

DOON PUBLIC SCHOOL, BHUJ

Home Assignment

Class VII

Dear Students,

This is your assignment which you have to complete in your Social Studies notebook. Write all the three chapters very neatly in the notebook and learn the same. I wish you have a great summer vacation and utilize this time productively. Take care and stay safe!

HISTORY – WHEN, WHERE AND HOW – THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD IN INDIA

I. Fill in the blanks. (Mark in textbook)

1. The medieval period of Indian history ranges from CE 647 to CE 1700.
2. The Himalayas served as a barrier that prevented many invaders from entering India.
3. The Greeks called India by the name Indica.
4. Kalhana wrote the Rajatarangini.

II. True or false? (Mark in textbook)

1. The Turks and Mongols had no influence on Indian Culture. (F)
2. The Cholas and the Pandyas had strong navies. (T)
3. Akbar was an emperor belonging to the medieval period. (T)
4. The Rajatarangini is a history of the Chola kings. (F)
5. Marco Polo was a Persian traveller. (F)

III. Multiple Choice Questions. (Mark in Textbook)

1. Which event is taken to mark the end of the Ancient Period of Indian history?
 - a. the coming of Aryans to India
 - b. the coming of Mughals to India
 - c. the death of Harshvardhan**
 - d. the invasion of Alexander the Great
2. During the medieval period, the kingdoms of South India :
 - a. faced several invasions from the Turks and Mongols
 - b. developed strong armies and conquered large parts of North India

c. developed strong navies which helped conquer lands across the Indian Ocean

d. were controlled by the British and French

3. Who was the person who established the largest interconnected land empire in world history? He was one of the greatest military commanders of all time?

a. Alexander the Great

b. Chengiz Khan

c. Chandragupta Maurya

d. Akbar

4. The study of inscriptions is called :

a. epigraphy

b. numismatics

c. archaeology

d. philosophy

5. The Tahqiq-i-Hind was written by

a. Alberuni

b. Ibn Batuta

c. Babur

d. Mahmud o Ghazni

6. In the Christian calendar, Saka year 1999 is :

a. 1941 CE

b. 2077 CE

c. 2079 CE

d. 1957 CE

IV. Answer in brief. (Write in Notebook)

1. Write a short note on the term 'Sapta Sindhu'.

Ans • Indian subcontinent known by various names through the thousands of years of its history.

• Vedic Age-Sapta Sindhu-Land of Seven Rivers

• Rivers-Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej and mythical Saraswati.

• Sindhu-Sanskrit name for Indus.

2. What are prashastis? Why are they not always authentic?

Ans • Prashastis are long poems found in inscriptions praising the achievements of kings.

- Since prashastis were normally written by court poets appointed by the kings, they may not always be factually accurate.

3. What kinds of information can be drawn from paintings?

Ans • Paintings are an important source of information:

- The paintings serve as a record of the lines of descent of the kings and nobles.
- They also tell us about the nature of society- the way of dressing, the customs followed, important events, the life of the common people, along with other features of that period.

4. Name two Indian literary sources of medieval history.

Ans. Two important biographies that are literary sources of Indian medieval history are

- The Rajatarangini by Kalhana and
- Prithviraj Raso, composed by Chand Bardai.

5. Mention three foreign travellers to India in the Medieval Age and the places they came from.

Ans • Alberuni, the Persian traveller who came to India with Mahmud of Ghazni.

- Ibn Batuta, the Moroccan-born traveller who wrote about the reign of Mohammad bin Tughlaq, and
- Marco Polo, the Italian traveller.

V. Answer in detail. (Mark in textbook)

1. Write a brief note on the medieval period of Indian history. What two events mark the beginning and end of this period?

Ans. • The medieval period of Indian history is taken to extend from 647 CE, with the death of Harsha, up to 1700 CE, with the breaking up of the Mughal Empire and the establishment of British power in India.

- The medieval period saw far-reaching changes in all fields—political, social, cultural and economic.
- In North India, several independent kingdoms had come up after the breakup of Harsha's empire. These kingdoms frequently fought with each other, trying to establish supremacy.
- Taking advantage of this political instability, many tribes from Central Asia like the Turkish, Afghan, Persian, and Mongol dynasties entered India and went on to establish mighty empires in India.
- In the beginning of the medieval period, South India remained largely unaffected by the events in the north. The Cholas and the Rashtrakutas flourished in the South.

2. Describe the effect of the physical features of the land on the history of India.

Ans • India is a vast land with a 5422 km long coastline.

