



BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS

SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

MID-TERM EXAMINATION 2024-25

HISTORY (027)

Answer Key



CLASS: XII

DATE: 14/09/2024

DURATION: 3 hrs.

MAX.MARKS: 80

SECTION-A

- Q1. The most important industry of the Harappans at Chanhudaro was 1
(a) Bead-making (b) Brick making
(c) Handlooms (d) Ship building
Ans- (a) Bead-making
- Q2. Archaeologists have also found evidence of a ploughed field at _____ 1
(a) Banawali (b) Kalibangan
(c) Cholistan (d) Siswal
Ans- (b) Kalibangan
- Q3. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the subsistence strategies of Harappa? 1
I. Archaeologists have reconstructed dietary practices from finds of charred grains and seeds.
II. Archaeo-botanists have studied grains found at Harappa like millets, barley, etc.
III. Animals were domesticated according to archaeo-botanists.
(a) (1) and (2) only (b) (2) and (3) only
(c) (1), (2) and (3) (d) (2) only
Ans- (a) (1) and (2) only
- Q4. Magadha was the most powerful Mahajanapada from sixth to fourth century BCE. Historians offered different kinds of explanations for the growth of Magadha. Which of the following statement is incorrect regarding the growth of Magadha? 1
(a) Magadha was a region where agriculture was especially productive.
(b) Iron mines were accessible and provided resources for tools and weapons.
(c) Magadha's proximity to the sea makes it a business hub. Many foreign traders used to come here for trading purposes.
(d) Elephants, an important component of the army, were found in forests in the region.
Ans- (c) Magadha's proximity to the sea makes it a business hub. Many foreign traders used to come here for trading purposes.
- Q5. According to a rock inscription in Sanskrit, composed around second century CE, the Sudarshana lake was repaired by 1
(a) Indo-Greeks (b) Kushanas
(c) Satavahanas (d) Rudradaman I
Ans- (d) Rudradaman I
- Q6. Identify the best reason for considering King Ashoka as 'Devanampiya' or 'Piyadassi' by his subjects. 1
(a) Asoka commissioned the edicts himself.
(b) He adopted the title of 'Devaputra'.
(c) Epigraphists have concluded him as Devanampiya.
(d) He worked for the wellbeing of society through Dhamma.
Ans- (d) He worked for the wellbeing of society through Dhamma.
- Q7. Mandasor Stone inscription records the history of a guild of 1
(a) Goldsmiths (b) Rathakaras
(c) Potters (d) Silk weavers
Ans- (d) Silk weavers.
- Q8. _____ means tracing descent from father to son, grandson and so on. 1

- (a) Kinfolk (b) Patrilyny
(c) Marriage (d) Polygamy

Ans- (b) Patrilyny

Q9. Two statements are given below. One is a Assertion (A) and the other is Reason (R). 1

Assertion (A): The Manusmriti is considered the most important of the Dharmasutras and Dharmashastras.

Reason (R): Manusmriti warned women against hoarding family property, even their own valuables without the permission of their husband.

Choose the correct option:

- (a) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are correct but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is correct but R is wrong.
(d) R is correct but A is wrong.

Ans. Option (b) is correct.

Q10. Who was the first woman to be ordained as a bhikkhuni? 1

- (a) Mahapajapati Gotami (b) Mahapajapati Bodhi
(c) Mahapajapati Grishma (d) None of the above

Ans- Mahapajapati Gotami

Q11. Hagiography is the biography of a/an: 1

- (a) King (b) Brahmin
(c) Scholar (d) Saint

ans- (d) saint

Q12. The "Rock and Pillar Edicts" of Ashoka primarily focus on: 1

- (a) Promoting trade and commerce
(b) Religious tolerance and moral principles
(c) The military conquests of the Mauryan Empire
(d) Tribute to Ashoka's ancestors

Ans- (b) Religious tolerance and moral principles

Q13. The traveller whose account was compared with that of Marco Polo was 1

- (a) Al-Biruni (b) Ibn Battuta
(c) Ibn Juzayy (d) Abdur Razzaq Samarqandi

Ans- (b) Ibn Battuta.

