CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2023

HISTORY

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 93

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper contains **39 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 25** are multiple choice questions

v. **Section C** – questions number **26 to 33** are short answer

vi. **Section D** – questions number **34 to 39** 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.

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

What the king's official's kid

Here is an excerpt from the account of Megasthenes:

Of the great officers of state, some . . . superintend the rivers, measure the land, as is done in Egypt, and inspect the sluices by which water is let out from the main canals into their branches, so that every one may have an equal supply of it. The same persons have charge also of the huntsmen, and

are entrusted with the powers of rewarding or punishing them according to their deserts. They collect the taxes, and superintend the occupations connected with land; as those of the woodcutters, the carpenters, the blacksmiths, and the miners.

(1) Who was Megasthenes?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Megasthenes was an ancient Greek ambassador and historian who visited India during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya. He is best known for his detailed accounts of the Mauryan Empire, which provide valuable insights into the society, administration, and culture of that time.

Key Points: Ancient Greek ambassador-historian-visited India during Chandragupta Maurya's reign-detailed accounts of Mauryan Empire-society-administration-culture

(2) How does this description help understand the king's administrative role?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The description provides insight into the comprehensive nature of the king's administrative role. It highlights that the king's officials are responsible for overseeing various essential sectors such as land management, water resources, and essential trades. This indicates that the king not only governs laws but also ensures the efficient functioning of agriculture and industry, thus playing a crucial role in the state's economic health and the welfare of its subjects.

Key Points: Role of officials in managing resources - Importance of taxation and occupation supervision - Impact on agriculture and industry

(3) How were the roles of supervisory officers important?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The roles of supervisory officers were important as they ensured the proper management of resources, maintained the irrigation systems, and facilitated tax collection, which were crucial for the economic stability and agricultural productivity of the kingdom.

Key Points: Ensured proper management of resources - Maintained irrigation systems - Facilitated tax collection

Question 2.

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

Peasants on the move

This was a feature of agrarian society which struck a keen observer like Babur, the first Mughal emperor, forcefully enough for him to write about it in the Babur Nama, his memoirs: In Hindustan hamlets and villages, towns indeed, are depopulated and set up in a moment! If the people of a large town, one inhabited for years even, flee from it, they do it in such a way that not a sign or trace of them remains in a day and a half. On the other hand, if they fix their eyes on a place to settle, they need not dig water courses because their crops are all raingrown, and as the population of Hindustan is unlimited it swarms in. They make a tank or a well; they need not build houses or set up walls . . . khas-grass abounds, wood is unlimited, huts are made, and straightaway there is a village or a town!

(1) What is Babur Nama?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Babur Nama is the memoirs of Babur, the first Mughal emperor, where he documented his observations and experiences in Hindustan, including the transient nature of settlements in the region.

Key Points: Memoirs of Babur-first Mughal emperor-observations on Hindustan-settlement patterns

(2)

How did the peasants meet the needs of water ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Peasants in Hindustan met their water needs by utilizing natural resources available in their new settlements. They would dig a tank or a well to gather water, as the crops were primarily rain-fed, which reduced the necessity for extensive irrigation systems.

Key Points: dug tanks or wells - relied on rainwater for crops - natural resources abundant

(3)

Explain the distinctive features of agrarian society.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Agrarian society is characterized by its dependence on agriculture as the primary means of livelihood. Key features include the rapid establishment of villages and towns as evidenced by Babur's observations in Hindustan, where people can quickly settle without the need for elaborate infrastructure. The crops primarily rely on rainfall, allowing for immediate cultivation in new areas. Additionally, the abundance of natural resources such as wood and grass facilitates the quick construction of huts and basic shelters, making it easy for displaced populations to create new communities instantly.

Key Points: Dependence on agriculture-rapid establishment of villages-no need for elaborate infrastructure-abundance of natural resources

Question 3.

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

" We are not going just to copy"

This is what Jawaharlal Nehru said in his famous speech of 13 December, 1946 : My mind goes back to the various Constituent Assemblies that have gone before and of what took place at the making of the great American nation when the fathers of that nation met and fashioned out a Constitution which has stood the test of so many years, more than a century and a half, and of the great nation which has resulted, which has been built up on the basis of that Constitution. My mind goes back to that mighty revolution which took place also over 150 years ago and to that Constituent Assembly that met in that gracious and lovely city of Paris which has fought so many battles for freedom, to the difficulties that the Constituent Assembly had and to how the King and other authorities came in its way, and still it continued. The House will remember that when these difficulties came and even the room for a meeting was denied to the then Constituent Assembly, they betook themselves to an open tennis court and met there and took the oath, which is called the Oath of the Tennis Court, that they continued meeting in spite of Kings, in spite of the others, and did not disperse till they had finished the task they had undertaken. Well, I trust that it is in the solemn spirit that we too are meeting here and that we, too, whether we meet in this chamber or other chambers, or in the fields or in the market-place, will go on meeting and continue our work till we have finished it

(1)

Which was the revolution discussed by Nehru in the passage ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The revolution discussed is the French Revolution, which involved the meeting of the Constituent Assembly in Paris and the famous Oath of the Tennis Court.

