



ANGEL'S PUBLIC SCHOOL

SAMPLE PAPER

HALF YEARLY EXAMS SESSION 2025 – 26

CLASS – XII

TIME : 3 HRS.

SUBJECT – HISTORY

M.M:80

General Instructions:

1. Question paper comprises five Sections – A, B, C, D and E. There are 34 questions in the question paper. All questions are compulsory.
2. **Section A** – Question 1 to 21 are MCQs of 1 mark each.
3. **Section B** – Question no. 22 to 27 are Short Answer Type Questions, carrying 3 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 60-80 words.
4. **Section C** - Question no 28 to 30 are Long Answer Type Questions, carrying 8 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 300-350 words.
5. **Section D** – Question no.31 to 33 are Source based questions with three sub questions and are of 4 marks each.
6. **Section-E** - Question no. 34 is Map based, carrying 5 marks that includes the identification and location of significant test items. Attach the map with the answer book.
7. There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions. Only one of the choices in such questions have to be attempted.
8. In addition to this, separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.

SECTION – A

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS:

(21 x 1 = 21)

1.Which of the following options accurately describes the significance of the Sangam Age in the context of literature?

- A. It marked the introduction of Sanskrit literature in South India.
- B. It was a period of decline in literary activities in Tamil Nadu.
- C. It witnessed the flourishing collection of ancient Tamil literature.
- D. It was characterized by the dominance of Greek literature in India.

2.To which one of the following dynasties did raja Gotami-puta Siri-Satakani belong?

- (a). Vakataka (b) Satvahana (c). Kushan (d). Gupta

3.Assertion(R): Recovering artefacts is merely the initial step in the archaeological process.

Reason(R): Archaeologists employ various methods such as classification based on material and function, analysis of contextual clues, and reliance on indirect evidence to understand the significance and purpose of artefacts.

Options:

- A. Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- B. Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- C. (A) is correct, but (R) is not correct
- D. (R) is correct, but (A) is not correct.

4.Consider the following statements regarding Buddhism and choose the correct option.

- I. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
- II. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.
- III. Bodhisattva achieve nibbana for personal salvation.

Options

- A. II & III B. II & III C. I & II D. I & III

5.Identify the ruler of the ancient India with the help of following information:

He was a prominent Shaka ruler.

He rebuilt Sudarshana Lake in the second century CE.

He showcased his engagement with Sanskrit traditions.

- A. Vikramaditya II
- B. Bhaskaravarman
- C. Bimbisara
- D. Rudradaman

6.Which of the following skills can be identified from Al-Biruni's writings?

- A. Proficiency in diplomacy and political negotiation.
- B. Fluency in multiple languages and a broad intellectual curiosity.
- C. Expertise in military strategy and warfare tactics.
- D. Exceptional talent for storytelling and vivid descriptions.

7.Imagine you are analysing a historical document from the Vijayanagar Empire. Which of the following documents would be most helpful in understanding the relationship between the empire and religious institutions?

- A. A military chronicle detailing the conquests of a Vijayanagar rulers.

- B. A record of diplomatic exchanges with traders and foreign ambassadors.
- C. A legal code outlining the rights and responsibilities of urban classes.
- D. An imperial decree granting land or privileges to a sacred organization

8. Which of the following developments significantly contributed to the increased flow of silver bullion into India through trade with Europe during the 16th-18th centuries?

- A. The rise of the Ottoman Empire in Asia
- B. The opening of the new world through voyages
- C. The Ming Dynasty's expansion into Southeast Asia
- D. The decline of the Safavid Empire in Asia

9. How did the compilation of the Ain-i Akbari contribute to Emperor Akbar's vision of governance? Choose the best suitable option from the following.

- A. By emphasizing military strategies for territorial expansion.
- B. By documenting religious rituals and practices across the empire.
- C. By providing information on administrative and cultural traditions.
- D. By focusing on trade routes and economic policies.

