

M.A. 4th Semester Examination, 2024

HISTORY

PAPER—HIS-405(A, B, C, D)

Full Marks : 50

Time : 2 hours

Answer **all** questions

The figures in the right hand margin indicate marks

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable

Illustrate the answers wherever necessary

HIS-405(A)

GROUP – A

Answer any **two** questions from the following :

10 × 2

1. How does Eric Hobsbawm explain the Marxist theory of "base and superstructure" as a model of society composed of different levels which interact ?

2. What are the distinctive features of Lucien Febvre's work on the Rabelais and the problem of unbelief in the sixteenth century ?
3. How does Annales History substitute traditional narrative of events by problem-centred analytical history ?
4. What can you say about RH Collingwood's criticism that Positivistic Historians never ask "how is historical knowledge possible" ?

GROUP – B

Answer any **four** questions from the following :

5 × 4

5. Discuss how the positivist emphasis on facts and morals defined the objectives and methods of Positivist History.
6. Discuss GA Cohen's Marx's theory of History with reference to Primary and Development theses.

7. Describe the historiography of Annales School since its foundation till 1945.
8. Explain what is meant by the 'return of the narrative' in Annales school historiography.
9. Is History a science ? Discuss how Positivists and Idealists answer the question.
10. Explain the anti-Rankean, anti-positivist trend in historiography since the late 19th century.

[Internal Assessment — 10 Marks]

HIS-405(B)

GROUP — A

Answer any **two** questions from the following :

10 × 2

1. Write a critical essay on the concept of culture as it has evolved and broadened over time.

2. Show how Islam assumed a distinct local character in Bengal up to the 19th century.

Or

Show how Bengali Hindus attempted to variously counter the influence of Islam up to the 19th century.

3. What are the four major traits of modern Indian/Bengali theatre? Why is Rabindranath Tagore considered a "pivotal figure" in the arena?
4. How did traditional bhadralok Bengalis regard physical activity? Why and how did Nagendraprasad Sarbadhikari endeavour to bring about an attitudinal change in the late 19th century?

GROUP – B

Answer any **four** questions from the following :

5 × 4

5. What are the five main aspects of Culture ?
6. Identify the similarities and dissimilarities between Sanskrit drama and Bengali jatra.
7. What was the religious situation in Bengal before the coming of Islam ?
8. Mention the three traditional beliefs regarding the spread of Islam in Bengal. Briefly discuss the alternative explanation of Richard Eaton and Asim Roy.
9. What kinds of food were consumed in traditional Bengali society ? What changes came with colonial rule ?
10. Write a note on women's football in colonial Bengal.

[Internal Assessment – 10 Marks]

HIS-405(C)

[Old & New Syllabus]

(Global History of Pandemic)

GROUP – A

Answer any two of the following questions :

10×2

1. How has WHO classified a pandemic ?
2. Define the complex relationship between cholera and colonialism in British India, emphasizing the differing responses and interpretations of the disease by Indians and Europeans.
3. Explain how the influenza pandemic affected the United States Army camps in a significant way during World War I.
4. How did the Ebola virus affect the people of Africa during the decade following 1970 ?

GROUP – B

Answer any **four** of the following questions :

5×4

5. How have historians of medicine defined various pandemics ?
6. What is the origin of the term quarantine ?
7. How did the news media's reporting of the Haiti cholera epidemic contribute to public confusion and conflicting information ?
8. What beliefs and rituals were associated with the *Olabibi*, the cholera deity in India ?
9. What was the significance of the first cholera epidemic in Russia, and how did it influence the revolutionary conditions and social unrest in different regions ?
10. What is the role of a fruit bat in spreading Ebola, and what is the treatment for Ebola ?

[**Internal Assessment – 10 Marks**]

HIS-405(D)

[Old & New Syllabus]

(Political and Society in Post-Partition Bengal)

GROUP – A

Answer any **two** questions of the following :

10 × 2

1. How has research on Bengal's partition history evolved over the years ? Locate the caste question in the historiography of partition.
2. Analyse the significant events in the development of left popular politics in West Bengal.
3. What were the primary characteristics of the Naxalbari Movement ? What impact did the movement have on politics and culture ?
4. Would you consider the Gorkhaland Movement an ethnic identify conflict ? What were its primary concerns and issues ?

GROUP – B

Answer any **four** of the following questions :

5 × 4

5. What were Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy's most significant contributions to West Bengal ?
6. Define the importance of the Zamindari Abolition Act of 1956.
7. In what ways did Ritwik Ghatak reflect the refugee crisis in Bengali cinema ?
8. What were the objectives of the Matua Movement in West Bengal ?
9. What was the issue with the India-Bangladesh border dispute over Chitmahal ?
10. What does Operation Barga mean ?

[Internal Assessment – 10 Marks]
