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 passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

A Mother's Advice

The Mahabharata describes how, when war between the Kauravas and the Pandavas became almost inevitable, Gandhari made one last appeal to her eldest son Duryodhana.

By making peace you honour your father and me, as well as your well-wishers... it is the wise man in control of his senses who guards his kingdom. Greed and anger drag a man away from his profits; by

defeating these two enemies a king conquers the earth... You will happily enjoy the earth, my son, along with the wise and heroic Pandavas.... There is no good in a war, no law (dharma) and profit (artha), let alone happiness; nor is there (necessarily) victory in the end – don't set your mind on war...

Duryodhana did not listen to this advice and fought and lost the war.

(1) Explain the main cause of conflict between Kauravas and Pandavas.

[1 Marks]

(2) Why did Gandhari advice Duryodhana not to fight?

[1 Marks]

(3) Why did Duryodhana not listen to the advice of his mother, Gandhari?

[2 Marks]

Question 2.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follows :

Declining a Royal Gift

This excerpt from a Sufi text describes the proceedings at Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya's hospice in 1313 :

I (the author, Amir Hasan Sijzi) has the good fortune of kissing his (Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya's) feet... At this time a local ruler had sent him the deed of ownership to two gardens and much land, along with the provisions and tools for their maintenance. The ruler had also made it clear that he was relinquishing all his rights to both the gardens and land. The master...had not accepted that gift. Instead, he had lamented : "What have I to do with gardens and fields and lands ?... None of .... our spiritual masters had engaged in such activity.

" Then he told an appropriate story : ".... Sultan Ghiyasuddhin, who at that time was still known as Ulugh Khan, came to visit Shaikh Fariduddin (and) offered some money and ownership deeds for four villages to the Shaikh, the money being for the benefit of the dervishes (Sufis), and the land of his use. Smiling, Shaikh al Islam (Fariduddin) said : Give me the money. I will dispense it to the dervishes. But as for those land deeds, keep them. There are many who long for them. Give them away to such persons."

(1) What was the reaction of Sufi saint on the offerings?

[1 Marks]

(2) Mention the offering by the local ruler to Sufi saint.

[1 Marks]

(3) Why did Sufi saint accept money? Explain.

[2 Marks]

Question 3.

Read the given passage carefully and answer the following questions :

What taluqdars thought The attitude of the taluqdars was best expressed by Hanwant Singh, the Raja of Kalakankar, near Rae Bareli. During the mutiny, Hanwant Singh had given shelter to a British officer, and conveyed him to safety. While taking leave of the officer, Hanwant Singh told him :

Sahib, your countrymen came into this country. You sent your officers round the districts to examine the titles to the estates. At one blow you took from me lands which from time immemorial had been in my family. I submitted. Suddenly misfortune fell upon you. The people of the land rose against you. You came to me whom you had despoiled. I have saved you. But now – now I march at the head of my retainers to Lucknow to try and drive you from the country.

(1) Explain the anguish of Hanwant Singh for the British officer.

[1 Marks]

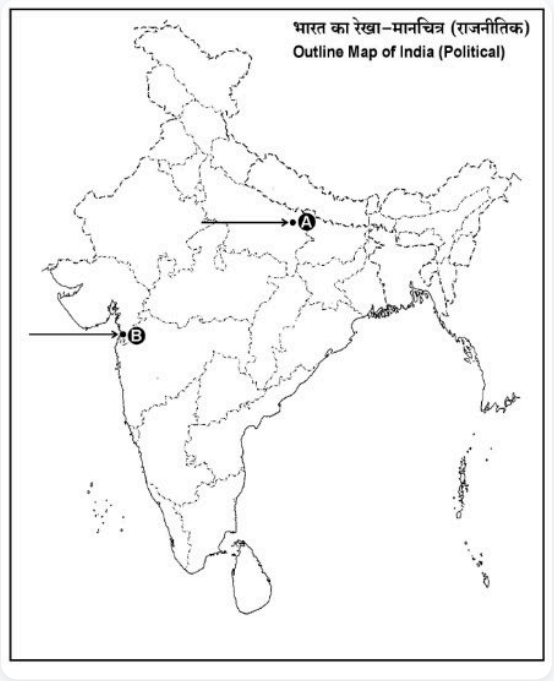
(2) How were Taluqdars facilitated by the rulers?

