

MWC(O)HIST-I/23

2023

HISTORY

PAPER-I

Time Allowed—3 Hours

Full Marks—200

*If the questions attempted are in excess of the prescribed number, only the questions attempted first up to the prescribed number shall be valued and remaining ones ignored.*

*Answers may be given either in English or in Bengali but all answers must be in one and same language.*

**Group-A**

1. Answer *any three* questions: 10×3=30
  - (a) Give an account on the basic features of the Harappan Civilisation.
  - (b) How did social conditions change from the early-Vedic to later-Vedic times?
  - (c) Give an account of the cultural achievements of the Gupta era. Do you agree with the view that it was the Golden Age of Indian history?
  - (d) The tripartite contest between the Palas, the Rashtrakutas and the Pratiharas was essentially a struggle for the North Indian heartland.—Comment.
2. Answer *any two* questions: 20×2=40
  - (a) How do you account for the rise of heterodox religious movements in the fifth century B.C.?
  - (b) What were the distinctive features of Mahayana Buddhism? How was it different from Hinayana Buddhism? 10+10
  - (c) What are Agrahara and Brahmadeya land grants? What role did they play in the history of early medieval times?
3. Answer *any one* question: 30×1=30
  - (a) Would you agree with the view that the Kushana Empire was Central Asian in its origin, but acquired many Indic features over the years?
  - (b) How do you account for the proliferation of castes in early medieval India, during the 7th to 12th centuries?

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**Group-B**

4. Answer *any three* questions: 10×3=30
- (a) Assess the role played by Balban in the Strengthening of central authority in the Delhi Sultanate.
  - (b) Give an account of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq's project for the transfer of capital. Would you say the Sultan was a visionary leader way ahead of his time?
  - (c) Write an essay on the role played by Sufism in the social life of medieval India.
  - (d) What were the salient features of the Mughal school of painting?
5. Answer *any two* questions: 20×2=40
- (a) Give an account of the Market regulation policies of Alauddin Khilji. What impact did it have on the economy of the Sultanate? 15+5
  - (b) The Vijaynagar - Bahmani rivalry was shaped less by religious differences, and more by struggle for geopolitical dominance.—Comment. 20
  - (c) Write an essay on the economy of Mughal India. 20
6. Answer *any one* question: 30×1=30
- (a) The struggle between the Crown and the nobility was the defining feature of the Delhi Sultanate in the 13th and 14th centuries.—Discuss. 30
  - (b) Trace the evolution of Mughal Deccan policy from Akbar to Aurangzeb. How did it contribute to the weakening of the Mughal Empire? 20+10