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.

Archaeogenetic Research

As you can see, a careful re-examination of the data can sometimes lead to a reversal of earlier interpretations. In this respect, it is necessary to mention the recent archaeogenetic research carried out at the site of Rakhigarhi. The site, located in Hisar district of Haryana, is the biggest Harappan city, spread over an area of 550 Hectare. In order to study the genetic history of the Harappans, DNA was extracted from the skeletal remains excavated at Rakhigarhi. This research was carried out by The Deccan College Deemed University, Pune in collaboration with Centre for Cellular and Molecular

Biology, Hyderabad and The Harvard Medical College. The analysis of the data indicates that the Harappans are the indigenous people of this region. The genetic roots of the Harappans go back to 10,000 BCE. The DNA of the Harappans has continued till today and a majority of the South Asian population appears to be their descendants. Due to trade and cultural contacts of the Harappans with distant regions there is a mixture of genes in small quantity. The continuity without any break in genetic history as well as cultural history rules out large scale immigration of the so-called Aryans. This research also indicates that the people coming from bordering areas and distant regions were absorbed in the Indian society. At no stage, the genetic history of the Indians was either discontinued or broken. As the Harappans started moving towards Iran and Central Asia, their genes also gradually spread in these regions. The same team of researchers reconstructed 3D features of the Harappan people. The reconstructed facial features of the Harappans, male and female, show remarkable similarity with the modern population of Haryana. Thus, this study has indicated unbroken continuity for 5000 years in this region.

(1) How does the research at Rakhigarhi contribute to understanding of ancient civilizations?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The research at Rakhigarhi demonstrates that Harappans were indigenous to South Asia with genetic roots dating back to 10,000 BCE, challenging earlier theories of large-scale Aryan immigration and proving unbroken genetic continuity in the region.

Key Points: "Reversal of earlier migration theories, Indigenous origins of Harappans, Genetic continuity in South Asia"

(2) What is the significance of extracting and analyzing DNA from the remains at Rakhigarhi?

[2 Marks]

Answer: DNA analysis from Rakhigarhi remains confirms the indigenous origins of Harappans, provides evidence for 5,000 years of unbroken cultural and genetic continuity in India, and refutes theories of large-scale Aryan immigration.

Key Points: "Confirmation of indigenous origins, Cultural continuity evidence, Dispelling Aryan migration theory"

(3) How does the research redefine our understanding of genetic history in South Asia?

[1 Marks]

Answer: It redefines South Asian genetic history by establishing that Harappans are the ancestors of most modern South Asians, with no significant breaks in genetic continuity, and highlights assimilation of migrants into local populations.

Key Points: "Indigenous genetic roots, Absence of large-scale discontinuities, Cultural assimilation"

Question 2.

A language with an enormous range

Al-Biruni described Sanskrit as follows:

If you want to conquer this difficulty (i.e. to learn Sanskrit), you will not find it easy, because the language is of an enormous range, both in words and inflections, something like the Arabic, calling one and the same thing by various names, both original and derivative, and using one and the same word for a variety of subjects, which, in order to be properly understood, must be distinguished from each other by various qualifying epithets.

(1) What key similarity between Sanskrit and Arabic did Al-Biruni highlight?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Al-Biruni highlighted that both Sanskrit and Arabic have an enormous range in their vocabulary and inflections, using multiple names for the same thing and varying the meanings based on different contexts or qualifying epithets.

Key Points: enormous range in vocabulary-inflections use multiple names for the same thing-contextual variation

(2) Why did Al-Biruni consider Sanskrit a rich language?

[2 Marks]

Answer: Al-Biruni regarded Sanskrit as a rich language due to its vast range of vocabulary and inflections. He noted that, similar to Arabic, one concept could be expressed through multiple names and that a single word could refer to various subjects. This complexity required precise qualifying epithets for clarity and understanding, making the language both challenging and intricate in expressing ideas.

Key Points: enormous range of vocabulary-variety in inflections-multiple names for one concept

(3) How did Al-Biruni's description of Sanskrit reflect his engagement with Indian culture?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Al-Biruni's description of Sanskrit reflects his deep engagement with Indian culture as it highlights his recognition of the complexities and richness of the language. His acknowledgment of Sanskrit's enormous range and inflections shows that he immersed himself in the study of the language, spending years learning from Brahmana scholars. This effort demonstrates his commitment to understanding Indian society and philosophy, as he frequently cited significant texts like the Vedas and the Bhagavad Gita to enhance his comprehension of Indian traditions.

Key Points: Engagement with Brahmana scholars; Importance of Sanskrit's complexity; Citing respected Indian texts

Question 3.

Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah

Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah was one of the many maulvis who played an important part in the revolt of 1857. Educated in Hyderabad, he became a preacher when young. In 1856, he was seen moving from village to village preaching jehad (religious war) against the British and urging people to rebel. He moved in a palanquin, with drumbeaters in front and followers at the rear. He was therefore popularly called Danka Shah – the maulvi with the drum (danka). British officials panicked as thousands began following the maulvi and many Muslims began seeing him as an inspired prophet. When he reached Lucknow in 1856, he was stopped by the police from preaching in the city. Subsequently, in 1857, he was jailed in Faizabad. When released, he was elected by the mutinous 22nd Native Infantry as their leader. He fought in the famous Battle of Chinhat in which the British

forces under Henry Lawrence were defeated. He came to be known for his courage and power. Many people in fact believed that he was invincible, had magical powers, and could not be killed by the British. It was this belief that partly formed the basis of his authority.

(1) How did British officials react to Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah's growing influence?

[1 Marks]

Answer: British officials reacted with panic to Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah's growing influence as he amassed thousands of followers who viewed him as an inspired prophet. His ability to mobilize large crowds through his preaching of jehad prompted authorities to take action, leading to his arrest in Lucknow and subsequent jailing in Faizabad in 1857.

Key Points: Panic among British officials-arrest in Lucknow-jailing in Faizabad-mobilization of followers

(2) To what extent did Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah's action reflect the resistance against British rule in India?

[2 Marks]

Answer: Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah's actions significantly reflected the resistance against British rule in India during the revolt of 1857. He mobilized thousands of followers by preaching jehad, encouraging rebellion against the British oppression. His charismatic leadership and portrayal as a prophetic figure inspired many, demonstrating the powerful mix of religion and nationalism. His involvement in the Battle of Chinhat and his election as the leader by the mutinous sepoys further emphasized how he became a symbol of resistance. However, his influence was largely region-specific and could not wholly encapsulate the broader uprising, which also saw contributions from various leaders across India.

Key Points: Mobilization of followers through preaching jehad- Battle of Chinhat as a symbol of resistance- Charismatic and prophetic leadership inspired rebellion- Regional influence vs. broader uprising

(3) Why was Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah called ‘Danka Shah’?

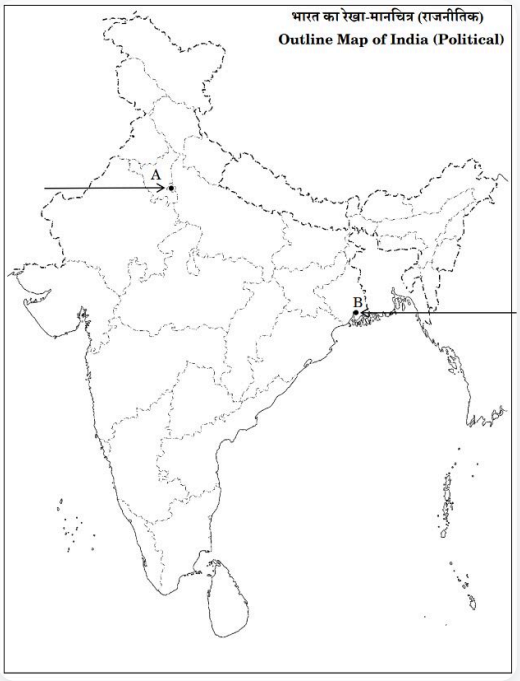
[1 Marks]

Answer: Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah was called ‘Danka Shah’ because he traveled in a palanquin accompanied by drumbeaters who announced his presence, making him widely recognized among the people. The term 'Danka' refers to the drum, which symbolizes his role as a preacher urging people to rebel against British rule.

Key Points: Popularly known as Danka Shah- traveled in palanquin with drumbeaters- symbolized his preaching of rebellion- recognized among people

Question 4.

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



(1)

Sanchi − A Stupa

[1 Marks]

Answer: On the political outline map of India, Sanchi can be located in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It is marked on the map using a symbol representing a stupa, such as a small dome-like shape or a dot with a circle around it, placed at the correct geographical location.

Key Points: Locate Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh-Stupa symbol identification-Correct geographical placement

(2)

Kalibanga − Harappan site

[1 Marks]

Answer: Kalibanga, an important Harappan site, is located in Rajasthan. On the map, it can be marked in the northwestern part of Rajasthan with a triangle symbol.

Key Points: Kalibanga is a Harappan site-located in Rajasthan-marked with a triangle symbol

(3)

Panipat − Territory under the control of British

[1 Marks]

Answer: On the political outline map of India, locate Panipat in the state of Haryana and label it with the symbol that represents the territory under British control. This location was significant during the British rule as it was part of North India, which experienced profound changes due to British administration.

