



ANGEL'S PUBLIC SCHOOL

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION

(SAMPLE PAPER)

SESSION 2026 – 27
SUBJECT : HISTORY

TIME : 03 HRS

GRADE – XI

M.M:80

General Instructions:

- (a) The question paper comprises five Sections – A, B, C, D, and E. There are 34 questions in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.
- (b) Section – A Question 1 to 21 are MCQs of 1 mark each.
- (c) Section – B Question no. 22 to 27 are Short Answer Type Questions, carrying 3 marks each. Answers to each question should not exceed 60–80 words.
- (d) Section – C Question no. 28 to 30 are Long Answer Type Questions, carrying 8 marks each. Answers to each question should not exceed 300–350 words.
- (e) Section – D Question no. 31 to 33 are Source-based questions with three sub-questions and are of 4 marks each.
- (f) Section – E Question no. 34 is Map-based, carrying 5 marks that include the identification and location of significant test items. Attach the map with the answer book.
- (g) There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in a few questions. Only one of the choices in such questions has to be attempted.

SECTION – A

(21x1=21)

1. In which of the following regions did the earliest cities emerge?
(a) Between the Indus and Ganges rivers (b) Between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
(c) Along the Nile river valley (d) Along the Yellow river valley
2. The Mesopotamian writing system was known as:
(a) Hieroglyphics (b) Cuneiform (c) Linear A (d) Pictographic
3. Which animal was highly crucial for the nomadic trade and mobility of the Mongols?
(a) Camel (b) Horse (c) Elephant (d) Ox
4. The Roman Empire was broadly separated from Northern Europe by two major rivers. Identify them:
(a) Tigris and Euphrates (b) Nile and Congo
(c) Rhine and Danube (d) Rhone and Seine
5. In Mesopotamian society, the nuclear family comprised:
(a) A man, his wife, and children (b) A man and his extended relatives
(c) The entire clan living under a chieftain (d) Only the priestly class
6. The term 'Pax Romana' is closely associated with the reign of which emperor?
(a) Julius Caesar (b) Nero (c) Augustus (d) Constantine
7. What was 'Amphorae' in the context of the Roman Empire?
(a) A type of military weapon (b) A class of high-ranking senators
(c) Containers used for transporting liquids like wine and olive oil
(d) Silver coins used in trade

8. The "Crisis of the Third Century" in Rome was marked by:
- (a) Rapid territorial expansion
 - (b) Internal peace and prosperity
 - (c) A succession of quick-changing emperors and external invasions
 - (d) The rise of Mesopotamian trade networks
9. Genghis Khan's original childhood name was:
- (a) Temujin
 - (b) Ogedei
 - (c) Kublai
 - (d) Jochi
10. The nomadic military strategy 'Yam' refers to:
- (a) A heavy cavalry formation
 - (b) A swift courier and communication system
 - (c) A method of besieging stone forts
 - (d) The tax collected from subject populations
11. The term 'Feudalism' is derived from the German word 'Feud', which means:
- (a) Knight
 - (b) King
 - (c) A piece of land
 - (d) Serfdom
12. In the medieval European social hierarchy, the 'Second Order' consisted of:
- (a) The Clergy
 - (b) The Nobility
 - (c) The Peasantry
 - (d) The Artisans
13. The land granted by a lord to a knight in exchange for military service was called a:
- (a) Manor
 - (b) Fief
 - (c) Guild
 - (d) Abbey
14. The dynamic city of Babylon grew into importance after:
- (a) 2000 BCE
 - (b) 500 BCE
 - (c) 100 CE
 - (d) 3000 BCE
15. Who was the first Roman Emperor to declare Christianity as the official religion?
- (a) Diocletian
 - (b) Augustus
 - (c) Trajan
 - (d) Constantine
16. What was the legal code compiled under Genghis Khan called?
- (a) Hammurabi's Code
 - (b) Yasa
 - (c) Justinian Code
 - (d) Twelve Tables
17. Monasteries where monks lived in seclusion were often called:
- (a) Manors
 - (b) Abbeys
 - (c) Guilds
 - (d) Châteaux
18. The tax collected by the Church from the peasants, representing one-tenth of their agricultural produce, was known as:
- (a) Taille
 - (b) Tithe
 - (c) Feud
 - (d) Denarius
19. Southern Mesopotamia lacked which of the following essential natural resources?
- (a) Fertile soil
 - (b) Water source
 - (c) Mineral resources and wood
 - (d) Date palms
20. The Quriltai was:
- (a) A Mongol weapon of destruction
 - (b) An assembly of Mongol chieftains to take major state decisions
 - (c) A trade route spanning Central Asia
 - (d) A religious text of the steppe people
21. Cultivated lands directly controlled by the lord in a medieval manor were known as:
- (a) Fiefs
 - (b) Demesne
 - (c) Commons
 - (d) Serfdoms

SECTION – B

(6x3=18)

22. Explain the significance of urbanization in ancient Southern Mesopotamia.
23. Describe the position and rights enjoyed by women in Roman society.
24. Elaborate on how the Mongol military structure under Genghis Khan broke down traditional tribal identities.
25. Differentiate between "free peasants" and "serfs" within the framework of the Three Orders.
26. What were the main functions and roles played by Mesopotamian temples (*Ziggurats*) in urban life?

OR

Analyze the role of slave labor in the economic framework of the Roman Empire.

27. Discuss the emergence of the 'Fourth Order' in medieval Western Europe.

SECTION – C

(3x8=24)

28. Detail the evolution of writing in Mesopotamia. How did the transition from pictographs to cuneiform scripts help in administrative, legal, and educational preservation?

OR

Examine the geographical diversity of Mesopotamia and explain how its varying landscapes shaped distinct economic livelihoods.

29. "The Roman Empire was characterized by distinct social classes that evolved drastically from the early empire to late antiquity." Elaborate on this statement by analyzing Roman social structures.

OR

Examine the economic factors, trade routes, and production units that made the Roman Empire an economic powerhouse across three continents.

30. Discuss the socio-economic and demographic crisis of the fourteenth century in Europe. What were its long-term effects on the institutional structures of feudalism?

OR

Trace the rise of Genghis Khan. Evaluate the political and organizational reforms he introduced to unify the fragmented nomadic tribes into a formidable global empire.

SECTION – D

(4)

31. **Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

"In the beginning, trade was not known. Enmerkar, the ruler of Uruk, wanted lapis lazuli and precious metals for the decoration of a temple. He sent a messenger to the chief of a distant land called Aratta. The messenger had to go up into the mountains, cross multiple ranges, and go down into valleys. He traveled day and night, guided by the stars. He repeated the words of his king to Aratta's chief. But the chief denied giving stones. The messenger had to make the long journey back and forth several times, until he grew weary and confused. Then, King Enmerkar formed a clay tablet and wrote words down on it—something that had never been done before..."

- (i) Who was Enmerkar and which ancient city did he rule? (1)
- (ii) Why did Enmerkar send a messenger to the chief of Aratta? (1)
- (iii) What historical milestone does this epic account emphasize regarding communication? (2)

32. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

“The Roman empire was deeply tied to the Mediterranean world. Control of its coastal trade was key to political stability. In the north, the empire extended to the banks of the Rhine and Danube. In the south, it was bounded by the vast expanse of the Sahara desert. This vast structure contained hundreds of administrative units called *civitates*, which managed local collection of revenues and resources for Rome. Elite figures within these cities collaborated with the central administration to keep order, minimizing the need for an overwhelming military presence in every single province.”

- (i) Which natural body of water formed the core heartland of the Roman Empire? (1)
- (ii) Name the northern river boundaries of the empire mentioned in the text. (1)
- (iii) How did the administrative system of *civitates* help Rome govern its vast territory efficiently? (2)

33. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

“From the ninth century, there were frequent localized wars in Europe. The amateur peasant-soldiers were not sufficient, and a specialized cavalry was needed. This led to the growing importance of a new class called Knights. They were linked to the lords by the same system that linked lords to kings. The lord gave the knight a piece of land called a 'fief' and promised to protect him. In return, the knight swore an oath of loyalty and promised to fight for the lord for a set number of days every year.”

- (i) Why did a specialized class of Knights emerge in Europe from the ninth century onward? (1)
- (ii) What was a 'fief'? (1)
- (iii) Explain the mutual obligations established between a lord and a knight. (2)

SECTION – E

(5)

34. MAP-BASED QUESTION