

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-III
History
Course: DSE-1 (Optional)
Science and Technology in Medieval India (1200-1707)

Questions are of equal value
Answer any *four* questions

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

1. Explain the theory that 'scientific facts are socially constructed and social factors influence the very content of scientific knowledge'.
2. What was the role of 'House of Wisdom' in spreading of scientific and technological knowledge?
3. Is it correct to say that medieval India was a hydraulic society? Give arguments to your answer in view of the large-scale hydraulic enterprises.
4. Write a note on the Arab renaissance and the growth of medicine and surgery.
5. Write an essay on the production of Satgaon quilts in 16th and 17th centuries.
6. Describe about the growth of miscellaneous minor technologies in Mughal India with special reference to paper production, glassware and glazed ware.
7. Discuss the new war-techniques and war-technologies introduced during the period of your study.
8. Do you think 'Jai Singh epitomized a rare combination of statesman and scientist'? Explain especially in context of his contribution to the growth of astronomy.

M.A. Examination, 2025

HISTORY

Semester-III

Course No. DSE-III

History in Literature: 19th and 20th Century India, with Special Reference to Bengal

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value
Answer *any four* of the following questions

1. Critically analyse the comparison between the Orient and the Occident as reflected in *Sabhyatar Sankat* by Rabindranath Tagore.
2. Do you think that writing of *Anandamath* was a conscious project of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay to instill martial pride in the history of the Bengalis?
3. Reflect on different dimensions involved in the journey of Gadadhar Chattopadhyay to become Sri Ramakrishna Paramhans.
4. Do you think that *Aranyer Adhikar* by Mahashweta Devi is a confluence of minds of an environmentalist, a historian, an anthropologist and a litterateur? Give justification for your answer.
5. What is the difference between a primer and a reader? Analyse with reference to *Varna Parichay* and *Sahaj Path* and the politics with these texts during the Left Front Government in West Bengal.
6. How far did Gora, the protagonist in the novel *Gora* go through ideological shifts in his life?
7. Discuss the decay of agrarian economy in rural Bengal as portrayed in Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay's *Ganadevata*.
8. Make an assessment of the trauma and the triumph as depicted in Shaktipada Rajguru's *Meghe Dhaka Tara*.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-III
History
Course DSE- IV
Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Analyze how imperial objectives shaped the development of colonial medical policy in India.
 2. Examine the colonial response to epidemics such as cholera, plague, smallpox and influenza.
 3. Assess the impact of colonial policies on midwifery and women healers.
 4. Write a critique on the development of lunatic asylums in India and their role in colonial social control.
 5. Discuss Kadambini Ganguly and Anandibai Joshi's attempts to challenge Indian patriarchal norms?
 6. Explain the colonial government's reluctance to invest in rural health infrastructure.
 7. How did the traditional medical systems respond to the challenges of colonialism?
 8. How did British rule influence perception of health, hygiene, morality and dietary practices in colonial Bengal?
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M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-III
History
Course: DSE-VIII (Optional)

Contextualizing the Colonial Armies: The Colonial Army and Indigenous Society (1757-1947)

Questions are of equal value
Answer any *four* questions

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

1. 'The Bengal Army's ethos was based on the notion of Honour and Justice'- Justify.
2. Contrast the recruitment policies of the pre-mutiny Bengal and Bombay Armies.
3. Discuss the major social groups that featured in the pre-mutiny Madras Army.
4. How have marginal regions and communities been represented in the historiography on 1857?
5. What were the basic strands of the Martial Race Theory?
6. What were the particular challenges posed by the World War 1 to the British Indian Army?
7. Write a note on the Indianization policy of the British Indian Army.
8. The post-independence Indian Army had a strong colonial legacy. Comment.

M.A. Examination, 2025

Semester- III

History

COURSE: DSE-IX

Business History of Maritime India (1700-1800)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Give an outline of the eighteenth-century Indian maritime merchant.
2. Write a note on the business communities of the eighteenth century, with particular emphasis on the Armenians in Bengal.
3. Why did a section of wealthy Indian merchants develop a close, symbiotic relationship with the Europeans, and what were the implications of this adaptation?
4. How did the *Hundi* support political and military activities in eighteenth-century India?
5. Examine the economic, political, and social profile of brokers in India.
6. Do you think the 1732 crisis at Surat marked the beginning of the decline of large merchant houses in India? Why?
7. Briefly discuss the origins and activities of the Managing Agency Houses in India during the eighteenth century.
8. How and why did Surat decline as a port city in the eighteenth century?