Q14. 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

Ans- (c) Bernier

Q15. According to Ibn Battuta's account, the city that rivalled Delhi was: 1

- (a) Multan (b) Gwalior
(c) Lahore (d) Daulatabad

Ans- (d) Daulatabad

Q16. Two statements are given below. One is a Assertion (A) and the other is Reason (R). 1

Assertion (A): The Alvars and Nayanars initiated a movement to protest against the caste system.

Reason (R): The major anthologies of compositions by the Alvars, the Nalayira prabandham was frequently described as the Rig Veda, thus claiming that the text was as significant as the four Vedas in Sanskrit and was cherished by the Brahmanas.

Choose the correct option:

- (a) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is correct explanation of Assertion
(b) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion
(c) Assertion is true but Reason is false
(d) Assertion is false but Reason is true

Answer: (c) Assertion (A) is true but Reason(R) is false

Q17. Which group challenged the idea of caste and the pollution attributed to certain groups by Brahmanas. 1

- (a) Alvars (b) Lingayats
(c) Nayanars (d) Puaravar

Ans- (b) Lingayats

Q18. The Sufi saint who was addressed as Sultan-ul-mashaikh, by his disciples, was 1

- (a) Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi.
(b) Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i Shakar.
(c) Shaikh Salim Chishti.
(d) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya.

Ans- (d) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya.

Q19. Krishnadeva Raya composed a work on statecraft known as the Amuktamalyada in 1

- (a) Kannada (b) Malayalam
(c) Tamil (d) Telugu

Ans- (d) Telugu.

Q20. In 1565 AD, the Vijayanagara army fought the battle of Rakshasi-Tangadi under 1

- (a) Krishnadeva Raya (b) Rama Raya
(c) Harihara (d) Bukka

Ans- (b) Rama Raya

Q21. 16. Consider the following facts about Krishnadeva Raya: 1

- I. Krishnadeva Raya ruled between 1509 and 1529, the most famous ruler of Vijayanagar, composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the Amuktamalyada.
II. Krishnadeva Raya's rule was characterised by expansion and consolidation.
III. This was the time when the land between the Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers (the Raichur Doab) was acquired (1512), the rulers of Orissa were subdued (1514) and severe defeats were inflicted on the Sultan of Bijapur (1520).

Which of the following statement(s) is / are correct?

- (a) Only I (b) I and II
(c) I and III (d) All of the above

Ans: (d) All of the above.

SECTION-B

Q22. Discuss the major beliefs and practices that characterised Sufism. 3

Ans: 1. Sufis turned to asceticism and mysticism in protest against the growing materialism of the Caliphate as a religious and political institution.

2. They laid emphasis on seeking salvation through intense devotion and love for God.

3. They regarded Prophet Muhammad as a perfect human being and suggested to follow his example.

4. Sufis organised communities around the khanqah controlled by a shaikh, pir or murshid.

OR

Q. Explain with examples what historians mean by the integration of cults.

Ans. 1. During the medieval period the education became accessible to the women as well as Shudras due to the accessibility of the Puranic literature in simple Sanskrit language.

2. The spreading of the Bhakti movement also led to the undermining of the supremacy of the Brahmanas.

3. There was rise of devotional form of worship.

4. This period also saw the revival of the traditional cults. One example can be seen of Lord Jagannath who is considered as the form of Vishnu.

Q23. How can you say that the Harappan culture was an urban one? 3

Ans. a) The cities were well planned and thickly populated.

b) The roads were straight and wide.

- c) The houses were made of burnt bricks and contained more than one storey.
- d) Every house had a well and a bathroom.
- e) The drainage system was excellent with house drains emptying into street drains.

Q24. What were the methods used to increase agricultural production after the 6th century BC? 3

- a) The shift to plough agriculture, which spread in fertile alluvial river valleys.
- b) The iron-tipped ploughshare was used to turn the alluvial soil in areas which had high rainfall.
- c) In some parts of the Ganga valley, production of paddy was dramatically increased by the introduction of transplantation.
- d) Areas which were semi-arid practiced hoe agriculture, which was much better suited to the terrain.

Q25. Explain how you will prove that the text of Mahabharata was a dynamic one. 3

Ans- a. The growth of the Mahabharata did not stop with the Sanskrit version.

