

M.A. Examination, 2023
Semester-IV
AIHC&A
Course – A.11
South India from 700 CE to 1300 CE

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions

1. Analyse the nature of the royal establishment in the political structure of South India from the 8th to 12th century CE.
2. Assess the achievements and contributions of Mahendravarman I and Narasimhavarman I in the politics and culture of South India.
3. How would you account for the growth and development of Bhakti movement in South India?
4. Write an essay on the Chola administration with special emphasis on the local assemblies and their functions.
5. How would you characterize the Chola state? Give your valid arguments.
6. Write short notes on **any two** of the following.
 - a. Rock-cut Cave temples of the Pallavas
 - b. Chola inscriptions
 - c. Southern conquests of Rajaraja I
 - d. Chola-Chalukyan Relationship

M.A. Examination ,2023

Semester IV

AIHC & A

Course A.12

Time: 3 hours History of Eastern India including the Brahmaputra valley Full Marks:40
(700 CE to 1300 CE)

Questions are of equal value

Answer any *three* questions.

1. Write about the geographical divisions of Odisha.
2. Narrate the history of the Later Guptas of Magadha.
3. Describe the career and achievements of Śaśāṅka.
4. What do you understand by 'Mātsyanyāya'? How was the early medieval Bengal affected by it?
5. Write the history of the Pālas from Mahendrapāla to Nayāpāla.
6. Write short notes on any *two* of the following:-
 - a. Devapāla
 - b. Śailodbhavas
 - c. Prāgjyotiṣa
 - d. Vajrayāna

M.A. Examination, 2023
Semester-IV
AIHC&A
Course – S.5
Historical Archaeology (Iron Age to Medieval)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any three questions

1. How far do you think archaeology is a reliable methodology to corroborate with literature in studying historical archaeology of India?
2. What role did iron technology play in the formation of early historic Ganga valley?
3. Critically examine the characteristics of early historic urban centres in Deccan. Do you agree that there was a close relationship between the emergence of Buddhist monastic establishments and rise of market towns?
4. What are the major difficulties in identifying the process of urbanization in early historic Tamilakkam?
5. What are the salient features of early medieval archaeological sites of Bengal? How far do you think settlement studies approach is an important methodology in this case?
6. Write short notes on any two of the following:-
 - a) Northern Black and Red Ware Culture
 - b) Taxila – an early historic city
 - c) Historical Archaeology of Assam (200 BCE – 200 CE)
 - d) Buddhist Landscapes: Sanchi – An Archaeological Study

M.A. Examination 2023
Semester – IV
Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology

Course- S.6 ETHNO-ARCHAEOLOGY: THEORY AND PRACTICE

TIME: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions

1. What is ethnoarchaeology? How does it differ from traditional archaeological approaches?
2. How do ethnoarchaeologists use analogical reasoning in their research? Discuss the potential pitfalls of its application in ethnoarchaeological research?
3. What is Middle Range Theory? Discuss the limitations of using Middle Range Theory in archaeological studies?
4. What role do experimental archaeology and ethnographic analogy play in ethnoarchaeological investigations of pottery traditions?
5. How did Lewis R. Binford's research on the Nunamiut people of Alaska contribute to our understanding of prehistoric hunter-gatherer societies?
6. What are some examples of successful ethnoarchaeological research projects and how have they contributed to our understanding of the past?

M.A. Examination, 2023
Semester IV
AIHC&A
Course- S.11 (Special)
Indian Numismatics-II (Early Indian Coins up to 320 CE)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

Questions are of equal value
*Answer any **three** questions.*

1. What is the basis for classification of 'Imperial Punch-marked' coins into eight series?
2. Discuss the coin types of Menander.
3. Discuss the extension of the territories of the Azes group of kings on the basis of numismatic evidence.
4. Discuss the role of the numismatic evidence in reconstructing the history of the Śaka- Sātavāhana conflict.
5. Give an account of the coins of the Kuṇḍas.
6. Write short notes on any **two** of the following:
 1. Heliccles-Laodice
 2. Indo-Parthian Coins
 3. Soter Megas Coins
 4. Reverse type of coins of Kanishka I

