



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)



CLASS: XII
DATE: 12/01/2026
NAME:

SET-B
ANSWER KEY

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

SECTION A – MCQs

(21 x 1 = 21)

1. B – Grid pattern with drainage system
2. C – A territorial unit associated with a clan
3. C – Major Rock Edicts
4. A – Occupation and birth
5. A – I and II
6. C – Al-Biruni
7. C – Vijayanagar Empire
8. B – Kabir
9. A – Abul Fazl
10. B – Revenue intermediaries with hereditary rights
11. B – 1793
12. C – Exploitation by moneylenders and landlords
13. C – Young India
14. B – Salt law
15. C – December 1946
16. C – Social justice and equality
17. A – II, I, IV, III
18. B – Champaran Satyagraha
19. C – B. R. Ambedkar
20. C – Cartoons and posters
21. C – Self-rule and responsible governance

SECTION B – Short Answer Questions

(60–80 words each)

Q22. Explain any three features of Harappan craft production.

Harappan craft production was highly specialised and organised. Artisans produced beads, pottery, seals and metal objects using bronze, copper and semi-precious stones. Standardised tools and raw materials were used, indicating skilled workmanship. Evidence of workshops from sites like Chanhudaro suggests large-scale production, possibly for trade and distribution.

OR

Explain why seals were significant in Harappan society.

Seals were significant as they were used in trade, administration and identification. Made of steatite, they often carried animal motifs and inscriptions. Seals were probably used to mark ownership of goods and regulate commercial transactions, reflecting an organised economic and administrative system in Harappan society.

Q23. Describe how inscriptions help historians reconstruct early Indian history.

Inscriptions provide valuable information about rulers, administration, religious beliefs and land grants. They help historians understand political authority and economic practices. Dated inscriptions also assist in reconstructing chronology through palaeography. Ashokan inscriptions, for example, reveal the policy of Dhamma and state-society relations.

Q24. Explain the role of monasteries in the spread of Buddhism.

Monasteries served as centres of learning, residence and preaching for Buddhist monks. Located along trade routes, they facilitated interaction with traders and travellers. Monasteries also received patronage from rulers and merchants, which helped spread Buddhist teachings to different regions through organised missionary activities.

OR

Explain the significance of Buddhist sculptures as historical sources.

Buddhist sculptures depict important events from the life of the Buddha and Jataka stories. They reflect religious beliefs, artistic styles and cultural influences of the period. These sculptures help historians understand devotional practices, symbolism and the spread of Buddhism across regions.

Q25. Describe the social composition of the Bhakti movement.

The Bhakti movement included saints and followers from diverse social backgrounds. Many Bhakti saints belonged to lower castes and rejected caste hierarchies. Women saints like Mirabai also played an important role. The movement emphasised devotion to God over social status, promoting social equality.

Q26. Examine the position of zamindars in Mughal agrarian society.

Zamindars were intermediaries who collected revenue on behalf of the Mughal state. They held hereditary rights over land and exercised considerable social and

economic power in villages. Zamindars maintained armed retainers and influenced peasants, playing a crucial role in agrarian administration.

Q27. State any three causes of the Revolt of 1857.

The Revolt of 1857 was caused by political annexations like the Doctrine of Lapse, economic exploitation of peasants and artisans, and grievances of sepoys over pay and service conditions. Social and religious interference by the British further intensified resentment among Indians.

SECTION C – Long Answer Questions

(300–350 words each)

Q28. Analyse the major features of urban life during the Harappan civilisation. How do archaeological sources help in understanding them?

Harappan civilisation was marked by a high degree of urban planning and organisation. Cities such as Harappa and Mohenjodaro were laid out on a grid pattern with streets intersecting at right angles. Houses were built using baked bricks and often had private wells and bathrooms, reflecting concern for hygiene. The advanced drainage system, with covered drains and inspection holes, shows efficient civic administration.

