

Marking Scheme
Strictly Confidential
(For Internal and Restricted use only)
Senior Secondary School Examination, 2026 (XIIth)
SUBJECT NAME : History (Q.P. CODE : 027/61-2-2)

General Instructions: -

1	The CBSE has decided to introduce On Screen Marking (OSM) for the evaluation of Class XII answer Book with the 2026 Examination.
2	You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
3	“Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document to anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in Newspaper/Website, etc. may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC.”
4	Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one’s own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. However, while evaluating, answers which are based on latest information or knowledge and/or are innovative, they may be assessed for their correctness otherwise and due marks be awarded to them. In Class-XII, while evaluating two competency-based questions, please try to understand given answer and even if reply is not from marking scheme but correct competency is enumerated by the candidate, due marks should be awarded.
5	The Marking scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, the due marks should be awarded accordingly.
6	The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zero after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
7	Evaluators will mark (✓) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer CROSS ‘X’ be marked. Evaluators will not put right (✓) while evaluating which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. This is most common mistake which evaluators are committing.
8	If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part in the OSM Portal. Marks awarded for different parts of the question will be totaled up by the OSM System.
9	If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin in the OSM Portal. This may also be followed strictly.

10	No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.
11	A full scale of marks 80 (example 0 to 80/70/60/50/40/30 marks as given in Question Paper) has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
12	Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e., 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines). This is in view of the reduced syllabus and number of questions in question paper.
13	Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark is correctly and clearly indicated. It should merely be a line. Same is with the X for incorrect answer.) • Half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded.
14	While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks.
15	The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the “Guidelines for Spot Evaluation” before starting the actual evaluation.
16	The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners/Additional Head Examiners/Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per value points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.
17	If a candidate attempts both alternatives/options in a question where only one option/ alternative is required to be attempted, the Evaluator shall award marks in both the options. The system will take the higher of two scores and disregard the other response.
18	In a question having two options/alternatives, if a candidate has attempted only one, then the evaluator shall mark “NA” (Not attempted) against the option that has not been attempted by the candidate.

MARKING SCHEME
History (Subject Code-027)
(PAPER CODE: 61/2/2) (12-02-27N)

Note: Page Nos. mentioned in the marking scheme are taken from the latest NCERT e-book.

Q.No.	EXPECTED OUTCOMES/VALUE POINTS	Page No.	Marks
	SECTION – A (Multiple Choice Type Questions)		21x1=21
1.	(A) Both (A) and (R) correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).	89	1
2.	(A) I, II, III are correct.	91	1
3.	(C) (a) (ii), (b) (iv), (c) (i), (d) (iii)	32	1
4.	(C) Eklavya offered his right thumb to Drona As Guru Dakshina.	62	1
5.	(B) He ensured no intermarriage amongst members of the four varnas	63	1
6.	(D) Kushana rulers	44	1
7.	(B) A Sculpture from Mahabalipuram	109	1
	(C) (Tamil Nadu) for visually impaired candidates	109	1
8.	(D) Availability of tube-wells for irrigation	198	1
9.	(D) Marco Polo-Italy	137	1
10.	(A) Ahoms	202	1
11.	(D) II, I, IV, III	173	1
12.	(D) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya	154	1
13.	(D) I, III and IV are correct.	144	1
14.	(C) Ibn Batuta	118	1
15.	(B) Francis Buchanan	236	1
16.	(A) The Paharias were displaced and moved to the upper hills.	239	1
17.	(B) Ho – Chi – Minh	286	1
18.	(C) Wellesley – Western Education	265	1
19.	(C) Sardar Patel	320	1
20.	(D) Only I and II are correct	262	1

