

**CBSE  
Class XII - History  
All India  
Board Question Paper 2014**

**Time: 3 hrs**

**Max. 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)Marks

1. How did Magadha become the most powerful mahajanpada between sixth to fourth century BCE? Give two reasons. 2
2. Who were Alvars and Narayanrs? Mention the support they got from the Chola rulers. 2
3. How did changes occur in the building pattern of colonial cities after the revolt of 1857? Cite any two examples. 2

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

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

(5×4=20) Marks

4. "The drainage system in Harappan civilization indicates town planning. Support the statement with examples. 4
5. Mention any two features of gotra as per the Brahminical practice. What evidences do we get from the Satavahana inscriptions regarding the inheritance of gotra? Explain. 4
6. Vijayanagara was characterised by a distinctive building style. "Support this statement with the sacred architectural examples of Vijayanagara. 4

7. How were the subsistence and commercial production closely intertwined in an average peasant's holding during the Mughal period in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries? Explain. 4
8. Critically examine the experience of the ryots on the refusal of moneylenders to extend loans to them after 1830. 4
9. "The relationship of the sepoys with the superior white officers underwent a significant change in the years preceding the uprising of 1857." Support the statement with examples. 4

**Part - B (Section - II)**

**(Value Based Question)**

(2 + 2 = 4) Marks

10. "The rebel proclamation of 1857 emphasised the values of co-existence amongst different communities under Mughal Empire." Explain. 2
- (10.2) Suggest two ways to bring peaceful coexistence and fraternity in the contemporary Indian society. 2

**Part - C**

**(Long Answer Questions)**

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

(8×3 = 24) Marks

11. What do you mean by numismatics? How has the study of coins help the numismatists to reconstruct possible commercial network? Discuss: 8
12. Explain the role of zamindars in Mughal India during 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century. 8
13. Describe the different sources from which we can reconstruct the political career of Gandhi and the history of the nationalist movement. 8
14. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of oral history. Mention any four sources from which the history of partition has been constructed. 8

**Part - D**

**(Passage Based Questions)**

(7×3 = 21) Marks

15. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

**The Sudarshana (beautiful) Lake in Gujarat**

The Sudarshana, lake was an artificial reservoir. We know about it from a rock inscription (c. second century CE) in Sanskrit, composed to record the achievements of the Shaka ruler Rudradaman.

The inscription mentions that the lake, with embankments and water channels, was built by a local governor during the rule of the Mauryas. However, a terrible storm broke the embankments and water gushed out of the lake. Rudradaman, who was then ruling in the area, claimed to have got the lake repaired using his own resources, without imposing any tax on his subjects.

Another inscription on the same rock (c. fifth century) mentions how one of the rulers of the Gupta dynasty got the lake repaired once again.

- (15.1) Mention about the irrigation system of the Mauryan Empire. 2  
(15.2) Explain about the achievements of Rudradaman during the 2nd century CE. 3  
(15.3) Mention the values demonstrated by Rudradaman that can be seen from the passage. 2

16. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follows :

**The child sati**

This is perhaps one of the most poignant descriptions by Bernier: At Lahore I saw a most beautiful young widow sacrificed, who could not, I think, have been more than twelve years of age. The poor little creature appeared more dead than alive when she approached the dreadful pit: the agony of her mind cannot be described; she trembled and wept bitterly; but three or four of the Brahmanas, assisted by an old woman who held her under the arm, forced the unwilling victim toward the fatal spot, seated her on the wood, tied her hands and feet, lest she should run away, and in that situation the innocent creature was burnt alive. I found it difficult to repress my feelings and to prevent their bursting forth into clamorous and unavailing rage.....

- (6.1) How has Bernier described the practice of sati? 3  
(6.2) Describe the feelings of Bernier that he has expressed in the passage. 3  
(6.3) Explain how Bernier has highlighted the treatment of women as a crucial marker of difference between Western and Eastern societies. 1

17. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follows :

**"The British element is gone, but they have left the mischief behind"**

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel said: It is no use saying that we ask for separate electorates, because it is good for us. We have heard it long enough. We have heard it for years, and as a result of this agitation we are now a separate nation.... Can you show me one free country where there are separate electorates ? If so, I shall be prepared to accept it. But in this unfortunate country if this separate electorate is going to be persisted in, even after the division of the country, woe betide the country; it is not worth living in. Therefore, I say, it is not for my good alone, it is for your own good that I say it, forget the past. One day, we may be united The British element is gone, but they have left the mischief behind. We do not want to perpetuate that mischief. (Hear, hear). When the British introduced this element they had not expected that they will have to go so soon. They wanted it for their easy administration. That is all right. But they have left the legacy behind. Are we to get out of it or not ? CAD, VOL. V

- (17.1) Explain Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's views on the issue of separate electorate system. 2  
(17.2) In what ways did Sardar Patel explain that "The British element is gone, but they have left the mischief behind"? 3  
(17.3) Mention the reasons behind Sardar Patel urging the assembly members to get rid of

separate electorate.

