



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
PRE BOARD-3 EXAMINATION, 2025-26

HISTORY (027)

SET-B

CLASS: XII

DATE: 12/01/2026

NAME:

DURATION: 3 Hrs.

MAX. MARKS: 80

ROLL NO: -----

General Instructions:

1. This question paper consists of **five Sections – A, B, C, D and E.**
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. Section A consists of **21 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)** of 1 mark each.
4. Section B consists of **6 Short Answer Questions** of 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed **60–80 words.**
5. Section C consists of **3 Long Answer Questions** of 8 marks each. Answers should not exceed **300–350 words.**
6. Section D consists of **3 Source-based Questions** of 4 marks each.
7. Section E consists of **1 Map-based Question** of 5 marks that includes identification and location of significant test items. Attach the map with the answer book.
8. Internal choices have been provided in some questions. Attempt **only one** of the alternatives

SECTION A

Objective Type Questions

(21 × 1 = 21)

1. Which of the following features best distinguishes Mature Harappan urban planning?
 - A. Irregular streets and circular settlements
 - B. Grid pattern with drainage system
 - C. Rock-cut architecture
 - D. Fortified hilltop settlements
2. The term "*Janapada*" primarily referred to:
 - A. A religious centre
 - B. A tribal assembly
 - C. A territorial unit associated with a clan
 - D. A fortified capital city
3. Which one of the following inscriptions provides information about Ashoka's policy of *Dhamma*?
 - A. Hathigumpha Inscription
 - B. Junagarh Inscription
 - C. Major Rock Edicts
 - D. Allahabad Pillar Inscription
4. The concept of *varna* as described in the Dharmashastras was based mainly on:
 - A. Occupation and birth
 - B. Wealth and political power
 - C. Education alone
 - D. Individual merit

5. Consider the following statements regarding Buddhism:
- I. Stupas became important centres of worship.
 - II. Buddha was represented symbolically in early Buddhist art.
 - III. Monasteries were primarily located in desert regions.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. I and II
 - B. I and III
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II and III
6. Which traveller described the functioning of the Indian caste system in detail?
- A. Marco Polo
 - B. Ibn Battuta
 - C. Al-Biruni
 - D. Duarte Barbosa
7. The *Virupaksha Temple* was an important religious centre of:
- A. Chola Empire
 - B. Mughal Empire
 - C. Vijayanagar Empire
 - D. Bahmani Sultanate
8. Who among the following composed *Sakhis* that criticised social inequality?
- A. Mirabai
 - B. Kabir
 - C. Tulsidas
 - D. Surdas
9. The *Ain-i-Akbari* was compiled by:
- A. Abul Fazl
 - B. Badauni
 - C. Faizi
 - D. Bernier
10. Which of the following best explains the term *zamindar* during the Mughal period?
- A. Independent rulers
 - B. Revenue intermediaries with hereditary rights
 - C. Urban merchants
 - D. Religious leaders
11. The Permanent Settlement was introduced in Bengal in:
- A. 1765
 - B. 1793
 - C. 1813
 - D. 1857
12. The Santhal rebellion was primarily a reaction against:
- A. Missionary activities
 - B. Forest laws alone
 - C. Exploitation by moneylenders and landlords
 - D. Excessive irrigation taxes

13. Which newspaper was closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi?
- A. Kesari
 - B. Amrita Bazar Patrika
 - C. Young India
 - D. The Hindu
14. The Dandi March was undertaken to protest against:
- A. Land revenue settlement
 - B. Salt law
 - C. Indigo cultivation
 - D. Rowlatt Act
15. The Constituent Assembly first met in:
- A. August 1946
 - B. January 1947
 - C. December 1946
 - D. August 1947
16. Which of the following ideals was central to the Indian Constitution?
- A. Absolute monarchy
 - B. Parliamentary sovereignty of Britain
 - C. Social justice and equality
 - D. Colonial administration
17. Identify the correct chronological order:
- I. Indigo Revolt
 - II. Permanent Settlement
 - III. Deccan Riots
 - IV. Santhal Rebellion
- A. II, I, IV, III
 - B. I, II, III, IV
 - C. II, IV, I, III
 - D. IV, II, I, III
18. Gandhiji described which movement as his "first experiment with truth" in India?
- A. Non-Cooperation Movement
 - B. Champaran Satyagraha
 - C. Civil Disobedience Movement
 - D. Quit India Movement
19. Who among the following represented Dalit interests in the Constituent Assembly?
- A. Rajendra Prasad
 - B. Jawaharlal Nehru
 - C. B.R. Ambedkar
 - D. Vallabhbhai Patel
20. Which visual source became significant in shaping nationalist imagination?
- A. Temple sculptures
 - B. Company paintings
 - C. Cartoons and posters
 - D. Cave paintings

21. The idea of *swaraj* during the national movement meant:

- A. Complete isolation from the world
- B. Rule by princes
- C. Self-rule and responsible governance
- D. Military control

SECTION B

Short Answer Questions

(6 × 3 = 18)

22. Explain any three features of Harappan craft production.

OR

Explain why seals were significant in Harappan society.

23. Describe how inscriptions help historians reconstruct early Indian history.

24. Explain the role of monasteries in the spread of Buddhism.

OR

Explain the significance of Buddhist sculptures as historical sources.

25. Describe the social composition of the Bhakti movement.

26. Examine the position of zamindars in Mughal agrarian society.

27. State any three causes of the Revolt of 1857.

SECTION C

Long Answer Questions

(3 × 8 = 24)

28. Analyse the major features of urban life during the Harappan civilisation. How do archaeological sources help in understanding them?

OR

Discuss the political and economic developments of early states between 600 BCE and 600 CE.

29. Examine the architectural features of Vijayanagar and explain how they reflect the empire's socio- religious life.

OR

Assess the impact of Bhakti and Sufi traditions on medieval Indian society.

30. Explain the significance of the Civil Disobedience Movement in the Indian national struggle.

OR

Discuss the major debates of the Constituent Assembly regarding the rights of citizens.

SECTION D

Source-Based Questions

(3 × 4 = 12)

31. Read the given source and answer the following questions.

Archaeologists have also found evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan (Rajasthan), associated with Early Harappan levels. The field had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two different crops were grown together. Archaeologists have also tried to identify the tools used for harvesting. Did the Harappans use stone blades set in wooden handles or did they use metal tools? Most Harappan sites are located in semi-arid lands, where irrigation was probably required for agriculture.

Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan site of Shortughai in Afghanistan, but not in Punjab or Sind.

- (i) What are artefacts?
- (ii) Why is classification important?
- (iii) Mention two limitations of archaeological sources.

32. Read the given source and answer the following questions.

Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind, written in Arabic, is a voluminous text, divided into 80 chapters covering topics such as religion, philosophy, social customs, astronomy, alchemy, and laws. He structured his work by posing a question, following it up with a description based on Sanskrit traditions, and concluding with comparisons to other cultures.

- (i) Name any one work of Al-Biruni.
- (ii) Why are travellers' accounts important?
- (iii) State one limitation of such accounts.

33. Read the given source and answer the following questions.

Why was salt the symbol of protest? This is what Mahatma Gandhi wrote:

The volume of information being gained daily shows how wickedly the salt tax has been designed. In order to prevent the use of salt that has not paid the tax which is at times even fourteen times its value, the Government destroys the salt it cannot sell profitably. Thus it taxes the nation's vital necessity; it prevents the public from manufacturing it and destroys what nature manufactures without effort. No adjective is strong enough for characterising this wicked dog-in-the-manger policy. From various sources I hear tales of such wanton destruction of the nation's property in all parts of India. Maunds if not tons of salt are said to be destroyed on the Konkan coast. The same tale comes from Dandi. Wherever there is likelihood of natural salt being taken away by the people living in the neighbourhood of such areas for their personal use, salt officers are posted for the sole purpose of carrying on destruction. Thus valuable national property is destroyed at national expense and salt taken out of the mouths of the people.

- (i) Why was salt chosen as a symbol of protest?
- (ii) What was the outcome of the Salt March?
- (iii) How did it mobilise the masses?

SECTION E

Map-Based Question

(1 × 3=3)

34. A. Locate and label the following places. (3)

- (i) Thanjavur
- (ii) Bijapur
- (iii) Place where Salt March was held.

OR

- (iv) Place from where Quit India Movement started.

B. On a given political map of India, two main centres of the 1857 Revolt have been marked 1 & 2. Write their names. (2)

