

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2013

M.Phil./Ph.D.

HISTORICAL STUDIES

[Field of Study Code—Ancient : ANCP (139)/
Medieval : MEDP (138)/Modern : MODP (137)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

- Note :** (i) Candidates must indicate their preferred choice of admission, e.g., Ancient, Medieval or Modern on their answer-book's cover-sheet in bold letters.
- (ii) Answer *any one* question from Section-I (which carries 20 marks) and *any two* questions from your stated area of specialization (each carries 25 marks).

SECTION—I

1. "Museums display cultural wealth." Discuss.
2. With what success have histories of caste challenged older paradigms of Indian history?
3. "The historiography of the last three decades has fractured our understanding of Indian history, but has also integrated it." Discuss.
4. Are nations born or made? Discuss the perspectives of the primordialists and modernists on this.
5. Do you think a gendered perspective on history is important? Give reasons for your answer.
6. "What bothers censorship is the representation of reality, not the reality itself." Comment.

SECTION—II

(Ancient India)

7. To what extent do you think archaeological practice in India remains confined within colonial frameworks? Are alternatives possible?
8. Do you think that there are substantial differences between the early historic and the early medieval phases of Indian history? Discuss with examples.
9. With reference to any major religious tradition of early India, discuss whether an understanding of sculpture and architecture enhances our appreciation of beliefs and practices.

10. To what extent have inscriptional sources contributed to our understanding of either the Maurya or the Chola polity?
11. What, according to you, are the major historiographical debates relating to the economic history of ancient India?

SECTION—III

(Medieval India)

12. Examine the impact that Sufism exerted on the socioeconomic life of medieval India.
13. Discuss any five key issues in medieval Indian historiography.
14. Discuss the relationship between trade and religion in the contexts of the Indian Ocean world of the 16th and 17th centuries and the European trading companies.
15. How important was the role of the agricultural surplus in shaping and sustaining the polity and exchange economy of medieval India?
16. Marc Bloch once wrote that the division between barter and exchange economy is artificial. Do you agree?

SECTION—IV

(Modern India)

17. Review some of the new historical scholarship on the modern Indian city.
18. In setting out new roles for the Indian woman, reformist associations and the opponents defined new social and community boundaries. Comment.
19. Do you think modern Indian history has been transformed by the work of the subaltern studies of historians? Give reasons for your answer.
20. Discuss the similarities and differences between the colonial State and the post-Independent State in twentieth century India.
21. "The Amritsar Massacre of 1919 was a boon for Indian nationalism, but it was a catastrophe for the British Empire." Do you agree?

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