M.A. Examination, 2023

Semester-IV

AIHC&A

Course – S.12

Indian Numismatics-III (Indian Coins from 320 CE to 1300 CE)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions

1. Explain in detail the various types of coins of Chandragupta II and their significance.
2. Write a detailed note on the coins of Kumāragupta I.
3. Describe the coinage of the Hūṇas.
4. Write in brief about the Cōḷa Coins
5. Write a note on the Currency Systems in South India (950-1300 CE)
6. Write short notes on **any two** of the following:
 - (a) Coins of Samudragupta
 - (b) Coinage of the Kadambas of Goa
 - (c) Coins of Rāmagupta
 - (d) Bull and Horseman type of coins

M.A. (A.I.H.C & A)

Semester:IV, 2023

Paper/ Course:S - 17

Subject: Economic History of India from 400 to 1300 CE

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 40 marks

Answer any **THREE** questions

1. Review the source material for the reconstruction of the economic history of India from 400 CE to 1300 CE.
2. Discuss in detail the changed pattern of land holdings and territorial rights in early medieval India.
3. Describe the contributions of land grants in agrarian expansion during early medieval period of Indian history.
4. Attempt a descriptive note on the basis of contours of trade and urbanisation in early medieval India.
5. What is the relationship between the concept of feudalism and urban decay?
6. Discuss the role of economy in the process of state formation in early medieval India.

M.A. Examination, 2023

Semester-IV

AIHC&A

Course: S.18 (Optional Paper)

Themes in Early Indian Social and Economic History

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any three questions

1. Discuss the contemporary perceptions and ideas on ancient Indian social history.
2. Critically evaluate the changing norms of marriage system and property rights of women in early India.
3. What are the *Samśkaras*? Discuss its various types and importance in the social and cultural life of the early Indians.
4. What were the factors responsible for the development of urbanization in ancient India?
5. Estimate the role of merchant's guilds in the growth of crafts, trade and urbanisation.
6. What role did the labour play in the agrarian and industrial developments of ancient India?

M.A. Examination, 2023
Semester- IV
AIHC&A
Course – S.29 - Iconography I
(Jain and Buddhist Iconography)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions

1. What are the fundamental terminologies of Buddhist and Jain lexicons that help us to reconstruct the iconographic memory?
2. Give a brief account of the textual and visual representations of Ādi Buddha.
3. Discuss the position of Maitreya in Vajrayāna Buddhism with iconographical analysis.
4. Write an analytical note on the sculptural representation of the goddess Tārā (with particular references to Green, Yellow, and Blue).
5. Do you think that Devādidevas and Devas shared equal space in the varied discourse of Jainism? Scrutinize the portrayals with examples based on your argument.
6. Write short notes on any two of the following:
 - a. Akṣobhya and Amoghasiddhi,
 - b. Śākyamuni,
 - c. Sāmantabhadra and Ratnapāṇi,
 - d. Mahāmayūrī and Prajñāpāramitā

M.A. Examination, 2023
Semester- IV
AIHC&A
Course – S.30 - Iconography II
(Brahmanical Iconography)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions

1. What are the critical literary sources through which we understand the development of image worship in Brahmanism?
2. 'Śiva as the creator, destructor and pacifier' – justify this argument in the light of textual narratives and with three different iconographical forms.
3. Sketch Viṣṇu's appearance as a 'Savior' in the Epic-Puranic context by discussing three avatāra representations.
4. Give an analytical aspect of the crystallization of the Goddess cult with appropriate textual and visual narrative.
5. Do you think Saptamātṛkās were as crucial as the 'mainstream' goddesses in Brahmanism? Examine four of their iconographic representation with interpretation.
6. Write short notes on any two of the following:
 - a. Lakṣmī and Mahālakṣmī,
 - b. Sarasvatī and Pārvatī,
 - c. Yakṣas and Yakṣīs,
 - d. Nāgas and Kinnaras.

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester IV

AIHC&A

A.11 (Compulsory Paper)

Time:3 hours

South India from 700 CE to 1300 CE

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any *three* questions.

