

Question Paper Foreign 2017 set 1
CBSE Class 12 History

General Instructions:

- Answer all the questions. Some questions have internal choice. Marks are indicated against each question.
- Answers to questions no. 1 to 3 carrying 2 marks should not exceed 30 words each.
- Answers to questions no. 4 to 9 carrying 4 marks should not exceed 100 words each. Students should attempt only five questions in this section.
- Question no. 10 (for 4 marks) is a value based question and compulsory.
- Answers to questions no. 11 to 13 carrying 8 marks should not exceed 350 words each.
- Questions no. 14 to 16 are source based questions and have no internal choice.
- Question no. 17 is a Map question and includes identification and location of significant test items. Attach the map with the answer-book.

PART A

Answer all the following questions:

1. Explain why the ideal of patriliney was important among the elite families from c. 600 BCE to 600 CE.

Ans. (i) This ideal of patriliney was prevalent before the story of Mahabharata.

(ii) The central story of the epic reinforced the ideal of patriliney.

(iii) Most of the ruling dynasties claimed to follow this system.

(iv) Sometimes there were no sons, then the Kinsmen claimed the property.

(v) The concern of patriliney was not unique to the ruling families as is evident in Mantras in ritual texts such as Rigveda.

Any two points to be mentioned.

2. Examine how Mirabai defined the norms of caste system.

Ans. (i) Mirabai did not start her own cult.

(ii) She was the follower of Raidas, a leather worker of low caste.

(iii) This indicated her defiance to caste system.

(iv) She was recognized as a source of inspiration by the people of different castes.

(v) Her songs continue to be sung by men and women especially by those who are poor and considered 'low caste' in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Any two points to be mentioned.

3. What was the impact of American Civil War on the export of cotton to Britain?

Ans. (i) The export of American cotton to Britain dried up.

(ii) It became difficult for the British cotton mills to function.

(iii) They had to find alternate sources from India.

(iv) Raw cotton imports from America fell to less than three percent of the normal.

Any two points to be mentioned

PART B

SECTION I

Answer any five of the following questions:

4. "Magadha became the most powerful Mahajanapada between sixth and fourth centuries BCE." Substantiate the statement.

Ans. Magadha- the powerful Mahajanpada-

(i) Magadha was a region where agriculture was productive.

(ii) Iron ore mines were accessible and this was an important resource for making tools and weapons.

(iii) Elephants an important component of the army were available in the forests of Magadha.

(iv) Ganga and its tributaries provided convenient means of communication.

(v) Fortified capital Rajagaha (Rajgir) and later capital Pataliputra , which came on the commanding routes of communication along the Ganga.

(vi) Ambitious rulers like Bimbisara, Ajatasattu, Mahapadma Nanda etc.

Any four points to be explained.

5. “The Mahabharata is a dynamic text.” Explain.

Ans. (i) The growth of the Mahabharata did not stop with the Sanskrit version.

(ii) Over the centuries versions of the epic were written in a variety of languages through a process of dialogue between people and communities.

(iii) Several stories originated in specific region.

(iv) Central story of the epic was often retold in different ways.

(v) Episodes of the Mahabharata were depicted in Sculpture and painting.

(vi) Themes taken for performing arts- plays, dance and other kinds of narrations.

(vii) Any other relevant point.

Any four points to be explained.

6. Explain how the history of the city and the empire of Vijayanagara was reconstructed.

Ans. (i) An Engineer and antiquarian Colin Mackenzie brought to light the ruins of Hampi for the first time in 1800.

(ii) He prepared the first map of the site.

(iii) Much of the information he collected from the memories of the priest of Virupaksha temple and Pampadevi shrine.

(iv) Epigraphists also collected dozens of inscriptions found at the site.

(v) Historians collated entire information with accounts of foreign travellers and reconstructed the history of Vijaynagar.

(vi) Any other relevant point.

Any four points to be explained.

7. Examine the complex institution of the Imperial Household of the Mughal empire.

Ans. (i) Mughal imperial household consisted of the emperor's wives and concubines, his household near and distant relatives and female servants and slaves.

(ii) Marriage was a way of cementing political relationships and forging alliances.

(iii) The gift of territory often accompanied by the gift of daughter in marriage.

