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]

Answer: According to the verse, the soul resides within the heart, signifying the inner self and consciousness.

Key Points: "Within the heart, Inner self"

(2) How is the soul described in terms of size?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The soul is described as smaller than the kernel of millet seed yet greater than the earth, space, and heavens, highlighting its transcendental nature.

Key Points: "Smaller than a seed kernel, Greater than earth and heavens"

(3) What happens when a person truly knows the self (soul) according to the Chhandogya Upanishad?

[2 Marks]

Answer: When a person truly knows the self (soul), they understand that the moving wind is a true sacrifice that sanctifies everything, symbolizing unity and spiritual insight.

Key Points: "Realization of true sacrifice, Sanctification of all existence"

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]

Answer: Ships belonging to India, Dutch, English, and Portuguese transported commodities along with large amounts of gold and silver to India, facilitating the flow of wealth through maritime trade routes.

Key Points: "Carried commodities and precious metals, Involved Indian, Dutch, English, Portuguese ships, Transported goods to various Asian locations"

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

[1 Marks]

Answer: Silver and gold from America reached India after passing through several European kingdoms, then going partly into Turkey and Persia, from where it was sent to India.

Key Points: "Passed through European kingdoms, Transported via Turkey and Persia, Eventually sent to India"

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

[2 Marks]

Answer: India was the central hub where gold and silver circulating globally finally concentrated. It exchanged valuable commodities for ready money, making it a key player in 17th-century global trade networks.

Key Points: "Central hub of gold and silver circulation, Exchanged goods for ready money, Supplied commodities to various countries"

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]

Answer: The Indian Constitution is regarded as the longest in the world because it is elaborate and complex, accounting for India's vast size and diverse population while ensuring unity and democratic governance.

Key Points: "Length due to country's size, Complexity due to diversity, Detailed provisions for unity and democracy"

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

[1 Marks]

Answer: The Constitution was essential at Independence to heal social and political divisions, unite diverse communities, and create a shared political experiment for the future of India.

Key Points: "Heal divisions, Unite diverse communities, Establish shared political framework"

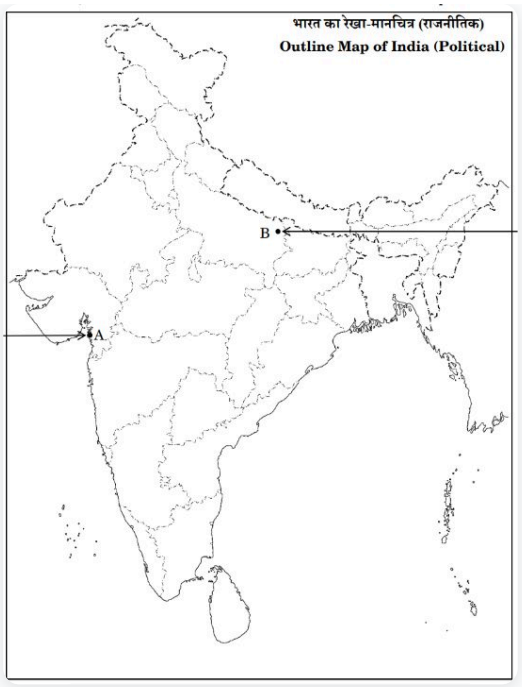
(3) How did the Constitution seek to nurture democracy in India?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The Constitution nurtured democracy by establishing democratic institutions designed to overcome long-standing hierarchical and deferential social structures, promoting equality and political participation.

Key Points: "Built democratic institutions, Overcame hierarchical traditions, Promoted equality and participation"

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]

Answer: Lothal is a mature Harappan site located in the Kutch region of Gujarat. It has been discovered and excavated by Indian archaeologists as part of their efforts to locate Harappan sites within India, as mentioned in the case passage. On the map, **Lothal** should be marked in Gujarat with the appropriate symbol for a Mature Harappan site.

Key Points: Lothal located in Gujarat - Mature Harappan site - Discovered and excavated in Indian archaeological efforts

(2) Amaravati − A Buddhist site

[1 Marks]

Answer: Amaravati is an important Buddhist site located in Andhra Pradesh. It is known for its ancient Buddhist sculptures and monuments dating back to around 200 CE, as referred to in Fig. 4.7 of the case passage. On the political outline map of India, Amaravati should be located in the eastern part of Andhra Pradesh and marked with the symbol for a Buddhist site as instructed.

