M.A. HISTORY
SECOND YEAR COURSES

(MAH)

Assignments
For July 2012 and January 2013 Sessions
(For M.A. History 2nd Year Courses)

MHI-03: Historiography
MHI-06: Evolution of Social Structures in India
        Through the Ages
MHI-08: History of Ecology and Environment: India
MPSE-003: Western Political Thought (From Plato to Marx)
MPSE-004: Social and Political Thought in Modern India

Faculty of History
School of Social Sciences
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110 068
M.A. History – 2\textsuperscript{nd} Year
Assignments – July 2012 and January 2013 Sessions

Dear Student,

You have to do one assignment in each course of 8 and 4 credits. The assignments are compulsory. The assignment will cover the whole course.

It is important that you write the answers to all the assignment questions in your own words. Your answers should be within the approximate range of the word-limit set for a particular question.

The assignments should be submitted to the Coordinator of your Study Centre. You must obtain a receipt from the Study Centre for the assignments submitted and retain it. If possible, keep a photocopy of the submitted assignment with you.

The Study Centre will have to return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre in turn will send the marks to the Student Evaluation Division at IGNOU, New Delhi. These will be entered in your grade card.

Submission of Assignments

You should note that the submission of assignments is compulsory before taking up Term-end Examination. It is therefore suggested that you do them within time. In M.A. second year you will have to do a total of 5 assignments. We have given you a lot of time to do the assignments but we advise you to do them one by one along with your study of the particular course and submit them so that you may get back the marks and comments of the Counsellor with evaluated assignment. With a proper planning you will be able to do them within the stipulated period. Please do not wait for the last date to submit all the assignments because it would be difficult to do all of them in one go.

Last Date of Submission of Assignment

\begin{tabular}{ll}
July 2012 Session Students & 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 2013 \\
January 2013 Session Students & 30\textsuperscript{th} September 2013 \\
Where to submit the assignments & The Coordinator of your Study Centre \\
\end{tabular}

Before attempting the assignments please read the detailed instructions provided in the Programme Guide sent to you separately
Now read the following guidelines carefully before answering the questions:

GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments have two types of questions:

1) Essay Type Questions which you have to answer in about 500 words each carry 20 marks each.
2) Short notes which you have to answer in about 250 words each carry 10 marks each.

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

a) **Planning**: Read the assignments carefully. Go through the units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then re-arrange these in a logical order.

b) **Organisation**: Be a little more selective and analytical before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. In an essay-type question, give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarize your response to the question.

Make sure that your answer:

- is logical and coherent;
- has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs;
- is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation;
- does not exceed the number of words indicated in your question.

c) **Presentation**: Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasize.

d) **Interpretation**: Interpretation is a constant process in history writing. It is already reflected in your planning and selection. Explanatory comments with phrases like may be, because, could be, etc., immediately introduce an element of interpretation in writing itself. Here you have to be careful that these comments can be supported by the material you have in the answer.
MHI-03 : HISTORIOGRAPHY
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
(TMA)

Course Code: MHI-03
Assignment Code: MHI-03/AST/TMA/2012-13
Total Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections ‘A’ and ‘B’. You have to attempt at least two questions form each section in about 500 words each. All questions carry equal marks.

Section-A

1. What is objectivity? Discuss the historiographical tradition which believed in the possibility of complete objectivity.

2. Write a note on the Greco-Roman traditions of history-writing.

3. Discuss the important features of Indo-Persian tradition of history-writing under the Mughal rule.

4. What do you understand by ‘microhistory’? Discuss the historians and their works related to this tradition of history-writing.

5. Who are considered to be the founders of the Annales School of historiography? Discuss their works.

Section-B

6. Discuss the features of feminist historiography in India.

7. Write a note on the basic constituents of communalist view of Indian history.

8. What do you understand by the term ‘History from Below’? Discuss with particular reference to Indian historiography.

9. Write a note on the post-War Marxist historiography in the West.

10. Write short notes in about 250 words each on any two of the following:

   a) Kalhana and the Rajtarangini
   b) Generalisation.
   c) D.D. Kosambi and Indian historiography
   d) Colonial perception of caste.

   10+10
Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections ‘A’ and ‘B’. You have to attempt at least two questions from each section in about 500 words each. All questions carry equal marks.