(iv) This ensured continual hierarchical relationship between ruling groups.

(v) Mughals were able to form such relationships and formed a vast kinship network.

(vi) This helped to hold a vast empire together.

(vii) A distinction was maintained between different wives (begams, aghas, aghacha).

(viii) Any other relevant point.

Any four points to be explained.

8. Explain the causes for Santhal rebellion against money lenders, zamindars and the Colonial State.

Ans. Santhal rebellion:

(i) The state was levying heavy taxes on the land controlled by Santhals.

(ii) Money lenders (dikus) were charging high rates of interest from them.

(iii) Zamindars were also asserting control over the Damin areas.

(iv) This is how Santhals felt that time had come to rebel against the state, moneylenders and the zamindars.

(v) Santhals, thus, revolted in 1855 -56.

(vi) Santhal Pargana was created as a result of this revolt.

(vii) Any other relevant point.

Any four points to be explained.

9. “The initiatives in Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad marked Gandhiji out as a nationalist leader with deep sympathies for the poor.” Examine the statement.

Ans. (i) The initiative at Champaran was for the cause of the poor peasants for cultivation of crops of their choice.

(ii) At Kheda it was the peasants for remission of taxes.

(iii) At Ahmedabad it was the labour dispute demanding better working conditions for textile mill workers.

(iv) These initiatives exhibited Gandhiji’s sympathies with poor.

(v) His name also came to be known by many Indians.

(vi) Next year Rowlatt act made Gandhi a household name.

(vii) Any other relevant point.

Any four points to be explained.

SECTION II

Value Based Question (Compulsory)

10. “The leaders of the revolt were the heroes leading the country into battle, rousing the people to righteous indignation against oppressive imperial rule. Heroic poems were written about the valour of the Rani of Jhansi, who, with a sword in one hand and

the reins of her horse in the other, fought for the freedom of her motherland. Rani of Jhansi was represented as a masculine figure chasing the enemy, slaying British soldiers and valiantly fighting till her last.”

Read the above passage and highlight the values upheld by the Rani of Jhansi.

Ans. (i) Patriotism.

(ii) Right action

(iii) Fight against the oppressor.

(iv) Love for motherland.

(v) Any other relevant point.

Any four points to be explained.

PART C

Long Answer Questions

11. “The Harappans procured materials for craft production in various ways.” In the light of this statement, explain the strategies for procuring raw materials for craft production.

OR

“The most unique feature of the Harappan civilization was the development of urban centres.” Explain.

Ans. (i) Harappans procured materials for craft production in various ways:

- By establishing settlements in areas where raw material was available.
- By sending expeditions to areas where material was available.
- By procuring material from distant lands as Mesopotamia.

(ii) To procure materials they established settlements such as Nageshwar and Balakot- a source of shells.

- (iii) Another site was Shortughai in Afghanistan the best source of lapis lazuli- a blue stone.
- (iv) Lothal was the source of carnelian.
- (v) Another strategy was to send expeditions for procuring raw materials such as Khetri in Rajasthan for copper.
- (vi) South India expedition for gold.
- (vii) Copper was also brought from Oman.
- (viii) It is believed that some material was procured from Mesopotamian region.

OR

Most unique feature of Harappan civilization was the development of urban centres like Harappa and Mohenjodaro.

- (i) The urban centres divided into two section:
 - (a) One smaller but higher(citadel).
 - (b) Other larger but lower (lower town).
- (ii) Both walled separately.
- (iii) Buildings constructed on mud brick platforms.
- (iv) Elaborate planning –first platforms constructed, sun-dried or baked bricks of standardized ratio used.
- (v) Drainage system was carefully planned.
- (vi) Streets with drains laid out first and then houses built along.
- (vii) Roads and streets were laid out in grid pattern.
- (viii) Lower town had residential buildings with a courtyard and room on all sides.
- (ix) Courtyard was a centre of activities as cooking and weaving.

- (x) There is concern for privacy as no window in the walls along ground level and main entrance does not give direct view into the interior.
- (xi) Every house had bathroom paved with bricks, drains connected with street drains and in some houses staircases and wells have been found.
- (xii) Citadel had structure probably used for public purposes like warehouse, great bath.
- (xiii) Any other relevant point.

Explain any eight points.