1. Write an essay on the sources for the study of the Pallavas and the Chola powers.
2. Analyze various theories on the Chola State.
3. Explain the background of the rise of the *Bhakti* movement in south India under the Pallavas.
4. Describe the career and achievements of Rājarāja I.
5. Narrate the role of temples in the agrarian development of south India.
6. What were the characteristic features of the Chola local self-government and village administration?

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester IV

AIHC&A

A.12 (Compulsory Paper)

History of Eastern India

Time: 3 hours

including the Brahmaputra valley
(700 CE to 1300 CE)

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any *three* questions.

1. Write about the geographical divisions of early Bengal.
2. Narrate the career and achievements of Dharmapāla.
3. Evaluate the role of Lakṣmaṇasena as a ruler.
4. Describe the relationship between the Brāhmaṇical religion and Buddhism in eastern India from 700 CE to 1300 CE.
5. Write an essay on the contact of southeastern part of Bengal with Southeast Asia during the early medieval period.
6. Write short notes on *any two* of the followings:
 - a. Devagupta
 - b. Utkala
 - c. Bhaumakaras
 - d. Śālastambhas

M.A. Examination, 2024
Semester-IV
AIHC&A
Course – S.5
Historical Archaeology (Iron Age to Medieval)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any three questions of the following

1. Discuss the current issues and debates in studying the early historical Archaeology of India. Illustrate with examples.
2. How far OCP and PGW cultures are important to be studied as precursors to early historic urbanization in North India? Highlight this with special emphasis on sites and archaeological records.
3. Was there an element of planning in the Early Historic urban centres of the Ganga Valley? Illustrate with examples of sites and archaeological record.
4. Discuss the processes of the emergence of urbanization in the Deccan. Do you agree that Southern and Eastern Deccan were 'areas of relative isolation'?
5. Elaborate early historic Tamilakkam in the context of North and South India. What are the visible markers of similarities and dissimilarities in the archaeological record?
6. Write short notes on any two the following:
 - a) Debates in studying early medieval and medieval archaeology
 - b) 'Outside spaces' in early historic North Indian sites
 - c) Phases of Northern Black Polished ware in terms of fabric and technology
 - d) Early Medieval Paharpur: a case study

MA Examination, 2024
Semester- IV
Optional Course S - 6
(Ethnoarchaeology: Theories and Practices)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions of the following

1. What is ethnoarchaeology? How does it differ from traditional archaeology?
2. Discuss the key concepts of Middle-Range Theory. How are they applied in ethnoarchaeological research?
3. How did Binford's work on the Nunamiut people of Alaska revolutionize our understanding of hunter-gatherer societies and their subsistence strategies?
4. Citing a relevant case study, discuss the impact of ethnoarchaeological research methodology on archaeological interpretations.
5. In what ways can ethnoarchaeological findings inform contemporary debates and challenges, such as sustainability, climate change, and globalization?
6. Write short notes on the life and contribution of any two of the following:
 - i. Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf
 - ii. G.S. Ghuriye
 - iii. H.D. Sankalia
 - iv. Verrier Elwin

MA. Examination, 2024
Semester IV
AIHC &A
Course- S.11
Indian Numismatics-II (Early Indian Coins up to 320 CE)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

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

1. Discuss in detail about the issuing authority of 'Punch-marked' coins. Do you find any foreign influence on them? Discuss.
2. Discuss the role of numismatic evidences in reconstructing the history of North-Western part of the Indian sub-Continent from c. 2nd Century BCE to 1st Century BCE.
3. Describe the deities represented on the coinage of Kushāṇa king Kaṇishka I. Do they reflect the tolerant attitude of the Kushāṇas?
4. Why the Sātavāhanas issue coins in debased metals? Do you find any bearing of these coins on the economy of Western India?
5. What are the different categories of tribal coins in early India based on the legends found on them. Give at least one example from each of the categories.
6. Write short note on **any two** of the following:-
 - a. Coins of Agāthocles.
 - b. Coins of Gondophernes.
 - c. Re-struck coins of Gautamīputra Sātakarṇī.
 - d. Coins of Vima Kadphises.