Key Points: Locate Panipat in Haryana-Label with an appropriate symbol-Significance during British rule

(4)

Vijayanagara − Capital of Vijaynagara empire

[1 Marks]

Answer: On the political outline map of India, locate and label the city of Vijayanagara, which served as the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire. Use a star symbol to represent the capital.

Key Points: Vijayanagara was the capital; it is significant in the history of the empire; mark with a star symbol.

(5)

On the same political outline map of India, two places have beenmarked as ‘A’ and ‘B’, as the centres of the Revolt of 1857.Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn

near them.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The two major centres of the Revolt of 1857 marked on the map are 'A' as 'Delhi' and 'B' as 'Lucknow'.

Key Points: Delhi - marked as 'A'; Lucknow - marked as 'B'; both cities were central to the Revolt of 1857.

(6)

Name any one territory under the Mughal empire

[1 Marks]

Answer: One territory under the Mughal Empire is Delhi.

Key Points: Delhi-Strategic importance-Cultural center

(7)

Mention any two ancient Buddhist sites in Deccan India.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Two ancient Buddhist sites in Deccan India are the rock-cut caves at Ajanta in Maharashtra and the stupa at Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points: Ajanta Caves - significant rock-cut temples; Sanchi Stupa - an important Buddhist monument.

(8)

Name any two main centres of the Revolt of 1857

[1 Marks]

Answer: The two main centres of the Revolt of 1857 are Delhi and Awadh.

Key Points: Delhi-Awadh

(9)

Name the capital of the Vijayanagara empire.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The capital of the Vijayanagara empire was Vijayanagara, also known as the 'city of victory.'

Key Points: Vijayanagara-capital of the empire-founded in 14th century-distinctive physical layout

Section B

Question 5. Which of the following statement best explains the uniformity in urban planning across Harappa?

[1 Marks]

(A) Presence of Central authority

(B) Organisation of tribal leadership

(C) Management by city-states

(D) System of nomadic governance

Explanation: The correct answer is 'Presence of Central authority' because the uniformity in artefacts, standardized brick sizes, and planned settlements suggests that there was some form of centralized governance or authority that regulated urban planning across different sites in Harappa. The context indicates that despite differing opinions on the political structure, the similarities in urban features imply an organized management that likely stemmed from a central authority.

Question 6.

Identify the ancient rulers of India from the given options using the provided information:

• They belonged to important ruling lineage.

• They were the immediate successors of the Mauryas.

• They were Brahmanas.

[1 Marks]

(A) Shungas and Kanvas

(B) Mauryas and Guptas

(C) Nandas and Cholas

(D) Satavahanas and Kushanas

Explanation: The Shungas and Kanvas were the immediate successors of the Mauryas and are identified as Brahmanas according to the context. While the context mentions the social origins of different ruling lineages, it explicitly states that the Shungas and Kanvas fit the criteria for this question.

Question 7.

How did Ashoka spread the principle of dhamma across his empire?

Choose the correct option from the following.

[1 Marks]

(A) Through military conquests

(B) Through inscribed edicts on pillars and rocks

(C) Through diplomatic alliances

(D) Through educational institutions

Explanation:

The correct answer is 'Through inscribed edicts on pillars and rocks.' Ashoka used inscriptions to communicate the principles of dhamma to his subjects, making them an effective tool for spreading his message about moral values and respect for various social groups, as well as promoting Buddhism throughout his empire.

Question 8.

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

Assertion (A): The Tipitaka written in Pali is one of the primary collections of Buddhist scriptures.
Reason (R): The Tipitaka consists of three collections, which include the Vinaya Pitaka, the Sutta Pitaka and the Abhidhamma Pitaka.

[1 Marks]

(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 false, but Reason (R) is true.

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

Explanation:

Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A). The Tipitaka is indeed a primary collection of Buddhist scriptures written in Pali, and it comprises three main parts: the Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka, and Abhidhamma Pitaka, which together form the foundational texts of Buddhism.

Question 9.

Which of the following statements accurately describe Harappan seals?

I. Harappan seals often feature animal motifs.

II. Harappan seals were made of terracotta with symbols.

III. Harappan seals were known for military victories.

IV. Harappan seals were predominantly used in burials.

[1 Marks]

(A) Statements III and IV are correct.

(B) Statements I and II are correct.

(C) Statements I and III are correct.

(D) Statements II and III are correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is 'Statements I and II are correct.' This is because Harappan seals typically feature animal motifs, which is explicitly mentioned in the context. However, they were made of steatite (a soft stone), not terracotta, thus statement II is misleading; it implies they were purely terracotta, while the correct material is steatite. Statements III and IV are incorrect as there is no evidence that Harappan seals were used to signify military victories or were predominantly used in burials.

