

Important questions in History

Class-XII (Humanities)

GUIDELINES:

1. STUDENT SHOULD WRITE THE ANSWERS ACCORDING TO MARKS AGAINST THE QUESTION IN CBSE FINAL BOARD EXAM. THESE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS IN HISTORY FROM CHAPTERWISE FOR THE HELP OF STUDENTS FOR THEIR PREPARATION FOR THE CBSE FINAL BOARD EXAM. MARKS AGAINST THE QUESTIONS MAY VARY IN CBSE FINAL BOARD EXAM. SO WRITE THE ANSWER IN EXAMINATION ACCORDINGLY.

For example: (a) for 1 marks maximum 10 words. (b) For 2 or 3 marks 20-30 words.

(c) For 5 marks 60-80 words. (d) For 10 marks 100-120 words.

[Note- For map work in History always mark and locate the place with name, Also write index with name.]

Chapter- 3

KINSHIP, CASTE AND CLASS IN EARLY SOCIETIES (600 BC-600CE)

- Q.1. Why the war Mahabharata was fought? What was its result? 2
- Q.2. What do you mean by term kula and Jati? 2
- Q.3. What is endogamy? 2
- Q.4. Give Two Importance of Manusmriti? 2
- Q.5. What do you mean by the term epic? 2
- Q.6. Explain the relationship between the Varna system and the occupation according to Brahmanical texts. How did the Brahmanas reinforce these? 5
- Q.6. The Mahabharata is a good source to study the social value of ancient times Prove it.? 10
- Q.7. Read the following passage given carefully and answer the question that follows: 10

Draupadi's Marriage

Drupada the king of Panchalorginsed 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 shiva for a husband, and in her enthusiasm, had prayed five times instead of once. This woman was knowreborned as

Draupadi and Shiva had fulfilled her desire Convinced by these stories, Drupada consented to the marriage.

(i) What was the competition organized by the Panchala king Drupada for the marriage of his daughter? 3

(ii) What two explanations were given by Vyasa to convince king Drupada for Draupadi being the common wife of the Pandvas? 3

(iii) What form of the marriage was Draupadi's marriage to the pandvas? Give two views of historians about the form of marriage. 4

Chapte -4

Thinkers Belief and Buildings

Culture Development

(600 BCE – 600 CE)

Q.1.Mention four places associated with the life of the Buddha. 2

Q.2.What do you mean by “Dharma Chakra Pravartana”? 3

Q.3.Mention the various incarnations of Vishnu according to Vaishnavism. 2

Q.4. Define Tri-ratna. 3

Q.5.What was the BudhaSangha? Discuss its characteristics. 5

Q.6.How Buddhist text were prepared and preserved? 5

Q.7.Read the given passage carefully and answer the question that follows – 10

Why wereStupa's built

“This is an excerpt from the MahaparinibbanaSutta, part of the SuttaPitaka: 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 whosoever 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 –

Q1. What are the Stupas ? Who advised the Ananda to build the Stupa? 4

Q2. From which chapter has this excerpt been taken? It is a part of which book? 2

Q3. Who was the Tathagata? What had he told about the importance of the stupa? 2

Q4. Name any three places where the Stupas have been built. 2

Chapter-5

THROUGH THE EYES OF TRAVELLERS

Q.1.Name any two travellers who came India during the medieval period (11th to 17th C)? 2

Q.2.Do you think Al-Biruni depended only on Sanskrit texts for his information and understanding of Indian society? 3

Q.3.What were the “barriers” discussed by Al-Biruni that obstructed him in understanding India? 5

Q.4.What did Bernier write about the Sati system? 5

Q.5.According to Bernier, What were the evils-effects of the crown ownership of land? 5

Q.6.Source based Questions 10

ON HORSE AND ON FOOT

This is how Ibn Battuta described the postal system :

In India the postal system is of two kinds: The horse-post called ‘Uluq’ is run by royal horses stationed at distance of every four miles. The foot-post has three stations permit. It is called ‘dawa’, that is, one third of a mile Now, at every third of a mile there is 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 bell they get ready. As soon as the courier reaches them one of them takes the letter from his and runs at the 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-person is quicker than the horse-post; and often it is used to transport the fruit of Khurasan which are much desired in India.

