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 thatfollow :

Verses from the Upanishads

Here are two verses from the Chhandogya Upanishad, a text composed in Sanskrit c. sixth century BCE:

The nature of the self

This self of mine within the heart, is smaller than paddy or barley or mustard or millet or the kernel of a seed of millet. This self of mine within the heart is greater than the earth, greater than the intermediate space, greater than heaven, greater than these worlds.

The true sacrifice

This one (the wind) that blows, this is surely a sacrifice ... While moving, it sanctifies all this; therefore it is indeed a sacrifice.

> **(1) Where does the soul reside according to the verse?**
>
> [1 Marks]

> **(2) How is the soul described in terms of size?**
>
> [1 Marks]

> **(3) What happens when a person truly knows the self (soul) according to the Chhandogya Upanishad?**
>
> [2 Marks]

Question 2.

Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that

follow :

How Silver Came to India

This excerpt from Giovanni Careri's account (based on Bernier's account) gives an idea of the enormous amount of wealth that found its way into the Mughal Empire:

That the Reader may form some idea of the Wealth of this (Mughal) Empire, he is to observe that all the Gold and Silver, which circulates throughout the World at last Centres here. It is well known that as much of it comes out of America, after running through several Kingdoms of Europe, goes partly into Turkey, for several sorts of Commodities; and part into Persia, by the way of Smirna for Silk. Now the Turks not being able to abstain from Coffee, which comes from Hyeman (Oman), and Arabia ... nor Persia, Arabia, and the Turks themselves to go without the commodities of India, send vast quantities of Money to Moka (Mocha) on the Red Sea, near Babel Mandel; to Bassora (Basra) at the bottom of the Persian Gulf; ... which is afterwards sent over in Ships to Indostan (Hindustan). Besides the Indian, Dutch, English, and Portuguese Ships, that every Year carry the Commodities of Indostan

to Pegu, Tanasserri (parts of Myanmar), Siam (Thailand), Ceylon (Sri Lanka) ... the Maldive Islands, Mozambique and other Places, must of necessity convey much Gold and Silver thither, from those Countries. All that the Dutch fetch from the Mines in Japan, sooner or later, goes to Indostan; and the goods carry'd hence into Europe, whether to France, England, or Portugal, are all purchas'd for ready Money, which remains there.

(1) How did ships contribute to the flow of silver and gold to India?

[1 Marks]

(2) How did silver and gold from America reach India?

[1 Marks]

(3) How did India benefit from global trade networks in the 17th century?

[2 Marks]

Question 3.

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

Framing the Constitution

The Indian Constitution, which came into effect on 26 January, 1950, has the dubious distinction of being the longest in the world. But its length and complexity are perhaps understandable when one considers the country's size and diversity. At Independence, India was not merely large and diverse, but also deeply divided. A Constitution designed to keep the country together, and to take it forward, had necessarily to be an elaborate, carefully-worked-out, and painstakingly drafted document. For one thing, it sought to heal wounds of the past and the present, to make Indians of different classes, castes and communities come together in a shared political experiment. For another, it sought to nurture democratic institutions in what had long been a culture of hierarchy and deference.

The Constitution of India was framed between December 1946 and November 1949. During this time, its drafts were discussed clause-by-clause in the Constituent Assembly of India.

(1) Why is the Indian Constitution regarded as the longest in the world?

[1 Marks]

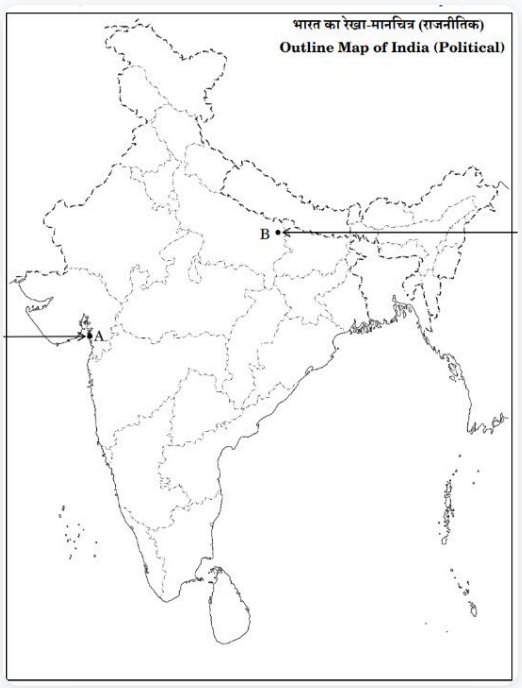
(2) Why was the Constitution seen as essential at the time of Independence?

