

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN  
NEW DELHI**



**STUDY MATERIAL**  
BASED UPON  
HIGH ORDER THINKING SKILLS (HOTS)  
CLASS-XII  
SUBJECT – HISTORY  
2009-2010

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **BRICKS, BEADS AND BONES**

#### **(The Harappan Civilisation)**

- Q.1 How does an archeologist reconstruct a Civilisation – Explain in the context of Indus Valley Civilisation.**
- Q.2 Why the Harappan Civilisation called a Bronze Age Civilisation?**
- Q.3 Discuss whether the only work of archeologist is to excavate sites.**
- Q.4 How can you say that the Harappan culture was an urban one?**
- Q.5 "Our knowledge about the Indus Valley Civilization is poorer than that of the other Civilizations". Explain it by your arguments.**
- Q.6 Discuss the evidence for craft production in early historic cities. In what ways is this different from the evidence from Harappan cities?**
- Q.7 Discuss the functions that may have been performed by rulers in Harappan society.**
- Q.8 How can we trace the social differences among the Harappans?**
- Q.9 Analyse the causes led to decline of the Harappan Civilisation.**
- Q.10 Harappan religion strongly resembles the modern Hinduism – Give reasons.**
- Q.11 How do you know that the Harappans had an aesthetic sense?**
- Q.12 Harappan had a strong sense of hygiene and cleanliness – Substantiate this statement.**
- Q.13 Why Harappan script is not helpful to reconstruct harappan Civilisation?**
- Q.14 Compare harappan script with that of Brahmi script.**

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS**

#### **Early States and Economics (About 600 BCE-600 CE)**

- Q.1 How did the state encourage the trade and commerce in Gupta period?**
- Q.2 How did Magadha become as the most powerful Kingdom in Mahajanpada period?**
- Q.3 Examine the sources of knowledge with us to know about India of the age in between 600 BCE – 600 CE.**
- Q.4 This is a statement made by one of the best known epigraphists of the twentieth century, D.C. Sircar: There is no aspect of life, culture and activities of the Indians that is not reflected in inscriptions. Discuss.**
- Q.5 How did the Mauryan emperors promote trade and commerce?**
- Q.6 How do historians reconstruct the lives of ordinary people?**
- Q.7 Discuss the notions of rulership that developed in the post Mauryan period.**
- Q.8 “The name of Ashoka shines in the History” why?**
- Q.9 “It is said that the Mauryan administration was efficient and well organized”. Do you agree with this statement?**
- Q.10 Which traditions are used by historians in order to understand social life during the Mahabharata period?**

## CHAPTER 3

### KINSHIP, CASTE AND CLASS EARLY SOCIETIES

(C 600 BCE-600 CE)

- Q.1 “The entire economy during C.600 BCE – 600 CE evolved around the guild system” substantiate this statement.
- Q.2 The educational system during the Mahabharata age was traditional”. Explain.
- Q.3 How the Manusmriti has defined the features and functions of chandalas? What was written by Chinese travelers about them?
- Q.4 Textual traditions are one of the major sources for understanding the process of changes. Explain the statement in about 100 words.
- Q.5 The following is an excerpt from the Mahabarta in which Yudishtira, the eldest Pandava speaks to Sanjaya a messenger: Sanjaya convey my respectful greetings to all the Brahmanas and the chief priest of the house of Dhritarashtra. I bow respectfully to teacher Drona....I hold the feet of our preceptor Kripa... (and) the chief of the Kurus, the great Bhishma. I bow respectfully to the old king(Dhritarashtra) . I greet and ask after the health of his son Dhritarashtra and his younger brother.... Also greet all the young Kuruwarriors who are our brothers sons and grandsons...Greet above all him who is like us, father and mother, the wise Vidura (born of a slave women). I bow to the elderly ladies who are known as our mother. To those who are our wives you say this, "I hope they are well protected... Our daughters in law born of good families and mothers of children greet on my behalf. Embrace for me those who are our daughters....The beautiful fragrant well dressed courtesans of ours you should greet. Greet the slave women and their children greet the maimed of (and) the helpless.
- Questions to be answered after reading this excerpt.
1. Try and identify the criteria used to make this list in terms of age, gender and kinship ties.
  2. Are there any other criteria?
  3. For each category explain why are placed in a particular position in the list.
- Q.6 This is what a famous historian of Indian literature Maurice Winternitz, wrote about the Mahabarata: "just because Mahabarata represents more of an entire literature and contains so much and so many kind of things....(it) gives us an insight into the most profound depths of the soul of the Indian folk"... .Discuss.
- Q.7 “The Mahabharat is considered as an important epic of ancient India”. Discuss.
- Q.8 Compare the dharma mentioned in the stories of Drona, Hidimba and Matanga.
- Q.9 What are the elements that a historian has to keep in mind while asking literary sources in the reconstruction of social history?
- Q.10 ‘The rules of Brahmanical types were not universally followed in ancient times’. Justify by giving evidence.

