

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?

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
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