

CBSE CLASS 12 History Sample Paper Solution 2024-25

SECTION – A

Ques 1. Which of the following options accurately describes the significance of the Sangam Age in the context of literature?

- A. It marked the introduction of Sanskrit literature in South India.**
- B. It was a period of decline in literary activities in Tamil Nadu.**
- C. It witnessed the flourishing collection of ancient Tamil literature.**
- D. It was characterized by the dominance of Greek literature in India.**

Ans. C

Solu. A prominent aspect of the Sangam Era (c. 300 BCE–300 CE) is the abundance of Tamil poetry and prose that was produced. This is an important period for Tamil literary traditions since it is marked by the rise of Sangam literature, which is a vast collection of poems and works that honor themes of love, bravery, and the beauty of nature.

Ques 2. To which one of the following dynasties did raja Gotami-puta Siri-Satakani belong?

- A. Vakataka**
- B. Satvahana**
- C. Kushan**
- D. Gupta**

Ans. B

Solu. The Satavahana dynasty, which ruled over a sizable portion of southern and central India from around the first century BCE to the third century CE, was led by Raja Gotami-puta Siri-Satakani. His contributions to the Satavahana Empire's growth and unification are well recognized.

Ques3. Two statements are given in the question below as Assertion A and Reason R. Read the statements and choose the appropriate option.

Assertion(R): Recovering artifacts is merely the initial step in the archaeological process.

Reason(R): Archaeologists employ various methods such as classification based on material and function, analysis of contextual clues, and reliance on indirect evidence to understand the significance and purpose of artifacts.

Options:

- A. Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- B. Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- C. (A) is correct, but (R) is not correct
- D. (R) is correct, but (A) is not correct.

Ans. A

Solu. The archaeological process is appropriately reflected in both statements. The initial stage involves the retrieval of artifacts, and the techniques outlined in (R) are crucial for deciphering those artifacts and appreciating their importance.

Ques 4. Consider the following statements regarding Buddhism and choose the correct option.

- I. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
- II. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.

III. Bodhisattva achieve nibbana for personal salvation.

Options

A. II & III

B. II & III

C. I & II

D. I & III

Ans. B

Solu. Given that a Bodhisattva is described as a compassionate entity pursuing enlightenment, Statement II is accurate. Statement III is also true, since bodhisattvas are believed to reach nibbana (nirvana) for their own personal salvation, even though a large portion of their path is dedicated to assisting others in becoming enlightened as well. Statement I is untrue, though, as the idea of a bodhisattva is more closely linked to Mahayana Buddhism than Hinayana.

Ques 5. Match the column I with column II regarding the archaeologist who worked in the exploration of Indus valley and choose the correct option.

Column I		Column II	
a	Daya Ram Sahni	i	Authored "Mohenjodaro & the Indus Civilisation"
b	Rakhal Das Banerji	ii	Discovered seals at Harappa
c	John Marshall	iii	Found seals at Mohenjodaro
d	R.E.M. Wheeler	iv	Authored "Ancient India"

Options: (a) (b) (c) (d)

A. (iii) (i) (ii) (iv)

B.	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)
C.	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
D.	(i)	(ii)	(iv)	(iii)

Ans. A

Solu. The correct matching is:

- Daya Ram Sahni - (ii) Discovered seals at Harappa
- Rakhal Das Banerji - (iii) Found seals at Mohenjodaro
- John Marshall - (i) Authored “Mohenjodaro & the Indus Civilisation”
- R.E.M. Wheeler - (iv) Authored “Ancient India”

Ques 6. Identify the ruler of the ancient India with the help of following information:

He was a prominent Shaka ruler.

He rebuilt Sudarshana Lake in the second century CE.

He showcased his engagement with Sanskritic traditions.

- A. Vikramaditya II**
- B. Bhaskaravarman**
- C. Bimbisara**
- D. Rudradaman**

Ans. D

Solu. Rudradaman was a prominent Shaka king renowned for his cultural and administrative achievements, which included rebuilding Sudarshana Lake and endorsing Sanskrit literature.

Ques 7. Identify which of the following options refers to the ancient cave painting given below?



- A. Ajanta Cave Paintings**
- B. Bagh Cave Paintings**
- C. Sittanavasal Cave Paintings**
- D. Ellora Cave Paintings**

Ans. A

Solu. The exquisite sculptures and wall paintings at the Ajanta Caves, which show scenes from the Jataka stories and the life of the Buddha, are well known. They were created between the second and sixth centuries BCE.

