

Sample Question Paper
Subject: History
Class XII

Full Marks: 80

Time Allotted: 3 hours

General Instructions:

- i. There are 34 questions in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. Question paper comprises of five sections: A, B, C, D and E.
- iii. Section A: Question No. 1 to 21 are MCQs of 1 mark each.
- iv. Section B: Question No. 22 to 27 are short answer type questions, carrying 3 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 60- to 80 words.
- v. Section C: Question No. 28 to 30 are long answer type questions, carrying 8 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 300- 350 words.
- vi. Section D: Question NO 31 to 33 are source-based questions with three sub questions and are of 4 marks each.
- vii. Section E: Question No 34 is map-based, carrying 5 marks that includes the identification and location of significant test items. Attach the map with the answer script.
- viii. There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions. Only one of the choices in such questions have to be attempted.

Q. No.	Items	Marks
	SECTION A (Multiple Type Questions)	1x21=21
1.	Which of the following feature makes the Harappan Civilization unique among Ancient World Civilization? a) Nature worship b) Drainage system c) Inscriptions d) Urban centers.	1
2.	Which of the following statements are correct about the Harappan agricultural technologies? i. Terracotta models of plough have been found at sites in Cholisthan and Banawali ii. Representation on seals and terracotta sculpture indicate that the bull was used for ploughing iii. Archeologists have evidence of a ploughed field at Dholavira. iv. The field had two sets of furrows, suggesting that two different crops were grown together. Options: a) i and ii b) ii and iv c) iii and iv	1

	d) i and iv							
3.	Identify the ruler of ancient India with the help of the following information. • He was arguably the most powerful of the Gupta rulers. • His court poet was Harisena. • He was considered as Purusha Or supreme being in the Prayaga Prashasti Options: a) Chandragupta Maurya b) Samudra Gupta c) Kanishka d) Bimbisara	1						
4.	Two statements are given below; one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason(R). Read the statements carefully and choose the correct option. Assertion (A): The Jatakas were written in Pali around the middle of the first millennium CE. Reason (R): Gandatindu Jataka describes the subjects of a merciful king. Options: a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A c) A is true but R is false d) A is false but R is true	1						
5.	Sanskrit texts and inscriptions used the term ‘Vanik’ to designate a) Priest b) Teachers c) Rulers d) Merchants	1						
6.	According to Matanga Jataka, a Pali text, the Bodhisatta is identified as a a) Chandala b) Brahmana c) Kshatriya d) Vaishya	1						
7.	Which of the following statement about Jainism is/are true? i. The basic philosophy of the Jainas came into existence in North India after the birth of Mahavira. ii. The most important idea in Jainism is that the whole world is animated. iii. According to Jaina teachings, the cycle of birth and re-birth is shaped through Karma a) i and ii b) ii and iii c) i. only d) i. and iii	1						
8.	Match the Column I with Column II and choose the correct option. <table><tr><th>Column I</th><th>Column II</th></tr><tr><td>A. MarcoPolo</td><td>i. Portugal</td></tr><tr><td>B. Duarte Barbosa</td><td>ii. France</td></tr></table>	Column I	Column II	A. MarcoPolo	i. Portugal	B. Duarte Barbosa	ii. France	1
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	<table><tr><td>C. Jean Baptiste Tarvenier</td><td>iii. Russia</td></tr><tr><td>D. Afasanii Nikitin</td><td>iv. Italy</td></tr></table> a) A-i, B-ii, C-iii, D-iv b) A-ii, B-i, C-iv, D-iii c) A-iv, B-i, C-ii, D-iii d) A-iv, B-ii, C-i, D-iii	C. Jean Baptiste Tarvenier	iii. Russia	D. Afasanii Nikitin	iv. Italy	
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9.	Who among the following traveler became a Sanyasi for a time? a) Abdur Razzak b) Al- Beruni c) Shaikh Ali Hazin d) Mahmud Balkhi	1				
10.	Who coined the term ‘great’ and ‘little’ traditions? a) Robert Redfield b) John Marshall c) REM Wheeler d) Francis Buchanan	1				
11.	Identify the image given below and choose the correct option:  Option a) Sculpture of Vitthala Temple b) Sculpture of the Hazara Rama Temple c) Sculpture of Virupaksha d) Sculpture of Lotus Mahal	1				
	Note: The following question is for the visually impaired candidates only in lieu question No. 11 Gandhiji asked the remission of taxes for the peasants in which of the following movement? a) Rowlatt Satyagraha b) Champaran Satyagraha	1				