Key Points: French Revolution - Constituent Assembly - Oath of the Tennis Court

(2)

Which qualities of the American Constitution are highlighted by Nehru ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The Tennis Court Oath, taken on June 20, 1789, was a pivotal moment in the French Revolution. It signified the unified resolve of the Third Estate to not disband until they had drafted a new constitution for France. This act symbolized the shift of power from the monarchy to the people, asserting the foundation of a democratic government. By standing firm in the face of adversity, the members of the Third Estate showcased their determination and commitment to liberty and democracy, inspiring similar movements worldwide, including in India, as referenced by Jawaharlal Nehru in his speech.

Key Points: Symbolized unity of the Third Estate-Represented the quest for democracy- Inspired future movements for freedom

(3)

What was the 'Oath of the Tennis Court'?

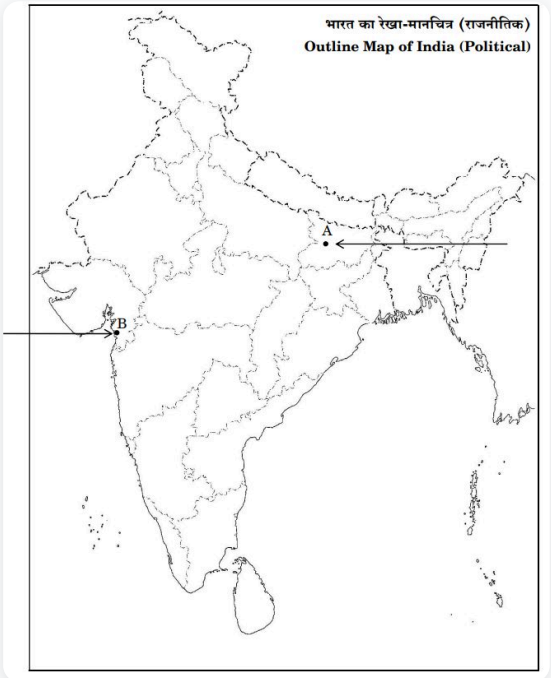
[2 Marks]

Answer: The American Constitution is known for its longevity, being over 230 years old, and its adaptability to change. It ensures a separation of powers among branches of government, providing a system of checks and balances. Additionally, it embodies fundamental rights and principles that protect individual freedoms and democracy.

Key Points: Longevity, adaptability, separation of powers, checks and balances, protection of individual rights.

Question 4.

On the given political outline map of India (on page 23), locate and label the following with appropriate symbols :



(1)

Kalibangan a mature Harrapan site

[1 Marks]

Answer: On the political outline map of India, Kalibangan can be located in the state of Rajasthan. It should be marked using a triangle symbol to denote its significance as a mature Harappan site.

Key Points: Kalibangan location - Rajasthan; mature Harappan site; use triangle symbol

(2)

Ajmer a territory under Akbar

[1 Marks]

Answer: Ajmer can be located approximately in the western part of India, in present-day Rajasthan. It is marked as a significant site as it is known for the tomb of the saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, which attracted Akbar and pilgrims alike.

Key Points: Location in western India-Rajasthan-Significance of Ajmer during Akbar's reign-Pilgrimage site

(3)

Bharhut an important Buddhist site

[1 Marks]

Answer: To mark Bharhut on the political outline map of India, locate it in Madhya Pradesh near the town of Satna. Use a symbol such as a stupa or a circle with 'B' to indicate its significance as an important Buddhist site.

Key Points: Location in Madhya Pradesh, significance as a Buddhist site, appropriate symbol labeling

(4)

Name any mature Harappan site in Rajasthan.

[1 Marks]

Answer: A mature Harappan site in Rajasthan is Kalibangan.

Key Points: Kalibangan is a significant Harappan site-located in Rajasthan-Important for understanding Harappan culture

(5)

Mention any two places which were under the control of the British in 1857.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Two places that were under British control in 1857 are Delhi and Kanpur. Delhi was the capital of the Mughal Empire and became a significant center during the Sepoy Mutiny, while Kanpur was another important location where significant events occurred during the uprising against British rule.

