

**CBSE**  
**Class XII History**  
**Sample Paper – 1**

**Time: 3 hrs**

**Total Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

- Answer all the questions. Some questions have choice. Marks are indicated against each question.
- Answers to questions carrying 2 marks (**Part-A** Question Nos. 1 to 3) should not exceed 30 words each.
- Answers to questions carrying 4 marks (**Part-B Section-I** Question Nos. 4 to 9) should not exceed 100 words each. Attempt any 5 questions from this part. (**Part-B Section-II** Question No. 10) is a value-based question which is a compulsory question.
- Answers to questions carrying 8 marks (**Part-C** Question Nos. 11 to 14) should not exceed 350 words each. Attempt any 3 questions from this part.
- Answers to questions carrying 7 marks (**Part-D**, Source-based questions [No internal choice] Question Nos. 15 to 17)
- Attach map with the answer sheet (**Part E**).

**PART-A**

**Answer all the questions given below:**

**2 × 3 = 6**

1. Give two important ways used by archaeologists to track socioeconomic differences in Harappan society. (2)
2. Discuss any four pillars of Islam. (2)
3. Give any two problems faced during the census operation in India. (2)

**Part-B (Section-I)**

**4 × 5 = 20**

**Answer any five of the following questions:**

4. What was the divine order? Discuss the right occupation as prescribed by the Dharmashastras. (4)
5. Discuss the important ideas of Jainism and Buddhism. (4)
6. What were the problems faced by Al-Biruni in understanding Indian social and Brahmanical practices? Mention any two sources which provided him support. (4)
7. What was the status of women in agrarian society? (4)
8. Discuss four important challenges faced by the Constituent Assembly while drafting the Constitution of India. (4)



9. Explain how Magadha emerged as the most powerful Mahajanapada. (4)

**SECTION-II** **4 × 1 = 4**  
**Value-Based Question (Compulsory)**

10. Read the following passage and answer the question which follows: (4)  
For the success of democracy, one must train himself in the art of self-discipline. In most democracies, one must only care less about the country and its people as a whole and very less for himself.  
How is self-discipline related to democracy and the overall development of the country?

**PART-C** **8 × 3 = 24**  
**Long Answer Questions**

11. What was the two-nation theory? Discuss partition as a holocaust for India. (8)  
**Or**  
'Oral testimonies are an informative source to study the Partition of India'.  
Elaborate.
12. What was the land revenue system as started by the Mughals? (8)  
**Or**  
Discuss the role of Zamindars in handling agrarian relations in the Mughal Empire.
13. How do we study about colonial cities? Explain in detail. (8)  
**Or**  
Mahatma Gandhi was an unchallenged leader who drove India to its Independence.  
How do we gather information about Mahatma Gandhi?

**PART-D**  
**Source-based Questions** **7 × 3 = 21**

14. Read the following excerpt carefully and answer the questions which follow:

**The Divine Order**

To justify their claims, Brahmins often cited a verse from a hymn in the Rig Veda known as the *Purusha sukta*, describing the sacrifice of Purusha, the primeval man. All the elements of the Universe, including the four social categories, were supposed to have emanated from his body: The Brahmin was his mouth, of his arms was made the Kshatriya. His thighs became the Vaishya, of his feet the Shudra was born.

- a. What was the hierarchical order in which society was divided? (2)  
b. Discuss the right occupation according to the divine order. (3)  
c. What was gotra? What were its two important components? (3)



**15. Read the following excerpt carefully and answer the questions which follow:**

**How artefacts are identified**

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 Mohenjo-Daro, 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 nether 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.

- a. What was required for processing food? (2)
- b. What were vessels made of? Give any four raw materials. (2)
- c. 'Chanudaro was an important centre for craft production'. Discuss. (3)

**16. Read the following excerpt carefully and answer the questions which follow:**

**What 'recovering' women meant**

Here is the experience of a couple, recounted by Prakash Tandon in his *Punjabi Century*, an autobiographical social history of colonial Punjab:

In one instance, a Sikh youth who had run amuck during the Partition persuaded a massacring crowd to let him take away a young, beautiful Muslim girl. They got married, and slowly fell in love with each other. Gradually memories of her parents, who had been killed, and her former life faded. They were happy together, and a little boy was born. Soon, however, social workers and the police, labouring assiduously to recover abducted women, began to track down the couple. They made inquiries in the Sikh's home-district of Jalandhar; he got scent of it and the family ran away to Calcutta. The social workers reached Calcutta. Meanwhile, the couple's friends tried to obtain a stay-order from the court, but the law was taking its ponderous course. From Calcutta the couple escaped to some obscure Punjab village, hoping that the police would fail to shadow them. But the police caught up with them and began to question them. His wife was expecting again and now nearing her time. The Sikh sent the little boy to his mother and took his wife to a sugarcane field. He made her as comfortable as he could in a pit while he lay with a gun, waiting for the police, determined not to lose her while he was alive. In the pit he delivered her with his own hands. The next day she ran high fever, and in three days, she was dead. He had not dared to take her to the hospital. He was so afraid the social workers and the police would take her away.



