

HISTORY GENERAL – PAPER I

Model Questions

Essay Type

1. What is Archaeology? Discuss the importance of Archaeological sources for the study of ancient Indian history
2. Discuss the importance of coins and inscriptions as sources for the study of ancient Indian History.
3. Discuss the importance and problems of Literary sources in ancient Indian history.
4. Discuss the relative importance of different sources of the ancient Indian history.
5. By using the archaeological evidences discuss the extent and salient features of the Indus Valley Civilization.
6. Determine the causes behind the fall of the Harappan civilization
7. Evaluate the role of literary sources in reconstructing medieval Indian History
8. Discuss the political and social life of the Rig-Vedic Aryans.
9. What do you know of the Sixteen Mahajanapadas? Write in brief about the four main monarchical states in India in the 6th Century B.C.
10. Discuss the rise of Magadha as a political power in ancient India.
11. Who was Chandragupta Maurya? How did he consolidate his power?
12. Discuss the administrative system of the Mauryas. What changes did Asoka introduce in this system?
13. Discuss the main features of the administrative system of the Mauryas. Can you call it a “Centralized Bureaucratic” state?
14. What were the causes of the downfall of the Mauryan empire? How far was Asoka responsible for this?
15. Who were the Sungas? Trace the rise and fall of the Sunga dynasty in India with special reference to the role of Pushyamitra Sunga.
16. Who was the greatest ruler of the Satavahana dynasty? Give an estimate of his achievements.
17. Who were the Kushanas? How would you assess the political and cultural importance of Kushana rule in India?
18. What were the main contributions of the Kushana emperor Kanishka?
19. Discuss the achievements of Samudragupta as a ruler and as a conqueror.
20. Assess the achievements of Chandragupta II as a ruler.
21. Why is the period of Gupta rule called the Golden Age in Indian history?
22. Give an account of the political achievements of Harshavardhana.
23. Write a brief note on Chola administration with special reference to their Local Self Government.
24. Discuss the tripartite struggle of the Palas, the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas for ascendancy in Northern India. Who ultimately gained and how?
25. Do you think Iltutmish was the real founder of the Delhi Sultanate?
26. What was Balban’s role in consolidating the rule of the Delhi Sultanate?
27. Discuss administrative system of Alauddin Khalji with special reference to his

- economic measures.
28. Discuss the achievements and failures of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq as a ruler.
 29. Describe the reforms of Sultan Firoz Shah Tughluq. Was he responsible for the decline of the Sultanate?
 30. Who were the Mongols? What part did the early Sultans of Delhi play to resist Mongol invasion?
 31. Discuss the reasons of conflicts between Vijaynagar and Bahamani Kingdom.
 32. Describe the administrative systems of the Vijaynagar Empire.
 33. Give a pen picture of the socio-economic development of the Vijaynagar Empire.
 34. Describe the political, cultural and social significance of Hossain Shahi rule in Bengal.
 35. Discuss the socio-political and cultural significance of the Ilyias Shahi dynasty in Bengal.
 36. Discuss the socio-economic condition of the Rig-Vedic and later-Vedic people.
 37. Discuss the economic and social importance of the trade guilds in ancient India.
 38. Write an essay on trade and industry in ancient India from 2nd Century B.C to 3rd Century A.D.
 39. What are the major features of feudalism? Did it really emerge in ancient India?
 40. What is Iqta system? Discuss the evolution of this system during the Sultanate.
 41. Write a note on trade and industry during the Sultanate period.
 42. Analyze the character of changes in the agrarian system during the Sultanate.
 43. Discuss social and religious life of the early and later Vedic people.
 44. Review the socio-economic background of the rise of Buddhism and Jainism in India.
 45. Write an essay on life and religious doctrine of Gautama Buddha.
 46. Explain the main principle of Buddhism. What were the major differences between Buddhism and Jainism?
 47. Briefly discuss Asoka's policy of Dhamma. How far was it influenced by the Buddhism?
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48. Analyze the growth and development of caste system in the later Vedic people.
 49. What was the status of women in the ancient Indian society?
 50. Discuss the socio-cultural condition of Bengal during the Pala and Sena period.
 51. Write an Essay on Sufism and the Sufi movement in India during the early medieval period.
 52. What is the meaning of Sufi Silsilah? Discuss any two major Sufi Silsilahs in India.
 53. Write a short essay on Sufism in India with special reference to its social and religious significance.
 54. How would you account for the growth and development of Bhakti movement in India? What were its major significances?
 55. Do you think Bhakti and Sufi movements facilitated peaceful coexistence of Hindus and Muslims in India during the Sultanate?
 56. Write an essay on the architecture, art and sculpture of Bengal during Palas and Senas.
 57. Write an essay on the architecture and sculpture during the Pallavas.

58. Assess the contribution of the Palas and Senas in the cultural history of Bengal.
59. Write an essay on the development of architecture during the Sultanate. Do you think the architectural style of this period can be called Indo-Islamic or Indo-Sarasenic?
60. Write a short essay on the development of Science in ancient and early medieval India with special reference to Astronomy, Mathematics and Medicine.
61. Write an essay on History writing in India under the Sultanate.