2

**Part - E  
(MAP Work)**

**(5 Marks)**

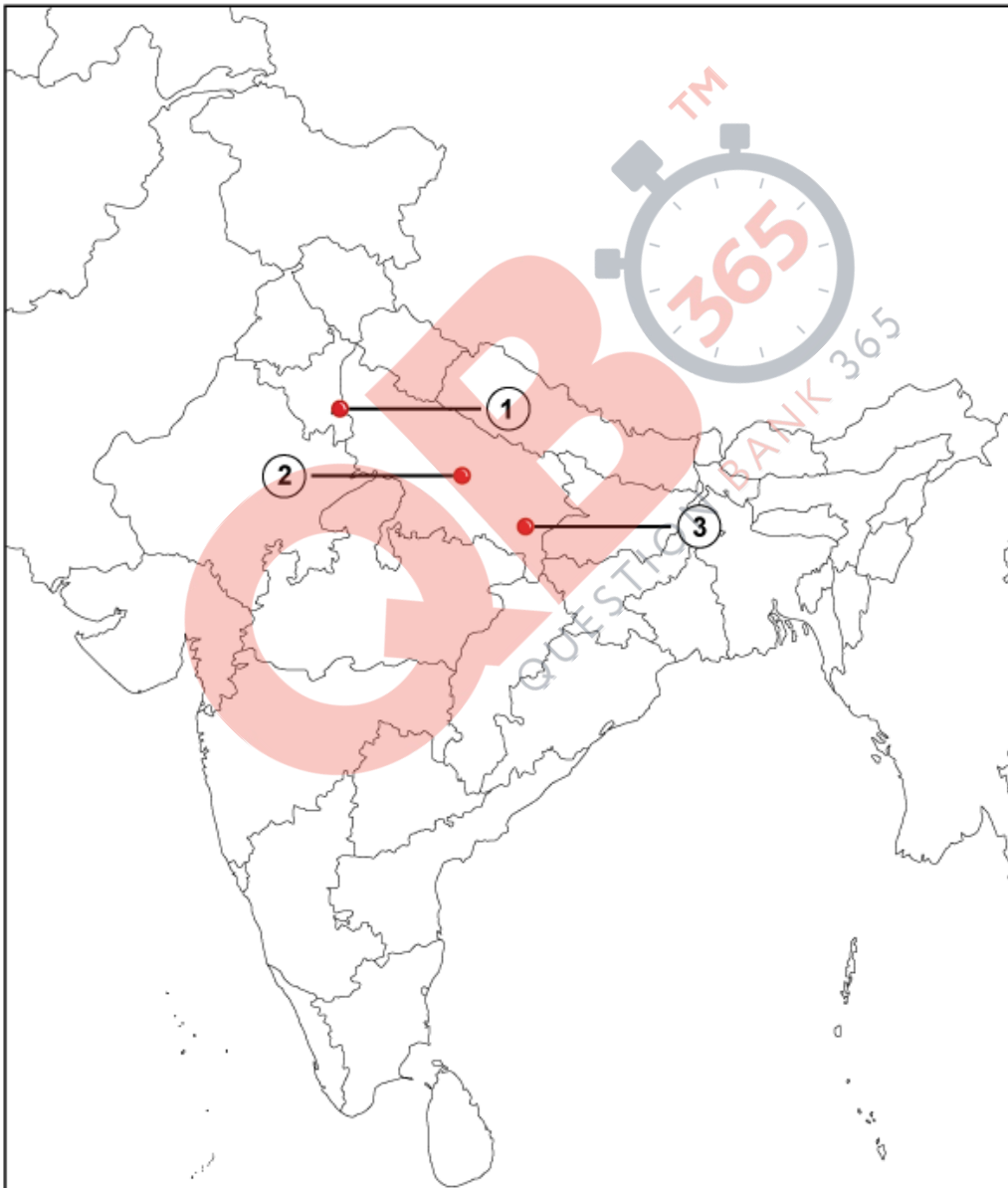
**18. (18.1) On the given Political outline map of India, locate and label the following:**

(a) Lothal, (b) Bodhgaya

2

**(18.2) On the same political outline map of India (on page 19), three places related to the centres of the Revolt of 1857 have been marked as 1, 2 and 3. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.**

3



**CBSE  
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Solution- 2014**

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**Part A**

**Answer 1**

- (i) Magadha had fertile lands which led to an increase in agricultural activities. It also had deposits of iron ore which helped in making weapons and agricultural implements. Iron mines were accessible and provided resources for tools and weapons.
- (ii) The earliest rulers of Magadha such as Bimbisara and Ajatashatru were ambitious and greatly expanded the territories of their kingdoms.