(i) Name the two kinds of postal System. 2

(ii) Explain how the foot post worked. 3

(iii) Why does Ibn-Battua think that the postal system in India was efficient? 3

(iv) How did the State encourage merchants in the 14th century? 2

Chapter-6

BHAKTI-SUFI TRADITIONS

CHANGES IN RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND DEVOTIONAL TEXTS

(08TH TO 18TH CENTURY)

Q.1 What does Bhakti movement mean? 2

Q.2 What do you mean by Sufism? 2

Q.3 Who were Alavars and Nayanars ? 2

Q.4.Give the name of any four well known reformers of Bhakti movement? 2

Q.5.What is the importance of Murshid in Sufi ideology? 2

Q.6. Describe the causes of the rise of Bhakti movement? 5

Q.7. Discuss the influences & importance of Bhakti movement? 5

Q.8. What were Attitude of the Nayanars&Alavars sects towards the cast? 5

Q.9. Describe the teaching of Kabir? How does he describe the ultimate reality through the Poems? 5

Chapter-7

An imperial capital: Vijayanagar

- Q.1.Hampi town is located in the bank of which river? 2
- Q.2. Mention the silent features of the temple of Hampi. 2
- Q.3.How did the water requirements problems solved in Vijayanagarempire ? 2
- Q.4.Who was Colin Mackenzie ? Mention his importance in Indian history ?2
- Q.5.Which goddess is called Pampa ?2
- Q.6.What do you think were the advantages and disadvantages of enclosing agricultural land within the fortified area of the city? 5
- Q.7. What do you think was the significance of the ritual's associated with theMahanavamidibba ?5
- Q.8. What impression of the lives of the ordinary people of Vijayanagara can you cull from the various descriptions in Vijayanagara empire. 5
- Q.9.Evaluate the importance of Amar Nayaka System in emergence of VijayanagaraEmpire. 5

Chapter-8

PEASANT, ZAMINDARS AND STATE

- Q.1. Mention various duties performed by state officials in the 16th century? 2
- Q.2. Who was the author of Ain-I Akbari? 2
- Q.3. Who wereRaiyat? How many types of Raiyat? 2
- Q.4. How many seasons of agriculture according to Ain? 2
- Q.5. What was Jins-i-Kamil? 2
- Q.6. Describe the functions ofDescribe Ain-i-Akbari? 2
- Q.7. What were the role played by women in agrarian society? 5
- Q.8. How land revenue was fixed? 5
- Q.9. Explain the salient features of zabti system? 5
- Q.10. Who werezamindars? What were their functions? 2+8=10

Chapter-9

KINGS AND CHRONICLES

(MUGHAL COURT 16TH-17TH CENTURY)

- Q.1Name the dynasty which ruled India during 1526 to 1707. Who was the founder of this dynasty? 2
- Q.2.Manuscripts involved a number of people performing a variety of tasks. Give some such people engaged in the task. 3
- Q.3.Assess the role played by women of the imperial household in the Mughal Empire. 5
- Q.4. Write a short note on BadshahNama. 5
- Q.5. Discuss the merits and demerits of the MansabdariSytem. 5
- .Q.6.Source based questions: 10

DARBAR-I-AKBARI

Abulfazl gives a vivid account of Akber'sdarbar.

Whenever his majesty (Akber) holds court (darbar) a large drum is beaten, the sounds of which accompanied by divine praise. In this manner people of all classes received notice. His majesty's sons and grand children the grandees of the court, and all other men who have

admittance attend to make the kornish and remains standing in their proper place learned men of renowned and skillful machines pay their respect. And the officers of justice present their reports. His majesty with his usual insights gives orders and settlers everything in a satisfactory manner. During the whole time skillful gladiator's and wrestlers from all countries hold themselves in readiness and singers male and female are in waiting. Claver jugglers and funny tumblers also are annexations to exhibit their dexterity and agility

- Q.1. Describe the main activities taking place in the court? 2
 Q.2. What was the significant of the darbar procedures? 3
 Q3. Define the term "Kornish". 2
 Q4. Explain the term "JharokhaDarshan." 3

Chapter-10

COLONIALISM AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

- Q.1. What was Permanent Settlement? 2
 Q.2. Explain the ryotwari system of revenue. 2
 Q.3. What was Deeds of hire? 2
 Q.4. Who weresanthals? What are the two features of their lives? 2
 Q.5. Who wereJotedars? 2
 Q.6. Why Zamindars defaulted on payments? 5
 Q.7. Why did the Santhals revolted against the British rule? 5
 Q.8. Passage Based Questions. 10

Referring to the condition of zamindars and the auction of lands, the Fifth Report stated.