	c) Kheda Satyagraha d) Salt Satyagraha							
12.	Which one of the following is mainly attributed to the decline of the Vijaynagar Empire after the death of Krishnadeva Raya? a) The religious differences between Delhi Sultan and successors of Krishnadeva Raya b) The successors of Krishnadeva Raya were troubled by religious chiefs. c) The successors of Krishnadeva Raya were betrayed by their soldiers d) Rama Raya's forces defeated the armies of Bijapur and Golkonda	1						
13.	Two statements are given below; one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R). Read the statements carefully and choose the correct option. Assertion (A): The Mughal Empire was among the large territorial empire in Asia. Reason (R): These empires were the Ming (China), Safavid (Iran) and Ottoman (Turkey). Options: a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A. c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.	1						
14.	Which of the following is not correctly paired? a) Kharif-Summer b) Rabi – Spring c) Jin-i-Kamil – Cash crop d) Maize – Makka	1						
15.	Identify the following uprising from the given information: - The movement began at Supa, Poona district in 1875. - The ryots burnt the khatas, looted grain shops and set the Sahukar's houses on fire - From Poona the revolt spread to Ahmednagar. Options: a) Santhal rebellion b) Indigo Revolt c) Deccan Riots d) Munda Rebellion	1						
16.	Which of the following explains the Paharias? a) Hunting b) Shifting cultivation c) Food gatherers d) All of the above	1						
17.	Match column I with column II and choose the correct option <table><tr><th>Column I</th><th>Column II</th></tr><tr><td>A. Bell of arms</td><td>i. Foreigners</td></tr><tr><td>B. Firangi</td><td>ii. Storeroom in which weapons are kept</td></tr></table>	Column I	Column II	A. Bell of arms	i. Foreigners	B. Firangi	ii. Storeroom in which weapons are kept	1
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	C. Mutiny iii. Representative of the Governor General who lived in a state not under British Rule. D. Resident iv. A collective disobedience of rules in armed forces.		
	Codes: a) A-i, B-ii, C-iii, D-iv b) A-i, B-iii, C-iv, D-ii c) A-ii, B-i, C-iv, D-iii d) A-iv, B-iii, C-i, D-ii		
18.	Who led the Revolt of 1857 at Arrah? a) Nana Sahib b) Rani Lakshmi Bai c) Shah Mal d) Kunwar Singh		1
19.	The reason for which Simon Commission visited India was a) Enquiring the conditions in the colony b) Granting special privileges to minorities c) Granting separate electorates to Dalits d) To forge a compromise with the congress		1
20.	Identify the Act of the British in India from the given information: - It was passed in 1919 - It permitted arrest without trial - It imposed censorship of the Press Options: a) Morley Minto b) Montague-Chelmsfort c) Rowlatt Act d) None of the above		1
21.	What was the Primary objective of the meeting on 13th October 1939 between Gandhiji, Rajendra Prasad and Linlithgow? a) India's dominant status b) Complete independence c) India's involvement in the Second World War d) Quit India Resolution.		1
	SECTION – B (Short-Answer Type Question)		6 x 3 = 18
22.	A) According to Mackay describe any three features of the Harappan drainage system that made it the most complete ancient drainage system discovered so far. OR B) Why were both seals and weights important for trade in the Harappan Civilization? Explain with examples.		3
23.	How did the Mahabharata develop from oral tradition to its written form?		3

24.	A) How did Al-Biruni try to overcome the barriers to understand Indian traditions? OR B) According to Bernier, what were the harmful effects of Crown Ownership of land in the Mughal Empire?	3 3
25.	Imagine you are an amara-nayaka in the Vijayanagar Empire. Based on your understanding of the amara-nayaka system, explain any three duties you would perform to ensure the smooth administration of your territory.	3
26.	A) Analyse the importance of the Fifth Report. OR B) Briefly explain the causes of the Garo Resistance of 1872-73 against British Colonial expansion.	3 3
27.	Explain the meaning of the statement “they need a ladder” given by N.G. Ranga.	3
	Section – C (Long-Answer Type Question)	8x3=24
28.	A) Explain the importance of the Sixth Century BCE in the Indian history with reference to the rise of Mahajanapadas. OR B) Explain the legacy of the Mauryan administration.	8 8
29.	A) Describe the main teachings of Kabir and his significance as a poet-saint in Medieval India. OR B) Describe the main teachings of Guru Nanak with reference to his concept of Nirguna Bhakti, the importance of Shabad and organization of the Sikh Community,	8 8
30.	A) “Gandhi’s return to India in 1915 marked a new phase in the Indian nationalist movement” Evaluate this statement with reference to – Early activities in India – Understanding of Indian Society – Relations with political leaders – Efforts to unite people OR B) Assess how far the Salt March was effective in mobilizing the masses against British Rule.	8 8