[1 Marks]

(3) How did the Constitution seek to nurture democracy in India?

[2 Marks]

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



(1) Lothal − A mature Harappan site

[1 Marks]

(2) Amaravati − A Buddhist site

[1 Marks]

(3) Delhi − A territory under Mughals

[1 Marks]

(4) Vijayanagara − A medieval period kingdom

[2 Marks]

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



(1) Mention any one mature Harappan site in Western India.

[1 Marks]

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

[1 Marks]

(3) Mention any one ancient Buddhist site in South Indi

[1 Marks]

(4) Name any one neighbouring kingdom of the VijayanagaraEmpire.

[1 Marks]

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

[1 Marks]

Section B

Question 6.

Which of the following statements about the Harappan economy are correct ?

I. Urban centres provide remains of organized craft production.

II. Use of iron tools for agriculture was common.

III. Evidence of seals indicates long distance trade.

IV. Standardised weights point towards regulated trade contacts.

[1 Marks]

(A) I, II and IV

(B) I, III and IV

(C) I, II and III

(D) II, III and IV

Question 7.

Assertion (A) : Most Asokan inscriptions were in the Prakrit language.

Reason (R) : The use of Prakrit shows his attempt to spread the message amongst the common people.

[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 and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

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

Question 8.

Arrange the following rulers in chronological order:

I. Kanishka

II. Mahapadma Nanda

III. Samudragupta

IV. Chandragupta Maurya

[1 Marks]

(A) IV, II, III,I

(B) III, I, II, IV

(C) I, III, IV, I

(D) II, IV, I, III

Question 9.

Identify the character from the Mahabharata:

• He was the elder brother of Pandu.

• He was the king of Hastinapur.

• He was the husband of Gandhari.

[1 Marks]

(A) Dushkarna

(B) Dhritarashtra

(C) Dushasana

(D) Duryodhana

Question 10. Look at the image of Bodhisatta given below and identify the ancient school of art from the following options :

[1 Marks]



(A) Gandhara

(B) Mathura

(C) Amaravati

(D) Sarnath

Question 11.

Who amongst the following rulers of Bhopal provided money for the preservation of Sanchi ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Shahjehan Begum

(B) Sikandar Begum

(C) Qudsia Begum

(D) Rukhsar Begum

Question 12.

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

[1 Marks]

	Column A (Harappan Site)		***Column B (Feature)***
a.	Dholavira	i.	Great Bath
b.	Mohenjodaro	ii.	Ploughed Fields
c.	Kalibangan	iii.	Craft Centre
d.	Nageshwar	iv.	Water Reservoir

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

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

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

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

Question 13. Identify the system of succession that was emphasised by ruling dynasties from the sixth century BCE onwards and reinforced in the Mahabharata.

[1 Marks]

(A) Electoral succession

(B) Fraternal succession

(C) Patriliny succession

(D) Matriliny succession

Question 14.

Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

[1 Marks]

	Column A (Traveller)		*Column B (Their Country)*
(A)	Antonio Monserrate	:	Italy
(B)	Duarte Barbosa	:	France
(C)	Jean-Baptiste Tavernier	:	Portugal
(D)	Peter Mundy	:	England

(A) Peter Mundy-England

(B) Antonio Monserrate -FrancE

(C) Duarte Barbosa — Portugal.

(D) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier -Italy

Question 15.

Which of the following statements accurately describes Amir Khusrau ?

I. He was a great poet and musician.

II. He introduced the qaul in Chishti Sama.

III. He was a disciple of Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi.

IV. He laid the foundation of qawwali tradition.

[1 Marks]

(A) I, II and IV are correct.

(B) I, II and III are correct.

(C) II, III and IV are correct.

(D) I, III and IV are correct.

Question 16.

Which of the following battles in 1565 led to the decline of the Vijayanagara Empire?

[1 Marks]

(A) Battle of Plassey

(B) Battle of Panipat

(C) Battle of Talikota

(D) Battle of Buxar

Question 17.

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word: The Shah Nahar Canal in Punjab was repaired during the reign of _____.

[1 Marks]

(A) Akbar

(B) Babur

(C) Jahangir

(D) Shahjahan

Question 18. Which of the following types of land was cultivated every year without leaving it fallow during the reign of Akbar?