21.	(B) I, II, IV, III	289	1
	SECTION – B (Short Answer Type Questions)		6x3=18
22.	<p>(a) How did Buddha attain enlightenment? Explain.</p> <p>(I) Buddha's journey into the world outside was traumatic. He was deeply anguished when he saw an old man, a sick man and a corpse.</p> <p>(II) He realised in that moment that the decay and destruction of the human body was inevitable.</p> <p>(III) He also saw a homeless mendicant, who, it seemed to him, had come to terms with old age, disease and death, and found peace.</p> <p>(IV) Soon after, he left the palace and set out in search of his own truth. Siddhartha explored several paths including bodily mortification which led him to a situation of near death.</p> <p>(V) Abandoning these extreme methods, he meditated for several days and finally attained enlightenment. After this he came to be known as the Buddha or the Enlightened One.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>(b) How has Buddhist literature helped in understanding the sculpture of Sanchi ? Explain.</p> <p>(I) Vessantara Jataka is a story about a generous prince who gave away everything to a Brahmana, and went to live in the forest with his wife and children.</p> <p>(II) According to hagiographies, the Buddha attained enlightenment while meditating under a tree.</p> <p>(III) The empty seat was meant to indicate the meditation of the Buddha and the stupa was meant to represent the mahaparinibbana.</p> <p>(IV) The wheel stood for the first sermon of the Buddha, delivered at Sarnath.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed 	90	3x1=3
		99-101	3x1=3
23.	<p>Explain the difference between the social category of 'Jati' and 'Varna' in the ancient India.</p> <p>Jati and Varna :</p> <p>(I) In Brahminical theory jati is based on birth and there is no fixed number of jati's.</p> <p>(II) Varna is a Social category and its number is fixed to four.</p> <p>(III) Some occupational categories like goldsmith do not easily fit in fourfold varna, so they classify them as a jati, so jati shares a common occupation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed 	63	3x1=3

24.	<p>Examine the role played by women in agrarian society during the Mughal period.</p> <p>(I) Women were the important resource who were the child bearer in Society.</p> <p>(II) In due course these children provide cheap labour for agricultural work.</p> <p>(III) Women helped in sowing, hoeing and winnowing the crops.</p> <p>(IV) More over women did all the house hold chores.</p> <p>(V) Artisanal tasks such as spinning yarn, sifting and kneading clay for pottery, and embroidery were among the many aspects of production dependent on female labour.</p> <p>(VI) Thus women played an important role in the agrarian society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed 	206-207	3x1=3
25.	<p>Explain why the traditions set by Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji in 15th century are significant prevailing till date.</p> <p>(I) The traditions set by Guru Nanak Dev ji had a universal appeal.</p> <p>(II) What Guru Nanak said and did was for the welfare of all humanity.</p> <p>(III) The langar system still continuing.</p> <p>(IV) The message of Guru Nanak that God is one and He is everywhere is followed till date.</p> <p>(V) The message of Guru Nanak is spelt out in his hymns.</p> <p>(VI) He proposed a simple way to connect to the Divine by remembering and repeating the Divine Name.</p> <p>(VII) Baba Guru Nanak organised his followers into a community. He set up rules for congregational worship (sangat) involving collective recitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed 	163	3x1=3
26.	<p>Examine the causes for which Gandhiji called for a nationwide campaign in 1920.</p> <p>(I) During the Great War of 1914-18, the British had instituted censorship of the press and permitted detention without trial.</p> <p>(II) With passing of the Rowlatt Act these tough measures were continued. In response, Gandhiji called for a countrywide campaign against the Rowlatt Act.</p>	289-290	3x1=3

	<p>(III) Thousands of people were massacred in Jallianwala Bagh.</p> <p>(IV) To further broaden the struggle Gandhiji joined hands with the Khilafat Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed 		
27.	<p>(a) Explain the rumours that spread before the Revolt of 1857 across various regions of India.</p> <p>Rumours :</p> <p>(I) Rumour that the new cartridges of the Enfield rifles were greased with the fat of cows and pigs</p> <p>(II) The British had mixed the bone dust of cows and pigs into the flour</p> <p>(III) There was fear and suspicion that the British wanted to convert Indians to Christianity.</p> <p>(IV) Reports came from various parts of North India that chapattis were being distributed from village to village. People read it as an omen of an upheaval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed 	264	3x1=3
	OR		
	<p>(b) Explain the sources to know about the Revolt of 1857.</p> <p>(I) British records: letters and diaries, autobiographies and official histories</p> <p>(II) Art and Literature</p> <p>(III) Rebel proclamations</p> <p>(IV) Rebel notifications</p> <p>(V) Memos and notes of the British officials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed 	271, 283	3x1=3
	SECTION – C (Long Answer Type Questions)		3× 8 = 24
28.	<p>(a) Explain how the archaeologists have been able to reconstruct dietary practices and agricultural techniques of the Harappans.</p> <p>(I) The Harappans ate a wide range of plants and animals products.</p> <p>(II) The archaeologists found charred grains and seeds; which were studied by archaeo - botanists</p>	2-3	4+4=8

