CBSE · CLASS 12 · HISTORY

CBSE Class 12 History Important Questions 2027

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Bricks, Beads and Bones - The Harappan Civilisation

1. Role/contribution of archaeologists in discovering and interpreting the Harappan civilisation

Asked 4× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1/3/8 marks

Examine the major contribution of John Marshall as Director General of Archaeological Survey of India.

2. Harappan drainage system, town planning and urban centres

Asked 3× · Board 2023, Board 2025, Sample 2025 · 3/4 marks

Source-based ('The most ancient system yet discovered'): extract from Ernest Mackay, Early Indus Civilisation (1948) on Harappan drainage - houses connected to street drains, brick channels covered with loose bricks, sumps for cleaning, and drains of burnt brick at Lothal. Sub-questions: (31.1) Analyse the possible reason behind the uniformity in the drainage systems across the Harappan cities. (1) (31.2) Analyse the implications of finding little heaps of material, mostly sand, alongside drainage channels. (1) (31.3) Assess the impact of Harappan drainage system. (2)

3. Harappan trade and access to distant lands (raw-material sourcing)

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 1/3 marks

(OR alternative) Prove that Harappans had access to different parts of the world.

4. Harappan sites matched to their present-day states/locations

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Match the Column-I (Harappan Sites) with Column-II (Present Location): a. Manda b. Kalibangan c. Rakhigarhi d. Lothal with 1. Haryana 2. Gujarat 3. Rajasthan 4. Jammu. Options A-D

Kings, Farmers and Towns - Early States and Economies

5. Inscriptions and epigraphy as historical sources (palaeography and their limits)

Asked 3× · Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 3/4/8 marks

(OR alternative) 'Historians have used a variety of sources to reconstruct the history of the Mauryan empire and also explained the ways of their administration.' Justify the statement with suitable arguments. (5+3)

6. Mahajanapadas, their regions and characteristics

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Which one of the following is NOT a correct statement about Mahajanapadas? A. Most mahajanapadas were ruled by kings. B. Some known as ganas or sanghas, were oligarchies. C. Each mahajanapada had a capital city, which was often fortified. D. Panchala became the most powerful mahajanapada between 6-4 BCE.

7. Early-India dynasties and their lineage/succession (Satavahanas etc.)

Asked 2× · Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Which of the following pairs is correctly matched? (Ancient Dynasties - Lineage): (A) Kanvas - Successors of Mauryas (B) Mauryas - Successors of Mahapadmananda (C) Satvahanas - Successors of Kushanas (D) Shakas - Successors of Chalukyas

8. Features of Mauryan administration and its army

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2026 · 4/8 marks

(OR alternative) How do modern historians explain the development and rise of Magadhan power? Explain briefly.

9. Rudradaman, the Shaka ruler who rebuilt Sudarshana lake

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

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 Sanskritic traditions. A. Vikramaditya II B. Bhaskaravarman C. Bimbisara D. Rudradaman

10. Identify Ashoka as the first ruler to inscribe messages to subjects

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2024 · 1 marks

Identify the ruler of ancient India with the help of the given information: He got the title of Devanampiya; he distributed a portion of Buddha's relics for stupas; he was the first ruler who inscribed messages on rocks and pillars. Options: (A) Samudragupta (B) Harshavardhana (C) Rudradaman (D) Asoka

Kinship, Caste and Class - Early Societies

11. Endogamy, exogamy, polygyny and polyandry defined/matched

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Match the following (List I - List II): 1. Endogamy 2. Exogamy 3. Polygyny 4. Polyandry with a. practice of a woman having several husbands b. marriage within a unit (kin group, caste or locality) c. marriage outside the unit d. practice of a man having several wives. Options A-D

12. Preparation/stages of the 20th-century critical edition of the Mahabharata

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 3 marks

Describe the various stages through which Mahabharata was compiled in the 20th century. Discuss any three points.