12. Examine critically Bernier's accounts of land ownership in the Mughal empire.

OR

Examine how Ibn Battuta's account enables historians to reconstruct the urban life of the fourteenth century.

Ans. Bernier says in Mughal India the land is owned by the state and there is no question of private ownership which is quite contrary to Europe.

- (i) He says crown ownership is bad for both the state and the peasants.
- (ii) Mughal emperor owned all the land and distributed among the nobles.
- (iii) It had disastrous consequences for the economy and society.
- (iv) Owing to crown ownership the landholder could not pass land to his children.
- (v) The landholders were averse to any long term investment on the fields.
- (vi) It led to the ruination of agriculture.
- (vii) Excessive oppression of the peasantry led to the continuous decline in their standard of living.
- (viii) Bernier confidently asserted: "There is no middle state in India".
- (ix) Bernier saw the Mughal empire as- its King was the King of "beggars and barbarians"; its cities and towns were ruined and contaminated with "ill air"; and its fields, "overspread with

bushes” and full of “pestilential marishes”. And all this was because of one reason; crown ownership of land.

(x) But curiously, none of the Mughal official documents suggest that the state was the sole owner of land.

(xi) Any other relevant point.

Explain any eight points.

OR

(i) Ibn Battuta enjoyed the cosmopolitan culture of urban centres where people spoke different languages, shared ideas, information and anecdotes. His account ‘Rehla’ enables historians to reconstruct the urban life of the fourteenth century.

(ii) Ibn Battuta found cities in the subcontinent full of exciting opportunities for those who had the necessary drive, resources and skills.

(iii) Most cities had crowded streets and bright and colourful markets that were stacked with a wide variety of goods.

(iv) Ibn Battuta described Delhi as a vast city, with a great population, the largest in India.

(v) Daulatabad (in Maharashtra) was no less and easily rivalled Delhi in size.

(vi) The bazaars were not only places of economic transactions, but also the hub of social and cultural activities.

(vii) Most bazaars had a mosque and a temple and in some of them at least, spaces were marked for public performances by dancers, musicians and singers.

(viii) While Ibn Battuta was not particularly concerned with explaining the prosperity of towns, historians have used his account to suggest that towns derived a significant portion of their wealth through the appropriation of surplus from villages.

(ix) Ibn Battuta informs us that certain varieties of fine muslin were so expensive that they could be worn only by the nobles and the very rich.

- (x) The state evidently took special measure to encourage merchants.
- (xi) Almost all trade routes were well supplied with inns and guest houses.
- (xii) Ibn Battuta was also amazed by the efficiency of the postal system which allowed merchants to not only send information and remit credit across long distances, but also to dispatch goods required at short notice.
- (xiii) The news reports of spies would reach the Sultan through the postal system in just five days.
- (xiv) In India the postal system is of two kinds, the horse post called ulug and foot post called dawa.
- (xv) Any other relevant point.

Explain any eight points.

13. “Partition of the country generated memories of hatred, stereotypes and identities that still continue to shape the history of the people on both sides of the border.” Explain.

OR

“Most of the members of the Constituent Assembly were against the idea of separate electorates in India.” Examine the statement.

Ans. Partition:

- (i) There were well organized forces on both side and concerted attempts were made to wipe out entire population as enemies.
- (ii) The ethnic cleansing that characterise the partition was carried out by self styled representatives of religious communities.
- (iii) India haters in Pakistan and Pakistan haters in India are the products of partition.
- (iv) Some people feel muslims are fair and brave others feel they are cruel and bigotted, unclean.

- (v) Muslims are the descendants of invaders but Hindus are the children of invaded.
- (vi) These hatreds have manifested themselves during inter community conflicts and communal clashes.
- (vii) Some people still create communal divide.
- (viii) This is the legacy that shaped the relation between India and Pakistan.
- (ix) Any other relevant point.

Explain any eight points.

OR

- (i) The demand for separate electorates provoked anger among the nationalists.
- (ii) A range of arguments was offered against the demand.
- (iii) Separate electorate was seen as a measure to divide the people.
- (iv) Partition had made nationalists fervently opposed to the idea of separate electorates.
- (v) They were haunted by the fear of continued civil war.
- (vi) Patel remarked that the separate electorate was a poison in the body politics.
- (vii) This demand will turn one community against the other.
- (viii) Pant said separate electorate is harmful to the nation as well as minorities.
- (ix) Pant said this idea was suicidal.
- (x) Any other relevant point.

