



# ANGEL'S PUBLIC SCHOOL

## HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION

### (SAMPLE PAPER)

SESSION 2026 – 27  
SUBJECT : HISTORY

TIME : 03 HRS

GRADE – XII

M.M:80

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- The question paper comprises five Sections – A, B, C, D, and E. There are 34 questions in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.
- Section – A** Question 1 to 21 are MCQs of 1 mark each.
- Section – B** Question no. 22 to 27 are Short Answer Type Questions, carrying 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed 60-80 words.
- Section – C** Question no. 28 to 30 are Long Answer Type Questions, carrying 8 marks each. Answers should not exceed 300-350 words.
- Section – D** Question no. 31 to 33 are Source-based questions with three sub-questions, carrying 4 marks each.
- Section – E** Question no. 34 is Map-based, carrying 5 marks.
- There is no overall choice. However, internal choices have been provided in a few questions.

#### SECTION – A

(21x1=21)

- Which of the following artifact types was used by Harappans primarily for long-distance communication and tracking ownership?  
(a) Copper mirrors (b) Steatite seals (c) Terracotta toy carts (d) Carnelian beads
- Identify the Harappan site located near short-cut networks to high-quality Lapis Lazuli sources in Afghanistan.  
(a) Lothal (b) Shortughai (c) Kalibangan (d) Kot Diji
- Consider the following statements regarding the decipherment of scripts:  
(a) James Prinsep deciphered Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts in 1838.  
(b) Most inscriptions mentioning *Piyadassi* used the Kharosthi script exclusively.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
(i) (a) only (ii) (b) only (iii) Both (a) and (b) (d) Neither (a) nor (b)
- Which early Indian state was known for its strategic location, fertile agricultural plains, and iron ore availability, leading to its dominance among the Mahajanapadas?  
(a) Kashi (b) Magadha (c) Kosala (d) Panchala
- The monumental task of preparing a Critical Edition of the *Mahabharata* was undertaken in 1919 under the leadership of which famous Sanskrit scholar?  
(a) J.A.B. van Buitenen (b) V.S. Sukthankar (c) Max Mueller (d) R.E.M. Wheeler

6. According to the Brahmanical system of *Gotra*, which of the following dynastic rulers routinely retained their maternal family names instead of adopting their husband's gotra name?  
 (a) Mauryas (b) Guptas (c) Satavahanas (d) Kushanas
7. Who among the following rulers of Bhopal provided critical financial support and built a museum to preserve the ancient site of Sanchi Stupa?  
 (a) Shahjehan Begum (b) Razia Sultan (c) Jahanara Begum (d) Noor Jahan
8. In Buddhist philosophy, the term *Anicca* refers to which of the following concepts?  
 (a) The world is soulless (b) The world is transient and constantly changing  
 (c) Sorrow is universal (d) Salvation via the middle path
9. Who wrote the famous travelogue *Kitab-ul-Hind* in the Arabic language?  
 (a) Ibn Battuta (b) Francois Bernier (c) Al-Biruni (d) Abdur Razzaq
10. Ibn Battuta was highly impressed by the efficiency of the Indian postal system. What was the foot-post system called?  
 (a) Uluq (b) Dawa (c) Barid (d) Shahnagi
11. The compilation of devotional songs known as the *Nalayira Divya Prabandham* is frequently described as the Tamil Veda. Which group composed it?  
 (a) Nayanars (b) Alvars (c) Lingayats (d) Kabirpanthis
12. Mirabai, the celebrated 16th-century Rajput princess and saint, considered which deity as her ultimate lover and husband?  
 (a) Lord Shiva (b) Lord Krishna (c) Lord Rama (d) Lord Vishnu
13. Who was the first Surveyor General of India who brought the ruins of Hampi (Vijayanagara) to light in 1800?  
 (a) Alexander Cunningham (b) Colin Mackenzie  
 (c) John Marshall (d) R.D. Banerji
14. The *Amara-nayaka* system of the Vijayanagara Empire was a significant political innovation derived structurally from which earlier political model?  
 (a) Chola village assemblies (b) Mansabdari system of the Mughals  
 (c) Iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate (d) Nayankara system of the Kakatiyas
15. Match the following archaeological discoveries with their respective Harappan locations:

| List I (Artifact/Structure) | List II (Site Location) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ploughed Field           | a. Lothal               |
| 2. Dockyard                 | b. Mohenjodaro          |
| 3. Great Bath               | c. Kalibangan           |
| 4. Water Reservoirs         | d. Dholavira            |

- Options: (A) 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d (B) 1-a, 2-c, 3-d, 4-b  
 (C) 1-c, 2-d, 3-b, 4-a (D) 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c

