



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
TERM-1 EXAMINATION, 2026-27

HISTORY (027)

CLASS: XI
DATE: 31/08/2026
NAME:

MARKING SCHEME

DURATION: 3 Hrs.
MAX. MARKS: 80
ROLL NO: -----

General Instructions:

Question paper comprises five Sections – A, B, C, D and E. There are 34 questions in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.

Section A – Question 1 to 21 are MCQs of 1 mark each.

Section B – Question no. 22 to 27 are Short Answer Type Questions, carrying 3 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 60-80 words.

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

Section D – Question no.31 to 33 are Source based questions with three sub questions and are of 4 marks each

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 book.

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.

SECTION-A 1X21=21

Q1. Question: Match the events in Column A with the correct developments in Column B:

Column A (Period/Year) Column B (Historical Development)

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| (i) 1st Century CE | (a) Akkadian and Cuneiform scripts remain in use |
| (ii) 2370 BCE | (b) Sargon, King of Akkad |
| (iii) 3000 BCE | (c) Uruk developed into a huge city |
| (iv) 7000–6000 BCE | (d) Beginning of agriculture |

Choose the correct option:

- (a) (i)–(b), (ii)–(c), (iii)–(d), (iv)–(a)
(b) (i)–(a), (ii)–(b), (iii)–(c), (iv)–(d)
(c) (i)–(c), (ii)–(d), (iii)–(a), (iv)–(b)
(d) (i)–(d), (ii)–(a), (iii)–(b), (iv)–(c)

Ans- (b) (i)–(a), (ii)–(b), (iii)–(c), (iv)–(d)

Q2. With which person the first event of Sumerian trade is associated?

- (a) The ancient ruler of Uruk City, Enmerkar.
(b) The ancient ruler of Lebanon City, Enmerkar.
(c) The ancient ruler of Nile City, Enmerkar.
(d) The ancient ruler of Aral City, Enmerkar.

Ans- (a) The ancient ruler of Uruk City, Enmerkar.

Q3. The King who released Babylonia from Assyrian domination in 625 BCE was

- (a) Alexander. (b) Nabonidus.
(c) Nabopolassar. (d) Sargon.

Ans- (c) Nabopolassar.

Q4. The Mesopotamian ruler who became the king of Akkad, in 2370 BCE, was

- (a) Enmerkar (b) Gilgamesh
(c) Hammurabi (d) Sargon

Ans- (d) Sargon

Q5. The technological landmark witnessed by the urban economy of the city of Uruk was

- (a) bronze tools
- (b) construction of brick columns
- (c) potter's wheel
- (d) oil pressing technique

Ans- (c) potter's wheel

Q6. Saint Augustine was bishop of the North African city of

- (a) Annaba
- (b) Algeria
- (c) Hippo
- (d) Numidia

Ans- (c) Hippo

Q7. In Roman urban life, the entertainment shows called spectacular happened for at least

- (a) 150 days
- (b) 160 days
- (c) 167 days
- (d) 176 days

Ans- (d) 176 days

Q8. Christianity became the state religion of Roman Empire in the

- (a) 1st century CE.
- (b) 2nd century CE.
- (c) 3rd century CE.
- (d) 4th century CE.

Ans- (d) 4th century CE.

Q9. Question: Match the terms in Column A with their correct meanings in Column B:

Column A (Term) Column B (Meaning)

- (i) Antioch (a) One of the urban centres
- (ii) Annals (b) Contemporary history
- (iii) Near East (c) Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia and Arabia
- (iv) Papyrus (d) A reed-like plant used for paper manufacture

Choose the correct option:

- (a) (i)–(a), (ii)–(b), (iii)–(c), (iv)–(d)
- (b) (i)–(b), (ii)–(c), (iii)–(d), (iv)–(a)
- (c) (i)–(c), (ii)–(d), (iii)–(a), (iv)–(b)
- (d) (i)–(d), (ii)–(a), (iii)–(b), (iv)–(c)

Q10. Roman ruler _____ was considered as the leading citizen only to show that he was not the absolute ruler.

- (a) Augustus
- (b) Constantine
- (c) Gallienus
- (d) Tiberius

Ans- (a) Augustus

Q11. **Assertion (A):** The Mongol empire successfully maintained quick communication across vast distances using the Yam.

Reason (R): It was a swift courier system fueled by fresh relay mounts to send imperial orders.

- (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

Answer: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Q12. Through the 1180s and 1190s, Temujin (Genghis Khan) remained an ally of

- (a) Boghurchu
- (b) Jamuqa
- (c) Kereyits
- (d) Ong Khan

Ans- (d) Ong Khan

Q13. Why were the Mongols defeated by the Egyptian army?

