CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2026

HISTORY

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 94

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper contains **41 questions.** All questions are **compulsory.**

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

iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 5** are case based questions

iv. **Section B** – questions number **6 to 27** are multiple choice questions

v. **Section C** – questions number **28 to 35** are short answer

vi. **Section D** – questions number **36 to 41** 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 :

How Buddhist texts were prepared and preserved.

The Buddha (and other teachers) taught orally – through discussion and debate. Men and women (perhaps children as well) attended these discourses and discussed what they heard. None of the Buddha's speeches were written down during his lifetime. After his death (c. fifth-fourth century BCE) his teachings were compiled by his disciples at a council of 'elders' or senior monks at Vesali (Pali for Vaishali in present-day Bihar). These compilations were known as Tipitaka – literally, three baskets to

hold different types of texts. They were first transmitted orally and then written and classified according to length as well as subject matter.

The Vinaya Pitaka included rules and regulations for those who joined the sangha or monastic order; the Buddha's teachings were included in the Sutta Pitaka; and the Abhidhamma Pitaka dealt with philosophical matters. Each pitaka comprised a number of individual texts. Later, commentaries were written on these texts by Buddhist scholars.

As Buddhism travelled to new regions such as Sri Lanka, other texts such as the Dipavamsa (literally, the chronicle of the island) and Mahavamsa (the great chronicle) were written, containing regional histories of Buddhism. Many of these works contained biographies of the Buddha. Some of the oldest texts are in Pali, while later compositions are in Sanskrit.

When Buddhism spread to East Asia, pilgrims such as Fa Xian and Xuan Zang travelled all the way from China to India in search of texts. These they took back to their own country, where they were translated by scholars. Indian Buddhist teachers also travelled to faraway places, carrying texts to disseminate the teachings of the Buddha.

Buddhist texts were preserved in manuscripts for several centuries in monasteries in different parts of Asia. Modern translations have been prepared from Pali, Sanskrit, Chinese and Tibetan texts.

> **(1) Explain why Buddha's speeches were not written down during his lifetime.**
>
> [1 Marks]

> **(2) Assess the impact of orally transmitting texts before writing them down for preservation.**
>
> [1 Marks]

> **(3) Explain the differences between the Vinaya Pitaka and Sutta Pitaka.**
>
> [2 Marks]

Question 2.

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

Trade between the hill tribes and the plains, c. 1595.

This is how Abu'l Fazl describes the transactions between the hill tribes and the plains in the suba of Awadh (part of present-day Uttar Pradesh):

From the northern mountains quantities of goods are carried on the backs of men, of stout ponies and of goats, such as gold, copper, lead, musk, tails of the kutas cow (the yak), honey, chuk (an acid composed of orange juice and lemon boiled together), pomegranate seed, ginger, long pepper, majith (a plant producing a red dye) root, borax, zedoary (a root resembling turmeric), wax, woollen stuffs, wooden ware, hawks, falcons, black falcons, merlins (a kind of bird), and other articles. In exchange they carry back white and coloured clothes, amber, salt, asafoetida, ornaments, glass and earthen ware.

(1) Why was trade between the mountains and plains important for the Mughal economy?

[1 Marks]

(2) How did the people of the plains benefit from trade with the hill tribes?

[1 Marks]

(3) How did Abu'l Fazl describe the variety of goods carried by the hill tribes?

[2 Marks]

Question 3.

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

What the sepoys thought.

This is one of the arzis (petition or application) of rebel sepoys that have survived. A century ago the British arrived in Hindostan and gradually entertained troops in their service, and became masters of every state. Our forefathers have always served them, and we also entered their service ... By the mercy of God and with our assistance the British also conquered every place they liked, in which thousands of us, Hindostani men were sacrificed, but we never made any excuses or pretences nor revolted ...

But in the year eighteen fifty seven the British issued an order that new cartridges and muskets which had arrived from England were to be issued; in the former of which the fats of cows and pigs were mixed; and also that attah of wheat mixed with powdered bones was to be eaten; and even distributed them in every Regiment of infantry, cavalry and artillery ...

They gave these cartridges to the sowars (mounted soldiers) of the 3rd Light Cavalry, and ordered them to bite them; the troopers objected to it, and said that they would never bite them, for if they did, their religion and faith would be destroyed ... upon this the British officers paraded the men of the 3

Regiments and having prepared 1,400 English soldiers, and other Battalions of European troops and Horse Artillery, surrounded them, and placing six guns before each of the infantry regiments, loaded the guns with grape and made 84 new troopers prisoners, and put them in jail with irons on them ... The reason that the sowars of the Cantonment were put into jail was that we should be frightened into biting the new cartridges. On this account we and all our country-men having united together, have fought the British for the preservation of our faith ... we have been compelled to make war for two years and the Rajahs and Chiefs who are with us in faith and religion, are still so, and have undergone all sorts of trouble; we have fought for two years in order that our faith and religion may not be polluted. If the religion of a Hindoo or Mussalman is lost, what remains in the world?