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester-IV

AIHC&A

Course – S.12

Indian Numismatics-III (Indian Coins from 320 CE to 1300 CE)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions

1. Explain in detail the impact of the Kuṣāṇa coins on the Gupta coins.
2. Critically examine the significance of the gold coins of Samudragupta.
3. Trace the journey of the Indo-Sassanian currencies from 5th Century CE to 12th Century CE.
4. Write in brief about the coinage of the Kadambas of Goa.
5. Discuss the Currency System of South India with special reference to Karnataka from 950 CE to 1300 CE.
6. Write notes on following –
 - a. Gold coins of Kumāragupta I
 - b. Huna Coins
 - c. Coins of the Chalukyas of Bādāmi
 - d. Cōḷa Coins

M.A. Examination, 2024
Semester-IV
AIHC&A
Course – S-17
(Economic History of India from 400 CE to 1300 C.E.)

Time- 3 Hours

Full Marks- 40

Questions are of equal value.

Answer any three questions of the following

1. Write a critical review on the historiography of the economic history of India up to 1200 A.D.
2. Describe the nature of land grants and their implications on society and economy of Gupta and post-Gupta period.
3. Analyse critically the changing patterns of agrarian structure during early medieval period of Indian history.
4. Describe the nature of trade and market centres in early medieval India.
5. Discuss the role of contemporary economy in formation of regional state society during early medieval India.
6. Explain the term “Feudalism” and analyse critically the different theories used for interpreting the polity and governance of early medieval India

MA Examination, 2024
Semester- IV
Optional Course S - 18
(Themes in Early Indian Social and Economic History)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions of the following

1. Define society. What would you consider to be the most definitive characteristic feature of early Indian society?
2. Write a critical note on the various source materials used for the reconstruction of the social and economic history of early India.
3. Give an account of the changing norms of marriage system and property rights of women in early India.
4. Evaluate the significance and utility of the concept of *Samskaras* in our understanding of early Indian society.
5. Examine the intersections between the practice of slavery and caste hierarchies in ancient India.
6. Discuss the role of merchant guilds in the growth of urbanization in early India.

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester–IV

AIHC&A

Course – S.23

Jainism

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions of the following

1. Write in detail about the origin and antiquity of Jainism.
2. Critically evaluate the Historicity of Ṛṣabhdeva, the first Jaina Tirthankara.
3. Give an analytical account of the teachings of Mahāvīra.
4. Explain the emergence of the Dīgambara and the Śvetāmbara sects in Jainism.
5. Write in detail about the Monastic organisation of the Jains with special reference to the order of the Nuns.
6. Write short note on any two on following :
 - a. Life of Pārśvanātha
 - b. Yapaniya Sect
 - c. Sub Sects of Dīgambara Jainas
 - d. Sub Sects of Śvetāmbara Jainas

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester- IV

AIHC & A

Course- S.24

(Tantrism)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions of the following

1. Explain the concept of *Tantra* and establish its relation with *Mantra* and *Yantra*.
2. What is the concept of Pre-Vedic Tantrism? Discuss it with suitable examples.
3. Discuss the development of Tantrism on the basis of various available sources.
4. What is Vaishnava Tantrism and how it is different from Vedic and Puranic traditions of worship? Discuss.
5. Explain the salient features of *Shakta Tantra*.
6. Write a detailed note on the *Mahayana Tantra*.

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester IV

AIHC&A

S.29 (Optional Paper)

Iconography I:

Time: 3 hours

Jain and Buddhist Iconography

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any *three* questions.