## **CHAPTER -4**

### **Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings, Cultural Developments**

**(600 BCE to 600 CE)**

- Q.1 What were the ideas of Upanishadic thinkers different from those of the fatalists and materialists .**
- Q.2 Why the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. is called landmark in the History of Indian Culture? Discuss.**
- Q.3 Why had Magadha become the centre of the new religious movement?**
- Q.4 How far the Indian Rulers were responsible for the preservation of the Stupa of Sanchi?**
- Q.5 Why do you think men and women Joined the Sangha?**
- Q.6 Evaluate the Circumstances which were responsible for the spread of Buddhism?**
- Q.7 Explain the differences between the Hinyana and Mahayana sets of Buddhism on the basis of the concept of Bodhisatva?**
- Q.8 Assess the Importance of Buddhism for the enrichment of Indian Culture.**
- Q.9 Why did men and women joined the ‘Sangha’?**
- Q.10 Why did Magadha become the centre of new religions movements?**
- Q.11 Why were the Stupas built?**
- Q.12 How did the Dhanvanti date her inscription?**
- Q.13 What were the main contributions of the Jainism and Buddhism to the Indian Society?**
- Q.14 Discuss the causes led to disappearance of Buddhism from Indian territory.**

## LESSON-5

### Through the Eyes of Travellers

- Q.1** Discuss the meaning of term “Hindu”. How did it come into use in our country?
- Q.2** Discuss some general features of travelers of 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century?
- Q.3** What are the comparisons that Ibn Battuta makes to give his readers an idea about what coconuts looked like?
- Q.4** What, according to Bernier, were the problems faced by peasants in the subcontinent? Do you think his description would have served to strengthen his case?
- Q.5** Do you think Al-Biruni depended only on Sanskrit texts for his information and understanding of Indian Society?
- Q.6** Do you think Ibn-Battuta’s account is useful in arriving at an understanding of life in contemporary urban centres? Give reasons for your answer.
- Q.7** Write in your own words about the summary of description of India given by Al Beruni.
- Q.8** How the village communities were regulated?
- Q.9** According to “Ain-i-Akbari the village was a little republic”. Substantiate this statement.
- Q.10** “Land Revenue was the most important for the Mughal fiscal system”. Discuss.
- Q.11** How did Panchayat and village headmen regulate rural society?
- Q.12** How were the lives of forest dwellers transformed in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries?
- Q.13** Evaluate the role of Zamindars during the Mughal period.
- Q.14** Evaluate the significance of the caste-panchayat during the Mughal period.
- Q.15** Give a critical note on ‘Rihla’.
- Q.16** What were the observations of Ibn Battuta on the Indian Slaves and Indian Women.