Key Points: Delhi-Kanpur

(6)

Vijayanagara Capital of Krishanadeva Raya's empire

[1 Marks]

Answer: The capital of Krishanadeva Raya's empire, Vijayanagara, can be located in the present-day state of Karnataka, India. It is situated near the town of Hampi, marked on the map with a specific symbol for historical capitals.

Key Points: Location in Karnataka-Hampi-14th century empire

(7)

Mention any one Buddhist site in Southern India.

[1 Marks]

Answer: One prominent Buddhist site in Southern India is the ancient rock-cut caves at Ajanta.

Key Points: Ajanta caves - rock-cut architecture - significant Buddhist site - located in Maharashtra

(8)

On the same political outline map of India two places related to British control in 1857 are marked as A and B. Identify them and write their names on the lines drawn near them.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The two places related to British control in 1857 that are marked as A and B are 'Delhi' and 'Kanpur'. These cities were significant during the Indian Rebellion of 1857 against British rule.

Key Points: Delhi-Kanpur-British control

(9)

Name any one capital city of the Mughal Empire.

[1 Marks]

Answer: One capital city of the Mughal Empire is Delhi.

Key Points: Mughal Empire-capital city-Delhi

(10)

Name the capital of Vijayanagara Empire.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The capital of the Vijayanagara Empire was Vijayanagara, which means 'city of victory'.

Key Points: Vijayanagara-Founded in the 14th century-Capital of the Vijayanagara Empire

Section B

Question 5. Banawali, an ancient site of Harappan culture, is located in which of the following modern Indian state?

[1 Marks]

(A) Punjab

(B) Haryana

(C) Himachal Pradesh

(D) Uttarakhand

Explanation: The correct option is Haryana, as Banawali is known to be an ancient site of the Harappan culture located in the present-day state of Haryana.

Question 6. Who among the following was the first Director General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)?

[1 Marks]

(A) S.N. Roy

(B) John Marshall

(C) Daya Ram Sahni

(D) Alexander Cunningham

Explanation: The correct answer is Alexander Cunningham. He was appointed as the first Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1861 and is known as the father of Indian archaeology for his significant contributions to the field.

Question 7.

Identify the character of the Mahabharata for the following information:

- Was a nishad;
- Considered Dronacharya as his Guru;
- Gave his right thumb to Dronacharya as Guru dakshina.

[1 Marks]

(A) Nakul

(B) Eklavya

(C) Ghatotkatch

(D) Sahdeva

Explanation: The correct answer is Eklavya. He was a nishad who regarded Dronacharya as his teacher and, to prove his dedication, he offered his right thumb as Gurudakshina when Dronacharya asked for it, even though he was not formally accepted as a student.

Question 8.

Who among the following is believed to have spoken these words? "Be lamps unto yourselves as all of you must work out your own liberation."

[1 Marks]

(A) Ananda

(B) Buddha

(C) Sigala

(D) Mahavira

Explanation:

Buddha advised his followers to rely on their own efforts and wisdom rather than depending on others for spiritual liberation.

Question 9.

Which of the following statements is correct about Prabhavati Gupta?

[1 Marks]

(A) She was a Gupta Queen.

(B) She had no access to resources.

(C) She was the daughter of Chandragupta II.

(D) She donated land to elites.

Explanation:

The correct statement is 'She was a Gupta Queen.' Prabhavati Gupta was indeed a prominent figure in the Gupta dynasty, known for her role as a queen and her contributions to the empire.

Question 10.

Which of the following statements are true regarding Buddha?

(i) Buddha was the son of a chief of Sakya clan.

(ii) He had a sheltered upbringing within the Sangha.

(iii) He was informed of the harsh realities of life.

(iv) He was deeply anguished when he saw an old man and a sick man.

[1 Marks]

(A) (i) and (ii)

(B) (i) and (iv)

(C) (ii) and (iv)

(D) (ii) and (iii)

Explanation:

The correct statement is (i) and (iv). Buddha was indeed the son of a chief of the Sakya clan, and he experienced deep anguish when he encountered an old man and a sick man, which prompted his search for enlightenment. However, he did not have a sheltered upbringing within the Sangha, as he initially lived in luxury and was protected from the harsh realities of life until he ventured out.

Question 11. Who among the following founded the Mauryan Empire?

[1 Marks]

(A) Ashoka

(B) Kautilya

(C) Vikramaditya

(D) Chandragupta Maurya

Explanation: Chandragupta Maurya is the correct answer because he was the founder of the Mauryan Empire. He established the empire in the 4th century BCE after overthrowing the Nanda dynasty.

Question 12.

