

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-IV
History
Course: CC-XVII
Medieval India: Art, Architecture, Language and Literature (1200-1707)

Questions are of equal value
Answer any *four* questions

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

1. How will you define art? What are the chief features of Indo-Islamic art?
2. What do you understand by Mamluk architecture? How will you distinguish Sultanate architecture from Mughal architecture?
3. Compare and contrast between the tomb of Humayun and the Taj Mahal.
4. What were the chief features of the architecture of the Vijaynagar Empire?
5. Do you think there was a Jaunpur school of painting? Give arguments and evidences for your answer.
6. Write a note on the salient features of the Jain paintings executed during the medieval period.
7. Trace the origin and growth of sufi love-lores in Hindi literature during the period of your study.
8. How far is it possible to trace emotions and anxiety in the history of Mughal Indian music?

M.A. Examination, 2026

Semester-IV

HISTORY

Course: CC-XVI

Economic History of India: Production, Internal Trade, Banking and Currency in Colonial India

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Discuss the major trends in the organization of traditional commodity production on the eve of the Battle of Plassey.
2. Was Indian trade peddling in nature till the middle of the eighteenth century?
3. What were the consequences of the English East India Company's political control on indigenous silk producers?
4. Write a critique on the problem of remittance of the English East India Company's officials. How was it solved?
5. Account for the emergence of Agency Houses in Bengal.
6. Situate the importance of Motilal Seal in the commercial world of Calcutta in the first half of nineteenth century.
7. Discuss the nature of colonial impact on Indian economy.
8. Examine the major trends in Toru Matsui's critique of Morris D. Morris's interpretation of the performance of the Indian economy in the Nineteenth Century.

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-IV
History
Course: CC-XVIII
India after Independence (1972-2004)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Evaluate Indira Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India.
2. Critically analyse the role of JP behind the decision to impose Emergency in India.
3. What was the nature of the initial public reaction towards emergency? Why was it so? When did it change?
4. Critically analyse the period between March, 1977 and July, 1979 in Indian history.
5. Discuss in detail the history of the Punjab crisis that led to Operation Blue Star.
6. Do you think that the Shah Bano case was in a way responsible for the revival of temple-mosque controversy concerning Babri Masjid?
7. How did BJP react to the Mandal Commission recommendations?
8. How did the initiation of economic liberalization in the early 1990s lead to an alteration in the socio-economic structure of India?

M.A. Examination, 2026

Semester-IV

HISTORY

Course: CC-XIX

Economic History of India: Industrial Development in India (c. 1850s–c. 1950s)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Discuss the relevance of the concept of 'labour-intensive industrialization' in the context of the de-industrialization debate during the period of your study.
2. Describe the supply-side factors that allowed handloom to survive in India in spite of competition from power-driven looms.
3. Trace the stages of industrialization in India from the pre-war period to the interwar years.
4. Critically discuss the growth of cotton mills in India up till the 1950s, with special emphasis on labour mobilization.
5. Write a note on the development of labour laws between the 1850s and the 1950s.
6. The persistent scarcity of capital in Indian large-scale industry led to some distortions and some innovations. Discuss.
7. What do you understand by entrepreneurship in the Indian industrial context? Compare the patterns of entrepreneurship in western, southern and eastern India.
8. Why did the Bengalis fail to develop a 'business culture' between the 1850s and the 1950s?

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: DSE-XVII
Gender, Colour and Race: Some Major Movements of the 20th Century

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value
Answer any four questions

1. Explain the meaning of the term 'Gender'. Briefly discuss the main features of Social Movements in the 20th Century.
2. Highlight the role of Emmeline Pankhurst in the Suffrage Movement in the UK. When did British women obtain their voting rights?
3. Discuss the partnership that existed between Stanton and Anthony in the Suffrage Movement in the USA. Did the struggle for voting rights for women in the USA differ from that of the UK?
4. What Kind of racial inequalities did the Blacks suffer in the USA? Which incident marked the first important protest and against what?
5. Discuss the contribution of women in the Civil Rights Movement. Were the women free of gender prejudices?
6. Critically examine the main Apartheid laws in South Africa and the reasons behind their adoption.
7. Assess the role and struggles of Nelson Mandela in the anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa.
8. What were the factors that acted as a deterrent to the policy of Apartheid? How did Apartheid come to an end in South Africa?

