ICSE Board History Syllabus for Class 11

Class 11

History

Part I (20 marks) will consist of compulsory short answer questions testing fundamental factual knowledge and understanding of the entire syllabus.

Part II (80 marks) will be divided into two sections,

Section A and Section B, each consisting of five questions. Each question shall carry 16 marks. Candidates will be required to attempt two questions from each Section and one question from either Section A or Section B. A total of five questions will be attempted from Part II.

SECTION A

INDIA HISTORY

1. The Rise and Growth of British Power (1740-1798)
   
   (i) Indian States and Society in the 18th century: position and interests of European trading companies in India. This should be taught in context of the eighteenth century debate on anarchy vs dynamism and the process of transformation of English East India Company from traders to colonial masters. The break-up of the Mughal Empire (a general account) and rise of the regional powers - basic outline of the Marathas, Sikhs (excluding Ranjeet Singh), Bengal, Awadh, Mysore, Hyderabad and the Carnatic. Foreign trading companies: Portuguese and Dutch very briefly, the English and French Companies in more detail.
   
   (i.e. establishment and growth of their settlements in India).
   
   (ii) The Anglo-French struggle in the South 1740-1763. The First, Second and Third Wars can be taught briefly, in connection with each cause of British success and French failure.
   
   (iii) Bengal: review of main events from the accession of Siraj-ud-Daulah to the defeat of the Indian powers at Buxar (1764); impact and significance of Battles of Plassey and Buxar; political arrangement made by Robert Clive. This should be done in some detail, emphasizing the causes of the conflict (the conflict over the abuse trading privileges, the minting of money, etc). The significance of the two major battles should be briefly explained. Clive's arrangements after the Treaty of Allahabad - the Grant of Diwani: the dual government and its disastrous result on Bengal: the famine should be briefly touched upon.
   
   (iv) Growth of British power under Warren Hastings: Marathas, Mysore and Awadh. The Regulating Act should be briefly explained as a background. Maratha, Mysore and Awadh wars to be dealt with briefly. Only reasons behind the conflict between Indian powers and the British powers and the results to be covered.
   
   (v) Cornwallis and Mysore. Pitt's India Act and the policy of non-intervention should be briefly explained. An outline of the war and the terms of the Treaty of Seringapatam, its significance.

2. The Ascendancy of British Power (1798-1818): Expansion under Lord Wellesley; subsidiary alliances, wars, annexation of territories of subordinated rulers; elimination of French threat. Appraisal. Background to Wellesley should be briefly explained: the reasons for giving up the policy of non-intervention and the revival of the French threat. The subsidiary alliances should be done in some detail: the main terms of the alliance; the results for the States which signed; a few examples of States which did; the advantages for the British. Annexation of territories of previously subordinated rulers - just the names. The Second Maratha War - some mention of the background and events of the Peshwa's court leading to the Treaty of Bassein - the events of the War and the results to be done very briefly. The Mysore War to be done very briefly, emphasizing the end of French threat. Short critical look at Wellesley: was the aim of paramountcy achieved?

3. Consolidation of British Power (1818-1857)
   
   (i) Punjab: Ranjeet Singh; the causes, events and results of the Sikh Wars. Brief outline of Ranjeet Singh's career - the Treaty of Amritsar and its significance; a brief account of the expansion of the Sikh State under Ranjeet Singh and a very brief appraisal. Causes, and results of the two Sikh Wars should be done in brief.
   
   (ii) Dalhousie and the policy of annexation (1848-1856). Doctrine of Lapse - annexation of Awadh; other annexations. Dalhousie as administrator and social reformer - a critical appraisal. The Doctrine of Lapse should be done in detail; some important states annexed under its provisions. Other annexations need to be mentioned only. The annexation of Awadh should be done in more detail, particularly its results. A very brief look at Dalhousie's viceroyalty - a critical look at the policy of annexation and his administration.