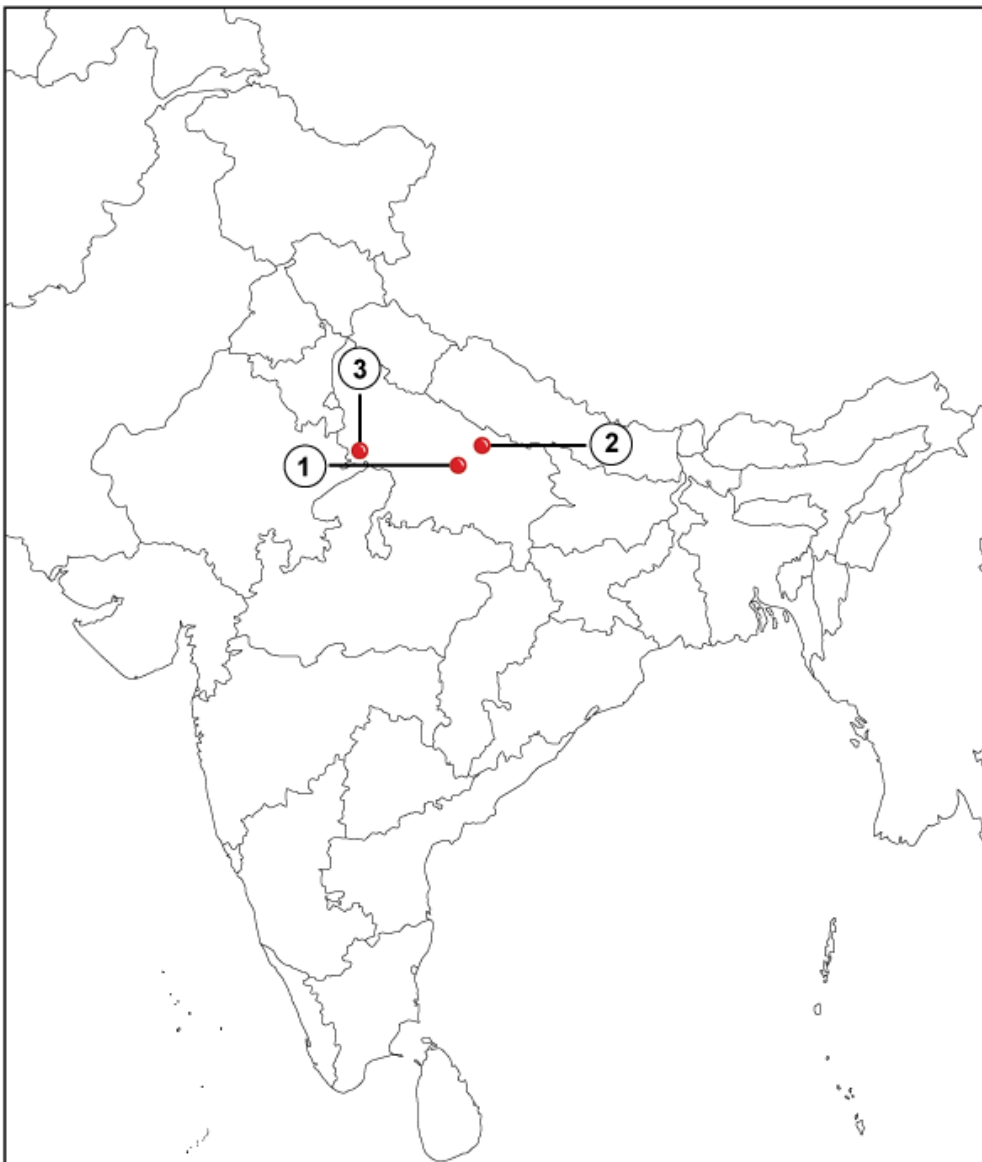
- a. What were the bases of the Partition of India? (2)
- b. Why was the Partition often regarded as a nightmare? (2)
- c. Women on both sides of the border were the most critical. Explain (3)

### Map Work

17.1 On the given political map of India, mark and label the following: (2)

- a. Kot Diji
- b. Taxila

17.2 On the same map, three important centres of the revolt of 1857 have been marked as 1, 2 and 3. Identify them and write their names on the lines drawn near them. (3)



