2026

M.A. 2nd Semester Examination

HISTORY

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Paper : HISE453A0/B0

Full Marks : 50 Time : Two Hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

Paper : HISE453A0

(Socio-Religious Reform Movements in Colonial India)

Group - A

Answer any ***two*** questions : 10×2=20

1. Analyze the role of Pandits and Maulvis in the colonial judicial system. How did their gradual marginalization by Orientalist scholars and codified texts reflect the broader transformation and rigidification of Indian legal traditions under British rule?

Or,

How did Utilitarianism influence colonial administration in India?

P.T.O.

Or,

Compare the reform strategies of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

2. How did colonialism lead to cultural revivalism? What are the main arguments of revisionist historians against colonial historiography?

Or,

How would you assess Raja Ram Mohan Roy as a modern thinker and social reformer.

Or,

Analyze the role of Sarala Devi Chaudhurani in the awakening of Indian nationalism.

3. How did Bengali Muslim consciousness develop during the colonial period amid the complex tension between religious identity as Muslims and cultural identity as Bengalis?

Or,

How would you assess the role of Rokeya Begum as a social reformer?

Or,

How did the religion become a tool for the social reform movement in 19th-century in India?

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4. Analyze the impact of British colonial policies, such as the Colonization Bill, the Morley-Minto Reforms, employment circulars, and the official response to the 1907 disturbances, on the political orientation of the Arya Samaj and the institutional consolidation of communal politics in Punjab.

Or,

What was the contribution of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in the modernization of Muslim society in India?

Or,

Examine the contribution of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan to Muslim modernity in India.

Group - B

Answer any ***four*** questions : 5×4=20

5. Define Orientalism. How did Orientalist interpretations of Mughal land practices shape the Permanent Settlement of Bengal (1793)?

Or,

Write a short note on Orientalism.

Or,

What was the role of the Asiatic Society in promoting Oriental studies?

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6. How did Indians interpret and resist the 'shoe respect' regulation, and why did the controversy deepen the cultural divide between rulers and ruled?

Or,

Discuss the social and religious significance of the Wahabi Movement in Bengal.

Or,

How did Begum Rokeya contribute to women's education?

7. Discuss the significance of *Satyarth Prakash* (1875) as the foundational text of Arya Samaj philosophy. What major positions did Dayanand Saraswati articulate in it?

Or,

What was Dayananda Saraswati's view of the Vedas?

Or,

How did the Brahmo Samaj differ from orthodox Hinduism?

8. Explain the objectives and methods of the Shuddhi movement, and briefly assess its consequences for Hindu-Muslim relations in early twentieth-century Punjab.

Or,

How did Swami Vivekananda evaluate traditional Indian Society?

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Or,

Briefly discuss the significance of *Bharat Stree Mahamandal*.

9. On what grounds did Sayyid Ahmad Khan oppose Muslim participation in the Indian National Congress, and what organization did he establish in 1889 to counter it?

Or,

What were the educational and social activities of Sarala Devi?

Or,

Who wrote the famous Minute on Education? What was the objective of English education in India?

10. In what ways did the Izhava movement shift from seeking conformity with Brahmanical norms to critiquing the caste system itself in the twentieth century?

Or,

Discuss the significance of the Izhava movement in colonial India.

Or,

Evaluate the contribution of *Vande Mataram* to the development of the *Swadeshi* Movement.

[Internal Assessment : 10 marks]

P.T.O.

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Paper : HISE453B0

(Culture in Bengal, 19th and 20th Centuries)

Group - A

Answer any ***two*** questions : 10×2=20

1. Write an essay on the origin and influences of 'new' cultural history.

2. Identify the 'styles, tastes, and aspirations' of 'theme' Durga Puja in Calcutta.

Or,

Examine how the concepts of Satyapir and Narayan contributed to religious assimilation in Bengal.

3. Show how the rise and fall of Bengali group theatre reflected the social situation and political culture in the period 1940s-1980s.

Or,

Evaluate the contribution of Binodini Dasi to the establishment and development of Star Theatre.

4. Write an essay on the wave of 'cultural nationalism' triggered by Mohan Bagan's 1911 IFA Shield victory.

Or,

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Examine the influence of the Portuguese and the British on the culinary culture of Bengal.

Group - B

Answer any ***four*** questions : 5×4=20

5. What is meant by 'cultural universals'? Differentiate between sociofacts/mentifacts and artifacts.

Or,

Why is Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay's language often regarded as an art in itself?

6. To what extent have 'new' cultural historians been influenced by Marxism?

7. Briefly discuss *bania* Durga Puja extravaganza in 19th century Calcutta.

Or,

Write a note on Ramprasad Sen.

8. Why is Rabindranath Tagore considered a pivotal figure in modern Indian theatre?

Or,

Who was known as 'Swabhaba Kabi' and why?

9. Write a note on Md. Salim.

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10. Why did Nagendraprasad Sarbadhikari leave the football arena suddenly and once for all in 1902?

Or,

Write briefly on the origin of rosogolla.

[Internal Assessment : 10 marks]

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