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-IV
History
Course: DSE-V

History of Science and Technology in Colonial & Postcolonial India

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Write a critical note on the features of dissemination of western science in colonial India.
2. Make an analysis of the development of medical knowledge in colonial Bengal leading to the establishment of the Calcutta Medical College.
3. What were the objectives of Mahendralal Sircar behind the establishment of Indian Association for Cultivation of Science (IACS) in 1876?
4. Analyse the journey of P.C. Ray from science to society with particular reference to Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited.
5. Do you think that J.C. Bose could fulfil the nationalist pride of contemporary India through his scientific achievements?
6. How did Rabindranath Tagore envisage science?
7. Write a critical note on the formation of All India Radio (AIR), with special reference to the initial hesitation on the part of the British Indian Government.
8. How did the competition-collaboration syndrome affect the sound recording industry in colonial Bengal during the early years of twentieth century?

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: DSE-VII
Historical Application in Tourism

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value
Answer any four questions

1. To what extent can travelogues be treated as reliable historical sources for reconstructing the past? Discuss critically.
2. Write a brief essay on the typology of tourism.
3. Analyse the causes and consequences of unethical tourism in the contemporary world.
4. Critically explain how different kinds of tourism activities affect the natural and man-made environment.
5. Discuss how social values are created and preserved through the practice of tourism.
6. How do political instability and global crises influence tourism patterns? Explain with examples.
7. What positive role does social medium play in the expansion of modern-day tourism?
8. Assess the future of tourism in the age of climate change and environmental uncertainty.

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-IV
History
Course: DSE-XX

Industrialization in Great Britain and Europe, 1750-1900

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Why did industrialization first happen in Great Britain?
2. The industrialization process in Great Britain was more evolutionary in nature than revolutionary. Would you agree with this statement?
3. Does adopting a regional approach to the industrial process in Great Britain help us formulate a more nuanced picture of the entire process?
4. What do you understand about the Great Divergence theory? Is it an adequate explanation for industrialisation in England and later in other parts of Europe?
5. What was the reason for late mechanisation in France? Was France a bigger success story in the long run?
6. What was unique about the German industrialization process?
7. Would you say that the standard of living improved dramatically in Great Britain between 1780-1900?
8. How does literature help us in understanding the effects of industrialization in 19th century Great Britain?

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: DSE- VI
Tourism in India: Contribution and Impact

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value
Answer any four questions

1. Analyse the role of the Government towards the development of tourism in India reflected in the Five-Year Plans during the last century.
2. What is Cultural Heritage Tourism? Examine its potential for development in West Bengal.
3. Explain how Shekhawati region in Rajasthan is termed as the 'open air art gallery'?
4. Discuss how fairs and festivals are becoming an integral part of tourism in contemporary India.
5. Critically analyse the past, present and the future prospect of houseboat tourism in Kashmir and Kerala.
6. Explain the development of eco-tourism in India.
7. Do you think that Tea Tourism has a great future in India? Discuss with examples.
8. Discuss prospect and development of tourism in Ladakh.

M.A. Examination, 2026

Semester-IV

History

Course: DSE-XIV

History of the USA (1860-1945)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Discuss the socio-economic condition in America during the first half of the nineteenth century. What was the basic contradiction that led to the Civil War?
2. What was the significance of railways in American history?
3. Discuss the social and economic impact of technological innovations during the second half of the nineteenth century in America.
4. Discuss the significance of Frederick Jackson Turner's 'Frontier Thesis' in American history.
5. What was progressive about the progressive movement in post civil-war USA?
6. How did the Presidential tenure of Theodore Roosevelt mark a breakthrough as far as American domestic and international policies were concerned?
7. What were the inherent contradictions in President Woodrow Wilson's progressive agenda?
8. What were the causes of the Great Depression of 1929? How effective were President Roosevelt's measures in tackling the Depression?