**CBSE**  
**Class XII History**  
**Sample Paper – 1 Solution**

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**PART-A**

**Answer 1**

Archaeological finds at Harappa are suggestive of socioeconomic differences in society. The following sources indicate this difference:

- a. Studying Burials: Harappans believed in burying the dead in pits. Often the dead were buried with ornaments and pottery perhaps believing they could be used in the afterlife. Burials therefore help in the study of differences in society.
- b. Luxuries: Archaeologists have classified artefacts as utilitarian and luxuries. The former includes items of daily use which could be made easily using clay or stone. Luxury goods are things which have been rarely found.

**Answer 2**

The four important pillars of Islam are

- Shahada: There is only one god (Allah) and Prophet Mohammad is his messenger.
- Namaz: Offering prayer five times a day
- Sawm: Fasting during Ramzan
- Hajj: Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Zakat: Paying alms

**Answer 3**

Problems faced during census operation:

- a. Categories devised by the commission for classifying the population failed to capture the overlapping identities of the people.
- b. Often people refused to provide answers to the questions asked by government officials.

**PART-B**  
**SECTION-I**

**Answer 4**

To justify the claims in society, the Brahmans often quoted a verse from a hymn in the Rig Veda known as *Purusha Sukta*. Every element of the Universe including the four social categories or *Varnas* is assumed to have been derived from this primaevial man, Purusha.

- a. Brahmans came from the head of the man. Hence, the occupation prescribed to them was of reading and writing the Vedas, performing rituals and teaching the Vedas to society.
- b. Kshatriyas came from the hands of Purusha. The right occupation for them was to engage in warfare, study the Vedas, protect the people and administer justice in the kingdom.
- c. Vaishyas came from the thighs. They were expected to be engaged in agriculture and trade.



- d. Shudras came from the feet of Purusha, and therefore, the only occupation prescribed to them was to serve the higher three Varnas.

#### Answer 5

##### Ideas of Jainism as stated by Mahavira:

- a. The whole world is animated: From stones to rocks to water, everything has life in them.
- b. Non-injury: No living element, especially humans, animals, plants and insects, should be injured. Jains also emphasised on the policy of Ahimsa.
- c. Karma: The continuous cycle of birth and re-birth is shaped through Karma. The ideas of asceticism and penance are required to free oneself from this cycle.

##### Ideas of Buddhism as given by Gautama Buddha:

- a. The world is transient: According to Buddhist philosophy, the world around us is transient, i.e. it is constantly changing. Nothing in this world is permanent, not even the soul (atma).
- b. Sorrow (dukkha) is inherent to human beings. Our deeds in life define the level of happiness and sadness we encounter in our lives.

#### Answer 6

While writing an account on India, Al-Biruni had to overcome three barriers:

- Language: According to Al-Biruni, Sanskrit as a language was very different from Arabic and Persian. It was due to this language barrier that ideas and concepts could not be easily translated from one to another.
- Religious practices and beliefs: The religious practices and beliefs in India were very different.
- Insularity of people: The constant insularity of the Indians towards foreign people was a major barrier faced by Al-Biruni.

Al-Biruni has based all of his work on the Vedas, Puranas, Bhagwad Gita, works of Patanjali, Manusmriti and other historical records. The information from all these sources helped him in his writings.

#### Answer 7

The production process in an agrarian society involved equal contribution of both men and women. The status, role and duties of women were prescribed according to the norms. There was no separation on the basis of gender between men and women in society.

- a. Men tilled and ploughed the fields and women sowed the crops, threshed and winnowed the harvested crops.
- b. All artisanal tasks such as spinning yarn, shifting and kneading pottery clay, embroidery and other production tasks were dependent on women.
- c. Commercialisation of a product decided the demand for a woman to produce the same.
- d. Women were regarded as important in society as they were child-bearers in society. In a male dominant society, the importance attached to women as a reproductive force was high.



### Answer 8

India attained Independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. The Constitution of India came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950. While the framers of the Constitution were confident on certain aspects of it, there were certain challenges faced by them:

- a. **Defining Rights:** According to the Constituent Assembly, each citizen of India was subjected to certain fundamental rights. These rights are fundamental because they are essential for the overall growth and development of the country. Hence, the question was which rights should be issued and which should not.
- b. **Separate Electorates:** The idea of separate electorates was issued by the British to divide India on the basis of religion. Separate electorate was more like a rat eating up the whole democracy. Therefore, it was one of the major concerns of the Constituent Assembly.
- c. **Power Distribution:** While framing the Constitution, emphasis has to be laid down on how power had to be distributed and between whom. Greater power to the state would mean allowing them to overpower the centre. Hence, the power had to be equally distributed between the centre and the state to avoid further clashes.
- d. **Language:** Deciding upon the language of the nation was a crucial task. As India was a multilingual country, no single regional language could be given emphasis. Hence, after much discussion, it was decided to make Hindi the national language of India.

