Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2008

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. Mark any fifteen of the following places on the map supplied to you and write short descriptive notes on the places marked by you:

(i) Burzahom
(ii) Banawali
(iii) Ahar
(iv) Girnar
(v) Chandraketugarh
(vi) Brahmagiri
(vii) Bayana
(viii) Gangai Kondacholapuram
(ix) Tamralipti
(x) Muziris
(xi) Ambari
(xii) Modhera
(xiii) Devnimori
(xiv) Bhadreshwar
(xv) Bundi
(xvi) Gingee (Jinjee)
(xvii) Antichak
(xviii) Gaur
(xix) Sasaram
(xx) Mahasthamgarh

2. Discuss the distribution and significance of farming cultures outside the Indus system.

3. How justified are we in characterizing the post-Mauryan five centuries as the "Dark Period" of Indian History? Give reasons in support of your answer.

4. How do recent archaeological findings and Sangam literary texts enlighten us about the early state and society in South India?

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

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SECTION 'B'

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

(a) The Ahom Kingdom

(b) Significance of the arrival of the Portuguese in India

(c) The 'Corps of Forty' and its relations with the Sultan

(d) Evolution of the Khalsa Panth

6. What are the manifestations of Tamil devotional cults? How do you account for their growth between c. 750 and c. 1200 CE?

7. Delineate the striking features of agricultural and craft production during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in India. How did they impact the social fabric of the country?

8. What are the distinguishing components of the debate on "The Eighteenth Century"?

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