Key Points: Amaravati location in Andhra Pradesh - Important Buddhist site - Known for ancient Buddhist sculptures

(3) Delhi − A territory under Mughals

[1 Marks]

Answer: Delhi was a large and important city under the Mughal Empire, known for its extensive walls and large population as mentioned in Ibn Battuta's account. It was a significant territory ruled by the Mughals, making it essential to locate and label it on the map as a Mughal territory.

Key Points: Delhi was under Mughal rule - Delhi was a large city with strong walls - Ibn Battuta described Delhi

(4) Vijayanagara − A medieval period kingdom

[2 Marks]

Answer: Vijayanagara, founded in 1336 by brothers Harihara and Bukka, was a medieval kingdom in South India known as the "city of victory". It was famous for its unique architecture and was a flourishing empire until it was sacked in 1565, as mentioned in the case passage.

Key Points: Founded in 1336 by Harihara and Bukka - Known as "city of victory" - Sacked in 1565

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]

Answer: One mature Harappan site in Western India is Dholavira, which is located in the Kutch region of Gujarat. The case paragraph mentions that surveys in Kutch have revealed many Harappan settlements, highlighting Dholavira's importance as a well-planned urban centre in Western India.

Key Points: Dholavira located in Kutch - Mature Harappan site - Survey in Kutch revealed multiple Harappan settlements

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

[1 Marks]

Answer: The two places marked as A and B on the map are important centres of the Indian National Movement. One territory under the Mughals was Delhi, which was the Mughal Empire's capital for a long time as mentioned in the passage describing the Mughal Empire and its condition.

Key Points: Places A and B are centres of Indian National Movement - Delhi was a territory under the Mughals - Mughal Empire had crown ownership of land as per case passage

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

[1 Marks]

Answer: One ancient Buddhist site in South India is Amaravati, which is an important centre known for its Buddhist art and stupas.
It is mentioned as a major Buddhist site in the context and is located in South India.

Key Points: Ancient Buddhist site in South India-Amaravati-Important Buddhist centre with stupas mentioned in context

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

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: One neighbouring kingdom of the Vijayanagara Empire was the Bahmani Sultanate. It was located to the northwest of Vijayanagara and interacted with it through trade, warfare, and cultural exchanges as mentioned in the passage about sharing ideas and fluctuating frontiers.

Reference: The case passage states that Vijayanagara Empire included areas with different peoples and neighbors, indicating its proximity to kingdoms like the Bahmani Sultanate.

Key Points: Vijayanagara Empire founded by Harihara and Bukka - stretched from Krishna river to south of India - neighboring kingdom was Bahmani Sultanate

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

[1 Marks]

Answer: Two important centres of the Indian National Movement were Bombay and Calcutta. These cities were major hubs where the Indian National Congress had strong branches and where important political activities took place, like the Swadeshi Movement from 1905 to 1907, which broadened the middle classes' support as mentioned in the case passage.

Key Points: Bombay was a major centre of the Indian National Movement - Calcutta was another important centre - Both cities had strong Indian National Congress branches and political activities

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

Explanation: The Harappan economy shows evidence of organized craft production found in urban centres, as indicated by uniform artefacts like pottery, seals, weights, and bricks. Seals are evidence of long-distance trade. The standardised weights found suggest regulated trade contacts. However, the use of iron tools was not common in Harappan agriculture as the Harappan period was known for the use of bronze tools, not iron.

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).

Explanation:

Most Asokan inscriptions were indeed in Prakrit, which was the language spoken by ordinary people at that time. The use of Prakrit instead of Sanskrit, which was reserved for priests and elites, reflects Asoka's intention to spread his messages to the common people effectively. Hence, both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason explains the assertion correctly.