### Answer 9

Reasons for Magadha to emerge as the most powerful Mahajanapada:

- The region of Magadha consisted of fertile soil which was required for agriculture. This helped in increasing the agricultural productivity of the empire as a consolidated unit.
- The iron mines found in this area helped in creating weapons and other tools which were used by the king and the army during wars.
- Elephants stood as the most essential component of the army. The forests in this region were home to elephants and other wild animals.
- Ganga and its tributaries provided easy communication of goods from one side to the other.
- Magadha was ruled by ambitious kings such as Ajatashatru and Mahapadma. Nanda was the most powerful and notable for their strong political and economic policies.

## Section-II

### Value-Based Question (Compulsory)

### Answer 10

A country is a culmination of its policies, people and leaders. In a democratic country like India, the idea of self-discipline is essential. It is important for the people to be self-disciplined and follow the policies drafted by the government because each of these policies are meant for the development of the people as an individual and the country as a whole. Lack of discipline in life will lead to constant clashes between the elements of democracy leading to further issues. Hence, it is essential to inculcate self-discipline in oneself for the overall development of the nation.



**Part-C**  
**Long Answer Questions**

**Answer 11**

The two-nation theory was a theory of division proposed by Mohammad Ali Jinnah of the Muslim League before the British granted Independence to India. According to the theory, India consisted of two different sets of people divided on the basis of their language, religion, culture and ethnicity. Therefore, it was necessary to divide them into two separate countries—India and Pakistan. Therefore, Pakistan came into existence on 14<sup>th</sup> August and India came into existence on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

This two-nation theory was the basis of partition between the two countries. Partition is regarded as a holocaust because

- i. Millions of people were uprooted from their motherlands. There was mass killing on both sides of the border.
- ii. Women were abducted, raped and maimed in the name of religion. Most of these women, who were separated from their families, either adopted the new life with new people on either sides of the border or killed themselves.
- iii. Thousands of people were killed. Many people lost their families in this killing.
- iv. Partition was not merely a constitutional arrangement; it was a 16-month long civil war between the two countries of India and Pakistan.
- v. Hundreds and thousands of people were rendered homeless in a no time. They lost their land; many lost their families and many their lives.
- vi. Partition was not merely a transfer of population; it was mass slaughter which knew no limits.
- vii. Families were stripped from their roots and asked to begin their lives from scratch in an alien country.
- viii. Millions were transformed into refugees in alien lands, with a different set of people altogether.

**Or**

Oral testimonies are helpful in understanding Partition in the following way:

- i. Oral narratives, memoirs, diaries, family records and letters are first-hand accounts of people who survived through Partition. They highlight the plight of those who witnessed it. They are the trials and tribulations of ordinary citizens who were forced to accept a new country, new government and new people.
- ii. Oral testimonies bring out the real emotions and feelings of thousands uprooted from their country and forced to become refugees in an alien country.
- iii. Personal writings help historians get a personal touch in the story. For those millions of families who suffered, it was not just a constitutional amendment but a holocaust.
- iv. Oral testimonies help historians in writing a more personalised account of the events which took place at the time of Partition.
- v. Government documents also allow historians to get an exact estimate of people who moved from one side to the other.
- vi. Oral histories help historians to widen their perspectives and record experiences of the affected.



- vii. Oral testimonies have an emotional quotient attached to them. Hence, constructing history from them is not an easy task. For those who have suffered the atrocities, remembering them all over again is not easy.
- viii. Oral histories of Partition are the single-hand experiences of men and women whose existence have been ignored from times to come.

### Answer 12

In the agrarian society of Mughals, revenue from land was the economic mainstay. It was therefore necessary to create an apparatus to manage production, collect revenue from all across the empire and expand the empire.

- The apparatus included a **dafter** (office) of the **diwan** (the head) whose responsibility was to supervise the fiscal issues of the empire.
- Revenue officials and other record keepers became decisive agents of agricultural relation within the empire.
- At first, information was acquired about the extent of agricultural lands in the empire and taxes were then levied on them.
- First the assessment was made and then taxes were collected.
- Revenue was fixed. The claims made by the states were maximised.
- Both cultivated and cultivable lands were measured before fixing the revenue for the land.
- Annual records were maintained with all the important transactions recorded.
- Forests remained unmeasured in the land revenue system.

