

CLASS 12TH HISTORY PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

(MAIN AND SUPPLEMENTARY - 2022 TO 2025)

Compiled By: Mr. Bikrant (PGT-HISTORY- KV DIPHU)

Book 1: Themes in Indian History Part I

Chapter 1: Bricks, Beads and Bones (The Harappan Civilisation)

1. Explain how the drainage system of Harappan cities indicate town planning. (3 Marks, 2023 Main)
2. Explain why the seals and sealings were used by the Harappans. (3 Marks, 2023 Main - OR)
3. "The most unique feature of the Harappan civilization was the development of urban centres." Explain. (8 Marks, 2024 Main)
4. Explain the role of various archaeologists in the discovery of Harappa. (8 Marks, 2024 Main - OR)
5. "There is evidence that by c. 1800 BCE most of the Harappan sites had been abandoned." Substantiate the statement in the context of causes and evidences. (8 Marks, 2024 Supp)
6. "There are indications of complex decisions being taken and implemented in Harappan society." Substantiate the statement with suitable arguments. (8 Marks, 2024 Supp - OR)
7. "Historians considered the Harappan seals as the distinctive artifact." Examine the statement. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp)
8. "The Harappans were known for their advanced urban planning." Justify the statement with suitable arguments. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp - OR)

Chapter 2: Kings, Farmers and Towns (Early States and Economies)

1. Who was James Prinsep? Mention his contribution to the ancient Indian history? (3 Marks, 2023 Supp)
2. Explain any three sources to know about the Mauryan empire. (3 Marks, 2024 Main)
3. Describe any three features of the Mahajanapadas. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp)
4. Describe any three causes of the growth of Magadha as a powerful Mahajanapada. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp - OR)

5. "Ashokan inscriptions are the most significant sources to understand the administration of Ashoka." Explain the statement. (3 Marks, 2025 Main)
 6. "The history of Mauryan empire has been constructed on the variety of sources." Explain the statement. (3 Marks, 2025 Main - OR)
 7. "The political power or kingship was rarely dependent on birth as Kshatriyas but also open to anyone who could muster support and resources." Explain the statement with the examples from sixth century BCE onwards. (8 Marks, 2025 Main - OR)
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Chapter 3: Kinship, Caste and Class (Early Societies)

1. How is Mahabharata a dynamic text? Explain with examples. (3 Marks, 2023 Main)
 2. "Mahabharata is a dynamic text." Justify the statement. (3 Marks, 2024 Main)
 3. Analyse the role of scholars in the task of preparing the critical edition of the Mahabharata. (3 Marks, 2024 Main - OR)
 4. "There were specific features of the familial relationship during the Mahabharata period." Explain the statement with examples. (8 Marks, 2025 Main)
 5. Assess the significance of the Mahabharata as a source for understanding ancient Indian society. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp)
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Chapter 4: Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings (Cultural Developments)

1. "The Stupa at Sanchi is among the best preserved monuments of the earliest times." Explain the statement. (8 Marks, 2023 Main)
2. Explain the growth of Puranic Hinduism. (8 Marks, 2023 Main - OR)
3. Explain the teachings of Mahatma Buddha. (8 Marks, 2023 Supp)
4. Explain the growth of Puranic Hinduism in ancient India. (8 Marks, 2023 Supp - OR)
5. Describe the teachings of Buddhism. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp)
6. "The mid-first millennium BCE is considered as a significant turning point in the course of World History." Justify the statement. (3 Marks, 2025 Main)

7. How did the stupa come to be associated with Buddhist belief and practices? Explain the structural features of Sanchi Stupa with examples. (8 Marks, 2025 Supp)
 8. "Buddhist and non-Buddhist elements come together to create a spectacle at Sanchi." Explain the statement with examples. (8 Marks, 2025 Supp - OR)
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Book 2: Themes in Indian History Part II

Chapter 5: Through the Eyes of Travellers

1. Explain the distinctive features of Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind. (3 Marks, 2023 Main - OR)
 2. Examine the views of Chinese travellers on the people considered outside the Varna system in ancient India. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp)
 3. "Travellers often compared what they saw in the subcontinent with practices with which they were familiar." Explain the observations of Al-Biruni in context of the above statement. (8 Marks, 2024 Supp)
 4. "Ibn Battuta found cities in the subcontinent full of exciting opportunities for those who had the necessary drive, resources and skills." Explain this statement. (8 Marks, 2024 Supp - OR)
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Chapter 6: Bhakti-Sufi Traditions

