the consequence of not paying the revenue by sunset on the specified date under the British Sunset Law enacted in Bengal ?

[1 Marks]

(A) The payment period was extended

(B) The revenue rates were reduced

(C) The Zamindari was put on auction

(D) The case was referred to the High Court

Question 26.

The sculpture of the Bodhisatta statue shown in the image below is influenced by which of the following schools of art ?

[1 Marks]



(A) Gandhara

(B) Nalanda

(C) Amravati

(D) Mathura

Section C

Question 27. Describe the processes adopted by V.S. Sukthankar and his team in preparing the critical edition of the Mahabharata.

[3 Marks]

Question 28. Describe different patterns of marriages that influenced familial relations during the Mahabharata period.

[3 Marks]

Question 29. Historians have used a variety of sources to reconstruct the history of the Mauryan Empire. Explain the statement with examples.

[3 Marks]

Question 30. Imagine yourself as a historian reconstructing the events that took place on the Mahanavami Dibba. How would the architecture of the platform help you to understand the royal ceremonies? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Question 31. Imagine exploring the roles of the Rayas and the Nayakas in the Vijayanagara Empire. How did their administrative roles influence the empire's stability? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Question 32. How did the Mughal rulers classify agricultural land for revenue? Explain with examples.

[3 Marks]

Question 33. Analyse the main objectives of the British government in implementing the Permanent Settlement in Bengal.

[3 Marks]

Question 34. How did the 'Objectives Resolution' of the Constituent Assembly reflect the vision of India as an 'Independent Sovereign Republic'. Explain.

[3 Marks]

Section D

Question 35. Examine how the sculptural elements are integrated within the architectural framework of the Sanchi Stupa.

[8 Marks]

Question 36. Examine the relationship between Puranic Hinduism and devotional practices.

[8 Marks]

Question 37. How has the legacy of Guru Nanak Dev's teachings influenced the principles of Sikhism? Explain with examples.

[8 Marks]

Question 38. How do Kabir Das's poems serve as a medium for fostering a sense of unity and spirituality among the diverse communities? Explain with examples.

[8 Marks]

Question 39. ''Gandhiji used the 'Salt Law' to mobilise a wider discontent against British rule.'' Support the statement with suitable arguments.

[8 Marks]

Question 40. “Gandhiji’s leadership was instrumental in shaping the Non-Cooperation Movement.” Justify the statement.

[8 Marks]