

**SOUTHFIELD COLLEGE
DARJEELING**

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

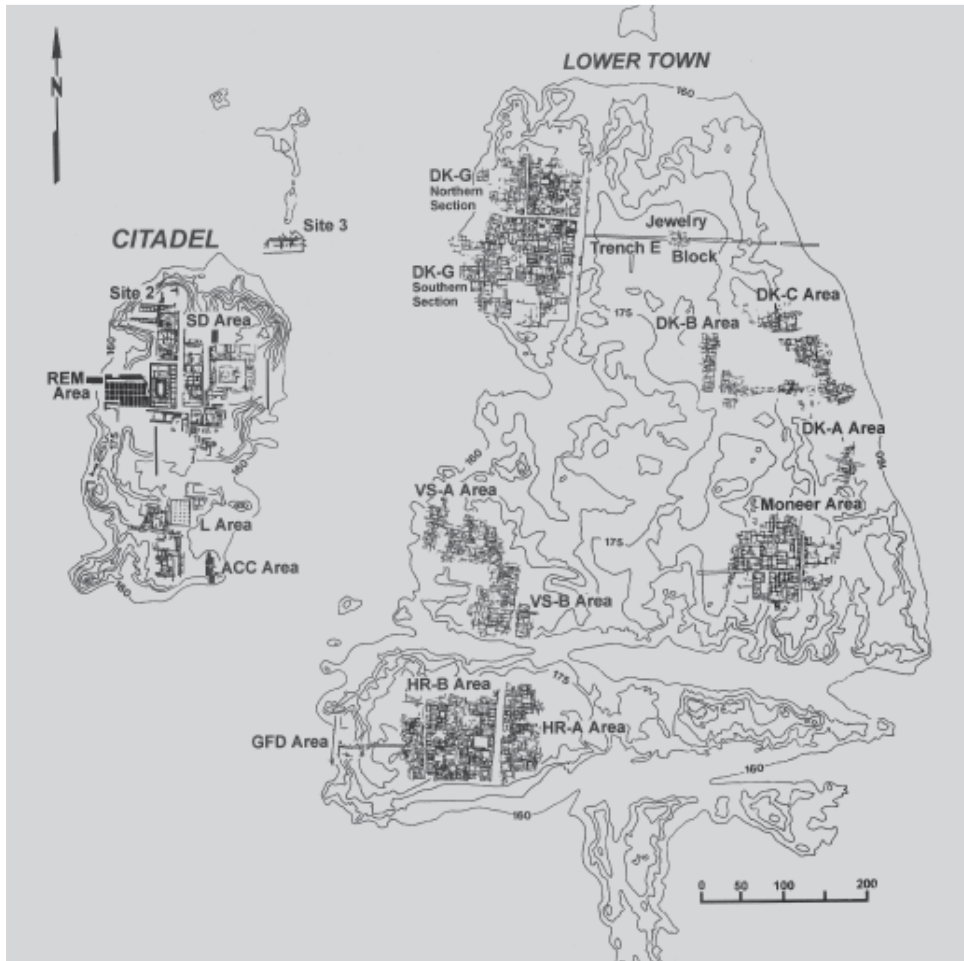
Innovative Question Bank

HISTORY HONS

Semester I

Paper I: HISTORY OF INDIA- I

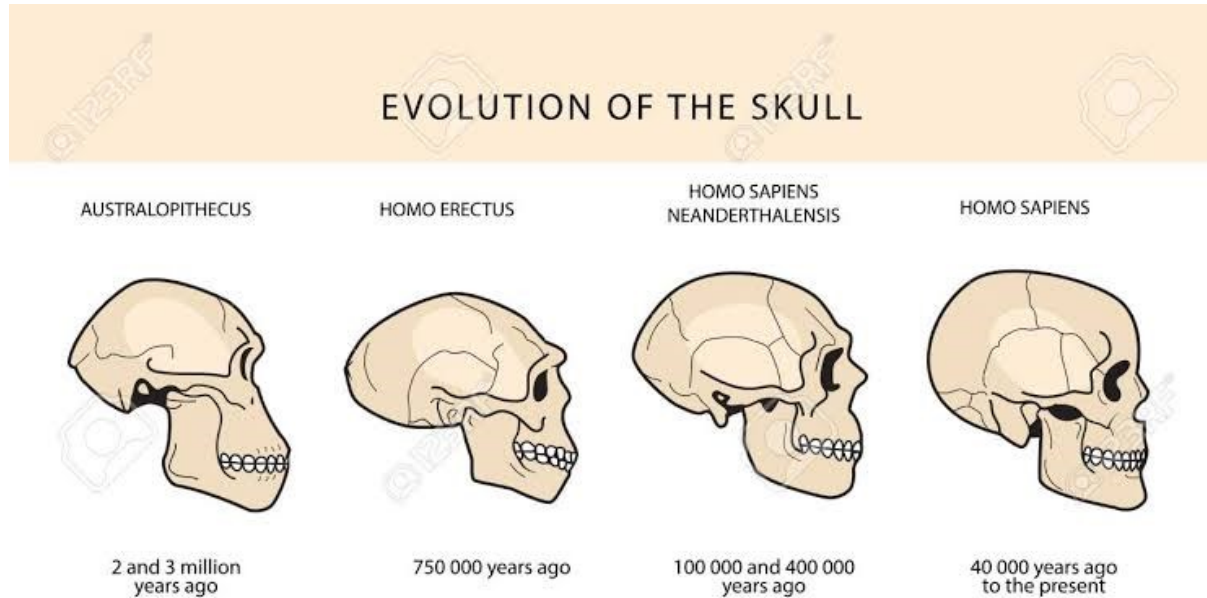
1. How are artefacts identified? What is the evidence used by archaeologists to reconstruct dietary practices?



2. How is the lower town different from the citadel?
3. What are the aspects of Harappan economy that have been reconstructed from archaeological evidence?
4. Find out if there are any museums in your town. Visit one of them and write a report on any ten items, describing how old they are, where they were found, and why you think they are on display.
5. Discuss the debates on the problem of Aryan migration India. What are the recent development and scientific explanations on the issue?

Paper II: SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

1. Look at these four skulls. List as many similarities and differences that you notice looking carefully at the brain case, jaws and teeth.



2. How were Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilisation similar and different?
3. State the geographical features of Central Asia that aided the development of nomadism in the region.
4. What textual and archaeological evidences of early use of iron are available for the ancient world? Describe the iron smelting technology and what role did it play in making iron as the metal of choice.
5. Discuss the contribution of Thucydides in the development of historiography.

Semester II

Paper III: HISTORY OF INDIA II