	Section – D (Source Based Question)	3x4=12
31.	Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow: Life in a Small Village The Harshacharita is a biography of Harshavardhana, the ruler of Kanauj, composed in the Sanskrit by his court poet, Banabhatta (Seventh Century CE.). This is an excerpt from the text, an extremely rare representation of life in a settlement on the outskirts of a forest in the Vindhyas: The outskirts being for the most part forest, many parcels of rice- land, thrashing ground and arable land were being appointed by small farmers... it was mainly spade culture... owing to the difficulty of ploughing the sparsely scattered fields covered with grass, with their few clear spaces, their black soil stiff as black iron.... There were people moving along with bundles of bark.... countless sacks of plucked flowers... loads of flax and hemp bundles, quantities of honey, peacocks' tail feathers, wreaths of wax, logs and grass. Village wives hastened en-route for neighbouring villages, all intent on thoughts of sale and bearing on their heads, baskets filled with various gathered forest fruits. (i) Who composed the Harshacharita? (ii) What type of land was mainly found in the outskirts of the forest? (iii) What does the passage suggest about living near the forest area? (iv) Why were people carrying items like honey, flowers and forest fruits to nearby villages?	1 1 1 1
32	Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow: On The Horse On Foot This is how Ibn Battuta describes the postal system: In India, the postal system is of two kinds. The horse-post, called ULUG, is run by royal horses stationed at a distance of every four miles. The foot-post has three stations per-mile; it is called DAWA, that is one-third of a mile... Now, at every third of a mile there is a well-populated village, outside which are three pavilions in which sit men with girded loins ready to start. Each of them carried a rod, two cubits in length, with copper bells at the top. When the courier starts from the city, he holds the letter in one hand and the rod with its bells on the other; and he runs as fast as he can. When the men in the pavilion hear the ringing of the bell, they get ready. As soon as the courier reaches them, one of them takes the letter from his hand and runs at top speed shaking the rod all the while until he reaches the next DAWA. And the same process continues till the letter reaches its destination. This foot-post is quicker than the horse-post and often it is used to transport the fruits of Khurasan which are much desired in India. (i) What are the two types of postal systems described by Ibn Battuta in	1

	India? (ii) What is the foot-post called in Ibn Battuta's description? (iii) Why do you think that foot-post used runners instead of horses between stations? (iv) What does the system of relay runners suggest about communication in medieval India?	1 1 1
33.	Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow: Charka Mahatma Gandhi was profoundly critical of the modern age in which machines enslaved humans and displaced labour. He saw the Charka as a symbol of a human society that would not glorify machines and technology. The spinning wheel, moreover, could provide the poor with supplementary income and make them self-reliant. What I object to, is the craze is for what they call labour saving machinery. Men go on "saving labour", till thousands are without work and thrown on the open streets to die of starvation. I want to save time and labour, not for fraction of mankind, but for all; I want the concentration of wealth, not in the hands of few, but in the hands of all. Khaddar does not seek to destroy all machinery but it does regulate its use and check its weedy growth. It uses machinery for the service of the poorest in their own cottages. The wheel is itself an exquisite piece of machinery. (i) What is the main objection of the author regarding machinery? (ii) According to the passage, what does Khaddar aim to do with machinery? (iii) Why does the author criticize "labour saving machinery"? (iv) How does Khaddar use machinery differently from modern industrial systems?	1 1 1 1
	Section – E (MAP Based Question)	
34	(I) On the given political map of India, locate and label the following with appropriate symbol (a) Kalibangan – Major Harappan Site (b) Magadha – One of the Mahajanapadas (c) Sanchi - Major Buddhist Site (II) On the same political map of India, two places marked as A and B are shown. Identify them and write their names in space provided near each. A – Main centre of the Revolt of 1857 B – Important centre of the national movement	1x3=3 1x2=2
34	Note: The following questions are for visually impaired candidates only in lieu of question number 34 (i) Mention one mature Harappan site in Gujarat.	1x5=5

	(ii). Name one Buddhist site in the state of Madhya Pradesh. (iii). Mention one of the territories which was under the control of Mughals in Northern India (iv). Mention the place where the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre took place. (v) Who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi?	
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