



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL



TERM-1 EXAMINATION 2025-26 HISTORY (027)

CLASS: XII
DATE: 12/09/2025
NAME:

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

General Instructions:

1. Question paper comprises five Sections – A, B, C, D and E. There are 34 questions in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.
2. Section A – Question 1 to 21 are MCQs of 1 mark each.
3. 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.
4. 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
5. Section D – Question no.31 to 33 are Source based questions with three sub questions and are of 4 marks each
6. 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.
7. 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. Consider the following statement:

1

1. After independence, most of the Harappan civilization centers went over to Pakistan.
2. The Harappan script has been deciphered.
3. Rulers had an important role in Harappan civilization.
4. Dead were buried in Harappa.

Which of the above is the correct statement?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

Q2. Match the following:

1

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| (i) Harappan | (a) Gujarat |
| (ii) Dholavira | (b) Jammu & Kashmir |
| (iii) Manda | (c) Rajasthan |
| (iv) Kalibanga | (d) Pakistan |
-
- | | | | | |
|-----|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| (a) | (i) d | (ii) a | (iii) b | (iv) c |
| (b) | (i) b | (ii) c | (iii) d | (iv) a |
| (c) | (i) c | (ii) b | (iii) a | (iv) d |
| (d) | (i) a | (ii) b | (iii) c | (iv) d |

Q3. Which of these was the source of copper for Harappans?

1

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| (a) Karnataka | (b) Rajasthan | (c) Andhra Pradesh | (d) Gujarat |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|

Q4. Who was Dhamma Mahamatta? 1
(a) Special revenue officers appointed by Ashoka for tax collection
(b) Special officers appointed by Ashoka for maintaining law and order in the kingdom
(c) Special officers appointed by Ashoka to spread the message of dhamma
(d) Special officer appointed by Ashoka to stop the spread of dhamma

Q5. Consider the following statements about the Mauryan Empire: 1
1. There were 5 major political centers in the Empire.
2. Megasthenes wrote about the Mauryan Empire in his book Indica.
3. Ashoka founded the Mauryan Empire in 321 B.C.
4. Ashoka used his resources to propagate Buddhism.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1, 2 and 4
(c) 2, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 3 and 4

Q6. Early Tamil literature (the Sangam texts) mentions the different categories of people living in the villages. Match the following columns of these categories with the people in the social strata. 1

Categories	Professions
a. Adimai	1. Large landowners
b. Vellalar	2. Ploughmen
c. Uzhavar	3. Slaves

(a) a – 1, b – 2, c – 3
(b) a – 2, b – 1, c – 3
(c) a – 3, b – 1, c – 2
(d) a – 1, b – 3, c – 2

Q7. Two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason(R). Study the statements carefully and identify the correct alternative: 1
Assertion (A): People of some jatis did not easily fit in the varna system.
Reason (R): People of some jatis organised into group called shrenis.
Choose the correct option:
(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

Q8. _____means tracing descent from father to son, grandson and so on. 1
(a) Kinfolk (b) Patriliney (c) Marriage (d) Polygamy

Q9. The rulers whose names were derived from that of their mothers were- 1
(a) Shakas (b) Satvahanas (c) Kurus (d) Mauryas

Q10. Two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason(R). Study the statements carefully and identify the correct alternative: 1
Assertion (A): The principle of Ahimsa, emphasised within Jainism.
Reason (R): Injury to living being-humans, animals plants and insects is central to Jaina philosophy.
Choose the correct option:
(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

- Q11. Buddha was born in- 1
 (a) Lumbini (b) Vaishali (c) Gaya (d) Rajgriha
- Q12. _____ consists of hymns in praise of a variety of deities, especially Agni, Indra and Soma. 1
 (a) The Rigveda (b) The Yajurveda (c) The Samaveda (d) The Atharvaveda
- Q13. The European traveller who visited India and China was- 1
 (a) Peter Mundy (b) Marco Polo (c) Francois Bernier (d) Antonio Monserrate
- Q14. Who wrote the book 'Kitab-ul-Hind'? 1
 (a) Al-Biruni (b) Abdur Razzaq Samarqandi
 (c) Ibn Juzayy (d) Ibn Battuta
- Q15. The French philosopher Montesquieu used whose account to develop the idea of oriental despotism? 1
 (a) Al-Biruni. (b) Abdur Razzaq Samarqandi.
 (c) Bernier (d) Ibn Battuta.
- Q16. Two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason(R). Study the statements carefully and identify the correct alternative: 1
 Assertion (A): Alvar and Nayanar saints revolted against Brahmanism.
 Reason (R): They completely rejected temples and idol worship.
 Choose the correct option:
 (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
- Q17. Which of the following statements are correct about the Bhakti saint, Karaikkal Ammaiyar? 1
 (i) She was a woman devotee from Karnataka
 (ii) She was a woman Nayanar
 (iii) She was a devotee of Shiva
 (iv) She composed Nalayira Divyaprabandham
 (a) (ii) and (iv) (b) (iii) and (iv) (c) (i) and (iii) (d) (ii) and (iii)
- Q18. Who coined the terms “great” and “little” traditions to describe the cultural practices of peasant societies? 1
 (a) R.C. Majumdar (b) Jadunath Sarkar (c) Robert Redfield (d) D.D. Kosambi
- Q19. Harihara and Bukka belonged to which dynasty? 1
 (a) Tuluva (b) Saluvas (c) Aravidu (d) Sangam
- Q20. Which of the following statements is correct regarding Mahanavami Dibba? 1
 (a) It was a high platform with slots for wooden pillars at close and regular intervals.
 (b) It was a massive platform located on one of the highest points in the city.
 (c) It was a place where the king met his advisers.
 (d) All of the above
- Q21. Karnataka samrajyamu refers to- 1
 (a) Vijayanagara Empire
 (b) Sultans of the Deccan
 (c) Gajapati rulers of Orissa
 (d) None of the above

SECTION-B 3X6=18

- Q22. How can you say that the Harappan culture was an urban one? 3
- Q23. Explain with examples what historians mean by the integration of cults. 3
- OR**
- How did the Bhakti and Sufi traditions challenge the caste system and religious orthodoxy?
- Q24. What were the methods used to increase agricultural production after the 6th century BC? 3
- Q25. Explain how you will prove that the text of Mahabharata was a dynamic one. 3
- Q26. What was the role of the begums of Bhopal in preserving the stupa at Sanchi? 3
- Q27. How did Al-Biruni interpret the Indian caste system in comparison to social divisions in other societies? 3

SECTION-C 8X3=24

- Q28. This is a statement made by one of the best-known epigraphists of the twentieth century, D.C. Sircar: "There is no aspect of life, culture, activities of the Indians that is not reflected in inscriptions." Discuss. 8
- OR**
- How was the Mauryan Empire governed? Describe the main elements of its administration.
- Q29. Compare and contrast the perspectives from which Ibn Battuta and Bernier wrote their accounts of their travels in India. 8
- OR**
- Based on Ibn Battuta's observations, examine the features of Indian cities during the 14th century. How do his accounts help historians understand urban life, administration, and culture in medieval India?
- Q30. "Domingo Paes has called the Mahanavami Dibba of Vijayanagara Empire as 'The House of Victory.'" Justify. 8
- OR**
- Explain why Abdur Razzak, a Persian Ambassador was greatly impressed by the fortification of Vijayanagara empire during the 15th century.

SECTION-D 4X3=12

- Q31. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:
Processing of food required grinding equipment as well as vessels for mixing, blending and cooking. These were made of stone, metal and terracotta. This is an excerpt from one of the earliest reports on excavations at Mohenjodaro, the best-known Harappan Site:
Saddle querns are found in considerable numbers and they seem to have been the only means in use for grinding cereals. As a rule, they were roughly made of hard, gritty, igneous rock or sandstone and mostly show signs of hard usage. As their bases are usually convex, they must have been set in the Earth or in mud to prevent their rocking. Two main types have been found: those on which another smaller stone was pushed or rolled to and fro, and others with which a second stone was used as a pounder, eventually making a large cavity in the other stone.
Querns of the former type were probably used solely for grain; the second type possibly only for pounding herbs and spices for making curries. In fact, stones of this latter type are dubbed 'curry stones' by our workmen and our cook asked for the loan of one from the museum for use in the kitchen.

Questions:

- (31.1) Write characteristics of saddle querns. 1
- (31.2) What are two kinds of saddle? 2

(31.3) Which type of querns have been found in Mohenjodaro? Describe the surface of grinding equipment.

1

Q32. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

“This is an excerpt from the Mahaparinibbana Sutta, part of the Sutta Pitaka: As the Buddha lay dying, Ananda asked him: “What are we to do Lord, with remains of the Tathagata (another name for the Buddha)?” The Buddha replied : “Hinder not yourselves Ananda by honouring the remains of the Tathagata. Be zealous, be intent on your own good.” But when pressed further, the Buddha said: “At the four crossroads they should erect a thupa (Pali for stupa) to the Tathagata. And whosoever shall there place garlands or perfume or make a salutation there, or become in its presence calm of heart, that shall long be to them for a profit and joy.”

Questions:

- (32.1) What are the Stupas? Who advised the Ananda to build the Stupa? 1
(32.2) Who was the Tathagata? What had he told about the importance of the stupa? 2
(32.3) Name any three places where the Stupas have been built. 1

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

Drupada, the king of Panchala, organised a competition where the challenges was to string a bow and hit a target: the winner would be chosen to marry his daughter, Draupadi. Arjuna was victorious and was garlanded by Draupadi. The Pandavas returned with her to their mother, Kunti, who, even before she saw them, asked them to share whatever they had got. She realized her mistake when she saw Draupadi, but her command could not be violated. After much deliberation, Yudhisthira decided that Draupadi would be their common wife. When Drupada was told about this, he protested. However, the seer Vyasa arrived and told him that the Pandavas were in reality incarnations of Indra, whose wife had been reborn as Draupadi and they were thus destined for each other. Vyasa added that in another instance a young woman had prayed to Lord Shiva for a husband, and in her enthusiasm, had prayed five times instead of once. This woman was now reborn as Draupadi and Shiva had fulfilled her prayers. Convinced by these stories, Drupada consented to the marriage.

Questions:

- (33.1) What was the competition organized by the Panchala king, Drupada for the marriage of his daughter? 1
(33.2) What form of the marriage was Draupadi's marriage to the Pandavas? 1
(33.3) What two explanations were given by Vyasa to convince king Drupada for Draupadi being the common wife of the Pandavas? 2

SECTION-E 5X1=5

Q34. On the given map of India, mark and locate the following:

5

- (34.1). Rakhigarhi
(34.2). Balakot
(34.3). Taxila
(34.4). Magadha
(34.5). Bidar

*****ALL THE BEST*****

NAME:

