

**MAH**

**M.A History  
First Year Courses**

**Assignments  
For July 2014 and January 2015  
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 – 1<sup>st</sup> Year**

### **Assignments – July 2014 and January 2015 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 2014 Session Students**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

**January 2015 Session Students**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**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.

## MHI-01: ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL SOCIETIES

Course Code: MHI-01

Assignment Code: MHI-01/AST/TMA/2014-15

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. How humans shifted to agriculture? What were its implications for social structures? 20
2. Give a detailed account of development of writing and methods of communications in Bronze Age societies. 20
3. Give a comparative account of slavery in ancient Greek and Roman societies. 20
4. What do you understand by Nomadic Empire? Discuss the pattern of Nomadic migration during the period of your study. 20
5. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in **250** words each: 10+10
  - i) Domestication of animals
  - ii) Assyrian Empire
  - iii) Maya Civilization
  - iv) Urbanization in Bronze Age

### Section – B

6. What do you understand by Feudalism? Discuss its main features in Europe. 20
7. Discuss the characteristic features of medieval towns. What was their relationship with rural areas? 20
8. How did technological development change the warfare in medieval period? 20
9. Give a brief account of the pattern of oceanic trade in medieval period. 20
10. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in **250** words each: 10+10
  - i) Protestantism
  - ii) Rise of Islam in Arab
  - iii) Armenian Merchants
  - iv) Family in medieval Europe.

## MHI-02: MODERN WORLD

Course Code: MHI-02  
Assignment Code: MHI-02/AST/TMA/2014-15  
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. Explain the different ways in which the Renaissance contributed towards the making of a new world. 20
2. Write a note on the critique of capitalism giving reference to the views of Marx and Engels. 20
3. What are the contemporary challenges to democracy? 20
4. Discuss in brief different views on transition from feudalism to capitalism. 20
5. Write short notes on any two of the following in about **250** words each. 10+10
  - i) Postmodernism
  - ii) Problems of Mass Society
  - iii) Define nation and nationalism
  - iv) Meaning of underdevelopment.

### Section – B

6. What do you understand by decolonization? Discuss the differences between France and England towards decolonization. 20
7. Analyse the major developments in world politics following the Second World War. 20
8. Write a note on the legacy of the Russian Revolution of 1917. 20
9. Critically analyse impact of development on ecology. 20
10. Write short notes on any two of the following in about **250** words each. 10+10
  - i) Debate over Unipolarity
  - ii) Development of print technology
  - iii) The Concept of Total War
  - iv) Consumerism.

## MHI-04: POLITICAL STRUCTURES IN INDIA

Course Code: MHI-04

Assignment Code: MHI-04/AST/TMA/2014-15

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. Discuss the nature of polity which evolved in Tamilaham in the early historic period. 20
2. Assess the nature of Gupta polity. 20
3. Critically examine the views of historians regarding the process of transition to early medieval period in North India. What are the various perspectives on the nature of early medieval polity in North India? 20
4. Write a note on the features of state under the Delhi Sultanate giving reference to Mudabbir's and Barani's texts. 20
5. Analyse the nature of colonial state focusing on the instruments of control and legitimation adopted by the British. 20

### SECTION- B

6. Describe the administrative system of the Mauryas? 20
7. What were the chief characteristics of nayaka and ayagar system under the Vijaynagar rulers? 20
8. Give a brief account of the administrative system in Bengal in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. 20
9. What were the orientalist and evangelical perceptions regarding India's socio-political system during the colonial period? 20
10. Write short notes on the following in about **250** words each. 10+10
  - a) Mansab system under the Mughals
  - b) Kingdom of Bengal in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## MHI-05: HISTORY OF INDIAN ECONOMY

Course Code: MHI-05  
Assignment Code: MHI-05/AST/TMA/2014-15  
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. Discuss major trends in colonial historiography. Provide Marxist interpretation of the colonial viewpoint. 20
2. What was the nature of foreign trade during the BC 300 to 300 A. D? In what ways did the pattern of trade differ between the Deccan and the Tamilkam. 20
3. What was the composition of rural masses engaged in the agricultural production in post-Gupta north India? 20
4. State the importance of pastoral and forest products in the medieval economy. 20
5. Discuss everyday forms of peasant resistance in Mughal India. 20

### Section – B

6. Examine the growth of business practices in medieval period. To what extent were the joint venture enterprises successful in the medieval period? 20
7. Analyse the changing pattern of India's trade during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. 20
8. What was the impact of colonial interventions on tribal economy? 20
9. Explain 're-industrialisation' in the Indian context. What was the pattern of growth of Indian small scale industries during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early twentieth centuries? 20
10. Write short notes on **any two** of the following. Answer in about **250** words each. 10+10
  - i) Plinny's account on Pepper
  - ii) Brahmadeya grants
  - iii) Sarrafs
  - iv) Early Census.