	<p>(III) Grains found at Harappan sites included wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and millets.</p> <p>(IV) Animal bones found at Harappan sites were of cattle, sheep, goat, pigs, buffalos etc. Studies done by archaeo-zoologists or zoo archaeologists indicate that these animals were domesticated.</p> <p>(V) Harappans hunted these animals, probably for food.</p> <p>(VI) Prevalence of agriculture is indicated by the finds of grains.</p> <p>(VII) Terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites in Cholistan and at Banawali (Haryana). Archaeologists have also found evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan (Rajasthan).</p> <p>(VIII) The field had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two different crops were grown together.</p> <p>(IX) Irrigation was practised by wells and canals. Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan site of Shortughai in Afghanistan</p> <p>(X) Water reservoirs found in Dholavira (Gujarat) may have been used to store water for agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other relevant point • Any three points to be assessed <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>(b) Examine why archaeologists have found it difficult to interpret the religious practices and beliefs of the Harappans.</p> <p>(I) Archaeologists found it difficult to reconstruct religious practices.</p> <p>(II) Early archaeologists found unusual objects as having religious significance.</p> <p>(III) The terracotta figurine of women, heavily jewelled were considered as mother goddess.</p> <p>(IV) Rare stone statuary of men in almost standardised posture were considered priest King.</p> <p>(V) Attempts were made to examine seals for religious significance such as 'Proto-Shiva' .</p> <p>(VI) Plant motifs were considered to have nature worship.</p> <p>(VII) All these have been made on the basis of assumption, so these ideas are speculative.</p> <p>(VIII) Some structures have been assigned ritual significance. These include the Great Bath and fire altars found at Kalibangan and Lothal.</p> <p>(IX) Stone querns and pots become more speculative when we extend it to "religious" symbols.</p> <p>(X) Conical stone objects have been classified as lingas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other relevant point • Any three points to be assessed 	23	8x1=8
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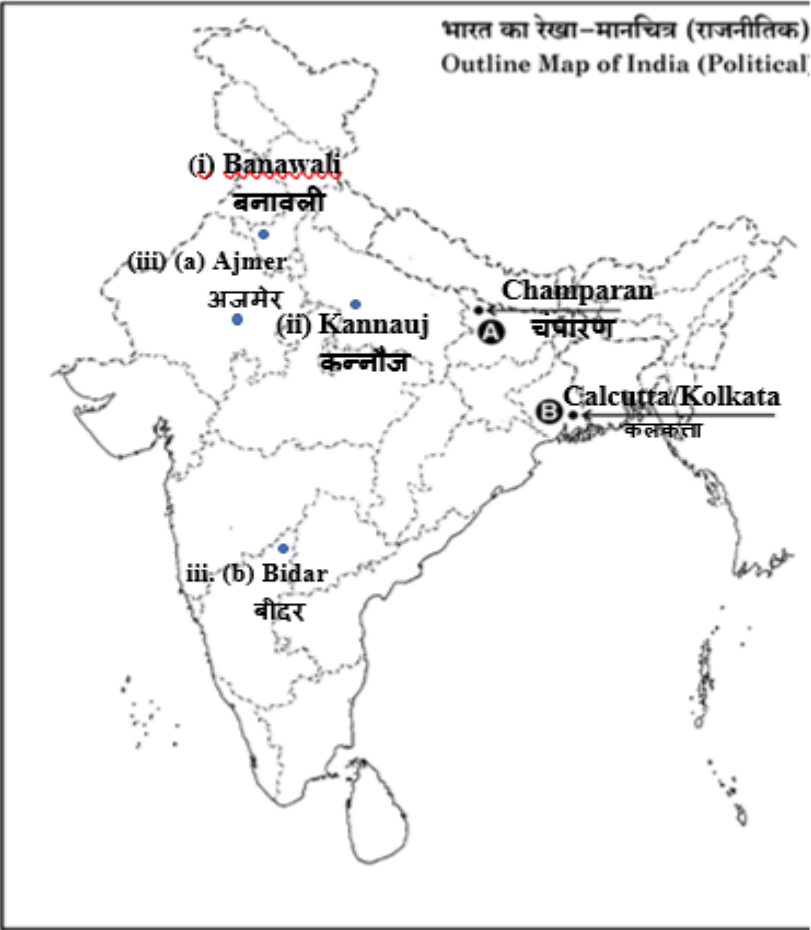
29.	<p>(a) Describe the events that shaped the vision of the Constitution of India.</p> <p>(I) The years immediately preceding the making of the Constitution had been exceptionally tumultuous. On 15 August 1947, India had been made free, but it had also been divided.</p> <p>(II) The Calcutta Killings of August 1946 began a year of almost continuous rioting across northern and eastern India.</p> <p>(III) The violence culminated in the massacres that accompanied the transfer of populations ,when the Partition of India was announced.</p> <p>(IV) Millions of refugees were on the move, Muslims into East and West Pakistan, Hindus and Sikhs into West Bengal and the eastern half of the Punjab. Many perished before they reached their destination.</p> <p>(V) Another problem faced by the new nation was that of the princely states.</p> <p>(VI) This was the background in which the Constituent Assembly met.</p> <p>(VII) J.L. Nehru presented the vision of the constitution that represented the ideal of constitution.</p> <p>(VIII) It proclaimed India to be an independent sovereign republic.</p> <p>(IX) It guaranteed the citizens of justices, equality and freedom.</p> <p>(X) It provided adequate safeguards for backward, minorities and tribals etc.</p> <p>(XI) Nehru referred to American and French revolution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other relevant point • Any eight points to be assessed <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>(b) Describe the arguments given in the Constituent Assembly against the creation of separate electorates.</p> <p>(I) Pocker bahadur made a powerful plea for continuing separate electorates.</p> <p>(II) Many nationalist leaders opposed this idea of separate electorates.</p> <p>(III) Many nationalist saw separate electorates as a deliberate measure to divide the people.</p> <p>(IV) Dhulekar opposed the idea of separate electorate.</p> <p>(V) Patel declared that separate electorate was a poison for the minorities.</p> <p>(VI) They had seen the partition blood bath.</p> <p>(VII) Pant told that separate electorate was not only harmful to the nation but also to the minorities.</p> <p>(VIII) According to him, it was a suicidal demand that would permanently isolate the minorities, make them vulnerable, and deprive them of any effective say within the government.</p> <p>(IX) Not all Muslims supported the idea of separate electorates. Beghum Aizaas Rasul told that the idea of separate electorate was self-destructive.</p>	317-318, 324	8x1=8
		327-330	8x1=8