Question 10. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the given options: In Jainism, the practice of severe asceticism and non-attachment is intended to achieve _____, which is liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

[1 Marks]

(A) Ahimsa

(B) Karma

(C) Moksha

(D) Dharma

Explanation: The correct answer is Moksha. In Jainism, Moksha is the ultimate goal, representing liberation from the cycle of birth and death (samsara). The context explains that ascetic practices and the renunciation of worldly attachments are essential for freeing oneself from karma and achieving Moksha.

Question 11. Why is Mahabharata called a dynamic text? Choose the most suitable option from the following.

[1 Marks]

(A) It remains unchanged and consistent in all versions.

(B) It has been reinterpreted across various contexts.

(C) It focuses solely on historical facts.

(D) It is a fixed text with no variations over time.

Explanation: The Mahabharata is called a dynamic text because it has been reinterpreted across various contexts over the centuries, with versions written in different languages that reflect ongoing dialogues among communities and authors. This shows that the text is not fixed but evolves with cultural and historical changes.

Question 12.

Match Column I with Column II and choose the correct option:

[1 Marks]

	Column I (Traveller)		*Column II (Country)*
a.	Al-Biruni	i.	Morocco
b.	Marco Polo	ii.	Uzbekistan
c.	Ibn Battuta	iii.	Italy
d.	Abdur Razzaq	iv.	Samarqand

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

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

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

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

Explanation: The correct match can be determined based on the content of the provided context. The mention of how art historians utilize textual traditions highlights the relationship between texts and images in understanding sculptures. The specific pairs in the options need to logically correspond to these concepts. Upon reviewing, option 'a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv' aligns correctly with the context provided.

Question 13. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched? (Sufi) (Region)

[1 Marks]

(A) Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi – Ajmer

(B) Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i Shakar – Ajodhan (Pakistan)

(C) Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki – Delhi

(D) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya – Agra

Explanation: The correct answer is 'Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya – Agra'. Nizamuddin Auliya is actually associated with Delhi, not Agra. The other pairs are correctly matched.

Question 14. Which of the following was the main source of initial information about Hampi's ruins for Colonel Colin Mackenzie?

[1 Marks]

(A) British documents

(B) Memories of priests

(C) Foreign travellers account

(D) Epigraphic inscriptions

Explanation: The correct option is 'Memories of priests' because the context states that much of the initial information Colonel Colin Mackenzie received was based on the memories of priests of the Virupaksha temple and the shrine of Pampadevi.

Question 15.

Which of the following informations were included in the tables of the sarkars in the Ain-i-Akbari?

I. Grants of revenue in charity

II. Total area measured

III. Number of forts

IV. Biographies of officials

[1 Marks]

(A) I, II and IV

(B) II, III and IV

(C) I, II and III

(D) I, III and IV

Explanation: The correct option is I, II, and III. The Ain-i-Akbari includes detailed tables with various columns which explicitly list grants of revenue in charity (suyurghal), total measured area (zamin-i paimuda), and the number of forts (qila). However, it does not include biographies of officials.

Question 16. According to Montesquieu, how did the rulers in Asia manage their subjects? Choose the most appropriate option from the following.

[1 Marks]

(A) By promoting private property

(B) By exercising absolute authority

(C) By decentralizing powers to leaders

(D) By ensuring economic equality

Explanation: The correct answer is 'By exercising absolute authority.' Montesquieu developed the idea of oriental despotism, suggesting that rulers in Asia held absolute power over their subjects, keeping them in poverty and subjugation. This reflects the perception that land ownership was centralized and that private property was virtually non-existent, supporting the idea of absolute authority over the populace.

Question 17. Imagine reading the ‘Nalayira Divyaprabandham’ a significant text in Tamil. Why is this collection often referred to as the Tamil Veda?

[1 Marks]

(A) It contains laws and regulations of Tamil society.

(B) It is documented as a historical epic based on events.

(C) It serves as a manual for temple construction.

(D) It holds religious significance equivalent to Vedas.

Explanation: It holds religious significance equivalent to Vedas. The Nalayira Divyaprabandham is frequently described as the Tamil Veda, indicating its importance and reverence similar to that of the four Vedas in Sanskrit, which were considered sacred by the Brahmanas.

