CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2026

HISTORY

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 95

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper contains **42 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 28** are multiple choice questions

v. **Section C** – questions number **29 to 36** are short answer

vi. **Section D** – questions number **37 to 42** 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 source given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The Malabar Coast (Present-day Kerala)

Here is an excerpt from Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, composed by an anonymous Greek sailor (First century CE): They (i.e. traders from abroad) send large ships to these market-towns on account of the great quantity and bulk of pepper and malabathrum (possibly cinnamon, produced in these regions). There are imported here, in the first place, a great quantity of coin; topaz... antimony (a mineral used as a colouring substance), coral, crude glass, copper, tin, lead ... There is exported

pepper, which is produced in quantity in only one region near these markets.... Besides this there are exported great quantities of fine pearls, ivory, silk cloth, ... transparent stones of all kinds, diamonds and sapphires, and tortoise shell.

Archaeological evidence of a bead-making industry, using precious and semi-precious stones, has been found in Kodumanal (Tamil Nadu). It is likely that local traders brought the stones mentioned in the Periplus from sites such as these to the coastal ports.

(1) Mention the role of rivers in the promotion of trade.

[1 Marks]

(2) Why were large number of goods traded between India and other countries?

[1 Marks]

(3) Give reasons for the development of bead-making industry at Kodumanal.

[2 Marks]

Question 2.

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

A warning for Europe

Bernier warned that if European kings followed the Mughal model:

Their kingdoms would be very far from being well cultivated and peopled, so well built, so rich, so polite and flourishing as we see them. Our kings are otherwise rich and powerful; and we must avow that they are much better and more royally served. They would soon be kings of deserts and solitudes, of beggars and barbarians [...] We should find the great Cities and the great Burroughs rendered uninhabitable because of ill air, and to fall to ruin without anybody taking care of repairing them; the hillocks abandoned, and the fields overspread with bushes, or filled with pestilential marshes, as hath been already intimated.

(1) Why did Bernier warn the European kings against following the Mughal model of kingship?

[1 Marks]

(2) Mention any one difference between Mughal and European land-ownership.

[1 Marks]

(3)

How did Bernier's description influence western theorists from the 18th century onwards? Explain.

[2 Marks]

Question 3.

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

On clearance and settled cultivation

Passing through one village in the lower Rajmahal hills, Buchanan wrote: The view of the country is exceedingly fine, the cultivation especially in the narrow valleys of rice winding in all directions, the cleared lands with scattered trees, and the rocky hills are in perfection; all that is wanted is some appearance of progress and a vastly extended and improved cultivation. Plantations of Asan and Palas, for Tessar (Tassar silk worms) and Lac, should occupy the place of woods to as great an extent as demand will admit; the remainder might be all cleared, and the greater part cultivated, while what is not fit for the purpose, might rear Palmyra and Mahua.

(1) How was the landscape described regarding cultivation?

[1 Marks]

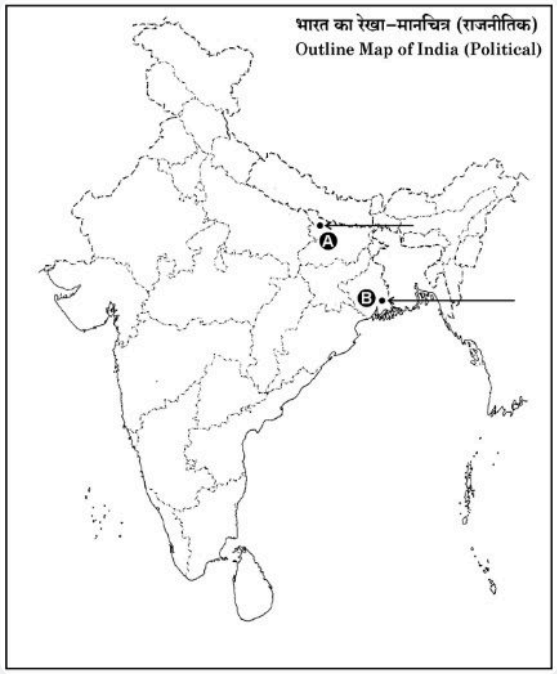
(2) Which crops were recommended for expanding agriculture?

[1 Marks]

(3) Explain the proposal given by Buchanan for utilizing the land for economic development.

