



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

TERM-1 EXAMINATION 2025-26

HISTORY (027)

MARKING SCHEME

CLASS: XII
DATE: 12/09/2025
NAME:

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

SECTION-A 1X21=21

Q1. Consider the following statement:

1

1. After independence, most of the Harappan civilization centers went over to Pakistan.
2. The Harappan script has been deciphered.
3. Rulers had an important role in Harappan civilization.
4. Dead were buried in Harappa.

Which of the above is the correct statement?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4

Q2. Match the following:

1

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| (i) Harappan | (a) Gujarat |
| (ii) Dholavira | (b) Jammu & Kashmir |
| (iii) Manda | (c) Rajasthan |
| (iv) Kalibanga | (d) Pakistan |
- (a) (i) d (ii) a (iii) b (iv) c
(b) (i) b (ii) c (iii) d (iv) a
(c) (i) c (ii) b (iii) a (iv) d
(d) (i) a (ii) b (iii) c (iv) d
- Ans- a. (i) d (ii) a (iii) b (iv) c

Q3. Which of these was the source of copper for Harappans?

1

- (a) Karnataka (b) Rajasthan (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Gujarat
- Ans- (b) Rajasthan

Q4. Who was Dhamma Mahamatta?

1

- (a) Special revenue officers appointed by Ashoka for tax collection
 - (b) Special officers appointed by Ashoka for maintaining law and order in the kingdom
 - (c) Special officers appointed by Ashoka to spread the message of dhamma
 - (d) Special officer appointed by Ashoka to stop the spread of dhamma
- Ans- (c) Special officers appointed by Ashoka to spread the message of dhamma

Q5. Consider the following statements about the Mauryan Empire:

1

1. There were 5 major political centers in the Empire.
2. Megasthenes wrote about the Mauryan Empire in his book Indica.

3. Ashoka founded the Mauryan Empire in 321 B.C.
4. Ashoka used his resources to propagate Buddhism.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1, 2 and 4
(c) 2, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 3 and 4

Ans- (b) 1, 2 and 4

Q6. Early Tamil literature (the Sangam texts) mentions the different categories of people living in the villages. Match the following columns of these categories with the people in the social strata. 1

Categories	Professions
a. Adimai	1. Large landowners
b. Vellalar	2. Ploughmen
c. Uzhavar	3. Slaves

- (a) a – 1, b – 2, c – 3
(b) a – 2, b – 1, c – 3
(c) a – 3, b – 1, c – 2
(d) a – 1, b – 3, c – 2

Ans- (c) a – 3, b – 1, c – 2

Q7. Two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason(R). Study the statements carefully and identify the correct alternative: 1

Assertion (A): People of some jatis did not easily fit in the varna system.

Reason (R): People of some jatis organised into group called shrenis.

Choose the correct option:

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

Ans- b. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

Q8. _____ means tracing descent from father to son, grandson and so on. 1

- (a) Kinfolk (b) Patriliney (c) Marriage (d) Polygamy
Ans- (b) Patriliney

Q9. The rulers whose names were derived from that of their mothers were- 1

- (a) Shakas (b) Satvahanas (c) Kurus (d) Mauryas

Ans- (b) Satvahanas

Q10. Two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason(R). Study the statements carefully and identify the correct alternative: 1

Assertion (A): The principle of Ahimsa, emphasised within Jainism.

Reason (R): Injury to living being-humans, animals plants and insects is central to Jaina philosophy.

Choose the correct option:

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

Ans- (c). A is true but R is false.

