



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

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

Course Code: **M21HS09DC**

Course Title: **COLONIALISM AND NATIONALISM IN MODERN 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

Instructions:

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

1. **Examine the colonial interventions in the Indian economy during the 18th and 19th centuries. Discuss the impact of these interventions on indigenous crafts, the drain of wealth, and deindustrialisation.**

Instructions: Discuss colonial policies like the Permanent Settlement, Ryotwari, and Mahalwari systems. Discuss the commercialisation of agriculture and its impact on the Indian economy during the colonial period. Examine the economic impact of British rule in India by exploring the decline of indigenous industries (deindustrialisation). Explain how the 'drain of wealth' theory explains the transfer of India's resources to Britain during this period.

2. Describe the genesis of Indian nationalism. How did socio-religious movements and the 'rediscovery of India's past' contribute to the rise of nationalist sentiments?

Instructions: Discuss the role of socio-religious reform movements like the Brahmo Samaj and Arya Samaj in challenging British colonial dominance and promoting social change. Briefly discuss how the concept of rediscovery of India's past helped instill nationalist consciousness. Mention the influence of the press, literature, and events like the Ilbert Bill controversy in shaping nationalist thought. Include the arguments of historians such as Partha Chatterjee and Bipan Chandra.

3. Explain the role of Gandhi's ideas and methods in shaping the Indian national movement. How did his early satyagrahas reflect his ideology of struggle?

Instructions: Discuss Gandhi's core philosophies, such as *Satyagraha* and *Ahimsa*. Examine how these ideas influenced the Indian national movement and its leaders. Discuss early *satyagrahas*, like the Champaran and Kheda movements and how they reflected Gandhi's ideology of struggle. Consider the social and political context of these movements and emphasise Gandhi's strategies for mobilising the masses. Include both support and criticism from historians and contemporaries on Gandhi's influence.

4. Discuss the impact of the Round Table Conferences in India's struggle towards independence. Evaluate the Gandhi-Ambedkar debate on the representation of Dalits and their influence on the conference outcomes, especially regarding separate electorates.

Instructions: Briefly outline the Round Table Conferences and their role in the independence struggle. Explain how these conferences shaped constitutional reforms and facilitated political negotiations. Discuss how the Gandhi-Ambedkar debate influenced the outcomes of the conferences.

5. Trace the major political and social developments leading up to the partition of India.

Instructions: Explain the major events that led to the partition of India in 1947. Discuss the major movements, and decisions that created growing tensions between different religious communities, which eventually resulted in the formation of India and Pakistan. Discuss the role of the British colonial government, Indian leaders, and the rise of communal politics in these events.

M.A HISTORY
Semester III – DISCIPLINE CORE
Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: **M21HS09DC**

Course Title: **COLONIALISM AND NATIONALISM IN MODERN INDIA**

SET 2 - Analytical Type Assignment

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*

1. **Critically analyse the role of colonial modernity in transforming Indian society, especially in relation to social reform and the quest for equality.**

Instructions: Analyse how colonial modernity introduced ideas such as rationalism, individual rights, and social reforms like the abolition of *Sati* and the promotion of widow remarriage. Critically assess the limitations of colonial modernity, including its elitist nature, reinforcement of existing caste hierarchies, and the promotion of Western superiority over indigenous cultures. Evaluate how colonial modernity shaped social reform movements and whether it contributed to or hindered the quest for equality, particularly for marginalised communities like Dalits and women.

2. **Evaluate the ideological differences between the Moderates and the Extremists in the Indian National Congress. How did the partition of Bengal and the Swadeshi Movement reflect these tensions?**

Instructions: Explain the emergence of Moderates and Extremists within the Congress. Discuss the Moderates' belief in gradual reform, petitions, and dialogue with the British government. Analyse the Extremists' demand for immediate self-rule through direct action, boycott movement, and mass mobilisation. Discuss the ideological differences, achievements and failures of the moderates and extremists. Explain how the Partition of Bengal led to protests and strengthened the rift between the two factions.