- (a) Because Mongol rulers began to take more interest in China
- (b) Because the Mongol army was less equipped
- (c) Because Mongols were less developed
- (d) None of the above

Ans- (a) Because Mongol rulers began to take more interest in China

Q14. Why Genghis Khan commanded to plunder and destroy Nishapur.

- (a) Because a Mongol prince was killed
- (b) Because Nishapur refused to export agricultural produce
- (c) Because they were developing industries
- (d) None of the above

Ans- (a) Because a Mongol prince was killed

Q15. The Mongols imported _____ from China.

- (a) Cotton
- (b) Crude Oil
- (c) Coffee
- (d) Iron Utensils

Ans- (d) Iron Utensils

Q16. Monks who moved from one place to another, preaching to the people and living on charity. These monks were known as _____

- (a) Manor
- (b) Friars
- (c) Tithe
- (d) Serfs

Ans- (b) Friars

Q17. The famous book Feudal Society, which dealt with the French society, was written by:

- (a) James Cunnigham
- (b) Alexander Cunnigham
- (c) James Bloch
- (d) Marc Bloch

Ans- (d) Marc Bloch

Q18. The land granted by the lord to the knights was called:

- (a) Fief
- (b) Feud
- (c) Seigneur
- (d) Manor

Ans- (a) Fief

Q19. Change in land use pattern was seen with form of

- (a) Two field system
- (b) Three field system
- (c) Jhoom system
- (d) Transhumance system

Ans- (b) Three field system

Q20. **Assertion (A):** Post-Roman Europe centered on land control, with power shifting to local lords.

Reason (R): The collapse of central authority led to constant conflict, making local resource gathering essential.

Answer: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Q21. **Assertion (A):** Knights appeared in Europe from the 9th century onwards.

Reason (R): The need for specialized, mounted soldiers grew as warfare became more localized and complex.

(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

Answer: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

SECTION-B 3X6=18

Q22. Why Mesopotamia is considered important by Europeans? Give reasons.

Answer:

- i. In Old Testament, there are references about it, which refer to 'Shimar', meaning the Sumer (the land of brick-built cities). It clearly refers to Mesopotamia, because early planned cities existed there.
- ii. European scholars and travelers referred to Mesopotamia as their ancestral land.
- iii. Archaeological discoveries also depict that Europeans had a keen interest in this region.

Q23. "In spite of natural fertility, agriculture was subject to hazards." Why?

- i. The River Tigris overflowed during particular months of the year, causing floods and damage to crops.
- ii. The river often changed its course, which caused water scarcity in particular regions.
- iii. The unpredictable flooding of the rivers, making agricultural production uncertain.

Q24. Define the territorial position of the Roman Empire.

Answer:

- i. The continents of Europe and Africa are separated by a sea, called the Mediterranean that stretches all the way from Spain in the west to Syria in the east and it was the heart of Rome's empire.
- ii. To the north, the boundaries of the empire were formed by two great rivers, the Rhine and the Danube and to the south, by the huge expanse of desert called the Sahara.
- iii. This vast stretch of territory was the Roman empire.

Q25. What is meant by "Late Antiquity," and why was this term used?

Answer: i. "Late Antiquity" refers to the period between the 4th and 7th centuries CE, which is seen as a transition between the ancient and medieval periods.

ii. The term was coined to describe the changes that took place during this time, including shifts in political power, economic structures, and cultural practices.

iii. Key emperors like Diocletian and Constantine played significant roles in this era. Diocletian restructured the Roman Empire and divided power between different groups, while Constantine further reinforced these divisions and established a new capital at Byzantium, later named Constantinople.

Q26. Discuss the rules and regulations of the Yasa as evolved by Genghis Khan.

Ans:

i. Yasa was written as yasaq which meant 'law', 'decree' or 'order'.

2. The term Yasa meant the 'legal code of Genghis Khan'.

3. The yasa served to cohere the Mongol people around a body of shared beliefs.

4. The yasa was in all probability a compilation of the customary traditions of the Mongol tribes but in referring to it as Genghis Khan's code of law

Q27. Explain Feudalism.

Ans: i. The term "feudalism" has been used by historians to describe the economic, legal, political and social relationships that existed in Europe in the medieval era.

ii. Feudalism is derived from the German word "feud" that means a piece of land. It refers to the kind of society that developed in medieval France, and later in England and in southern Italy.

iii. In an economic sense, feudalism refers to a kind of agricultural production which is based on the relationship between lords and peasants.

OR

Write a few restrictions that were imposed on the serfs.

Answer:

Following restrictions were imposed on the serfs.

i. The serf can't leave the estate without the prior permission of their masters or lords.

ii. They were prohibited from offering their prayers in the church.

iii. They did not enjoy the right of education.

