My Revision Deck

Term Examination — Answer Key

2026 – 2027

Grade: 8 **Subject:** History & Civics

Time: 2½ hours **Maximum Marks:** 80

Part I

1. **Select the correct answers to the questions from the given options. (Do not copy the questions, write the correct answer only).**

(i) How does the Supreme Court safeguard the Constitution? [1]

(a) By cancelling laws that violate the Constitution, but only when the President asks it

(b) By issuing writs to Parliament ordering it to amend the Constitution

(c) By cancelling laws or orders that violate the Constitution and issuing writs

(d) By cancelling laws made by the states, but never laws made by the centre

Explanation: *The Supreme Court is the guardian of the Constitution. It safeguards the Constitution in two ways: (i) it can cancel a law or an executive order if it is found to violate the Constitution; and (ii) it can issue writs for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights.*

(ii) Which of the following is a basic qualification required to become a member of the Lok Sabha? [1]

(a) The person must have held a government position for at least five years

(b) The person must have been a registered voter for at least ten years

(c) The person must have passed the Class 12 examination of any recognised board

(d) The person must be a citizen of India and be at least 25 years of age

Explanation: *To become a member of the Lok Sabha, a person must be a citizen of India, be at least 25 years of age, and be a registered voter. Citizenship is a fundamental qualification for membership of either House of Parliament.*

(iii) Which Viceroy passed the Vernacular Press Act, which curbed the liberty of the Indian press? [1]

(a) Lord Lytton

(b) Lord Ripon

(c) Lord Dalhousie

(d) Lord Curzon

Explanation: *Lord Lytton passed the Vernacular Press Act, which curbed the liberty of the Indian press and deprived the people of their basic right to freedom of speech and expression. It was one of his repressive policies, along with the Arms Act. Lord Ripon, who succeeded him, wanted to change some of these discriminatory policies.*

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(iv) Why do historical periods differ from country to country? [1]

(a) They depend on the size of the population of each region

(b) They depend on the stage of development of each region

(c) They depend on the climate and weather of each region

(d) They depend on the main language spoken in each region

Explanation: *Historical periods differ from country to country depending on the stage of development of that region. For example, the Modern Age began in the 15th century in Europe but in the mid-18th century in India.*

(v) What did the sepoys feel about the senior British officers in the Company's army? [1]

(a) They were brilliant strategists who deserved respect from the sepoys

(b) They lived in poor lodgings worse than even the Indian sepoy soldiers

(c) They were paid much less than the Indian sepoys serving in the army

(d) Many were old and incompetent, unable to command respect of soldiers

Explanation: *Many of the senior British officers were old and incompetent men who could not command the respect of the Indian soldiers. This added to the grievances of the sepoys.*

(vi) From which region did the Turanis, one of the four noble groups in the Mughal court, originate? [1]

(a) Persia

(b) The Deccan

(c) Hindustan

(d) Transoxiana

Explanation: *The Turanis came from Transoxiana, the old name used for the portion of Central Asia corresponding with present-day Uzbekistan, and parts of Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.*

(vii) In 1919, shops in many towns of Punjab stayed shut for a whole day to protest against a new law that let the government jail people without trial. What is this kind of protest called, and which law was it against? [1]

(a) A hartal, against the salt law

(b) A hartal, against the Rowlatt Act

(c) A boycott, against the Rowlatt Act

(d) A satyagraha, against the planters

Explanation: *A hartal means to go on strike in protest of something. The Rowlatt Act of 1919 empowered the government to arrest and imprison people without any warrant or trial, and hartals were held against it; in some places, particularly in Punjab, they led to violence. The salt law was broken only in 1930.*

(viii) How many schools for girls did Vidyasagar open as inspector of schools? [1]

(a) 5

(b) 35

(c) 15

(d) 100

Explanation: *As inspector of schools, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar opened 35 schools for girls. This was a remarkable achievement at a time when there was a great deal of prejudice against the education of women.*

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(ix) Observe the image. Which of the given options best identifies the person shown? [1]



Source: Bassano | Wikimedia Commons | Public Domain

(a) Sarojini Naidu
(b) Indira Gandhi
(c) Vijayalakshmi Pandit
(d) Annie Besant

Explanation: *Vijayalakshmi Pandit, sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, was the first woman to hold a cabinet position in India and the first woman President of the United Nations General Assembly.*

(x) Observe the image. Which of the given options best explains why this kind of labour was used on these plantations? [1]



Source: MyRevisionDeck | Internal | Proprietary

(a) Slaves were the only available source of labour and were seen as a necessity
(b) The northern industries had no use for slaves and sent them to the South
(c) The southern states had passed laws banning free workers from plantation work
(d) The plantation owners preferred slaves because they were skilled cotton weavers

Explanation: *As cotton plantations expanded in the southern states, the demand for labour grew. The only available source of labour in those days was slaves brought in from Africa, and slaves who provided cheap labour were considered a 'necessity' in the predominantly agricultural southern states.*

(xi) Observe the court in session shown in the illustration. Which of the given options best describes its role in the Indian judicial system? [1]



Source: MyRevisionDeck | Internal | Proprietary

(a) It is a village-level court trying petty civil and criminal cases

(b) It is a village-level court trying only land inheritance cases

(c) It is a village-level court hearing final appeals from the District Courts

(d) It is a village-level court that can impose fines of up to one lakh rupees

Explanation: *In the Panchayati system at the village level, there are small law courts called Nyaya Panchayats. They try petty civil and criminal cases, such as trespassing, personal disputes, minor thefts, etc. They can impose fines up to rupees 100 only. Appeals can be made to higher courts against decisions taken in the Nyaya Panchayats.*

(xii) Assertion (A): The Sikhs were able to bring Punjab and Jammu under their control in the 18th century. [1]
Reason (R): The invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali had weakened Mughal control in Punjab.

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A

(c) A is true but R is false

(d) A is false but R is true

Explanation: *The Sikhs did bring Punjab and Jammu under their control (A is true). The reason correctly explains how — the invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali weakened Mughal control in Punjab, and the Sikhs took advantage of this situation to move in.*

(xiii) Assertion (A): Robert Clive reconquered Calcutta in January 1757. [1]
Reason (R): Robert Clive was the British ambassador to the court of Jahangir.

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A

(c) A is true but R is false

(d) A is false but R is true

Explanation: *Robert Clive did reconquer Calcutta by January 1757 (A is true). However, the British ambassador to the court of Jahangir was Sir Thomas Roe, not Robert Clive (R is false). Clive was a military commander who was the hero of Arcot.*

(xiv) Assertion (A): The Vice-President is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. [1]
Reason (R): A Vice-President should be eligible for membership of the Rajya Sabha.

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true but R is false
(d) A is false but R is true

Explanation: *Both A and R are true. The Vice-President is indeed the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, and a Vice-President should indeed be eligible for membership of the Rajya Sabha. However, R describes a qualification to become Vice-President; it does not explain why the Vice-President is the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha — those are separate constitutional provisions.*

(xv) According to the principles of the UN, how must all disputes be settled? [1]

(a) By the two nations alone, with no outside body allowed to help
(b) By the votes of the five permanent members
(c) By a vote of the whole General Assembly
(d) By peaceful means, with no use of force

Explanation: *One of the principles every member nation must abide by is that all disputes must be settled peacefully and no force should be used.*

(xvi) Under the Ryotwari System, who was recognised as the owner of the land? [1]

(a) The zamindar
(b) The British Resident
(c) The cultivator
(d) The talukdar

Explanation: *Under the Ryotwari System, the cultivator (ryot) was recognised as the owner of his land as long as he paid the land revenue directly to the revenue officials.*

2. (i) Discuss the judicial powers of the President. [2]

Model answer: Under judicial powers, the President has the power to grant pardon and reduce or suspend the sentence of a person who has been found guilty. They can also pardon a death sentence. The President is not answerable to any court of law for their actions, except if they are impeached by the Parliament.

(ii) Explain the veto power of the permanent members of the Security Council. What happens when the Security Council cannot take any action because of the veto? [2]

Model answer: Decisions in the Security Council are taken by a majority vote of at least nine members, including all the five permanent members. A negative vote by any one of the permanent members would lead to a cancellation of the resolution. This right to prevent action being taken is known as the right to veto. This means that any resolution becomes ineffective even if one of the permanent members votes against it. When no action can be taken by the Security Council because of the veto, the General Assembly can deal with the crisis. It can take whatever action may seem appropriate to restore and maintain world peace.

(iii) What is colonialism and how is it linked to the Industrial Revolution? [2]

Model answer: Colonialism is the policy by which a powerful nation acquires control over another country, either partly or wholly, and the conquered country becomes its colony. The Industrial Revolution sparked off a mad scramble for colonies because industrial development depended on raw materials and ready markets. Colonies could be exploited to serve as constant sources of raw materials, captive markets for finished goods and fields for investment of surplus capital.

(iv) What was the importance of the Mountbatten Plan? [2]
Model answer: Lord Mountbatten, the new Viceroy, arrived in India to prepare a plan for the transfer of power. Mountbatten announced his plan for the division of British India into India and Pakistan and the transfer of power to the two dominions. The North-West Frontier Province, Sind, Balochistan, West Punjab and East Bengal were separated from the rest of India to form Pakistan. On the basis of the Mountbatten Plan, the British Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act in July 1947.

