

HISTORY

Course Structure

Units	Topics	Marks
Unit 1 - 4	Themes in Indian History Part - I	25
Unit 5- 9	Themes in Indian History Part - II	25
Unit 10 - 15	Themes in Indian History Part - III	25
Unit 16	Map Work	5
	Project Work	20
Total		100

Course Syllabus

Themes in Indian History Part - I

Unit 1: The Story of the First Cities: Harappan Archaeology

- Broad overview: Early urban centres.
- Story of discovery: Harappan civilization
- Excerpt: Archaeological report on a major site
- Discussion: How it has been utilized by archaeologists/historians

Unit 2: Political and Economic History: How Inscriptions tell a story

- Broad overview:
 - Political and economic history from the Mauryan to the Gupta period
- Story of discovery:
 - Inscriptions and the decipherment of the script
 - Shifts in the understanding of political and economic history
- Excerpt:

- Asokan inscription
- Gupta period land grant
- Discussion:
 - Interpretation of inscriptions by historians

Unit 3: Social Histories: Using the Mahabharata

- Broad overview:
 - Issues in social history
 - Including caste
 - Class
 - Kinship
 - Gender
- Story of discovery:
 - Transmission and publications of the Mahabharata
- Excerpt: From the Mahabharata, illustrating how it has been used by historians
- Discussion: Other sources for reconstructing social history

Unit 4: A History of Buddhism: Sanchi Stupa

- Broad overview:
 - A brief review of religious histories of Vedic religion, Jainism, Vaisnavism, Saivism
 - Focus on Buddhism
- Story of discovery: Sanchi stupa
- Excerpt: Reproduction of sculptures from Sanchi
- Discussion: Ways in which sculpture has been interpreted by historians, other sources for reconstructing the history of Buddhism

Themes in Indian History Part - II

Unit 5: Agrarian Relations: The Ain-i- Akbari

- Broad overview:
 - Structure of agrarian relations in the 16th and 17th centuries
 - Patterns of change over the period
- Story of Discovery: Account of the compilation and translation of Ain-i-Akbari
- Excerpt: From the Ain-i-Akbari
- Discussion: Ways in which historians have used the text to reconstruct history

Unit 6: The Mughal Court: Reconstructing Histories through Chronicles

- Broad overview:
 - Outline of political history 15th-17th centuries
 - Discussion of the Mughal court and politics
- Story of Discovery: Account of the production of court chronicles, and their subsequent translation and transmission
- Excerpts: From the Akbarnama and Padshahnama
- Discussion: Ways in which historians have used the texts to reconstruct political histories

Unit 7: New Architecture: Hampi

- Broad overview:
 - Outline of new buildings during Vijayanagar period-temples, forts, irrigation facilities.
 - Relationship between architecture and the political system
- Story of Discovery: Account of how Hampi was found
- Excerpt: Visuals of buildings at Hampi

- Discussion: Ways in which historians have analyzed and interpreted these structures

Unit 8: Religious Histories: The Bhakti-Sufi Tradition

- Broad overview:
 - Outline of religious developments during this period
 - 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
- Discussion: Ways in which these have been interpreted by historians

Unit 9: Medieval Society through Travelers' Accounts

- Broad overview:
 - Outline of social and cultural life as they appear in travelers' accounts
- Story of their writings: A discussion of where they travelled, why they travelled, what they wrote, and for whom they wrote
- Excerpts: From Alberuni, Ibn Batuta, Bernier
- Discussion: What these travel accounts can tell us and how they have been interpreted by historians

Themes in Indian History Part - III

Unit 10: Colonialism and Rural Society: Evidence from Official Reports

- Broad overview:
 - Life of zamindars, peasants and artisans in the late 18th century
 - East India Company, revenue settlements and surveys
 - Changes over the nineteenth century
- Story of official records: An account of why official investigations into rural societies were undertaken and the types of records and reports produced

- Excerpts: From Firminger's 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

Unit 11: Representations of 1857

- 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

Unit 12: Colonialism and Indian Towns: Town Plans and Municipal Reports

- Broad overview:
 - The growth of Mumbai, Chennai, hill stations and cantonments in the 18th and 19th centuries
- Excerpts:
 - Photographs and paintings
 - Plans of cities
 - Extract from town plan reports
 - Focus on Kolkata town planning
- Discussion: How the above sources can be used to reconstruct the history of towns. What these sources do not reveal

Unit 13: Mahatma Gandhi through Contemporary Eyes

- Broad overview:
 - The Nationalist Movement 1918 - 1948
 - The nature of Gandhian politics and leadership
- Focus: Mahatma Gandhi in 1931
- Excerpts: Reports from English and Indian language newspapers and other contemporary writings
- Discussion: How newspapers can be a source of history

Unit 14: Partition through Oral Sources

- Broad overview:
 - The history of the 1940s
 - Nationalism, Communalism and Partition
- Focus: Punjab and Bengal
- Excerpts: Oral testimonies of those who experienced partition
- Discussion: Ways in which these have been analyzed to reconstruct the history of the event

Unit 15: The Making of the Constitution

- Broad overview:
 - Independence and the new nation state
 - The making of the Constitution
- Focus: The Constitutional Assembly debates
- Excerpts: From the debates
- Discussion: What such debates reveal and how they can be analyzed

Unit 16: Map Works

- On Units 1 to 15

Project Work