Economic life was based on agriculture, craft production and trade. Archaeological evidence of beads, seals, pottery and metal tools indicates specialised craftsmanship. Standardised weights and measures suggest regulated trade, both internal and overseas. Social differentiation can be inferred from variations in house sizes and public structures like the Great Bath.

Archaeological sources such as excavated structures, artefacts, seals and ecofacts help historians reconstruct Harappan life. Since the script remains undeciphered, material remains are crucial for interpretation. These sources provide insights into urban planning, economy, social organisation and religious practices, though interpretations remain debated due to lack of written records.

OR

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

Between 600 BCE and 600 CE, early states emerged with the rise of Mahajanapadas. Powerful kingdoms like Magadha expanded through warfare, diplomacy and efficient administration. The use of iron technology improved agricultural productivity, leading to surplus production and state revenue.

Economically, agriculture formed the backbone of early states, supported by land grants and taxation. Trade expanded through land and sea routes, connecting towns and cities such as Taxila and Ujjain. Coinage facilitated commercial transactions, indicating monetisation of the economy.

Inscriptions and coins provide information about rulers, administration and economic policies. These developments laid the foundation for urban growth and complex political structures in early Indian history.

Q29. Examine the architectural features of Vijayanagar and explain how they reflect the empire's socio-religious life.

Vijayanagar architecture was distinctive and reflected the empire's political power and religious devotion. Temples such as the Virupaksha and Vittala temples featured massive gopurams, pillared mandapas and intricate carvings. Use of granite gave structures durability and grandeur.

The city was well-planned with roads, markets and water management systems like tanks and canals. Temples served not only religious purposes but also acted as centres of economic and social activities. Patronage to temples strengthened ties between rulers and religious institutions.

Foreign travellers like Domingo Paes described the city's prosperity and vibrant culture. Architecture thus reflected Vijayanagar's socio-religious life and imperial authority.

OR

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

Bhakti and Sufi traditions brought significant social and religious changes in medieval India. Both emphasised devotion, love and personal relationship with God. They rejected rigid rituals and caste distinctions, promoting equality and tolerance.

Bhakti saints used vernacular languages, making religious ideas accessible to common people. Sufi saints established khanqahs that welcomed people of all communities. These movements fostered cultural integration and communal harmony.

Their teachings influenced music, poetry and literature, leaving a lasting legacy on Indian society.

Q30. Explain the significance of the Civil Disobedience Movement in the Indian national struggle.

The Civil Disobedience Movement marked a new phase in India's freedom struggle by directly challenging colonial laws. Launched in 1930 with the Dandi March, it involved the deliberate violation of the salt law. This symbolic act mobilised people across regions and classes.

Peasants, women and urban groups actively participated, making it a mass movement. The movement exposed the exploitative nature of colonial rule and strengthened nationalist unity. Although temporarily suspended, it increased international awareness and pressured the British government.

OR

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

The Constituent Assembly debated extensively on Fundamental Rights to ensure social justice and equality. Members discussed civil liberties, safeguards for minorities and abolition of untouchability. B.R. Ambedkar played a key role in framing these rights.

Debates also focused on balancing individual freedom with state authority. The inclusion of Fundamental Rights reflected democratic values and aimed to protect citizens from state oppression, shaping the democratic character of the Constitution.

SECTION D – Source-Based Answers

Q31. Archaeology and the Past

- (i) Artefacts are objects made or used by humans.
- (ii) Classification helps understand their use and lifestyle of people.
- (iii) Archaeological evidence is fragmentary and lacks written explanation.

Q32. Travellers' Accounts

- (i) *Kitab-ul-Hind*.
- (ii) They provide external observations of society and culture.
- (iii) Accounts may be biased or limited in scope.

Q33. National Movement (Salt Tax)

- (i) Salt was a basic necessity used by all Indians.
- (ii) It led to nationwide protest against colonial laws.
- (iii) It mobilised masses through non-violent civil disobedience.

SECTION E – Map Work

