

HOLIDAY ASSIGNMENT – CLASS XII

2017-18

Answer the following questions:

1. Why is most of our understanding of Indus Valley Civilization based on archaeological sources? Give two striking features of Harappan writing.
2. Which civilizations were contemporaries to Harappan Civilization? Why the Indus Valley Civilization is also called as the Harappan Culture?
3. Give any five aspects of present day India which can be traced to Indus Valley Civilization.
4. Scholars have varying views on source of authority during the Harappan period i.e., whether it was priest or king. Yet all agree to existence of some form of centralized power. Give reasons.
5. What are the evidences used by scholars to reflect on the religious practices of Harappans? Give five reasons.
6. Discuss some of the methods adopted by Asoka to maintain control over the diverse empire.
7. Differential access to land, labour and new technologies led to the emergence of a stratified society. Explain.
8. “Epigraphy alone cannot provide a complete understanding of history.” Analyze this statement.
9. Who was James Prinsep? How did his discovery give a new direction for studying early Indian history?
10. Could rulers have engraved inscriptions in areas that were not within the empire? Analyze this statement in the light of Asokan inscriptions.
11. Why do you think rulers made arrangements for irrigation?
12. Why do you think the rulers claimed divine status? Give examples in support of your answer.
13. Give reasons why Mahabharata is said to be a dynamic text?
14. Why do you think the Buddhist theory of social contract strikes a cord in today’s democratic societies?
15. Explain with examples how integration within the framework of the caste system was a complicated process?
16. Justify with examples, kings were not always Kshatriyas as defined by the Dharmasastras.
17. Early societies were marked by gender differences. Justify by giving evidence.
18. What are the elements that the historians consider while analyzing texts?
19. What strategies were evolved by the Brahmanas for enforcing social norms related with Varna Dharma?

20. Support with examples from Mahabharata the different criteria suggested for becoming a king.
21. Mahabharata is a good source to study the social values of ancient times. Support this statement with suitable arguments.
22. The rules of Brahmanical texts were not universally followed in ancient times. Justify by giving examples.
23. "Buddhist literature needs to be studied to understand the sculpture at Sanchi and other places." Justify the statement with examples.
24. "The notion of savior is seen both in Hinduism and Buddhism." Justify the statement.
25. Sanchi survived but Amravati did not. Give reasons.
26. Explain the factors that led to the rise of Buddhism and Jainism.
27. How did the economic and political developments in the 6th c. BCE affect the religious beliefs of people?
28. The fatalists and materialists are two extreme notions. Explain.
29. Wherein and why were rules for monks and men laid down? Why do you think Punna wanted to join the Sangha?
30. "The Begums of Bhopal played a significant role in preserving the remains of the stupa at Sanchi." Support the statement with suitable evidence.
31. Ibn Battuta's account refers to prevalence of slavery in India. Justify the statement by giving suitable examples.
32. How is Ibn Battuta's account useful in understanding life in the urban centres?
33. Give the contradictions and limitations within Bernier's account regarding arts and activities.
34. 'Bernier's account influenced western theorists from the 18thc.' Give arguments to support the statement.
35. Why do you think Bernier highlighted the practice of Sati? Was he justified in doing so?
36. Define Sufism. What are the different origins attributed to the term Sufism? How are Sufi lineages named? Give examples.
37. State two important processes of integration of cults in post 8th c. AD. Support your answer by giving examples.
38. Give at least five similarities and dissimilarities that marked Sufi and Bhakti movements.
39. Coming of Islamic faith was marked by complex blend of local traditions. Justify by giving examples.
40. Why do you think the traditions of Bhakti saints are significant even in the 21st century?
41. "The terms Hindu and Muslims were not regarded as labels of religious communities before the 14th century". Analyze the statement.

42. Temples under the Vijayanagara state were a major economic force. Justify the statement.
43. Rulers of Vijayanagara associated themselves with divinity? Justify the statement with examples.
44. Relations between the Sultans and the “Rayas” were not always or invariably hostile. Explain.
45. Various source materials have helped reconstruct the history of Vijayanagara. Support the statement with evidence.
46. Explain five features which justify the characterization of Indian agriculture as “subsistence agriculture” in the 16th and 17th centuries.
47. Explain how the lives of forest dwellers were transformed in the 16th and 17th centuries.
48. Agrarian society was biased against women in 16th and 17th centuries. Justify the statement.
49. There was a direct correlation between caste, poverty and social status at the lower strata of society. Explain.
50. Discuss Ain as a source of reconstruction of the Mughal Empire during the reign of Akbar.
51. Women of the imperial household played an important role in the Mughal Empire. Explain.
52. Justify with examples how visual material/paintings sought to convey reality of the Mughal period in a symbolic manner.
53. Explain how the idea of justice was reinforced in the Mughal Empire with the help of suitable examples.
54. Explain the Mansabdari system.
55. Why did Abul Fazl describe land revenue as a remuneration of sovereignty? Explain.
56. In what ways did the Jotedars resist the authority of the Zamindars? Explain.
57. The Permanent Settlement initially limited the power of the Zamindar. Justify the statement.
58. The ryots rights of ownership were negated under the Ryotwari Settlement. Justify the statement.
59. The relationship between Paharias and plain people was fragile. Explain giving reasons.
60. Explain how the power of the Jotedars within a village was more effective than that of Zamindars?
61. “Rumours circulate only when they resonate, with deep fears and suspicions of the people.” How was this statement true in the context of the Revolt of 1857?
62. Why did the Indians think that their religion was in danger?
63. The revolt was significant for Hindu-Muslim unity. Justify the statement.
64. Justify with examples the popular nature of the revolt.

65. "The British Government consciously developed the city of Madras to reflect their racial superiority." Explain giving suitable examples.
66. How did the nature of the colonial city change after the 1857 revolt?
67. "Bombay was the commercial capital of colonial India." Why?
68. "Individuals make history." Explain with reference to Mahatma Gandhi.
69. The Non-Cooperation Movement was highly successful. Critically analyse the statement.
70. Explain how Gandhiji transformed Indian nationalism by 1922?
71. "1937 was a turning point in Indian history". Discuss.
72. Punjab and Bengal were marked by similarities and contrast in the way they experienced partition. Justify.
73. Why did Congress accept partition? Explain.
74. Do you agree with the view that the acceptance of the demand for the partition of the country was an act of appeasement? Give reasons.
75. Explain how the Constituent Assembly reflected the diversity of the people of India and their opinions?
76. Explain why many leaders demanded a strong centre during the debates in the Constituent Assembly?
77. Why did several members in the Constituent Assembly support the cause of the Depressed Classes? What did the Assembly finally recommend for them?
78. Explain how the constitutional developments before 1946 were different from those made by the Constituent Assembly?
79. How were the discussions within the Constituent Assembly influenced by the opinion expressed by the people? Explain.
80. How did the Constituent Assembly seek to resolve the language controversy?