## CHAPTER 6

### BHAKTI AND SUFI TRADITION

- Q.1** To what extent do you think the architecture of Mosques in the sub continent reflects a combination of universal ideas and local tradition?
- Q.2** Discuss the varieties of sources used by scholars to reconstruct history of Sufi traditions.
- Q.3** Discuss the ways in which the Alwars, Nayanars and Virashaivas expressed critiques of the caste systems.
- Q.4** Analyse, with illustrations, why Bhakti and Sufi thinkers adopted a variety of languages in which to express their opinions.'
- Q.5** "Kabir was a famous saint of Bhakti period". Examine that statement.
- Q.6** Why rulers tried to establish connections with the traditions of the saints of Bhakti and Sufis?
- Q.7** What historians do mean by the integration of cults? Explain with examples.
- Q.8** How can you justify that the Alvars, Nayanars and Vira Shivas were great critics of caste system?
- Q.9** How did the Alvars and Nayanars undermine the influence of caste system?
- Q.10** Analyse the main factors responsible for the origin of Bhakti Movement.
- Q.11** Examine how and why the rulers tried to establish connections with traditions of Nayanars and Sufis.
- Q.12** Examine with examples, why Bhakti and Sufi thinkers adopted a variety of languages to express their opinions.

## LESSON-7

### VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE

- Q.1 Discuss the relationship between the architecture and the political system of Vijaynagar Empire.**
- Q.2 Like most of the capitals, Vijaynagar was characterized by a distinctive physical layout and building style. Discuss.**
- Q.3 Evaluate the importance of Amar Nayak System in emergence of Vijayanagar Empire.**
- Q.4 What do you think were the advantages and disadvantages of enclosing agricultural land within the fortified area of the city?**
- Q.5 What do you think was the significance of the ritual associated with the Mahanavami dibba?**
- Q.6 What impression of the lives of the ordinary people of Vijaynagar can you identify from the various descriptions in Vijayanagar Empire.**
- Q.7 How were water requirements of the Vijayanagar met?**
- Q.8 How did the term 'Hampi' come into origin?**
- Q.9 Why did the Vijaynagar become deserted during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century?**
- Q.10 Why did the rulers of Vijayanagar Empire adopt the title of 'Hindu Siratnama'?**
- Q.11 Why the Vijayanagara Kingdom often described as the forgotten empire by historians earlier**
- Q.12 Analyse the unique features of the Vijayanagara Samrajyam.**

## CHAPTER 8

### PEASANTS, ZAMINDARS AND THE STATE AGRARIAN SOCIETY AND THE MUGHAL EMPIRE (C. *Sixteenth* and *Seventeenth* Century)

- Q.1 Examine the evidence that suggest that land revenue was important for fiscal system.
- Q.2 Examine the role played by Zamindars in Mughal India.
- Q.3 Discuss, with examples about the significance of monetary transactions during the period 16th and 17 century.
- Q.4 To what extent do you think caste was a factor in influencing social and economic relations in agrarian society?
- Q.5 Discuss the ways in which panchayats and village headmen regulated rural society.
- Q.6 Describe the parallel Army of Zamindars in the Mughal India.
- Q.7 How were the lives of forest dwellers transformed in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century?
- Q.8 Examine the role played by Zamindars in Mughal India.
- Q.9 Examine the evidence that suggest Land Revenue was important for Mughal State Treasury.
- Q.10 How Silver came to India from foreign countries during the Mughal period?
- Q.11 How were the Zamindars classified during the Mughal period?
- Q.12 Why was Todarmal's Zapti System considered as most scientific among the land revenue systems of Akbar period?
- Q.13 What impact do you think the expansion of the empire would have had on land revenue collection?
- Q.14 What do you think about Akbar's insistence on a detailed classification of lands?
- Q.15 How did the Mughal rulers encourage art and painting?

## CHAPTER 9

### KINGS AND CHRONICLES

- Q.1 Explain the system of mingling of civil and military officials during Akbar's period.**
- Q.2 What was the "suleh-kul" ? Do you consider Akbar as a propagator of cultural Unity?**
- Q.3 Evaluate the concerns that shaped Mughal Policies and attitudes towards Regions outside the sub continents?**
- Q.4 "Sher Shah Suri was the forerunner of Akbar" Prove this Statement by giving reasonable arguments.**
- Q.5 What is Mansabdari system? Evaluate the merits and demerits of this System.**
- Q.6 What historians mean by the integration of cults? Explain with examples.**
- Q.7 How did the centre controlled the provinces in the Mughal administration?**
- Q.8 Why were the Mughal manuscripts painted?**
- Q.9 "Abdul Fazl presented a visual presentation which is very important for reconstructing Mughal history" why?**
- Q.10 How the Akbar created religious tolerance among his people? Explain.**
- Q.11 The Mughal administrative system was the most well organized and well planned system – explain.**
- Q.12 How did Akbar promote the national integration and unity among the people of India?**
- Q.13 Give a critical note on first Battle of Panipat.**
- Q.14 Why were Mughal Chronicles published? Describe the importance of Persian as the leading language of the Mughal court?**
- Q.15 Why are the Akbarnamah and Badghanamah regarded as the most important illustrated historic works of the Mughal period?**
- Q.16 Why did the British established archives in India?**

## CHAPTER- 10

### COLONIALISM AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

- Q.1 Discuss the works and achievements of BUCHANAN**
- Q.2 How did the system of loans worked in deccan ? Discuss briefly as it has been stated in Deccan riots commission report.**
- Q.3 What are the problems of using official sources in writing about the history of peasants.**
- Q.4 What steps taken by the British East India Company to control the Zamindars?**
- Q.5 What steps taken by the British East India Company to control the Zamindars?**
- Q.6 Why was the jotendars a powerful figure in many areas of rural Bengal?**
- Q.7 Why did the British prepare the maps of cities in India? Write any four objectives.**
- Q.8 What was the attitude of colonial rulers towards the Indian towns?**
- Q.9 “Hill Stations were of great importance from the point of view of the colonial economy”. Explain.**
- Q.10 What were the concerns that influenced town planning in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?**
- Q.11 Why were the records maintained in colonial cities?**
- Q.12 How did the urban and rural elements combined in colonial Modras?**
- Q.13 How were the social relations transformed the new cities?**
- Q.14 How did prominent Indian merchants established themselves in colonial cities?**
- Q.15 How did colonial rule influence the architectural style of buildings in India?**
- Q.16 Mention any four changes that took place in the social life of the new cities in the colonial period.**
- Q.17 Why did the Bombay become the centre of international trade? Discuss.**
- Q.18 How was the racism reflected in the British colonial buildings?**
- Q.19 The city life during the British colonial period was full of struggles for the Workers and artisans – explain.**
- Q.20 “White towns were knows as fortified areas”. Explain.**

## CHAPTER 11

### (1857 REVOLT AND ITS REPRESENTATION)

**Q.1 Discuss briefly main terms and condition related with subsidiary alliance?**

**Q.2 Why did people believe in rumours during the time of 1857 Revolt.**

**Q.3 Why did the Indian think during British period that their religion was in danger?**

**Q.4 What was the system of Subsidiary Alliance? How did it help the Britishers to consolidate their position in India?**

**Q.5 A very high degree of Hindu Muslim Unity was observed in the 1857 revolt. Explain with example.**

**Q.6 Analyse the causes of the unrest against the British rule in India.**

**Or**

**The revolt of 1857 came as a culmination of popular discontent with British policies and exploitation, "In the light of the statement explain the reasons of discontent of Indian people before 1857.**

**Q.7 Did the Revolt of 1857 have a popular character? Give reasons in support of your answer.**

**Q.8 Explain the causes of the failure of the Revolt of 1857.**

**Or**

**"The weaknesses of the Revolt were deeper" Explain why the Revolt failed inspite of some patriotic leaders.**

**Q.9 Why did the rebel sepoys in many places turned to erstwhile rulers to provide leadership in the revolt?**

**Q.10 Analyse the evidence that indicates planning and coordination on the part of the rebels.**

- Q.11** Discuss the role of religious beliefs in shaping the events of 1857.
- Q.12** Why was the revolt particularly widespread in Awadh?
- Q.13** “Rumour circulate only when they resonate with the deep fears and suspicious of the people.” How was this statement true in the context of the revolt of 1857?
- Q.14** “The sepoy was in fact, a peasant in uniform.” Evaluate this statement.
- Q.15** Discuss the nature of the revolt of 1857. Was it merely a sepoy mutiny or first war of Indian Independence?
- Q.16** What did the rebel proclamation repeatedly appealed for?
- Q.17** Why did Delhi became centre of 1857 revolt?
- Q.18** How did the British suppress the revolt of 1857?
- Q.19** What do visual representations tell us about the revolt of 1857?  
How do the historians analyse these representations?
- Q.20** Why there was discontent among the peasants during the British Rule?
- Q.21** Why did the western educated Indians keep themselves aloof from the revolt?
- Q.22** Why did discontent increase against Britishers between 1757 to 1857?

## CHAPTER – 12

### URBANISATION, PLANNINGS AND ARCHITECTURE

- Q.1 Discuss the main features of the first hill station founded and develop during the colonial period in India.**
- Q.2 Why Indians had not given correct information to census officer?**
- Q.3 How did prominent Indian merchants establish themselves in the colonial city?**
- Q.4 To what extent are census data useful in reconstruction patterns of urbanization in the colonial context?**
- Q.5 Assess the impact of health and defence needs on town planning in Colonial Calcutta.**
- Q.6 How were the urban centres transformed during the 18<sup>th</sup> century?**
- Q.7 Why were the Hill Stations so important for the colonial rulers?**
- Q.8 To what extent were social relations transformed in the new cities?**
- Q.9 “The British Government had developed the city of Madras to reflect their racial superiority.” Justify the statement with suitable examples.**
- Q.10 Why there was an ambiguity in the data of British India Census?**

## CHAPTER-13

### MAHATMA GANDHI AND THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT

- Q.1** What understanding did the Government and the Congress reach under the Gandhi Irwin Pact?
- Q.2** Explain the main issues on which the non-cooperation movement was launched?
- Q.3** 'Non Cooperation was a form of Protest'. Evaluate this statement.
- Q.4** How did Mahatma Gandhi transform the nature of the National movement?
- Q.5** 'The Quit India Movement was truly a mass movement'. Justify this statement.
- Q.6** How did Mahatma Gandhi broaden the base of Indian National Movement?
- Q.7** How are autobiographies and private letters different from official accounts?
- Q.8** Evaluate the contribution of Gandhiji to the Indian National Movement.
- Q.9** How was Mahatma Gandhi perceived by the peasants?
- Q.10** Describe the circumstances under which civil disobedience movement was launched? What were its main features? Why was it suspended and re-launched?
- Q.11** Why did Gandhi oppose the proposal of separate electorate for the depressed classes in the round table conference?

## CHAPTER 14

### UNDERSTANDING PARTITIONS- POLITICS, MEMORIES EXPERIENCES

- Q.1 Examine the factors responsible for the growth of communalism in India.**
- Q.2 Analyse the experiences of women from the partition of India.**
- Q.3 Pointing upon the destruction or slaughter on Mass scale at the time of partition, compare Indian holocaust with Germany?**
- Q.4 The Partition of India was indispensable'. Explain.**
- Q.5 Why is partition of India regarded as a significant marker in the history of South Asia?**
- Q.6 Make an assessment of the major causes of the Partition of India.**
- Q.7 How do the techniques of oral history help to further, our understanding of partition?**
- Q.8 Why did the India's National Congress accept partition at last?**
- Q.9 How did ordinary people view partition?**
- Q.10 Make a critical assessment of the effect of Cabinet Mission Scheme on Indian Politics.**
- Q.11 What were the main effects of the Indian partition?**

## **CHAPTER15**

### **FRAMING THE CONSTITUTION**

- Q.1 Give any three main features of our constitution?**
- Q.2 "The Resolution cast the horoscope of our Sovereign Democratic Republic". Prove this Statement.**
- Q.3 Why Parliamentary system has been adopted in India? Is it relevant today?**
- Q.4 How will you define the term 'Secular'? Is India a Secular state?**
- Q.5 Analyse the Relevancy of emphasis on the need of a strong government by the constituent assembly.**
- Q.6 Analyse the efforts of the makers of the constitution in making our constitution more efficient and comprehensive.**
- Q.7 How the rights of Dalits were safeguarded by our constitution?**
- Q.8 Declaration of fundamental rights and duties is the most significant feature of the constitution of India – Discuss.**
- Q.9 How did historic force help in shaping the constitution?**
- Q.10 Discuss the unique features of the Indian Constitution.**