



**SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY**

*The State University for Education, Training and Research in Blended Format, Kerala*

University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | [www.sgou.ac.in](http://www.sgou.ac.in)

## **ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

### **M.A HISTORY**

#### **Semester II – DISCIPLINE CORE**

#### **Continuous Internal Evaluation**

Course Code: **M21HS05DC**

Course Title: **HISTORICAL WRITINGS ON INDIA**

*Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.*

### **SET 1 - Descriptive Type Assignment**

1. Examine the significance of periodisation in Indian history. Identify the debates and interpretations on periodisation put forth by modern historians. Discuss James Mill's views on periodisation in Indian History.
2. Discuss the difficulties in determining the historical significance of early writings in India. Explain the conflicting viewpoints that emerged during the colonial period regarding the use of literary texts as historical sources.
3. Describe the recent trends in history that focus on the life, culture, and social aspects of marginalised groups. Explain how these trends critique existing historiography in India.

Discuss the role of these trends in highlighting the issues faced by underprivileged communities in colonial and post-colonial India.

4. Explain the impact of Turko-Persian historiography on the development of historical writings in medieval India. Explain the significance of the *Tarikh* form of historical writing in medieval historiography.
5. Discuss the role of nationalist historiography in highlighting the achievements of ancient Indian civilisation and in explaining history from the perspective of Indian society and culture.

**General Instructions:**

- *Begin with an introduction*
- *Explain the theory or idea supported by historical evidence*
- *Maintain clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Provide a clear and concise conclusion*
- *Include a bibliography or references section at the end*

## SET 2 - Analytical Type Assignment

1. Analyse why the intervention of Dalits is considered crucial in history writing, and discuss the role of dominant histories in exploring Dalit experiences.
2. Evaluate the role of early Orientalist discourses that centred on the reconstruction of India's past. Critically assess the Orientalist assertions regarding India's historical legacy and the Utilitarian dismissal of Indian intellectual capacity.
3. Analyse the colonial perspectives on India's history that took shape during British rule. Discuss how the European powers encountered India and engaged in a complex interplay of historical narratives.
4. Analyse the historicity of early writings in India and explore how these literary works offer valuable insights into ancient Indian society, culture, and political aspects, despite containing mythological elements.
5. Analyse how Marxist historians introduced new concepts and methods, such as historical materialism, class conflict, and modes of production, to interpret Indian history. Discuss their focus on socio-economic structures and processes, and how they highlighted issues such as feudalism, urbanisation, caste formation, and peasant revolts.

### General Instructions:

- *Provide an introduction to the topic*
- *Conduct a critical inquiry by formulating the ideas and structuring the analysis*
- *Ensure an overall clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Conclude with a critical analysis of the topic*
- *Include footnotes, bibliography or references section*



# **SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY**

## **ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

### **M.A HISTORY Semester II – DISCIPLINE CORE Continuous Internal Evaluation**

**Course Code:** M21HS06DC

**Course Title:** HISTORY OF MODERN KERALA: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

*Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.*

### **SET 1 - Descriptive Type Assignment**

1. Compare and contrast the land relations in Kerala before and after the arrival of the British. How did the revenue settlements help the British establish their power in Malabar? Explain how these changes affected local landlords and contributed to British colonial power in the region.
2. Assess the significance of Vaikam and Guruvayur Satyagraha in the light of political and social reforms in Kerala. Describe the historical context of both satyagrahas, their objectives, and the socio-political atmosphere in Kerala at the time. Discuss the outcomes of these movements and how they influenced subsequent social reform initiatives, including the role of key leaders and organisations involved.

3. Provide a detailed account of Mahatma Ayyankali's life, focusing on his activism against untouchability and the upliftment of lower castes in Kerala. Discuss the specific campaigns he led and their effects on society.
4. Discuss the role of the 'Channar' and 'Kallumala' Agitations in improving the status of lower caste women. Outline the causes and major events of both agitations. Explain its significance in the history of social reforms in Kerala.
5. Explain the events and political negotiations that culminated in the formation of the state of Kerala. Discuss the role of various leaders, parties, and the socio-political context that influenced these developments.