Question 18. Match the following Column I with Column II and choose the correct option: Column I (Dynasties of Vijayanagara) a. Sangama b. Saluva c. Tuluva d. Aravidu Column II (Contributions) i. Strengthened military ii. Belonged to Krishnadeva Raya iii. Constructed Hiriya canal iv. Last dynasty of Vijayanagara empire

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Explanation: The correct matches are: a-ii (Sangama had earlier rulers but did not include Krishnadeva Raya), b-iii (Saluva constructed the Hiriya canal), c-i (Tuluva strengthened the military), and d-iv (Aravidu was the last dynasty). The correct option is a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv.

Question 19.

How did David Ricardo’s ideas influence British revenue policies in India?

[1 Marks]

(A) Widespread implementation of Permanent Settlement

(B) Adoption of fixed revenue demands for Ryots

(C) Rejection of revenue in favour of village development

(D) Taxing landowners’ surplus income based on average rent

Explanation:

The correct option is 'Adoption of fixed revenue demands for Ryots'. David Ricardo's ideas influenced British officials to assess the revenue-paying capacity of ryots based on average rent, which led to fixed revenue assessments tailored to individual land capacity. This approach contrasted with permanent revenue settlements and allowed for adjustments in revenue that reflected the soil's productivity.

Question 20. Who amongst the following wrote the line “Khoob Ladi Mardani, Woh To Jhansi Wali Rani Thi”?

[1 Marks]

(A) Harivansh Rai Bachchan

(B) Subhadra Kumari Chauhan

(C) Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

(D) Mahadevi Verma

Explanation: The correct answer is Subhadra Kumari Chauhan. This line celebrates the valor of the Rani of Jhansi, who is depicted as a courageous warrior, and is a well-known verse attributed to Chauhan, highlighting her contribution to poetry that honors the struggle for Indian freedom.

Question 21.

Arrange the following events in chronological order and choose the correct option:

I. Peasant Movement in Kheda

II. Gandhi-Irwin Pact

III. Champaran Movement

IV. Noakhali Visit of Gandhiji

[1 Marks]

(A) II, I, III, IV

(B) III, I, II, IV

(C) III, II, IV, I

(D) IV, I, II, III

Explanation: The correct order is III (Champaran Movement), I (Peasant Movement in Kheda), IV (Noakhali Visit of Gandhiji), II (Gandhi-Irwin Pact). The Champaran Movement took place in 1917, followed by the Kheda Movement in 1918, then Gandhiji's visit to Noakhali in 1946, and finally the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in 1931.

Question 22.

Which of the following pairs of Committees and their Presidents is correct regarding the Constituent Assembly?

[1 Marks]

(A) Advisory Committee – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

(B) Flag Committee – N.G. Ranga

(C) Steering Committee – J.B. Kripalani

(D) Supreme Court Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru

Explanation:

The correct answer is 'Steering Committee – J.B. Kripalani'. J.B. Kripalani was indeed the President of the Steering Committee which played a significant role in the functioning of the Constituent Assembly while the other pairs mentioned do not align with historical records.

Question 23. Who amongst the following women was a member of the Constituent Assembly from Bombay?

[1 Marks]

(A) Kamala Nehru

(B) Vijayalakshmi Pandit

(C) Purnima Banerji

(D) Hansa Mehta

Explanation: The correct answer is Hansa Mehta. She was a prominent member of the Constituent Assembly and represented Bombay. The context highlights the involvement of women in the political sphere during India's independence, and Hansa Mehta's participation is noted as significant.

Question 24.

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

Read them carefully and select the correct option :

Assertion (A): India was considered a suitable country for cotton cultivation due to its soil, climate and cheap labour, by the Britishers. Reason (R): The American Civil War (1861 – 65) caused a significant drop in raw cotton imports from America, leading Britain to seek alternative sources.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A). The context indicates that British manufacturers were concerned about their dependence on American cotton, and when the Civil War caused a drastic drop in imports, they turned to India, which had suitable conditions for cotton cultivation and cheap labor, to fulfill their needs.

Question 25. Choose the correct option from the following to fill in the blank regarding the role of leaders in the Revolt of 1857. Nana Saheb : Kanpur; Kunwar Singh : _____

[1 Marks]

(A) Gwalior

(B) Meerut

(C) Arrah

(D) Singhbhum

Explanation: The correct answer is 'Arrah' because Kunwar Singh was a local zamindar in Arrah, Bihar, who assumed leadership during the Revolt of 1857 as indicated in the provided context.

Question 26.

Refer to the given image of the sandstone sculpture. Which one of the following dynasties does this sculpture of the King represent ?

[1 Marks]



(A) Maurya

(B) Gupta

(C) Satavahana

(D) Kushana

Explanation:

The sculpture represents the Kushana dynasty. The context mentions that colossal statues of Kushana rulers have been found, indicating their importance and the notion of kingship they projected through sculptures. Additionally, the reference to the Kushanas considering themselves godlike aligns with the characteristics of Kushana art and rigid rule.