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-IV
History
Course: DSE XII
History of Ideas in Colonial India

Questions are of equal value
Answer *any four* questions

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

1. Discuss Edward Said's idea of 'Orientalism'. Do you think this idea is helpful in studying colonial India?
2. Evaluate Jyotiba Phule as a social reformer and radical anti-caste thinker.
3. Discuss the main tenets of economic nationalism in colonial India.
4. How did political nationalism evolve in colonial India? What role did religion play in constructing national identity?
5. Briefly discuss the Gandhi-Ambedkar debate.
6. Discuss the role of Maulana Bhasani and Awami League in the political development of Pakistan.
7. Discuss the political vision of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
8. What role did Iqbal play in the creation of Pakistan?

M.A. Examination, 2026
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: DSE-II
The Himalayas in the British Period

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Analyse the stages of expansion of British supremacy towards the Himalayan frontier regions of India.
2. How did Warren Hastings shape the initial British policy for the Himalayan region?
3. Critically discuss the stages of development of Anglo-Bhutanese relationship in the 19th century.
4. Explain the causes of emergence and development of hill stations in India during 19th century.
5. Analyse how Kalimpong became an urban and trading centre in the Eastern Himalayan region.
6. How did cinchona plantation take place in the hills of Darjeeling and adjoining areas.
7. Explain the stages of development of Nainital as a popular hill station in the Kumaon Himalaya region.
8. Discuss the stages of growth of North East Frontier Tract (NEFT) into Arunachal Pradesh, a state of independent India.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
HISTORY

Course: CC–XVI (Compulsory)

Economic History of India: Production, Internal Trade, Banking and Currency in Colonial India

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. What were the main characteristics of local and regional markets in pre-colonial India, and how were they integrated with long-distance trade networks?
2. What role did merchant communities play in facilitating trade in pre-colonial Indian markets?
3. What were the consequences of the English East India Company's domination over the cotton textile industry for local weavers and artisans in Bengal?
4. How did Agency Houses facilitate trade, banking, and investment for British merchants and the East India Company in colonial India?
5. Write a critique on the Managing Agency System.
6. Account for the emergence of joint-stock banks in 19th-century colonial India?
7. Discuss the nature of colonial impact on indigenous industries.
8. Examine the major trends in Morris D. Morris's interpretation of the performance of the Indian economy in the nineteenth century.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
History
Course: CC-XVII (Compulsory)
Medieval India: Art, Architecture, Language and Literature (1200-1707)

Questions are of equal value
Answer any *four* questions

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

1. 'Art is the response of man's creative soul to the call of the real' (Tagore). Discuss it in context of the theory of art.
2. What are the chief features of Indo-Islamic architecture? Explain.
3. Write a note on the place of Qutb Minar in the field of Islamic architecture. Do you think it was the first example of Indo-Islamic building in India?
4. Give arguments to testify that Fatehpur Sikri complex 'was truly in keeping with Akbar's nascent policy of universal toleration'.
5. Examine the main features of the Jaunpur architecture with special reference to propylon and *hammam*.
6. Do you think that painting had considerably developed under Malwa Sultanate? Answer with arguments and examples.
7. Trace the origin and growth of Bengali language and literature.
8. How was music patronized by the Mughal rulers in India?

M.A. Examination, 2024
Semester-IV
History
Course: CC-XVIII (Compulsory)
India after Independence, 1972-2004

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Evaluate Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister of India.
2. Analyse the political stand of Jayaprakash Narayan during early 1970s.
3. Was Emergency needed? Give justification for your answer.
4. Trace the process of 'a statesman turning into a politician' in the career of Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister of India.
5. Compare between the political legacies of the two Prime Ministers of two non-Congress Governments.
6. Why is 1984 regarded as a crucial year in this history of independent India?
7. Account for BJP's rise to power.
8. How far successfully did Indian cinema respond to contemporary social realities during 1960s-1980s? Do you think that the title *Social Construction of a Hero, The Images By Amitabh Bachchan* (by Susmita Dasgupta) justifies the content of the work?