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any eight points to be assessed 		
30.	<p>“Vijayanagara Kingdom flourished under conditions of unparalleled peace and prosperity during the rule of Krishnadeva Raya but after his death Vijayanagara declined.” Substantiate the statement with examples.</p> <p>(I) Krishnadeva Raya was an able and a strong ruler.</p> <p>(II) His rule was characterised by expansion and consolidation. He captured the land between the Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers (the Raichur doab) in 1512. the rulers of Orissa were subdued in 1514 and severe defeats were inflicted on the Sultan of Bijapur in 1520.</p> <p>(III) He is credited with building some fine temples and adding impressive gopurams to many important south Indian temples.</p> <p>(IV) He also founded a suburban township near Vijayanagara called Nagalapuram after his mother.</p> <p>(V) His descendants were not able and strong.</p> <p>(VI) His successors were troubled by rebellious nayaks.</p> <p>(VII) By 1542 control at the centre was shifted to the Aravidu.</p> <p>(VIII) Rama Raya was the chief minister of Vijayanagara. He led the army into the battle at Rakshasi Tangadi in 1565.</p> <p>(IX) He fought against the combined armies of the Sultans of Bijapur, Golconda and Ahmednagar. The combined armies were victorious and they sacked the city of Vijayanagara.</p> <p>(X) Thus the city was totally abandoned within a few years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any eight points to be assessed <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>(b) “The fortification of Vijaynagara was impressive in the medieval India.” Substantiate the statement with examples.</p> <p>(I) Abdur Razak was impressed by the fortification of the city.</p> <p>(II) He mentioned seven lines of forts.</p> <p>(III) These walls encircled agricultural tracts and forests.</p> <p>(IV) It was a massive masonry construction. No mortar or cementing agent was employed anywhere in the construction.</p> <p>(V) The stone blocks were wedge shaped, which held them in place, and the inner portion of the walls was of earth packed with rubble.</p> <p>(VI) The agricultural tracts where rice was grown was irrigated by the canal drawing water from Tungabhadra.</p>	173	8x1=8
		177-78	8x1=8

