

MAH

**M.A History
First Year Courses**

**Assignments
For July 2016 and January 2017
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 2016 and January 2017 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 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 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 emphasise.
 - 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/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. Define pastoral nomadism. Discuss society and economy of nomadic pastoral communities. 20
2. Give a detailed account of the process of urbanization in the Bronze Age civilizations. 20
3. Analyse the transition to democracy in ancient Greek civilization. 20
4. Give a brief account of the Maya civilization. 20
5. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in **250** words each: 10+10
 - i) Arts and communication in hunting gathering societies
 - ii) Nature of kingship in the Bronze Age societies
 - iii) The Roman Assembly
 - iv) Egyptian religion.

SECTION -B

6. Write a brief note on the rise of Islam in Arabia in 7th century. 20
7. Analyse the views of various scholars on feudalism in Europe. 20
8. Give a brief account of textile production and glass making in the medieval period. 20
9. Explain various factors leading to changes in demography in Europe in the medieval period. 20
10. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in **250** words each: 10+10
 - i) Major scientific advances in medieval Europe
 - ii) Confucianism and Taoism
 - iii) Banjaras and their trading activities
 - iv) Decline of feudalism.

MHI-02: MODERN WORLD

Course Code: MHI-02

Assignment Code: MHI-02/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. Write a critical note on the contribution of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment in the making of modern world. 20
2. Analyze the major views criticizing capitalism. 20
3. What do you understand by bureaucratization? Analyze the process of bureaucratization in trade unions. 20
4. Explain in brief main features of a socialist economy in Soviet Russia following the revolution of 1917. 20
5. Write short notes on any two of the following in about **250** words each. 10+10
 - i) Science versus religion
 - ii) Marxian perspective on state
 - iii) Typologies of nationalism explained by Gellner
 - iv) Meaning of underdevelopment.

SECTION –B

6. Discuss the legacy of the French Revolution for polity in the modern world. 20
7. What is colonialism? Discuss the different stages of colonialism. 20
8. Write a note on the Cold War. 20
9. Explain some major technological innovations made in the 20th century. 20
10. Write short notes on any two of the following in about **250** words each. 10+10
 - i) Economic theories explaining imperialism
 - ii) The idea of Uni-polar world
 - iii) Limitations of modern warfare
 - iv) Ecological Awareness.

MHI-04: POLITICAL STRUCTURES IN INDIA

Course Code: MHI-04

Assignment Code: MHI-04/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. Explain the process of transition from pre-state to state in early north and south India. 20
2. What were the main characteristics of early medieval polities in peninsular India between 8th-12th centuries A.D.? 20
3. Critically examine the nature of state under the Delhi Sultanate. 20
4. Analyse the nature of British colonial state. 20
5. Give an account of the administration and institutional systems in North India from the earliest times to 7th century A.D. 20

SECTION -B

6. Discuss the working of the mansab and jagir system under the Mughals. 20
7. Critically analyse the 18th Century debate. 20
8. Write an essay on the orientalist and evangelical perceptions of the Indian socio-political system. 20
9. Explain how the colonial and nationalist legacy shaped the nature of post-colonial Indian state. 20
10. Write short notes on the following in **250** words each. 10+10
 - i) State formation under the Rajputs
 - ii) Vijayanagar Empire

MHI-05: HISTORY OF INDIAN ECONOMY

Course Code: MHI-05

Assignment Code: MHI-05/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 Marxist approaches to study medieval Indian economy. Provide its critique. 20
2. Give a brief account of the cultures contemporary with the Harappan civilization. Examine the integration pattern of the late Harappan and local cultures in the subcontinent. 20
3. How do the land-grant inscriptions relate to the process of agrarian expansion? What were the traditional methods used to irrigate fields during the early medieval period? 20
4. Discuss various approaches to study Indian feudalism. To what extent European model of feudalism is relevant in the Indian context? 20
5. Write short notes on any **two** of the following. Answer in about **250** words each. 10+10
 - i) Dadni
 - ii) Indigo production in medieval India
 - iii) Categories of peasants in medieval India
 - iv) Morphology of a medieval town

SECTION - B

6. Critically examine India's Asian trade during the 16th -17th centuries. 20
7. Discuss the impact of early colonialism on India's foreign trade in the context of Surat and Bengal. 20
8. Examine the reasons behind the introduction of Permanent Settlement. What were its socio-economic impacts? 20
9. Critically examine Morris D. Morris's argument that there was 'not much direct evidence of the decline of India's traditional industries'. 20
10. Write short notes on any **two** of the following. Answer in about **250** words each. 10+10
 - i) Insurance and *respondentia* in the medieval period
 - ii) Postal communications in medieval India
 - iii) Forms of tribal protests to colonial interventions
 - iv) Colonialism and scientific knowledge