Match List I with List II:

[1 Marks]

	List I (Saints)		*List II (Traditions)*
i.	Andal	1.	Sufi
ii.	Basavanna	2.	Lingayat
iii.	Karaikkal Ammaiyar	3.	Alvar
iv.	Baba Farid	4.	Nayanar

(A) i-4, ii-1, iii-3, iv-2

(B) i-1, ii-3, iii-2, iv-4

(C) i-2, ii-4, iii-1, iv-3

(D) i-3, ii-2, iii-4, iv-1

Explanation:

The correct matches are: i-3 (Andal is associated with the Alvar tradition), ii-2 (Basavanna is a key figure in the Lingayat tradition), iii-4 (Karaikkal Ammaiyar belongs to the Nayanar tradition), iv-1 (Baba Farid is linked to Sufi traditions).

Question 13. Who among the following travellers belonged to Portugal?

[1 Marks]

(A) Ibn Battuta

(B) Duarte Barbosa

(C) Marco Polo

(D) Al-Biruni

Explanation: Duarte Barbosa is the correct answer because he was a Portuguese explorer and traveler known for his accounts of the East Indies. In contrast, Al-Biruni, Marco Polo, and Ibn Battuta were associated with other regions, specifically Central Asia and the Middle East.

Question 14.

Which of the following statements regarding Francois Bernier are correct?

(i) He was a doctor, philosopher, and historian.

(ii) He came to the Mughal Empire in search of opportunities.

(iii) He became physician to Prince Dara Shikoh.

(iv) Bernier traveled during Aurangzeb's reign.

[1 Marks]

(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)

(B) (i), (ii), and (iv)

(C) (ii), (iii), and (iv)

(D) (i), (iii), and (iv)

Explanation: The correct options are (ii), (iii), and (iv). Francois Bernier was indeed a traveler who came to the Mughal Empire in search of opportunities (ii), served as the physician to Prince Dara Shikoh (iii), and traveled during the reign of Aurangzeb (iv). However, he is primarily noted for his works as a traveler and physician rather than as a philosopher or historian (i), which makes that statement incorrect.

Question 15. The Mughal administrative system had an apex, a military cum bureaucratic apparatus _____ which looked after civil and military affairs.

[1 Marks]

(A) Mansabdari system

(B) Iqta system

(C) Amara-nayaka system

(D) Ijaredari system

Explanation: The correct option is 'Mansabdari system' because it was the key administrative system in the Mughal Empire that assigned ranks (mansabs) to officials, combining military and civil responsibilities to maintain control and governance.

Question 16.

Rearrange the following in chronological order:

(i) Saluva commanders replaced by Tuluvas,

(ii) Orissa subdued by Krishnadeva Raya,

(iii) Battle of Talikota,

(iv) Harihara and Bukka founded Vijayanagara.

[1 Marks]

(A) iv, ii, i, iii

(B) iv, i, iii, ii

(C) iv, i, ii, iii

(D) iv, iii, ii, i

Explanation: The correct order is iv, i, ii, iii. Harihara and Bukka founded Vijayanagara first (iv), then the Saluva commanders were replaced by the Tuluvas (i). Subsequently, Krishnadeva Raya subdued Orissa (ii), and finally, the Battle of Talikota occurred, leading to the decline of the Vijayanagara Empire (iii).

Question 17. In which of the following places is the Brihadishvara temple situated?

[1 Marks]

(A) Bijapur

(B) Belur

(C) Vijayanagara

(D) Thanjavur

Explanation: The Brihadishvara temple is located in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a significant example of Indian architecture, particularly of the Chola dynasty.

Question 18.

Assertion (A) : Our major source to know agrarian history of 16th and 17th centuries is the chronicle known as Ain-i-Akbari.

Reason (R) : This text meticulously recorded the arrangements made by the state to ensure cultivation, collect revenue and relations between state and zamindars

[1 Marks]

(A) Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A.

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

(C) A is true, but R is false.

(D) Both A and R are true, and R explains A.

Explanation:

Both A and R are true, and R explains A. The assertion correctly states that the Ain-i-Akbari is a key source for understanding agrarian history during the 16th and 17th centuries. The reason elaborates on this by explaining how the text detailed state arrangements and relations, thus providing the necessary context to support the assertion.

Question 19. Who among the following was the Emperor at Delhi during the 1857 Revolt?

[1 Marks]

(A) Birjis Qadr

(B) Aurangzeb

(C) Farukh Siyar

(D) Bahadur Shah

Explanation: The correct answer is Bahadur Shah. He was the last Mughal Emperor and played a significant role during the 1857 Revolt, acting as a symbolic leader for the rebels against British rule.