1. “Brahmanas often cited a verse from a hymn in the Rigveda known as the Purushasukta , describing the sacrifice of Purusha, the primeval man. All the elements of the universe, including the four social categories, were supposed to have emanated from his body: The Brahmana was his mouth, of his arms was made the Kshatriya. His thighs became the Vaishya, of his feet the Shudra was born”.

Why do you think the Brahmanas quoted this verse frequently?

2. To what extent do you think that Arthasastra and Indica are useful in the reconstruction of the history of Mauryan administration?
3. Do you agree that Kanishka’s fame rests not so much on the conquests, as on his patronage to the religion of Sakyamuni.
4. Give a critical account of Mauryan Art and architecture. Do you notice any foreign inspiration in Mauryan Art?
5. Describe the rise of various theistic cults. How did it impact Brahmanical religion during the period?

Paper IV: SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

1. What led to the conflict of ‘Orders’ in Roman Republic? Did it lead to any significant changes in the political structure?
2. How was the Roman agrarian economy transformed by the rise of *Latifundia*? Discuss the factors which led to a crisis in the slave economy in the Roman Empire.
3. Compare and contrast Roman art and architecture with Greek art and architecture.
4. Why was the Roman world referred to as ‘a civilization of borrowings’? Explain.
5. Describe the changing relationship between Christianity and the Roman state between the first and fifth centuries CE.