### OR

Zamindars were a group of people who lived off agriculture but were the most essential character in an agrarian society.

- They were landowners who enjoyed certain social and economic privileges.
- Caste accounted for the high status of these zamindars.
- They performed certain services for the state and the people.
- Zamindars owned personal lands (known as milkiyat) which were cultivated for private use.
- Often they could collect revenue from peasants on behalf of tax collectors.
- Many zamindars derived their powers from the control of military power.
- Several zamindars held fortresses and even had an armed contingent.

In a pyramid of social relations in society, the zamindars constituted the highest position.

### Answer 13

Colonial cities were cities brought up by the British for their trade and communication. The most important cities established by the British were Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. Each one of these cities served a different purpose for the British. Certain ways to study about these cities are

- Detailed records of trade and other commercial affairs maintained and kept by British officials.
- Regular surveys, statistical data and other official records help keep a track of the happenings in the cities.



- Mapping and maintaining these maps to understand the landscape and topography of a particular region.
- Maps were also used for the planning and development of cities.
- Census operations were conducted to keep the statistical records of the people.
- Regular head counts helped British officials in monitoring these cities.
- Location of Ghats and other places were indicative of planning and development.
- Activities of municipal corporations were essential to administer the basic services of water, public health and road building.

**OR**

Mahatma Gandhi was an unchallenged leader. A firm believer of non-violence, he drove the country to Independence. There are four important sources which help us study the life of Mahatma Gandhi:

- Public voice and private script: The writings and speeches of this great leader along with his contemporaries are a great source of information. These letters give an insight about his personal thoughts. Some letters have been written to outsiders reflecting the ideals and notions followed by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Autobiographies: These help in framing a picture of a person. They allow a person to have an insight into the life of a person and understand him from all dimensions. While writing autobiographies, it is important to be unbiased and neutral.
- Government records: Because colonial rulers kept records of every action, they are vital in studying the life of Mahatma Gandhi. The letters and reports which were once written by police officials are now available in archives. Each report in the records has a different story captured in itself.
- Newspapers: Newspapers published in English and other regional languages are a vital source. Each of the newspapers tracked the movements and other actions taken by leaders. An advantage of studying through newspapers is the fact that news and articles published are unbiased and neutral.

### Part-D

#### Source-Based Questions

#### Answer 14

- a. Hierarchical order in which society was divided:
  - Brahmins derived from the head of Purusha were the head of society.
  - Kshatriyas derived from the arms constituted the second category.
  - Vaishyas from the thighs was the third category.
  - Shudras from the feet were at the bottom of the order.
- b. The right occupation according to *Purusha Sukta* was
  - Brahmins: Reading and writing the Vedas, performing rituals and teaching the Vedas to society.
  - Kshatriyas: To engage in warfare, study the Vedas, protect the people and administer justice in the kingdom.
  - Vaishyas: To engage in agriculture and trade
  - Shudras: To serve the higher three Varnas



- c. Each Varna was prescribed a gotra to follow. It was mandatory for society to follow the norms of gotra.
- On marriage, a woman had to give up her father's gotra and adopt that of her husband.
  - People of the same gotra could not marry.

#### Answer 15

- a. The processing of food required adequate grinding equipment along with vessels for proper mixing, blending and cooling of food.
- b. Vessels were made of the following raw materials—stone, metals, terracotta and steatite. Most of these raw materials were procured or imported from distinct countries.
- c. Chanudaro was an important centre for craft production in the settlement. Most important articles of Harappa from bead-making to shell-cutting to seals and weight making were manufactured here. Jewellery-making processes of grinding, polishing and drilling also took place here.

#### Answer 16

- a. The two-nation theory proposed by Mohammad Ali Jinnah was the basis of partition of India into two. According to the theory, India consisted of two different sets of people divided on the basis of their language, religion, culture and ethnicity. Therefore, it was necessary to divide them into two separate countries—India and Pakistan.
- b. Partition is often regarded as a nightmare because
- i. Partition meant a sudden movement of population on both sides of the border. People who had lived their lives at a specific place were rooted out in no time.
  - ii. The people, the police and others seemed to be aliens.
  - iii. There was no support from anywhere. It was not just a division of the country but a destruction of humanity.
- c. Women on both sides of the border were badly hit because
- i. They were looted, raped and maimed in a country which was till last night their motherland.
  - ii. Most women lost their families in this transfer and eventually had to either give up their lives or to accept a different life.
  - iii. There were no records of lost wives, mothers and daughters. Either they were killed by the mob or they killed themselves to protect their dignity.



## 17. Map Work

## Part- E