3. **Examine the impact of the First World War on Indian nationalism. How did the Home Rule League and the Lucknow Pact reflect a shift in the national movement?**

Instructions: Briefly explain India's involvement in World War I and the socio-economic consequences of the war. Analyse how the war fuelled dissatisfaction with British rule due to economic hardships and unfulfilled promises of post-war reforms. Discuss the formation of the Home Rule League by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant and its programmes. Explain the importance of the Lucknow Pact. Reflect on how these events indicated a shift from passive resistance to a greater demand for self-rule.

4. **Assess the emergence of socialist ideas and revolutionary movements in the Indian freedom struggle. To what extent did these movements challenge the colonial government?**

Instructions: Explain the rise of socialist ideas in India during the early 20th century. Discuss important revolutionary groups like the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association and their methods of direct action, including armed resistance against the British. Analyse how these movements presented a radical challenge to colonial authority through violence and non-cooperation. Assess the impact of these movements on the freedom struggle.

5. **Analyse the significance of the Mountbatten Plan and the Indian Independence Act of 1947.**

Instructions: Explain how the Mountbatten Plan addressed the communal tensions. Discuss how the Indian Independence Act formalised the partition and transferred power from the British government to India and Pakistan.



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

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

Course Code: **M21HS10DC**

Course Title: **SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS IN MODERN 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

Instructions:

1. *Begin with an introduction*
 2. *Explain the theory or idea supported by historical evidence*
 3. *Maintain clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
 4. *Provide a clear and concise conclusion*
 5. *Include a bibliography or references section at the end*
-
1. **Discuss how the shift from a geocentric to a heliocentric model revolutionised astronomy, challenged religious thought, and contributed to the intellectual transformation of Europe during the Scientific Revolution?**

Instructions: Discuss the scientific debates surrounding the geocentric and heliocentric models, including key figures like Copernicus and Galileo. Analyse the impact of these shifts on religious institutions and social beliefs, and evaluate how this transformation laid the groundwork for the Enlightenment and modern scientific thought.

2. **Discuss how the focus on inductive reasoning and empirical methods lay the foundation for modern science, shaping contemporary research and fostering innovation?**

Instructions: Evaluate Francis Bacon's introduction of the scientific method, emphasising inductive reasoning and empirical observation. Explore the impact of these methods on various scientific disciplines and how they facilitated significant advancements in technology, research methodologies, and modern scientific inquiry.

3. **How did Napoleon's policies and reforms shape the political landscape of Europe and influence future governance?**

Instruction: Analyse Napoleon's key policies, including legal, administrative, and educational reforms. Discuss their impact on European political structures, the spread of nationalism, and how they influenced governance in both France and other countries in the long term.

4. **Elaborate on the social, political, and economic transformations caused by the Cultural Revolution. How did its outcomes shape China's development?**

Instructions: Investigate the objectives of the Cultural Revolution, focusing on its impact on society, politics, and the economy. Discuss the contradictions between its radical goals and actual outcomes, evaluating how these transformations affected China's future development and governance.

5. **Examine the key events leading to the USSR's formation after the Russian Revolution, and to what extent did Lenin's strategies redefine socialism, impacting global geopolitics?**

Instructions: Trace the critical events from the Russian Revolution through the establishment of the USSR, highlighting Lenin's strategic decisions, such as the New Economic Policy (NEP). Analyse how these policies redefined socialism and assess their implications for international relations and global communist movements.

M.A HISTORY
Semester III – DISCIPLINE CORE
Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: **M21HS10DC**

Course Title: **SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS IN MODERN WORLD**

SET 2 - Analytical Type Assignment

Instructions:

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

- 1. Critically assess how Sun Yat-Sen's nationalist and republican ideals shaped the early Chinese revolutionary movement, and analyse how these principles influenced the long-term political trajectory of modern China.**

Instructions: Examine Sun Yat-Sen's philosophies of nationalism and republicanism, focusing on their role in unifying various factions during the early revolutionary movement. Discuss how these ideals influenced subsequent political developments in China, including the rise of the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party.