[1 Marks]

(A) Chachar

(B) Parauti

(C) Polaj

(D) Banjar

Question 19. Find the odd one out regarding the main teachers of Sufi Silsila:

[1 Marks]

	(Sufi teachers)		*(Dargah)*
(A)	Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i Shakar	:	Ajodhan
(B)	Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya	:	Agra
(C)	Shaikh Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Delhi	:	Delhi
(D)	Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki	:	Delhi

(A) Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i-Shakar — Ajodhan

(B) Shaikh Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Delhi — Delhi

(C) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya — Agra

(D) Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki — Delhi

Question 20.

Read the following statements carefully regarding Al-Biruni's ''Kitab-ul-Hind'' and choose the correct option :

I. It is a voluminous text of eighty chapters.

II. It is written in Arabic, Urdu and Hindavi.

III. Each of its chapters begins with a question.

IV. It covers many subjects like astronomy, festivals, etc.

[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 British Governor Generals introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Charles Cornwallis

(B) William Bentinck

(C) George Barlow

(D) Warren Hastings

Question 22.

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

[1 Marks]

(A) Arrah

(B) Bombay

(C) Jhansi

(D) Delhi

Question 23.

Choose the correct option from the following to fill in the blank regarding the regions of nationalist leaders of India : Bipin Chandra Pal : Bengal; Lala Lajpat Rai : _____

[1 Marks]

(A) Maharashtra

(B) Delhi

(C) Punjab

(D) Gujarat

Question 24.

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

[1 Marks]

	Column A (Committee)		*Column B (President)*
a.	Rules of Procedures Committee	i.	J.B. Kripalani
b.	Union Power Committee	ii.	Vallabhbhai Patel
c.	Provincial Constitution Committee	iii.	Jawaharlal Nehru
d.	Flag Committee	iv.	Rajendra Prasad

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

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

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

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

Question 25.

Assertion (A) : The Sepoys proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leader in the Revolt of 1857.

Reason (R) : Bahadur Shah Zafar's acceptance gave legitimacy to the Revolt of 1857.

[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 the 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 the 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 :

• Opposed child marriage

• Advocated for social justice

• Campaigned for reform of Hinduism

• Known for Vedantic theory

[1 Marks]

(A) M.G. Ranade

(B) Jyotiba Phule

(C) Swami Vivekananda

(D) Gopal Hari Deshmukh

Question 27.

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the options given below :

The Deccan Riots Commission produced a report that was presented to the _____ Parliament in 1878.

[1 Marks]

(A) British

(B) French

(C) Italian

(D) Spanish

Section C

Question 28. Imagine you are a research scholar studying Harappan seals displayed in the National Museum. Explain any three aspects about the role of Harappan seals in trade and administration.

[3 Marks]

Question 29. Imagine you are visiting the National Museum and see the replica of the 'Priest-King' stone statue from Mohenjodaro. Which three conclusions would you make about Harappa from this artefact? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Question 30. Describe any three sources to reconstruct the history of the Mauryan Empire.

[3 Marks]

Question 31. How did Bernier's account highlight the positive role of Indian women? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Question 32. "Kabir is one of the most outstanding examples of poet-saints of Nirguna Bhakti." Explain the statement.

[3 Marks]

Question 33. “Alvars of the sixth century created a rich cultural legacy.” Explain the statement.

[3 Marks]

Question 34. Critically examine the varied aspects of the Fifth Report of 1813.

[3 Marks]

Question 35. How did Indian art and literature depict the Revolt of 1857 as the First War of Independence? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Section D

Question 36. Mahabharata is considered as a dynamic text. Explain the statement with examples.

[8 Marks]

Question 37. Mahabharata reinforced the ideas of familial values. Explain the statement with examples.

[8 Marks]

Question 38. Examine the structural and ceremonial features of the Mahanavami Dibba of the Vijayanagara Empire.

[8 Marks]

Question 39. Examine the distinctive features of the Vijayanagara fortifications that reflected the strength of the empire.

[8 Marks]

Question 40. The Non-Cooperation Movement became an unprecedented popular movement in the history of colonial India. Justify the statement with suitable arguments.

[8 Marks]

Question 41. The Salt Satyagraha was an all-India campaign in opposition to colonial rule. Justify the statement with suitable arguments.

[8 Marks]