The revenue was not realized with punctuality, and lands to a considerable extent were periodically exposed to sale by auction. In the native year 1203, corresponding with 1796 - 1797, the land advertised for sale comprehended a jumma or assessment of sicca rupees 28, 70, 061, the extent of land actually sold bore a jumma or assessment of 14,18, 756 and the amount of purchase money sicca rupees 17,90, 416,. In 1204 corresponding with 1797-98 the land advertised was for sicca rupees 26, 66, 191 the quality sold was for sicca rupees 21, 47, 580. Among the defaulters were some of the oldest families or the country. Such were the rajahs of Nuddea, RajeshayeBishenpore (all districts of Bengal), and others, the dismemberment of whose estates at the end of each succeeding year threatened them with poverty and ruin, and in some instances presented difficulties to the revenue officer, in their efforts to preserve undiminished the amount of public assessment.

- Q1. Why did Zamindars default on payments? 3
 Q2. Name some of the oldest families who were defaulters in payment? 4
 Q3. What was fifth report? 3

Chapter-11

REBELS AND THE RAJ

- Q.1. Which Governor-Genreral introduced the Subsidiary Alliance ?Name the four major powers accepting it. 2
 Q.2. Who was the last Nawab of Awadh? Where was he sent on Pension? 3

Q.3. What were the policies and administrative causes of the Revolt of 1857?	5
Q.4. What were the causes of the failure of the 1857 Revolt?	5
Q.5. Discuss the nature of revolt of 1857.	5
Q.6. What were the social, economical religious and military causes of 1857 revolt?	10

Chapter-12

COLONIAL CITIES

URBANISATION, PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE

Q.1 To what extent are census data useful in reconstruction patterns of urbanization in the colonial context ?	2
Q.2. Why did the records of the colonial cities were preserved?	3
Q.3. What were the new kinds of public places that emerged in the colonial city? what function did they serve ?	5
Q.4. Why were the hill stations developed in India by Britishers ?	5
Q.5. Assess the impact of health and defence needs on town planning in Colonial Calcutta.	5
Q.6. Passage based question :	10

Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follows:-

“Escaping to the Countryside”

This is how the famous poet MirzaGhalib described what the people of Delhi did when the British forces occupied the city in 1857: Smiting the enemy and driving him before them, the victors (i.e., the British) overran the city in all directions. All whom they found in the street they cut down ... For two to three days every road in the city, from the Kashmiri Gate to ChandniChowk, was a battlefield. Three gates – the Ajmeri, the Turcoman and the Delhi – were still held by the rebels ... At thenaked spectacle of this vengeful wrath and malevolent hatred the colour fled frommen’s faces, and a vast concourse of men and women ... took to precipitateflightthrough these three gates. Seeking the little villages and shrines outside the city, they drew breath to wait until such time as might favour their return.

- Who was MirzaGhalib ?1
- What was happening in Delhi in 1857 and why ?3
- Which three gates were under the rebels, while British army was occupying Delhi? 3
- What was the condition of the people of Delhi ?3

Chapter-13

MAHATMA GANDHI AND THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AND BEYOND

Q.1. Name one movement launched for farmers and peasants by Mahatma Gandhi in India?	1
Q.2. State the significance of Gandhiji’s speech at Banaras Hindu University?	1
Q.3. What is meant by Rowlatt Act?	1
Q.4. Why was charkha chosen as a national symbol?	1
Q.5. What was the significance of Lahore Session of Congress?	1
Q.6 Describe the Gandhi –Irwin Pact of 1931?	3
Q.7 What was the attitude of the Indian National Congress towards the second world war?	2
Q.8. Why did Gandhiji start Non-cooperation Movement? Why was it withdrawn?3	