SECTION-C 8X3=24

Q28. Discuss the basic features of Roman society and economy that make it appear quite modern.

Ans- Ans. Some basic features of the Roman society:

(a) Society was divided into upper, middle and lower class.

(b) There was widespread prevalence of the nuclear family.

(c) Women retained full rights in their father's property. They could own and manage property and its related issues.

(d) There was vast diversity of religious cults and local deities, the plurality of languages that were spoken, the styles of dress and costume, the food people ate and their forms of social organisation.

Some Basic features of the Roman economy:

(a) The empire had a substantial economic structure of harbours, mines, brickyard, etc.

(b) Constant exchange of commodities between different cities.

(c) Roman trade was flourish and prosperous across several continents.

(d) Widespread use of monetary such as silver denarius and gold solidus.

OR

Explain the system of administration governed by politicians of senatorial rank in Rome.

Answer:

- i. Governor Rank: Provinces were generally governed by politicians of senatorial rank, typically former consuls or praetors.
- ii. Annual Terms: Under the Republic, governors administered these geographically defined units for standard one-year terms.
- iii. Historical Origins: This system began during the First Punic War, annexing Sicily (241 BC) and Sardinia (237 BC) as the first permanent provinces.
- iv. Personnel Shortages: Continuous military expansionism increased the number of provinces until there were not enough qualified individuals to fill the posts.
- v. Prorogation Practice: To fill vacancies, the Senate frequently extended governors' terms for multiple years through a process called prorogation.
- vi. Private Commands: Due to extreme shortages, the Senate occasionally awarded military command (imperium) to private citizens, most notably Pompey the Great.
- vii. Constitutional Erosion: Extending terms and granting private commands directly undermined the republican constitutional principle of annual elected magistracies.
- viii. Rise of Autocracy: The resulting accumulation of immense wealth and military power by a few provincial governors directly triggered the fall of the Republic.

Q29. Write a detailed note on the Mongols and describe the important features of their social life.

Ans:

- i. The Mongols were a diverse body of people linked to the east Tatars, Khitan and Manchus for language similarity and the Turkic tribes to the west.
- ii. Some of the Mongols were pastoralists while others hunter-gatherers.
- iii. The pastoralists tended horses, sheep and, to a lesser extent, cattle, goats and camels.
- iv. The hunter-gatherers made a living from trade in furs of animals trapped in the summer months.
- v. There were extremes of temperature in the entire region: harsh, long winters followed by brief, dry summers.
- vi. Agriculture was possible in the pastoral regions during short parts of the year but the Mongols did not take to farming.
- vii. The Mongols lived in tents, gers, and travelled with their herds from their winter to summer pasture lands.
- viii. Ethnic and language ties kept the Mongol people united but their society was divided into patrilineal lineages.
- ix. Mongol people had scarce resources. The richer families were larger, possessed more animals and pasture lands.

OR

Discuss the causes of the success of Genghis Khan.

Answer:

Prior to his death, Genghis Khan had established a vast empire within a short span of 20 years.

Some of the main causes of his success are listed below:

- i. He was a born commander and distinctively fortunate to get success, wherever he went. He became a real terror of his opponents.
- ii. He also established a large disciplined army. It was not easy to face such a huge army.
- iii. His spies used to collect every bit of information about the opponent's army and gave it to him.
- iv. He knew the importance of psychological warfare and used to unleash the region of terror. In this effort, people could not face his army.
- v. He used to make people dread his forces, so that the people could surrender without waging a war against him.
- vi. The Mongol soldiers were experts in horse riding and archery.
- vii. Genghis Khan usually launched his expedition during the winter season. Because during this season rivers used to freeze and make it easier to cross them.
- viii. The use of Naphtha Bombardment destroyed enemy forts and had dreadfully results in the course of the war.

Q30. Describe the First Order of medieval European society. Explain the position, powers, functions, and privileges of the clergy.

Ans: i. The Catholic Church had its own laws, owned lands given to it by rulers, and could levy taxes.

- ii. It was thus a very powerful institution which did not depend on the king.
- iii. At the head of the western Church was the Pope. He lived in Rome.
- iv. The Christians in Europe were guided by bishops and clerics – who constituted the first "order".
- v. The women and serfs could not become priests. Only Men were allowed to become priests but they could not marry.
- vi. Bishops were the religious nobility. Like lords who owned vast landed estates, the bishops also had the use of vast estates, and lived in grand palaces.
- vii. The Church was entitled to a tenth share of whatever the peasants produced from their land over the course of the year, called a "tithe".
- viii. Money also came in the form of endowments made by the rich for their own welfare and the welfare of their deceased relatives in the afterlife.

OR

“Why did Europe’s economic progress slow down by the early 14th century”? Give reasons?

Answer:

Europe’s economic progress slowed down due to the following reasons:

The warm summers of the last 300 years had given way to bitterly cold summers in Northern Europe by the end of 13th century.

It became quite difficult to grow crops on higher ground. Storms and flood destroyed the entire crops, which resulted into less income in taxes for government.

Before thirteenth century, the climatic conditions had led to the large scale reclamation of the land of forests and pastures for agriculture.

Intensive ploughing had exhausted the fertility of soil. The shortage of pastures reduced the number of cattle.

Europe was hit by severe famines between 1315 and 1317. By 1320s, there occurred massive cattle deaths.

Trade was hit by a severe shortage of metal money because of the shortfall in silver mines in Austria and Serbia.

It forced the governments to reduce the silver content of the currency , and to mix it with cheaper metals. With the expansion of trade in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, ships carrying goods from distant countries had started arriving in European ports. Along with the ships came rats with deadly bubonic plague infection (the Black Death).

SECTION-D 4X3=12

Q31. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

In Benedictine monasteries, there was a manuscript with 73 chapters of rules which were followed by monks for many centuries. Here are some of the rules they had to follow:

Chapter – 6 : Permission to speak should rarely be granted to monks.

Chapter – 7 : Humility means obedience.

Chapter – 33: No monk should own private property.

Chapter – 47: Idleness is the enemy of the soul, so friars and sisters should be occupied at certain times in manual labour, and at fixed hours in sacred reading. Chapter-48: The monastery should be laid out in such a way that all necessities be found within its bounds: water, mill, garden, workshops.

Questions:

1. What does humility’ mean? 1
2. What does chapter 47 say? 2
3. What sort of values are reflected in this chapter? 1

Answers:

1. Humility means obedience.
2. Chapter 47 says that idleness is the enemy of the soul, so friars and sisters should be occupied at certain times in manual labour and at fixed hours in a sacred reading.
3. Humanity, truthfulness, etc.

Q32. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

A major difference between the two superpowers and their respective empires was that the Roman Empire was culturally much more diverse than that of Iran. The Parthians and later the Sasanians, the dynasties that ruled Iran in this period, ruled over a population that was largely Iranian. The Roman Empire, by contrast, was a mosaic of territories and cultures that were chiefly bound together by a common system of government. Many languages were spoken in the empire, but for the purposes of administration Latin and Greek were the most widely used, indeed the only languages.

The upper classes of the east spoke and wrote in Greek, those of the west in Latin, and the boundary between these broad language areas ran somewhere across the middle of the Mediterranean, between the African provinces of Tripolitania (which was Latin speaking) and Cyrenaica (Greek-speaking). All those who lived in the empire were subjects of a single ruler, the emperor, regardless of where they lived and what language they spoke.

Questions:

- (i) How would you differentiate the Roman Empire from Iran? 1
- (ii) Name two dynasties who ruled over Iran during this period. 1
- (iii) Which empire was bound together by a common system of government and why? 2

Answers:

- (i) The Roman Empire was entirely different from Iran on the ground of cultural activities.
- (ii) These dynasties were the Parthians and the Sasanians.
- (iii) Roman Empire was bound together by a common system of government as compared to Iranian Empire. In Roman Empire common people subjected to one ruler.

Q33. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

In India, early stone seals were stamped. In Mesopotamia until the end of the first millennium BCE, cylindrical stone seals, pierced down the center, were fitted with a stick and rolled over wet clay so that a continuous picture was created. They were carved by very skilled craftsmen, and sometimes carry writing; the name of the owner, his god, his official position, etc. A seal could be rolled on clay covering the string knot of a cloth package or the mouth of a pot, keeping the contents safe. When rolled on a letter written on a clay tablet, it became a mark of authenticity. So the seal was the mark of a city dweller's role in public life.

Questions:

- (i) Which type of material was used to make seals? 1
- (ii) What were the various types of seals? 1
- (iii) Who carved these seals? Write a few features of these seals (Mesopotamian seals). 2

Answers:

- (i) Seals were made of stones. It is evident from the fact that until the end of the first millennium BCE, cylindrical stone seals were prevalent in society.
- (ii) There were two types of seals. These were:
Stamp seals
Cylindrical seals
- (iii) These seals were carved by skilled craftsmen.

Features

Artistically the carving of the seals was of excellent quality.
Engraving on these seals depict the scene of every day life.
The inscribed sign describes the authenticity of the seal.

SECTION-E 5X1=5

Q34. On the given physical map of the Roman Empire, locate and label the following using appropriate symbols:

- i. Alexandria
- ii. Fayyum
- iii. Constantinople
- iv. Naples
- v. Campania

Name:

Grade:

