

MAH

**M.A. HISTORY
SECOND YEAR COURSES**

**Assignments
For July 2023 and January 2024 Sessions
(For M.A. History 2nd Year Courses)**

- MHI-03: Historiography
MHI-06: Evolution of Social Structures in India
Through the Ages
MHI-08: History of Ecology and Environment: India
MHI-09: Indian National Movement
MHI-10: Urbanisation in India
MPSE-003: Western Political Thought (From Plato to
Marx)
MPSE-004: Social and Political Thought in Modern India



**Faculty of History
School of Social Sciences
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110 068**

M.A. History - 2nd Year Assignments July 2023 and January 2024 Sessions

Dear Student,

You have to do one assignment in each course of 8 and 4 credits. The assignments are compulsory. The assignment will cover the whole course.

It is important that you write the answers to all the assignment questions in your own words. Your answers should be within the approximate range of the word-limit set for a particular question.

The assignments should be submitted to the Coordinator of your Study Centre. You must obtain a receipt from the Study Centre for the assignments submitted and retain it. If possible, keep a photocopy of the submitted assignment with you.

The Study Centre will have to return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre in turn will send the marks to the Student Evaluation Division at IGNOU, New Delhi. These will be entered in your grade card.

Submission of Assignments

You should note that the submission of assignments is compulsory before taking up Term-end Examination. It is therefore suggested that you do them within time. In M.A. second year you will have to do a total of 4 assignments. However, in case you have opted for MPSE-003 and MPSE-004 then you will have to do 5 assignments. We have given you a lot of time to do the assignments but we advise you to do them one by one along with your study of the particular course and submit them so that you may get back the marks and comments of the Counsellor with evaluated assignment. With a proper planning you will be able to do them within the stipulated period. Please do not wait for the last date to submit all the assignments because it would be difficult to do all of them in one go.

Last Date of Submission of Assignment

July 2023 Session Students

31st March, 2024

January 2024 Session Students

30th September 2024

Where to submit the assignments

**The Coordinator of your Study
Centre**

Before attempting the assignments please read the detailed instructions provided in the Programme Guide sent to you separately

Now read the following guidelines carefully before answering the questions:

GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments have two types of questions:

- 1) Essay Type Questions which you have to answer in about 500 words each carry 20 marks each.
- 2) Short notes which you have to answer in about 250 words each carry 10 marks each.

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

- a) **Planning:** Read the assignments carefully. Go through the units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then re-arrange these in a logical order.
- b) **Organisation:** Be a little more selective and analytical before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. In an essay-type question, give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarize your response to the question.

Make sure that your answer:

- is logical and coherent;
 - has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs;
 - is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation;
 - does not exceed the number of words indicated in your question.
- c) **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasize.
 - d) **Interpretation:** Interpretation is a constant process in history writing. It is already reflected in your planning and selection. Explanatory comments with phrases like may be, because, could be, etc., immediately introduce an element of interpretation in writing itself. Here you have to be careful that these comments can be supported by the material you have in the answer.

Wishing you all the best,
Faculty of History

MHI-03 HISTORIOGRAPHY

Course Code: MHI-03

Assignment Code: MHI-03/AST/TMA/2023-2024

Total Marks: 100

**Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections 'A' and 'B'.
You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each.
All questions carry equal marks.**

SECTION-A

1. What is causation? Discuss the manner in which historians use causation to explain any historical phenomenon. 20
2. Discuss the distinctive features of traditional Chinese historiography. 20
3. Write a note on the *Annales* School of historiography. 20
4. Describe the important features of Indo-Persian tradition of history-writing during the Mughal period. 20
5. Give an analytical account of the various traditions of historiography which constitute the Positivist tradition. 20

SECTION-B

6. What is postmodernism? Discuss the postmodernist views on history. 20
7. Write a note on the colonial historiography on Indian history. 20
8. What do you understand by the term 'subaltern'? Discuss the two phases the *Subaltern Studies* in India. 20
9. Write a note on the conflicting views on Indian Renaissance. 20
10. Write short notes in about 250 words each on any **two** of the following: 10+10
 - a) Kalhana and the *Rajtarangini*
 - b) Early Indian Historiography
 - c) Feminist Historiography in India
 - d) The Cambridge School

**MHI-06: EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL STRUCTURES
IN INDIA THROUGH THE AGES**

Course Code: MHI-06
Assignment Code: MHI-06/AST/TMA/2023-2024
Total Marks: 100

**Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections 'A' and 'B'.
You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each.
All questions carry equal marks.**

SECTION- A

1. Discuss the role of objectivity and interpretation in writing the history of ancient India. 20
2. Comment on the nature of the society in the Neolithic period. 20
3. What do rituals reveal about the nature of society in the Vedic period? Elaborate. 20
4. Comment on the socio-religious and intellectual ferment that marked the rise of Buddhism and Jainism. 20
5. Discuss what is meant by the early medieval society? 20

SECTION- B

6. Comment on the nature of rural society in the peninsular India? 20
7. Discuss the origin and rise of the Rajputs with reference to the researches of B.D. Chattopadhyaya and N. Zeigler? 20
8. How do you study tribes under colonialism? Discuss. 20
9. Did colonialism shape the perceptions of caste? Discuss. 20
10. Comment on the participation of women in the national movement. 20

MHI-08: HISTORY OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT: INDIA

Course Code: MHI-08

Assignment Code: MHI-08/AST/TMA/2023-2024

Total Marks: 100

**Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections 'A' and 'B'.
You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each.
All questions carry equal marks.**