Question 20.

Match the events:

[1 Marks]

	List I (Event)		*List II (Correlation)*
i.	Fifth Report	1.	Zamindari system
ii.	Deccan Riot Commission	2.	Santhal's land
iii.	Damin-i-koh	3.	Cotton boom
iv.	American Civil War	4.	Ryotwari system

(A) i-3, ii-2, iii-1, iv-4

(B) i-2, ii-1, iii-3, iv-4

(C) i-4, ii-3, iii-1, iv-2

(D) i-1, ii-4, iii-2, iv-3

Explanation:

The correct options are i-3, ii-2, iii-1, iv-4. The Fifth Report, which discussed British India's revenue system, relates to the Cotton boom (3) as it highlighted agricultural issues. The Deccan Riot Commission addresses land disputes affecting Santhal land (2). Damin-i-koh refers to the Zamindari system (1), and the American Civil War (4) influenced agricultural practices, thus matching it with Ryotwari.

Question 21. Who among the following was considered a political mentor by Gandhiji?

[1 Marks]

(A) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

(B) Lala Lajpat Rai

(C) Dadabhai Naoroji

(D) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Explanation: Gopal Krishna Gokhale was considered a political mentor by Gandhiji because Gokhale's philosophy and approach to politics deeply influenced Gandhi. Gokhale advocated for social and political reform through non-violent means, ideals that Gandhi later adopted in his own career.

Question 22.

Arrange the following in sequence:

(i) Gandhiji's call for Non-Cooperation

(ii) Gandhiji's Kheda Satyagraha

(iii) Gandhiji's Champaran Satyagraha

(iv) Gandhiji's speech in Banaras Hindu University

[1 Marks]

(A) ii, iv, i, iii

(B) iii, i, iv, ii

(C) iv, iii, ii, i

(D) i, ii, iii, iv

Explanation:

The correct chronological sequence is:

(iv) Benaras Hindu University (1916) (iii) Champaran Satyagraha (1917) (ii) Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919) (i) Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22)

Question 23. Who served as Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution?

[1 Marks]

(A) B.N. Rao

(B) K.M. Munshi

(C) B.R. Ambedkar

(D) S.N. Mukherjee

Explanation: B.R. Ambedkar served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution. He was instrumental in shaping the Constitution and is often referred to as the 'Father of the Indian Constitution' due to his significant contributions in drafting its fundamental principles and provisions.

Question 24. Which language did Gandhiji emphasize as the national language?

[1 Marks]

(A) Hindi

(B) Hindustani

(C) English

(D) Sanskrit

Explanation: Gandhiji emphasized Hindustani as the national language because he believed it could unify people from diverse linguistic backgrounds and foster national identity, reflecting his vision of inclusive communication.

Question 25. Who led the Revolt of 1857 from Arrah, Bihar?

[1 Marks]

(A) Kunwar Singh

(B) Nana Saheb

(C) Tatya Tope

(D) Shah Mal

Explanation: The correct answer is Kunwar Singh. He was a prominent leader of the Revolt of 1857 and is well-known for his role in the resistance against British rule, particularly in the region of Bihar, including Arrah.

Section C

Question 26. Describe the distinct views of archaeologists on the Central authority of Harappa.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Archaeologists have varied perspectives on the central authority of Harappa, reflecting a nuanced understanding of its societal structure. Some scholars propose that Harappa was governed by a centralized authority, evidenced by uniformity in city planning, weights, measures, and standardized brick sizes, suggesting a bureaucratic organization. In contrast, others argue for a more decentralized form of governance, highlighting the presence of independent local leaders or clans that may have exercised control within their regions. Furthermore, some researchers emphasize the role of economic factors, suggesting that trade and agriculture might have influenced the power dynamics rather than a singular authority. This discussion is pivotal in understanding the complex social hierarchies and administrative practices in one of the world's earliest urban civilizations.

> **Key Points: Centralized authority; uniformity in city planning; evidence of bureaucratic organization; decentralized governance; local leaders; economic influences on power dynamics; complexities of social hierarchies**

Question 27. Why is the mid-first millennium BCE often considered as the turning point in world history? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The mid-first millennium BCE is considered a turning point in world history due to significant developments in various civilizations, which laid the groundwork for modern societies. This period witnessed the rise of major empires such as the Persian and the rise of philosophical thought, as seen in the works of Confucius in China and philosophical traditions in Greece. Additionally, advancements in trade and technology contributed to interconnectedness among cultures. The emergence of writing systems transformed communication, and urbanization began to shape social structures, establishing a framework for future political and economic systems. This era marked a shift from tribal warfare to more organized states, facilitating complex governance. Overall, these cultural, political, and economic transformations during the mid-first millennium BCE significantly influenced the trajectory of human history, shaping modern civilization.