- 2. Analyse how the privileges of the First and Second Estates, contrasted with the Third Estate's disenfranchisement, lead to an economic and ideological crisis, ultimately undermining the old order in Europe?**

Instructions: Examine the social structure of pre-revolutionary France, focusing on the privileges of the First and Second Estates and the grievances of the Third Estate. Discuss the ideological shifts that arose from economic disparities and analyse how these tensions culminated in the revolutionary upheaval.

3. **Evaluate how Enlightenment thinkers influenced revolutionary movements by promoting ideas of liberty and equality. How did these ideas manifest in key revolutions across Europe and beyond?**

Instructions: Assess the contributions of Enlightenment philosophers like Locke, Rousseau, and Voltaire in shaping concepts of liberty and equality. Explore how these ideas catalysed revolutionary movements, particularly during the American and French revolutions, and their influence on global revolutionary thought.

4. **Critically evaluate Stalin's economic policies and how it fundamentally altered the Soviet economy and its long-term trajectory.**

Instructions: Discuss Stalin's key economic policies, focusing on collectivisation and industrialisation. Analyse their immediate effects on agriculture and industry, the resulting social changes, and the long-term impacts for the Soviet economy, including challenges and successes that shaped its development.

5. **Critically assess the effects of technological advancements during the Industrial Revolution on global trade patterns, and how did these changes alter the dynamics of colonialism and imperialism?**

Instructions: Investigate how innovations like the steam engine and textile machinery transformed global trade, facilitating increased production and exchange. Discuss how these advancements reshaped colonial relationships, economic practices, and imperial ambitions during the 19th century.



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

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

M.A HISTORY

Semester III – DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE

Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: **M21HS01DE**

Course Title: **Environmental History**

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

Instructions:

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

1. **Discuss the key themes that define environmental history, and how do these themes connect to other academic fields in understanding human-environment interactions throughout history?**

Instructions: Identify major themes such as resource exploitation, environmental degradation, and human adaptation. Discuss how environmental history overlaps with disciplines like anthropology, geography, and economics, providing a multidisciplinary perspective on historical environmental change and current ecological challenges.

2. **Give a detailed account on ecological imperialism and examine its criticisms within global environmental history, considering both historical and contemporary perspectives on environmental exploitation.**

Instructions: Define ecological imperialism, focusing on how colonial powers altered ecosystems for economic gain. Discuss critiques related to indigenous displacement, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable practices, highlighting diverse opinions on the long-term environmental and social impacts of imperialist policies.

3. **Elaborate on how colonial views shaped Indian environmental history, and what post-colonial perspectives have emerged to challenge or expand these narratives?**

Instructions: Examine colonial policies regarding land, forests, and natural resources, analysing their environmental impact. Contrast these with post-colonial critiques that highlight indigenous knowledge and ecological management, discussing how these alternative narratives reshape our understanding of environmental history in India.

4. **Describe the forest culture in early India and its connection to religious beliefs and ideologies. How did these relationships shape environmental practices?**

Instructions: Analyse the cultural significance of forests in early India, focusing on religious practices such as sacred groves and nature worship. Discuss how these spiritual beliefs influenced sustainable environmental practices and conservation methods, fostering a balanced relationship between humans and nature.

5. **Discuss the main objectives and outcomes of the Bishnoi Movement in North India, and how did this movement contribute to environmental activism in the region?**

Instructions: Detail the Bishnoi Movement's origins, emphasising its principles of non-violence and wildlife protection. Examine how its efforts to prevent deforestation and protect animal life contributed to shaping broader environmental movements and sustainable development in India.