- b. Over the centuries, versions of the epic were written in a variety of languages through an ongoing process of dialogue between people.
- c. Several stories that originated in specific regions or circulated amongst certain people found their way into the epic.
- d. Episodes of Mahabharata were depicted in sculpture and painting

Q26. What was the role of the begums of Bhopal in preserving the stupa at sanchi? 3

- Ans: 1. Begums of Bhopal made a great contribution to the preservation of the Stupa of Sanchi.
 2. Shahejahan Begum and her successor Sultan Jahan Begum of Bhopal were the rulers of Bhopal.
 3. They made generous grants to the preservation of the Stupa of Sanchi.
 4. A museum was built near the stupa by Sultan Jahan Begum.
 5. The support to preserve the stupa came from the Europeans also.

Q27. Explain Al-Biruni's description of the caste system in India. 3

- a. His description of the caste system in India was deeply influenced by his study of Sanskrit texts.
- b. According to these texts the highest castes were the Brahmins as they were created from the head of the Brahmins.
- c. The Kshatriyas were the next caste created from the shoulders and hands of the Brahmin.
- d. The Vaishyas and Shudras were created from the thighs and feet of the Brahmin respectively.
- e. Thus he sought to understand the Indian caste system by looking for parallels in other societies. He realized that social division was not unique to India.

SECTION-C

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

Ans: The statement of eminent epigraphist D.C. Sircar has highlighted the importance of inscription.

The following information we get from the inscriptions:

1. Determination of state's boundaries: the inscriptions were carved in the territories of the kings and even more important is not often close to the borders. This help us find out boundaries of kingdoms and their expansions thereto.
2. Names of Kings: The names of the kings are mentioned in the inscriptions. The names and titles used by Asoka the Great got revealed through inscriptions only.
3. Historic events: The important historical events are mentioned in the inscriptions. The best example is how the event of the Kalinga war is mentioned in the inscription and how Asoka takes to Dhamma.
4. Information about conduct of Kings: Inscriptions describe the conduct and character of the kings quite well. It is through the inscriptions only that we know Asoka worked for the welfare of the masses.
5. Information about administration: Inscriptions gave information about administration. It is through the inscription. We know that Asoka appointed his son as a Viceroy.

6. Land settlement and Taxes: inscriptions mention how land were granted or gifted. It also talks about various taxes imposed by the ruler.

7. There is hardly any area of governance of our life that is not mentioned in the inscriptions.

8. Hence, we are inclined to agree with D.C. Sirkar who says, "There is no aspect of life, culture, activities of Indians that is not reflected in the inscriptions."

OR

Q. Discuss the main features of Mauryan administration.

Ans- a. There were five major political centres in the empire – the capital Pataliputra and the provincial centres of Taxila, Ujjayini, Tosali and Suvarnagiri, all mentioned in Asokan inscriptions.

b. It is likely that administrative control was strongest in areas around the capital and the provincial centres.

c. These centres were carefully chosen, both Taxila and Ujjayini being situated on important long-distance trade routes.

d. Communication along both land and riverine routes was vital for the existence of the empire.

e. Megasthenes mentions a committee with six subcommittees for coordinating military activity.

f. Of these, one subcommittee looked after the navy, the second managed transport and provisions, the third was responsible for foot-soldiers, the fourth for horses, the fifth for chariots and the sixth for elephants

g. Asoka also tried to hold his empire together by propagating dhamma, the principles which were simple and virtually universally applicable.

h. Special officers, known as the dhamma mahamatta, were appointed to spread the message of dhamma.

i. Dhamma Policy included respect towards elders, generosity towards Brahmanas and those who renounced worldly life, treating slaves and servants kindly, and respect for religions and traditions other than one's own.

Q29. How did Sutta Pitaka reconstruct the philosophy of Buddhism? Mention about Buddhist Tipitaka.

8

Answer: a. After the death of Buddha, his teachings were compiled by his disciples and were known as Tipitaka. Sutta-Pitaka was one of the Tipitaka.

b. The main features of Sutta Pitaka are:

1. The Buddha's teachings have been reconstructed from stories found mainly in the Sutta Pitaka.

2. Some stories describe his miraculous powers and other stories suggest that the Buddha tried to convince people through reason and persuasion, rather than through displays of supernatural power.

3. Sometimes, through stories, the teachings of the Buddha were narrated in the language spoken by common men, so that individual effort was expected to transform social relations.