4. Economic, Social and Cultural Impact of British Rule
   
   (i) Disruption of traditional economy: ruin of artisans and craftsmen; impact of British revenue policy; stagnation of agriculture; development of modern industries, poverty and famines. Colonial Forest Policy - impact on local communities. A general account of the disruptive impact of the British rule on the rural and craft economy. Revenue policy: the Permanent Settlement and Ryotwari Settlement should be done in some detail, emphasizing the reasons behind them and their results. The Forest Acts of 1860 and 1894 and their impact to be studied critically.
   
   (ii) Development of the means of transport and communication. Transportation: a brief look at the development of the railways - other means can simply be mentioned.
   
   (iii) Social. Cultural Policy: Impact of the new thought in Europe on Indian administrators; humanitarian measures - contribution of Lord William Bentinck and Rammohan Roy; spread of modern education. Critical look at British policy. The characteristics of the new thought (rationalism, liberalism, humanism, utilitarianism) to be very briefly explained as a background to change in British policy. A short account of the main humanitarian measures, emphasizing the role of reformers like Rammohan and Vidyasagar as well as British administrators. Modern
education: a very brief outline of the events which led to the famous MI UTE (sic) by Macaulay and the reasons for the change in British policy, Wood’s Despatch, etc. A critical analysis of the impact of British policy.

5. The Uprisings against British Rule

(i) Early rebellions - pre 1857 revolts and civil disturbances. A few examples may be given of the more important rebellions like the Santhal rebellion, the Wahabis and Farazis of which any one should be touched upon.

(ii) The uprising of 1857. The causes should be done in some detail, to explain the actions of the participants in the uprising and their social composition; outbreak at Meerut and at a few other places - Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur, Central India (Jhansi and Gwalior). There should be a detailed discussion on the nature of the uprising with reference to different approaches; short explanation of the causes of its failure. The effect on British policy should be explained: the Crown takeover and its implications: their efforts to placate the Indians and the changes in British policy should be briefly explained.

6. Social and Cultural Awakening during the 19th Century

(i) Brahmo Samaj, Prarthana Samaj, Arya Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission, Theosophical Society. The study of the Brahmo Samaj, the Arya Samaj and the Ramakrishna Mission should be done in some detail, emphasizing the contribution of the founders. Others to be covered briefly.


(iii) Reform movements among the Muslims (Syed Ahmad Khan), Sikhs. Syed Ahmad Khan and the Aligarh Movement, the Reform Movement among the Sikhs to be touched upon.

7. The Dawn and rise of Indian nationalism (1885-1905)

(i) Factors promoting the rise of Indian Nationalism. Each of the factors leading to the rise of nationalism should be discussed in some detail, particularly, the impact of British rule on different classes of Indian society, including the urban middle class. Events quickened the growth of nationalism should also be briefly done: the Viceroyalty of Lord Lytton and the Ilbert Bill Affair.

(ii) Beginning of political agitation. Forerunners of the Indian National Congress at the provincial level. Provincial associations: growth of political associations from 1830 onwards - examples from each Presidency, with special emphasis on the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha and the Indian Association (the Indian National Conference).

(iii) The foundation of the Indian National Congress: role of Hume and official attitude towards the Congress. Hume’s role should be studied critically, specially his motives for initiating the Congress and why the nationalists chose to follow his lead. A general look at the changing attitude of the British authorities from initial wariness/cautious support to open hostility.

(iv) The programme and achievements of the early Nationalists (Moderates). The major demands of the Congress can be grouped under different headings: constitutional, administrative, economic in the context of the critique of colonialism, etc. A very brief and general idea of the main points of the Act of 1892. There should be a brief look at the methods they used and why they used these methods of protest. Finally, a short, critical appraisal of their activities.