Explain any eight points.

PART D

Source Based Questions

14. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Rules for monks and nuns

These are some of the rules laid down in the Vinaya Pitaka:

When a new felt (blanket/rug) has been made by a bhikkhu, it is to be kept for (at least) six years. If after less than six years he should have another new felt (blanket/rug) made, regardless of whether or not he has disposed of the first, then - unless he has been authorised by the bhikkhus - it is to be forfeited and confessed.

In case a bhikkhu arriving at a family residence is presented with cakes or cooked grain-meal, he may accept two or three bowlfuls if he so desires. If he should accept more than that, it is to be confessed. Having accepted the two or three bowlfuls and having taken them from there, he is to share them among the bhikkhus. This is the proper course here.

Should any bhikkhu, having set out bedding in a lodging belonging to the sangha - or having had it set out – and then on departing neither put it away nor have it put away, or should he go without taking leave, it is to be confessed.

(14.1) Who were the bhikkhus and bhikkhunis?

(14.2) Explain any two rules framed for them.

(14.3) Why was the status of all the bhikkhus and bhikkhunis equal in the ‘Buddha Sangha’?

Ans. (14.1) They are disciples of Budha. They are the monks and nuns living in the Sangha. Since they live on alms they are known as Bhikhus /Bhikhunis.

(14.2) When a new blanket is made by a bhikhu it is to be kept for at least six years regardless of the fact that he disposed of the first or not.

If a bhikhu arrives in a family and is presented with cakes or cooked grain, he should accept only 2 or 3 bowl full and share it among others.

(14.3) The Buddhist followers came from different backgrounds like kings, wealthy people, slaves and craftsman. But once in a Sangha they are treated equal because they have to shed their earlier social identities.

Any other relevant point.

15. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Classification of lands under Akbar

The following is a listing of criteria of classification excerpted from the Ain:

The Emperor Akbar in his profound sagacity classified the lands and fixed a different revenue to be paid by each. Polaj is land which is annually cultivated for each crop in succession and is never allowed to lie fallow. Parauti is land left out of cultivation for a time that it may recover its strength. Chachar is land that has lain fallow for three or four years. Banjar is land uncultivated for five years and more. Of the first two kinds of land, there are three classes, good, middling, and bad. They add together the produce of each sort, and the third of this represents the medium produce, one-third part of which is exacted as the Royal dues.

(15.1) Explain Polaj and Parauti lands.

(15.2) Why was Chachar land left uncultivated for three to four years?

(15.3) Why did Akbar classify the land into different categories?

Ans. (15.1) Polaj is a land which is annually cultivated for each crop succession. It is a fertile land.

Parauti is a land left out for cultivation for a time so as to regain fertility.

(15.2) Chachar land is left for 3 to 4 years without cultivation. This is kept as fallow so that this acquires fertility in this time.

(15.3) Akbar was a wise king and he knew that all the lands are not equally fertile so he divided the land into three categories-good, middling and bad.

Any other relevant point.

16. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

“For the regulation of nuisances of every description”

By the early nineteenth century the British felt that permanent and public rules had to be formulated for regulating all aspects of social life. Even the construction of private buildings and public roads ought to conform to standardised rules that were clearly

codified.

In his Minute on Calcutta (1803) Wellesley wrote:

It is a primary duty of Government to provide for the health, safety and convenience of the inhabitants of this great town, by establishing a comprehensive system for the improvement of roads, streets, public drains, and water courses, and by fixing permanent rules for the construction and distribution of the houses and public edifices, and for the regulation of nuisances of every description.

(16.1) Why did the British feel concerned on framing rules for the public?

(16.2) Who carried out the work of town planning after the departure of Lord Wellesley?

(16.3) What was the primary duty of the government?

Ans. (16.1) The British felt that haphazard growth is to be checked and rules are to be framed for private buildings, roads, water course etc.

(16.2) The work of town planning was carried out by the lottery committee after Lord Wellesley left India.