4. The Buddha emphasised individual agency and righteous action as the means to escape from the cycle of rebirth and attain self-realisation and nibbana.

5. By extinguishing ego and desire, individual could end the cycle of his sufferings and renounce the world.

c. Tipitaka literally means three baskets to hold different types of texts.

The main features of it are:

a. The Vinaya Pitaka included rules and regulations for those who joined the Sangha or monastic order.

b. The Sutta Pitaka included the teachings of the Buddha.

c. The Abhidhamma Pitaka dealt with philosophical matters. Each pitaka comprised a number of texts.

OR

Q. Critically examine why the stupa at Sanchi survived while Amaravati stupa did not?

Ans- 1. Perhaps Amaravati was discovered before scholars understood the value of the finds and realised how critical it was to preserve things instead of removing them from the site.

2. When Sanchi was "discovered" in 1818, three of its four gateways were still standing, the fourth was lying on the spot where it had fallen and the mound was in good condition.

3. Nineteenth-century Europeans like the French and English sought Shahjehan Begum's permission to take away the eastern gateway, which was the best preserved, to be displayed in museums in France and England. But she refused.
4. The rulers of Bhopal, Shahjehan Begum and her successor Sultan Jehan Begum, provided money for the preservation of the ancient site. That is why John Marshall dedicated his important volumes on Sanchi to Sultan Jehan.
5. She funded the museum that was built there as well as the guesthouse where John Marshall lived and wrote the volumes.
6. She also funded the publication of the volumes written by John Marshall. So if the stupa complex has survived, it is in no small measure due to wise decisions, and to good luck in escaping the eyes of railway contractors, builders, and those who were looking for finds to carry away to the museums of Europe.
7. In 1796, a local raja who wanted to build a temple stumbled upon the ruins of the stupa at Amaravati. He decided to use the stone, and thought there might be some treasure buried in what seemed to be a hill.
8. In 1854, Walter Elliot, the commissioner Andhra Pradesh visited Amaravati and collected several sculpture panels and took them away to Madras. These came to be called the Elliot marbles after him.
9. By the 1850s, some of the slabs from Amaravati had begun to be taken to different places: a) To the Asiatic Society of Bengal at Calcutta b) To the India Office in Madras and some even to London
10. Some years later, a British official named Colin Mackenzie visited the site. He found several pieces of sculpture and made detailed drawings of them, these reports were never published to protect the Stupa.

Q30. "Domingo Paes has called the Mahanavami Dibba of Vijayanagara Empire as 'The House of Victory.'" Justify. 8

Ans- a. The Mahanavami Dibba had a distinctive structure. It had the largest enclosures and an impressive platform called as 'the audience hall'.

b. There were many rituals associated with the Mahanavami Dibba. Literally, Mahanavami meant the great ninth day of the ten-day Hindu festival during the autumn months of September and October.

c. This period had Dussehra in the northern India, Durga Pooja in Bengal and Navaratri or Mahanavami in peninsular India.

d. The rulers of Vijayanagara displayed their power and prestige on this occasion.

e. The ceremonies performed on this occasion included:

- (i) Worship of the image
- (ii) Worship of the State horse
- (iii) The sacrifice of buffaloes and other animals.

f. The main attractions of this occasion were:

- (i) Dances
- (ii) Wrestling matches
- (iii) Processions of caparisoned horses, elephants, chariots and soldiers.

g. All these ceremonies had deep symbolic meanings. Most of them were presented before the king and his guests.

h. On the last day of the festival, the king inspected his army as well as the armies of the nayaks. He also accepted rich gifts from the nayaks. There was a grand ceremony in an open field.

OR

Q. Explain why Abdur Razzak, a Persian Ambassador was greatly impressed by the fortification of Vijayanagara empire during the 15th century.

Ans- a. Abdur Razzak was an ambassador sent by the ruler of Persia to Calicut in the 15th century.

b. He was greatly impressed by the fortification of the Vijayanagara empire.

c. The fortification encircled not only the city but also its agricultural hinterlands and forests.