10. What insights did Francois Bernier provide about the economic structure of Mughal India? Choose the best suitable option from the following.

- A. The prevalence of private land ownership and equitable distribution of wealth.
- B. The dominance of state-controlled resources and limitations on private property.
- C. The absence of trade networks and economic isolation from global markets.
- D. The reliance on foreign investments and the absence of indigenous industries.

11. Compare and contrast the impacts of the American Civil War on cotton production in India and the United States. Choose the best suitable option from the following.

- A. Both countries experienced a decline in cotton production due to the war.
- B. India's cotton production increased while the United States experienced a decline.
- C. The United States saw increased cotton production while India's remained stagnant.
- D. Both countries saw a surge in cotton exports during the war period.

12. Why did the rebellion in Awadh become a symbol of resistance against British rule? Choose the best suitable option from the following.

- A. Due to the region's economic prosperity under native rule
- B. Due to the displacement of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah and taluqdars
- C. Due to favourable land revenue policies towards the peasantry
- D. Due to Awadh's central position for organizing rebel forces.

13.

Match the column I with column II regarding the archaeologist who worked in the exploration of Indus valley and choose the correct option.

Column I		Column II	
a	Daya Ram Sahni	i	Authored "Mohenjodaro & the Indus Civilisation"
b	Rakhal Das Banerji	ii	Discovered seals at Harappa
c	John Marshall	iii	Found seals at Mohenjodaro
d	R.E.M. Wheeler	iv	Authored "Ancient India"

Options

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
A.	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iv)
B.	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)
C.	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
D.	(i)	(ii)	(iv)	(iii)

14. Identify the idol and choose the correct answer

(a) Priest King (b) Mother Goddess (c) Lord Shiva (d) Others



15. Which of the following was the source of copper for the Harappans?

(a) Karnataka (b) Rajasthan (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Gujarat

16. Which of the following was the reason for the decline of Harappan Civilization?

(a) Climate change (b) Flood (c) Deforestation (d) All these

17. Where are the big granaries found?

(a) Lothal and Dholavira (b) Kalibanga (c) Banawali (d) Mohenjodaro

18. Name the languages in which the Ashokan inscriptions were written.

- (a) Pali, Prakrit, and Greek (b) Pali, Sanskrit, and Aramaic
- (c) Prakrit, Aramaic, and Greek (d) Pali, Sanskrit, and Greek

19. Who was Dhamma Mahamatta?

- (a) Special revenue officers appointed by Ashoka for tax collection
- (b) Special officers appointed by Ashoka for maintaining law and order in the kingdom
- (c) Special officers appointed by Ashoka to spread the message of dhamma
- (d) Special officer appointed by Ashoka to stop the spread of dhamma

20. Who said 'the subcontinent full of exciting opportunities'?

- (a) Albiruni (b) Bernier (c) Ibn Battuta (d) None of the above

21. Which of the following travelers was appointed as the Qazi or judge of Delhi by the Muhammad bin Tughlaq?

- (a) Al-Biruni (b) Mahmood of Ghaznavi (c) Both A & B (d) Ibn-Batuta

SECTION B

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (6 x 3 =18)

22.A. Analyse the layout of Harappan cities to identify features that promoted cleanliness and public health.

OR

B. Examine the challenges historians face in deciphering the Harappan script.

23.How does the Mahabharata show the multicultural nature of ancient Indian society? Explain with examples.

24.A. Examine the impact of Bhakti and Sufi poetry on the development of regional languages and literature.

OR

B. Examine how music and devotional songs in Bhakti and Sufi traditions serve spiritual expression and community unity.

25.Explain the term "Little Republics" as applied to villages during the Mughal period.

26.What were the elements of the practice of sati that drew the attention of Bernier?

SECTION C

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (3 x 8 =24)

28.A. How did the philosophical and religious developments during the first millennium BCE in India influence the socio-political aspects? Explain with examples.