- 16. Assertion (A):** Magadha became the most powerful Mahajanapada between the sixth and fourth centuries BCE.
- Reason (R):** Magadha had a unique democratic assembly called *Gana* that ensured seamless civic administration and military planning.
- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.  
 (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.  
 (c) A is true but R is false.  
 (d) A is false but R is true.
- 17.** Identify the correct type of marriage from the options below where a woman has several husbands simultaneously:
- (a) Endogamy                      (b) Polygyny                      (c) Polyandry                      (d) Exogamy
- 18.** Which structure of a Buddhist Stupa symbolised a balcony-like layout that represented the abode of the gods?
- (a) Anda                      (b) Harmika                      (c) Yashti                      (d) Chhatra
- 19.** Francois Bernier's travelogue heavily focused on comparing India with Europe. What did he identify as the fundamental defect of the Indian economy?
- (a) Lack of skilled urban artisans                      (b) Excessively high tax rates on businesses  
 (c) Absence of private ownership of land                      (d) Poor infrastructure of major trading cities
- 20.** The *Virashaiva* (Lingayat) movement in Karnataka was led by which influential minister?
- (a) Basavanna                      (b) Ramanuja                      (c) Shankaracharya                      (d) Appar
- 21.** Which unique structure within the Royal Centre of Vijayanagara is famous for its relief carvings depicting ceremonial processions, hunting scenes, and dances?
- (a) Lotus Mahal      (b) Mahanavami Dibba      (c) Hazara Rama Temple                      (d) Vitthala Temple

### **SECTION – B**

(6x3=18)

- 22.** Describe the distinctive features of the domestic architecture and sanitation system found in the Lower Town of Mohenjodaro.
- 23.** Discuss how the Mauryan Empire maintained political administrative control across its vast territories, given the diverse regional variations.
- 24.** Examine the rules laid down by the *Manusmriti* regarding the inheritance of paternal estate and property options available to women during early societies.
- 25.** Elaborate on the primary reasons behind the rapid expansion of Buddhism both during the lifetime of the Buddha and following his death.
- 26.** Critically analyze why Al-Biruni found the Indian caste system rigid and how he attempted to compare it with social divisions in other global cultures.
- 27.** Explain the role of the *Khanqahs* in the Chishti Sufi silsila as centers of socio-religious life in medieval India.

### **SECTION – C**

(3x8=24)

- 28.** Detail the various economic strategies used by the Harappans to procure raw materials for craft production from both internal and external regions.

**OR**

Discuss the historical methodologies and sources used by epigraphists to reconstruct political histories, and evaluate the specific limitations faced by historians when interpreting inscriptions.

- 29.** Outline the development of the structural features and symbolic architecture of Buddhist Stupas, highlighting the factors that helped Sanchi survive while Amravati was lost.

**OR**

Analyze how the Bhakti movement challenged the dominant socio-religious hierarchies of its time, with specific focus on the compositions and life choices of either Kabir or Mirabai.

- 30.** Discuss how the physical and environmental geography of Vijayanagara influenced its urban planning, focusing specifically on its advanced water management systems and unique multi-layered fortification techniques.

**OR**

Examine the functional significance of the Royal Centre of the Vijayanagara Empire. How did architectural monuments like the Lotus Mahal, Hazara Rama Temple, and Mahanavami Dibba reflect the power of the rulers?

### **SECTION – D**

(3x4=12)

- 31. Read the following excerpt carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

"This is an excerpt from the Prayaga Prashasti, composed in Sanskrit by Harishena, the court poet of Samudragupta: He was without an antagonist on earth; he, by the overflowing of the multitude of his many good qualities adorned by as many good actions, has wiped out the fame of other kings with the soles of his feet; he is Purusha (the Supreme Being), being the cause of the production of good and the destruction of bad; he is incomprehensible; his tender heart can be captured only by devotion and humility..."

- (a) Who composed the Prayaga Prashasti and in which language? (1)
- (b) Why did court poets glorify their rulers using divine comparisons? (1)
- (c) Mention two key historical insights a historian can extract from Prashastis. (2)

- 32. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

"Ibn Battuta described the markets of Delhi: 'The markets of Delhi are vast and magnificent... The bazaar for male and female singers, which is known as Tarababad, is one of the greatest markets. It has shops which have doors opening into the market... In each shop, there is a swing on which the singer sits... The market is decorated and multi-coloured...'"

- (a) What name did Ibn Battuta give to the specialized market for singers in Delhi? (1)
- (b) What does this description reveal about the economic and social life of urban centers in the Delhi Sultanate? (1)
- (c) Compare Ibn Battuta's perspective on Indian urban centers with the views later expressed by

Francois Bernier regarding eastern cities.

(2 Marks)

**33. Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

"The accounts of Domingo Paes describe the city of Vijayanagara: 'The king has a room made of cloth... where the idol is placed... and this room has a platform where the king sits during the nine days of the festival... Here the king receives the salutations of his captains and pageants, and views the wrestling matches, fireworks, and the processions of elephants and horses...'"

- (a) Which grand festival is being described by the traveler Domingo Paes? (1)
- (b) Where did these structural activities take place inside the Vijayanagara layout? (1)
- (c) How did the king use this occasion to establish and project his political authority over his subordinates? (2)

**SECTION – E MAP-BASED QUESTION**

(1x5=5)

**34. On the given political outline map of India:**