Section C

Question 27. “Historians consider several elements when they analyse the Mahabharata.” Substantiate the statement with suitable examples.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Historians consider the Mahabharata as an essential historical text due to its rich narrative that encapsulates various societal values and practices. Firstly, the language used is significant as it reflects the cultural and philosophical ideas prevalent during its composition. For instance, the dialogue between characters often embodies moral dilemmas which reveal societal norms. Secondly, the text's circulation, through oral and written forms, indicates its impact on local histories and traditions. Archaeological evidence, such as findings from B.B. Lal's excavations in Hastinapura, further supports the historical context depicted in the Mahabharata. Lastly, the depictions of battles and settlements provide insights into ancient Indian polity and warfare, thus aiding historians in constructing a broader view of the period.

Key Points: Language reflecting societal values - Oral and written circulation - Archaeological evidence from Hastinapura - Depictions of battles and settlements

Question 28. “Many communities during the Mahabharata period had different social practices from Brahmanical ideas.” Substantiate the statement with examples.

[3 Marks]

Answer: During the Mahabharata period, several communities exhibited social practices that diverged from Brahmanical traditions. For instance, forest-dwellers, who relied on hunting and gathering, were often depicted in Brahmanical texts as uncivilized. Their lifestyles challenged established Brahmanical norms, leading to a nuanced reflection on social hierarchy. Additionally, certain groups were marginalized as 'untouchables,' reinforcing divisions within society. The Brahmanas' response to these differences involved the creation of detailed social codes to guide behavior, particularly aimed at Brahmanas and the upper castes. This illustrates the ongoing tension between Brahmanical ideals and the realities of diverse social practices.

Key Points: Forest-dwellers' lifestyles; Representations in Brahmanical texts; Marginalization of groups as 'untouchables'; Brahmanas' social codes; Tension between Brahmanical ideals and community practices

Question 29. How does the Sanchi Stupa reflect the religious and cultural beliefs of ancient India? Explain with examples.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Sanchi Stupa, one of the oldest stone structures in India, embodies the religious and cultural beliefs prevalent during ancient times. As a major Buddhist center, it highlights the importance of Buddhism which had emerged through dialogues with other traditions like Jainism and Brahmanism. Its architectural features, such as the plain structure with intricately carved gateways positioned at the cardinal points and the circular path for circumambulation, illustrate the significance of ritual and devotion. The beautifully decorated gateways display a rich iconography that narrates Jataka tales, displaying moral values that were integral to Buddhist teachings. Additionally, votive

inscriptions found at the site reflect the practice of donating and dedicating to Buddhist causes, signifying an evolving social culture centered around spirituality and community.

Key Points: Sanchi Stupa as a major Buddhist center-Buddhist and Brahmanical interactions-Architectural features and gateways-Votive inscriptions reflecting community participation-Jataka tales embodying moral values

Question 30. Imagine studying the water management system of the Vijayanagara empire. How did the empire's water resources support its agriculture and urban development? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Vijayanagara empire effectively utilized its water resources to support both agriculture and urban development. Central to its water management was the river Tungabhadra, which created a fertile basin ideal for agriculture. The construction of the Hiriya canal was significant as it facilitated irrigation by drawing water from a dam on the Tungabhadra, ensuring crops thrived even during sieges. This strategic water management not only fortified food security but also enhanced urban settlements, allowing the empire to flourish economically and socially.

Key Points: Tungabhadra river's role in agriculture; importance of Hiriya canal for irrigation; safeguarding food security during sieges; impact on urban development; economic and social prosperity.

Question 31. Imagine studying Vijayanagara's trade records. What information do they reveal about the goods traded and the empire's economic connections? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The trade records of the Vijayanagara Empire provide detailed insights into the vibrant economic activity of the region. The empire was known for its lucrative markets dealing in spices, textiles, and precious stones, indicating a demand for high-value commodities among its wealthy population. This trade not only reflected the social status of the cities but also highlighted Vijayanagara's extensive economic ties with overseas markets. Under the rule of Krishnadeva Raya, the encouragement of commerce through improved harbors stimulated trade in horses, elephants, sandalwood, pearls, and gems. Such an interconnected economy significantly contributed to the empire's prosperity.

Key Points: Goods traded included spices, textiles, precious stones; wealthy population demanded high-value goods; trade was a status symbol; Krishnadeva Raya focused on commerce; improved harbors; connections to overseas markets; contributed to state prosperity.