- d. Razzak noted that “between the first, second and the third walls there are cultivated fields, gardens and houses”.
- e. The outermost wall linked the hills surrounding the city.
- f. The massive masonry construction was slightly tapered. No mortar or cementing agent was used anywhere in the construction.
- g. The stone blocks were wedge, shaped, which held them in place.
- h. The fort was entered through well-guarded gates which linked the city to the major roads.
- i. Gateways were distinctive architectural features that often defined the structures to which they regulated access.
- j. The arch on the gateway leading into the fortified settlement as well as the dome over the gate are regarded as typical features of the architecture introduced by the Turkish Sultans.

SECTION-D

Q31. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Draupadi's Marriage

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.

(31.1) What was the competition organized by the Panchala king, Drupada for the marriage of his daughter? 1

Ans- In this competition the challenge was to string a bow and hit a target. Whosoever do it, will marry Draupadi.

(31.2) What form of the marriage was Draupadi's marriage to the Pandavas? 1

Ans- It was an example of polyandry.

(31.3) What two explanations were given by Vyasa to convince king Drupada for Draupadi being the common wife of the Pandavas? 2

Ans- (a) Vyasa told that Pandavas were in reality incarnation of Indra.

(b) She was the woman blessed by Lord Shiva to have five husbands, was now reborn as Draupadi.

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

On Horse and on Foot

This is how Ibn Battuta describes the postal system:

In India the postal system is of two kinds. The horse post, called uluq, is run by royal horses stationed at a distance of every four miles. The foot-post has three stations per mile, it is called dawa that is one-third of a mile... Now, at every third of a mile there is a well-populated village, outside which are three pavilions in which sit men with girded loins ready to start. Each of them carries a rod, two cubits in length, with copper bells at the top. When the courier starts from the city he holds the letter in one hand and the rod with its bells on the other, and he runs as fast as he can. When the men in the pavilion hear the ringing of the bell they get ready. As soon as the courier reaches them, one of them takes the letter from his hand and runs at top speed shaking the rod all the while until he reaches the next dawa. And the same process continues till the letter reaches its destination. This foot-post is quicker than the horse-post, and often it is used to transport the fruits of Khurasan which are much desired in India.

(32.1) Name the two kinds of postal system. 1

Ans- The two kinds of postal system were the following:

(a) Horse post known as uluq.

(b) Foot post known as dawa.

(32.2) Explain how foot post worked.

2

Ans- Foot post's stations were called dawa. There was a village with dense population at a distance of every three miles. Outside the villages there were three pavilions. The men with girded loins used to sit in these pavilions. Each of them had a rod which was two cubits in length. The courier used to sun loading the post (letter) in one hand and rod with bell in another hand. When the men sitting eagerly waiting for him in the next pavilion took the post from him and run as fast as he can. This process continued till the letter (post) reached to its final destination.

(32.3) Do you think that two post system could have operated throughout the subcontinent?

1

Ans- Yes, I was operated throughout the subcontinent. It was quicker than horse-post and was used to transport the fruits of Khurassan, which were much desired in India.

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

A Church in Khambat

This is an excerpt from a farman (imperial order) issued by Akbar in 1598. Whereas it reached our eminent and holy notice that the padris (fathers) of the Holy Society of Jesus wish to build a house of prayer (Church) in the city of Kambayat (Khambat, in Gujarat); therefore an exalted mandate... is being issued... that the dignitaries of the city of Kambayat should in no case stand in their way but should allow them to build a Church so that they may engage themselves in their own worship. It is necessary that the order of the Emperor should be obeyed in every way.

(33.1) What did the padris want to do?

1

(33.2) How did Akbar ensure that their desire was fulfilled?

1

(33.3) How was the situation complicated in the sub-continent and how did the rulers adopt to this situation?

2

Answer:

33.1. The padris (fathers) of the Holy Society of Jesus wanted to build a house of prayer i.e. church in the city of Khambat, in Gujarat.

33.2. Akbar issued an exalted mandate. It contained that the dignitaries of the city of Khambat should not create any hindrance to the making of churches. But they should allow the padris to build a church, so that they would follow their own religion.

33.3. The situation in the sub-continent became complicated, as there were enough population outside Islam. So the category of Zimmi meaning protected was developed by the Muslim rulers for Jews, Christians, Hindus and other non-Muslims who lived under Muslim leadership.

SECTION-E

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

5

(34.1). Nageshwar

(34.2). Harappa

(34.3). Taxila

(34.4). Topara

(34.5). Rakhigarhi


