

QP CODE

C2119

Enrollment Number:

Name:

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, AUGUST 2025

Fourth Semester

M.A. History

M21HS08DE – Maritime History of India

(2023 January admissions)

Time: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 70

Section A

Answer any ten of the following questions in a word or sentence each. Each question carries 1 mark.

1. Name the ancient port city on India's southwest coast which was a major hub for trade with the Roman Empire.
2. Who wrote "*The Cholas*", a renowned historical work on the Chola dynasty?
3. Name the author of "*Natural History*", a work that provides valuable information on ancient trade and commerce.
4. Who wrote the book *Amarakosa*?
5. The Harappan site known for its evidence of ship building.
6. The renowned sea port that served as the centre of Chola maritime activity.
7. The Persian traveller who visited Vijayanagara.
8. What was the practice of Jauhar in medieval India?
9. What does the term "Suvarnavdipa" or "Suvarnabhumi" refer to in ancient Sanskrit and Pali texts?
10. The primary function of a "thana" during medieval period in India.
11. The Tamil works which contain references to the maritime ventures of South Indians.
12. The main function of kotwals in medieval Indian towns.
13. The book that mentions China as the land of silk fabric during the Gupta period.
14. Who introduced Permanent Land Revenue Settlement?
15. What was a Sarai?

(1X10=10)

Section B

Answer any five of the following questions in two or three sentences each. Each question carries 2 marks.

16. Who were the Sarrafs and what role did they play in Mughal India?

17. Explain the Blue Water Policy adopted by the Portuguese in India.
18. Discuss the contribution of Satavahanas to maritime trade.
19. Write a short note on Robert Clive.
20. What was a farman in medieval India?
21. Briefly explain the Battle of Plassey.
22. What was the main purpose of the Qafila system?
23. Examine the significance of Tamil Sangam literature in reconstructing the maritime history of ancient South India.
24. Discuss the significance of the Battle of Wandiwash.
25. What was the main purpose of the Cartaz system?

(2X5=10)

Section C

Answer any five of the following questions in a paragraph each. Each question carries 4 marks.

26. Briefly explain the key features of maritime trade in ancient India.
27. Analyse the significance of the Battle of Colachel.
28. Discuss the major factors that led to the decline of the Dutch East India Company in India.
29. Analyse the strategic significance of Calcutta in British colonial trade.
30. Examine the role of Indian intermediaries, merchants and rulers in facilitating or resisting the operations of European trading companies.
31. Analyse the circumstances that led to the labelling of Koli and Marakkayar communities as pirates.
32. Illustrate the technological innovations that enabled maritime trade across the Indian Ocean.
33. Write a short note on the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

(4X5=20)

Section D

Answer any three of the following questions in two pages each. Each question carries 10 marks.

34. Discuss the role played by Chola dynasty in the expansion of maritime trade and naval expeditions. How did their naval dominance influence Southeast Asia?
35. Evaluate the significance of the Kunjali Marakkars' resistance movement against Portuguese naval dominance.
36. Examine the significance of Tamil Sangam literature in reconstructing the maritime history of ancient South India.
37. Explain how the Delhi Sultans promoted trade and oceanic ventures. What measures did Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad bin Tughlaq take to support trade expansion?
38. Discuss the administration and trade practices in medieval Indian towns, highlighting the role of guilds, kotwals, and nobles in urban development.
39. Discuss the significance of archaeological sources in reconstructing the maritime history of ancient India.

(10X3=30)