1. Explain the role of women devotees in the traditions of Alvars and Nayanars. (3 Marks, 2023 Main)
2. How did the Chishtis adopt the local languages of India during the Medieval period? Explain. (3 Marks, 2023 Main)
3. "One of the most striking features of Bhakti tradition was the presence of women." Explain the statement with examples from Alvar and Nayanar traditions. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp)
4. Describe the contribution of Kabir to the Bhakti Movement and his impact on religious and social harmony. (8 Marks, 2024 Main)
5. Describe the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev ji emphasizing his philosophy of oneness. (8 Marks, 2024 Main - OR)
6. Explain the main beliefs and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev. (8 Marks, 2025 Main)

7. Explain the major beliefs and teachings of Chishtis during medieval India. (8 Marks, 2025 Main - OR)
 8. "The Chola rulers extended their support to the Bhakti Movement and the Brahmanical traditions." Explain the statement. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp)
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Chapter 7: An Imperial Capital: Vijayanagara

1. Explain the reasons of apogee and fall of the Vijayanagara Empire. (8 Marks, 2023 Main)
 2. Explain the distinctive features of the Royal Centre of Vijayanagara Empire. (8 Marks, 2023 Main - OR)
 3. Examine the uniqueness of the fortification of the Vijayanagar empire. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp)
 4. Analyse the contribution of Colin Mackenzie towards the history of Vijayanagar. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp - OR)
 5. Explain the water resource management of Vijayanagara empire with examples. (3 Marks, 2024 Main)
 6. Examine the features of Vitthala Temple of Vijayanagara empire. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp)
 7. Analyse the causes that led to the ruin of Vijayanagara empire. (3 Marks, 2025 Main)
 8. Analyse why was Amaranayaka system considered as a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara empire. (3 Marks, 2025 Main - OR)
 9. Describe the significance of the Vijayanagara Empire in Indian history. (8 Marks, 2025 Supp)
 10. Describe the religious architectural traditions of the Vijayanagara Empire. (8 Marks, 2025 Supp - OR)
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Chapter 8: Peasants, Zamindars and the State

1. Explain the social and economic privileges that the Zamindars got in the Mughal rural society. (8 Marks, 2023 Supp)
2. "The rural society of Mughal India was controlled by panchayat with the help of village headman." Explain the statement. (8 Marks, 2023 Supp - OR)

3. "Revenue from the land was the economic mainstay of the Mughal empire." Support the statement with examples. (3 Marks, 2024 Main)
 4. Analyse the growth of the Mughal Empire in managing their economic resources. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp)
 5. Analyse the role of women as a resource in the agrarian society of the Mughal Empire. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp - OR)
 6. Examine the role of Panchayat in advocating for the rights of common people during the Mughal era. (3 Marks, 2025 Main)
 7. Explain how association with the state transformed the lives of the forest dwellers during the Mughal rule. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp)
 8. Explain the role of Panchayats in the Mughal empire. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp - OR)
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Book 3: Themes in Indian History Part III

Chapter 10: Colonialism and the Countryside

1. Why did British introduce the Permanent Settlement in Bengal? Explain. (3 Marks, 2022 Main)
 2. Why did the 'Fifth Report' become the basis of intense Parliamentary debates in Britain in 1813? Explain. (3 Marks, 2022 Supp)
 3. How did the American Civil War of 1861 affect the lives of Ryots of India? Explain. (3 Marks, 2023 Main)
 4. Explain the causes that led to the conflict between the Paharias of Rajmahal Hills and the Santhals. (3 Marks, 2024 Main)
 5. Examine the different aspects of 'Ryotwari system' introduced in the Bombay Deccan by the British. (8 Marks, 2024 Supp)
 6. Examine the different aspects of the 'Permanent Settlement' introduced in Bengal by the British. (8 Marks, 2024 Supp - OR)
 7. Why did the Zamidars default on the payment of dues after the introduction of the Permanent Settlement ? Explain. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp)
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Chapter 11: Rebels and the Raj (The Revolt of 1857)