[1 Marks]

(3) Explain any two causes of dissatisfaction of Taluqdars from British rule.

[2 Marks]

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



(1) Nageshwar - a mature Harappan site

[2 Marks]

(2) Goa - an area under Aurangzeb

[1 Marks]

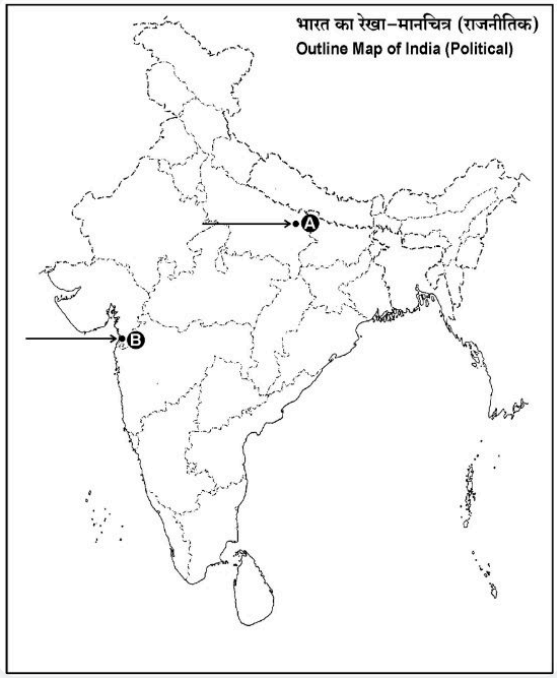
(3) Kashi - early state.

[1 Marks]

(4) Thanjavur – a medieval town.

[1 Marks]

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



(1) Name the capital of Vijayanagara Empire.

[1 Marks]

(2) Name any two important capitals of the early states.

[2 Marks]

(3) Name one area which was under the rule of Aurangzeb.

[1 Marks]

(4) Mention any two main centres of Indian National Movement

[1 Marks]

Section B

Question 6.

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

[1 Marks]

Column – I (Harappan Sites)		Column – II (Present Location)	
a.	Manda	1.	Haryana
b.	Kalibangan	2.	Gujarat
c.	Rakhigarhi	3.	Rajasthan
d.	Lothal	4.	Jammu

(A) 1, 2, 3, 4

(B) 2, 3, 4, 1

(C) 4, 3, 1, 2

(D) 3, 4, 2, 1

Question 7.

Arrange the following in correct chronological order:

I. Chalcolithic Age

II. Mesolithic Age

III. Neolithic Age

IV. Paleolithic Age

[1 Marks]

(A) I, IV, III, II

(B) IV, II, III, I

(C) II, III, I, IV

(D) III, I, IV, II

Question 8. Which one of the following is a work of Panini on Sanskrit grammar?

[1 Marks]

(A) Natyashastra

(B) Ashtadhyayi

(C) Abhigyanshakuntalam

(D) Sushrut Samhita

Question 9.

Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

(Ancient Dynasties) — (Lineage)

(A) Kanvas — Successors of Mauryas

(B) Mauryas — Successors of Mahapadmananda

(C) Satvahanas — Successors of Kushanas

(D) Shakas — Successors of Chalukyas

[1 Marks]

(A) Kanvas — Successors of Mauryas

(B) Shakas — Successors of Chalukyas

(C) Satvahanas — Successors of Kushanas

(D) Mauryas — Successors of Mahapadmananda

Question 10. Fill in the blank with the appropriate option given below: In the ancient period, each city had a history of its own, _____ began as a village but in fifth century B.C.E the Magadhan rulers shifted their capital from Rajagaha to this settlement.

[1 Marks]

(A) Vidisha

(B) Taxila

(C) Ujjain

(D) Pataliputra

Question 11.

Which of the following statements regarding Jainism is correct?

I. Vardhaman Mahavira was born in 5th Century CE.

II. Mahavira was the 24th Tirthankara.

III. Jains worship Lord Shiva as Mahavira.

IV. The principle of Ahimsa is emphasised in Jainism. Options:

[1 Marks]

(A) Only II and IV are correct.