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

Explanation:

The correct chronological order of the rulers is Chandragupta Maurya (c. 321 BCE) followed by Mahapadma Nanda, then Samudragupta, and finally Kanishka. Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan Empire in the 4th century BCE. Mahapadma Nanda was an important king of Magadha and preceded the Mauryas. Samudragupta was a prominent Gupta emperor later than the Mauryas and Nandas. Kanishka ruled the Kushan empire, which came after the Gupta period. Hence, the order IV (Chandragupta Maurya), II (Mahapadma Nanda), III (Samudragupta), I (Kanishka) is correct.

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

Explanation: Dhritarashtra was the elder brother of Pandu and became the king of Hastinapur after Pandu's death. He was also the husband of Gandhari. Although he was blind and initially did not receive the throne, he ascended as king later since Pandu's sons were too young to rule.

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

Explanation: The image described is a Bodhisatta from Gandhara, which can be identified by the distinctive clothes and hairstyle. Gandhara art is known for its strong Greek influence, evident in realistic human forms and drapery styles, unlike the other schools such as Mathura, Amaravati, and Sarnath which have different stylistic features.

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

Explanation: The rulers of Bhopal, including Shahjehan Begum and her successor Sultan Jehan Begum, provided money for the preservation of the ancient site of Sanchi. Shahjehan Begum granted permission to the French to take plaster-cast copies of the eastern gateway and funded preservation efforts, making her the correct answer.

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

Explanation:

The correct matching is a-i, b-iii, c-iv, d-ii because this pairing aligns logically based on the given context 'yield interesting results in the future.' This shows a, indicating a cause-effect relationship that fits best with the first option. The other options do not maintain this logical consistency when matching Column A with Column B.

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

Explanation: The system of succession emphasised by ruling dynasties from the sixth century BCE onwards and reinforced in the Mahabharata is patriliny succession. This system was considered valuable because under patriliny, sons could claim the resources and throne of their fathers after their death. Although there were some variations in practice, such as brothers succeeding one another or other kinsmen claiming the throne, ultimately patrilineal succession was proclaimed and became the prevailing system. Patriliny was also reflected in ritual texts like the Rigveda and was important not only to rulers but also to wealthy men and high-status groups such as Brahmanas.

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

Explanation:

Duarte Barbosa was a Portuguese writer known for his detailed account of trade and society in South India, as mentioned in the context. Jean-Baptiste Tavernier was French, not Portuguese; Antonio Monserrate was Spanish, not Italian; and Duarte Barbosa was Portuguese, not from any other country. Hence, the correctly matched pair is Duarte Barbosa — Portugal.

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.

Explanation: Amir Khusrau was a great poet and musician (I). He was a disciple of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya, not Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi, so statement III is incorrect. He introduced the 'qaul' in Chishti Sama (II) and laid the foundation of the qawwali tradition (IV). These contributions highlight his importance in the cultural and spiritual practices of the Chishti Sufi order.

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

Explanation:

The Battle of Talikota in 1565 was a decisive conflict where the combined armies of the Sultanates of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, and Golconda defeated the Vijayanagara Empire led by Rama Raya. This defeat resulted in the sacking and eventual abandonment of the city of Vijayanagara, leading to the decline of the empire.

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

Explanation: The context mentions that old canals like the Shah Nahar in Punjab were repaired during Shah Jahan's reign, making Shah Jahan the correct answer.

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

Explanation: Polaj refers to land that was cultivated annually for each crop in succession and was never left fallow during the reign of Akbar. In contrast, Parauti was land left fallow temporarily to recover its strength, Chachar was land left uncultivated for three or four years, and Banjar was land uncultivated for five years or more. Therefore, Polaj is the correct answer as it was cultivated every year without leaving it fallow.

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

Explanation: Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya was associated with Delhi, not Agra. All other teachers are correctly matched with their locations — Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i-Shakar with Ajodhan, Shaikh Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Delhi with Delhi, and Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki with Delhi. Thus, 'Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya — Agra' is the odd one out because of the incorrect location.

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.

Explanation: Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind is a voluminous text divided into eighty chapters, so statement I is correct. It was written in Arabic only, not in Urdu and Hindavi, so statement II is incorrect. Generally, each chapter begins with a question, making statement III correct. The book covers many subjects such as astronomy, festivals, religion, philosophy, and social customs, so statement IV is 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

Explanation: Charles Cornwallis was the Governor General of Bengal when the Permanent Settlement was introduced there in 1793. This system fixed the land revenue that zamindars had to pay to the British government, creating a permanent and hereditary land revenue system in Bengal.