13. Prabhavati Gupta: elite woman with access to resources and land grants

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Board 2025 · 1 marks

Prabhavati Gupta is best known for which of the following roles? (A) Wife of Ashoka and Promoter of Buddhist Sangha (B) Queen of Mauryan Empire and Promoter of Buddhism (C) Wife of Samudragupta and Poet of the Gupta Era (D) Daughter of Chandragupta-II and Wife of Vakataka King

Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings - Cultural Developments

14. Mid-first-millennium BCE as a turning point of new religious/philosophical ideas

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2025 · 3/8 marks

'The mid-first millennium BCE is considered as a significant turning point in the course of World History.' Justify the statement.

15. Jaina doctrine: Mahavira, tirthankaras, ahimsa, karma, renunciation

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Which of the following statements regarding Jainism is correct? I. Vardhaman Mahavira was born in 5th Century CE. II. Mahavira was the 24th Tirathankar. III. Jains worship Lord Shiva as Mahavira. IV. The principle of Ahimsa is emphasised in Jainism. Options: (A) Only I and II (B) Only II and III (C) Only III and IV (D) Only II and IV

16. Structural features and identification of stupas (Sanchi etc.)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Identify the following structure (image of a stupa) from the options: (A) Amravati Stupa (B) Sanchi Stupa (C) Barhut Stupa (D) Sarnath Stupa. [VI alternative: In which modern state of India is Sanchi Stupa located? (A) Maharashtra (B) Madhya Pradesh (C) Tamil Nadu (D) Uttar Pradesh]

17. Growth and significance of Pauranic Hinduism (Vaishnavism/Shaivism)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 3/8 marks

(OR alternative) Explain the significance of Pauranic Hinduism of the ancient India.

Through the Eyes of Travellers - Perceptions of Society

18. Bernier's crown-ownership-of-land thesis and 'oriental despotism'

Asked 4× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Board 2025, Sample 2025 · 1/4 marks

Source-based ('A warning for Europe'): extract where Francois Bernier warns that if European kings followed the Mughal model their kingdoms would become kingdoms of deserts, beggars and barbarians, and great cities would fall to ruin. Sub-questions: (32.1) Mention any one prominent contribution of Bernier. (1) (32.2) How did Bernier describe the difference between European kingdom and the Mughal territories? (1) (32.3) Explain Bernier's views on the socio-economic status of people under Mughal rule. (2)

19. Al-Biruni's multilingualism and his translations as cross-cultural bridge

Asked 3× · Board 2024, Sample 2025 · 1/4 marks

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.

20. Francois Bernier: identity, book and career at the Mughal court

Asked 2× · Board 2026, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Who among the following is the author of the book of travels called 'Travels in the Mughal Empire'? (A) Francois Bernier (B) Roberto Nobile (C) Duarte Barbosa (D) Marco Polo

21. Ibn Battuta: Moroccan traveller, Qazi of Delhi, author of the Rihla

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Identify the foreign traveller with the help of the following information: He was Moroccan traveller of the 14th century; He had the expertise of Islamic religion law; He was appointed Qazi of Delhi by Muhammad bin Tughlaq. (A) Al-Biruni (B) Seydi Ali Reis (C) Ibn Batuta (D) Mahmud Ali Balkhi

22. Distinctive features and aim of Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2025 · 1/3 marks

Al-Biruni's major work 'Kitab-ul-Hind' is significant for its comprehensive study of India. Which of the following was the primary aim of this work? (A) Promote Islamic teaching (B) Map geographical locations (C) Critique culture and traditions (D) Document Indian culture

Bhakti-Sufi Traditions - Changes in Religious Beliefs and Devotional Texts

23. Guru Nanak Dev's teachings and Nirguna Bhakti (oneness, formless rab)

Asked 3× · Board 2024, Board 2025, Board 2026 · 1/8 marks

Assertion (A): Baba Guru Nanak Devji advocated Nirguna Bhakti. Reason (R): For Baba Guru Nanak, the absolute or 'rab' had no gender or form. Choose the correct option (A-D).

24. Women devotees of the Alvar/Nayanar traditions (Andal)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2025 · 1/3 marks

Which of the following statements is incorrect about Andal? A. Andal was a woman Alvar, the most striking features of her compositions were widely sung. B. Andal was a woman Nayanar, she incorporated the prevailing caste system in the society. C. Andal saw herself as the beloved of Vishnu; her verses express her love for the deity. D. Andal saw herself as the beloved of Krishna; her verses express her love for the deity.