Semester III

Paper V: HISTORY OF INDIA III (c. 750 -1206)

1. What do mean by the term '*Vamsavali*'? Discuss the significance of *Rajatarangini* as a historical source.
2. Explain with examples the northern and southern style temple architecture in India.
3. Do you believe that Arab conquest of Sindh was a triumph without results?
4. Discuss the social and cultural impact of Arab invasion of Sindh.
5. Write a short note on the trade routes in south India which became important in the early medieval period.

Paper VI: RISE OF THE MODERN WEST - I

1. How do you define the early modern west?
2. What are the different arguments of scholars regarding the transition from feudalism to capitalism in Europe?
3. How did technical knowledge help in overseas expansion?
4. What are the features of humanist thought?
5. Discuss the changes in attitudes which came about with the rise of the print culture during the Reformation.

Paper VII: HISTORY OF INDIA IV (c.1206 - 1550)

1. What are the characteristics of Arabic and Persian tradition of history writing?
2. Whom do you consider the real founder of the Delhi Sultanate? Give the views of different historians.
3. Do you think that mainstream movies like **Padmavat** depict Alauddin in a correct way?
4. Identify the present day states that formed the part of Vijaynagar Empire. Discuss the ways in which rivers and hills may have facilitated or hindered

communication with Vijaynagar in each case.



Map 6.1: South India during the Vijaynagara times
Source: EHI-03: India: From 8th to 15th Century, Block 7, Unit 27, p. 42

5. Do a comparative study of Sufi and Bhakti ideas.

PAPER-I UNDERSTANDING HERITAGE

1. Define Heritage. What are the challenges faced by heritage?
2. Explain with examples tangible and in tangible heritage.
3. Write about the evolution of heritage legislation.
4. What is the relationship between cultural heritage and tourism?
5. Write about at least two heritage sites of your town.

Semester IV

Paper VIII: RISE OF THE MODERN WEST - II

1. Explain why the crisis of the seventeenth century is called the general crises?
What was the impact of the crisis?
2. Write a note on the varying pattern of migration and settlement from Europe to other parts of the world.
3. Discuss the nature of conflict between different social groups during the English Revolution.
4. Critically evaluate the various interpretations of the scientific development of seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Explain the role of Women in Science in seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
5. Discuss the demographic trends in Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Analyse the marriage patterns in Europe in the eighteenth century.

Paper IX: HISTORY OF INDIA V (c. 1550 - 1605)

1. List a few memoirs of the Mughal period. In what ways Gulbadan Begum's *Humayun Nama* is important to construct the social history of the period?
2. Differentiate between the writing styles of Sanskrit historical texts produced by the Brahmins and the Jains. What is the importance of *Jagadgurukavya* as a historical treatise?
3. Explain how during the period of Akbar, the Mughal and Islamic administration gradually became Indianized.
4. Write an essay on trade and commerce both inland and maritime during the Mughal times.
5. Can Akbar be seen as a national Emperor?

Paper X: HISTORY OF INDIA VII (c. 1605 - 1750s)

1. What are the major impacts of the Mughal policy of treating Persian as the official language of India?
2. Discuss the significance of Rajputs in redefining the character of Mughal nobility.
3. Write an essay on the development of architecture during the Mughal times. List the distinctive features of Mughal school of painting

4. Was Aurangzeb really responsible for the fall of the Mughal Empire?
5. What are the various debates on the interpretation of the 18th century in India?

SEC Archives and Museums

1. What is an archive? How did archives develop in India?
2. What are the different types of archives and museums in India?
3. How are artefacts collected and preserved in the museums?
4. What are the ways of documentation and preservations of archival records?
5. What kind of role does exhibition and presentations play in creating awareness about collecting and protecting historical sources?

