

Historiography: Indian Tradition

Exercise

Q. 1. A. Complete the sentences by choosing a correct option.

(1) was the first Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India.

(a) Alexander Cunningham

(b) William Jones

(c) John Marshall

(d) Friedrich Max Muller

(2) translated the Sanskrit text of 'Hitopadesh.'

(a) James Mill

(b) Friedrich Max Muller

(c) Mount Stuart Elphinstone

(d) Sir John Marshall

Answer : (1) (a) Alexander Cunningham

Alexander Cunningham was the first Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Explanation – After conducting several excavations and explorations of the ancient sites in India under the British rule, in 1861, Alexander Cunningham was appointed as the first Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

(2) (b) Friedrich Max Muller

Friedrich Max Muller translated the Sanskrit text of 'Hitopadesh.'

Explanation – According to Friedrich Max Muller, Sanskrit is the ancient language. He expressed his interest in Sanskrit literature. Thus, he translated the Sanskrit text of 'Hitopadesh.'

Q. 1. B. Identify the wrong pair in the following, correct it and rewrite.

(1) 'Who were the Shudras' - Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

(2) 'Stri-PurushTulana' - Feminist writing

(3) 'The Indian War of Independence 1857' - Marxist History

(4) Grant Duff - Colonial History.

Answer : The correct pair is 'The Indian War of Independence 1857' – Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

Explanation - Nationalist historiography led to the movement by the Indian people against the British rule. Related to this, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar wrote the book



called 'The Indian War of Independence 1857' which explains in detail about the revolt of 1857 which Indians fought against Britishers.

Q. 2. A. Explain the following with its reason.

Writing of the regional history received a momentum.

Answer : Nationalist historiography is one of the schools of historiography which includes all those historical writings which is related to India's war of independence, and the related events. These are the writings of the Indian historians who wrote about the nationalistic movement held in different parts of India. This led to the emergence of the regional history describing the particular state or city. Example – the Nationalistic writings of Maharashtra written by various historians who discuss in detail about the people of Maharashtra fighting against the British rule.

Q. 2. B. Explain the following with its reason.

Bakhar is an important type of historical documents.

Answer : Bakhar is a historical document of the medieval period. It is important because it contains the history of kings, battles, great men, historical events and many more. It is considered to be a part of Marathi literature and is of various types, examples- Sabhasad Bakhar, Panipatachi Bakhar, etc.

Q. 3. A. Answer the following in 25-30 words.

Which things are included in the descriptions by Emperor Babur in his autobiography?

Answer : Emperor Babur wrote his autobiography titled 'Tuzuk-i-babari' in which he gives us details about the battles he fought during his reign. Also, he included what he observed during his journey to various cities and regions like the customs, traditions, local economy, etc.

Q. 3. B. Answer the following in 25-30 words.

What is the contribution of Svatantryaveer Savarkar to nationalistic historiography?

Answer : Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, also known as 'Svatantrya veer Savarkar' contributed greatly to nationalistic historiography by writing about the regional history which is based on the struggle of the Indians against the British rule of the particular region. Because of this, historians started taking into consideration the history of south India and other geographical locations.



Q. 4. A. Write detailed answers to the following questions:

What is Marxist History?

Answer : The Marxist theory is the school of historiography which considers the effect that occurs from the particular social event and its significance in the society. The Marxist writings include the need for the means and the modes of production and industrial relations. In India, the Marxist writings include the caste system as the main theme, and the changes happened in the caste system. The Indian scholars who adopted a Marxist method of writing history are – Damodar Dharmanand Kosambi, Ram Sharan Sharma, SA Dange, etc. Comrade Dange wrote the book titled 'Primitive communism to slavery' which considers the Marxist method of writing history.

Q. 4. B. Write detailed answers to the following questions:

What is the contribution of Itihasacharya V.K. Rajwade to historiography?

Answer : Itihasacharya V.K. Rajwade wrote history on various topics in Marathi. He also compiled, edited and wrote various scholarly works. He contributed to historiography through various means such as:-

- (i) He suggested that the individual should write his own history.
- (ii) According to him, history should include all the aspects of the past human societies.
- (iii) History should be collected from the various sources which should be authentic in nature.

