

MAH

**M.A. HISTORY
SECOND YEAR COURSES**

(MAH)

**Assignments
For July 2016 and January 2017 Sessions
(For M.A. History 2nd Year Courses)**

- MHI-03: Historiography**
**MHI-06: Evolution of Social Structures in India
Through the Ages**
MHI-08: History of Ecology and Environment: 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
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M.A. History – 2nd Year
Assignments – July 2016 and January 2017 Sessions

Dear Student,

You have to do one assignment in each course of 8 and 4 credits. The assignments are compulsory. The assignment will cover 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 assignments submitted and retain it. If possible, keep a photocopy of the submitted assignment 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. second year you will have to do a total of 5 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.

Last Date of Submission of Assignment

July 2016 Session Students

31st March, 2017

January 2017 Session Students

30th September 2017

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 following 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 carry 20 marks each.
- 2) Short notes which you have to answer in about 250 words each 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 summarize 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.
- c) **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 emphasize.
 - d) **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-03: HISTORIOGRAPHY

Course Code: MHI-03

Assignment Code: MHI-03/AST/TMA/2016-17

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 objectivity? Discuss the relationship between objectivity and interpretation. 20
2. Write a note on the historiographical traditions in early India. 20
3. Discuss the important features of Indo-Persian tradition of history-writing under the Mughal rule. 20
4. What do you understand by 'microhistory'? Describe the historians and their works related to this tradition of history-writing. 20
5. Write short notes in about **250 words** each on **any two** of the following: 10+10
 - a) Role of Generalisation in History-writing
 - b) Oral History
 - c) Rankean Tradition of History-writing
 - d) The *Annales* School.

SECTION-B

6. Write a note on the post-War Marxist historiography in the West. 20
7. Write a note on the basic constituents of nationalist view of Indian history. 20
8. What do you understand by the term 'History from Below'? Discuss with particular reference to Indian historiography. 20
9. Analyze the various writings on the economic history of India. 20
10. Write short notes in about **250 words** each on **any two** of the following: 10+10
 - a) Main concepts of postmodernism
 - b) Feminist Historiography in India
 - c) Marxist history-writing on Indian nationalism
 - d) The Cambridge School.

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

Course Code: MHI-06

Assignment Code: MHI-06/AST/TMA/2016-17

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 do we reconstruct the history of ancient India? Do you think that the textual and archaeological sources play a role in writing about ancient India? 20
2. Discuss the nature of archaeological evidence in understanding the palaeolithic societies. 20
3. How do you view the social structure of the Harappan settlements? Discuss. 20
4. Discuss the debate on the 'early medieval period' in Indian history. 20
5. What were the main features of the 'second urbanization' in India? 20

SECTION- B

6. Discuss the various views on the Indian village community. Do you agree with Irfan Habib that there was a common financial pool for the village community in India? 20
7. Comment on the views of B. D. Chattopadhyaya and Norman Ziegler on the Rajput clans and confederacies in western India. 20
8. Discuss the position of women in medieval India. 20
9. How do we study caste in the context of colonial India? Discuss. 20
10. Did the forest acts of the 19th century symbolize the transition from laissez faire to state intervention in the colonial forest policy? 20

MHI-08: HISTORY OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT: INDIA

Course Code: MHI-08

Assignment Code: MHI-08/AST/TMA/2016-17

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 difference between the geographical features of the West Coastal Low land and the East Coastal Low land. 20
2. Did the introduction of Iron have a significant impact on the resource use practice in India? Evaluate Critically. 20
3. In the context of India examine the geographical spread of Pastoral Communities and the factors promoting pastoralism. 20
4. Write an essay on the Indus Agriculture. 20
5. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in about **250 words** each: 10+10
 - a) Environmental Writings on the Pre-Colonial period.
 - b) Water Conservation
 - c) Renewable Resources
 - d) Neolithic Revolution.

SECTION-B

6. How was Environmental discourse influenced by Industrialism? Discuss. 20
7. Describe the salient features of the Colonial Forest Policy in India. 20
8. Discuss the meaning and the importance of Bio-diversity. 20
9. Discuss the significance of Gandhian alternative to development. 20
10. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in about **250 words** each: 10+10
 - a) Pollution: Traditional Concerns
 - b) Islamic Vision of Environment
 - c) Interlinking Rivers: The National Water grid
 - d) Deep Ecology.

WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT (From Plato to Marx) (MPSE-003)
Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MPSE-003
Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2016-17
Marks: 100

Answer any five questions in about 500 words each. Attempt at least two questions from each section. Each question carries 20 marks.

SECTION –A

1. Discuss the relationship between political thought and political science.
2. Assess Plato's political theory.
3. Examine Aristotle's salient political ideas.
4. Elaborate St. Augustine's influence on western political thought.
5. Evaluate Machiavelli as a political theorist.

SECTION –B

Write a short note on each part of the question in about 250 words.

6.
 - a) Thomas Hobbes on the rights and duties of the sovereign
 - b) Johan Lock on social contract and civil society
7.
 - a) Critical appreciation of Rousseau
 - b) Edmund Burke's critique of natural rights and social contract
8.
 - a) Immanuel Kant on perpetual peace
 - b) Jeremy Bentham and 'The Panopticon'
9.
 - a) John Stuart Mill on equal rights for women
 - b) Hegel's philosophy of history
10.
 - a) Marx's theory of historical Materialism
 - b) Marx's theory of alienation

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT IN MODERN INDIA (MPSE-004)
Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: MPSE-004
Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2016-17
Marks: 100

Answer any five questions in about 500 words each. Attempt at least two questions from each section. Each question carries 20 marks.

SECTION –A

1. Discuss state and sovereignty in ancient India.
2. Write an essay on the trajectory of Muslim thought in the 19th and the 20th centuries.
3. What was the early nationalist response to British rule? Elaborate.
4. Examine the importance of Lal-Bal-Pal in the fight against the British.
5. Examine the Sri Aurobindo's views on passive resistance.

SECTION –B

Write a short note on each part of the question in about 250 words.

6.
 - a) M.S. Golwalkar on negative and positive Hindutava
 - b) Sir Syed Ahmad Khan on Hindu-Muslim unity
7.
 - a) Jaipal Singh and the Adivasi identity
 - b) Gandhi on relationship between religion and politics
8.
 - a) Gandhi on parliamentary democracy
 - b) M.N. Roy's critique of Marxism
9.
 - a) Jawaharlal Nehru on Science and religion
 - b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on social justice and supportive polity
10.
 - a) Rabindranath Tagore's critique of nationalism
 - b) Communist Party of India before independence