(1) How did the sepoys justify their rebellion in the 'arzi'?

[1 Marks]

(2) How did the British introduce the new cartridges?

[1 Marks]

(3) Why did the sepoys and Indian chiefs work together?

[2 Marks]

Question 4. On the given political outline map of India, locate and label the following places with appropriate symbols :



(1) Nagarjunakonda − An Ancient Buddhist site

[2 Marks]

(2) Dholavira − A mature Harappan site

[1 Marks]

(3) Agra − A territory under the Mughals

[1 Marks]

(4) Bijapur − A medieval period state

[1 Marks]

Question 5. On the same political outline map of India, two places have been marked as ‘A’ and ‘B’, as the centres of the Indian National Movement. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.



(1) Mention any one mature Harappan site in present Pakistan

[1 Marks]

(2) Name any one territory which was under the Mughals.

[1 Marks]

(3) Mention one ancient Buddhist site in Eastern India

[1 Marks]

(4) Name any one neighbouring kingdom of the Vijayanagara empire.

[1 Marks]

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

[1 Marks]

Section B

Question 6. ‘‘Mesopotamian texts mention contacts with Meluhha.’’ Which of the following statements is supported by archaeological interpretation regarding it ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Meluhha referred to South Indian megalith culture.

(B) Meluhha was the other name of ancient Egypt.

(C) Meluhha was an ancient kingdom ruled by Lord Shiva.

(D) Meluhha referred to a trading area of Harappa.

Question 7.

Assertion (A) : Asoka was the first ruler who inscribed his messages to his subjects on stone surfaces and pillars.

Reason (R) : Asoka ensured that the message of dhamma reached as many people as possible.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Question 8.

Arrange the following literary compositions in chronological order and choose the correct option :

I. Ashtadhyayi of Panini

II. Harshcharita of Banabhatta

III. Arthashastra of Kautilya

IV. Natyashastra of Bharata

[1 Marks]

(A) I, IV, III, II

(B) III, I, IV, II

(C) II, III, I, IV

(D) III, I, II, IV

Question 9.

Identify this character of Mahabharata with the help of the following information and choose the correct option :

• He considered himself as a disciple of Dronacharya.

• He honoured his guru by giving his right hand thumb as Gurudakshina.

• He mastered archery through self-practice.

[1 Marks]

(A) Nakul

(B) Karna

(C) Arjuna

(D) Ekalavy

Question 10. Study the given image of Buddha from the first century CE and identify the ancient school of Indian art of this from the following options :

[1 Marks]



(A) Gandhara

(B) Sarnath

(C) Amravati

(D) Mathura

Question 11.

Which of the following is another name for Hinayana Buddhism ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Vajrayana

(B) Mahayana

(C) Theravada

(D) Zen

Question 12.

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

[1 Marks]

	Column A (Archaeologist)		*Column B (Contribution)*
a.	Daya Ram Sahni	i.	Discovered seals at Mohenjodaro
b.	Rakhal Das Banerji	ii.	Discovered seals at Harappa
c.	R.E.M. Wheeler	iii.	Authored *'The Story of Indian Archaeology'*
d.	S.N. Roy	iv.	Brought military precision in Archaeology

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

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

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

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

Question 13. Which one of the following constituted 'Stridhana' owned by women according to the Dharmashastras ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Grants of land from the king and Brahmanas

(B) Gifts received at the time of marriage and from relatives

(C) Equal share of paternal property and assets

(D) Exchange of gifts by the families of the bride and the bridegroom

Question 14. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched ?

[1 Marks]

	Column A (Traveller)		*Column B (Country)*
(A)	Afanasii Nikitin	—	Spain
(B)	Jean-Baptiste Tavernier	—	Netherlands (Dutch)
(C)	Marco Polo	—	Italy
(D)	Pelsaert	—	Portugal

(A) Afanasii Nikitin — Spain

(B) Marco Polo — Italy

(C) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier — Netherlands (Dutch)

(D) Pelsaert — Portugal

Question 15.

Which of the following statements about Mirabai are correct ?

I. She was married into Sisodia clan of Mewar.

II. She considered Krishna her divine lover.

III. Her spiritual guru was Ramanand.

IV. She founded a sect with a group of followers.

[1 Marks]

(A) Only III and IV are correct.

(B) Only II and IV are correct.

(C) Only I and II are correct.

(D) Only II and III are correct.

Question 16. Which of the following regions was known as the 'Raichur Doab' that was captured by the Vijayanagara Empire in 1512 ?