Q11. Buddha was born in- 1

- (a) Lumbini (b) Vaishali (c) Gaya (d) Rajgriha
Ans- (a) Lumbini

Q12. _____ consists of hymns in praise of a variety of deities, especially Agni, Indra and Soma.1
(a) The Rigveda (b) The Yajurveda (c) The Samaveda (d) The Atharvaveda
Ans- (a) The Rigveda

Q13. The European traveller who visited India and China was- 1
(a) Peter Mundy (b) Marco Polo (c) Francois Bernier (d) Antonio Monserrate
Ans- (b) Marco Polo

Q14. Who wrote the book 'Kitab-ul-Hind'? 1
(a) Al-Biruni (b) Abdur Razzaq Samarqandi
(c) Ibn Juzayy (d) Ibn Battuta
Ans- (a) Al-Biruni

Q15. 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

Q16. Two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason(R). Study the statements carefully and identify the correct alternative: 1
Assertion (A): Alvar and Nayanar saints revolted against Brahmanism.
Reason (R): They completely rejected temples and idol worship.
Choose the correct option:
(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true but R is false.
(d) A is false but R is true
Ans- (c) A is true but R is false.

Q17. Which of the following statements are correct about the Bhakti saint, Karaikkal Ammaiyar?1
(i) She was a woman devotee from Karnataka
(ii) She was a woman Nayanar
(iii) She was a devotee of Shiva
(iv) She composed Nalayira Divyaprabandham
(a) (ii) and (iv) (b) (iii) and (iv) (c) (i) and (iii) (d) (ii) and (iii)
Ans- (d) (ii) and (iii)

Q18. Who coined the terms “great” and “little” traditions to describe the cultural practices of peasant societies? 1
(a) R.C. Majumdar (b) Jadunath Sarkar (c) Robert Redfield (d) D.D. Kosambi
Ans- (c) Robert Redfield

Q19. Harihara and Bukka belonged to which dynasty? 1
(a) Tuluva (b) Saluvas (c) Aravidu (d) Sangam
Ans- d) Sangam

Q20. Which of the following statements is correct regarding Mahanavami Dibba? 1
(a) It was a high platform with slots for wooden pillars at close and regular intervals.

- (b) It was a massive platform located on one of the highest points in the city.
- (c) It was a place where the king met his advisers.
- (d) All of the above

Ans- a) It was a high platform with slots for wooden pillars at close and regular intervals.

Q21. Karnataka samrajyamu refers to-

1

- (a) Vijayanagara Empire
- (b) Sultans of the Deccan
- (c) Gajapati rulers of Orissa
- (d) None of the above

Ans- (a) Vijayanagara Empire

SECTION-B 3X6=18

Q22. 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.

Q23. Explain with examples what historians mean by the integration of cults.

3

- 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.

OR

How did the Bhakti and Sufi traditions challenge the caste system and religious orthodoxy?

Ans- i. They preached the equality of all human beings in the eyes of God.

- ii. Kabir rejected both Hindu and Muslim orthodoxies, saying that true devotion lies in love and self-realisation, not rituals or scriptures.
- iii. Bhakti saints like Kabir, Ravidas, and Namdev came from lower castes and openly criticised Brahmanical dominance and caste-based discrimination.

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

3

- ans- 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. How did Al-Biruni interpret the Indian caste system in comparison to social divisions in other societies?
 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 8X3=24

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. Sircar who says, “There is no aspect of life, culture, activities of Indians that is not reflected in the inscriptions.”

OR

How was the Mauryan Empire governed? Describe the main elements of its 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. Compare and contrast the perspectives from which Ibn Battuta and Bernier wrote their accounts of their travels in India.

8

Ans: a. Ibn Battuta was an early globe-trotter.

- 2. He considered experience gained through travels to be a more important source of knowledge than books.
- 3. He meticulously recorded his observations about new cultures, peoples, beliefs and values.
- 4. He enjoyed the cosmopolitan culture of urban centres where people who spoke Arabic, Persian, Turkish and other languages, shared ideas, information and anecdotes.
- 5. He highlighted unfamiliar things in order to ensure that the listener or the reader was suitably impressed by accounts of distant yet accessible worlds.
- a. Francois Bernier, on the other hand, belonged to a different intellectual tradition.
- b. He tried to compare and contrast what he saw in India with the situation in Europe in general and France in particular.
- c. His idea was to influence the policy makers and intelligentsia to ensure that they made what he considered to be the "right" decisions.
- d. He compared Mughal India with contemporary Europe. He emphasised the superiority of Europe.
- e. His representation of India works on the model of binary opposition, where India is presented as the inverse of Europe.