NOTE: The following question is only for the visually impaired candidate in lieu of Q7

In which of the following regions is the Kailasha temple located?

- A. Rajasthan**
- B. Maharashtra**

- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

Ans. B

Solu. Ellora, Maharashtra is home to the Kailasha temple, sometimes called the Kailasanatha temple. It is a remarkable rock-cut temple devoted to Lord Shiva that is well-known for its exquisite carvings and magnificent architecture.

Ques 8. Which of the following skills can be identified from Al-Biruni's writings?

- A. Proficiency in diplomacy and political negotiation.
- B. Fluency in multiple languages and a broad intellectual curiosity.
- C. Expertise in military strategy and warfare tactics.
- D. Exceptional talent for storytelling and vivid descriptions.

Ans. B

Solu. During the Islamic Golden Age, Al-Biruni was a polymath and scholar renowned for his mastery of a variety of sciences, including mathematics, astronomy, and geography. Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit, Greek, and Arabic were among the languages he spoke fluently. His writings, particularly those about India, show his intellectual curiosity about many cultures and belief systems.

Ques 9. Which of the following statements is incorrect about Andal?

- A. Andal was a woman Alvar, the most striking features of her compositions were widely sung.
- B. Andal was a woman Nayanar, she incorporated the prevailing caste system in the society.

C. Andal saw herself as the beloved of Vishnu; her verses express her love for the deity.

D. Andal saw herself as the beloved of Krishna; her verses express her love for the deity.

Ans. B

Solu. Andal was an Alvar, a devotee of Lord Vishnu, not a Nayanar, a follower of Lord Shiva. She is well regarded for her profound devotion to Vishnu, which is reflected in the Tiruppavai, one of her best-known poems. It is untrue to say that she adopted the current caste system because her writings don't show this kind of attitude.

Ques 10. Imagine you are analysing a historical document from the Vijayanagar Empire. Which of the following documents would be most helpful in understanding the relationship between the empire and religious institutions?

A. A military chronicle detailing the conquests of a Vijayanagar rulers.

B. A record of diplomatic exchanges with traders and foreign ambassadors.

C. A legal code outlining the rights and responsibilities of urban classes.

D. An imperial decree granting land or privileges to a sacred organization.

Ans. D

Solu. A direct indicator of the Vijayanagar Empire's backing for religious institutions would be an imperial proclamation awarding land or privileges to a religious organization. These donations were frequently given to temples, emphasizing the connection between the state and religion as well as the empire's support of religious endeavors.

Ques 11. Match the column I with column II regarding the travellers who visited the Vijayanagar empire and choose the correct option.:

Column I		Column II	
a	Nicolo de Conti	i	Ambassador of Persia visited in the 15th century.
b	Abdur Razzaq	ii	Italian trader who visited in the 15th century.
c	Afanasii Nikitin	iii	Portuguese traveller who visited in the 16th century
d	Duarte Barbosa	iv	Merchant from Russia who visited in the 15th century.

- Options:**
- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| a | b | c | d |
| A. (iii) | (i) | (ii) | (iv) |
| B. (iii) | (iv) | (i) | (ii) |
| C. (i) | (ii) | (iii) | (iv) |
| D. (ii) | (i) | (iv) | (iii) |

Ans. D

Solu.

- Nicolo de Conti was an Italian trader who visited in the 15th century.
- Abdur Razzaq was an ambassador of Persia who visited in the 15th century.
- Afanasii Nikitin was a merchant from Russia who visited in the 15th century.
- Duarte Barbosa was a Portuguese traveller who visited in the 16th century.

Ques 12. Which of the following developments significantly contributed to the increased flow of silver bullion into India through trade with Europe during the 16th-18th centuries?

- A. The rise of the Ottoman Empire in Asia**
- B. The opening of the new world through voyages**
- C. The Ming Dynasty's expansion into Southeast Asia**
- D. The decline of the Safavid Empire in Asia**

Ans. B

Solu. Europe gained access to enormous amounts of silver, especially from mines in South America, after the New World was discovered and trade routes were opened (Potosí). After then, this silver was traded for goods with India, a significant global hub for the manufacture of commodities like textiles and spices. This led to a rise in the amount of silver bullion entering India in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Ques 13. How did the compilation of the Ain-i Akbari contribute to Emperor Akbar's vision of governance? Choose the best suitable option from the following.

- A. By emphasizing military strategies for territorial expansion.**
- B. By documenting religious rituals and practices across the empire.**
- C. By providing information on administrative and cultural traditions.**
- D. By focusing on trade routes and economic policies.**

Ans. C

Solu. Abul Fazl, the court historian for Akbar, wrote the Ain-i Akbari, which provided information on the political, social, and cultural elements of the Mughal Empire. In keeping with Akbar's idea of a centralized, effective administrative

system, it offered a thorough explanation of the government systems, taxes, trade, and culture while also encouraging a heterogeneous society.

Ques 14. What insights did Francois Bernier provide about the economic structure of Mughal India? Choose the best suitable option from the following.

- A. The prevalence of private land ownership and equitable distribution of wealth.**
- B. The dominance of state-controlled resources and limitations on private property.**
- C. The absence of trade networks and economic isolation from global markets.**
- D. The reliance on foreign investments and the absence of indigenous industries.**

Ans. B

Solu. French explorer Francois Bernier noted that the Mughal state owned most of the land, with very little being owned by private individuals. He attacked the Mughal system, saying that it impeded wealth distribution and economic advancement because the state received the lion's share of land revenue, leaving little for private citizens.

Ques 15. Compare and contrast the impacts of the American Civil War on cotton production in India and the United States. Choose the best suitable option from the following.

- A. Both countries experienced a decline in cotton production due to the war.**
- B. India's cotton production increased while the United States experienced a decline.**

C. The United States saw increased cotton production while India's remained stagnant.

D. Both countries saw a surge in cotton exports during the war period.

Ans. B

Solu. The disruption of labor and exports during the American Civil War (1861–1865) caused a sharp decline in cotton production in the United States. India became a vital supplier to European markets, however, as worldwide demand shifted to India, increasing its production of cotton.

Ques 16. Why did the rebellion in Awadh become a symbol of resistance against British rule?

Choose the best suitable option from the following.

A. Due to the region's economic prosperity under native rule

B. Due to the displacement of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah and taluqdars

C. Due to favourable land revenue policies towards the peasantry

D. Due to Awadh 's central position for organizing rebel forces.

Ans. B

Solu. The local nobility and peasants were incensed by the conquest of Awadh and the banishment of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. As a result of the British depriving the taluqdars (landowners) of their customary rights, Awadh became a hub of resistance during the 1857 uprising.

Ques 17. Which of the following represents the correct chronological order of events related to agrarian developments in India during the 19th century?

I. The Permanent Settlement in Bengal

II. The Deccan Riots Commission

III. The Santhal Rebellion

IV. The Fifth Report by a Select Committee.

Options:

A. I, II, III & IV

B. II, III, IV & I

C. III, II, I & IV

D. I,IV,III & II

Ans. D

Solu. The correct chronological order is:

- I. Permanent Settlement (1793) in Bengal, a land revenue system introduced by the British.
- IV. Fifth Report (1813), which assessed the effects of British rule on land and taxation.
- III. Santhal Rebellion (1855-1856), an uprising by tribal people against exploitation.
- II. Deccan Riots Commission (1878), which investigated agrarian unrest in the Deccan.

Ques 18. Which one of the following was the Gandhi's main demands for the peasants in Champaran?

A. Increase in minimum wages of workers

B. Freedom to cultivate the crops of their choice.

C. Reduction in government taxes for social classes

D. Indian education for all farmers' children

Ans. B

Solu. During the Champaran Satyagraha (1917), Gandhi's primary demand was the freedom of indigo farmers to grow the crops of their choice. Gandhi battled to preserve their freedom to cultivate anything they wanted because the British landlords had forced them to grow indigo under unfair conditions.

Ques 19. Complete the following with the correct option regarding the role of leaders in the history of nationalism of their respective countries.

Ho Chi Minh: Vietnam, George Washington: -----

- A. USA**
- B. UK**
- C. France**
- D. Canada**

Ans. A

Solu. George Washington served as the nation's first president and was a pivotal role in the American Revolution. He was a pivotal character in the history of American nationalism as he led the American colonies to triumph over British rule and was instrumental in founding the country.

20 Identify the ruler of India in the 1850s from the given options using the provided information.

- I. He was the successor to Peshwa Baji Rao II**
- II. He was compelled by sepoys and the towns people to join the revolt as their leader from Kanpur.**

- A. Nana Sahib**
- B. Kunwar Singh**
- C. Birjis Qadr**

D. Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah

Ans. A

Solu. Peshwa Baji Rao II's adopted son Nana Sahib rose to prominence as a leader of the 1857 Rebellion. After the British refused him his lawful pension, he led the insurrection in Kanpur, and the local sepoys and citizens supported him throughout the uprising.

21. Which of the following were the key ideals associated with the social struggles in India since the nineteenth century?

- A. Autonomy, hierarchy, and traditionalism**
- B. Democracy, equality, and justice**
- C. Imperialism, colonialism, and bureaucracy**
- D. Monarchy, privilege, and conservatism**

Ans. B

Solu. Since the eighteenth century, social movements for social change and the opposition to British colonial rule have dominated social battles in India. These movements have been focused on the principles of democracy, equality, and justice. These ideals sought to challenge the hierarchical and oppressive systems of caste, colonialism, and gender discrimination.

SECTION B

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Ques 22. A. Analyze the layout of Harappan cities to identify features that promoted cleanliness and public health.

Solu. Cities of the Harappan era, like Mohenjodaro and Harappa, demonstrated sophisticated urban design that gave public health and hygiene first priority. The cities had distinct blocks and broad, straight streets arranged in a grid system. The intricate drainage system, which included covered sewers extending down streets to remove waste from residences and public spaces and stop the spread of illness and waterlogging, was a standout feature. Clean water was available from several wells and public baths like Mohenjodaro's Great Bath. The Harappan civilization's emphasis on trash disposal and access to clean water demonstrates their concern for public health and hygiene.

OR

B. Examine the challenges historians face in deciphering the Harappan script.

Solu. The inability to understand the Harappan writing presents historians with a number of difficulties. First, there is little context for interpretation given to the script's brief inscriptions, which are mostly discovered on seals and ceramics. Secondly, unlike the Rosetta Stone, it doesn't include a bilingual inscription that could help with translation. Third, there is disagreement over whether the writing depicts a system of symbols or a whole language. The challenge is increased by the fact that this writing was not continued after the Harappan civilization declined and no other scripts seem to have directly borrowed from it. Reconstructing the Harappan people's language, culture, and system of government is challenging due to these circumstances.

Ques 23. How does the Mahabharata show the multicultural nature of ancient Indian society? Explain with examples.

Solu. The inclusion of characters, tribes, and customs from various areas and socioeconomic groupings in the Mahabharata demonstrates the cosmopolitan aspect of ancient Indian culture. The epic depicts relationships between a variety

of ethnic groups, including the northern Indian Pandavas and Kauravas, the Nishadas, who stand in for native tribes who live in forests, and the Nagas, who are associated with cultures that worship snakes. Furthermore, the story's integration of many social groups is demonstrated by the presence of characters like as Draupadi, the warrior princess, and Ekalavya, a heroine with a tribal origin. The multifaceted, pluralistic nature of ancient Indian civilization is emphasized by the variety of rites, beliefs, and social conventions that are portrayed in the Mahabharata.

Ques 24. A. Examine the impact of Bhakti and Sufi poetry on the development of regional languages and literature.

Solu. In India, the development of regional languages and literature was greatly influenced by the Bhakti and Sufi movements. The Bhakti poets, like Tulsidas, Kabir, and Mirabai, wrote their poetry in regional tongues like Tamil, Marathi, and Hindi, enabling the general public to understand their spiritual teachings. Sufi poets such as Amir Khusro and Bulleh Shah also wrote in regional dialects like Hindavi and Punjabi. The profundity of spiritual truths communicated by these poets through straightforward, expressive language enhanced local vocabularies and literary traditions. Their writings encouraged the use of vernacular languages in both religious and secular contexts, laying the groundwork for the subsequent development of regional literatures.

OR

B. Examine how music and devotional songs in Bhakti and Sufi traditions serve spiritual expression and community unity.

Solu. In the Bhakti and Sufi traditions, music and devotional songs are essential means of expressing one's spirituality and promoting communal harmony. Kirtans

and bhajans, which are performed in public settings in the Bhakti tradition, enable followers to express their love and devotion to a personal god. These melodies are typically straightforward and repeated, promoting group participation. Similar to this, qawwalis and other devotional music performances are used in the Sufi tradition to inspire a feeling of divine love and oneness with the divine, overcoming social and religious boundaries. Through fostering an inclusive spiritual experience that transcends caste, class, and religious boundaries, these musical genres foster a sense of community and shared devotion.

Ques 25. Explain the term "Little Republics" as applied to villages during the Mughal period.

Solu. The Mughal era village communities' relative autonomy is referred to as "Little Republics" in this context. Villages were viewed as independent communities with local governing systems to handle their own concerns. Every hamlet had a panchayat, or council, which managed legal, administrative, and financial affairs, frequently with little help from the Mughal emperor's central government. These settlements operated rather independently when it came to allocating land, collecting taxes, and settling conflicts. The idea of "Little Republics" draws attention to the decentralized form of government that prevailed in rural India, where village communities had a great degree of autonomy.

Ques 26. Describe the aspirations and objectives of the rebels during the Indian Rebellion of 1857, as reflected in their proclamations and actions.

Solu. During the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the rebels' goals and aspirations were influenced by their desire to uphold traditional authority, oppose British imperialism, and redress their grievances with the social, economic, and religious changes that the British had imposed. Rebel leaders like Bahadur Shah Zafar and Nana Sahib called for a return to native rule, with the restoration of authority to the local rulers—including nobility and previous princes. In addition, the rebels wanted to put an end to measures like the Doctrine of Lapse, excessive taxes, and

landowner relocation. There was also a considerable backlash against British measures that were viewed as a threat to religion and culture, like the enactment of new laws that were thought to undermine customs.

SECTION C

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Ques 28. A. How did the philosophical and religious developments during the first millennium BCE in India influence the socio-political aspects? Explain with examples.

Solu. Major philosophical and theological traditions, including Buddhism, Jainism, and different Upanishadic schools of thought, emerged in India throughout the first millennium BCE. These changes have a big impact on India's sociopolitical environment. For instance, Buddhism and Jainism questioned the strict caste structure, questioned the authority of the Brahmanical order, and promoted social equality, moral behavior, and nonviolence. As a result of the spread of these faiths, society became more inclusive and states, led by leaders such as Ashoka, adopted Buddhist precepts and promoted dharma, or moral law, and nonviolence. Furthermore, these movements' beliefs promoted new kinds of government that prioritized fairness and compassion, which encouraged leaders to enact laws that prioritized the well-being of their constituents.

OR

B. How did the construction of stupas contribute to the spread of Buddhist teachings? Explain with examples

Solu. The dissemination of Buddhist teachings throughout the Indian subcontinent and beyond was greatly aided by the construction of stupas. Devotees would visit stupas, which were dome-shaped buildings that held

artifacts belonging to the Buddha or his disciples. Their creative depictions of the Buddha's life and teachings assisted in popularizing Buddhist ideas, and they functioned as hubs for instruction and meditation. For instance, the elaborate carvings and inscriptions on stupas like Sanchi and Bharhut tell tales from the Jataka tales and other Buddhist texts. These locations drew visitors from various areas, which helped Buddhism flourish as pilgrims and travelers brought the teachings to far-off places.

Ques 29. A. 'Vijayanagar empire was characterised by a distinctive architecture and building styles.' Justify the statement. Justify the statement.

Solu. The Vijayanagar Empire is well known for its unusual architecture, which combined innovative designs with traditional South Indian temple forms. The utilization of huge structures, elaborately carved pillars, and grand temple complexes were hallmarks of the empire's architecture. Two of the best examples are the Virupaksha and Vittala temples in Hampi, which have expansive courtyards, elaborate sculptures that depict Hindu mythological scenarios, and enormous gopurams (gateway towers). In addition, the empire brought new inventions for religious ceremonies, like as stepped tanks and "mandapas," or pillared halls. Vijayanagar's architecture demonstrated the riches and might of the empire, and its structures developed into important cultural icons that drew pilgrims and commerce and enhanced the area's economy.

OR

B. 'The establishment of the Vijayanagar Empire considered significant in the history of the Indian subcontinent'. Justify the statement.

Solu. A significant turning point in the history of the Indian subcontinent, especially South India, occurred with the founding of the Vijayanagar Empire in the fourteenth century. It conserved Hindu religious and cultural traditions while

acting as a barrier to the spread of Islamic Sultanates in the Deccan. The empire promoted trade with areas as far afield as Persia, Southeast Asia, and the Mediterranean, becoming as a hub of political stability, economic success, and cultural renaissance. It combined Jain, Islamic, and Hindu customs, acting as a melting pot of various cultural influences. The history and culture of South India were profoundly influenced by the empire's ability to withstand external challenges and its support of literature, art, and architecture.

Ques 30. A How did the Constituent Assembly address the issue of social justice, particularly concerning the rights of the people? Explain.

Solu. Social justice was a key component of the Indian Constituent Assembly's vision for the future country when it was writing the Constitution. Directive Principles of State Policy and fundamental rights were the main tools used to address this. The Assembly agreed that all citizens, regardless of social class, gender, or religion, should be treated equally and that discrimination based on caste must end. The provisions for affirmative action (Articles 15 and 16), the right to equality (Article 14), and the elimination of untouchability (Article 17) are all intended to empower neglected communities. The Directive Principles further exhorted the state to safeguard the rights of workers, ensure equitable resource allocation, and advance the welfare of all citizens.

OR

B. Explain the distribution of powers between the Centre and the States, as debated in the Constituent Assembly, highlighting differing viewpoints and concerns.

Solu. The division of authority between the federal government and the states was a hotly contested topic in the Constituent Assembly. The federal system established by the Constitution has a powerful central authority. The Union List, State List, and Concurrent List were the three lists into which the powers were

separated. Proponents of a strong central government, such as Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, contended that in a multiethnic nation like India, unity must be preserved and regionalism must be avoided. But members like H.V. Kamath and K. Santhanam expressed worries about over-centralization, believing it could jeopardize state sovereignty. While the Union List gave the Center control over national policy, the Concurrent List permitted both the Center and the States to enact laws on specific topics concerns like defense, foreign affairs, and communication. The State List ensured states could govern local matters such as police, public health, and agriculture.

SECTION D

SOURCE BASED QUESTIONS

Ques 31. Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Inscriptions

Inscriptions are writings engraved on hard surfaces such as stone, metal, or pottery. They usually record the achievements, activities, or ideas of those who commissioned them and include the exploits of kings, or donations made by women and men to religious institutions. Inscriptions are virtually permanent records, some of which carry dates. Others are dated on the basis of palaeography or styles of writing, with a fair amount of precision. For instance, in c. 250 BCE the letter “a” was written like this: By c. 500 CE, it was written like this: The earliest inscriptions were in Prakrit, a name for languages used by ordinary people. Names of rulers such as Ajatasattu and Asoka, known from Prakrit texts and inscriptions, have been spelt in their Prakrit forms in this chapter. You will also find terms in languages such as Pali, Tamil, and Sanskrit, which too were used to write inscriptions and texts. It is possible that people spoke in other languages as well, even though these were not used for writing.

I. What role does palaeography play in determining the age of inscriptions?

Solu. By examining the writing style employed, paleography—the study of ancient writing systems and the development of scripts—becomes essential in establishing the age of inscriptions. Historians are able to date inscriptions with a high degree of accuracy due to changes in letter forms and writing styles across time. Scholars can determine the date of the inscriptions by analyzing, for instance, the major variations in the form of the letter "a" found in inscriptions from approximately 250 BCE to 500 CE. Historians can place inscriptions in a chronological order even in cases when they lack specific dates by examining these variations.

II. How do inscriptions contribute to our understanding of ancient societies and cultures?

Solu. Important details on the social, religious, political, and economic aspects of ancient societies can be learned from inscriptions. They frequently document the accomplishments of kings, including public works projects or conquests, together with gifts given to religious organizations, illuminating the place of religion in public life. Additionally, inscriptions provide information on trade, governance, social hierarchy, and interactions between various tribes. Because they are essentially everlasting records, they aid historians in comprehending the values and beliefs of those who commissioned them. For instance, information regarding Ashoka's Buddhist policies and initiatives to advance moral government can be found in his inscriptions.

III. What insights can be gained from studying the languages used in inscriptions across different regions and time periods?

Solu. Historians can trace the linguistic diversity and cross-cultural exchanges in ancient societies by examining the languages employed in inscriptions. The fact that inscriptions are written in a variety of languages, including Prakrit, Pali, Tamil,

and Sanskrit, illustrates how multilingual ancient India was as well as the social groupings who spoke these languages. Prakrit's great appeal can be shown in the fact that both common people and emperors like Ashoka employed it frequently. Sanskrit inscriptions show the expansion of Brahmanical culture and are frequently linked to religious and political leaders. Language variations between regions also serve to emphasize the level of political power over various territories as well as the impact of local customs. Historians may learn more about the exchange of ideas between different geographical areas and cultural integration by looking at these linguistic patterns.

Ques 32. Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Translating texts, sharing ideas

Translating texts, sharing ideas Al-Biruni's expertise in several languages allowed him to compare languages and translate texts. He translated several Sanskrit works, including Patanjali's work on grammar, into Arabic. For his Brahmana friends, he translated the works of Euclid (a Greek mathematician) into Sanskrit.

I. Analyse the advantage Al-Biruni gained from his expertise in multiple languages?

Solu. Due to his multilingualism, Al-Biruni was able to access and comprehend a vast array of intellectual traditions from other countries. His proficiency in languages such as Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, and others allowed him to examine and analyze writings from the Indian and Islamic worlds. His ability to communicate fluently in language made it possible for him to act as a link between various cultures and promote information sharing. It also made it possible for him to translate influential books, maintaining and spreading significant concepts beyond linguistic and cultural barriers. His multilingualism

allowed him to compare the parallels and variations between the intellectual and religious traditions of many societies, broadening the scope of his studies.

II. Analyse the significance of Al-Biruni translating Patanjali's work on grammar into Arabic?

Solu. The Arabic translation of Patanjali's grammar by Al-Biruni was notable because it brought key ideas from Indian language theory to the Islamic community. Language studies in the Islamic world benefited from Patanjali's treatise, which deals with Sanskrit grammar and offers insights into the structure and laws of an old and profound language. Sanskrit was the primary language used to express Indian philosophy, religious writings, and culture, therefore the translation also helped people grasp these subjects better. Intellectual exchange between the Indian and Islamic scholastic traditions was greatly aided by Al-Biruni's provision of this knowledge to intellectuals who spoke Arabic.

III. How did Al-Biruni's translations contribute to the mutual understanding and appreciation between Islamic and Indian civilizations?

Solu. Through facilitating the exchange of ideas and knowledge between Islamic and Indian civilizations, Al-Biruni's translations made a vital contribution to mutual understanding and respect between these two cultures. Islamic academics were able to obtain important Indian books on linguistics, physics, philosophy, and mathematics thanks to his translations. Through this interchange, boundaries between cultures were lowered and a greater understanding of Indian intellectual traditions inside the Islamic world was fostered. Al-Biruni simultaneously introduced aspects of Hellenistic knowledge to India through his translations into Sanskrit of Greek writings. His translations paved the way for intellectual cooperation and respect by facilitating communication between two rich and distinct cultures.

Ques 33. Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

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 been 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 cannot 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 wicked dog-in-the-manger 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 of such 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 nature produces in abundance, the destruction itself means more national expenditure, and fourthly, to crown this folly, an unheard-of tax 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.

I. What does Gandhi's reference to the "power of peace and non-violence" suggest about his strategic approach to resistance against British colonial rule?

Solu. Gandhi's allusion to the "power of peace and non-violence" is indicative of his Satyagraha approach, which highlights the effectiveness of nonviolent civil disobedience as a means of opposing injustice. His strategy placed more emphasis on moral strength than physical force because he thought that nonviolent demonstrations could reveal the wrongs of British colonial policy and win over a large portion of the populace. Gandhi sought to bring about social and political change without using force by using nonviolence to awaken the consciences of both the oppressors and the downtrodden. By emphasizing patience, self-control, and moral superiority, this strategy sought to subvert British authority without resorting to forceful conflict.

II. What parallels can be drawn between Gandhi's critique of the salt tax and broader movements for social justice and human rights?

Solu. In many respects, Gandhi's criticism of the salt tax is similar to larger campaigns for social justice and human rights. First, like movements that oppose structural injustice and economic disparities, it draws attention to the exploitation of underprivileged groups by powerful authority. Similar to how unfair policies frequently impede the rights of vulnerable communities, the salt tax disproportionately affected the poorest individuals by denying them access to a basic necessity. Gandhi's appeal for the populace to oppose the tax is reminiscent of contemporary movements advocating for group action against laws and practices that discriminate. Furthermore, a great deal of other global human rights movements, including the American civil rights movement spearheaded by Martin Luther King Jr., have been influenced by his emphasis on non-violence and peaceful opposition.

III. How does Gandhi's reference to the destruction of salt by the government shed light on the broader implications of colonial policies on India's natural resources?

Solu. Gandhi's allusion to the government's devastation of salt illustrates the wider effects of colonial policy on India's natural resources. Gandhi highlighted how colonial rulers controlled and exploited India's natural wealth for their own economic advantage, by showing how the British government destroyed natural salt to retain its monopoly and enforce the salt tax. This strategy resulted in the needless destruction of national property in addition to denying Indians access to basic supplies like salt. It serves as an example of how profit was placed above the welfare of the native populace during colonial authority, frequently resulting in the depletion or loss of resources that the people could have used in a sustainable manner. Gandhi's criticism highlights the wider negative effects of exploitative colonialism on the environment and the economy.

SECTION E

Map Based Question

Ques 34 (34.1). On the given political map of India, locate and label the following with appropriate symbols:

I. Sanchi– A Stupa

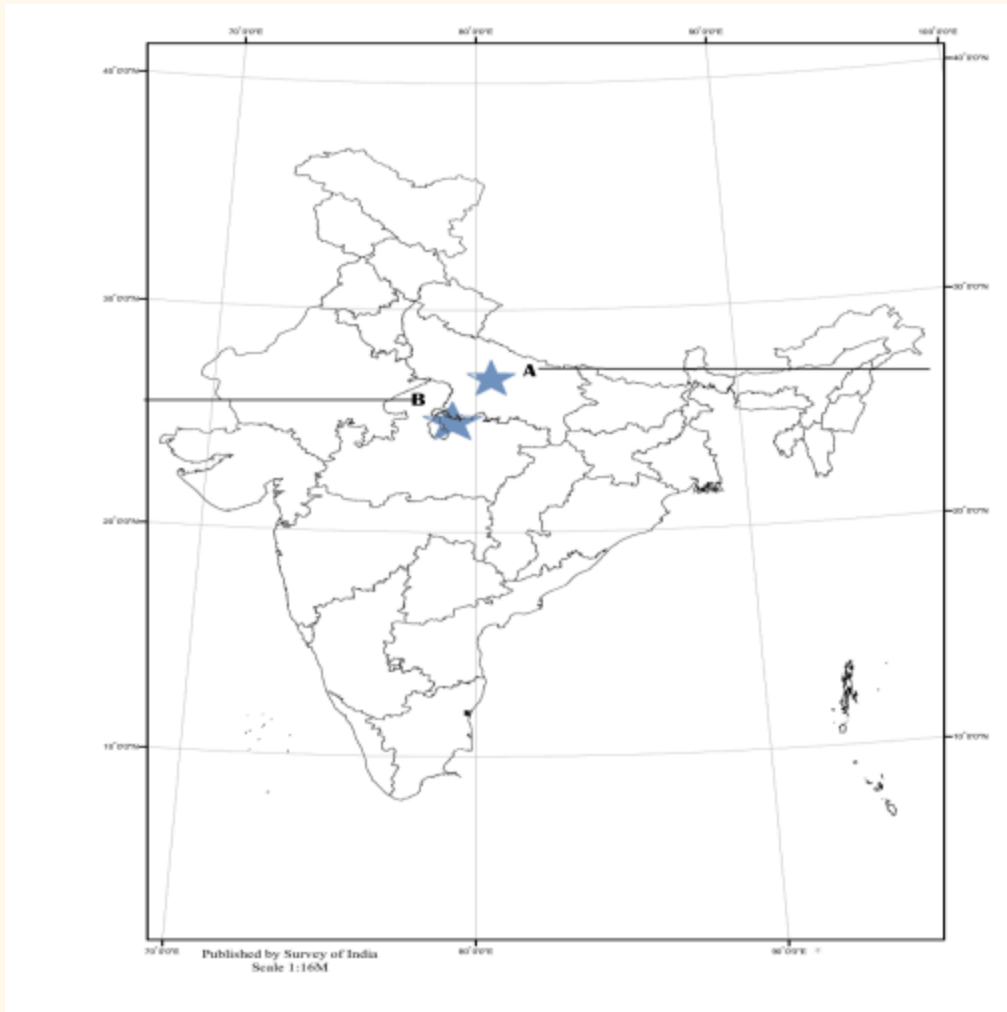
II. Kalibanga - Indus Valley Site

III. (a) Panipat-Territory Under the Control of Mughals

OR

(b)Vijayanagar- Capital of Vijayanagar empire

(34.2) On the same outline map, two places have been marked as 'A and B, as the centres of the Revolt of 1857 Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.



Note: The following questions are for the Visually Impaired Candidates only in lieu of Q.No.34

A. Mention any two Buddhist sites in the central India.

Solu.

- 1. Sanchi Stupa** (in Madhya Pradesh)
- 2. Ajanta Caves** (in Maharashtra)

B. (I) Mention any one Territory under Mughal empire.

Solu. *Bengal* was one of the prominent territories under the Mughal Empire.

OR

(II) Name the capital of Vijayanagar empire.

Solu. *Hampi* was the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire.

C. Mention any two centres of the Revolt of 1857

Solu.

1. Kanpur
2. Lucknow.