Key Points: Rise of empires (Persian Empire)-Emergence of philosophical thought (Confucius, Greek philosophy)-Advancements in trade and technology-Transformation of communication through writing-Urbanization and social structure changes-Shift from tribal warfare to organized states-Influence on future governance and economic systems

Question 28. Why was Buddha considered as one of the most influential teachers of his time? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Buddha, known as Siddhartha Gautama, was one of the most influential teachers of his time for several reasons. Firstly, he introduced the concept of enlightenment and the Four Noble Truths, which emphasized the understanding of suffering and the path to overcoming it, offering a practical approach to spirituality. Secondly, his teachings encouraged critical thought over blind faith, empowering individuals to seek their own understanding of truth. Additionally, Buddha advocated for compassion and non-violence, promoting ethical living that appealed to many. His establishment of the Sangha, a community of monks and lay followers, helped to disseminate his teachings widely, ensuring that his philosophy reached diverse populations. Furthermore, his rejection of caste distinctions and emphasis on universal potential attracted followers from various backgrounds, fostering a sense of inclusivity. Overall, Buddha's unique insights and practical teachings had a profound impact on spiritual thought, making him a pivotal figure in shaping the moral and philosophical landscape of his society.

Key Points: Introduction of the Four Noble Truths; emphasis on personal understanding and critical thought; advocacy for compassion and non-violence; establishment of the Sangha for community support; rejection of caste distinctions and promotion of inclusivity.

Question 29.

The vey choice of the site of Vijayanagar was inspired by the existence of the shirnes of impressive shrines of Virupaksa and Pampadevi. Justify the statement.

[3 Marks]

Answer:

The choice of the site of **Vijayanagar** was greatly influenced by the presence of the impressive shrines of **Virupaksa Temple** and the shrine of Pampadevi. The Virupaksa Temple was already an important centre of worship dedicated to Lord Shiva and had long been a sacred pilgrimage site. The rulers of the **Vijayanagar Empire** sought religious legitimacy and divine support for their rule, and establishing their capital near such sacred shrines strengthened their authority. The association with Pampadevi, the local goddess linked with the Tungabhadra region, further enhanced the spiritual

importance of the area. Thus, the religious significance of these shrines played a major role in selecting Vijayanagar (Hampi) as the imperial capital.

Key Points: Virupaksha temple significance-Architectural excellence-Pampadevi temple cultural reflection-Religious devotion of the empire-Impact on heritage and tourism

Question 30. Explain the views of Ibn Battuta on Indian cities.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Ibn Battuta, the famous Moroccan traveler, had a profound admiration for the cities of India during his visits in the 14th century. He described them as densely populated and vibrant centers of commerce and culture. Notably, he highlighted the robust infrastructure of cities like Delhi and the hospitality extended by its inhabitants. Battuta was impressed by the variety of goods available in markets, reflecting the economic prosperity of these urban areas. He also emphasized the religious diversity found in Indian cities, noting how Muslims, Hindus, and Jains coexisted. Despite challenges like political instability, he viewed Indian cities as dynamic places full of life and opportunities, which significantly contributed to their rich cultural tapestry.

Key Points: Population density-Culture and commerce-Infrastructure and hospitality-Reverence for diversity-Economic prosperity

Question 31. Explain how Bernier found the crown ownership of land as being harmful for both the state and its people in the Mughal Empire.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Bernier criticized the Mughal practice of crown ownership of land as detrimental to both the state and its subjects. He argued that this system concentrated power excessively in the hands of the emperor, leading to an ineffective and centralized governance structure. The subjects, being directly under crown authority, faced heavy taxation, diminishing their economic productivity. Moreover, the lack of land rights led to a sense of insecurity among the peasants, exacerbating their poverty and discontent. Bernier believed that this undermined social stability, as land tenure should ideally empower local agrarian communities rather than concentrate wealth and control in the hands of the crown. Thus, he viewed the crown's ownership of land as a fundamental cause of economic strain and societal discord in the Mughal Empire.

Key Points: Crown ownership centralizes power-harms governance-heavy taxation diminishes productivity-insecurity leads to peasant discontent-undermines social stability-economic strain-societal discord

Question 32. How did the Britishers suppress the Revolt of 1857? Explain with examples.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The British response to the Revolt of 1857 was severe and ruthless. They deployed a large number of troops to re-establish control, leading to intense combat in various regions. Notably, Delhi was the epicenter of the revolt; after intense fighting, British forces recaptured it in September 1857. The British also employed strategic alliances with local rulers and utilized superior military technology. Key figures such as General Havelock played crucial roles in quelling the resistance in Kanpur and Lucknow. Additionally, the British executed rebels publicly as a deterrent and used brutal tactics to instill fear among the populace. The revolt ultimately highlighted the discontent with British rule and led to significant changes in governance as the British Crown assumed direct control over India after the revolt was suppressed.

