

# Question Bank

## – Class XII History

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### Theme 1: Bricks, Beads and Bones (Harappan Civilisation)

#### 1 Mark Questions

1. What is another name for the Harappan Civilisation?
2. Name any one major site of the Harappan Civilisation.
3. What was the script used by the Harappans called?

#### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three features of the drainage system of Harappan cities.
2. Describe the main characteristics of Harappan town planning.

#### 5 Mark Questions

##### Case Study:

The cities of the Harappan Civilisation were well planned with a grid pattern of streets. Houses were built using standardized burnt bricks and had access to an advanced drainage system, reflecting a high level of civic sense and urban management.

1. Mention two features of Harappan town planning.
2. Why were burnt bricks important in construction?
3. How does the drainage system reflect the civic sense of the Harappans?

#### Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the main features of the Harappan Civilisation. Analyse its urban planning, economy and trade practices.
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### Theme 2: Kings, Farmers and Towns

#### 1 Mark Questions

1. What is the meaning of the term “Janapada”?
2. Name the text that provides detailed information about Mauryan administration.
3. Who was the founder of the Mauryan Empire?

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three features of the Mahajanapadas.
2. Describe the role of agriculture in the development of early states.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

The growth of cities in early India was closely linked to the expansion of agriculture and trade. The use of iron tools enabled farmers to clear forests and cultivate land more effectively, leading to surplus production and the rise of early states.

1. How did iron tools help in agricultural expansion?
2. What was the relationship between agriculture and the growth of towns?
3. Why was surplus production important for early states?

### Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the main features of early states in India. Explain the relationship between kings, farmers and towns.
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## Theme 3: Kinship, Caste and Class

### 1 Mark Questions

1. What is meant by the term “gotra”?
2. Name the epic that provides information about kinship and social relations.
3. What does the term “varna” refer to?

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three rules of marriage in early Indian texts.
2. Describe the main features of the caste system.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

In early Indian society, kinship ties played an important role in shaping social structure. Rules regarding marriage, inheritance and family were guided by dharmashastras, which also defined norms for different varnas.

1. What is meant by kinship?
2. Mention two rules regarding marriage.
3. How did dharmashastras influence social structure?

## Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the role of kinship, caste and class in shaping early Indian societies.
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## Theme 4: Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings

### 1 Mark Questions

1. Who founded Buddhism?
2. What is a stupa?
3. Name the text that contains the teachings of Mahavira.

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three teachings of Buddhism.
2. Describe the main features of early temples and stupas.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

Buddhist stupas were built to preserve sacred relics. Over time, they became important centres of worship and pilgrimage, attracting followers from different regions.

1. What were stupas used for?
2. Mention two architectural features of a stupa.
3. Why did stupas become important religious centres?

## Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the philosophical ideas of Buddhism and Jainism and their impact on society.
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## Theme 5: Through the Eyes of Travellers

### 1 Mark Questions

1. Name any one foreign traveller who visited India.
2. Who wrote the book *Rihla*?
3. Which traveller described Vijayanagara?

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three observations made by foreign travellers.
2. Describe the importance of travel accounts.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

Travellers from different parts of the world visited India and recorded their experiences. Their accounts provide valuable insights into the social and economic life of the time, though they may reflect personal biases.

1. Why are travel accounts important?
2. Mention two limitations of these accounts.
3. Name one traveller and his contribution.

### Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the role of foreign travellers in understanding medieval Indian society.
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## Theme 6: Bhakti–Sufi Traditions

### 1 Mark Questions

1. Who was Kabir?
2. What is meant by Sufism?
3. Name any one Bhakti saint.

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three features of the Bhakti movement.
2. Describe the role of Sufi saints.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

The Bhakti and Sufi movements emphasized devotion, equality and love for God. They rejected rigid rituals and promoted a simple and direct path to spirituality.

1. What was the main idea of the Bhakti movement?
2. Mention two teachings of Sufi saints.
3. How did these movements influence society?

## Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the teachings and impact of Bhakti and Sufi traditions.
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## Theme 7: An Imperial Capital – Vijayanagara

### 1 Mark Questions

1. Where was Vijayanagara located?
2. Who founded the Vijayanagara Empire?
3. What was the main language of administration?

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three features of Vijayanagara city.
2. Describe the importance of Hampi.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

Vijayanagara was a prosperous city known for its markets, temples and strong fortifications. It attracted traders from across the world and became an important centre of trade and culture.

1. Mention two features of the city.
2. Why was Vijayanagara an important trade centre?
3. What led to its decline?

## Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the features of the Vijayanagara Empire.
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## Theme 8: Peasants, Zamindars and the State

### 1 Mark Questions

1. What is meant by “zamindar”?
2. What was the main source of Mughal revenue?
3. Who wrote the *Ain-i-Akbari*?

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three features of the Mughal agrarian system.
2. Describe the role of zamindars.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

The Mughal agrarian system was based on land revenue. Peasants cultivated land while zamindars acted as intermediaries between the state and the peasants.

1. What was the role of peasants?
2. Mention two functions of zamindars.
3. Why was land revenue important?

### Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the agrarian structure of the Mughal Empire.
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## Theme 9: Colonialism and the Countryside

### 1 Mark Questions

1. What was the Permanent Settlement?
2. Who introduced it?
3. What is meant by “ryot”?

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three features of the Permanent Settlement.
2. Describe the impact on peasants.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

British land revenue systems brought major changes in rural India. These policies often led to economic hardship and revolts among peasants and zamindars.

1. What was the aim of British policies?
2. Mention two effects on peasants.
3. Why did these lead to revolts?

## Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the impact of colonial rule on Indian agriculture.
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## Theme 10: Rebels and the Raj

### 1 Mark Questions

1. When did the Revolt of 1857 take place?
2. Name one leader of the revolt.
3. What was its immediate cause?
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### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three causes of the revolt.
2. Describe the role of soldiers.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

The Revolt of 1857 was a widespread uprising against British rule involving soldiers, peasants and rulers from various regions.

1. What was the nature of the revolt?
2. Mention two causes.
3. Why did it fail?

## Long Answer Question

1. Discuss the causes and consequences of the Revolt of 1857.
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## Theme 11: Mahatma Gandhi and the National Movement

### 1 Mark Questions

1. Who led the Civil Disobedience Movement?
2. What was the Salt March?
3. When did the Non-Cooperation Movement begin?

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three features of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
2. Describe Gandhi's methods.

### 5 Mark Questions

#### Case Study:

Mahatma Gandhi used non-violent methods to mobilise masses against British rule, gaining widespread support across India.

1. What is non-violence?
2. Mention two movements led by Gandhi.
3. How did people participate?

### Long Answer Question

1. Discuss Gandhi's role in the national movement.
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## Theme 12: Framing the Constitution

### 1 Mark Questions

1. When was the Constitution of India adopted?
2. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee?
3. What is democracy?

### 3 Mark Questions

1. Explain any three features of the Constitution.
2. Describe the role of the Constituent Assembly.

## **5 Mark Questions**

### **Case Study:**

The Constitution of India laid the foundation of a democratic nation. It guarantees rights and ensures equality for all citizens.

1. What is the Constitution?
2. Mention two features.
3. Why is it important?

### **Long Answer Question**

1. Discuss the making and significance of the Constitution.
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