Semester V

Paper XI: HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE- I (C. 1780-1939)

1. Examine the role of the philosophers in the French revolution.
2. What was the major characteristic of the British state in the 18th century?
Discuss the measures taken by the British state towards the welfare of its subjects.
3. Explain the Chartist movement.
4. Write a note on the Working class movement in Europe.
5. Discuss the rise of nationalism and the creation of modern nation states in Europe.

Paper XII: HISTORY OF INDIA VI (c. 1750 - 1857)

1. What do you understand by monopoly of trade?
2. Which among the battle do you think was more decisive-Battle of Plassey or Battle of Buxar?
3. What were the ideologies of the Raj to legitimize the British rule in India?
4. How did colonialism affect the life of common masses in India?
5. Write a note on the historiography of the revolt on 1857.

DSE Paper I- HISTORY OF USSR (1917-64)

1. Trace the circumstances leading to the Bolshevik Revolution 1917. What was its impact on the contemporary world?
2. Discuss the Civil war of Russia.
3. What was the New Economic Policy introduced in Russia. What was its impact?
4. What is the great debate on soviet industrialisation?
5. What do you mean by collectivisation of soviet agriculture?

OR

DSE Paper II HISTORY OF THE MODERN EAST ASIA- I (C. 1840-1949)

1. Describe the pattern of social structure in pre-modern China.
2. How was the tributary system replaced by the treaty system from 1842 to 1860?

3. Why is May Fourth movement described as political, social, literary and intellectual movement combined into one?
4. Write a note on the character of Taiping rebellion. Why did it fail?
5. Trace the origin and development of communist movement in China under Mao tse Tung.

DSE III HISTORY OF THE USSR (1917-1964)

1. Write a note on planned industrialisation in Russia from 1928 to 1941.
2. Describe the changes in Russia in terms of demography, gender and working class from 1928 to 1945.
3. What do you mean by market socialism? How was industry and agriculture reconstructed in Russia?
4. How did Russia enter the World War II? What changes occurred after the war in Russia?
5. What was the impact of de Stalinisation of Europe?

OR

DSE Paper IV HISTORY OF MODERN EAST ASIA II (C. 1868-1945)

1. Describe the salient features of the Meiji constitution of 1889. Write a note on the nature of the constitution.
2. Trace the growth of Japanese imperialism in Far East.
3. Account for the outbreak of the Sino- Japanese war in 1937. How did it develop in to a global war?
4. Give an account of post World War II changes in Japan
5. Trace the historical background of the emergence of modern Korea.

Semester VI

Paper XIII: HISTORY OF INDIA VIII (c. 1857 - 1950)

1. Make an assessment on the socio religious reform movement in India.
2. What were the reasons for the rise of nationalism in India?
3. What do you mean by Gandhian nationalism? How did it change the course of the freedom struggle in India?
4. Write about the post independence problems faced by India and how were it dealt with.
5. Outline the migration problem in India. Do you think that the displaced persons of West Bengal and East Pakistan were equally treated in India?

Paper XIV: HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE II (c. 1780 - 1939)

1. Discuss the Marxist theory of revolution.
2. What was the ideology behind the rise of Fascism and Nazism?
3. Why did the first socialist revolution happen in Russia?
4. Romanticism gave a new meaning to art and music. Explain?
5. Define the ideology of gender.

DSE Paper V HISTORY OF AFRICA (c1500-1960s)

1. Discuss the transition of Africa from informal imperialism to colonial imperialism.
2. Briefly discuss the colonial economic transformation of Africa. What was its impact?
3. What led to the rise of nationalism in Africa? What role was played by the peasants and the labour class?
4. What tools of colonial control were used by the British, French and Belgians in Africa? Did British colonialism differ from that of the French and the Belgians?
5. Critically examine the role of Christian missions in the colonial process of South Africa.