Question 32. Describe the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, emphasized the concept of nirguna bhakti, advocating a connection with the formless divine, or 'rab.' He rejected ritualistic practices, sacrifices, and image worship prevalent in both Hinduism and Islam. Instead, his teachings focused on devotion through remembrance of the Divine Name, expressed in his hymns called 'shabad.' He organized his followers into a community that engaged in congregational worship, fostering unity and mutual respect. His approach encouraged straightforward faith, transcending gender and form, and aimed to guide others towards spiritual truth and community cohesion.

> **Key Points: Nirguna bhakti, rejection of rituals, emphasis on Divine Name, community worship, unity, respect among faiths**

Question 33. Analyse the impact of the Ryotwari system on the ryots of Bombay.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Ryotwari system, implemented in the Bombay Deccan, had profound effects on the ryots. Under this system, the British directly assessed the revenue obligations of individual ryots, eliminating the middlemen, like zamindars. While intended to empower ryots, this system often led to increased pressure on them to meet rising revenue demands, resurveyed every 30 years. Many ryots struggled with debt due to these intense demands and resorted to borrowing from moneylenders, which further degraded their economic condition. Furthermore, as land productivity fluctuated, the fixed revenue payments placed additional financial burdens on the ryots, often leading to cycles of poverty and eventual displacement. Though theoretically providing autonomy, the reality for many ryots was marked by increased vulnerability and exploitation in the face of a fluctuating market and incessant revenue demands.

> **Key Points: Direct revenue settlement with ryots-special assessment of income-tension due to increasing revenue demands-debt cycle with moneylenders-economic vulnerability-exploitation despite theoretical autonomy**

Question 34. Explain the central debates in the Constituent Assembly regarding federalism.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Constituent Assembly of India witnessed intense debates regarding the structure of federalism, particularly concerning the distribution of powers between the Central Government and the states. Key figures like Jawaharlal Nehru advocated for a strong central authority, citing the need for national integrity post-partition. He believed a united Centre was essential for stability. Conversely, others argued for provincial autonomy, fearing a dominant Centre might undermine local governance. B.R. Ambedkar emphasized the necessity of a strong Centre to maintain unity while addressing diverse regional interests. The debates revolved around economic, political, and linguistic considerations, reflecting diverse visions for India's unity and governance.

Key Points: Jawaharlal Nehru's advocacy for a strong Centre-B.R. Ambedkar's emphasis on national unity-Arguments for provincial autonomy and local governance-Economic, political, and linguistic considerations

---

Section D

Question 35. Imagine if you were developing an educational programme on forest life during the Mughal era. What key aspects of the life of forest-dwellers during that time would you explain? Substantiate.

[8 Marks]

Answer: In developing an educational programme on forest life during the Mughal era, it is crucial to highlight the intricate relationship between forest-dwellers and the Mughal state. One key aspect is the mobility of these tribes, which served both as a survival mechanism and a source of conflict with the state. The forests acted as refuge areas for those rebelling against the state, as noted by Babur. The Mughal administration viewed the forests as chaotic and unruly, necessitating efforts to clear them for agriculture, which directly influenced the lives of forest-dwellers. Additionally, the demand for forest products, including essential goods like honey and gum lac, created both economic opportunities and challenges. This reliance on forest resources was crucial for trade, especially by the seventeenth century, as these products became significant exports. The political ideology of the time also shaped perceptions, painting forest people as savage and difficult to govern, leading to attempts at integration or displacement into agricultural societies. Overall, the complexities of their interactions with the state and the economic shifts of the period are vital topics for understanding the lives of forest-dwellers.

Key Points: Mobility of forest tribes-state interactions-refuge for rebels-demand for forest products-economic impact-political ideology of Mughals-perception of forest-dwellers-clearing for agriculture

Question 36. Imagine if you were tasked with researching the contributions of women in Mughal rural society. How would you analyse their roles in agriculture and society? Explain.

[8 Marks]

Answer: In analyzing the roles of women in Mughal rural society, it's crucial to consider both their agricultural contributions and their societal roles. Women participated in various agricultural tasks such as sowing, weeding, and threshing, which were essential for the success of farming. Their involvement highlighted the reliance on collective household labor for production. Additionally, women's role extended beyond agriculture; they played a significant part in maintaining family structures and social networks within the village community. Their contributions fostered a sense of cooperation among families, enhancing agricultural productivity while also reinforcing social bonds. It’s important to recognize the conflicts and rivalries that could arise in these agrarian relationships,

influenced by the broader socio-political context established by the Mughal state, which imposed tax assessments based on agricultural output. Ultimately, women were not merely passive participants but active agents in the agricultural landscape of the Mughal empire, shaping both economic production and social dynamics.

Key Points: Women's roles in agriculture; labor division in families; societal contributions; cooperation and competition in rural communities; influence of Mughal state policies; significance of women as active agents in agrarian society.