Q.9. Explain the significance of Dandi March?	2	
Q11. What was the problem of separate electorates? What were the disagreement between Congress and Dalits on this issue? Finally what solution to be of this issue?	2	
Q12. How did Gandhiji transform National Movement into mass movement?		3
Q13. Explain the sources from which we can reconstruct the political career of Mahatma.		2
Q.14 “Where ever Gandhiji went, rumours spread of his miraculous power.” Explain with Examples.		3
Q.15 Source based questions:		5
Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:		
Why the salt satyagraha?		
Why was salt the symbol of protest? This is what Mahatma Gandhi wrote:		
The volume of information being gained daily shows how wickedly the salt tax has being designed. In order to prevent the use of salt that has not paid the tax which is at times even fourteen times its value, the Government destroys the salt it can not sell profitably. Thus it taxes the nation’s vital necessity; it prevents the public from manufacturing it and destroys what nature manufactures without effort. No adjective is strong enough for characterising this		
74		
wicked dog-in-the-manager policy. From various sources I hear tales of such wanton destruction of the nation’s property in all parts of India. Maunds if not tons of salt are said to be destroyed on the Konkan coast. The same tale comes from Dandi. Wherever there is likelihood of natural salt being taken away by the people living in the neighbourhood areas for their personal use, salt officers are posted for the sole purpose of carrying on destruction. Thus valuable national property is destroyed at national expense and salt taken out of the mouths of the people.		
The salt monopoly is thus a fourfold curse. It deprives the people of a valuable easy village industry, involves wanton destruction of property that nation produces in abundance, the destruction itself means more national expenditure, and fourthly, to crown his folly, and unheard-of takes of more than 1,000 per cent is exacted from a starving people.		
This tax has remained so long because of the apathy of the general public. Now that it is sufficiently roused, the tax has to go. How soon it will be abolished depends upon the strength the people.		
Q1- Why was salt the symbol of protest?	1	
Q2- Why was salt destroyed by the Colonial Government?	2	
Q3- Why did Mahatma Gandhi consider the salt tax more oppressive than other taxes?	2	

Chapter-14

UNDERSTANDING PARTITION POLITICS, MEMORIES, EXPERIENCES

Q.1 What do you mean by the term Holocaust?	1
Q.2 What was Lucknow pact?	1
Q.3 What is Pakistan resolution?	1
Q.4 What was the attitude of the Indian National Congress towards second world war?	1
Q.5 What was the impact of separate electorates for Muslims on the communal politics?	1
Q.6 The partition of India was a holocaust. Justify?	2
Q.7 What are the merits and demands of Oral history?	3
Q.8 Why Cabinet missions was sent to India? What were the main features of its plan?	5
Q.9 What was the impact of partition on Indian women.	5

Q.10. Read the following passage given carefully. Answer the questions that follow. 10
 “ WITHOUT A SHOOT BEING FIRED”

This is what moon wrote :

For over twenty-four hours riotous mobs were allowed to rage through this great commercial city unchallenged and unchecked. The finest bazaars were burnt to the ground without a shoot being fired to disperse the incendiaries (i.e. those who stirred up conflict). The . . . District Magistrate marched his (large polices) force into the city and marched it out again without making any effective use of it at all. . . .

1. To which event does the source refer to? Describe what the mobs were doing ? 2
2. Why did Amritsar became the scene of bloodshed later in 1947 ? 3
3. What was the attitude of the soldiers and policeman towards the mob ? 2
4. Give one example to show how Gandhiji tried to bring about communal harmony? 3

Chapter-15

FRAMING THE CONSTITUTION

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA

- Q.1 Who did move the crucial ‘Objectives Resolution’? 1
- Q.2 Why was the new constitution of Independent India introduced on 26 January 1950? 1
- Q.3 Which were the two main dissents of the Indian Constitution? 1
- Q.4 When was the Drafting Committee formed? Who was its chairman? 1
- Q.5 When and under which scheme the Constituent Assembly was formed ? 1
- Q.6 When and under whose Presidentship the first session of all India States People’s Conference was held ? 3
- Q.7 Why did Mahatma Gandhi think Hindustani should be the National language? 2
- Q8. Why is the Indian constitution acceptable to the Indian people even today? 2
- Q.9. How was the term minority defined by different groups? 3
- Q 10. What was the ‘language controversy, before the Constitution Assembly and how did it seek to resolve the controversy? 3
- Q.11 What was was the Objectives Resolution?What were the ideals expressed in the Objectives Resolution?2

Q 12. SOURCE BASED QUESTIONS:10

Read the given passage carefully and answer the Questions that follow –

“GovindBallabh Pant argued that in order to become a loyal citizen. People had focusing only on the community and the self. For the success of Democracy one must train himself in the art of self–discipline. In democracies one should care less for himself and more for others. There can not be any divided loyalty. All loyalties must exclusively be centred round the State. If in a democracy, you create rival loyalties, or you create a system in which any individual or group, instead of suppressing his extravagance, cares nought for larger or other interests, then democracy is doomed.”

- Q.1. Give three attributes of a loyal citizen in a democracy according to G. B. Pant. 2
- Q.2. What do you understand by ‘Separate Electorate’ ? 3
- Q3. Why was the demand for Separate Electorate made during the drafting of the Constitution? 2
- Q4. Why was G. B. Pant against this demand? Give two reasons. 3

****ENCLOSURE: IMPORTANT MAP QUESTIONS