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

Explanation:

Bombay was not a major centre of the Revolt of 1857. The revolt was significant in places like Delhi, Jhansi, and Arrah where sepoys and ordinary people actively participated. The Government of Bombay initially did not consider the revolt serious, indicating limited activity in Bombay compared to the other listed centres which witnessed major uprisings.

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

Explanation:

According to the provided context, Lala Lajpat Rai was a prominent nationalist leader from Punjab. The context identifies the trio 'Lal, Bal and Pal' representing Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab, Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal, and Bal Gangadhar Tilak of Maharashtra. Therefore, the correct region to fill in the blank for Lala Lajpat Rai is Punjab.

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

Explanation:

The correct matching of important Committees of the Constituent Assembly and their Presidents is based on historical records. Although the provided context does not explicitly list the committees and their presidents, the known standard matches are: a (Drafting Committee) - i (Dr. B.R. Ambedkar), b (Union Powers Committee) - ii (Jawaharlal Nehru), c (Provincial Constitution Committee) - iii (Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel), and d (Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights) - iv (Rajendra Prasad). This matching is consistent with the major roles these leaders played in framing the Constitution and the committees they led.

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).

Explanation: The sepoys of Meerut proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leader during the Revolt of 1857 to give a unified leadership to the uprising. His acceptance provided legitimacy to the revolt as he was the Mughal emperor, and the rebellion could then be carried out in his name. This made the uprising gain wider support and a sense of authority.

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

Explanation:

Swami Vivekananda is the correct answer because he is well known for campaigning for reform of Hinduism and was a proponent of the Vedantic theory. He advocated for social justice and emphasized removing social evils such as child marriage and untouchability. The description in the context matches his work and philosophy.

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

Explanation: The Deccan Riots Commission was set up during the British rule in India and the report it produced in 1878 was presented to the British Parliament. This is confirmed by the context which

explicitly mentions that the report was presented to the British Parliament in 1878.

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]

Answer: (a) The Harappan seals were used as a form of identification in trade, often having the owner's name and title inscribed on them. This helped in authenticating goods and ownership.
(b) The seals contained animal motifs and signs from an undeciphered script, which probably conveyed information about the goods or the trader, serving as a communication tool in trade and administration.
(c) These seals acted as control tools in administration and trade for recording transactions or sealing goods to prevent tampering, ensuring proper management of resources and trade activities.

Key Points: Used for identification and authentication of goods - Contained animal motifs and signs conveying information - Used for sealing goods to prevent tampering and record transactions

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]

Answer: Three conclusions we can make about Harappa from the 'Priest-King' statue are:
(a) The Harappan civilisation had skilled artisans who could create detailed and sophisticated sculptures, indicating advanced craftsmanship.
(b) The presence of a figure termed as "priest-king" suggests there might have been some form of leadership or elite group, although the exact political or religious role remains unclear.
(c) The statue shows that the society possibly had social hierarchy or distinctions, as the carefully designed dress and features indicate status.
Therefore, the artefact hints at the existence of social complexity, some organized form of governance or ritual leadership, and advanced artistic skills in the Harappan civilisation.

Key Points: Advanced craftsmanship - Possible leadership or elite group - Social hierarchy or status distinctions

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

[3 Marks]

Answer: Three sources used to reconstruct the history of the Mauryan Empire are:
(a) **Archaeological Finds:** Monuments, sculptures, and inscriptions like those found at the Sanchi

Stupa provide important information about the Mauryan period including art, architecture, and religious beliefs.
(b) **Contemporary Accounts:** The writings of Megasthenes, a Greek ambassador to Chandragupta Maurya's court, give valuable descriptions of the Mauryan administration, society, and economy.
(c) **Ancient Texts and Literature:** Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical texts, as well as literature in Sanskrit and regional languages like Tamil, Kannada, and Telugu, help us understand the cultural and social aspects of the Mauryan Empire.