SECTION-A

1. Do you agree that the environmental histories of Colonial India are histories of disruptions and exploitation. Evaluate. 20
2. Write a note on the physical features of the plains of Northern India. 20
3. Discuss the various principles defining the Water Rights in India. 20
4. Critically examine the Indian view of Conservation 20
5. Write a note on the geographical spread of hunting-gathering communities in India. 20

SECTION-B

6. Discuss the salient features of Indian Colonial Forest policy. 20
7. Write a note on the various approaches examining the development and environmental concerns 20
8. Critically evaluate Inter-linking Rivers project and the National Water Grid. 20
9. Write a note on the meaning and importance of Biodiversity. 20
10. Critically evaluate the provisions of Trade related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). 20

MHI-09: INDIAL NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Course Code: MHI-09

Assignment Code: MHI-08/AST/TMA/2023-2024

Total Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections 'A' and 'B'. You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-A

1. Discuss the modernist theories about the emergence of nations and nationalism. 20
2. Explain the idea of economic nationalism. Discuss the main views of its earliest proponents. 20
3. Describe the ideologies and activities of the revolutionary nationalists during the 1920s and 1930s. 20
4. Analyse the successes and failures of the Civil Disobedience Movement. 20
5. Write short notes in about 250 words each on any two of the following: 10+10
 - a) Non-modernist theories of nationalism
 - b) Political ideas of the Swaraj Party
 - c) Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi
 - d) Achievements of the Congress Ministries during 1937-39.

SECTION-B

6. Outline the political developments which led to the Quit India Movement. 20
7. Discuss the views of various historians regarding the relationship between nationalism and peasantry. 20
8. How did the Gandhian method of mass mobilisation succeed in bringing women into public life? 20
9. Analyse the main strengths and weaknesses of the legacies of the Indian national movement. 20
10. Write short notes in about 250 words each on any two of the following: 10+10
 - a) Salient Features of the Indian Constitution
 - b) Poona Pact, 1932
 - c) Nationalists and the Workers in the Early Phase
 - d) Pakistan Demand and its Consequences.

MHI-10: URBANISATION IN INDIA

Course Code: MHI-10

Assignment Code: MHI-10/AST/TMA/2023-2024

Total Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections 'A' and 'B'. You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-A

1. How are the spatial aspects of urbanism reflected in the archaeological record? Comment taking the case of the Harappan civilisation. 20
2. Critically examine chief characteristics of early historic urban centres. 20
3. Discuss the notions of space after the emergence of urban centres in the sixth century BCE. 20
4. 'Early medieval centres unlike the early historic centres were primarily nodal points in local exchange' Comment 20
5. **Write short notes on any two of the following. Answer in about 250 words each.** 10+10
 - i) Lefebvre's notion of space
 - ii) Portuguese Cities a Polisgarchic
 - iii) Burial Practices of the Harappans
 - iv) Bhir Mound

SECTION-B

6. Discuss the process of urbanization under the Delhi Sultans. 20
7. 'Tanjavur emerged as the chief 'ceremonial' centre by the political will of the Cholas'. Comment 20
8. Analyse sacred zones and *khandas* of Banaras. How did it influence the cityscape? 20
9. Describe the emergence of canal colonies. What was its impact? How did it alter the urban spaces? 20
10. **Write short notes on any two of the following. Answer in about 250 words each.** 10+10
 - i) Capital cities of Mandu
 - ii) Masulipatnam
 - iii) Cities in the Kutchh-Gujarat Region
 - iv) Improvement Trusts

WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT (From Plato to Marx) (MPSE-003)
Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MPSE-003
Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2023-24
Marks: 100

Answer any five questions in about 500 words each. Attempt at least two questions from each section. Each question carries 20 marks.

SECTION –I

1. Examine the nature and context of western political thought.
2. Discuss the philosophical foundations of Plato's political theory.
3. Write a note on Aristotle's theory of revolution.
4. What is the grand synthesis St. Thomas Aquinas talked about? Elaborate.
5. Elaborate upon Machiavelli's concept of Universal Egoism.

SECTION –II

Write a short note on each part of the following questions in about 250 words.

6. a) Thomas Hobbes on the laws of nature and the Covenant
b) John Locke on social contract and civil society
7. a) Rousseau's theory of General Will
b) Edmund Burke's critique of the French Revolution
8. a) Immanuel Kant's formulation of the categorical imperative
b) Bentham's political philosophy
9. a) Tocqueville on democracy, revolution and the modern state
b) J. S. Mill on equal rights for women
10. a) Hegel on Idealism
b) Marx's theory of Surplus Value

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT IN MODERN INDIA (MPSE-004)
Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MPSE-004
Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2023-24
Marks: 100

Answer any five questions in about 500 words each. Attempt at least two questions from each section. Each question carries 20 marks.

SECTION –I

1. Discuss the nature of state and sovereignty in ancient India.
2. Write an essay on the construction of India in the 19 th century.
3. Trace the trajectory of Muslim thought in colonial India..
4. Elaborate upon the religio-political ideas of Dayanand Saraswati.
5. Describe the importance of Lal-Bal-Pal in the nationalist movement.

SECTION –II

Write a short note on each part of the following questions in about 250 words.

6. a) Sri Aurobindo on Renaissance in Hinduism
b) V.D. Savarkar on social reforms
7. a) Maulana Maududi's views on nationalism
b) Jaipal Singh as a champion of Adivasi identity
8. a) Gandhi's theory of Trusteeship
b) Nehru's theory of culture
9. a) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on Constitutional Democracy
b) M.N. Roy's Radical Humanism
10. a) EMS Namboodiripad on the strategy of Indian Revolution
b) Socialist thought of Jayaprakash Narayan