

MAH

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

(MAH)

**Assignments
For July 2020 and January 2021 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
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
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110 068**

M.A. History - 2nd Year Assignments July 2020 and January 2021 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 4 assignments. However, in case you have opted for MPSE-003 and MPSE-004 then you will have to do 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 2020 Session Students

31st March, 2021

January 2021 Session Students

30th September 2021

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/2020-21

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 historiographical tradition which believed in the possibility of complete objectivity. 20
2. Write a note on the Greco-Roman traditions of history-writing. 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'? Discuss the historians and their works related to this tradition of history-writing. 20
5. Who are considered to be the founders of the Annales School of historiography? Discuss their works. 20

Section-2

6. Discuss the features of feminist historiography in India. 20
7. Write a note on the basic constituents of communalist 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. Write a note on the post-War Marxist historiography in the West. 20
10. Write short notes in about 250 word each on any two of the following: 10+10
 - a) Kalhana and the Rajtarangini
 - b) Causality in History
 - c) D.D. Kosambi and Indian Historiography
 - d) Colonial Perception of Caste.

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

Course Code: MHI-06
Assignment Code: MHI-06/AST/TMA/2020-21
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. Comment on the role of interpretation in the writing of the history of ancient India. 20
2. Discuss how the Vedic texts help us in understanding the social structure of the Vedic societies. 20
3. Critically discuss the Harappan social structure. 20
4. Critically assess the debate on Indian feudalism. 20
5. Discuss the proliferation of *jatis* in the early mediaeval period. 20

SECTION- B

6. How do you view the nature of peasantization of the tribal societies in the medieval period. 20
7. Critically discuss B.D.Chattopadhyay's views on the origin and rise of the Rajputs. 20
8. Discuss the spread of Buddhism in the peninsular India. 20
9. Comment on the role of women during India's freedom struggle. 20
10. Discuss the nature of social discrimination during the colonial period. 20

MHI-08: HISTORY OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT: INDIA

Course Code: MHI-08

Assignment Code: MHI-08/AST/TMA/2020-21

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 how man adapted to his environment. 20
2. How does ecological diversity of India shape its settlement patterns? Elaborate. 20
3. Did the Indian historians writing on the history of environment of the colonial and post colonial period make any significant advances? Discuss. 20
4. What were the ecological concerns of the early medieval societies? Discuss. 20
5. How do we understand the ecological concerns of the megalith period through archaeology and literature? 20

SECTION-B

6. Are water rights an area of concern when we look at water as an ecological resource? Discuss. 20
7. Discuss the importance of conservation in context of the ecological question. 20
8. Were the forest policies in the independent India successful in reversing the impact of the colonial depredation of forests? Discuss. 20
9. How does the concept of biodiversity help in tackling the ecological question? Discuss. 20
10. Do patents of ecological resources further the cause of saving the environment? Discuss. 20

MHI-09: INDIAL NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Course Code: MHI-09

Assignment Code: MHI-08/AST/TMA/2020-21

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 modernist theories about the emergence of nations and nationalism. 20
2. Explain the idea of economic nationalism in the Indian context. 20
3. Describe the origins of the Khilafat movement and its relations with the Non-cooperation Movement. 20
4. Write a note on the Swadeshi Movement. 20
5. Write short notes in about 250 words each on any two of the following: 10+10
 - a) The view of the Cambridge School on Indian nationalism
 - b) Dandi March
 - c) Political Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi
 - d) Achievements of the Congress Ministries during 1937-39.

SECTION-B

6. Outline the political developments which led to the Quit India Movement. 20
7. Discuss the association of nationalism with the working classes. 20
8. What was the position of the Indian nationalist movement vis-à-vis the landlords? 20
9. Write a note on the Indian Constitution. 20
10. Write short notes in about 250 words each on any two of the following: 10+10
 - a) Nationalists and the Dalits
 - b) Cabinet Mission
 - c) Relationship between the Nationalists and the capitalists
 - d) Communalism and its role in partition.

MHI-10: URBANISATION IN INDIA

Course Code: MHI-10
Assignment Code: MHI-05/AST/ TMA/2020-21
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 urban history? Write briefly on the historiography of urbanism. 20
2. Discuss the main features of the city of Mohenjodaro. 20
3. Critically examine the depiction of the cities in the ancient Indian texts. 20
4. What were the markers of an urban centre in the early medieval period? Elaborate your argument on the basis of Tallanandpur, Siyadoni and Venugrama. 20
5. **Write short notes on any two of the following. Answer in about 250 words each.** 10+10
 - i) Lefebvre's notion of space
 - ii) Perception of forests in the early Indian literature
 - iii) Gaur and Pandua
 - iv) Temple town of Srirangam

SECTION-B

6. Give a comparative analysis of the spatial pattern of Ajmer-Banaras-Pandharpur. 20
7. Give a brief account of the cities in the Kachchh-Gujarat region during the seventeenth-eighteenth century. 20
8. Describe the emergence of canal colonies. What was its impact? How did it alter the urban spaces? 20
9. In what ways did the colonial Indian cities embody the visible signs and symbols of modernity? 20
10. **Write short notes on any two of the following. Answer in about 250 words each.** 10+10
 - i) Patrimonial-bureaucratic cities of the Mughal empire
 - ii) Industrial cities of the Deccan in the medieval period
 - iii) Goa: a Portuguese city
 - iv) Presidency towns

MPSE-003: WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT (From Plato to Marx)

Course Code: MPSE-003

Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2020-21

Marks: 100

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

SECTION -I

1. Distinguish between political thought, political theory and political philosophy.
2. Discuss the philosophical foundations of Plato's political theory.
3. Write a note on Aristotle's methodology.
4. What has been St. Augustine's influence on western political thought? Examine.
5. Elaborate upon Machiavelli's classification of governments.

SECTION -II

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

6.
 - a) Thomas Hobbes on the rights and duties of sovereign
 - b) John Locke on social contract and civil society
7.
 - a) Rousseau's theory of General Will
 - b) Critique of Edmund Burke
8.
 - a) Immanuel Kant's transcendental-idealist view of human nature
 - b) Alexis de Tocqueville on religion
9.
 - a) J. S. Mill on representative government
 - b) Hegel's theory of state
10.
 - a) Marx's Historical Materialism
 - b) Marx's views on communist society

MPSE-004: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT IN MODERN INDIA

Course Code: MPSE-004

Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2020-21

Marks: 100

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

SECTION -I

1. Discuss the nature of state and sovereignty in ancient India.
2. Write an essay on the construction of India in the 19th century.
3. Examine the arrival of nationalism in early 19th century India.
4. Elaborate upon the religio-political ideas of Dayanand Saraswati.
5. Describe the importance of Lal_Bal_Pal in the nationalist movement.

SECTION -II

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

6. a) Swami Vivekananda on Nationalism
b) Sri Aurobindo's critique of political moderates in India
7. a) V.D. Savarkar's views on social change
b) Negative and positive Hindutva a of M.S. Golwarkar
8. a) Sir Syed Ahmed Khan on Hindu-Muslim unity
b) E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker on Dravidian Mobilisation
9. a) Philosophical Foundations of Gandhi's political perspective
b) Jawaharlal Nehru's Scientific Humanism
10. a) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on religion and caste
b) Rabindranath Tagore's critique of nationalism