25. Bhakti-Sufi devotional language, poetry and music (Chishti vernaculars)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2025 · 3 marks

(OR alternative) Examine how music and devotional songs in Bhakti and Sufi traditions serve spiritual expression and community unity.

26. Sufi teachers, their circles and dargah locations

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Find the odd one out from the following (Sufi Teachers - Location of Dargah): (A) Shaikh Muinuddin Chishti - Ajmer (B) Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki - Delhi (C) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya - Agra (D) Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i-Shakar - Ajodhan

An Imperial Capital: Vijayanagara

27. Decline/fall of Vijayanagara and the Battle of Talikota

Asked 3× · Board 2024, Board 2025, Board 2026 · 1/3 marks

The battle at Talikota (Rakshasi Tangri) was fought between which two of the following groups? (A) Krishnadeva Raya and rulers of Madurai, Ikkeri and Mysore (B) Rama Raya and rulers of Bijapur, Gingee and Bidar (C) Krishnadeva Raya and rulers of Golconda, Kolar and Chandragiri (D) Ram Raya and rulers of Bijapur, Golconda and Ahmednagar

28. Foreign travellers to Vijayanagara matched to origin/country

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Match Column-I (Foreign Travellers) with Column-II (Countries): a. Afanasi Nikitin b. Domingo Paes c. Abdur-Razzak d. Nicolo de Conti with I. Persia II. Russia III. Portugal IV. Italy. Options A-D

29. The Sangama dynasty as first rulers of Vijayanagara (Harihara and Bukka)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Which of the following was the first dynasty to rule over the Vijayanagara Empire? A. Suluva dynasty B. Aravidu dynasty C. Tuluva dynasty D. Sangama dynasty

30. Rise/apogee of Vijayanagara under Krishnadeva Raya (expansion and consolidation)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2026 · 8 marks

(OR alternative) 'Abdur Razzaq, an ambassador sent by the ruler of Persia to Calicut (present-day Kozhikode) in the fifteenth century, was greatly impressed by the fortifications, and mentioned seven lines of forts.' Substantiate the statement with suitable examples.

31. Distinctive architecture and the Royal Centre of Vijayanagara

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2025 · 8 marks

(OR alternative) 'The establishment of the Vijayanagar Empire considered significant in the history of the Indian subcontinent.' Justify the statement.

32. Temples and the sacred centre (Hazara Rama temple)

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Which of the following temples at Vijayanagara was meant to be used only by the king and his family? (A) Vitthala temple (B) Chidambaram temple (C) Hazara Ram temple (D) Virupaksha temple

33. Water-resource management: Kamalapuram tank and Hiriya canal

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Board 2026 · 3 marks

(OR alternative) Describe the views of Domingo Paes on the city of Vijayanagara.

Peasants, Zamindars and the State - Agrarian Society and the Mughal Empire

34. The village panchayat and villages as 'little republics'

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2025 · 3 marks

Examine the role of Panchayat in advocating for the rights of common people during the Mughal era.

35. Akbar's four land categories (Polaj, Parauti, Chachar, Banjar)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Consider the following statements regarding the criteria of classification of lands under Akbar: 1. Polaj is land which is annually cultivated for each crop in succession and is never allowed to lie fallow. 2. Parauti is land left out of cultivation for a time that it may recover its strength. 3. Chachar is land that has lain fallow for three or four years. 4. Banjar land was also called jins-i-kamil. Which is/are correct? A. 1,2,3,4 B. 1,2,3 C. 1,2,4 D. 2,3,4

36. Mughal land revenue: collection methods and economic importance

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2024 · 3/4 marks

'Revenue from the land was the economic mainstay of the Mughal empire.' Support the statement with examples.

Kings and Chronicles - The Mughal Courts

37. Structure of the Ain-i-Akbari (Mulk-abadi, Sipah-abadi, Manzil-abadi)

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Choose the correct option: The book deals with the fiscal side of the empire and provides rich quantitative information on revenue rates. A. Manzil-abadi B. Sipah-abadi C. Mulk-abadi D. Aam-abadi

Colonialism and the Countryside - Exploring Official Archives

38. Permanent Settlement of 1793: criticism, zamindar defaults and peasant indebtedness

Asked 3× · Board 2024, Board 2026, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Identify the major long-term consequence of the permanent settlement for the Indian peasantry from the following: (A) Increased ownership of land among farmers. (B) Investment in agricultural technology. (C) Increased exploitation and indebtness. (D) Abolition of all kinds of landlordism.