**General Instructions:**

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## SET 2 - Analytical Type Assignment

1. Investigate various interpretations of the nature of the Malabar Rebellion, comparing and contrasting them. Explore different scholarly interpretations of the Malabar Rebellion, including its causes, objectives, and outcomes. Identify key historians or sources that represent contrasting views.
2. Examine the role and impact of Trade Union Movements in Travancore, Cochin and Malabar. Evaluate the successes achieved in labour rights and laws, while also addressing the limitations and challenges trade unions face in advocating for workers' rights.
3. Analyse the underlying political motives of the 'Vimochana Samaram'. Evaluate the slogans used during the movement as expressions of political and social demands.
4. Describe the main goals of the People's Plan Campaign and the strategies used for its implementation. Evaluate the impact of the campaign on local governance structures and community participation. Critically assess the campaign's achievements in social and political reform.
5. Critically evaluate the 'Agrarian Relations Bill' and 'Education Bill' of the first Communist Ministry of Kerala. Discuss the political and social context in which these bills were introduced and assess their implementation and impact.

### General Instructions:

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# **SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY**

## **M.A HISTORY** **Semester II – DISCIPLINE CORE** **Continuous Internal Evaluation** **ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

Course Code: **M21HS07DC**

Course Title: **SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN INDIAN HISTORY (1200 CE-1800 CE)**

*Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.*

### **SET 1 - Descriptive Type Assignment**

1. Investigate the decline of the Chera, Chola, and Pandya dynasties. What were the key factors that led to their downfall, and how did this contribute to the emergence of smaller principalities and *Nadus* in South India?
2. Trace the key revenue reforms introduced by Alauddin Khalji, Sher Shah, and Akbar. How did each ruler's approach to revenue administration impact the empire's financial stability and governance?
3. Describe the role of markets in medieval urbanisation. How were markets regulated, and what impact did these regulations have on urban life and economic activity?
4. Explore how the Bhakti movement facilitated a confluence of ideas and practices in medieval India. How did it bridge the gap between different religious traditions?

5. Discuss how Sufism acted as a catalyst for social change in medieval India. How did Sufi teachings challenge or reinforce existing social structures and identities?

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## SET 2 - Analytical Type Assignment

1. Critically assess the effectiveness of the *Iqta* and *Jagir* systems in ensuring agricultural production and political stability. How did these systems reflect the broader dynamics of state control and appropriation in medieval India?
2. Analyse the balance of power between the Sultan and the nobility during the Delhi Sultanate, and discuss how this relationship influenced the administration of the state.
3. Examine the distinctive characteristics of coastal and inland trade in medieval India. How did these forms of trade contribute to the economic and social development of the region?
4. Evaluate the reasons behind the Mughal court's patronage of Sanskrit texts. How did this promotion of Indian legacies serve the political and cultural objectives of Mughal rulers?
5. Analyse how the concept of 'Patrimonial Bureaucracy' influenced the administration of the Mughal state and its interactions with regional powers like the Rajputs.

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# **SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY**

## **M.A HISTORY Semester II – DISCIPLINE CORE Continuous Internal Evaluation ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

Course Code: **M21HS08DC**

Course Title: **SELECTED THEMES IN THE HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL WORLD**

*Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.*

### **SET 1 - Descriptive Type Assignment**

1. Describe the significance of key Chinese innovations such as gunpowder, printing, paper money, and the compass. How did these inventions impact both China and the broader world?
2. Explore the origins and contributions of the Benedictine and Franciscan orders. What roles did these monastic communities play in shaping Christian spirituality and social welfare?
3. Describe how the Islamic world served as a centre for the transmission of knowledge during the medieval period. Focus on the contributions of figures such as Al Razi, Avicenna, Ibn Rushd, and Omar Khayyam.
4. Explore the roles of the Silk Route and Mediterranean trade routes in shaping the economic and cultural landscape of medieval Europe and Asia. How did cities like Venice and Florence benefit from these trade networks during the medieval period?

5. Explore the growth of medieval urban centres and their impact on the feudal system. How did the rise of towns and cities foster anti-feudal tendencies?

**General Instructions:**

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## SET 2 - Analytical Type Assignment

1. Critically analyse the transition from slave-based production to feudal structures in medieval Europe. What economic and social forces drove this transition, and how did it reshape European society?
2. Critically examine the impact of the interactions between the court of Charlemagne and the Abbasid Caliphate, particularly during the reign of Harun al-Rashid, on the cultural and scientific exchanges between Europe and the Islamic world. How did these interactions shape the development of medieval European thought?
3. Engage in the historiographical debate surrounding the term 'Dark Age.' To what extent is this label justified, and how does the reevaluation of this period challenge traditional narratives of European history?
4. Analyse the long-term effects of the Crusades on medieval European society. How did these conflicts influence the political structures, religious beliefs, and cultural developments within Europe?
5. Analyse how crafts and guilds in medieval European cities contributed to the weakening of feudal structures. How did these economic institutions help promote new forms of social organisation and economic independence?

### General Instructions:

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## **Assignment Questions**

### **Semester II**

#### **Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course**

**Course Code: M21UC01AC**

**Course Title: Foundational Skills for Research and Writing**

#### **Set I Descriptive**

1. Analyse measures of quality and ranking such as UGC-CARE and ISSN and ISBN. Do you think that the advent of open-access databases has diminished knowledge barriers? Comment.

*Hints: Explain UGC-CARE, ISSN & ISBN and discuss the relevance of open access databases*

2. Explain the differences between in-text citation and reference list entries in a style of your choice. Provide examples of each and discuss why proper citation upholds academic integrity.

*Hints: Compare in-text citation and reference list with examples.*

3. Explain the key steps involved in manuscript submission. What precautions should authors take before submission?

*Hints: Examine the process of manuscript submission and discuss the precautions steps.*

4. What is a research design? Examine the key elements including research problem, literature review, methods, sampling, analysis, validity/reliability and ethics. Your answer should reflect impact, strengths and limitations of research design in the light of examples.

*Hints: Discuss research design with key elements along with examples.*

5. Examine the role of plagiarism in destroying the quality of research. Explain various types of plagiarism along with drawing methods of avoidance and detection.

*Hints: Discuss plagiarism, and its types and examine ways of detection.*

## Set II- Analytical

1. Prepare a synopsis in few pages on your interested topic covering all components included in synopsis framing such as the title page, content page, introduction, literature review, research methodology etc.

*Hints: Find out a topic and prepare a synopsis covering all components included such as the title page, content page, introduction etc.*

2. Conduct a literature review on a topic in your field of study. Summarise five relevant sources identifying a key research gap and explaining its significance.

*Hints: Prove your topic is worth of research by examining its literature review and identifying research gap.*

3. Create two high-quality abstracts or executive summaries, or one from each category. You need to refer to the manuscript/journal article for abstracts or summarise a business report for executive summaries.

*Hints: Prepare an abstract or an executive summary of a business plan*

4. Prepare an annotated bibliography after choosing a specific research topic within your field of study. Remember to select a minimum of five relevant sources (books, academic articles, websites etc.) and provide a concise summary.

*Hints: Explain annotated bibliography with a minimum five relevant sources and give a summary too.*

5. Compare and contrast the citation styles of APA and IEEE. Explain when each style is used and provide an example of citing a journal article using both styles.

*Hints: Elaborate the specificities of APA & IEEE citation styles and usages and cite a journal article in both styles.*