1. How has the art helped in keeping alive the memory of Rani of Jhansi ? Explain. (3 Marks, 2022 Main)
2. Explain the stages of conquest of Awadh by the British from 1801 onwards. (6 Marks, 2022 Main)
3. Critically analyse the 'Subsidiary Alliance System' devised by Lord Wellesley. (3 Marks, 2022 Supp)
4. Examine how the rebels of 1857 propagated their ideas. (3 Marks, 2022 Supp - OR)
5. "The British did not have an easy time in putting down the Revolt of 1857." Elucidate the statement with suitable examples. (6 Marks, 2022 Supp)
6. "Art and literature highlighted the importance of Lakshmi Bai." Support the statement with suitable examples. (3 Marks, 2023 Main)
7. Who introduced Subsidiary Alliance? Describe the provisions of this Alliance. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp)
8. Why was the Revolt of 1857 specially widespread in Awadh ? Explain. (3 Marks, 2024 Main)
9. Why did the rebel proclamations in 1857 appeal for unity to all sections of the population? Explain. (3 Marks, 2024 Main - OR)
10. Explain any three aspects of the vision of unity reflected in the 1857 Revolt. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp)
11. "The rebellion of 1857 was seen as a war in which both Hindus and Muslims had equally to lose or gain." Analyse the statement. (3 Marks, 2025 Main)
12. Imagine you have been tasked with writing a comprehensive history of the Revolt of 1857. What sources would you use for it? Explain. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp)

Chapter 13: Mahatma Gandhi and the Nationalist Movement

1. Explain the reasons of initiating the Non-Cooperation Movement by Gandhiji. (3 Marks, 2022 Main)
2. Explain the reasons that led to the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930. (3 Marks, 2022 Main - OR)
3. "Gandhiji appeared to Indian peasants as a saviour." Support the statement. (3 Marks, 2022 Supp)

4. "There are different kinds of sources that historians use in reconstructing the career of Mahatma Gandhi and of the social movements that he associated with." Elucidate the statement with suitable examples. (6 Marks, 2022 Supp)
5. "The Non-Cooperation Movement was a training for self-rule." Elucidate the statement with suitable examples. (6 Marks, 2022 Supp - OR)
6. Examine the reasons and outcomes of the Salt Satyagraha. (8 Marks, 2023 Main)
7. Examine the causes and events of Quit India Movement. (8 Marks, 2023 Main - OR)
8. Analyse the strengths and limitations of the following sources to reconstruct the political career of Mahatma Gandhi: (i) Writing and Speeches (ii) Autobiographies (iii) Government Records (iv) Newspapers. (8 Marks, 2023 Supp)
9. "Mahatma Gandhi converted the National Movement into a Mass Movement." Evaluate this statement in the context of 'Quit India Movement'. (8 Marks, 2023 Supp - OR)
10. "There are many different kinds of sources from which we can reconstruct the political career of Gandhiji and the history of the Indian nationalist movement." Examine the statement. (8 Marks, 2024 Main)
11. Examine the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi towards nation building after the independence of India. (8 Marks, 2024 Main - OR)
12. "Mahatma Gandhi's role was vital in the Non-Cooperation Movement." Explain the statement. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp)
13. Analyse the impact of national movement in India from 1915 to 1931 on the Indian masses. (8 Marks, 2025 Main)
14. Analyse the role of Gandhiji after independence of India. (8 Marks, 2025 Main - OR)
15. "The Non-Cooperation Movement was significant in Gandhian nationalism." Justify the statement. (8 Marks, 2025 Supp)
16. "Gandhiji came to be viewed as a 'people's leader' with deep sympathy for the poor." Examine the statement. (8 Marks, 2025 Supp - OR)

Chapter 15: Framing the Constitution

1. Examine the role of Gobind Ballabh Pant on the Unified Nation in the Constituent Assembly. (3 Marks, 2022 Main)

2. "In the Constituent Assembly, issues over 'national language' were intensely debated." Explain the statement with examples. (6 Marks, 2022 Main)
3. "Issues of 'division of power of the government' at the Centre and State level were intensely debated in the Constituent Assembly." Explain the statement with examples. (6 Marks, 2022 Main - OR)
4. Describe the role of Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly of India. (3 Marks, 2022 Supp)
5. Why were some members of the Constituent Assembly in favour of a strong Central Government? Explain. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp)
6. Why is 'Objectives Resolution' of Jawahar Lal Nehru considered as a momentous resolution? Explain. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp - OR)
7. Describe the role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly. (3 Marks, 2025 Main)