SECTION B

ASPECTS OF WORLD HISTORY

8. The First World War (1914-1918)

(i) Imperialism and Colonialism. Underlying causes of the War: aggressive nationalism; economic rivalry and neo-imperialism; formation of alliances; armament race. A brief introduction to theories of imperialism - Hobson, Lenin. Causes of War should be done in some detail, explaining how far each one of them aggravated international tensions.

(ii) Crisis leading to the outbreak of the War. An outline of the main events from 1908 to 1914: the Moroccan crisis, the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The main interests of the big powers in the Balkans should be briefly touched upon, particularly Russia and Austria-Hungary, as well as the growth of Balkan nationalism and the two Balkan Wars; the assassination at Sarajevo and how it developed into a major European War.

(iii) Course of the First World War: Consequences of trench warfare on the Western front with reference to the battles of Marne, Somme, Verdun. The defeat of Russia on the Eastern front and its effect on World War I. Reasons for American entry and contribution to Allied victory. Factors that contributed to the defeat of the Central Powers. General outline of the events which brought USA into the War and a brief account of its contribution. A brief explanation of the various causes of the defeat of the Central Powers.

9. The Search for International Order between 1919-1939

(i) Peace-making after the First World War: Treaty of Versailles; the terms and German objections; merits and demerits of the settlement. Only the terms of the Treaty of Versailles should be studied in detail; the other peace treaties should only be mentioned. Each of the German objections should be studied critically. A very brief look at the merits and demerits of the settlement in general.

(ii) The League of Nations: structure, weaknesses, successes, failures and reasons for the failure of the League. The structure of the main organs of the League and their functions should be briefly explained; brief examples of some of the successes in the 1920s. Manchuria and to be dealt with as examples.

10. The Great Depression
11. The development of Communism: USSR and China

(i) The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 - main events leading up to the Revolution; Lenin: problems facing the Bolsheviks; setting up Socialist State; Stalin: the totalitarian state; Collectivisation of agriculture; Five Year Plans; critical appraisal of Stalin. A very brief background: Russia on the eve of the Revolution (mention of the Revolution of 1905 and its results). Impact of the First World War on Russia. 1917, the year of Revolutions: a short account of the March Revolution and its results; explanation of why the Provisional Government fell from power leading up to the November Revolution. Lenin: the main decrees of the new government, the victory in the Civil War and the PEP: a brief account of each. Stalin: a very short explanation of his coming to power. The main motivations of his policy, the implementation and results of: the collectivisation of agriculture, the FYPs (only first two should be done) and the purges. A short, critical look at his contribution.

(ii) China: From the Chinese Republic of 1911 to the era of Mao Tse Tung. The Revolution of 1911; the early republic and period of warlordism; May Fourth Movement, KMT and the Communists; causes of Communist victory. Very brief background of China in the early 20th century; the events leading to the downfall of the monarchy; just a mention of Yuan Shi Kai and the period of warlordism; Shandong provisions of Treaty of Versailles and rise of Chinese Communist Party (CCP); role of Dr. Sun Yat Sen - his alliance with the Communists; the breakdown of the alliance under Chiang Kai Shek; outline of events of the KMT - Communist conflict, the Communists and the Long March to Yenan; the reasons for the truce against the Japanese. An outline of the post-war struggle and the victory of the Communists. The causes of Communist victory should be stated and briefly explained.

(iii) Establishment of the People's Republic in 1949; Mao Tse Tung; agrarian and industrial policy; political and economic developments; contribution of Mao. A short background of the problems facing Communists in 1949: in agriculture, the gradual process from land distribution to collective farms should be outlined; in industry, the Five Year Plan and Soviet help. The 100 Flowers Campaign should be covered in brief. The Great Leap Forward should be covered in more detail, particularly the development of commune and assessment of the GLF. Finally, a brief outline of the Cultural Revolution and its impact on China. Estimate of Mao should be short and to the point.

(iv) A brief comparison of the two Communist systems. A brief introduction to the theory of revolution, workers and peasants, strategy of revolution - programme/agenda for the revolution.