OR

B. How did the construction of stupas contribute to the spread of Buddhist teachings? Explain with examples

29.A. 'Vijayanagar empire was characterised by a distinctive architecture and building styles.' Justify the statement. Justify the statement.

OR

B. 'The establishment of the Vijayanagar Empire considered significant in the history of the Indian subcontinent'. Justify the statement.

30. What do you think were the advantages and disadvantages of enclosing agricultural land within the fortified area of the city?

SECTION D

SOURCE BASED QUESTIONS (3 x 4 = 12)

31. Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Inscriptions

Inscriptions are writings engraved on hard surfaces such as stone, metal, or pottery. They usually record the achievements, activities, or ideas of those who commissioned them and include the exploits of kings, or donations made by women and men to religious institutions. Inscriptions are virtually permanent records, some of which carry dates. Others are dated on the basis of palaeography or styles of writing, with a fair amount of precision. For instance, in c. 250 BCE the letter "a" was written like this: By c. 500 CE, it was written like this: The earliest inscriptions were in Prakrit, a name for languages used by ordinary people. Names of rulers such as Ajatasattu and Asoka, known from Prakrit texts and inscriptions, have been spelt in their Prakrit forms in this chapter. You will also find terms in languages such as Pali, Tamil, and Sanskrit, which too were used to write inscriptions and texts. It is possible that people spoke in other languages as well, even though these were not used for writing.

I. What role does palaeography play in determining the age of inscriptions?

II. How do inscriptions contribute to our understanding of ancient societies and cultures?

III. What insights can be gained from studying the languages used in inscriptions across different regions and time periods?

32. Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Translating texts, sharing ideas

Translating texts, sharing ideas Al-Biruni's expertise in several languages allowed him to compare languages and translate texts. He translated several Sanskrit works, including Patanjali's work on grammar, into Arabic. For his Brahmana friends, he translated the works of Euclid (a Greek mathematician) into Sanskrit.

I. Analyse the advantage Al-Biruni gained from his expertise in multiple languages?

II. Analyse the significance of Al-Biruni translating Patanjali's work on grammar into Arabic?

III How did Al-Biruni's translations contribute to the mutual understanding and appreciation between Islamic and Indian civilizations?

1+1+2=4

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

Why was salt the symbol of protest?

This is what Mahatma Gandhi wrote: The volume of information being gained daily shows how wickedly the salt tax has been designed. In order to prevent the use of salt that has not paid the tax, which is at times even fourteen times its value, the Government destroys the salt it cannot sell profitably. Thus, it taxes the nation's vital necessity; it prevents the public from manufacturing it and destroys what nature manufactures without effort. No adjective is strong enough for characterising this wicked dog-in-the-manger policy. From various sources I hear tales of such wanton destruction of the nation's property in all parts of India. Maunds if not tons of salt are said to be destroyed on the Konkan coast. The same tale comes from Dandi. Wherever there is likelihood of natural salt being taken away by the people living in the neighbourhood of such areas for their personal use, salt officers are posted for the sole purpose of carrying on destruction. Thus, valuable national property is destroyed at national expense and salt taken out of the mouths of the people. The salt monopoly is thus a fourfold curse. It deprives the people of a valuable easy village industry, involves wanton destruction of property that nature produces in abundance, the destruction itself means more national expenditure, and fourthly, to crown this folly, an unheard-of tax of more than 1,000 per cent is exacted from a starving people. This tax has remained so long because of the apathy of the general public. Now that it is sufficiently roused, the tax has to go. How soon it will be abolished depends upon the strength the people.

I. What does Gandhi's reference to the "power of peace and non-violence" suggest about his strategic approach to resistance against British colonial rule?

II. What parallels can be drawn between Gandhi's critique of the salt tax and broader movements for social justice and human rights?

III. How does Gandhi's reference to the destruction of salt by the government shed light on the broader implications of colonial policies on India's natural resources?

SECTION E

Map Based Question:

(1 x 5 = 5)