Key Points: Archaeological finds like monuments and inscriptions - Accounts of Megasthenes, Greek ambassador - Ancient Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical texts

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

[3 Marks]

Answer: Bernier's account highlighted the positive role of Indian women by noting that some women willingly embraced the practice of sati with cheerfulness, showing their courage and devotion. Despite his mostly critical view of Indian society, Bernier acknowledged this aspect where women showed strength and dedication. This contrasted with many European perceptions, as it reflected the complex cultural and social roles women had in Indian society, including their commitment and participation in traditional practices.

Key Points: Bernier described some women embracing sati cheerfully - He recognized their courage and devotion - Highlighted the complex social roles of women in India

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

[3 Marks]

Answer: Kabir as an Outstanding Poet-Saint of Nirguna Bhakti
Kabir belonged to the Nirguna Bhakti tradition which focused on devotion to a formless and attribute-less Divine. He expressed his spiritual ideas through simple yet profound poems composed in the special language called sant bhasha, making deep philosophical concepts accessible to all. Kabir questioned rigid religious and social norms, rejecting caste distinctions and rituals to emphasize a direct personal experience of God. His verses often use ulatbansi or upside-down sayings which challenged conventional thinking. The legacy of Kabir is preserved in various compilations like Kabir Bijak and Kabir Granthavali and is respected across different communities. Thus, Kabir stands out as a great poet-saint who inspired generations to seek the Divine beyond external forms and social barriers.

Key Points: Nirguna Bhakti devotion to formless divine - Use of sant bhasha and poetry - Questioning social and religious norms - Legacy preserved in Kabir Bijak and Granthavali - Emphasis on personal experience of God

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

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Alvars of the sixth century were saint-poets who expressed deep devotion to Lord Vishnu through their Tamil hymns. They travelled extensively, singing praises and identifying sacred shrines dedicated to Vishnu. Their compositions were compiled in the Nalayira Divyaprabandham, which is regarded as the Tamil Veda, showing the equal importance of their work compared to the Sanskrit Vedas. This legacy contributed to the Bhakti movement by promoting devotion and making religion accessible to people in their own language, enriching the cultural and religious traditions of South India.

> **Key Points: The Alvars were devotee poets of Vishnu - They composed hymns in Tamil praising Vishnu - Their works were compiled in Nalayira Divyaprabandham - Their compositions are equal in importance to the Vedas - They promoted Bhakti movement and cultural heritage**

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

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Fifth Report of 1813 was a significant document submitted to the British Parliament by a Select Committee on the East India Company's administration in India. It highlighted various issues related to the Company's rule, especially in rural Bengal. The report provided valuable evidence about the economic and social conditions of Bengal under Company rule and became the basis for parliamentary debates.

However, the report must be read critically. It was written by officials with their own interests, so some arguments and evidence may be biased or incomplete. Recent research using local Bengal zamindar archives and district records shows that the Fifth Report's portrayal of colonial impact is not fully accurate or comprehensive. Therefore, while the report greatly shaped our historical understanding, it should be supplemented with other sources to get a balanced view of colonial rule in rural Bengal.

In summary, the Fifth Report is invaluable but must be studied critically, considering who wrote it and why, and comparing it with local records and research from different perspectives.

> **Key Points: Important parliamentary report on East India Company rule - Provided detailed evidence on rural Bengal conditions - Must be critically examined for bias and supplemented with local research**

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

[3 Marks]

Answer: Indian art and literature depicted the Revolt of 1857 as the First War of Independence by celebrating it as a unified struggle of all sections of Indian society against British imperial rule.
Artists and writers portrayed the leaders of the revolt as heroic figures who inspired the people to rise against oppression.
The revolt was shown as a symbol of national pride and resistance, highlighting the sacrifices made by the rebels.
Literary works and paintings helped keep the memory of 1857 alive by focusing on themes of patriotism and valor.
These portrayals infused a spirit of nationalism in the later freedom movement, connecting it with the earlier fight in 1857.
Thus, art and literature played a vital role in shaping the narrative of the revolt not just as a military event but as India's first collective fight for independence from colonial rule.