Section A

1. Comment briefly on the sources of writing of ancient Indian history. What role does interpretation play in these writings? 20

2. Discuss the Vedic literature as a source for reconstruction of the society in the Vedic period. 20

3. ‘While in chiefdom societies, kinship determined social and economic relations, in state societies on the other hand, extra-kin relations have to be worked out.’ Comment in the light of the Harappan social structures. 20

4. Is the concept of ‘Feudalism’ adequate to characterize the ‘early medieval’ society in India? Discuss. 20

5. What role do temples play in shaping the early medieval society? 20

Section B

6. Discuss B.D. Chattopadhyay’s analysis of the origins and formation of the Rajputs. 20

7. Comment on the views of different historians on the nature of village communities in India. 20

8. Do you agree with Nicholas Dirks that caste was an invention of the colonial state? Discuss. 20

9. Does the middle classes in the modern sense come into existence only in the colonial period? Discuss. 20

10. Were women only objects of social reform during the Indian Renaissance and the national movement? Discuss. 20
MHI-08: HISTORY OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT: INDIA
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
(TMA)

Course Code: MHI-08
Assignment Code: MHI-08/AST/TMA/2012-13
Total Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. The assignment is divided into two Sections ‘A’ and ‘B’. You have to attempt at least two questions form each section in about 500 words each. All questions carry equal marks.

Section A
1. The beginning of Agriculture changed the relationship between human societies and the nature in a significant manner – Do you agree with this view? 20
2. Examine the nature of Environmental Writings for the colonial Period in India. 20
3. What is the nature of evidence and the geographical spread of Hunting Gathering Communities? Discuss. 20
4. Write an essay on the importance of Neolithic Revolution? 20
5. Write short notes on any two of the following in 250 words each: 10+10
   a) Main forms of Vegetation in India
   b) Resource-use practices: Pre-agricultural
   c) Agro-pastoralism in Chalcolithic Cultures
   d) Historical Evolution of Metals in India

Section B
6. Describe the nature of Post-Harappan cultures in North India. 20
7. Describe the main features of the Indian view of Nature Conservation? 20
8. Bring out the significance of water as a Natural Resource. 20
9. Explain the reasons and the form of Chipko Movement 20
10. Write short notes on any two of the following in 250 words each: 10+10
    a) Islamic vision of Environment
    b) Colonial Environmental Agenda
    c) Inter-linking Rivers
    d) Bio-diversity Convention
MPSE-003: WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT (From Plato to Marx)
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
(TMA)

Course Code: MPSE-003
Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2012-13
Marks: 100

Answer any five questions in about 500 words each. Attempt at least two questions from each section. Each question carries 20 marks.

Section A

1. Discuss the relationship between political thought and political science.

2. Write an essay on Locke’s views on Social Contract and civil society.

3. Give an overview of Tocqueville’s views on democracy, revolution and the modern state.

4. What is Plato’s theory of forms or ideas? Elaborate.

5. Describe the main political ideas of St. Augustine.

Section B

Write a short note on the following in about 250 words each:

6. a) Machiavelli’s Doctrine of Aggrandisement
   b) Thomas Hobbes on civil and natural law

7. a) Rousseau’s Theory of General Will
   b) Edmund Burke on citizenship and democracy

8. a) Kant’s views on the human nature
   b) ‘The Panopticon’ (Bentham)

9. a) Mill on representative government
   b) Hegel’s dialectical method

10. a) Marx’s vision of communist society
    b) Marx’s theory of revolution
Answer any five questions in about 500 words each. Attempt at least two questions from each section. Each question carries 20 marks.

**Section A**

1. Write an essay on the interface of nationalism and colonial modernity.
2. Describe the trajectory of Muslim thought in colonial India.
3. Compare and contrast the Moderate and the Extremist factions of the Indian Nationalists.
4. Discuss either Swami Vivekananda’s or Sri Aurobindo’s views on Nationalism.
5. Examine the political ideas of MS Golwalkar.

**Section B**

Write short notes on the following in about 250 words each:

6. a) Political activities of Mohammad Iqbal  
    b) Jaipal Singh and Adivasi identity

7. a) Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha and the Sikh question  
    b) Gandhi’s views on the relationship between religion and politics

8. a) Nehru on Scientific Humanism  
    b) Nehru’s views on Socialism

9. a) Rabindranath Tagore on Bolshevism  
    b) Evolution of the Communist Movement in India

10. a) EMS Namboodiripad on national unity  
     b) Jayaprakash Narayan on Socialism