

M.A. History

**Assignment
For July 2025 and January 2026 Sessions**

- MHI-03: Historiography**
**MHI-06: Evolution of Social Structures in India
Through the Ages**
MHI-08: History of Ecology and Environment: India
MHI-09: Indian National Movement
MHI-10: Urbanisation in India
**MPSE-003: Western Political Thought (From
Plato to Marx)**
**MPSE-004: Social and Political Thought in
Modern India**



**FACULTY OF HISTORY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
MAIDANGARHI, NEW DELHI-110068**

Assignment July 2025 and January 2026 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 assignments should be submitted to the **Coordinator of your Study Centre**. You must obtain a receipt from the **Study Centre** for the assignment submitted and retain it. If possible, keep a photocopy of the submitted assignment with you.

The **Study Centre** will have to return the assignment to you after evaluation. 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 Assignment

You should note that the submission of assignment is compulsory before taking up **Term-end Examination**. It is therefore suggested that you do assignment within time. We have given you a lot of time to do the assignment but we advise you to do assignment one by one along with your study of the particular course and submit on time 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 your assignment for each course 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 2025 Session Students 31st March 2026

January 2026 Session Students 30th September 2026

Where to submit the assignments: The Coordinator of your Study Centre

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

Now read the guidelines carefully before answering the questions:

GUIDELINESFORASSIGNMENTS

The assignment has two types of questions:

- 1) Essay Type Questions which you have to answer in about 500 words each and they carry 20markseach.
- 2) Short notes to be answered in about250 words each and theycarry10 marks each.

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

- a) **Planning:** Read the assignment 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 in your own words.
- 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 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-03 HISTORIOGRAPHY

Course Code: MHI-03

Assignment Code: MHI-03/AST/TMA/2025-26

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. What do you understand by ‘microhistory’? Describe the historians and their works
Related to this tradition of history-writing. 20
2. Discuss the distinctive features of traditional Chinese historiography. 20
3. Who are considered to be the founders of the Annales School of historiography?
Discuss their works. 20
4. Describe the important features of Indo-Persian tradition of history-writing during
the Mughal period. 20
5. What is generalisation? Discuss. 20

SECTION-B

6. Write a note on the post-War Marxist historiography in the West after Second
World War. 20
7. Discuss the colonial historiography in India. 20
8. What do you understand by the term ‘History from Below’? Discuss with particular
Reference to Indian historiography. 20
9. Write a note on the feminist historiography in India. 20
10. Write short notes in about 250words each on any **two** of the following: 10+10
 - a) Labour History
 - b) Colonial perception of caste
 - c) Ancient Indian history-writing
 - d) Objectivity in history writing

**MHI-06: EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL STRUCTURES
IN INDIA THROUGH THE AGES**

Course Code: MHI-06

Assignment Code: MHI-06/AST/TMA/2025-2026

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. What is the role of interpretation in writing the history of ancient India? Discuss. | 20 |
| 2. Comment on the nature of the society in the neolithic period. | 20 |
| 3. What do rituals reveal about the nature of society in the Vedic period? Elaborate. | 20 |
| 4. Comment on the socio-religious and intellectual ferment that marked the rise of Buddhism and Jainism. | 20 |
| 5. Discuss what is meant by the early medieval society? | 20 |

SECTION-B

- | | |
|---|----|
| 6. Comment on the nature of rural society in the peninsular India? | 20 |
| 7. Discuss the origin and rise of the Rajputs with reference to the researches of B.D. Chattopadhyaya and N. Zeigler? | 20 |
| 8. Comment on the nature of over seas migration during the colonial period. | 20 |
| 9. Did colonialism shape the perceptions of caste? Discuss. | 20 |
| 10. Comment on the participation of women in the national movement. | 20 |

MHI-08: HISTORY OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT: INDIA

Course Code: MHI-08

Assignment Code: MHI-08/AST/TMA/2025-26

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 | Adaptation is key to understand human-nature relationships. Discuss. | 20 |
| 2 | Write a note on the ecological diversity of the Indian Subcontinent and examine its significance. | 20 |
| 3 | Discuss the important trends in environmental history writing on India | 20 |
| 4 | Discuss the major characteristics of Nomadic pastoralists. Write a note on their relationships with the settled communities | 20 |
| 5 | Write a note on the expansion of agriculture in South India. | 20 |

SECTION-B

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 6 | Conflict over forest resources has a long history. Examine with reference to Forest Act of 1870 | 20 |
| 7 | Conservation of environment is need of the hour. Critically examine. | 20 |
| 8 | Critically examine Colonial environmental agenda. | 20 |
| 9 | Write a note on the Bio-diversity and examine the difference between the in-Situ and Ex-Situ conservation | 20 |
| 10 | Examine Gandhi's views on alternative model of development. What was its' influence on the Chipko movement. | 20 |

MHI-09INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Course Code: MHI-09

Assignment Code: MHI-09/AST/ TMA/2025-26

Total Marks:100

Note: Answer any five questions in about 500 words each. At least two questions from each section are compulsory. All questions carry equal marks.

Section-A

1. Discuss the main differences between the colonialist and nationalist views on Indian national movement. 20
2. Discuss the view of early nationalists in India on drain of wealth and lack of industries in India. 20
3. Write a note on the impact of the First World War on India. 20
4. Write a note on Swaraj Party. How did Swaraj party contribute to the growth of the national movement? 20
5. Write a note on the Dandi March and its impact on nationalist movement. 10+10

Section-B

6. Discuss the political situations in the country in the wake of the 'Direct Action' call given by Jinnah and the Muslim league. 20
7. Discuss the response of the workers to the Civil Disobedience Movements and Quit India Movements. 20
8. What was the role of women in revolutionary movement in India? 20
9. Discuss the manner in which the nationalist leadership tried to integrate the Dalits and minorities within the mainstream of the national movement. 20
10. Explain the factors responsible for the failure of the congress to contain the Muslim league and its brand of communal politics. 20

MHI-10: Urbanisation in India

Course Code: MHI-10

Assignment Code: MHI-10/AST/TMA/

July 2025-January26

TotalMarks: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 | What are the different approaches to study the medieval towns? | 20 |
| 2 | Write a note on the urban planning in the Harappan cities | 20 |
| 3 | Discuss the characteristics of Early Historic urban centres of south India. | 20 |
| 4 | Examine the nature and character of urbanization in north India during Gupta period. | 20 |
| 5 | Write short notes on any two of the following. Answer in about 250 words each | 10+10 |
| i | Cosmopolitan Cities: Delhi Sultanate | |
| ii | Early historic cities in Texts | |
| iii | Mohenjodaro Houses | |
| iv | Nature of regional capital cities during the fifteenth century | |
| v | Mandu | |

SECTION-B

- | | | |
|------------|--|-------|
| 6 | Write a note on the Temple towns in Peninsular India | 20 |
| 7 | Manufacturing of goods have played important role in defining the character of towns in Medieval Deccan. Comment | 20 |
| 8 | Can colonial cities in India rightly be understood as divided cities? Substantiate your answer with examples. | 20 |
| 9 | Colonial interests and ideologies influenced the character of urban centres in India. Examine with suitable examples | 20 |
| 10 | Write short notes on any two of the following. Answer in about 250 words each | 10+10 |
| i | Partition and resettlement | |
| ii | 18 th Century Lahore | |
| iii | 1857 and its implications on urban planning | |
| iv | Lived cities | |
| v | Bombay as a working-class city | |