39. The Paharias: forest life, British policy and conflict with the Santhals

Asked 3× · Board 2022, Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 3 marks

Discuss the policies adopted by the British towards the Paharias during the early 18th century in Bengal.

40. Jotedars of North Bengal and their power versus zamindars

Asked 2× · Board 2022, Sample 2026 · 1/3 marks

The _____ were most powerful in North Bengal, although rich peasants and village headmen were emerging as commanding figures in the countryside in other parts of Bengal as well. A. Zamindars B. Jotedars C. Taluqdars D. Ryots

41. Chronological ordering of colonial land laws, settlements and rebellions

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Which of the following represents the correct chronological order of events related to agrarian developments in India during the 19th century? I. The Permanent Settlement in Bengal II. The Deccan Riots Commission III. The Santhal Rebellion IV. The Fifth Report by a Select Committee. Options: A. I,II,III & IV B. II,III,IV & I C. III,II,I & IV D. I,IV,III & II

42. Impact of the American Civil War (1861) on Deccan cotton and the ryots

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2025 · 1/3 marks

Compare and contrast the impacts of the American Civil War on cotton production in India and the United States. 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.

43. Francis Buchanan and his official surveys (Bengal/Rajmahal)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2025 · 1/4 marks

Source-based ('On clearance and settled cultivation'): extract where Buchanan, passing through a village in the lower Rajmahal hills, describes the cultivation of rice valleys and proposes clearing woods for plantations of Asan and Palas (Tassar silk, Lac), palmyra and mahua. Sub-questions: (33.1) How did Buchanan describe the view of the lower Rajmahal hills? (1) (33.2) Why did Buchanan believe that the area had high potential for improved cultivation? (1) (33.3) How did Buchanan propose utilising the land for economic benefits? (2)

Rebels and the Raj - The Revolt of 1857 and its Representations

44. Why 1857 was widespread in Awadh: the chain of grievances (prince, taluqdars, peasants, sepoys)

Asked 5× · Board 2022, Board 2024, Board 2026, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/3/4 marks

Source-based ('What taluqdars thought'): extract expressing the attitude of Hanwant Singh, Raja of Kalakankar near Rae Bareli, who sheltered a British officer during the mutiny but resolved to march to Lucknow to drive the British out. Sub-questions: (33.1) Explain the anguish of Hanwant Singh for the British officer. (1) (33.2) How were Taluqdars facilitated by the rulers? (1) (33.3) Explain any two causes of dissatisfaction of Taluqdars from British rule. (2)

45. Leaders of the 1857 revolt matched to their regions/centres

Asked 5× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Choose the correct pair regarding the local leaders during the Revolt of 1857 (Local Leader - Region): (A) Gonoa - Chotanagpur (B) Shahmal - Hyderabad (C) Kunwar Singh - Kanpur (D) Maulavi Ahmadullah Shah - Arrah

46. Rebel proclamations, aspirations and appeals for Hindu-Muslim unity in 1857

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2025 · 3 marks

'The rebellion of 1857 was seen as a war in which both Hindus and Muslims had equally to lose or gain.' Analyse the statement.

47. Colonial policies feeding 1857 (Subsidiary Alliance, annexation)

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Board 2025 · 1 marks

Which one of the following was a key feature of the 'Subsidiary Alliance' introduced by Lord Wellesley in 1798? (A) Free Trade Policy brought by British (B) Maintenance of native army by British (C) Imposition of Western Customs by British (D) Protection of native territory by British

Mahatma Gandhi and the Nationalist Movement - Civil Disobedience and Beyond

48. Gandhi's role after Independence ('finest hour') restoring communal peace

Asked 4× · Board 2022, Board 2024, Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 3/8 marks

(OR alternative) Explain why many scholars believe that the months after Independence were Gandhiji's 'finest hour.'