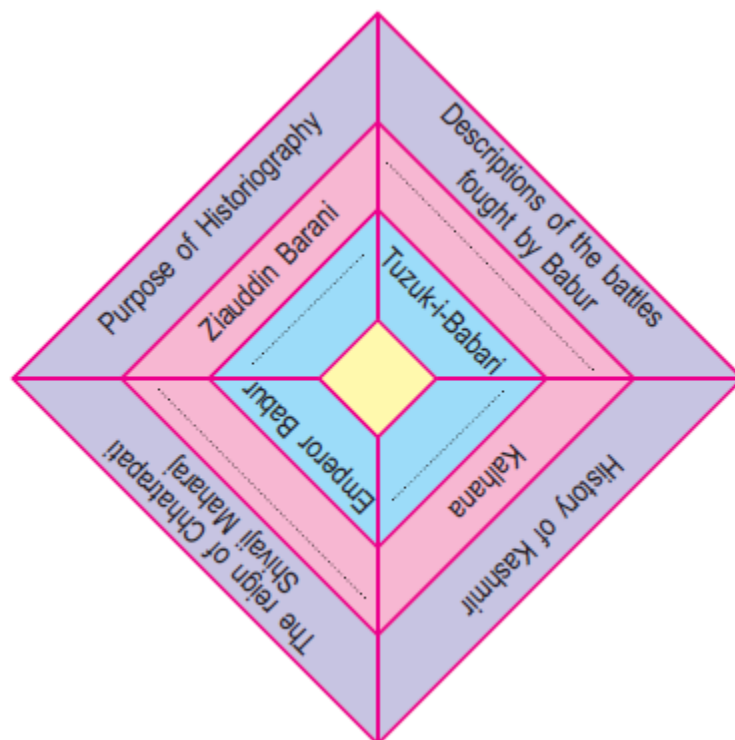
Q. 5. A. Complete the following chart.

James Mill	"The History of British India"
James Grant Duff
.....	'The History of India'
S.A. Dange
.....	'Who were the Shudras'

Answer :

James Mill	"The History of British India"
James Grant Duff	"A History of Mahrattas"
Mount Stuart Elphinstone	'The History of India'
S.A. Dange	"Primitive Communism to Slavery"
Dr. BR Ambedkar	'Who were the Shudras'

Q. 5. B. Complete the following concept chart.



Answer :

Purpose of Historiography	Descriptions of the Battle fought by Babur	History of Kashmir	The reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji maharaja
Ziauddin Barani	Emperor Babur	kalhana	Krishnaji Anant Sabhasad
Tarikh -i- Phiruz - Shahi	Tuzuk - i - Babari	Rajtarangini	Sabhasad Bakhar

Q. 6. A. Explain the following concepts.

Orientalist historiography.

Answer :

Orientalist school of historiography includes the thoughts of the Europeans who showed interest in the civilisations, and the countries of the east as they encouraged and respected their history too. These scholars came to be known as the Orientalist. Their focus was on Sanskrit literature, Vedic culture, and traditions. They found the similarities between the Sanskrit and the European languages which helped them in formulating the belief that ancient language is the mother of all the Indo-European languages. The notable Orientalist is Friedrich Max Muller who expressed his interest in Sanskrit literature and translated the Sanskrit text of 'Hitopadesh.'

Q. 6. B. Explain the following concepts.

Nationalistic historiography.

Answer : Nationalist historiography is one of the schools of historiography which includes all those historical writings which are related to India's war of independence, and the related events. These are the writings of the Indian historians who wrote about the nationalistic movement held in different parts of India. They wanted to reveal the ancient history and the golden era of India. They opposed those British scholars who wrote about the history of ancient India in a biased manner and for avoiding the objective truth of the historical events. Some of the notable scholars under Nationalistic historiography are Mahadev Govind Ranade, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Radha Kumud Mukherjee and many more.

Q. 6. C. Explain the following concepts.

Subaltern history.

Answer : The term subaltern means 'bottommost ranks.' It was Antonio Gramsci who considered important that history should also include the bottommost rank of the society. Thus, subaltern school of historiography came into existence. Subaltern history became an important academic school of historiography after Ranjit Guha included this concept in his writings. Before this, this idea of including bottommost ranks in the history was taken into consideration by the scholars like Mahatma Phule. The term 'shudras' or the 'atishudras' is used for the bottommost rank. The writings of the BR Ambedkar also consider the subaltern school of historiography in his book entitled 'who were called the shudras' and 'The Untouchables.'