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

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

University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | www.sgu.ac.in

M.A HISTORY
Semester III – DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE
Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: **M21HS01DE**

Course Title: **Environmental History**

SET 2 - Analytical

Instructions:

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

1. **Evaluate how eco-socialism and ecofeminism shape modern environmental perspectives.**

Instructions: Explore how eco-socialism critiques capitalism's role in environmental degradation and how ecofeminism criticises patriarchy's impact on the environment. Analyse how both approaches prioritise social justice and equity, challenging mainstream environmentalism's reliance on market-based solutions and advocating for systemic changes that address inequality and environmental harm.

2. **Investigate the contradictions in the Guha-Grove debate about Indian environmental history and assess how these differences influence current discussions on environmental conservation and resource use.**

Instructions: Discuss Ramchandra Guha's focus on local communities in environmental stewardship and Grove's emphasis on colonial scientific interventions. Assess how these differing views influence current debates on conservation, resource management, and the integration of indigenous knowledge with scientific methods for environmental preservation.

3. **Discuss the impact of commercial agriculture during colonial rule on land degradation and social structures, particularly how it affected rural communities and ecological health.**

Instructions: Examine how colonial policies encouraging monoculture crops and large-scale plantations led to the depletion of land resources, soil erosion, and ecological imbalance. Discuss the social effects on rural communities, including the disruption of traditional agricultural practices, displacement, and the loss of biodiversity.

4. **Investigate how colonial environmental policies affected tribal and pastoral communities in India, particularly regarding their livelihoods and traditional practices?**

Instructions: Explore how colonial forest policies, such as the appropriation of land for timber and other resources, restricted the access of tribal and pastoral communities to traditional lands. Discuss how these policies led to cultural dislocation, changes in livelihood strategies, and the undermining of indigenous ecological knowledge.

5. **Assess the long-term impacts of the Chipko Movement, Silent Valley Movement, and the Narmada Bachao Andolan on environmental conservation efforts in India.**

Instructions: Evaluate how these movements raised awareness about environmental issues and influenced policy changes. Examine their successes in fostering sustainable development, protecting ecosystems, and inspiring further activism, while also considering their limitations.



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

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

M.A HISTORY

Semester III – DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE

Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: M21HS03DE

Course Title: **PERSPECTIVES ON SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY**

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

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*

1. **Discuss the role of *Brahmadeyam* settlements in shaping agrarian society and landholding patterns in early medieval South India.**

Instructions: Examine their socio-political role, focusing on how they integrated Brahmin settlers into local peasant societies. Explain the significance of land grants and their role in forming corporate bodies like the *Sabha*. Discuss the notion that *Brahmadeyam* settlements were the most significant force in early medieval South Indian society. Explore the relationship between *Brahmin* settlers and the local peasant communities. Consider Burton Stein's idea of an alliance between *Brahmin* settlers and the local peasantry.

2. **Compare and contrast the lives and teachings of Avvaiyar, Karaikalammaiyar, and Akka Mahadevi. How do their experiences reflect the complexities of gender and spirituality in Bhakti literature?**

Instructions: Examine the similarities and differences in the ways each saint expresses her identity and devotion in the context of a patriarchal society. Discuss the implications of their teachings on contemporary understandings of gender roles in spirituality. Support your analysis with references to their works and historical context.

3. **Compare and contrast the architectural styles of Pallava, Pandya, and Chola temples. Discuss how each dynasty contributed to the evolution of Dravidian temple architecture. Explore the architectural styles and artistic expressions found in South Indian temples and their role in cultural formation.**

Instructions: Discuss how temple architecture reflects social, economic, and political factors during different historical periods. Examine their artistic features and discuss each dynasty's distinctive features, including the design, structure, and decoration of their temples.

4. **Discuss the significance of Archaeological and epigraphical sources that contributed significantly to our understanding of South India's history.**

Instructions: Describe excavations of different sites spread over the Tamil region. Explain how the stone and copper plate inscriptions became the historian's backbone. Discuss how historians can create a trustworthy frame of chronology for South Indian history by combining these data with known genealogies and probable synchronisms.