> **Key Points: 1857 depicted as a united struggle against British rule - Leaders shown as heroes inspiring rebellion - Art and literature kept memory of 1857 alive - Revolt portrayed as first collective fight for independence - Inspired later nationalist movements**

Section D

Question 36. Mahabharata is considered as a dynamic text. Explain the statement with examples.
[8 Marks]

Answer: Mahabharata as a Dynamic Text
The Mahabharata is called a dynamic text because it has continuously evolved over time and adapted to different contexts and audiences. It did not remain a fixed or static story. Instead, it grew beyond its original Sanskrit version through an ongoing process of retelling, rewriting, and translation into various regional languages. Different communities and regions contributed their own versions and interpretations, adding new stories and sometimes changing existing ones.
For example, the stories of characters like Karna and Draupadi have been narrated differently in various versions, highlighting different virtues or struggles based on the cultural context of the people telling the story. The inclusion of moral and philosophical discourses such as the Bhagavad Gita is another aspect that was added later to the epic, showing the text's fluid nature.
Moreover, the Mahabharata is described as an "itihasa," meaning "thus it was," which suggests it was intended to be a historical as well as a moral and spiritual guide. Its narratives reflect the social, political, and religious attitudes of different times and places, helping historians understand the social histories of those eras.
In summary, the dynamic quality of the Mahabharata lies in its constant growth and transformation, influenced by dialogue between peoples and communities over centuries. This makes it not just a story but a living tradition that continues to inspire and teach.

Key Points: Mahabharata evolved over time - Various regional versions and languages - Addition of stories and philosophical content - Reflects changing social and cultural attitudes - Described as itihasa meaning historical account

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

[8 Marks]

Answer: Answer:

The Mahabharata strongly reinforces familial values by focusing on the complex relationships within a royal family, particularly between the Kauravas and the Pandavas, who were cousins belonging to the Kuru lineage. The central story revolves around a family feud over land and power, highlighting the importance of kinship ties.

First, the epic shows how familial bonds shape characters' duties and actions. For example, the Pandavas and Kauravas fought fiercely but were still bound by their family loyalty. Despite conflicts, family ties influenced decisions such as alliances and loyalty.

Second, after the great battle at Kurukshetra, patrilineal succession was established, emphasizing the importance of inheritance within family lines and the continuity of the lineage.

Third, the Mahabharata promotes the idea of marriage as a key element of family structure and social order. Marriages connected families and helped preserve social hierarchy, reflecting the norms of the time.

Finally, the epic serves as a didactic tool by advising kings and people to maintain these familial norms for social stability, thus reinforcing the status determined by birth and kinship.

In summary, the Mahabharata uses stories of family conflict and resolution to emphasize loyalty, duty, inheritance, and social hierarchy within families, thereby reinforcing the ideas of familial values in ancient Indian society.

Key Points: Focus on Kauravas and Pandavas family feud - Emphasis on patrilineal succession - Importance of marriage for family and social order

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

[8 Marks]

Answer: Structural Features: The Mahanavami Dibba is a grand platform located on one of the highest points in Vijayanagara city, measuring about 11,000 sq. ft in base area and rising to a height of approximately 40 ft. It is a massive stone structure with a base adorned by intricate relief carvings that depict scenes of royal activities, processions, and religious ceremonies. The platform once supported a wooden pavilion or structure on top, indicating it might have served as a vantage point for observing rituals and events.

Ceremonial Features: The Mahanavami Dibba is associated with the Mahanavami festival, an

important celebration in the Vijayanagara Empire during which the king would perform rituals and receive tribute. The platform was likely used for royal ceremonies, including public displays of power such as military parades, religious offerings, and cultural performances. Though some scholars debate the scale of processions held here due to limited surrounding space, the reliefs suggest the significance of the site in the empire's ritual life. It symbolized the king's authority and the empire's unity by integrating religious and political traditions.

In conclusion, the Mahanavami Dibba combined impressive architectural elements with important ceremonial uses. It reflected the Vijayanagara rulers' efforts to create a grand imperial culture that blended diverse traditions through both its form and function.

> **Key Points: Massive platform on high ground - Carved reliefs depicting rituals and royal scenes - Used for Mahanavami festival ceremonies and royal rituals**

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

[8 Marks]

Answer: Distinctive Features of Vijayanagara Fortifications Reflecting the Empire's Strength

The fortifications of Vijayanagara were remarkable for their scale, design, and strategic planning, demonstrating the empire's power and preparedness.