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-III
History
Course Code: DSE-X (Optional)

Twentieth Century World

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Discuss the meaning of the word Imperialism. Explain its main theories.
 2. Explain the meaning of Socialism. Discuss its main features and how it differs from Communism?
 3. How did Balkan nationalism become one of the chief causes of World War I?
 4. In what ways did the World Economic Depression affect the USA and European countries?
 5. Discuss briefly how Hitler became popular in Germany. Why did the Western Powers follow the Policy of Appeasement towards the Axis Powers?
 6. Critically analyse the impact of World War II.
 7. Describe the relations between the Communist Party and the Kuomintang Party in China. What were the factors that accounted for Communist victory in the end?
 8. Highlight the major themes of Decolonisation. Explain some of its theories.
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M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-III
HISTORY
Course: DSE- XI (Optional)

Environmental History of Medieval and Modern South Asia

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value
Answer *any four* of the following questions

1. Historically, what kind of influence did the environment have on India's geographical location?
2. What effects does the annual monsoon have on the environment of the Indian subcontinent?
3. How were the different seasons made favourable for agricultural activities during the period of the Delhi Sultanate?
4. What kinds of studies were carried out on climate, temperature, and environmental pollution during the Mughal rule? What new information emerged from them?
5. Discuss hunting by kings and nobles in the Mughal era and its consequences on the environment.
6. Discuss the nature of British influence in the conservation and use of water resources in the 18th and 19th century India.
7. Analyse the impact of the introduction of railways in India on the environment.
8. Discuss Gandhiji's philosophy regarding environmental destruction and conservation.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester III
History
Course: DSE-XIII (Optional)
History of the USA (1492-1860)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Examine the circumstances in which the 'Pilgrim Fathers' migrated to the New World.
2. What were the main reasons leading to the American War of Independence?
3. Analyse the long-term consequences of the Anglo-French conflict in the American Continent.
4. What were the drawbacks of the Articles of Confederation?
5. Discuss the main ideological differences between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.
6. Was the 'War of 1812' an accidental war? Justify your answer.
7. How did the appointment of Andrew Jackson signify a paradigm shift in American politics?
8. Why did the elevation of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency of USA lead to a civil war like situation?

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester III
History
Course Code- XIII
Medieval India: Regional Powers-II

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Zain-ul Abidin has often been described as the 'Akbar of Kashmir.' Critically assess the validity of this comparison in terms of statecraft, religious policy, and cultural patronage.
2. Examine the nature of Mughal rule in Kashmir with special reference to administrative and cultural policies.
3. Analyse the bio-resources of the Vijayanagara Empire and their role in sustaining the imperial economy. How did artisanal groups integrate into local and transregional economic networks?
4. Discuss the formation and expansion of the Gajapati state of Odisha. How was the Jagannatha cult employed as an instrument of political legitimacy and state ideology?
5. Critically evaluate the evolution of literature as a historical source in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Rajasthan.
6. Did Mughal–Rajput relationship strengthen the Mughal imperial structure or did it undermine Rajput political cohesion? Comment.
7. Examine the cultural and intellectual contributions of Mirza Raja Jai Singh.
8. Analyse the nature of the Maratha state in the eighteenth century. How did the evolving relationship between the Chhatrapati and the Peshwa shape Maratha politics and governance?

M.A. Examination, 2025

Semester-III

History

Course: CC-XIV

Modern India: Gandhi and the Indian National Movement (1914-1947)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Critically examine the significance of Gandhi's early movements in shaping the strategy of mass nationalism after 1917.
2. Examine the causes of the withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement. Was Gandhi justified?
3. Assess the role of the Simon Commission and the Nehru Report in stimulating the nationalist movement.
4. Discuss the growth of communal politics through the 1920s to 1940s and the ideological evolution of the Muslim League.
5. Did Rabindranath Tagore offer an alternative route to attainment of Swaraj? Discuss in this connection his relationship with mainstream nationalist movement.
6. Do you think that the Gandhi-Subhas rift in turn weakened Indian National Congress?
7. Evaluate the role of women in the nationalist movement.
8. Would you agree that 1946 was a crucial year for the British Empire in India?

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-III
History
Course: DSE-XV (Optional)
The Cold War and Its Impact

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. What do you understand by Cold War? Briefly explain the main theories of Cold War.
2. Describe briefly how Eastern Europe was brought under Soviet control.
3. Discuss the important developments that took place in US-Soviet relations from April 1950 to 1955. Why was the Soviet Union more acceptable to the Third World countries?
4. Analyse briefly the circumstances leading to the Berlin Blockade. What was its final outcome?
5. Was the USA successful in preventing the unification of Vietnam under Communist rule?
6. Explain the role of the Western Powers led by the USA in the Korean War.
7. Trace the steps leading to the end of the Cold War? Explain the theories explaining the end of the Cold War.
8. Highlight the main principles of the Bandung Conference of 1955. How far do you think the Non-Alignment Movement can be called non-aligned.?

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-III
HISTORY
Course: CC-XV
India after Independence: 1947-1971

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value
Answer *any four* questions

1. How can you posit Nehru's 'Tryst with Destiny' speech in context of the challenges in front of the newly independent India?
2. Critically analyse the significance of Gandhi's death in Indian history.
3. Do you think that the Indian Constitution provided much needed bond to ensure unity in India? Justify your answer.
4. Write a critical note on the linguistic reorganisation of states in post-independent India.
5. Discuss in detail the integration of princely state of Kashmir into Indian Union.
6. Do you think that the first General Election of India could ensure India's aspiration for democracy? Justify your answer.
7. What did Jawaharlal Nehru mean by 'scientific temper'? What was his contribution in modernising the field of science and technology in India?
8. Critically discuss Nehru's foreign policy with special reference to US and USSR.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-III
History
Course: DSE-XVI (Optional)
Contemporary World

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value
Answer *any four* questions

1. Explain the meaning of Feminism. Describe the Liberal Theory of Feminism.
2. Discuss the contribution of three male reformers towards female education and social reforms in the three Presidency towns of British India.
3. What are the main features of Third World Feminism? Describe the attitude of Gandhi and Nehru towards Indian women.
4. Were women revolutionaries in Bengal actually able to challenge male patriarchy? Give reasons for your answer.
5. Write a critical essay on the meaning, causes, methods and impact of Terrorism.
6. How did Al-Qaeda become one of the most powerful terrorist organizations in the world? Did it carry out terrorist acts through its affiliated organisations?
7. What circumstances led to the formation of the PIRA (Provisional Irish Republican Army)? Explain some of its methods of functioning.
8. Explain the meaning and major themes of Globalisation. Discuss any three agencies of Globalisation.

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-III
HISTORY
Course: DSE–XVIII (Optional)

History of Western Political Thought I

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. What do you understand by ‘Socratic Technique’? Assess the significance of Socrates as a political philosopher in the light of his technique.
2. In many ways, Plato and Aristotle were not part of the same tradition of political thought. Give your opinion.
3. Why did Stoicism become the fundamental political philosophy of the Roman Empire? Discuss with emphasis on the works of Cicero and Marcus Aurelius.
4. ‘St. Augustine’s neo-Platonic distinction between the eternal city and the corruptible life of the flesh, together with his insistence that reason without faith resulted in the futile pursuit of wisdom, would shape the outlook of the Church throughout the Middle Ages and beyond.’ Discuss.
5. Write a critical note on medieval papalism as political theory.
6. Situate Thomas Aquinas within an analysis of medieval scholasticism.
7. Marsilius of Padua was the most radical political philosopher of the Middle Ages. Argue for or against the statement.
8. Comment on the Machiavellian political prescription, with special emphasis on his idea of *virtù*.

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-III
HISTORY
Course: DSE-XIX (Optional)
History of Western Political Thought II

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value
Answer *any four* questions

1. Discuss Martin Luther's unintended legacy in Western political thought.
2. What was the historical backdrop against which Jean Bodin formulated his idea of royal sovereignty? Discuss the main features of Bodin's idea of royal sovereignty.
3. Trace the transition of English political philosophy from Tudor Reformation to Stuart Divine Right Theory.
4. Historicise and analyse Thomas Hobbes' theory of 'secular absolutism'.
5. Assess the political impact of Calvinism on western Europe. How did Knox, Buchanan, Goodman, Ponet, Hotman, Beza and Plessis-Mornay contribute to the development of political Calvinism?
6. Critically evaluate John Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*.
7. Write an analytical note on Republican political thought in England as represented by Nedham, Milton, the Levellers and the Diggers.
8. Did Hugo Grotius set new directions in theorising Natural Law? Comment.