OR

DSE VI HISTORY OF NORTH BENGAL – I

1. Give the historical narrative of North Bengal from the ancient to the medieval time.
2. What was the political, socio-economic condition of Bengal before the establishment of the Pala rule?
3. Write about Buddhism during the Pala period. What impact it had in North Bengal and the eastern Himalayas?
4. How did Islam penetrate North Bengal? What was its repercussion?
5. Give a brief political history of the Khen and the Koch rule.

DSE Paper VII HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA (c. 1500-1960s)

1. How did the Spanish conquer Mexico and Peru?
2. Explain the economic transformation of colonial Latin America with regards to trade, mining, agriculture and forest.
3. What were the changes in the religious and cultural sphere brought by colonialism?
4. Discuss the role of Bolivar in the Latin American Revolution. Did he realise his vision.
5. What led to the drastic demographic change in Latin America? Was it related to the social transformation of Latin America?

OR

DSE VIII HISTORY OF NORTH BENGAL – II

1. Give a narrative on the British conquest and expansion of North Bengal.
2. Why were hill stations important for the British? How did Darjeeling become a part of the colonial rule?
3. How was the economy of North Bengal transformed by the colonial rule? What role did plantation economy play in this?
4. How did the people of North Bengal participate in the national movement like Swadeshi and Quit India Movement?
5. Discuss Rajbanshi Khatriya movement and the role of Rai Sahib Panchanan Barma.

GE Paper - I History of India from Earliest Times to 1192 AD)

1. Write an essay on the merits and demerits of literary sources for the study of ancient Indian history.
2. Determine the antiquity and the latest extent of the Harappan Civilisation.
3. Give an account of the socio- religious conditions in the Rig Vedic period. Trace the influence of those social practices and religious customs in present day Indian life.
4. Give an account of Mauryan art and architecture. Do you notice any foreign inspiration in Mauryan art?
5. Give an analysis of political and economic condition of India on the eve of Arab invasion.

GE Paper-II History of India from 1193 to 1950 AD)

1. What are the characteristics of Arabic and Persian tradition of history writing?
2. Whom do you consider the real founder of the Delhi Sultanate? Give the views of different historians.
3. Explain how during the period of Akbar, the Mughal and Islamic administration gradually became Indianized.
4. What were the ideologies of the Raj to legitimize the British rule in India?
5. What do you mean by Gandhian nationalism? How did it change the course of the freedom struggle in India?

B.A. PROGRAMME IN HISTORY (GENERAL)

SEMESTER I

DSC Paper I HISTORY OF INDIA FROM EARLIEST TIMES UPTO 300 C.E.

1. What are the aspects of Harappan economy that have been reconstructed from archaeological evidence?
2. Discuss the debates on the problem of Aryan migration India. What are the recent development and scientific explanations on the issue?
3. Discuss the impact of Jainism and Buddhism on contemporary Indian society, economy and culture.
4. Give a critical account of Mauryan Art and architecture. Do you notice any foreign inspiration in Mauryan Art?
5. Describe the rise of various theistic cults. How did it impact Brahmanical religion during the period?

SEMESTER II

DSCPAPER-2: HISTORY OF INDIA FROM C. 300 TO1206

1. Who were Indo-Greeks? Discuss their cultural contributions in the history of India?
2. Explain with examples the northern and southern style temple architecture in India.
3. Do you believe that Arab conquest of Sindh was a triumph without results?
4. Discuss the social and cultural impact of Arab invasion of Sindh.
5. Write a short note on the trade routes in south India which became important in the early medieval period.

SEMESTER III

DSC PAPER -3: HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 1206 TO1707

1. Whom do you consider the real founder of the Delhi Sultanate? Give the views of different historians.
2. Do a comparative study of Sufi and Bhaki ideas.
3. Explain how during the period of Akbar, the Mughal and Islamic administration gradually became Indianized.