[2 Marks]

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



(1) Banawali – a mature Harappan site

[2 Marks]

(2) Kannauj – An important town from early states

[1 Marks]

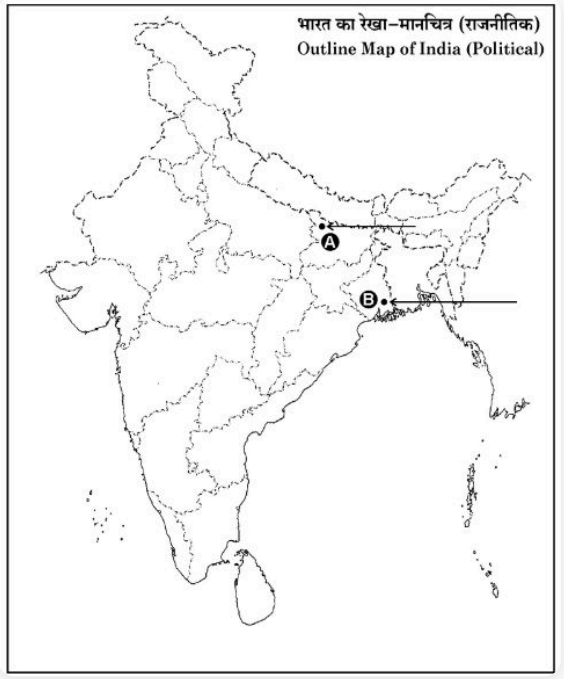
(3) Ajmer – A city under Mughals

[1 Marks]

(4) Bidar – A medieval town

[1 Marks]

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



(1) Name any one town which was under the rule of Babur

[1 Marks]

(2) Mention any one Harappan site from the present state of Haryana.

[1 Marks]

(3) Mention any one medieval town.

[1 Marks]

(4) Name any two centres of Indian National Movement.

[2 Marks]

Section B

Question 6. Who among the following rulers issued the first gold coins?

[1 Marks]

(A) Kushana rulers

(B) Mauryan rulers

(C) Gupta rulers

(D) Vakataka rulers

Question 7. Which one of the following statements is correct regarding Raja Gotmi Puta Siri Satakani?

[1 Marks]

(A) He was the best known Raja of Shaka dynasty.

(B) He ensured no intermarriage amongst members of the four varnas.

(C) He himself entered into marriage alliance with the king of Gupta rulers.

(D) He rebuilt Sudarshan and Sambhar lakes.

Question 8.

Assertion (A): Like Buddhism, Jainism also spread to many parts of India.

Reason (R): Jaina scholars produced literature in various languages like Tamil, Prakrit and Sanskrit etc.

[1 Marks]

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

(B) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is not correct but (R) is correct.

(D) (A) is correct but (R) is not correct.

Question 9.

Read the following statements regarding Buddhism teaching and choose the correct option:

I. The world is transient and constantly changing.

II. It is soulless and there is nothing eternal in it.

III. Sorrows and sufferings are intrinsic to human existence.

IV. Renouncing the world is essential for living. Codes:

[1 Marks]

(A) I, II, III are correct.

(B) II, III, IV are correct.

(C) I, III, IV are correct.

(D) I, II, IV are correct.

Question 10. Which of the following is a correct statement regarding Eklavya?

[1 Marks]

(A) Eklavya was the favourite student of Drona.

(B) Eklavya was a co-student and friend of Arjuna.

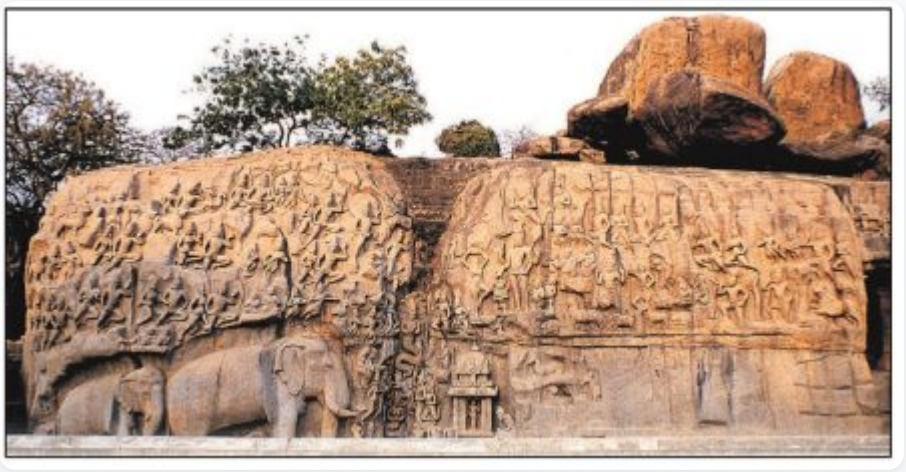
(C) Eklavya offered his right thumb to Drona as Guru Dakshina.