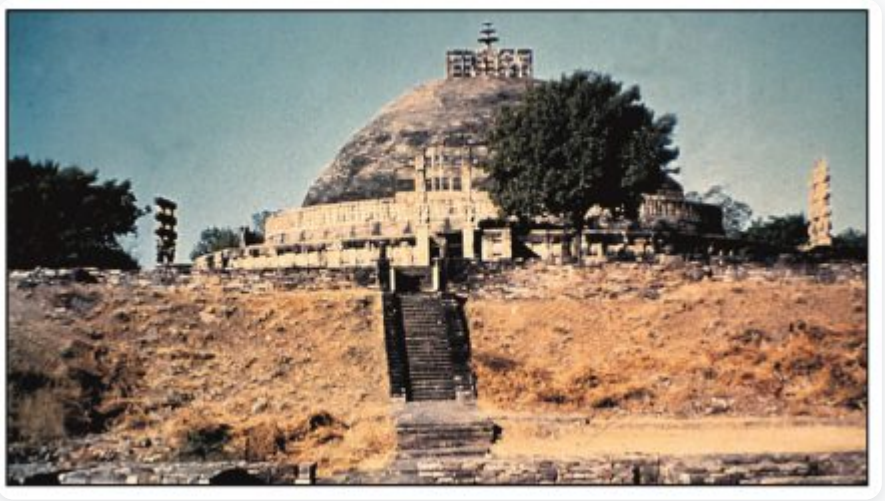
(B) Only III and IV are correct.

(C) Only II and III are correct.

(D) Only I and II are correct.

Question 12. Identify the following structure from the options given below:

[1 Marks]



(A) Sanchi Stupa

(B) Amravati Stupa

(C) Barhut Stupa

(D) Sarnath Stupa

Question 13.

In which of the following modern states of India is Sanchi Stupa located?

[1 Marks]

(A) Uttar Pradesh

(B) Tamil Nadu

(C) Madhya Pradesh

(D) Maharashtra

Question 14.

Which of the following chronicles was authored by Abul-Fazl?

[1 Marks]

(A) Babur-Nama

(B) Humayun-Nama

(C) Akbar-Nama

(D) Padshah-Nama

Question 15. The battle at Talikota (Rakshasi Tangri) was fought between which two of the following groups?

[1 Marks]

(A) Between Rama Raya and rulers of Bijapur, Gingee and Bidar

(B) Between Krishnadeva Raya and rulers of Madurai, Ikkeri and Mysore

(C) Between Rama Raya and rulers of Bijapur, Golconda and Ahmednagar

(D) Between Krishnadeva Raya and rulers of Golconda, Kolar and Chandragiri

Question 16. Which of the following temples at Vijayanagara was meant to be used only by the king and his family?

[1 Marks]

(A) Vittala temple

(B) Chidambaram temple

(C) Hazara Ram temple

(D) Virupaksha temple

Question 17.

Identify the foreign traveller with the help of the following information:

• He was a Moroccan traveller of the 14th century.

• He had expertise in Islamic religion law

• He was appointed Qazi of Delhi by Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

[1 Marks]

(A) Seydi Ali Reis

(B) Al-Biruni

(C) Ibn Batuta

(D) Mahmud Ali Balkhi

Question 18. Who among the following is the author of the book of travels called 'Travels in the Mughal Empire'?

[1 Marks]

(A) Francois Bernier

(B) Roberto Nobili

(C) Duarte Barbosa

(D) Marco Polo

Question 19. Find the odd one out from the following :

[1 Marks]

	(Sufi Teachers)		(Location of Dargah)
(A)	Shaikh Muinuddin Chishti	–	Ajmer
(B)	Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki	–	Delhi
(C)	Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya	–	Agra
(D)	Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i-Shakar	–	Ajodhan

(A) Shaikh Muinuddin Chishti — Ajmer

(B) Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki — Delhi

(C) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya — Agra

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

Question 20.

Assertion (A): Baba Guru Nanak Devji advocated Nirguna Bhakti.

Reason (R): For Baba Guru Nanak, the absolute or 'rab' had no gender or form.

[1 Marks]

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

(B) Assertion (A) is incorrect, but Reason (R) is correct.

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

(D) Assertion (A) is correct, but Reason (R) is incorrect.

Question 21.

Which of the following statements accurately describe the conditions of Bombay-Deccan from 1840 to 1850?