1. How would you reconstruct the visual past through literary sources in the Buddhist and Jain iconographic traditions?
2. In which process '*Vajrayāna*' arrive in the context of art? How do the forms of *Dhyānī* Buddhas help to understand them?
3. Give a detailed description of the iconography of the *Padma-Kūlika* and *Ratna-Kūlika* Bodhisattvas.
4. Portray the multi-faceted Buddha-Śakti iconography in *Vajrayāna* Buddhism with suitable instances.
5. Write an essay on the '*Yakṣas*' of the Buddhist pantheon.
6. Write short notes on *any two* of the followings:
 - a. *Ādi* Buddha
 - b. *Prajñāpāramitā*
 - c. *Hārītī*
 - d. Jain *Sarasvatī*

M.A. Examination, 2024
Semester- IV
AIHC&A

Course – S.30
(Iconography II: Brahmanical Iconography)

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions of the following

1. How would you like to reflect upon the iconographic memory of Brahmanism by using specific essential terms and symbols (*Mudrās* and *Āsanās*) in the textual traditions?
2. Do you think that the idea of image worship was a 'non-Vedic' or 'non-Aryan' tradition? Justify your thoughts on the antiquity of Brahmanical image worship in the Indian sub-continent.
3. Critically analyse the genesis of Viṣṇu in the Vedic period. Sketch the differences in the context of textual and iconographic representation of Viṣṇu in the early medieval times.
4. Discuss the origin and iconography of Mahāvidyās in the early medieval period.
5. Write an essay on astadikapalas.
6. Write short notes on **any two** of the following:
 - a. *Mukūṭas* and *Vāhanas*,
 - b. Śiva *anugraha mūrtis*,
 - c. Kubera
 - d. Navagrahas

M.A. Examination ,2025

Semester IV

AIHC & A

Course A.11

Time: 3 hours

South India from 700 CE to 1300 CE

Full Marks:40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions.

1. Write an essay on the early history of the Pallavas.
2. What do you know about the relations of Pallavas with the Telugu Chōḍas and the Pāṇḍyas?
3. Narrate the Pallava history during the time of Mahendravarman I and Narasimhavarman I.
4. Discuss the importance of Mahabalipuram in the art and architecture of the Pallava period.
5. Why was Kulottuṅga Chōḷa I's reign period important in the history of peninsular India?
6. Give an account of the relationship between the Chōḷas and the Eastern Chālukyas of Veṅgi.
7. Define the nature of Chōḷa state.
8. Write short notes on *any two* of the followings:
 - a. Urāyūr
 - b. Bhāravī
 - c. Narasimhavarman II Rājasimha
 - d. Kaḍāram

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester- IV
AIHC&A
Course – A.12

History of Eastern India including the Brahmaputra valley (700 CE to 1300 CE)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any four** questions

1. Map the historical geography of Odisha and highlight two important sub-regions.
2. Assess the political scenario of Bengal under the 'glorified rule' of Śaśāṅka.
3. Write the origin and sources of the Pāla rule. How was their administrative system?
4. Explain the political history of the Candras in Samatāṭa.
5. Who were the Somavarṁśīs? Discuss their polity and administration.
6. Explore your knowledge on the archaeology of Buddhism in Odisha.
7. What was the nature of Śākta-Tantrism in early medieval Kāmrūpa? Canvass your understanding.
8. Write short notes on **any two** of the following:
 - a. Māṭharas.
 - b. Later Guptas of Magadha.
 - c. Bhauma Karas.
 - d. Eastern Indian Vaisnavism during the early medieval age.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester IV
AIHC&A
Course – S.5
(Historical Archaeology: Iron Age to Medieval)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any four questions

1. What do you mean by Historical Archaeology in India? Discuss the concept with special reference to the chronological problems related to periodization of early historic archaeology.
2. Is there any interface between archaeological record and literature? Discuss with examples.
3. Discuss the implications of iron metallurgy in the development of urbanism.
4. Elaborate the chief characteristics of early historic urban centres between 500 BCE to 500 CE in Ganga valley.
5. Give an account of the character of NBPW culture in terms of settlements and urban archaeological record.
6. What are the visible markers of urbanisation in Deccan? Explain with special reference to Nagarjunikonda.
7. How do you categorize early historic urbanization of Bengal? Discuss in the light of archaeological record.
8. How will you define archaeology of Buddhism? Illustrate your answer with a case study.

M.A. EXAMINATION 2025

SEMESTER – IV

ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Paper – S.6 ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY: THEORIES AND PRACTICES

TIME: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any four** questions

1. Write an essay on the definition and scope of ethnoarchaeology.
2. Evaluate the significance and limitations of the application of middle-range theory in ethnoarchaeological research?
3. How did Binford's work on the Nunamiut people of Alaska revolutionize our understanding of hunter-gatherer societies and their subsistence strategies?
4. Citing a relevant case study, discuss the impact of ethnoarchaeological research methodology on archaeological interpretations.
5. Discuss the methodological ethical considerations in conducting ethnoarchaeological fieldwork in indigenous or traditional communities.
6. What is the significance of the *chaîne opératoire* approach in ethnoarchaeology?
7. How has the study of mobility and nomadism in ethnoarchaeology challenged static interpretations of archaeological sites?
8. Is ethnoarchaeology still relevant in the digital age? Explore the opportunities and limitations of virtual and experimental ethnoarchaeology.

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester IV
AIHC&A
Course- S.11 (Special)
Indian Numismatics-II (Early Indian Coins up to 320 CE)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

Questions are of equal value
Answer any *four* questions.

1. What are the characteristic features of Punch-marked coins issued by the Magadhan Empire in the 4th century BCE? Do you think that these coins are important source of economic history of the period concerned?
2. What kind of local coins were issued in the post-Mauryan period? Discuss in brief the coins of City-States.
3. Give an account of monarchical coins of Pañchālas.
4. Write an essay on the 'Commemorative' and 'Joint Coins' of Indo-Greek rulers.
5. What light does the Sātavāhana Coins throw on the economic history of Western India?
6. Describe in detail the deities represented on the Kushāṇa Coins. Do they reflect the tolerant attitude of the Kushāṇas?
7. What are the different categories of tribal coins in early India based on the legends found on them? Give at least one example from each of the categories.
8. Write Short notes on **any two** of the following:
 - a) Bent-Bar Coins
 - b) Coins of Demetrius I
 - c) Coins of Vima – Kadphises
 - d) Restruck coins of Gautamīputra Sātakaṇi

M.A. Examination, 2025

Semester-IV

AIHC&A

Course – S.12

Indian Numismatics-III (Indian Coins from 320 CE to 1300 CE)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any four** questions

- ✓ 1. Describe the various Gods and Goddesses that appears on the Gold coins of the Guptas.
- ✓ 2. State the various types and varieties of the gold coins of the Chandragupta II.
3. Critically evaluate the importance of the gold coins of the Gupta ruler Kumāragupta I to reconstruct political, social, cultural and religious history.
4. Write an essay on Indo-Sassanian coins with special reference to *Srimadadivaraha Drammas*.
- ✓ 5. Explain the early medieval coin types with special reference to Bull and Horsemen type coins.
6. Give an overview of the coinage of the Kadambas.
7. What were the characteristic features of the coins of the Cōḷas.
- ✓ 8. Write a note on the currency systems in South India with special reference to Tamil Nadu from 950 to 1300 CE.

M.A. (A.I.H.C.& A)

Semester: IV, 2025

Subject: Economic History of India from 400 to 1300 CE

Paper/Course : S-17

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value
Answer any Four questions

1. Analyse critically the trends and perspectives of economic history of India from 6th century C.E. 13th century C.E.
2. Elaborate the limitations of land grants as source materials to study economic history of post-Gupta period.
3. Write a descriptive note on the changing patterns of ownership of land during early medieval period of Indian history.
4. Discuss in detail about the nature of land grants and agricultural expansions during early medieval period.
5. Critically analyse the theory of urban decay from Gupta period onwards and describe the alternative opinions in detail.
6. Attempt a descriptive note on the basic contours of trade and urbanisation in early medieval northern India.
7. Discuss the role of economy in the process of state formation in early medieval India.
8. Critically examine the feudal debate in the light of economic history of early medieval India.