(D) Eklavya belonged to Kuru lineage.

Question 11.

Look at the given image and identify the ancient sculptural panel from the options:

[1 Marks]



(A) A sculpture in Brihideshwa

(B) A sculpture in Sanchi

(C) A sculpture in Amravati

(D) A sculpture from Mahabalipuram

Question 12.

In which of the following states Mahabalipuram temple is located ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Kerala

(B) Maharashtra

(C) Tamil Nadu

(D) Madhya Pradesh

Question 13.

Who among the following was appointed Qazi or Judge of Delhi by Sultan Mohd. Bin Tughlaq ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Seydi Ali Reis

(B) Al-Biruni

(C) Mahmud Ali Balkhi

(D) Ibn Batuta

Question 14.

Identify the correct statements regarding the early Bhakti movement in South India:

I. Alvars and Nayanars travelled from place to place singing hymns in Tamil.

II. One of the major anthologies of compositions by the Alvars, "Amuktamalyada", is described as Tamil Veda

III. Karaikkal Ammaiyar and Andal were the women devotees of Nayanara and Alvar Tradition.

IV. Both Nayanars and Alvar saints were revered by the Vellala peasants.

[1 Marks]

(A) II, III and IV are correct.

(B) I, II and III are correct.

(C) I, III and IV are correct.

(D) I, II and IV are correct.

Question 15.

Arrange the following dynasties in chronological order:

I. Saluva dynasty

II. Sangama dynasty

III. Aravidu dynasty

IV. Tuluva dynasty

[1 Marks]

(A) II, I, IV, III

(B) II, I, III, IV

(C) IV, III, I, II

(D) I, II, IV, III

Question 16.

Identify the Sufi Saint with the help of the following information:

• His Hospice was on the bank of river Yamuna in Delhi.

• His disciple was Amir Khusro.

• His disciples addressed him as Sultan-ul-Mashaikh.

[1 Marks]

(A) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya

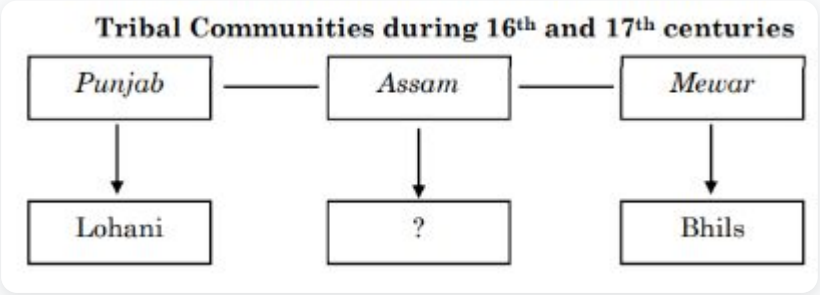
(B) Shaikh Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Delhi

(C) Shaikh Muinuddin Chishti

(D) Shaikh Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki

Question 17. Choose the correct option to fill the blank :

[1 Marks]



(A) Ahoms

(B) Gonds

(C) Meenas

(D) Khasis

Question 18.

Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched? Travellers of Medieval Period — Native Region

(A) Peter Mundi — Spain

(B) Antonio Monserrate — Portugal

(C) Abdal-Razzaq — Morocco

(D) Marco Polo — Italy

[1 Marks]

(A) Antonio Monserrate — Portugal

(B) Abdal-Razzaq — Morocco

(C) Marco Polo — Italy

(D) Peter Mundi — Spain

Question 19. Which among the following was not the major factor for the development of agriculture during Mughal India?

[1 Marks]

(A) Availability of land in abundance

(B) Availability of cheap labour

(C) Mobility among the peasants

(D) Availability of tube-wells for irrigation

Question 20.

How did the arrival of Santhals in the Raj Mahal hills affect the Paharias ?

[1 Marks]

(A) The Santhals and Paharias collaborated against the British.

(B) The Paharias were displaced and moved to the upper hills.

(C) The Paharias spread into the Damin-i-Koh to avoid conflict with the Santhals.

(D) The Santhals helped the Paharias in expanding agriculture.

Question 21.