> **Key Points: Deployment of troops-public executions-use of superior military technology-capture of Delhi-role of key figures like General Havelock-alliance with local rulers-effective combat strategies**

Question 33. The Salt March was a notable event in the Indian freedom movement. Examine the statement.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Salt March, led by Mahatma Gandhi in March 1930, was a pivotal event in the Indian freedom struggle against British colonial rule. Stretching over 240 miles from Sabarmati Ashram to the coastal village of Dandi, the march symbolized nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience. Gandhi aimed to protest the British monopoly on salt production and to inspire Indians to produce their own salt. This movement galvanized mass participation, highlighted the injustice of British laws, and attracted global attention to India's plight. It also marked a significant step in mobilizing a unified national movement against colonial oppression. The Salt March not only showcased Gandhi's leadership but also strengthened the resolve of Indians towards achieving independence.

> **Key Points: Mahatma Gandhi's leadership-lenght of the march and its route-symbolism of nonviolence and civil disobedience-impact on national mobilization-international attention to India's struggle**

Section D

Question 34.

"According to Brahmanical theory, only Kshatriyas could be kings in the early states, however several other ruling lineages probably had different origins in the statement with examples from ancient India.

[8 Marks]

Answer:

According to Brahmanical theory, society was divided into four varnas, and it was believed that only Kshatriyas had the right to rule. However, in practice, several ruling lineages in ancient India did not strictly belong to the Kshatriya varna. For example, the **Mauryan Empire** was founded by **Chandragupta Maurya**, who is believed by some traditions to have come from a non-Kshatriya background. Similarly, the **Gupta Empire** rulers, including **Chandragupta I**, were not clearly described as Kshatriyas in early sources. In the Deccan, the **Satavahana dynasty** rulers, such as **Gautamiputra Satakarni**, claimed Brahmanical status in inscriptions but were not originally considered traditional Kshatriyas. These examples show that political power in ancient India was not limited strictly to Kshatriyas, and many rulers either emerged from different social backgrounds or adopted Kshatriya identity to gain legitimacy.

Key Points:

Although Brahmanical theory restricted kingship to Kshatriyas, in reality several ruling dynasties in ancient India had diverse social origins and later claimed Kshatriya status to strengthen their authority.

Question 35.

"Given the diversity of the sub-continent , there have been populations in early states, whose social practices were not influenced by the Brahmanical ideas ." Explains the statement .

[8 Marks]

Answer:

The Indian sub-continent has always been socially and culturally diverse. Although **Brahmanical ideas** such as the varna system and Vedic rituals influenced many regions, several populations in early states followed their own traditions and were not fully shaped by these ideas.

For example, in the Deccan and South India, ruling dynasties like the **Satavahana dynasty** followed practices that differed from strict Brahmanical norms. Some Satavahana rulers allowed matrilineal elements in naming practices, such as **Gautamiputra Satakarni**, whose name was derived from his mother. In many tribal and forest regions, communities followed their own customs of marriage, inheritance, and worship that did not strictly follow the varna system.

Similarly, in regions like Tamilakam (South India), early Sangam literature reflects social structures that were different from the four-varna system. Local chieftains, pastoral groups, and peasant communities organised their society based on clan and kinship rather than Brahmanical hierarchy.

Thus, due to the vast geographical and cultural diversity of the sub-continent, many early populations maintained distinct social practices that were not fully influenced by Brahmanical ideas, showing that ancient Indian society was complex and varied.

Key Points: Presence of tribal communities (Bhils, Santhals) with unique social practices; Local governance structures in places like Magadha; Emergence of Buddhism and Jainism rejecting caste; Influence of Brahminical thought in urban centers, but many lived outside this framework; Cultural identities challenging Brahminical orthodoxy.

Question 36. Explain the philosophy and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, emphasized universal love, equality, and social justice. Central to his teachings is the belief in one God, who is formless and ubiquitous, embodying truth and justice. He preached the importance of honest living, sharing with others, and community service (seva). Guru Nanak's message also encompassed the rejection of caste, rituals, and superstitions. Through his hymns, compiled in the Guru Granth Sahib, he conveyed a spiritual understanding that encourages meditation, devotion, and ethical living. His teachings advocate for gender equality and social harmony, reflecting a commitment to creating a just society. Guru Nanak's philosophy promotes understanding across religions, urging individuals to pursue truth and engage in selfless service. His travels, known as udasis, spread his teachings across various regions, emphasizing unity and the oneness of humanity. Overall, Guru Nanak Dev's philosophy is a beacon of hope and guidance for mankind, advocating personal integrity and collective well-being.

