

Marking Scheme
Strictly Confidential
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Senior Secondary School Examination, 2026 (XIIth)
SUBJECT NAME : History (Q.P. CODE : 027/61-2-3)

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 : 61/2/3) (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.	(C) Eklavya offered his right thumb to Drona As Guru Dakshina	62	1
2.	(C) (a) (ii), (b) (iv), (c) (i), (d) (iii)	32	1
3.	(C) Ibn Batuta	118	1
4.	(D) Kushana rulers	44	1
5.	(B) He ensured no intermarriage amongst members of the four varnas	63	1
6.	(A) (I) (II) (III) are correct	91	1
7.	(B) A Sculpture from Mahabalipuram	109	1
	(C) (Tamil Nadu) for visually impaired candidates	109	1
8.	(A) Both (A) and (R) correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)	89	1
9.	(D) II,I,IV,III	173	1
10.	(D) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya	154	1
11.	(A) Ahoms	202	1
12.	(D) (I), (III) and (IV) are correct	144	1
13.	(D) Availability of tube-wells for irrigation	198	1
14.	(D) Marco Polo-Italy	137	1
15.	(D) Only (I) and (II) are correct	262	1
16.	(B) Ho – Chi – Minh	286	1
17.	(C) Sardar Patel	320	1
18.	(B) (I), (II), (IV), (III)	289	1
19.	(A) The Paharias were displaced and moved to the upper hills	239	1
20.	(B) Francis Buchanan	236	1
21.	(C) Wellesley – Western Education	265	1

	SECTION – B (Short Answer Type Questions)		6 × 3 = 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (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. • 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
	<p>99</p> <p>3x1=3</p>		
23.	<p>‘Several important ruling lineages had different origins.’ Substantiate the statement in the context of ancient India.</p> <p>(I) It is true that kingship was not based on birth.</p> <p>(II) It was also not necessary that kshatriyas could be Kings.</p> <p>(III) Several ruling lineages were of different origins.</p> <p>(IV) The shungas and kanvas were Brahmins.</p> <p>(V) So anyone who could muster support and resources could have been kings.</p> <p>(VI) While later Buddhist texts suggested the Mauryas were Kshatriyas, Brahmanical texts described them as being of “low” origin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other relevant point • Any three points to be Any other relevant point • Any three points to be assessed 	62	3x1=3

24.	<p>Explain why “Ain-a-Akbari” is considered a mine of information about the rule of Mughals.</p> <p>(I) ‘Ain’ presented the vision of Akbars’s reign.</p> <p>(II) The Ain gives detailed accounts of the organisation of the court, administration and army, the sources of revenue and the physical layout of the provinces of Akbar’s empire and the literary, cultural and religious traditions of the people.</p> <p>(III) Along with a description of the various departments of Akbar’s government and elaborate descriptions of the various provinces (subas) of the empire, the Ain gives us intricate quantitative information of those provinces.</p> <p>(IV) This text meticulously recorded the arrangements made by the state to ensure cultivation; to enable to collect revenue.</p> <p>(V) The working of Mughal court was meticulously recorded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other relevant point • Any three points to be assessed 	217-18	3x1=3
25.	<p>Why is Meera Bai considered one of the great saints of the Bhakti Movement ? Explain.</p> <p>(I) Meera was a woman poet within the Bhakti tradition.</p> <p>(II) Meera was a Rajput princess.</p> <p>(III) Although she was married yet she defied her husband and did not submit to the role of wife and mother.</p> <p>(IV) She recognised Krishna as her lover.</p> <p>(V) She was Rajput but her preceptor was Raidas, a leather worker.</p> <p>(VI) This way she defied the norms of Caste System.</p> <p>(VII) Her songs continue to be sung by women and men, especially those who are poor and considered “low caste” in Gujarat and Rajasthan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other relevant point • Any three points to be assessed 	164-165	3x1=3
26.	<p>“Gandhiji is also regarded as a social worker.” Explain the statement with examples.</p> <p>(I) Gandhiji was also regarded as a Social worker not only patriot or politician.</p> <p>(II) He promoted home spun (Khadi) cloth.</p> <p>(III) He worked for the abolition of untouchability.</p> <p>(IV) He raised his voice against the child marriage.</p> <p>(V) He emphasised on Hindu – Muslim harmony.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other relevant point • Any three points to be assessed 	294-95	3x1=3