Question 37. In what ways do the challenges of inscriptional evidences restrict our ability to understand the past? Explain with examples.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The challenges of inscriptional evidence significantly limit our understanding of history. Primarily, technical limitations such as faint engravings hinder accurate reading, occasionally leading to uncertain reconstructions of historical events or contexts. For instance, damaged inscriptions often have missing letters, rendering them incomplete and difficult to interpret. Moreover, the meaning of specific words can vary based on regional or temporal contexts, which complicates proper understanding. Scholarly debates about interpretations highlight how different readings can emerge from the same text. Additionally, while thousands of inscriptions have been unearthed, many remain undeciphered or unpublished; thus, the existing corpus of inscriptions represents only a fraction of historical records. Many potential inscriptions may have perished over time, leaving major gaps in our historical narrative. This limitation constrains historians' ability to form a comprehensive picture of the past, showcasing how inscriptional evidence, despite being invaluable, is not a complete source for reconstructing history.

Key Points: Technical limitations affect clarity; damaged inscriptions lead to uncertainty; regional/temporal meanings vary; debates among scholars complicate interpretations; many inscriptions remain undeciphered; historical records are incomplete.

Question 38. In what ways do coins serve as valuable sources for understanding the ancient period? Explain with examples.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Coins are pivotal in understanding the ancient period, serving as tangible evidence of economic systems, trade practices, and sociopolitical structures. For example, punch-marked coins from the sixth century BCE indicate the emergence of coinage, facilitating long-distance transactions that benefited kings and traders alike. These coins, made from silver and copper, arose during economic exchanges, notably in northern India and Central Asia. The Gupta period also produced remarkable gold coins with high purity, reflecting the value of trade. Furthermore, the scarcity of finds post-sixth century CE raises questions about economic crises or shifts toward circulation rather than hoarding. The Yaudheyas' copper coins provide insight into regional economic networks, while hoards

of Roman coins discovered in southern India illustrate cross-cultural exchanges, all highlighting coins as critical artifacts for understanding ancient economies and interactions.

> **Key Points: Evidence of economic systems-Impact on trade and transactions-Sociopolitical reflections-Gold and copper coins as artifacts-Cross-cultural exchanges-Hoarding vs circulation debate**

Question 39. Explain the major events and movements that defined India's political condition between 1919 and 1922.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Between 1919 and 1922, India witnessed significant events and movements that deeply shaped its political landscape. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919 triggered widespread anger, leading to the Non-Cooperation Movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920. This movement aimed to unite Hindus and Muslims against British rule by promoting nonviolent resistance and self-reliance through measures like boycotting British goods and institutions. The Khilafat Movement, which sought to protect the Ottoman Caliphate, also played a crucial role in galvanizing Muslim support for the national movement, illustrating the burgeoning unity among diverse communities against colonial oppression. The period was marked by unprecedented mobilization of the masses, as students boycotted schools, lawyers withdrew from courts, and the general public participated actively in protests. This surge in political consciousness planted the seeds for future mass movements and a stronger national identity, significantly altering the discourse surrounding British governance in India. These events laid the groundwork for rising demands for complete independence and were pivotal in shaping the Indian National Congress's strategies in the years leading to Independence.

> **Key Points: Jallianwala Bagh massacre; Non-Cooperation Movement; Mahatma Gandhi; unity between Hindus and Muslims; Khilafat Movement; mass mobilization; boycott of British goods; increased political consciousness; Indian National Congress strategies**

Question 40. Explain the significance of the Dandi March and its influence on the Independence movement.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The Dandi March, initiated by Mahatma Gandhi on March 12, 1930, holds immense significance in the Indian Independence movement. This 240-mile walk to the Arabian Sea symbolized the defiance of British salt laws and brought national and global attention to the Indian freedom struggle. The march fostered unity among diverse groups, including women, who actively participated for the first time in such a movement. It showcased the power of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience, galvanizing the public against colonial rule. Following the march, approximately 60,000 protestors were arrested, indicating widespread support for Gandhi's call for self-reliance. The media coverage of the event played a crucial role in raising awareness internationally about India's plight under British rule, leading to increased pressure on the colonial government. The Dandi March also marked a turning point as it inspired subsequent movements, making it pivotal in shaping the

momentum towards India's eventual independence. Overall, it laid a foundation for mass mobilization, reflected communal harmony, and emphasized the strength of peaceful protests in achieving political goals.

Key Points: Initiated by Gandhi in March 1930-Symbolized defiance of British salt laws-United diverse groups including women-Media attention raised international awareness-Widespread arrests highlighted public support-Set precedent for mass mobilization-Showcased strength of nonviolent resistance.