49. Dating/sequencing national-movement and early Gandhian events

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Match the column I with column II: (i) Mahatma Gandhi returns from South Africa (ii) Champaran movement (iii) Peasant movements in Kheda (Gujarat) and workers' movement in Ahmedabad (iv) Rowlatt Satyagraha with (a) 1917 (b) 1918 (c) 1919 (d) 1915. Options A-D

50. The Non-Cooperation Movement: circumstances, Khilafat link and significance (an epoch)

Asked 3× · Board 2022, Board 2024, Board 2026 · 1/6/8 marks

(OR alternative) 'Gandhiji started the Salt March for various reasons and it resulted in a significant movement.' Explain the statement with examples. (4+4)

51. The Salt March/Satyagraha and the salt-tax critique (Civil Disobedience)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2025 · 4/8 marks

Source-based ('Why was salt the symbol of protest?'): extract of Mahatma Gandhi on the salt tax as a 'fourfold curse' that deprives people of a village industry and destroys national property. Sub-questions: (33.1) What does Gandhi's reference to the 'power of peace and non-violence' suggest about his strategic approach to resistance against British colonial rule? (1) (33.2) What parallels can be drawn between Gandhi's critique of the salt tax and broader movements for social justice and human rights? (1) (33.3) 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? (2)

Framing the Constitution - The Beginning of a New Era

52. Nehru's Objectives Resolution and the National Flag proposal

Asked 3× · Board 2022, Board 2026, Sample 2026 · 1/4 marks

Identify the Indian Political Leader with the help of the following information: I. He moved the 'Objectives resolution' in the Constituent Assembly. II. He moved the resolution proposing that the National flag be a horizontal tricolor of saffron, white and dark green in equal proportions with a wheel of navy blue colour in the centre. (A) Sardar Patel (B) Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (C) Dr. Rajendra Prasad (D) Dr. Radhakrishnan

53. Constituent Assembly debate opposing separate electorates (Pant, Patel, Pocker Bahadur)

Asked 3× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 4 marks

Source-based (countering separate electorates): passage where Govind Ballabh Pant, countering the demand for separate electorates, argues that success of democracy is judged by the confidence it generates amongst different sections and that separate electorates are a suicidal demand that would isolate minorities (Source - page 329, Chapter 4, Themes in Indian History-III, NCERT). Sub-questions: (33.1) Why were the national leaders countering demand for separate electorates? (1) (33.2) Imagine you were a member of the Constituent Assembly. Would you have supported the idea of separate electorates? Give reasons. (2) (33.3) What was the argument given by B. Pocker Bahadur to which Govind Ballabh Pant agreed? (1)

54. Centre-State division of powers and the three lists (federalism)

Asked 2× · Board 2022, Sample 2025 · 3/8 marks

(OR alternative) Explain the distribution of powers between the Centre and the States, as debated in the Constituent Assembly, highlighting differing viewpoints and concerns.

55. Provisions and framework of the Government of India Act, 1935

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Board 2026 · 1/3 marks

Explain the main provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

56. Women members of the Constituent Assembly (Hansa Mehta, constituencies)

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Match Column-I (Women member) with Column-II (Constituency) - List of Women members in the Constituent Assembly: I. Sarojini Naidu II. Hansa Mehta III. Vijayalakshmi Pandit IV. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur with a. Central Province b. Uttar Pradesh c. Bihar d. Bombay. Options A-D

57. Dr B.R. Ambedkar as Chairman of the Drafting Committee

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2025 · 1/3 marks

Describe the role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly.

Map Work - Significant Sites of Indian History

58. India-map locate/identify: Harappan, Buddhist, early-state, Mughal/Vijayanagara and 1857 centres

Asked 9× · Board 2022, Board 2023, Board 2024, Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/2/3/5 marks

Map: On the political outline map of India (34.1) locate and label with appropriate signs/symbols: (i) Nageshwar, a mature Harappan site; (ii) Kashi, an early state; (iii)(a) Goa, an area under Aurangzeb OR (iii)(b) Thanjavur, a medieval town. (34.2) Two places marked A and B as centres of the Indian national movement - identify and write their names. [VI alternative: name two capitals of early states; one area under Aurangzeb OR capital of Vijayanagara; two main centres of Indian National Movement.]

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