27.	<p>(a) Explain the role of imageries in spreading the feeling of nationalism during 1857 in India.</p> <p>(I) The national movement in the twentieth century drew its inspiration from the events of 1857.</p> <p>(II) It was celebrated as the First War of Independence in which all sections of the people of India came together to fight against imperial rule.</p> <p>(III) In art and literature the leaders of the revolt were presented as heroic figures leading the country into battle, rousing the people to righteous indignation against oppressive imperial rule.</p> <p>(IV) Heroic poems were written about the valour of the queen who, with a sword in one hand and the reins of her horse in the other, fought for the freedom of her motherland.</p> <p>(V) Rani of Jhansi was represented as a masculine figure chasing the enemy, slaying British soldiers and valiantly fighting till her last.</p> <p>(VI) Children in many parts of India grow up reading the lines of Subhadra Kumari Chauhan: “Khoob lari mardani woh to Jhansi wali rani thi”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed 	283	3x1=3
	<p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>(b) Explain the provisions of Subsidiary Alliance System.</p> <p>(I) Subsidiary Alliance was a system devised by Lord Wellesley in 1798.</p> <p>(II) All those who entered into such an alliance with the British had to accept certain terms and conditions:</p> <p>(III) The British would be responsible for protecting their ally from external and internal threats to their power.</p> <p>(IV) In the territory of the ally, a British armed contingent would be stationed.</p> <p>(V) The ally would have to provide the resources for maintaining this contingent.</p> <p>(VI) The ally could enter into agreements with other rulers or engage in warfare only with the permission of the British.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any three points to be assessed 	266	3x1=3
	<p>SECTION – C</p> <p>(Long Answer Type Questions)</p>		3 × 8 = 24
28.	<p>(a) Describe the events that shaped the vision of the Constitution of India</p>	317-318, 324	8x1=8

	<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 also.</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>327-329</p>	<p>8x1=8</p>
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	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any eight points to be assessed 		
29.	<p>(a) “The royal centre of Vijayanagar had two of the most impressive platforms usually called as ‘audience hall’ and mahanavami dibba.” Examine the significance of two platforms.</p> <p>(I) Mahanawami dibba and audience Hall were the two important land marks in king palace in Vijayanagar</p> <p>(II) The audience hall is a high platform with slots of wooden pillars. It has a staircase for going up.</p> <p>(III) Perhaps King used to meet the people here and listen to their grievances.</p> <p>(IV) The pillars being closely spaced, would have left little free space and thus it is not clear what the hall was used for.</p> <p>(V) Mahanavami dibba was located on the highest point of the city. The “mahanavami dibba” is a massive platform rising from a base of about 11,000 sq. ft to a height of 40 ft.</p> <p>(VI) There is evidence that it supported a wooden structure. The base of the platform is covered with relief carvings. Most of the rituals were performed here on this platform.</p> <p>(VII) Dusahara and Navratri festivals were celebrated here.</p> <p>(VIII) King also used to inspect the contingents and receive gifts from the Nayaks.</p> <p>(IX) The Vijayanagara kings displayed their prestige, power and suzerainty on this occasion.</p> <p>(X) The ceremonies performed on the occasion included worship of the image, worship of the state horse, and the sacrifice of buffaloes and other animals.</p> <p>(XI) Dances, wrestling matches, and processions of caparisoned horses, elephants and chariots and soldiers</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) Examine the architectural features of Virupaksha and Vitthala temples located in the sacred centre of Vijayanagara.</p> <p>(I) Virupaksha temple was built over centuries.</p> <p>(II) Other distinctive features include mandapas or pavilions and long, pillared corridors that often ran around the shrines within the temple complex.</p>	<p>180-81</p> <p>184-185</p>	<p>4+4=8</p> <p>4+4=8</p>