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: CC–XIX (Compulsory)
Economic History of India: Industrial Development in India (1850s–1950s)

Time: **3 Hours**

Full Marks: **40**

Questions are of equal value

Answer **Question No. 1** and *any three* of the remaining questions

1. India was a small, open economy between the 1850s and the 1950s. Explain.
2. Describe the demand-side factors that allowed handloom to survive in India in spite of competition from power-driven looms?
3. What was the impact of the two World Wars on the development of Indian industries? What factors enabled them to survive the Depression years in between better than those of the industrial West?
4. Compare the processes of the growth of cotton mills and jute mills in India up till the 1950s.
5. Write a brief note on the development of labour laws between the 1850s and the 1950s.
6. The persistent scarcity of capital in Indian large-scale industry led to some distortions and some innovations. Discuss.
7. What do you understand by entrepreneurship in the Indian industrial context? Compare the patterns of entrepreneurship in western and eastern India.
8. Why did the Bengalis fail to develop a “business culture” between the 1850s and the 1950s?

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: DSE- II (Optional)
The Himalayas in the British Period

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Analyse the stages of expansion of British supremacy and initial British policy towards the Himalayan frontier regions of India.
2. How did British historians and writers portray the Himalayan frontier area during the late 18th and early 19th centuries?
3. Critically discuss the stages of development of Anglo-Bhutanese relationship in the 19th century.
4. Explain the causes of emergence and development of hill stations in India during the 19th century.
5. Analyse how Kalimpong became an urban and trading centre in the Eastern Himalayan region.
6. How did Cinchona plantation take place in the hills of Darjeeling and the adjoining areas?
7. Explain the stages of development of Nainital as a popular hill station in the Kumaon Himalaya region.
8. Discuss the stages of growth of North East Frontier Tract (NEFT) into Arunachal Pradesh, a state in independent India.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
History
Course: DSE-V (Optional)
History of Science and Technology in Colonial India
Time: 3 hours **Full Marks: 40**

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

1. Make a critical assessment of dissemination of western science in modern India.
2. Write a note on the Asiatic Society and its contribution to bridge the gap between core and the periphery.
3. How did Calcutta Medical College alter the medical scenario of Indian sub-continent?
4. Critically assess the position of Mahendralal Sircar in the history of science in colonial India.
5. Do you think that the 'Indianness' in J.C. Bose's research led to his marginalization from the contemporary scientific community?
6. Do you think that P.C. Ray's scientific career was a successful combination of industry and research?
7. How do you assess the role of Dawn Society in popularisation of science among the common people of India?
8. Make an assessment of science-consciousness of Rabindranath Tagore.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: DSE- VI (Optional)
Tourism in India: Contribution and Impact

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Analyse the role of the Government towards the development of tourism in India as reflected in the Five Year Plans during the last century.
2. What is Cultural Heritage Tourism? Examine its potential for development in West Bengal.
3. Explain why Shekhawati region in Rajasthan is termed as the ‘open air art gallery’?
4. Discuss how fairs and festivals are becoming integral part of tourism in contemporary India.
5. Critically analyse the past, present and future prospect of houseboat tourism in Kashmir.
6. Explain the development of eco-tourism in India.
7. Do you think that Tea Tourism has a great future in India? Discuss with examples.
8. Discuss how social media can be a vehicle for the promotion of tourism industry.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
Course: DSE-VII (Optional)

Historical Application in Tourism

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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

1. Trace the historical evolution of tourism from ancient times to the modern era.
2. Examine the different reasons behind travel with suitable examples.
3. How does terrorism affect tourism? Give examples.
4. What are the effects of tourism on the environment? How can tourism become more eco-friendly?
5. Trace the historical development of medical tourism and evaluate India's role as a destination for this.
6. What do you mean by unethical tourism? Discuss child and sex tourism and measures to prevent this.
7. Discuss the role of UNWTO in shaping global tourism policies and sustainable tourism practices.
8. How did globalization historically expand the reach of tourism and transform its nature?

