

MAH

**M.A History
First Year Courses**

**Assignments
For July 2023 and January 2024
Sessions**

- MHI-01 : Ancient and Medieval Societies**
MHI-02 : Modern World
MHI-04 : Political Structures in India
MHI-05 : History of Indian Economy



**FACULTY OF HISTORY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI – 110 068**

M.A. History – 1st Year Assignments July 2023 and January 2024 Sessions

Dear Student,

As explained in the Programme Guide for M.A. in History you will have to do one assignment in each course. The assignments are compulsory. Each assignment covers the whole course.

It is important that you write the answers to all the assignment questions in your own words. Your answers should be within the approximate range of the word-limit set for a particular question.

The assignment should be submitted to the Coordinator of your Study Centre. You must obtain a receipt from the Study Centre for the assignments submitted and retain it. If possible, keep a photocopy of the submitted assignments with you.

The Study Centre will have to return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre in turn will send the marks to the Student Evaluation Division at IGNOU, New Delhi. These will be entered in your grade card.

Submission of Assignments

You should note that the submission of assignments is compulsory before taking up Term-end Examination. It is therefore suggested that you do them within time. In M.A. first year you will have to do a total of 4 assignments. We have given you a lot of time to do the assignments but we advise you to do them one by one along with your study of the particular course and submit them so that you may get back the marks and comments of the Counsellor with evaluated assignment. With a proper planning you will be able to do them within the stipulated period. Please do not wait for the last date to submit all the assignments because it would be difficult to do all of them in one go. Specific dates for the submission are given below.

Last Date of Submission of Assignment

July 2023 Session Students

31st March 2024

January 2024 Session Students

30th September 2024

Where to submit the assignments:

The Coordinator of your Study Centre

Before attempting the assignments please read the detailed instructions provided in the Programme Guide sent to you separately.

Now read the guidelines carefully before answering the questions:

GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments have two types of questions:

- 1) Essay Type Questions which you have to answer in about 500 words each and they carry 20 marks each.
- 2) Short notes to be answered in about 250 words each and they carry 10 marks each.

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

- a) **Planning:** Read the assignments carefully. Go through the units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then re-arrange these in a logical order.
- b) **Organisation:** Be a little more selective and analytical before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. In an essay-type question, give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarise your response to the question.

Make sure that your answer:

- is logical and coherent;
 - has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs;
 - is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation;
 - does not exceed the number of words indicated in your question.
- a) **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasis.
 - b) **Interpretation:** Interpretation is a constant process in history writing. It is already reflected in your planning and selection. Explanatory comments with phrases like may be, because, could be, etc., immediately introduce an element of interpretation in writing itself. Here you have to be careful that these comments can be supported by the material you have in the answer.

Wishing you all the best,
Faculty of History

MHI-01: ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL SOCIETIES

Course Code: MHI-01

Assignment Code: MHI-01/AST/TMA/2023-24

Total Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections 'A' and 'B'. You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each. All questions carry equal marks.

Section – A

1. Define pastoral nomadism. Analyze society and economy of pastoral nomads. 20
2. Discuss the role of trade in the Bronze Age civilizations. 20
3. Explain the political structure of the early Roman Empire. 20
4. Briefly discuss polity, society and economy of West Africa. 20
5. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in **250** words each: 10+10
 - i) Origins of humans
 - ii) The Harappan seals
 - iii) Darius I
 - iv) Economic life of the Inkas.

Section – B

6. Briefly discuss the major debates on feudalism. 20
7. Write a note on the textile manufacture during the medieval period. 20
8. Discuss the changes in trading activities during the period of transition to Modern World. 20
9. Give a brief account of the growth of towns in Europe during the medieval period. 20
10. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in **250** words each: 10+10
 - i) Taoism and Buddhism in China
 - ii) India's maritime trade
 - iii) Banjaras
 - iv) Contribution of Copernicus.

MHI-02: MODERN WORLD

Course Code: MHI-02

Assignment Code: MHI-02/AST/TMA/2023-2024

Total Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections 'A' and 'B'. You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each. All questions carry equal marks.

Section – A

1. 'Enlightenment marked a sharp break from the past'. Explain giving reference to scientific knowledge and religion. 20
2. How did modernity influence urbanization and social structure? 20
3. Define nationalism. Write a note on Gellner and Smith debate on nationalism. 20
4. Discuss different theories on the emergence of capitalism. 20
5. Write short notes on any two of the following in about **250** words each. 10+10
 - i) Nietzsche
 - ii) Welfare state
 - iii) Bureaucratization
 - iv) Meaning of underdevelopment.

Section – B

6. Discuss various factors behind migrations during different periods in history. 20
7. Write a note on de-colonization and non-aligned movement. 20
8. What was the legacy of the Russian Revolution? 20
9. Briefly analyze the rise of awareness towards ecological issues and the people's movements against ecological destruction. 20
10. Write short notes on any two of the following in about **250** words each. 10+10
 - i) Imperialism
 - ii) Knowledge revolution
 - iii) Modern medicines
 - iv) Malthusian theory of demographic change.

MHI-04: POLITICAL STRUCTURES IN INDIA

Course Code: MHI-04

Assignment Code: MHI-04/AST/TMA/2023-2024

Total Marks: 100

NOTE: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections 'A' and 'B'. You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each. All questions carry equal marks.

Section-A

1. Write a note on the Satvahana state. 20
2. Discuss the process of state formation of the Rajputs. 20
3. How have the modern historians looked at the state formation during the Delhi Sultanate period? Elaborate. 20
4. Discuss the nature of state formation of the Vijayanagara kingdom. 20
5. Write a note on the formation of the Kingdom of Malwa. 20

Section-B

6. Comment on the state during the Chola times. 20
7. Discuss the administration of the state during the Pandyan times. 20
8. What was the nature of the Mughal administration? Discuss. 20
9. Comment on the nature of the colonial forest policy. 20
10. What were the objectives of the colonial revenue policy? Discuss. 20

MHI-05: HISTORY OF INDIAN ECONOMY

Course Code: MHI-05

Assignment Code: MHI-05/AST/ TMA/2023-2024

Total Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections 'A' and 'B'. You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION A

- 1 In what ways did the post-1950s ancient Indian economic historical writings represent a departure from early 20th century historical writings? 20
2. Enumerate the chief characteristic features of the Harappan cities. 20
3. Discuss the nature of Roman trade in India. What was its long term impact? 20
4. How was the craft production organized during the medieval period? 20
5. Write short notes on any **two** of the following. Answer in about **250** words each. 10+10
 - i) Impact of seasons on economy
 - i) Merchant Guilds
 - ii) *Pariharas* or Immunities
 - iii) *Balutedars*

SECTION B

6. Give a historiographical assessment of the Oceanic trade. Evaluate Van Leur's hypothesis of 'peddling trade'. 20
7. Critically analyse the pattern of communication network during the medieval period. 20
8. Briefly discuss the recent researches on De-industrialisation debate. 20
9. Discuss the colonial policy towards science education in India. 20
10. Write short notes on any **two** of the following. Answer in about **250** words each. 10+10
 - i) Mughal Artillery
 - ii) Permanent Settlement
 - iii) Forest Economies in Colonial India
 - iv) Globalisation