4. Write an essay on the development of architecture during the Mughal times. List the distinctive features of Mughal school of painting
5. Was Aurangzeb really responsible for the fall of the Mughal Empire?

SEC PAPER II: MUSEUMS & ARCHIVES IN INDIA

1. What is an archive? How did archives develop in India?
2. What are the different types of archives and museums in India?
3. How are artefacts collected and preserved in the museums?
4. What are the ways of documentation and preservations of archival records?
5. What kind of role does exhibition and presentations play in creating awareness about collecting and protecting historical sources?

SEMESTER IV

DSC PAPER-4: HISTORY OF INDIA: 1707-1950.

1. What were the ideologies of the Raj to legitimize the British rule in India?
2. How did colonialism affect the life of common masses in India?
3. Write a note on the historiography of the revolt on 1857.
4. What do you mean by Gandhian nationalism? How did it change the course of the freedom struggle in India?
5. Write about the post independence problems faced by India and how were it dealt with.

SEC PAPER III: INDIAN HISTORY & CULTURE

1. Write a note on the oral and codified information on medicinal plants among the Lepcha tribes of Darjeeling.
2. What do you mean by urbanism and urbanisation?
3. Discuss the role of gender within household in the Indian society.
4. What do you mean by cultural heritage? Give examples.
5. What is the link between cultural heritage and historical tourism

SEMESTER V

DSE PAPER 1 SOME ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN HISTORY: C. 1780 -1945

1. To what extent did the writings of the philosophers of the 18th century France influence the French revolution of 1789.

2. Do you agree with the view that Industrial Revolution had an all pervading effect on society, economy and
3. Would you agree that foreign policy of Kaiser William II was partly responsible for the World War I?
4. Critically discuss the major factors that led to colonial expansion in the late 19th century. What was their consequence?
5. Discuss the diplomatic background of the Second World war.

OR

DSE PAPER-III HISTORY OF NORTH BENGAL – I

1. Give the historical narrative of North Bengal from the ancient to the medieval time
2. What was the political, socio-economic condition of Bengal before the establishment of the Pala rule?
3. Write about Buddhism during the Pala period. What impact it had in North Bengal and the eastern Himalayas?
4. How did Islam penetrate North Bengal? What was its repercussion?
5. Give a brief political history of the Khen and the Koch rule.

SEC PAPER VI: ORALITY AND ORAL CULTURE IN INDIA

1. What do you mean by oral history?
2. Write a note on the historiography of orality.
3. What are the ways in which oral tradition is documented?
4. How can a sociological aspect of history be interpreted with the help of oral sources?
5. Write about some oral tradition of India or of the local community which you are in.

SEMESTER VI

DSE Paper II SOCIETY & ECONOMY OF MODERN EUROPE: 15TH – 18 CENTURY

1. What are the different arguments of scholars regarding the transition from feudalism to capitalism in Europe?
2. How did technical knowledge help in overseas expansion?

3. What are the features of humanist thought?
4. Discuss the changes in attitudes which came about with the rise of the print culture during the Reformation.
5. Write a note on the shift of economic balance from the Mediterranean to Atlantic during the 16th century.

OR

DSE Paper- IV: History of North Bengal -II

1. Give a narrative on the British conquest and expansion of North Bengal.
2. Why were hill stations important for the British? How did Darjeeling become a part of the colonial rule?
3. How was the economy of North Bengal transformed by the colonial rule? What role did plantation economy play in this?
4. How did the people of North Bengal participate in the national movement like Swadeshi and Quit India Movement?
5. Discuss Rajbanshi Kshatriya movement and the role of Rai Sahib Panchanan Barma.

SEC PAPER VIII: UNDERSTANDING HERITAGE

1. Define Heritage. What are the challenges faced by heritage?
2. Explain with examples tangible and in tangible heritage.
3. Write about the evolution of heritage legislation.
4. What is the relationship between cultural heritage and tourism?
5. Write about at least two heritage sites of your town.