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: DSE–XII (Optional)
History of Ideas in Colonial India

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value

Answer *any four taking two* from each group

Group A

1. Critically examine how male patriarchy determined women's secondary status in respect to Hindu widows in (a) Pandita Ramabai's 'The High Caste Hindu Woman' OR (b) Tarabai Shinde's 'Stri Purush Tulana.'
2. What is the meaning of Vedanta? How does Swami Vivekananda's Neo-Vedanta differ from Advaita Vedanta?
3. Discuss the ideas of Tilak regarding Nationalism and Swaraj.
4. Trace the evolution of Aurobindo's ideas of passive resistance in relation to India's freedom struggle.

Group B

5. How did Jyotirao Phule's views on caste and social justice challenge the prevailing norms of his time?
6. Discuss the influence of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on the Indian nationalist movement.
7. In what ways did Dadabhai Naoroji's economic analysis of colonial rule challenge the prevailing British narrative of benevolent colonialism?
8. Write a critique on M.N. Roy's influence on the Communist movement in India.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: DSE-XIV (Optional)
History of the USA (1860-1945)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* of the following questions

1. Was the Gilded Age an age of opposites? Comment.
2. Critically analyse Woodrow Wilson's Reforms. What were the contradictions in his policies?
3. What was the role of USA as far as the establishment of the League of Nations was concerned?
4. Did the Pearl Harbour attack serve as merely an excuse for USA to participate directly in World War II? Discuss.
5. What were the causes of the Great Depression? Was the New Deal successful in tackling the Depression?
6. How did the coming of Theodore Roosevelt as President herald the dawn of a new era in USA?
7. What were the key features of the Age of Reconstruction in post-civil war USA?
8. What were the reasons for the USA-Spanish war of 1898?

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
History
Course: DSE-XVII (Optional)

Gender, Colour and Race: Some Major Movements of the Twentieth Century

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* of the following questions

1. Do you think that the term 'Gender' is a social construct? Illustrate your answer.
2. Why did the Suffrage Movement in the UK hardly make any progress before the advent of Emmeline Pankhurst?
3. Highlight the role of Indian women in the Suffrage Movement in the UK. In what ways did their class and wealth supersede gender and race?
4. Discuss briefly the role of women in the Suffrage Movement in the USA.
5. Explain the meaning of the Civil Rights Movement. Describe some of the techniques adopted in the Civil Rights Movement.
6. What past experiences influenced the Afrikaners to adopt Apartheid as a state policy? Discuss any three Apartheid Laws.
7. What two incidents in South Africa shocked the world? Apart from the African National Congress (ANC) which other parties fought against Apartheid?
8. Discuss briefly the contribution of some women in the anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester-IV
HISTORY
Course: DSE-XX (Optional)
Industrialization in Great Britain and Europe, 1750-1900

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

All questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* of the following questions

1. 'The Industrial Revolution in England was caused by both endogenous and exogenous factors'. Comment.
2. 'The evolutionary model helps us adopt a more nuanced understanding of the Industrialization process in the late 18th century and 19th century England'. Would you agree with this view?
3. How does a region centric approach help in understanding the Industrial Revolution in England better?
4. What, according to Joel Mokyr, is the difference between a macro-invention and micro-invention? Where, according to Mokyr, did England's strength lie?
5. Write a critical note on the Standard of Living Debate during the Industrial Revolution
6. What was the role of the French state as far as French Industrialization in the 19th century was concerned? Why was the mechanization process slow in France?
7. Discuss the peculiar nature of 19th century German industrialization. Was drinking at the workplace a form of social protest against the industrial work schedule?
8. Discuss two novels or poems which offer a critique of the Industrial Revolution.