5. **Discuss the dominance of Nayaka states in South India. How did the decline of the Vijayanagara Empire contribute to the emergence of Nayaka rulers?**

Instructions: Explain the origins and rise of Nayaka states in the seventeenth century in Tamilnadu. Examine the political structure of the Nayaka states in South India. How did the Nayakas maintain power and legitimacy in their respective regions?

M.A HISTORY
Semester III – DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE
Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: M21HS03DE

Course Title: PERSPECTIVES ON SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY

SET 2 - Analytical

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*

- 1. Analyse the theoretical frameworks used by Champakalakshmi and Kenneth R. Hall regarding urbanisation in South India. How do their approaches differ in understanding the socio-economic and cultural transformations during the urbanisation process?**

Instructions: Analyse Kenneth R. Hall's argument about the integration of the political system in medieval South India through the *nagaram*. Examine R. Champakalakshmi's contributions to understanding urban processes in early medieval Tamil Nadu. How do her findings challenge Hall's equation of "one *nadu*-one *nagaram*"?

- 2. Critically examine the socio-economic implications of the Right-hand (*valangai*) and Left-hand (*idangai*) divisions in South India.**

Instructions: How did Burton Stein's arguments challenge the traditional views on these divisions? Discuss the role of occupational and social classifications in shaping community identities. Discuss how these classifications influenced social organisation, economic activities, and political relations. Use Burton Stein's interpretations to challenge or support existing notions about these groups, and reference specific inscriptions or historical instances to illustrate your points.

- 3. Evaluate the impact of the *Bhakti* Movement on social structures in South India.**

Instructions: Investigate how this movement challenged existing social hierarchies and caste structures. Analyse the movement's influence on various social groups, including

women and lower castes. Analyse how the Bhakti movement influenced the social organisation of early medieval South India, particularly regarding the temple and its relationship with social hierarchy.

4. **Critically analyse the debates surrounding the nature of South Indian states in medieval and early medieval periods.**

Instructions: Critically examine the different historiographical perspectives on the structure and governance of South Indian states, focusing on the Chola, Vijayanagara, and Nayaka periods.

5. **Analyse the concept of ‘segmentary state’ as proposed by Burton Stein in the context of South India. How does this theory explain the nature of political power and social formation in the region?**

Instructions: Investigate Burton Stein’s key arguments regarding the decentralised nature of power in South India. How does the segmentary state differ from other state models (e.g., centralised monarchies, feudal states)? Evaluate the strengths and limitations of the segmentary state theory.



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

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

M.A HISTORY

Semester III – DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE

Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: M21HS04DE

Course Title: **CASTE AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN 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

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*

1. **Discuss Louis Dumont's concept of *Homo Hierarchicus* and its impacts on understanding caste and social exclusion in India. How does his view contrast with other scholars like B.R. Ambedkar and D.D. Kosambi?**

Instructions: Analyse Dumont's framework and its significance in the study of caste, comparing it with Ambedkar's and Kosambi's critiques. Highlight the strengths and limitations of each perspective.

2. **Examine the impact of caste and gender relations in shaping the structure of social exclusion in ancient India. How do the concepts of Brahmanical patriarchy and occupational hierarchy contribute to this?**

Instructions: Explore how gender intersects with caste to reinforce social exclusion. Use examples from historical texts and provide an analysis of how these concepts operate within the caste system.

3. **Examine the role of dominant castes and their control over land within the framework of caste-based slavery and exploitation. How have caste and class relations developed through this power structure?**

Instructions: Investigate the relationship between land ownership and caste hierarchies, discussing how these factors influenced social stratification and exploitation practices.

4. **Evaluate the role of the Jajmani System in shaping social and economic relationships within Indian village communities. In what ways did this system reinforce caste-based hierarchies and social exclusion, and how did it impact caste identities?**

Instructions: Discuss the functions of the Jajmani system, analysing its impact on various castes within the village structure. Consider how the economic interdependence it created both reinforced and challenged caste identities.