OR

Based on Ibn Battuta's observations, examine the features of Indian cities during the 14th century. How do his accounts help historians understand urban life, administration, and culture in medieval India?

Ans- As a traveller, Ibn Battuta found cities in the subcontinent full of exciting opportunities. He arrived in Delhi in the fourteenth century when it was a part of global network. They were densely populated and prosperous, except for the occasional disruptions caused by wars and invasions. From Ibn Battuta's account it appears that most cities had crowded streets and bright and colourful markets that were stacked with a wide variety of goods. He describes Delhi as a vast city, with a great population, the largest in India. Daulatabad was equal in size of Delhi. The bazaars were not only places of economic transactions, but the hub of social and cultural activities. Most bazaars had a mosque and a temple and spaces were marked for public performances by dancers, musicians and singers. He found Indian agriculture very productive because of the fertility of soil.

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

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 4X3=12

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

Processing of food required grinding equipment as well as vessels for mixing, blending and cooking. These were made of stone, metal and terracotta. This is an excerpt from one of the earliest reports on excavations at Mohenjodaro, the best-known Harappan Site:

Saddle querns are found in considerable numbers and they seem to have been the only means in use for grinding cereals. As a rule, they were roughly made of hard, gritty, igneous rock or sandstone and mostly show signs of hard usage. As their bases are usually convex, they must have been set in the Earth or in mud to prevent their rocking. Two main types have been found: those on which another smaller stone was pushed or rolled to and fro, and others with which a second stone was used as a pounder, eventually making a large cavity in the other stone.

Querns of the former type were probably used solely for grain; the second type possibly only for pounding herbs and spices for making curries. In fact, stones of this latter type are dubbed ‘curry stones’ by our workmen and our cook asked for the loan of one from the museum for use in the kitchen.

Questions:

(31.1) Write characteristics of saddle querns. 1

Ans. They were made of hard, gritty igneous rocks or sandstone.

(31.2) What are two kinds of saddle? 2

Ans. Two kinds of saddle are as follows:

- (i) These saddles were used to grind grain and cereals and were also called grinding saddles.
- (ii) In another type of saddle a second stone was used as a pounder. These saddles were used to grind herbs and spices.

(31.3) Which type of querns have been found in Mohenjodaro? Describe the surface of grinding equipment. 1

Ans. Saddle querns have been found in Mohenjodaro. The surface of grinding equipment was rough.

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

Why were Stupa's built?

"This is an excerpt from the Mahaparinibbana Sutta, part of the Sutta Pitaka: As the Buddha lay dying, Ananda asked him: "What are we to do Lord, with remains of the Tathagata (another name for the Buddha)?" The Buddha replied : "Hinder not yourselves Ananda by honouring the remains of the Tathagata. Be zealous, be intent on your own good." But when pressed further, the Buddha said: "At the four crossroads they should erect a thupa (Pali for stupa) to the Tathagata. And whoever shall there place garlands or perfume or make a salutation there, or become in its presence calm of heart, that shall long be to them for a profit and joy."

Questions:

(32.1) What are the Stupas? Who advised the Ananda to build the Stupa? 1

Ans. The Stupa were sacred place. They preserved the relics of the Buddha such as his bodily remains or the objects used by him. All these things were buried in the stupas.

(32.2) Who was the Tathagata? What had he told about the importance of the stupa? 2

Ans. Tathagata was another name for the Buddha. He told Ananda that the honour to his worldly remains was not important. He laid stress on the importance of one's good deeds. The stupas should be erected in holy places. If anybody placed garlands or perfume or saluted them, he will not only get peace of mind but also profit and joy.

(32.3) Name any three places where the Stupas have been built. 1

Ans. The stupas were built at many places. The most important stupas existed at Bharhut, Sanchi, and Sarnath.

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

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.

Questions:

(33.1) 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.

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

Ans- It was an example of polyandry.

(33.3) 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.

SECTION-E 5X1=5

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

5

- (34.1). Rakhigarhi
- (34.2). Balakot
- (34.3). Taxila
- (34.4). Magadha
- (34.5). Bidar

NAME:

