

Directorate of Education, GNCT Delhi  
ANNUAL SYLLABUS: SESSION-2026-27  
(CLASS-XII)  
SUBJECT- HISTORY (027)

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| <p>Book 1<br/>Themes in<br/>Indian History<br/>Part- 1</p> | <p><b>CHAPTER 1: Bricks, Beads and Bones: The Harappan Civilization</b><br/><b>The Story of the First Cities: Harappan Archaeology:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Broad overview: Early urban centres. Story of discovery: Harappan civilization.</li><li>● Excerpt: Archaeological report on a major site.</li><li>● Discussion: How it has been utilized by archaeologists/historians.</li><li>● Map work</li></ul> <p><b>Chapter 2: Kings, Farmers and Towns: Early States and Economies (c.600 BCE 600 CE) Political and Economic History: How Inscriptions tell a story.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Broad overview: Political and economic history from the Mauryan to the Gupta period.</li><li>● Story of discovery: Inscriptions and the decipherment of the script. Shifts in the understanding of political and economic history.</li><li>● Excerpt: Asokan inscription and Gupta period land grant.</li><li>● Discussion: Interpretation of inscriptions by historians.</li><li>● Map work</li></ul> <p><b>CHAPTER 3. Kinship, Caste and Class, Early Societies ( c.600 BCE 600 CE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Social Histories: Using the Mahabharata:</li><li>● Broad overview: Issues in social history, including caste, class, kinship and gender.</li><li>● Story of discovery: Transmission and publications of the Mahabharata.</li><li>● Excerpt: from the Mahabharata, illustrating how it has been used by historians.</li><li>● Discussion: Other sources for reconstructing social history.</li><li>● Map work</li><li>● Homework and project work for summer vacations.</li></ul> |
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|   | <p><b>CHAPTER 4: Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings: Cultural developments (c.600 BCE - 600 CE) A History of Buddhism: Sanchi Stupa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Broad overview: A brief review of religious histories of Vedic religion, Jainism, Vaishnavism, Saivism (Puranic Hinduism). Focus on Buddhism.</li> <li>● Story of discovery: Sanchi stupa.</li> <li>● Excerpt: Reproduction of sculptures from Sanchi.</li> <li>● Discussion: Ways in which sculpture has been interpreted by historians</li> <li>● Map Work</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Book 2<br/>Themes in<br/>Indian History<br/>Part-2</p> | <p><b>CHAPTER 5: Through The Eyes of Travellers: Perception of Society (c. Tenth to Seventeenth century) Medieval Society through Travellers' Accounts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Broad Overview: Outline of social and cultural life as they appear in travellers accounts.</li> <li>● Story of their writings: A discussion of where they travelled, why they travelled, what they wrote, and for whom they wrote.</li> <li>● Excerpts: from Alberuni, Ibn Battuta, Francois Bernier.</li> <li>● Discussion- What these travel accounts can tell us and how they have been interpreted by historians.</li> </ul> <p><b>CHAPTER 6: The Bhakti-Sufi Traditions: Changes in religious beliefs and devotional texts (c.Eighth to Eighteenth century)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Broad overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a)Outline of religious developments during this period.</li> <li>(b)Ideas and practices of the Bhakti-Sufi saints. Story of Transmission: How Bhakti-Sufi compositions have been preserved. Excerpt: Extracts from selected Bhakti-Sufi works.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Discussion on Ways in which these have been interpreted by historians</li> </ul> <p><b>Chapter 7: An Imperial Capital Vijayanagara (c.Fourteenth to Sixteenth century)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Broad overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Outline of new buildings during Vijayanagar period-temples, forts, irrigation facilities.</li> <li>(b) Relationship between architecture and the political system. Story of Discovery: Account of how Hampi was found.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Excerpt: Visuals of buildings at Hampi.</li> <li>● Discussion: Ways in which historians have analysed and interpreted these structures.</li> <li>● Map work</li> </ul> <p><b>Chapter 8: Peasants, Zamindars and The State: Agrarian society and the Mughal empire (c. Sixteenth-Seventeenth centuries)</b></p> <p><b>Agrarian Relations: The Ain-i- Akbari</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Broad overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a)Structure of agrarian relations in the 16th and 17th centuries.</li> <li>(b)Patterns of change over the period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Story of Discovery: Account of the compilation and translation of Ain-i-Akbari. Excerpt: from the Ain-i-Akbari</li> <li>Discussion: Ways in which historians have used the text to reconstruct history.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Map work</li> </ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Syllabus of mid-term Examination to be completed by 05/09/2026</b></li> <li>● <b>DISCUSSION ON QUESTION PAPER</b></li> <li>● <b>PROJECT WORK</b></li> </ul> |
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| <p>Book 3<br/>Themes in<br/>Indian History<br/>Part-3</p> | <p><b>CHAPTER 9: Colonialism And the Countryside: Exploring Official Archives)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Broad overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a)Life of zamindars, peasants and artisans in the late 18th century</li> <li>(b)East India Company, revenue settlements and surveys.</li> <li>(c) Changes over the nineteenth century. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Official records: An account of why official investigations into rural societies were undertaken and the types of records and reports produced.</li> <li>● Excerpts: From Fifth Report, Accounts of Frances Buchanan-Hamilton and Deccan Riots Report. Discussion: What the official records tell and do not tell, and how they have been used by historians.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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- Map work.

#### **CHAPTER 10: Rebels and the Raj- The Revolt of 1857 and Its Representations**

- Broad overview: The events of 1857-58. How these events were recorded and narrated?
- Focus: Lucknow.
- Excerpts: Pictures of 1857. Extracts from contemporary accounts.
- Discussion: How the pictures of 1857 shaped British opinion of what had happened.
- Map Work

#### **CHAPTER 11: Mahatma Gandhi and the Nationalist Movement: Civil Disobedience and Beyond**

- Broad overview:
  - (a)The Nationalist Movement 1918- 48.
  - (b)The nature of Gandhian politics and leadership.
- Focus: Mahatma Gandhi and the three movements and his last days as “finest hours”
- Excerpts: Reports from English and Indian language newspapers and other contemporary writings.
- Discussion: How newspapers can be a source of history.
- Map work

#### **CHAPTER 12: Framing the Constitution: The Beginning of a New Era**

- Broad overview:
  - (a)Independence and the new nation state.
  - (b)The making of the Constitution.
- Focus: The Constitutional Assembly debates.
- Excerpts: from the debates.
- Discussion: What such debates reveal and how they can be analysed.
- Project Work

**● Entire Syllabus to be completed by 05/12/2026.**

**● Note: For more information, refer to CBSE syllabus 2026-27.**