Civil Services (Main) Examination, 1996

HISTORY

(Paper I)

Time Allowed : Three Hours	*Maximum Marks : 300*

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions :

There are **EIGHT** questions divided in **TWO SECTIONS**.

Candidate has to attempt **FIVE** questions in all.

Questions no. **1** and **5** are compulsory and out of the remaining, any **THREE** are to be attempted choosing at least **ONE** question from each Section.

All questions carry equal marks.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

SECTION 'A'

1. Write short essays of not more than 200 words each on any three of the following topics:

(a) The religion of the Indus Civilization

(b) Social and economic conditions of North India during the pre-Mauryan period (600–325 B.C.)

(c) Mauryan municipal administration

(d) Factors that led to the rise and fall of the Gupta Empire

2. "Of all the events that had a singular bearing on the history of India, Harsha's death in 647 A.D. is significant." Why? Explain.

3. "Ancient Indians had no taste for historiography; their scholars cared more for religious, spiritual and philosophical studies. Indian historiography is essentially an Islamic heritage." Comment upon this statement with special reference to the contemporary writers and their works which help us in the reconstruction of history of the early medieval period of Indian history.

4. Give an account of the society in Northern and Central India since the death of Harsha to the Muslim conquest of North India.

SECTION 'B'

5. Mark any fifteen of the following places on the map supplied to you and write brief notes on the places marked on the map:

English version compiled from published transcriptions and cross-checked across sources; not a facsimile of the official UPSC question paper.

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(i) Ajmer
(ii) Attock
(iii) Benares
(iv) Bhatner
(v) Champaner
(vi) Cutch
(vii) Daulatabad
(viii) Delhi
(ix) Devagiri
(x) Diu
(xi) Ellichpur
(xii) Ellora
(xiii) Ghazni
(xiv) Ghor
(xv) Gwalior
(xvi) Hampi
(xvii) Hissar
(xviii) Jodhpur
(xix) Kabul
(xx) Katni
(xxi) Khyber Pass
(xxii) Lahore
(xxiii) Peshawar
(xxiv) Rameshwaram
(xxv) Ranthambore
(xxvi) Sialkot
(xxvii) Thaneswar
(xxviii) Thatta
(xxix) Uttaramerur
(xxx) Warangal

6. Give an estimate of Ghiasuddin Balban.

7. Assess the importance of the Cholas in the history of South India.

8. Shivaji's rise to power cannot be treated as an isolated phenomenon in Maratha history. It was as much the result of his personal daring and heroism as of the peculiar geographical situation of the Deccan country and the unifying religious influences that were animating the people with new hopes and aspirations in the 15th and 16th centuries. Explain.

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