[1 Marks]

(A) The region between Narmada and Kaveri rivers

(B) The region between Godavari and Krishna rivers

(C) The region between Tapi and Narmada rivers

(D) The region between Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers

Question 17. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the options given below : The Ain-i-Akbari was part of a larger history called the _____ Nama.

[1 Marks]

(A) Babur

(B) Akbar

(C) Shahjahan

(D) Jahangir

Question 18. According to Akbar's land classification, which of the following categories referred to land left uncultivated for more than five years ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Chachar

(B) Polaj

(C) Banjar

(D) Parauti

Question 19. Find the odd one out regarding the Sikh Gurus.

[1 Marks]

(A) Guru Raidas

(B) Guru Arjan Dev

(C) Guru Angad Dev

(D) Guru Nanak Dev

Question 20.

Read the following statements regarding Ibn Battuta's travel experiences and choose the correct option : I. His travel was unsafe as he was looted many times.

II. He travelled in caravans along with companions.

III. His journey took months due to vast distances.

IV. He has written his travelling experiences in Persian.

[1 Marks]

(A) II, III and IV are correct.

(B) I, II and IV are correct.

(C) I, II and III are correct.

(D) I, III and IV are correct.

Question 21. Who amongst the following was the leader of the Santhal rebellion ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Sidhu Manjhi

(B) Birsa Munda

(C) Jatra Bhaga

(D) Alluri Sitarama Raju

Question 22. Which of the following regions was not a major centre of the Revolt of 1857 ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Kanpur

(B) Meerut

(C) Mysore

(D) Lucknow

Question 23. Choose the correct option from the following to fill in the blank regarding the regions of nationalist leaders of India : Bal Gangadhar Tilak : Maharashtra; Bipin Chandra Pal : _____

[1 Marks]

(A) Punjab

(B) Bihar

(C) Bengal

(D) Delhi

Question 24. Match Column A with Column B regarding the important Committees of the Constituent Assembly and Presidents and choose the correct option :

[1 Marks]

	Column A (Committee)		***Column B (President)***
a.	Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee	i.	Rajendra Prasad
b.	States Committee	ii.	B.R. Ambedkar
c.	Drafting Committee	iii.	Jawaharlal Nehru
d.	Steering Committee	iv.	J.B. Kripalani

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

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

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

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

Question 25.

Assertion (A) : In the 1850's Awadh was called the 'nursery of the Bengal Army'.

Reason (R) : Here a large number of sepoys were recruited from entire India.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Question 26.

Identify the Indian social reformer of the nineteenth century with the help of the following information and choose the correct option :

• He was from Maharashtra

. • He pointed to the suffering of the depressed classes.

• He demanded economic and social justice.

[1 Marks]

(A) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

(B) Swami Vivekanand

(C) Sri Narayana Guru

(D) Jyotiba Phule

Question 27. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the options given below : The Government of India pressurised the Government of _____ to set-up a commission of enquiry to investigate into the causes of the 'Deccan Riots'.

[1 Marks]

(A) Calcutta

(B) Madras

(C) Delhi

(D) Bombay

Section C

Question 28. Imagine you are writing a research project on Harappan agriculture. Which three pieces of archaeological evidence would you cite to explain it?

[3 Marks]

Question 29. Imagine your school is hosting an exhibition on the Harappan civilization and you are responsible for the section on the Harappan script. Which three aspects of it would you explain to the visitors?

[3 Marks]

Question 30. Describe any three features of the Mauryan administration.

[3 Marks]

Question 31. Explain the barriers that Al-Biruni faced in understanding Indian society.

[3 Marks]

Question 32. Explain the role of Guru Gobind Singh in Sikhism.

[3 Marks]

Question 33. Explain the 'Ultimate Reality' principle in Kabir's philosophy.

[3 Marks]

Question 34. How did the British exploit the Paharias of Rajmahal hills during the 18th century? Explain with examples.

[3 Marks]

Question 35. Analyse how the Constituent Assembly of India addressed the issue of federalism.

[3 Marks]

Section D

Question 36. Describe the examples which show that Brahmanical ideas on kinship, marriage and ruling lineage were not universally followed during the early historical period in India.

[8 Marks]

Question 37. Describe the process undertaken by V.S. Sukthankar and his team in preparing the critical edition of the Mahabharata.

[8 Marks]

Question 38.

‘The temple architecture of the Vijayanagara empire was distinctive and unique.’’ Explain the statement with examples.

[8 Marks]

Question 39. The Royal Centre of Vijayanagara comprised a variety of buildings that reflected the prestige of the empire. Explain the statement with examples.

[8 Marks]

Question 40. Examine the causes and events of the Quit India Movement.

[8 Marks]

Question 41. Examine the causes and events of the Non-Cooperation Movement.

[8 Marks]