MA Examination, 2025

Semester- IV

S – 18 (Themes in Early Indian Social and Economic History)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions of the following

1. Attempt a critical review of the different source materials used for the reconstruction of the social and economic history of early India.
2. Discuss the three stages of social evolution proposed by L.H. Morgan. Do you think these categories are still relevant today?
3. Evaluate the significance and utility of the concept of *Samskaras* in our understanding of early Indian society.
4. Attempt a historical understanding of the changing norms of marriage and property in early Indian society.
5. To what extent can the concept of 'slavery' in ancient India be equated with the Greco-Roman understanding of the term? Discuss with reference to literary and epigraphic evidence.
6. Assess the applicability of Gordon Childe's 'Urban Revolution' model in the context of urbanisation in ancient India.
7. Elaborate on the significance of the guild organisation in early India.
8. Critically examine the role of Roman trade in shaping the economy and urbanisation of ancient South India.

M.A. Examination, 2025

Semester-IV

AIHC&A

Course – S.23

Jainism

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. State the various Literary sources to study the history of Jainism.
2. Discuss the various evidences regarding the origin and antiquity of Jainism.
3. Write an essay on the historicity of Ṛṣabhdeva, the first Tirthankara.
4. Write in detail about the historicity, life and teachings of the Pārśvanātha.
5. State the emergence and various differences of the Digambara and the Śvetāmbara sects.
6. Write an essay on the various Subsects of the Śvetāmbaras.
7. What information regarding Jain Monastic organization we get from the Aṅgas and the Mūlasūtras?
8. Write an essay on the spread of Jainism with special reference to eastern India.

M.A. Examination, 2025

Semester- ~~III~~ IV

AIHC & A

Course- S.24 (Tantrism)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions.

1. Define the term '*Tantra*' and how it is different from Vedic and Puranic traditions of worship?
2. What are the Pre-Vedic roots of *Tantrism*, and how do they manifest in early religious practices?
3. In what ways do Vedic texts and rituals reflect the early development of *Tantric* ideas?
4. How did *Tantric* elements become assimilated into *Brahmanical Hinduism* and what were the key factors for this integration?
5. How did concepts such as *Mantra*, *Yantra*, and *Bhakti* evolve in the *Vaishnava Tantric* texts?
6. In what ways did the *Saiva Agamas* differ from earlier Vedic or *Brahmanical* ritual systems in their approach to liberation and divine worship?
7. What distinguishes *Vajrayana* from earlier *Mahayana* traditions in terms of doctrine and ritual?
8. What factors contributed to the survival and continuity of *Tantrism* despite periods of religious reform and opposition?

M.A. Examination ,2025

Semester IV

AIHC & A

Course S.29(Optional)

Time: 3 hours

Iconography I: Jain and Buddhist Iconography

Full Marks:40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions.

1. Was there any connection between the royal imagery and the origin of the image and iconography of the Buddha?
2. Write an essay on the indigenous literary sources of Buddhist iconography.
3. Describe any three forms of Avalokiteśvara.
4. Discuss the broad features of Jaina iconography.
5. Give an account of the art and iconography of Mahāvīra.
6. What do you know about the iconography of 'Dikapālas' in Jainism.
7. Write an essay on the 'Vidyādevīs' in Jainism.
8. Write short notes on *any two* of the followings:
 - a. Mahāchīnatārā
 - b. Nīlakaṇṭha
 - c. Ādi-Buddha
 - d. Ambikā and Padmāvatī in Jainism

M.A. Examination, 2025
Semester- IV
AIHC&A
Course – S.30 - Iconography II: Brahmanical Iconography

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any four** questions

1. Give a substantial account of literary sources and origin to sketch the memory of Brahmanical iconography.
2. How would you reconstruct and define the key concept and terminologies based on the *āyudhas*, *mudrās* and *vāhanas*? Explain.
3. Canvass the iconography of Śiva as the destroyer.
4. Analyze the genesis and materialization of the 'divine feminine' in early medieval Indian art.
5. Critically discuss the feminist debate of Mahiṣāsūramardīnī with appropriate textual and visual narratives.
6. Explain the *sāttvik* and *tāmasik* – two juxtaposing types of *Devī*.
7. Who are the semi-divines and demi-gods? Analyze their iconographic forms and context.
8. Write short notes on **any two** of the following:
 - a. Iconography of Viṣṇu.
 - b. Pārvatī and Umā.
 - c. Brahmāṇī and Kaumārī.
 - d. Dikpālas.