5. **Discuss the contributions of reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Periyar E.V.R. and Ayyankali in their struggles for equality and social justice. How did their movements address the question of caste and social exclusion?**

Instructions: Evaluate the strategies used by these reformers to combat caste discrimination and promote social justice. Discuss their impact on contemporary movements for social equality.



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

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

University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | www.sgu.ac.in

M.A HISTORY

Semester III – DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE

Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: M21HS04DE

Course Title: CASTE AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN INDIA

SET 2 - Analytical

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*

1. **Critically examine the historiographical debates surrounding the *Varna* and *Jati* systems in ancient India.**

Instructions: Examine the differing views on *Varna* and *Jati*. How did scholars like D.D. Kosambi and Devaraj Chanana interpret the formation of caste, and how it relates to social stratification.

2. **Analyse the ideological underpinnings of social exclusion in early Indian society. What role did social imagery and exclusionary practices play in sustaining caste-based hierarchies?**

Instructions: Discuss the construction of social identity and the mechanisms of exclusion. Use historical examples to illustrate how these ideologies were perpetuated.

3. **Investigate the relationship between bonded labour and agrarian production in medieval India. How did the practice of *Vishti* and *Uzhiyam* reflect the structure of caste-based power in rural agrarian society?**

Instructions: Analyse the economic and social impacts of bonded labour systems. Discuss how these practices reinforced caste hierarchies and impacted agrarian communities.

4. **Assess B.R. Ambedkar's critique of caste and his concept of the 'annihilation of caste'. How did Ambedkar's views challenge both Gandhi's position on caste and traditional caste ideology in the struggle for Indian independence?**

Instructions: Critically evaluate Ambedkar's arguments and their impacts on contemporary caste issues. Compare his positions with those of Gandhi, highlighting key differences in their approaches.

5. **Critically evaluate the constitutional principles of equality, justice, and equal opportunity with respect to India's inclusive policies.**

Instructions: Analyse how these principles are reflected in inclusive policies for marginalised communities, discussing their effectiveness and any implementation challenges.



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

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

MA HISTORY

SEMESTER III- DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE

Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: **M21HS06DE**

Course Title: **PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

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

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*

1. **Discuss the role of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commissions in safeguarding human rights in India.**

Instruction: Describe the formation, structure, and functions of these commissions, highlighting their key contributions to human rights protection in India. Discuss the limitations and challenges these bodies face in addressing violations and ensuring accountability within the legal framework.

2. **Describe the role of the Right to Information Act (RTI) and the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA) in shaping the development of human rights in India.**

Instructions: Discuss the contributions of these legislations to protecting and promoting human rights, particularly for marginalised communities, and evaluate their effectiveness in ensuring government accountability.

3. Discuss the major constitutional provisions that ensure the protection of human rights in India.

Instruction: Identify and elaborate on key sections of the Indian Constitution related to human rights, especially Fundamental Rights. Focus on specific articles and provide a brief historical overview of the evolution of these provisions. Discuss their significance.

4. Examine various measures adopted by governments in India to reduce inequality. Discuss the effectiveness of these policies across different sectors such as education, healthcare, employment, and social welfare.

Instruction: Examine the issue of inequality in India, focusing on specific government initiatives in education, healthcare, employment, and social welfare. Discuss their effectiveness and impact on marginalised communities.

5. Discuss the legal framework for child rights in India with a focus on the role of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

Instructions: Explore the constitutional and legal provisions safeguarding child rights in India, focusing on the role of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Discuss key legislation like the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, assess their effectiveness, and identify the challenges in enforcement and implementation.



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

MA HISTORY

SEMESTER-III- DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE **Continuous Internal Evaluation**

Course Code: **M21HS06DE**

Course Title: **PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

SET 2 - Analytical

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.*

- 1. Critically analyse the origins of international law on human rights. Evaluate the role of international organisations like the UN in promoting and protecting human rights globally.**

Instructions: Discuss the origins of international human rights law, focusing on key historical events, treaties, and global movements such as the establishment of the UN and the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Evaluate the mechanisms used by the UN to promote human rights and assess their impact on global human rights situations.