	<p>(III) The raya gopurams or royal gateways often dwarfed the towers on the central shrines.</p> <p>(IV) The hall in front of the shrine was built by Krishnadeva Raya. This was decorated with delicately carved pillars.</p> <p>(V) In certain spaces images of gods were placed.</p> <p>(VI) The halls in the temple were used for a variety of purposes.</p> <p>(VII) In the vithala temple the principal deity was Vitthala.</p> <p>(VIII) This temple has several halls.</p> <p>(IX) It is a unique shrine designed as a chariot.</p> <p>(X) A characteristic feature of the temple complexes is the chariot streets that extended from the temple gopuram in a straight line.</p> <p>(XI) These streets were paved with stone slabs and lined with pillared pavilions in which merchants set up their shops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any eight points to be assessed 		
30.	<p>(a) Examine the characteristic features of architecture of urban centres of Mohenjodaro.</p> <p>(I) The most unique feature of the Harappan civilisation was the development of urban centres.</p> <p>(II) Mohenjo-daro was the most important urban centre of that time.</p> <p>(III) Although the first site to be discovered was Harappa.</p> <p>(IV) The Settlements were divided into two sections – the lower town and the citadel.</p> <p>(V) Lower town was walled with several buildings on the platform.</p> <p>(VI) The Citadel was the upper portion. Once the platforms were in place, all building activity within the city was restricted to a fixed area on the platforms. So it seems that the settlement was first planned and then implemented accordingly.</p> <p>(VII) These cities had carefully planned drainage system.</p> <p>(VIII) Roads and streets were laid down along the grid pattern.</p> <p>(IX) Every house had its own bathroom.</p> <p>(X) A large rectangular tank was also built perhaps for the public bath.⁴</p> <p>(XI) Other signs of planning include bricks, which, whether sun-dried or baked, were of a standardised ratio, where the length and breadth were four times and twice the height respectively.</p> <p>(XII) Residential buildings were centred on a courtyard, with rooms on all sides.</p> <p>(XIII) They were concerned for privacy: there are no windows in the walls along the ground level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other relevant point Any eight points to be assessed 	5-8	8x1=8

	<p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>(b) Examine the causes and the evidences of the collapse of the Harappan civilisation.</p> <p>Causes of the Collapse :</p> <p>(I) Several explanations have been put forward.</p> <p>(II) Climatic changes took place damaging the civilisation.</p> <p>(III) Deforestation was another cause.</p> <p>(IV) Excessive floods made much harm to the civilisation.</p> <p>(V) shifting and/or drying up of rivers</p> <p>(VI) Overuse of the landscape.</p> <p>(VII) Combined impact of all the causes may have led to the collapse.</p> <p>Evidences :</p> <p>(I) Evidence shows that by 1800 BCE most of the mature Harappan sites were abandoned.</p> <p>(II) Evidence of disappearance of distinct artefacts of the civilisation.</p> <p>(III) Weights, Seals, beads, trade all disappeared.</p> <p>(IV) House construction techniques deteriorated.</p> <p>(V) Disappearance of script and pottery.</p> <p>(VI) Decline and abandonment of cities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other relevant point • Any eight points to be assessed 	17	4+4=8
	<p>SECTION – D</p> <p>(Source Based Questions)</p>		3 × 4 = 12
31	<p style="text-align: center;">On clearance and settled cultivation</p> <p>(31.1) 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>(31.2) 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>(31.3) Explain the proposal given by Buchanan for utilizing the land for economic development.</p>		2

	<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 		
32.	<p style="text-align: center;">The Malabar Coast (Present-day Kerala)</p> <p>(32.1) Mention the role of rivers in the promotion of trade.</p> <p>(I) Natural transport routes (II) Cheap and efficient transport (III) Connectivity</p> <p>Any other relevant point</p>	44	1
	<p>(32.2) 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. (II) Other countries needed these goods so the trade flourished.</p> <p>Any other relevant point</p>		
	<p>(32.3) 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> <p>Any other relevant point</p>		2
33	<p style="text-align: center;">A warning for Europe</p> <p>(33.1) 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>	132	1

	Any other relevant point		
	<p>(33.2) 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> <p>Any other relevant point</p>		1
	<p>(33.3) 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 rulers in the oriental world enjoyed unlimited power and had absolute authority over the people. The subjects were kept in subjugation and poverty.</p> <p>(III) This idea was further developed as the concept of the Asiatic mode of production by Karl Marx in the nineteenth century.</p> <p>Any other relevant point</p>		2
	<p style="text-align: center;">SECTION – E</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(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</p> <p>(ii) Kannauj – An important town from early states</p> <p>(iii) (a) Ajmer – A city under Mughals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>(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 or Banawali (Any other)	1	
(34.2)	Panipat, Agra or Delhi (Any other)	1	
(34.3)	Hampi, Agra, Surat (Any other)	1	
(34.4)	Champaran, Amritsar (Any other)	2	