**Answer 2**

- (i) Alvars were the devotees of Lord Vishnu, whereas Nayanars worshipped Lord Shiva.
- (ii) The Chola kings wanted to claim divine support and status. To proclaim their power, they built grand temples of both Vishnu and Shiva. These temples were decorated with stone and metal sculptures.

**Answer 3**

- (i) After the revolt of 1857, the British felt that towns inhabited by the British needed to be defended. The whites lived in secure and separate residential areas.
- (ii) Cantonments or places where Indian soldiers were commanded by the British were separate but attached to Indian towns.

**Part B: Section I**

**Answer 4**

The drainage system was one of the most distinctive features of the Harappan cities. The roads and streets in the Harappan cities formed the 'grid' pattern intersecting each other at right angles. Probably, streets and drains were laid down first and then houses were built alongside them.

Earnest Mackay, an early archaeologist, considered the Harappan drainage system as the most complete ancient system. In the Harappan cities, each house was connected to the street drains. The drains were made of bricks set in mortar and were covered with bricks which could be removed for cleaning. The sewage of the house first was emptied into a sump for cleaning. Unusually long drainage had sumps at regular interval for cleaning. Such a drainage system has been found in all Harappan cities whether big or small. This shows that the drainage system was an integral part of town planning.

**Answer 5**

Two features of 'gotra' according to the Brahmanical practice are

- (i) Each gotra was named after a Vedic seer, and all who belonged to the same gotra were considered his descendants.

- (ii) Women were expected to give up their father's gotra and adopt that of their husband on marriage and members of the same gotra could not marry.

Many Satavahana inscriptions have been discovered which show that the above two rules related to gotra were not always followed. This is because some Satavahana women after marriage did not give up the gotra of their fathers.

Moreover, some women belonged to the same gotra as their husbands. This shows that endogamy marriages were prevalent among several communities in South India.

### **Answer 6**

The city of Vijayanagara was characterised by a distinctive building style. The king's palace has two impressive platforms—'audience hall' and 'mahanavami dibba'. The base of the mahanavami dibba was covered with relief carvings. One of the magnificent examples of sacred architecture was the Hazare Rama temple. Many scenes from Ramayana were depicted on the inner walls of the shrine.

Virupaksha temple was built over centuries (may be the ninth-tenth century) as suggested in the inscriptions. It was substantially enlarged with the establishment of Kingdome, also recognised as a form of Shiva. The hall before the main shrine was built by Krishnadeva Raya to mark his accession. This was decorated with delicately carved pillars. He is also credited with the construction of the eastern gopuram. The additions meant that the central shrine came to occupy a relatively small part of the complex.

Vitthala was the main deity of the Vitthala temple. This temple too has several halls and a unique shrine designed as a chariot. A characteristic feature of the temple complexes is the chariot streets which extended from the temple gopuram in a straight line.

### **Answer 7**

Agriculture was the main occupation of the period during the Mughal rule. It helped to feed large Indian population. However, subsistence and commercial agriculture were closely intertwined.

- In mediaeval India, sources indicate that *jins-i-kamli* (perfect crops) were also grown. Cotton and sugarcane were some examples of *jins-i-kamli* crops.
- The Mughal rulers encouraged the peasants to grow perfect crops as they brought higher revenues to the state.
- While cotton was grown over large territories in Central India and the Deccan Plateau, sugarcane was extensively grown in Bengal. Many oilseeds were also grown in Mughal India.
- Maize was introduced in India after the discovery of America. By the seventeenth century, it became one of the major crops in western India. Similarly, after the discovery of America, several vegetables such as potatoes, tomatoes and chillies were introduced in India which began to be cultivated on a large scale.