- 2. Analyse how the Indian judiciary has contributed to the implementation of human rights in the country.**

Instruction: Explore how the Indian judiciary has contributed to the implementation of human rights, referencing a variety of landmark judgments. Illustrate advancements in civil, socio-economic, and political rights through these cases, and analyse the broader impact of these judgments on human rights protection in India.

- 3. Examine the early legal instruments that contributed to the development of Human Rights, starting with the Magna Carta.**

Instructions: Discuss early legal instruments, starting with the Magna Carta, identifying key provisions and their historical significance. Analyse how these documents laid the groundwork for modern human rights frameworks.

4. Examine the constitutional safeguards provided to minorities and Scheduled Castes in India and critically analyse their effectiveness in addressing social inequalities.

Instruction: Discuss the key constitutional provisions aimed at protecting the rights of minorities and Scheduled Castes. Analyse how effective these safeguards have been in reducing discrimination and promoting social equality.

5. Analyse the intersection of human rights and environmental issues in India, focusing on sustainable development and social justice. How do environmental policies impact the rights of marginalised communities?

Instruction: Examine the relationship between human rights and environmental protection, discussing how policies aimed at sustainable development can affect social justice and the rights of vulnerable groups.



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

M.A HISTORY Semester III SKILL ENHANCEMENT COMPULSORY COURSE Continuous Internal Evaluation ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

Course Code: **M21HS01SC**

Course Title: **INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL HISTORY WRITING**

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. Explore the significance of local museums, artefacts, and historic sites in documenting and preserving local history. How do they contribute to a deeper understanding of a community's past and heritage?
1. Discuss the significance of 'oral histories' as a tool for reconstructing local histories and 'history from below,' as argued by Paul Thompson in *The Voice of the Past*. How does oral history challenge traditional narratives shaped by authoritative structure? Use examples from Thompson's work to support your argument.
2. Explain the challenges historians face when conducting local history research. Discuss issues such as fragmented records, biases in historical narratives, and the interpretation of

oral histories. Discuss how researchers can address these challenges to ensure a comprehensive and balanced portrayal of local history.

3. Explain the significance of oral histories in preserving cultural heritage. How do oral traditions and myths function in passing down knowledge and shaping community identities? How do oral storytelling traditions contribute to the preservation of cultural identities in communities without written records?
4. Discuss the significance of archival sources in reconstructing local history. How do historians identify relevant archives, and what criteria do they use to assess the historical value of the records? Provide a case study to illustrate your points.

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*



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

M.A HISTORY Semester III SKILL ENHANCEMENT COMPULSORY COURSE Continuous Internal Evaluation

Course Code: **M21HS01SC**

Course Title: **INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL HISTORY WRITING**

SET 2 - Analytical Type Assignment

1. Investigate the interdisciplinary approach of Marc Bloch in *French Rural History*. How did his integration of agronomy, cartography, and sociology contribute to a deeper understanding of rural life in medieval France? Analyse how Bloch's use of these varied disciplines offers a holistic view of agrarian history, and compare it with traditional approaches to history.
2. Evaluate the methodology employed in the compilation of *Vaniyankulam Panchayat Vijnaneeyam*. How does the community-driven approach differ from traditional historical research methods? What are the implications of this approach for local historiography?
3. Analyse the importance of local history in understanding regional identities and socio-cultural processes in Kerala. How do the works of K.N. Ganesh and J. Devika illustrate the significance of local histories? How do their methodologies and focal points contribute to the broader discourse on local history?
4. Examine the historical and cultural significance of place names in shaping local identity. How do changes in place names reflect broader historical trends, such as colonisation or political shifts? In what ways do political regimes or rulers use the renaming of places as a

tool for asserting power or ideology? How does this reflect broader political or social changes?

5. Conduct interviews with local residents in your locality. Summarise their perspectives on historical events that have significantly influenced the community. What cultural practices have evolved over time, and what are their meanings?

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*