



# **SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY**

## **B.A HISTORY Semester III - Discipline Core Continuous Internal Evaluation ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

**Course Code:** B21HS03DC

**Course Title:** History of Kerala – I (Pre-Modern Phase)

*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. Discuss the key contributions of Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai to the historiography of Kerala. How did his interpretations and methodologies influence the study of the social and political history of Kerala?
2. Give an account of the different burial systems in Kerala's prehistoric sites. In your writing, explain their distinguishing features. What artefacts have been discovered alongside burials in Kerala's prehistoric sites, and how do they provide insights into the daily life and social organisation of early communities?
3. Examine the literary significance of Sangam Literature in understanding the early history of South India. Discuss how Sangam literature serves as a historical source for reconstructing the social, political, and economic conditions of the Sangam Age.

4. Explain the role of Brahmin settlements in shaping the caste hierarchy in Kerala. How did Brahmin land ownership and economic activities affect the social structure of Kerala?
5. Discuss the cultural practices in medieval Kerala with special mention of *Mamankam*, *Revathy Pattathanam*, *Ankam* and *Kalari*. How did these practices reflect the social and religious life of the period?

**General Instructions:**

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

## SET 2 - Analytical Type Assignment

1. Evaluate the contributions of Gender, Dalit, and Marxist Perspectives to the study of Kerala's social history. To what extent have these perspectives collectively enriched the understanding of Kerala's past?
2. Analyse the economic activities associated with different *Tinai*s in the Sangam Age. How did the concept of *Tinai* influence the economic activities of the period? Examine how agriculture and trade were adapted to different ecological zones.
3. Critically analyse the historical interpretations of the Perumal kingdom by Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai and M.G.S. Narayanan. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each interpretation. Which interpretation do you find more persuasive, and what are your reasons for this assessment?
4. Critically examine the origins and development of the caste system in Kerala. Analyse the role of Brahmin settlements in the establishment and consolidation of the caste system. Discuss the impact of the caste system on social mobility and interactions between different castes in Kerala.
5. Analyse the impact of the Mysorean invasion on local communities, including changes in land ownership, taxation, and social structures. Investigate the effects of Tipu Sultan's revenue policies in Malabar and how they altered the existing land system. Examine the contemporary historiographical interpretations of Tipu Sultan's policies in Malabar. What are the prevailing views and debates among historians regarding his impact on the region?

### 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 organisation throughout the assignment*
- *Conclude with a critical analysis of the topic*
- *Include footnotes, bibliography or references section*



**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**

### **Common Course for All Programmes**

#### **Semester III**

#### **Literature and the Contemporary World**

#### **(B21EG02LC)**

### **Instructions for Writing Assignments**

#### **Descriptive:**

- *Clearly outline the key elements or aspects that need to be described, such as features, characteristics, or events.*
- *Employ descriptive language that can engage the senses and ensure vivid pictures, enhancing the richness of descriptions.*
- *Organise the assignment in a coherent sequence to guarantee clarity and facilitate the smooth conveyance of ideas.*

#### **Analytical:**

- *Clearly articulate your main argument in a concise manner at the beginning of your answer. This sets the tone for your analysis and helps the reader understand the central point you are trying to convey.*
- *Support your analysis with specific examples and quotes from the literature. Use direct textual evidence to illustrate and reinforce your points.*
- *Move beyond mere summary and engage in critical analysis. Interpret the significance of the literary elements, such as themes, characters, and symbols.*

### **SET 1 (Descriptive)**

1. Describe in detail Greta Thunberg's biography, speech "Almost Everything is Black and White," and her activism calling for action on climate change.
2. Trace the historical evolution of Artificial Intelligence as discussed by Gareth Southwell. Explore key milestones, breakthroughs, and the impact of AI on various fields.
3. Discuss the cultural dynamics presented in Malala Yousafzai's "A Daughter is Born." How does she navigate and challenge cultural norms, and what does this reveal about the broader context in which she lives?
4. What are the alternative possibilities that John Lennon invites his listeners to envision in the song "Imagine"?

5. Discuss Shashi Tharoor's views on the impact of technology and communication on globalization. How does the interconnected world shape human imagination, and what are the implications for society?

### **SET II (Analytical)**

1. Provide a detailed analysis of Moxon's invention in Ambrose Bierce's "Moxon's Master." Explore its features, capabilities, and the implications of creating such a machine.
2. Select two key characters from Sarah Joseph's story, "The Masculine of Virgin" and provide a comprehensive analysis of their personalities, motivations, and how they contribute to the thematic elements of the story.
3. Write a short essay about the vision for a New India as presented in the speech "A Tryst with Destiny", providing your understanding of its relevance in the immediate post independence period and in today's age.
4. Imagine that you are the parent of Ashu from the short story "Housewife". Write a letter of complaint to the headmaster of Ashu's school about Shibnath's treatment of your son.
5. Analyse the impact of economic power on social and political structures in "The United Fruit Company." How does Pablo Neruda critique the influence of multinational corporations on the nations they exploit?