1. **Multiple Lines of Defense:** Vijayanagara had several lines of fortifications. There was an outer fortification wall protecting the entire city, a second line around the inner urban core, and a third enclosur around the royal centre. This multilayered defense made invasion difficult.

2. **Massive Stone Walls and Strong Gateways:** The fort walls were built with large stones, making them strong and durable. The gateways, such as the ones shown in Fig. 7.6, were heavily fortified entry points controlling access.

3. **Protection of Agricultural Belts:** Instead of only stockpiling grains inside the forts, Vijayanagara rulers protected the agricultural lands themselves with defensive structures, ensuring food security in times of siege.

4. **Water Management and Aqueducts:** The presence of aqueducts, like the one shown in Fig. 7.5, brought water into fortified areas, ensuring a stable supply during conflicts.

5. **Integration of Different Traditions:** The architecture of the fortifications incorporated diverse cultural and technological influences, representing the imperial culture and strength.

In summary, Vijayanagara's fortifications combined strategic planning, strong construction, and resource protection, reflecting the empire's military and administrative strength.

Key Points: Multiple lines of defense - Massive stone walls and fortified gateways - Protection of agricultural belts - Water management through aqueducts - Integration of diverse cultural traditions

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]

Answer: Introduction: The Non-Cooperation Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 was an unprecedented popular movement in colonial India because it united people from different communities and sections of society against British rule.

Arguments to justify: 1. **Mass Participation:** The movement attracted millions of Indians including students, lawyers, peasants, workers, and women who actively participated by boycotting British institutions like schools, colleges, courts, and government services.

2. **Unity between Hindus and Muslims:** By associating the Khilafat Movement with the Non-Cooperation Movement, Gandhi successfully brought together the two major religious communities in India, fostering communal harmony against colonial rule.

3. **Peaceful yet Effective Protest:** The movement was based on peaceful non-violence involving denial, renunciation, and self-discipline which made it a strong moral force that unsettled British authority.

4. **Economic Impact:** Indians stopped paying taxes and boycotted foreign goods and institutions, which hurt British economic interests.

5. **Political Awakening and Nationalism:** The movement created a sense of political consciousness and national pride among Indians, training them for self-rule.

Conclusion: Due to its wide participation, communal unity, peaceful nature, and significant impact on British rule, the Non-Cooperation Movement became a landmark popular movement in India's freedom struggle.

Key Points: Mass participation by diverse sections of society - Unity between Hindus and Muslims through Khilafat alliance - Peaceful, non-violent but effective form of protest - Economic boycott and refusal to pay taxes - Political awakening and training for self-rule

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

[8 Marks]

Answer: The Salt Satyagraha was an all-India campaign in opposition to colonial rule because it united Indians from different regions, classes, and backgrounds against a common oppressive law.

Firstly, salt was an essential commodity used by every Indian household, making it a symbol that affected all sections of society. The British had imposed a monopoly on salt production and sale,

forcing Indians to buy expensive salt and criminalizing their traditional right to collect or produce salt. This was deeply resented by the people.

Secondly, Mahatma Gandhi wisely chose salt as the focus of protest because of its universal importance and the unpopularity of the salt laws. His decision to lead the Dandi March to produce salt directly challenged the British monopoly, showcasing a direct act of civil disobedience.

Thirdly, the Salt Satyagraha mobilized millions of Indians across the country to participate in acts of non-violent resistance, such as making salt illegally, refusing to buy salt from British sources, and organizing protests.

Moreover, the campaign exposed the injustice of colonial economic policies and evoked widespread sympathy and support for the freedom movement, both within India and internationally.

Thus, the Salt Satyagraha was truly an all-India campaign because it engaged diverse groups in a united struggle, highlighted the oppressive nature of colonial laws, and demonstrated the power of non-violent mass resistance against British rule.

Key Points: Salt was essential to all Indians - British monopoly made salt expensive and illegal to produce individually - Gandhi used salt to unite the nation in civil disobedience - The campaign attracted widespread participation nationwide - It highlighted colonial injustices and strengthened Indian nationalism