	<p>(VII) For fortification of agricultural land the objective was to save the people from starvation during medieval sieges.</p> <p>(VIII) The Second line of fortification was round the inner core of urban complex.</p> <p>(IX) The fort was entered through well-guarded gates.</p> <p>(X) Roads generally wound around through the valleys, avoiding rocky terrain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any eight points to be assessed 		
	SECTION – D (Source Based Questions)		3 × 4 = 12
31.	<p style="text-align: center;">A warning for Europe</p> <p>(31.1) Why did Bernier warn their European kings against following Mughal model of kingship?</p> <p>(I) The Mughal Kingdom was far from being well cultivated and peopled, so rich, so polite, so well built and flourishing.</p> <p>(II) In Mughal Empire, the emperor was the King of Beggars and barbarians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point 	132	1
	<p>(31.2) Mention any one difference between Mughal & European land ownership.</p> <p>(I) One of the fundamental differences between Mughal India and Europe was the lack of private property in land in the former.</p> <p>(II) In Mughal India crown was the owner of the land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point 		1
	<p>(31.3) How did Bernier's description influence the western theorists from 18th century onwards? Explain.</p> <p>(I) Bernier's descriptions influenced Western theorists from the eighteenth century onwards.</p> <p>(II) The French philosopher Montesquieu used this account to develop the idea of oriental despotism. They believed that rules in oriental world enjoy unlimited power and had absolute authority over the people. The subjects are kept in Subjugation and poverty.</p> <p>(I) This idea was further developed as the concept of the Asiatic mode of production by Karl Marx in the nineteenth century.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point 		2

32	<p style="text-align: center;">On clearance and settled cultivation</p> <p>(32.1) How was the landscape described regarding cultivation?</p> <p>(I) Buchanan was of the view that villages of Rajmahal area are fine for cultivation especially the rice cultivation in the valleys.</p> <p>(II) The cleared lands with scattered trees, and the rocky hills were in perfection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point 	245	1
	<p>(32.2) Which crops were recommended for expanding agriculture?</p> <p>(I) Tassar, Plamira, Mowa, Asan, Lac and Palas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point 		1
	<p>(32.3) Explain the proposal given by Buchanan for utilizing the land for economic development.</p> <p>(I) Buchanan saw the commercial concerns of the company and modern western notions of what constituted progress.</p> <p>(II) He felt forests be turned into agricultural lands.</p> <p>(III) Plantations of Asan and Palas for Tassar (Tassar silk worms) and Lac, should occupy the place of woods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point 		2
33.	<p style="text-align: center;">The Malabar Coast (Present-day Kerala)</p> <p>(33.1) Mention the role of rivers in the promotion of trade.</p> <p>(I) Natural transport routes (II) Cheap and efficient transport (III) Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point 	44	1
	<p>(33.2) Why were large number of goods traded between India and other countries?</p> <p>(I) Large amount of goods were trade between India and other countries because India being a rich country provided many articles like pepper, cinnamon, crude, topaz minerals and many other articles for trade.</p> <p>(II) Other countries needed these goods so the trade flourished.</p>		1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point 		
	<p>(33.3) Give reasons for the development of bead-making industry at Kodumanal.</p> <p>(I) Archaeological evidence proves that precious and semi precious stones were found in Kodumanal in Tamil Nadu. (II) Some precious stones were brought from many other sites along the coast. (III) The availability of these stones gave rise to the setting of bead making industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point 		2
	<p style="text-align: center;">SECTION – E (Map Based Questions)</p>		3+2=5
34.	<p>34.1 On the given political outline map of India, locate and label the following places with appropriate signs or symbols:</p> <p>(i) Banawali – a mature Harappan site (ii) Kannauj– An important town from early states (iii) (a) Ajmer – A city under Mughals OR (b) Bidar – A medieval town</p>		3x1=3
	<p>34.2 On the same political map of India, two places have been marked as A and B as the centres of Indian National Movement. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.</p>		2x1=2

34.	<p>प्रश्न सं. 34 के लिए मानचित्र Map for Q. No. 34</p> 		
34.	<p>Note : The following questions are for the Visually Impaired Candidates only in lieu of Question No. 34 :</p> <p>34.1 Mention any one Harappan site from the present state of Haryana.</p> <p>34.2 Name any one town which was under the rule of Babur.</p> <p>34.3 Mention any one medieval town.</p> <p>34.4 Name any two centres of Indian National Movement.</p>		
(34.1)	Rakhigarhi, Banawali (Any other)	1	
(34.2)	Panipat, Agra, Delhi (Any other)	1	
(34.3)	Hampi, Agra, Surat (Any other)	1	
(34.4)	Champaran, Amritsar (Any other)	2	