Key Points: One God; equality and social justice; honest living; community service; rejection of caste and rituals; spiritual understanding through hymns; gender equality; understanding across religions; travels spreading teachings; unity of humanity

Question 37. Explain the beliefs and practices of Sufism.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Sufism is often described as the mystical branch of Islam that emphasizes a personal and experiential relationship with God. Central to Sufi beliefs is the idea of seeking divine love and knowledge through direct experiences known as 'ma'rifah.' Sufis believe that the ultimate goal of human life is to attain closeness to God, which can be achieved through love, devotion, and the purification of the heart. This is often articulated through the concept of the 'tawhid,' or the oneness of God. Practices in Sufism include dhikr (remembrance of God), which involves chanting and meditation, helping practitioners to attain a deeper sense of spiritual awareness. Rituals such as the 'Sema,' a dance often associated with the Whirling Dervishes, serve as both a form of worship and a means of achieving spiritual ecstasy. Additionally, Sufism promotes values such as humility, compassion, and tolerance, encouraging followers to foster peace and love, both in their personal lives and within their communities. Many Sufi orders, or 'tariqas,' emphasize a strong teacher-student relationship, where a Sufi master, known as a 'shaykh,' provides guidance and instruction in spiritual matters. Overall, Sufism represents a blend of devotion, poetry, music, and art, all aimed at enhancing the individual's relationship with the divine.

Key Points: Mystical branch of Islam; personal relationship with God; seeking divine love and knowledge; goal of attaining closeness to God; belief in oneness of God; practices include dhikr and rituals; values of humility, compassion, and tolerance; importance of teacher-student relationship; blend of devotion, poetry, and music.

Question 38. Examine how jotedars became a powerful figure in rural areas of Bengal during the end of the 18th century.

[8 Marks]

Answer: During the late 18th century, jotedars emerged as significant power brokers in rural Bengal, primarily due to the socio-economic transformations brought about by colonial policies. Originally landowners who managed larger estates, these influential individuals gained prominence as intermediaries between the British authorities and local farmers. By collecting taxes and administering land, they acquired substantial control over agricultural production. The introduction of the Permanent Settlement in 1793 further empowered jotedars, as they were granted rights to rent land without interference, leading to increased land consolidation. This process enabled them to exert socio-political influence, shape local governance, and manipulate agricultural practices to their advantage. The jotedars, possessing both wealth and local connections, became pivotal in village economies, controlling the distribution of credit and resources, which reinforced their status. Additionally, the shift towards cash crops and the burgeoning market economy allowed jotedars to monopolize agricultural output and improve their wealth, solidifying their grip on rural society. Consequently, jotedars not only transformed the agrarian landscape but also played a crucial role in the power dynamics within Bengal, often challenging traditional leadership structures.

Key Points: 1. Jotedars as powerful intermediaries between British authorities and farmers. 2. Impact of the Permanent Settlement of 1793 on jotedars' land rights. 3. Socio-political influence and control over local governance by jotedars. 4. Role in agricultural production and credit distribution. 5. Consolidation of wealth through cash crops and market economy.

Question 39. Examine the causes for the failure of zamindars to pay the revenue demand during the last decades of the 18th century.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The failure of zamindars to meet revenue demands in the late 18th century was attributed to various interconnected factors. Firstly, the increasing agricultural distress, exacerbated by natural calamities like floods and droughts, significantly reduced crop yields, leading to a decline in revenue. Additionally, changing economic conditions, marked by rising taxation under British rule, imposed an overwhelming burden on zamindars, who found it difficult to sustain their financial obligations. The displacement of traditional agrarian practices further undermined their ability to generate income. Social upheaval, such as peasant revolts and weakening of zamindar authority, contributed to a breakdown in revenue collection mechanisms. Lastly, many zamindars faced internal conflicts or were

embroiled in legal disputes, which diverted their focus and resources away from managing agricultural production and tax obligations. Collectively, these factors culminated in widespread failure to fulfill revenue demands, resulting in the financial and administrative decline of zamindars during this period.

Key Points: Agricultural distress due to natural calamities - Rising taxation under British rule - Displacement of traditional agricultural practices - Social upheaval and peasant revolts - Internal conflicts and legal disputes among zamindars