### **Answer 8**

During the American Civil War, the prices of cotton boomed. Credit was provided to peasants for growing cotton. But conditions began to deteriorate after the end of the American Civil War. As the prices of cotton fell, moneylenders began to refuse credit to peasants. This enraged the ryots not because they were forced deep into the debt trap but because the moneylenders were insensitive to their plight. By refusing to pay loans to the peasants, moneylenders were violating the customary norms of society. What was worse was that at this time, the moneylenders began to charge a high rate of interest. This also

infuriated the peasants. The ryots began to see the moneylender as devious and deceitful. They complained of moneylenders manipulating laws and forging accounts.

**Answer 9**

“The relationship of the sepoys with their superior white officers underwent a significant change in the years preceding the uprising of 1857.” This can be supported by the following examples:

- a. In the 1820s, the British officers maintained friendly relations with Indian sepoys. They participated in various leisure activities together. They wrestled with each other and accompanied one another on hunting tours. Many white soldiers were proficient in speaking Hindustani and respected the local culture and traditions. They were strict disciplinarians and were like a father figure to Indian soldiers.

However, this began to change by 1840. The white officers developed a sense of superiority and began to treat Indian soldiers inferior and hurled racial abuses at them. Physical violence also became common. As a result, sepoys began to distrust the white officers. The entire incident of greased cartridges in which the religious sentiments of the sepoys were ignored furnishes another example of the high-handedness of the British officers.

**Section II**

**Value-Based Question (Compulsory)**

**Answer 10.1**

The rebel proclamation of 1857 appealed to all sections of society irrespective of the caste and creed of any person. Although many Muslim princes issued proclamation on their names, they also took care of the sentiments and feelings of the Hindus. The rebellion was seen as a war against the foreigner in which both Hindus and Muslims had to combine against a common enemy.

**Answer 10.2**

Two ways in which peaceful coexistence and fraternity can be maintained:

- a. Feeling of religious tolerance and respect for each other’s cultures and traditions should be followed.
- b. Pillar of secularism should be strengthened and religious bigotry should be criticised.

**Part C: Long Answer Questions**

**Answer 11**

Numismatics is the study of coins including scripts and images marked on them. It helped in constructing political and economic history. People who study coins are known as numismatists. They have played an important role in discovering the commercial history during the Mauryan and Gupta periods.

Numismatists have carefully studied the punch-marked coins made of silver and copper. Various attempts have been made to identify the symbols on punch-marked coins with reference to specific

ruling dynasties. While coins were usually issued by the kings, evidences exist of them being issued by merchants and bankers. This shows the wealth and increasing powers of traders and merchants.

Gold coins were first issued by Kanishka in 1 CE from various sites in North and Central India. Such widespread use of gold coins indicates the enormous value of the transactions which were taking place. Many Roman gold coins have also been found from archaeological sites in south India. This shows that trade between South India and Roman Empire was flourishing during this period.

Archaeologists have unearthed several thousand copper coins issued by the Yandheyas—the tribal republics of Punjab and Haryana (first century CE)—which points to the interest and participation in economic exchanges. Some of the most spectacular gold coins were issued by the Gupta rulers. The earliest issues are remarkable for their purity. These coins facilitate long distance transactions from which kings also benefited.

However, few gold coins belonging to 6 CE have been found. Many suggestions have been put forward by historians. While some say that there was an economic crisis, others suggest that new networks of trade and towns began to emerge.

Thus, we find that numismatists have been able to reconstruct the commercial history of the past to a considerable extent.

### **Answer 12**

Zamindars played an important role during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century. The most important role of the zamindar was to collect revenue from farmers. After deducting their commission, they deposited the rest to the Indian treasury. The zamindars played an important role during this period.

- a. Zamindars performed various services for the state known as khidmat. They also had vast stretches of land known as milkiyat. They could sell or mortgage these lands at will.
- b. They also controlled military resources in Mughal India. They could maintain a cavalry, artillery and infantry. They also had the power to build forts. This increased their power and reputation in the mediaeval period.
- c. They occupied the apex position in the social system in India as they were a class of landed aristocracy.
- d. The zamindars were instrumental in colonising agricultural lands and helped the cultivators by providing them with loans. Evidences have shown that the zamindars often established local markets (*haats*) where peasants came to sell their produce or products.
- e. The zamindars have been known as an exploitative class; however, in certain respects, they also maintained good relations with the Indian peasantry, serving as a father-like figure. Their role in Indian agriculture has been of great importance in the mediaeval period.



**Answer 13**

Different sources from which we can reconstruct the political career of Gandhi and the history of the Indian National Movement are public voice and script, government reports and newspapers.

- a. Public voice and script: This includes autobiographies and personal writings of various eminent personalities who closely participated in the national movement. The writings of Mahatma Gandhi and his contemporaries play an important role in understanding the view of Mahatma Gandhi. The writings of Gandhi in his paper *Harijan* and an autobiography *My Experiments with Truth* shed light on his social and political ideologies. It also discusses some important national events.
- b. Government reports also shed light on Gandhi and the Indian National Movement. However, we should carefully analyse government reports before reconstructing the history of the Indian National Movement. This is because the government wanted to downplay the popularity of Gandhi and the Indian National Movement as it wanted to show that people had no problems under the British Raj. For example, according to the government report at the time of the Salt Satyagraha, it was clear that the Home Department was not willing to accept that Mahatma Gandhi received large support from the people. In the report, the Salt March was being painted as a drama of hopeless people.
- c. Newspapers published in English and vernacular languages are also an important source of the Indian National Movement. Newspapers were constantly watching and monitoring every move of Gandhi. They wrote extensively about his tour to the country and every political move. Newspapers also reported every event related to the Indian National Movement in great detail.

**Answer 14**

The collection and study of historical information based on interviews with people having personal knowledge of past events is known as oral history.

**1. Strengths of oral history**

- a. It helps us grasp experiences and memories in detail.
- b. Oral history helps historians to write and bring into focus vivid accounts of people during an event. The history of Indian Partition has been mainly constructed with the help of oral history.
- c. Personal views of people and their experiences cannot be found in government records. During Partition, government reports fail to mention the inability of the British administrators towards maintaining law and order.
- d. Oral history helps historians in broadening the limits of their discipline by including the narratives and firsthand accounts of the marginal section of society.

**2. Weaknesses of oral history**

- (i) Oral data may lack concreteness and the chronology they yield may not be correct.
- (ii) Historians argue that the uniqueness of personal experience makes generalisation difficult, a large picture cannot be built from micro evidences.
- (iii) Oral accounts are concerned with tangential issues.
- (iv) Small individual experiences may be irrelevant to unfolding of larger processes of history.

Four sources from which the history of Partition has been constructed:

- (i) **Diaries:** Several people wrote about their experiences of Partition in their diaries. This has become a rich source of history.
- (ii) **Oral Narration:** Oral narration has enabled historians to record the experiences of common people during Partition.
- (iii) **Family Histories:** The accounts of family histories tell us about the agonies faced by the members of families, their sufferings and trauma during Partition.
- (iv) **Memories and Experiences:** Partition was an event which affected mainly the people of Punjab and Bengal. Besides, people in large numbers were displaced from both sides of the border. Their memoirs and experiences of injustices, horror, kindness and faith form an important source of the history of Partition.

#### **Part D: Source-Based Questions**

##### **Answer 15**

**(5.1)** In the Mauryan period, irrigation was mainly carried out through wells and tanks. Canals were also used for irrigation.

**(15.2)** Rudradaman, a Shaka ruler in 2 CE, repaired Lake Sudrasha when its embankments were broken by a storm. He did not impose any taxes on the people for repairing this lake.

**(15.3)** Rudradaman demonstrated the values that an enlightened despot should have. He repaired Lake Sudarshan without imposing any taxes on its people.

##### **Answer 16**

**(6.1)** Bernier has elaborated about the practice of sati in the above passage. He describes a beautiful young woman, not more than 12 years of age, was forcibly taken to her husband's pyre. Three to four Brahmins along with an elderly lady tied the hands and feet of the young widow on a wooden pyre of her husband so that she could not run away from the spot.

**(16.2)** Bernier found it difficult to suppress his feelings and emotions at the sight of a young woman being burnt alive.

**(16.3)** Bernier chose the practice of sati to highlight the treatment of women in eastern societies. This practice was absent in the West. This helped Bernier in portraying the women in the East as a suppressed human being burned alive when her husband dies. He wanted to show that Eastern societies were brutal and primitive in nature.

##### **Answer 17**

**(17.1)** Sardar Patel outrightly rejected the issue of separate electorates. According to him, this system was implemented by the British as they were following the principle of 'divide and rule'.

**(17.2)** The principle of separate electorate was political mischief on the part of the British who wanted to rule India by playing one community against the other. Sardar Patel was of the opinion that though the British have left, this system of separate electorate is still in practice.

**(17.3)** Sardar Patel said that the principle of separate electorate should be abolished as no free nation follows this principle. He further said that India should also get rid of this practice of separate electorates as it can undermine the unity of the nation.

**(18.1) Map Work**

