



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
PRE BOARD-2 EXAMINATION, 2025-26

HISTORY (027)

MARKING SCHEME SET-A

CLASS: XII

DATE: 17/12/2025

NAME:

DURATION: 3 Hrs.

MAX. MARKS: 80

ROLL NO: -----

SECTION A – MCQs (1 × 21 = 21 marks)

1. (a) 1856
2. (d) Land of Santhals
3. (d) Sanchi
4. (b) A Kushana coin
5. (b) Sadgops and Kaivartas
6. (a) i, iv, iii, ii
7. (a)
8. (a) Jagannatha in the centre
9. (d) All of these
10. (b) All of these
11. (a) Walter Elliot
12. (a) 26 Jan 1950
13. (a) Shudras – Agriculture
14. (c) Dholavira
15. (b) Time magazine, Abraham Lincoln
16. (b) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
17. (d) Peasants who were residents of the village
18. (c) Chanhudaro and Lothal
19. (d) A territorial unit
20. (c) Manusmriti
21. (d) Colin Mackenzie

SECTION B – Short Answers (6 × 3 = 18 marks)

(Any 3 points = 3 marks)

22. Methods for women to acquire wealth (from Manusmriti)

(Any 3)

- Gifts during marriage (stridhana)
- Gifts from relatives
- Inheritance under specific conditions
- Wealth earned through personal labour
- Gifts received at the birth of a child

OR

Basis of criticism of Varna system

- Rigid hereditary structure
- Inequality & discrimination
- Restricted mobility
- Denial of education/rights to lower varnas

23. Role of women in agriculture (Mughal period)

- Participated in sowing, weeding, transplanting
- Engaged in threshing, winnowing
- Cattle-rearing, dairy and household processing
- Worked during peak seasons in fields
- Assisted in harvesting crops

24. Why British introduced different land revenue systems?

- Regional diversity in cultivation patterns
- Existing local customs & landholding varied
- Need to maximise revenue efficiently
- Political considerations & ease of administration
- Desire to create loyal landlord classes (zamindars, village headmen, etc.)

25. Laws that caused uproar before 1857 (any 2)

- *Doctrine of Lapse*
- *Religious Disabilities Act, 1850*
- Annexation of Awadh
- *General Service Enlistment Act, 1856*
- Laws interfering with social/religious practices

26. Methods to study Hampi's ruins

(Any 3)

- Surveying and documenting architecture
- Archaeological excavations
- Epigraphic and inscriptional study
- Mapping temples, bazaars & streets
- Use of traveller accounts (Portuguese etc.)

How they complement temple priests' knowledge?

- Priests preserve oral histories & rituals
- Archaeology verifies dates, structures, chronology

27. Town-planning indicators of Mohenjodaro

(Any 3)

- Grid pattern streets
- Advanced drainage system

- Public buildings like Great Bath
- Standardised bricks used
- Division into citadel & lower town

OR

Raw materials for Harappan crafts (Any 3)

- Stone, shell, copper, tin, steatite, lapis lazuli
Obtained through:
- Trade with Rajasthan, Afghanistan, Gujarat, Mesopotamia
- Local riverine sources
- Long-distance maritime trade

SECTION C – Long Answers (3 × 8 = 24 marks)

(Content 6 marks + organisation/presentation 2 marks)

28. Francois Bernier & other European travellers

Key points:

- Bernier was a French physician; visited Mughal court (1656–68).
 - Compared India with Europe; emphasised absence of private property.
 - Wrote *Travels in the Mughal Empire*.
 - Described peasantry, women, cities, trade, Mughal administration.
- Other travellers:
- Tavernier (Jeweller) – economic life
 - Manucci (Italian) – court life
 - Niccolao Conti, Duarte Barbosa, etc.

OR

Ibn Battuta on Indian cities (esp. Delhi)

- Described Delhi as vast, populous, wealthy
- Markets, caravanserais, mosques
- Efficient communication system
- Role of Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq
- Cosmopolitan culture, merchants, scholars

29. Methods adopted by Ashoka to bring unity

- Dhamma policy: tolerance, compassion
- Rock & Pillar edicts for messaging
- Appointment of Dhamma-mahamattas
- Welfare schemes: wells, rest houses
- Non-violence policy; end of aggressive warfare
- Frequent tours to spread dhamma

OR

Importance of Gupta Age

- Known as “Golden Age”
- Advances in science, mathematics (Aryabhata)
- Flourishing art & architecture (Ajanta, sculpture)
- Strong political unity
- Economic prosperity, trade revival
- Literature: Kalidasa, Sanskrit growth

30. Salt Satyagraha & mobilisation of discontent

- Tax on salt → symbolic of British exploitation
- Gandhiji's Dandi March (1930)
- Mass civil disobedience
- Participation of women
- Breaking salt laws all over India
- Unified peasants, tribals, workers, students
- International attention

OR

Events of Indian Movement (1940–45)

March 1940 – Lahore Resolution

1942 – Quit India Movement

Arrests & repression

INA & Subhas Bose

RIN mutiny (1946 beginnings)

Wartime shortages, famines

Cripps Mission (1942), Wavell Plan (1945)

SECTION D – Source-based (3 × 4 = 12 marks)

31. Rigveda – Agni hymn

i. **Vedic Sanskrit was significant** → Oldest sacred language; used for hymns & rituals. (1)

ii. **Two Vedic traditions**

- Sacrifices (yajnas)
- Recitation of hymns
- Worship of nature gods
(Any 2 × ½ = 1)

iii. **Why sacrifices were performed?**

- To please gods for prosperity
- To gain cattle, sons, wealth
- For social/religious status
(2 marks)

32. Alvar composition

i. **Chaturvedin** → A Brahmana learned in all four Vedas. (1)

ii. **Outsiders** → Outcastes / people outside Varna system. (1)

iii. **Functions of outcastes** (any 2)

- Menial labour
 - Removing dead animals
 - Cleaning tasks
 - Serving upper castes
- (2)

33. Nehru speech – “We are not going to copy”

i. **Revolution mentioned** → French Revolution. (1)

ii. **Qualities of American Constitution**

- Durability
- Democratic foundation
- Stability

(1)

iii. **Oath of the Tennis Court**

- Members of French National Assembly vowed not to disperse
 - Continue meeting until Constitution was framed
- (2)

SECTION E – MAP (5 marks)

34. (i) Locate & label: (3 marks)

- Topra** – Pillar inscription → Haryana
- Delhi** – Mughal territory
- Bardoli** – Gujarat (centre of national movement)

OR

Magadha – Bihar region

(ii) Identify Mature Harappan sites A & B (2 marks)

- **A: Dholavira**
- **B: Nageshwar**