(16.3) The primary duty of the govt. was to provide health, safety and convenience of the inhabitants by establishing comprehensive system of roads, streets, public drains etc.

PART E

Map Question

(17.1) On the given political outline map of India (on Page 11), locate and label the following with appropriate symbols:

(a) Amritsar $\frac{3}{4}$ a centre of national movement (b) Amber $\frac{3}{4}$ a territory under Mughals

(17.2) On the same outline map of India, three places related to the Ashokan Pillar inscriptions have been marked as A, B and C.

Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.

Note : The following questions are for the Visually Impaired Candidates only in lieu of Q. No. 17 :

(17.1) Mention any one centre of national movement.

(17.2) Name any one territory which was under the control of Mughals.

(17.3) Mention any three places related to the Ashokan inscriptions.

Ans. 17.1 Any one

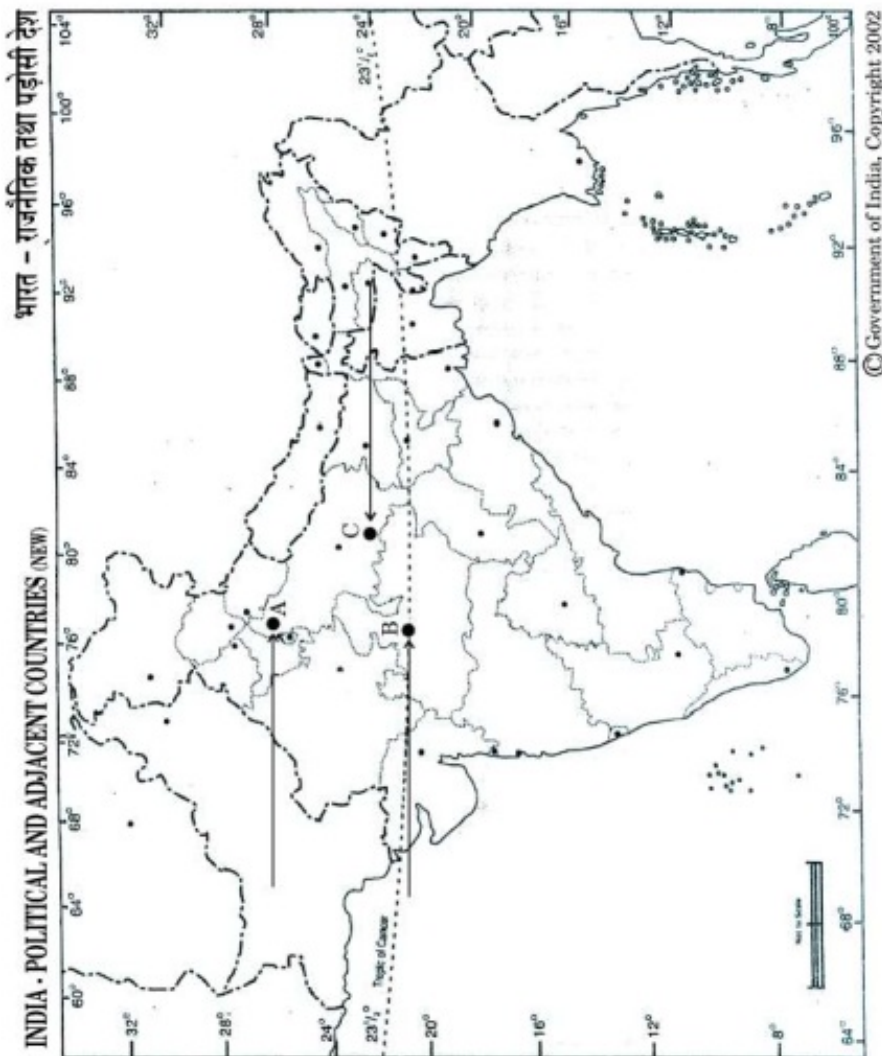
Champaran, Kheda, Ahmadabad, Benaras, Amritsar, ChauriChaura, Lahore, Bardoli, Dandi, Bombay, Karachi.

17.2 Any one

Delhi, Agra, Panipat, Amber, Ajmer, Lahore, Goa.

17.3 Three of the following:

Mathura, Kanauj, Puhar, sanchi, Topra, Meerat, Kaushambi etc.



Ans.