\*\*\*\*\*



**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)

**Skill Enhancement Compulsory Course**  
**For All UG Programmes**  
**SEMESTER- III**  
**Humanism and Logic**  
**(B21UC01SC)**

**Instructions for Writing Assignments**

**Descriptive:**

- ❖ *Clearly outline the key elements or aspects that need to be described, such as features, characteristics, or events.*
- ❖ *Employ descriptive language that can engage the reader by ensuring the richness of descriptions.*
- ❖ *Organise the assignment in a coherent sequence to guarantee clarity and facilitate the smooth conveyance of ideas.*

**Analytical:**

- ❖ *Clearly articulate your main argument in a concise manner at the beginning of your answer. This sets the tone for your analysis and helps the reader understand the central point you are trying to convey.*
- ❖ *Support your analysis with specific examples, quotes, events, etc. Employ these elements to illustrate and reinforce your points.*
- ❖ *Move beyond mere summary and engage in critical analysis. Interpret the significance of the literary elements, such as themes, characters, and symbols.*

**SET 1 (Descriptive)**

1. Explain the concept of "Shraddha" in Indian philosophy with reference to the story of Nachiketa in Kathopanishad. Discuss how it shows care and concern for justice.
2. Explain Narayanaguru's views on caste discrimination and emphasis on universal humanism based on the concepts of "Jatilakshanam" and "Jatinirnayam".
3. Discuss the different functions of language with examples. How is the logic mainly concerned with the informative language function?
4. Explain the scientific method and the deductive-nomological model of scientific explanation. Discuss the role of logic and laws in scientific explanations.
5. Explain the four standard forms of categorical propositions with easy day-to-day examples. Discuss the rules of distribution of terms in these propositions. (1\*15=15)

## **SET II (Analytical)**

1. Critically analyze Basheer's portrayal of humanity and kindness through the characters in his short story "Oru Manushyan". Substantiate your arguments by referring to the story and other relevant reviews.
2. Compare and contrast the perspectives on the environment and humanism of Gandhi and Henry David Thoreau. Support your discussion with relevant external sources.
3. Evaluate the core principles and assumptions of the Deep Ecology movement. Substantiate your arguments by referring to critical opinions on Deep Ecology from external academic literature.
4. Critically analyze the differences between deductive and inductive reasoning. Refer to Cohen and Nagel's *An Introduction to Logic and Scientific Method* to support your analysis.
5. Evaluate the theory-ladenness of scientific observations and how subjectivity plays a role in science. Refer to Sarukkai's *What is Science?* to critically discuss the creative aspects of science.

(1\*15=15)

\*\*\*\*\*



# **SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY**

## **B.A HISTORY**

### **Semester III - SKILL ENHANCEMENT COURSE -1**

#### **Continuous Internal Evaluation**

#### **ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

**Course Code:** B21HS01SE

**Course Title:** HISTORICAL TOURISM

*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. How did foreign travellers from the medieval and modern periods describe Indian culture? What role did their accounts play in shaping European understanding of India during these periods?
2. Give an account of the travels of Megasthenes, Fa Hian, and Hiuen Tsang. How do the works of these foreign travellers contribute to our understanding of ancient Indian history? Discuss the significance of their descriptions in understanding the polity, society and economy of ancient India.
3. Discuss how the works of Tavernier, Bernier, and Mundy influenced the historical understanding of Mughal India. Provide examples from their works.
4. Describe the major historical destinations in India. Give a brief overview of each site, including its historical significance.



5. Explain how the historical destinations contributed to Kerala's tourism industry. Provide examples of how the historical significance of these locations has influenced tourism

**General Instructions:**

- *Begin with an introduction*
- *Explain the theory or idea supported by historical evidence*
- *Maintain clarity, style, structure and organisation 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 the challenges and limitations of using travelogues as historical sources. How can historians address these challenges to ensure an accurate historical reconstruction?
2. Review different types of tourist destinations in India. Examine thoroughly how these destinations influence the tourism landscape.
3. Critically examine the limitations of using the travel accounts of Ibn Battuta, Marco Polo, and Amir Khusrau as historical sources. Analyse how historians address biases or inaccuracies in their accounts to ensure a more accurate reconstruction of early medieval India.
4. Analyse the works of Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, Francois Bernier, and Peter Mundy. How did these travellers describe the political and administrative structures of Mughal India? What observations did they make about the Mughal court, administration, and governance?
5. Investigate how the concept of sacred geography applies to religious destinations. Analyse how geographical features and locations contribute to their religious significance.

### 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 organisation throughout the assignment*
- *Conclude with a critical analysis of the topic*
- *Include footnotes, bibliography or references section*



# **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**

### **BA HISTORY**

#### **ANCILLIARY COURSE**

#### **UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL SYSTEM**

#### **B21PS02AN**

### **SEMESTER III**

#### ***General Instructions***

- Learners are required to submit two assignments, one from each set, with each assignment carrying 15 marks.
- The descriptive assignment requires the learners to comprehensively explain the theories or concepts supported by relevant facts and examples. In contrast, the analytical assignment demands critical evaluation based on well-supported arguments, leading to informed conclusions.

#### ***Assignment Format***

- The assignment should contain a title page, introduction, content (explaining theories or concepts for the descriptive set or analysing the theories and concepts for the analytical set), conclusion and bibliography.
- The assignment must be handwritten.

#### **SET I Descriptive**

Discuss the meaning, nature, and significance of political science. How does it contribute to the understanding of political systems?

1. Explain the essential elements of the state. How do these elements define the concept of the state?
2. Describe the different types of sovereignty. Compare and contrast the theories of monism and pluralism.
3. What is political socialization? Discuss its role in shaping the political culture of a society.
4. Define globalization. What are its key characteristics and how does it impact the political systems globally?

## **SET II Analytical**

Evaluate the relationship between the state and civil society. How does this relationship affect the functioning of a political system?

1. Analyze the impact of political communication and mass mobilization on the stability and functionality of a political system.
2. Critically assess the relevance of Marxism and Gandhism in today's political systems. How do these ideologies address contemporary political challenges?
3. Examine the role of non-state actors, such as pressure groups and mass media, in influencing political decision-making and governance.
4. Discuss the tension between national autonomy and global commitments in the context of globalization. How do political systems navigate this challenge?