Arrange the following historical events in chronological order:

I. Champaran Satyagraha

II. Kheda Satyagraha

III. Jallianwala Bagh Incident

IV. Rowlatt Act

[1 Marks]

(A) I, II, IV, III

(B) II, III, I, I

(C) II, IV, III, I

(D) I, II, IV, II

Question 22.

Find the odd one out from the following:

(British Officers) — (Policy)

(A) Dalhousie — Doctrine of Lapse

(B) Cornwallis — Permanent Settlement

(C) Wellesley — Western Education

(D) Hardinge — Enfield rifles for soldiers

[1 Marks]

(A) Dalhousie — Doctrine of Lapse

(B) Cornwallis — Permanent Settlement

(C) Hardinge — Enfield rifles for soldiers

(D) Wellesley — Western Education

Question 23. Who amongst the following leaders struggled to free Vietnam from the imperialist control?

[1 Marks]

(A) Nguyen Hue

(B) Qin Shi Huang

(C) Ho-Chi-Minh

(D) Mao-Ze-Dang

Question 24.

Which of the following statements regarding Nana Saheb are correct ?

I. Nana Saheb was the successor of Peshwa Baji Rao-II.

II. Nana Saheb joined the revolt of 1857 from Kanpur.

III. His rebellion collapsed in the beginning of 1857.

IV. Nana Saheb went to Nepal in 1857.

[1 Marks]

(A) Only II and IV are correct.

(B) Only I and III are correct.

(C) Only I and II are correct.

(D) Only III and IV are correct.

Question 25.

Who amongst the following was the head of the ‘Advisory Committee’ of the Constituent Assembly ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Jawaharlal Nehru

(B) Rajendra Prasad

(C) B.R. Ambedkar

(D) Sardar Patel

Question 26.

Identify the British Officer with the help of the following information:

• Was a Physician.

• Organised Zoo in Calcutta.

• Did survey of Bengal.

• He assumed family name as Hamilton.

[1 Marks]

(A) Charles Mountbatten

(B) Thomas Munroe

(C) Col. Mackenzie

(D) Francis Buchanan

Question 27.

Read the following statements regarding Buddhism teaching and choose the correct option:

I. The world is transient and constantly changing.

II. It is soulless and there is nothing eternal in it

III. Sorrows and sufferings are intrinsic to human existence.

IV. Renouncing the world is essential for living. Codes:

[1 Marks]

(A) I, II, III are correct.

(B) I, II, IV are correct.

(C) II, III, IV are correct.

(D) I, III, IV are correct.

Question 28.

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

[1 Marks]

	Column – I (Scholars)		Column – II (Work)
a.	Kautilya	i.	Harshacharita
b.	Harishena	ii.	Arthashastra
c.	Banabhatta	iii.	Natyashastra
d.	Bharat	iv.	Prayag Prashasti

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

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

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

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

Section C

Question 29. How did Buddha attain enlightenment? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Question 30. How has Buddhist literature helped in understanding the sculpture of Sanchi? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Question 31. Analyse the causes of conflict between Kauravas and Pandavas that resulted in the battle of Mahabharat.

[3 Marks]

Question 32. Why were regular hunting expeditions undertaken by the Mughal Emperors? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Question 33. Examine the role of Guru Gobind Singhji in Sikhism.

[3 Marks]

Question 34. “Mahatma Gandhiji with the Charkha has become the most abiding image of Indian Nationalism.” Substantiate this statement with examples.

[3 Marks]

Question 35. Explain the events that took place on the very first day (10th May) of the rebellion of 1857 at Meerut.

[3 Marks]

Question 36. Explain the events that took place on 11th May of the rebellion of 1857 at Red Fort of Delhi.

[3 Marks]

Section D

Question 37. Examine the characteristic features of architecture of urban centres of Mohenjodaro.

[8 Marks]

Question 38. Examine the causes and the evidences of the collapse of the Harappan civilisation.

[8 Marks]

Question 39. "Vijayanagara Kingdom flourished under conditions of unparalleled peace and prosperity during the rule of Krishandeva Raya but after his death Vijayanagara declined." Substantiate the statement with examples.

[8 Marks]

Question 40. "The fortification of Vijaynagara was impressive in the medieval India." Substantiate the statement with examples.

[8 Marks]

Question 41. Describe the events that shaped the vision of the Constitution of India.

[8 Marks]

Question 42. Describe the arguments given in the Constituent Assembly against the creation of separate electorates.

[8 Marks]