- The Himalayan mountain ranges, which extends for over 2575 km along the north of India, cut off the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia. This resulted in India being physically and culturally distinct from the rest of Asia. The Himalayas have posed a barrier for many who have wanted to conquer this land.
- The passes, or points which are lower than the surrounding peaks, have allowed travellers and invaders to enter India through the north-west.
- Many invaders like the Turks and the Mongols have had a powerful impact on the culture and society of India.
- Due to the distinct nature of India's physiographic features, India's history developed differently in different regions.
- The Northern Plains (basins of Ganga and Indus) were the seat of many great empires. This region also faced the constant threat of invaders.
- The Southern Peninsula was safe due to the Satpura and Vindhya mountains acting as barriers.

3. Explain with examples how inscriptions and coins serve as sources of history of medieval India.

Ans • Inscriptions are writings engraved on hard surfaces like metal, rock and stones are an important source of information about India's past.

- Examples: Copper plate inscriptions found around the temples of South India, Inscriptions belonging to the Chalukya period found at Aihole and Pattadakal.
- Coins are pieces of metal that are used as money, usually issued by the ruler of a kingdom.
- Coins give us information about the kingdom, confirm dates during which particular kings ruled, the special interests of the rulers, their achievements etc.
- Examples: Gold coins issued by Balban, silver coins issued by Mohammad bin Tughlaq

4. Explain in detail how monuments and buildings are useful sources of information on medieval India.

Ans • Monuments and buildings: Temples, palaces and mosques can tell us not only of religious practices but also about the political, economic and social conditions of the time.

- Examples: Mosques like Jama Masjid in Delhi, forts like those at Delhi, Gwalior, Agra and Mandu tell us about the style of architecture followed at that time.etc.

5. How do books and other written manuscripts help us understand the history of medieval India? Give examples to support your answer.

Ans • Books consist of historical writings, biographies, plays, novels and epics, and include both indigenous sources (by local writers) and foreign sources (by foreign travellers). The manuscripts deal with a variety of subjects such as religion, philosophy, science, arts and literature.

- Bards and chroniclers were appointed by the kings who recorded all the happenings of the state. Some of these have been preserved and published by Colonel Todd in his book *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*.

- Some biographies like *Rajatarangini* by Kalhana describe the lives and achievements of kings. *Prithviraj Raso* by Chand Bardai gives an account of the life of the famous Rajput ruler Prithviraj Chauhan.

- Foreign travellers like Ibn Batuta, Marco Polo etc., have written interesting accounts of the social customs and culture of India.

GEOGRAPHY – OUR ENVIRONMENT

I. Give reasons. (Write in Notebook)

1. Humans modify the environment

Ans • Human beings adapt themselves to the natural environment by making modifications in their shelter, food, and clothing.

- They also modify the natural environment to suit their social, biological, economic and cultural needs.

2. Plants and animals depend on each other.

Ans • Animals depend on the plants for their food and shelter (habitat).

- Forests provide products like timber, fruits, nuts, resins, lac and medicinal herbs.
- The dung of animals enriches the soil as organic fertilizers.
- Dead and decayed organisms nitrate the soil and facilitate the growth of plants.
- Animals also help in transporting the pollen grains and helps in asexual reproduction in plants.
- Forests help moderate atmospheric temperature by absorbing carbon dioxide and adding moisture to the air through transpiration.

II. Answer the following questions. (Write in Notebook)

1. Define 'environment'.

Ans • The environment is sum of all conditions that surround and influence a human being at any given point of time and space.

- The environment consists of the living and non-living things around us.

2. How can you classify the environment?

Ans • Environment can be broadly classified as:

- Natural environment - the physical and biological environment,
- Human-made environment – the built environment and socio- cultural environment.

3. What are the major components of the natural environment?

Ans • The natural environment consists of the physical environment and the biological environment.

- Physical environment - the atmosphere, the lithosphere and the hydrosphere.
- Biological environment -the flora and fauna.

4. Distinguish between the physical and biological environment.

Ans. Physical environment

1. Non-living environment; abiotic.
2. Consists of the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere.

Biological environment

1. Living environment; biotic.
2. Consists of the biosphere where all life forms exist.

5. Give four examples of human-made environment. Why are they called so?

Ans • Houses, industries, automobiles, clothes, dance and music etc. are examples of human-made environment.

• The human-made environment is that which is created when human beings interact with the natural environment.

6. What is an ecosystem?

Ans • An ecosystem is a community of living things and non-living components that work together.

• Ecosystems have no particular size. An ecosystem can be as large as a rainforest or as small as a pond.

7. List some environmental issues.

Ans • Deforestation

- Poaching
- Overpopulation
- Poverty (malnutrition, hunger and starvation)
- Air pollution
- Water pollution
- Land pollution and
- Noise pollution

8. What factors lead to environmental degradation?

Ans • The natural environment is being indiscriminately exploited by humans to satisfy their ever increasing needs.

- Over population, growing demand, unscientific usage of resources and over exploitation of available resources are responsible for environmental degradation.

9. With the help of a diagram, describe the water cycle. (Mark in textbook)

Ans. • The water cycle involves three processes, evaporation, condensation and precipitation. (Refer to the diagram in the textbook).

- Evaporation is the process by which water changes its liquid form to a gas, when heated.
- Approximately 80% of all evaporation is from the oceans.
- Water from the plants escapes into the atmosphere as transpiration and animals lose water through perspiration and urination.
- Water rises up as water vapour in the air.
- Condensation happens when the water vapour condenses and forms clouds on reaching a certain height or changes to its original liquid state, when cooled.
- Precipitation occurs when the clouds become too saturated and heavy to hold any more water, and shed the same as hail, rain, snow, sleet, etc.
- This constant movement of water is called the water cycle.

10. How do humans adapt themselves to the environment? Give examples. (Mark in textbook)

Ans• Human beings adapt to the environment by modifying it using new skills and technologies to suit their needs.

- They make modifications in their food, shelter and clothing.
- They also modify the natural environment to suit their social, biological, economic and cultural needs.
- For example, to beat the heat we have air-conditioners at our homes, offices and automobiles, etc. Mining is done for industrial needs. Soil is treated with fertilizers to increase agricultural production.

III. Study the following actions. Tick the protective actions and cross out the destructive ones. (Mark in textbook)

1. Meena uses a rough book containing one-sided used papers. (Protective)
2. Lakhan is a police officer who takes money from poachers and does not arrest them. (Destructive)
3. Abhinav does not use plastic bags. (Protective)
4. Syamsundar checks the emission from his automobile regularly. (Protective)
5. Karthik and his friends plant trees on their birthdays. (Protective)

6. Shika does not switch off the fans and lights when she leaves the room. (Destructive)
7. Tayub and Pratik do not treat the smoke emitted from their chemical factory. (Destructive)

IV. Multiple Choice Questions. (Mark in textbook)

1. Which of these form a part of the environment?

- a. Factories, houses and vehicles
- b. People, trees and animals
- c. Mountains, rivers and seas

d. All of the above

2. The narrow zone of contact between the atmosphere, the lithosphere and the hydrosphere, where life forms exist is called the

- a. biosphere** b. lithosphere c. atmosphere d. hydrosphere

3. Which of these is a function of the atmosphere?

a. It keeps the Earth warm by trapping the heat that radiates from the Earth.

- b. It provides land for settlements
- c. It provides sunlight needed for life on Earth
- d. All of the above

4. Which of these is not a stage in the water cycle?

a. When water in the water bodies is heated, it evaporates and rises up in the air as water vapour

b. This water condenses, forms clouds, and comes back to Earth as precipitation

c. The rain collects in lakes and rivers. This water is pumped from here to the cities and towns for people to use

d. The rain collects in rivers and lakes, from where it changes once more to water vapour and rises in the air

5. Which of these is not a natural environment?

- a. mangrove b. desert **c. terrarium** d. coral reefs

6. Which of the following is not an abiotic component of the environment?

- a. insect **b. sunlight** c. wood d. water

7. Which of these is not part of the socio cultural environment?

- a. religion b. education **c. factories** d. music

CIVICS – DEMOCRACY

I. Fill in the blanks. (Mark in Textbook)

1. The body to whom citizens pay taxes is called the government.
2. A government that is run by just a few people is called an oligarchy.
3. Government by a person or group of persons who have seized power by force is called dictatorship.
4. Britain is ruled by a monarchy.
5. In Athens, Cleisthenes abolished monarchy and established a democratic government in 510 BCE.

II. True or False? (Mark in Textbook)

1. The government is not responsible for maintaining law and order in the country. (False)
2. In a monarchy, authority is hereditary. (True)
3. Nepal is one of the last monarchies left in the world. (False)
4. In a republic, people elect the head of the government. (True)
5. In CE 1200, the people of France overthrew their monarch and established a democracy. (False)

III. Multiple Choice Questions. (Mark in Textbook)

1. India is ruled by a
 - a. monarchy
 - b. dictatorship
 - c. aristocracy
 - d. democracy**
2. What do we call a government that is run by a group of religious leaders who rule in the name of god, according to the tenets of a religion?
 - a. an oligarchy
 - b. a dictatorship
 - c. a theocracy**
 - d. a monarchy
3. Which of these would you be able to do if your country was ruled by a totalitarian government?
 - a. write a report in the newspaper criticising the government
 - b. complain about a corrupt government official to the police
 - c. attend a rally being held by the government
 - d. elect a new government**
4. In a republic,

a. the head of the government is an elected president or prime minister

b. the head of the government is a constitutional monarch

c. the president's post is hereditary

d. there are no elections

5. Which Athenian established one of the first democracies of the world in 510 BCE?

a. Solon

b. Alexander the Great

c. Cleisthenes

d. Pericles

6. What was the concept of republicanism, developed by the Americans in the 1760s?

a. a political system that believes in and protects liberty, equality and the rule of law

b. a political system that supports the monarchy

c. a political system where the head of the state had absolute power

d. all of the above

7. In which country was the Declaration of the Rights of Human and of the Citizen of 1789, drawn up?

a. England

b. France

c. United States of America

d. Germany

8. A body of elected people which rules the country on behalf of the people is called

a. government

b. constitution

c. parliament

d. political party

9. Which of these is NOT a feature of democracy?

a. regular elections

b. complete individual freedom which no court of law can change

c. rule of law

d. right to freedom of speech and action

10. Which are the two pillars of democracy?

a. justice and equality

b. elections and rule of law

c. separation of power and governance for public good

d. d. none of the above

11. In a democracy, which is the body that implements the law made by the government?

a. the legislature

b. the executive

c. the judiciary

d. the police

IV. Answer the following questions.

1. What is a government? What are its functions? (Write in Notebook)

Ans. A government:

- Is the body that governs or administers a political unit like a country or a state.
- Makes laws, settles disputes, maintains security and enforces public order and discipline.
- Provides and maintains public facilities like roads, water supply, electricity, public transport etc.

2. What are the different types of governments? Explain each with examples. (Write in Notebook)

Ans. • Monarchy, oligarchy, theocracy, dictatorship, and democracy are the different types of government.

- Monarchy – a hereditary form of government held by one ruler, example: Saudi Arabia.
- Oligarchy – a government run by a small group of people who control all the powers, example: ancient Rome.
- Theocracy – a government by a group of religious leaders who rule in the name of god and where governance is based on the tenets of that religion, example: Iran.
- Dictatorship – a government by a person or group of people, who have seized power by force, example: Germany under Hitler.
- Democracy is a government by the people, through their representatives, who are elected directly or indirectly, example: India.

3. Differentiate between totalitarian and democratic governments. (Write in Notebook)

Ans. Totalitarian governments:

- Monarchies, oligarchies, theocracies and dictatorships
- The state or the monarch exercises absolute control and regulates every aspect of citizen's lives.
- People have no control over the making and implementation of laws.

Democratic governments:

- People have all the power, which they express through elections and public opinion.
- The constitution guarantees basic personal and political rights, free and fair elections and independent courts of law.

4. What are the limits and requirements of a democracy? (Write in Notebook)

Ans • If a democracy has to work, citizens must not only be aware of their rights and fight for them, they must also observe the principles of democratic conduct.

- People must respect the law and shun violence.
- Democracy needs compromise. Groups with different interests and opinions must come together and negotiate. One group does not always win all it wants. Different groups win on different issues. Over time everyone wins something. If one group always fails to be heard, it may turn against democracy in anger.
- Every citizen must respect the rights of fellow citizens, and their dignity as human beings.
- A government is elected to work for the good of the public.
- People can question the decision of the government, but they should not reject the government's authority.

5. Write a note on the history of democracy. (Mark in Textbook)

Ans• One of the earliest instances of democracy was found in India between 600 BCE and 500 BCE.

- The Athenian democracy developed around 500 BCE. In 594 BCE, Solon, a Greek law giver gave Athens its first comprehensive code of law. In 510 BCE Cleisthenes abolished monarchy and established one of the world's first democratic governments. It was a system of direct democracy, where people voted directly on issues and bills.
- In 510 BCE the last king of Rome was deposed and a republic was established.
- In 1215 CE the king of England signed the Magna Carta agreeing to renounce certain rights and to let his power be restricted by the law.
- During the Age of Enlightenment, the theory of modern democracy was formulated defining its essential elements-- equality, fundamental rights, religious rights, religious freedom, separation of the church and the state.
- The American war of Independence and the French Revolution gave the world the key principles of democracy, which are liberty, equality and fraternity.

6. What are the key elements of a democracy? Explain in detail. (Mark in Textbook)

Ans. The following are the key elements of a democracy.

a) Rule by the people- This means that the people choose the government through regular elections. During elections, people choose their representatives, thus deciding who will represent them in parliament, which will rule the country on their behalf.

b) Justice and equality- These are the two pillars of democracy. Justice is to give each one what is due to him or her. Equality implies being treated equal before the law, irrespective of caste, sex, religion, wealth, etc.

- c) Guarantee of basic human rights to all citizens- These rights include the right to freedom of speech, right to equality, right to freedom of religion, right to information, right to travel and settle anywhere in the country, right to associate with other people, right to assemble freely.
- d) The rule of law- All citizens are equal in the eyes of the law, which is called 'the rule of the law'.
- e) Separation of powers- Separate judiciary, legislature and executive to run an impartial government.
- f) Active participation of the citizens in politics and civil life.