I. There was significant agrarian expansion during this period.

II. Prices of agricultural products were rising steadily. III. There were frequent peasant uprisings due to economic distress.

IV. The agrarian landscape largely remained progressive. Options:

[1 Marks]

(A) Only III and IV are correct.

(B) Only I and III are correct.

(C) Only II and IV are correct.

(D) Only I and II are correct.

Question 22. Identify the major long-term consequence of the Permanent Settlement for the Indian peasantry:

[1 Marks]

(A) Increased ownership of land among farmers.

(B) Investment in agricultural technology.

(C) Increased exploitation and indebtedness.

(D) Abolition of all kinds of landlordism.

Question 23. Who amongst the following American Presidents played a decisive role in the American War of Independence?

[1 Marks]

(A) Abraham Lincoln

(B) Thomas Jefferson

(C) John F. Kennedy

(D) George Washington

Question 24.

Why was the Revolt of 1857 viewed as a serious threat by the British?

[1 Marks]

(A) It united all the sections of Indian Society.

(B) It shook the entire colonial system of the world.

(C) It has hurt their global trade.

(D) It led to their defeat in South India.

Question 25.

Choose the correct pair regarding the local leaders during the Revolt of 1857.

List – I (Local Leader) — List – II (Region)

(A) Gonoa — Chotanagpur

(B) Shahmal — Hyderabad

(C) Kunwar Singh — Kanpur

(D) Maulavi Ahmadullah Shah — Arrah

[1 Marks]

(A) Gonoa — Chotanagpur

(B) Kunwar Singh — Kanpur

(C) Maulavi Ahmadullah Shah — Arrah

(D) Shahmal — Hyderabad

Question 26.

Identify the Indian Political Leader with the help of the following information:

I. He moved the Objectives Resolution in the Constituent Assembly.

II. He moved the resolution proposing that the National Flag be a horizontal tricolour of saffron, white and dark green in equal proportions with a wheel of navy blue colour in the centre.

[1 Marks]

(A) Dr. Radhakrishnan

(B) Dr. Rajendra Prasad

(C) Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

(D) Sardar Patel

Question 27. Match Column I with Column II and choose the correct option

[1 Marks]

List of Women members in the Constituent Assembly

Column – I (Women member)		Column – II (Constituency)	
I.	Sarojini Naidu	a.	Central Province
II.	Hansa Mehta	b.	Uttar Pradesh
III.	Vijayalakshmi Pandit	c.	Bihar
IV.	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	d.	Bombay

(A) I → d, II → b, III → a, IV → c

(B) I → b, II → a, III → c, IV → d

(C) I → a, II → c, III → b, IV → d

(D) I → d, II → b, III → a, IV → c

Section C

Question 28. Examine the major contribution of John Marshall as Director General of Archaeological Survey of India.

[3 Marks]

Question 29. Explain the causes of the ruin of Stupa at Amravati.

[3 Marks]

Question 30. Explain the significance of Pauranic Hinduism of the ancient India.

[3 Marks]

Question 31. “Ibn Batuta was amazed by the efficiency of Indian postal system.” Explain the statement with examples.

[3 Marks]

Question 32. Describe the significance of Kamalpuram tank and Hiriya Canal as sources of water for the Vijayanagara.

[3 Marks]

Question 33. Describe the views of Dominingo Paes on the city of Vijayanagara.

[3 Marks]

Question 34. Analyse the measures taken by the British to suppress the riots of Bombay-Deccan in 1875.

[3 Marks]

Question 35. Explain the main provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

[3 Marks]

Section D

Question 36. Although epigraphy is an important source of reconstructing history yet there are limits to what it can reveal. Justify the statement with suitable arguments.

[8 Marks]

Question 37. Historians have used a variety of sources to reconstruct the history of the Mauryan empire and also explained the ways of their administration. Justify the statement with suitable arguments.

[8 Marks]

Question 38. Explain the development of agriculture during Mughal period.

[8 Marks]

Question 39. Explain the role of women in the Agrarian society during 16th and 17th centuries.

[8 Marks]

Question 40. Non-Cooperation Movement became an epoch in the life of Mahatma Gandhi and that of India. Explain the statement of Louis Fisher with examples.

[8 Marks]

Question 41. Gandhiji started the Salt March for various reasons and it resulted in a significant movement. Explain the statement with examples.

[8 Marks]