(v) A Sikh soldier writes in 1846: "Since our Maharaja died, our chiefs have been fighting one another for power, and now the British are marching against us." Name the Maharaja, and explain how the situation he describes ended by 1849. [2]
Model answer: The Maharaja was Ranjit Singh, under whose leadership the Sikh kingdom had become very powerful and independent. After his death the kingdom was torn by internal strife and a struggle for power, and the British used this opportunity to strike. They fought two Anglo-Sikh Wars (1845–49). The Sikhs fought fiercely to keep their freedom but suffered a decisive loss, and Lord Dalhousie annexed Punjab in 1849.

(vi) Name the four outstanding leaders of the Assertive Nationalist phase. [2]
Model answer: The Assertive Nationalist phase was led by outstanding men like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal and Aurobindo Ghosh.

(vii) The American War of Independence was a struggle for independence from British rule.

How were the American colonies governed, and why did the colonists feel resentful of British rule? [2]
Model answer: Each colony had its own Assembly elected by the people of the colony, but the Governor of the colony was appointed by the British government. The Governor was not answerable to the Assembly. He governed in the interest of Great Britain, the mother country, not the colonists. This caused great resentment among the American settlers, who worked very hard but could not enjoy the fruits of their labour. The British government also collected heavy taxes from them and imposed many restrictions on their business and commerce.

Part II Section A

(Attempt all questions from this Section.)

3. UNICEF is one of the bodies through which the United Nations carries out its work.

(i) Describe the main activities of UNICEF for children's welfare. [3]
Model answer: UNICEF tries to solve the problem of exploitation of children and child labour. It provides assistance to nations for running childcare centres. It works for the welfare of children in developing countries in fields like education, health and sanitation, nutrition, water, environment, women's welfare and social justice. It also provides assistance to young mothers and medicines to newborn babies and mothers.

(ii) How is UNICEF funded, and what major honour has it received? [3]
Model answer: A large proportion of UNICEF's funds comes from the public through the sale of greeting cards, proceeds from benefit events like concerts and football matches, grants from organizations and institutions, and collections by schoolchildren. UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965.

(iii) Trace the establishment of UNICEF from 1946 onwards and explain its long-term goals. [4]

Model answer: UNICEF was created by the UN in 1946 as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. It was set up to provide emergency aid to children and their mothers in countries devastated by the Second World War. In 1953 the words 'international' and 'emergency' were dropped from its name and it became the United Nations Children's Fund, with its headquarters in New York. Its long-term goals are to focus on improving the quality of life of children by creating awareness about children's health and education, and to focus on the realization for every child of the opportunity to enjoy the basic rights and privileges.

4. India has a parliamentary form of government, both at the centre as well as in the states.

(i) Explain the main features of India's parliamentary form of government. [3]

Model answer: In India's parliamentary form of government, the executive is directly responsible to the legislature. The President of India is the Head of State but acts as a nominal head who carries out functions on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, and under normal circumstances cannot act independently. The Prime Minister is the most important and powerful political leader — the real chief executive with actual governing power. Parliament, composed of elected representatives, is the supreme law-making body. The Indian people enjoy supreme power through their elected representatives in Parliament.

(ii) How do the three branches of government work together in India's constitutional system? [3]

Model answer: The powers and functions of the Indian government are divided among three branches: the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. The legislature, which is the Parliament, makes the laws of the country. The executive, which is the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister, enforces the laws made by the legislature. The judiciary defines and interprets the laws of the land and tries to prevent any person from violating the laws of the Constitution. These powers and functions are distributed among the three branches in a manner that makes them equally balanced.

(iii) (a) How often must Parliament meet? What is the quorum of Parliament, and what percentage of its members must be present to meet it? [2]

Model answer: Parliament meets at least twice a year. The quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present to conduct a meeting. For a session of Parliament to take place, at least 10 per cent of the total membership has to be present.

(b) Why is the Union Parliament described as a bicameral legislature, and what is the President's place in it? [2]

Model answer: The Union Parliament is described as bicameral because it consists of two Houses — the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The President of India is also an integral part of the Parliament.

Part II Section B

(Attempt all questions from this Section.)

5. The Maratha empire passed through several phases of rise and decline in the 18th century.

(i) Describe the rise of the Peshwa power in the Maratha kingdom. [3]

Model answer: After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, a war of succession broke out among the Marathas. Shahu, the grandson of Shivaji, captured the Maratha throne with the help of Balaji Vishwanath, who was rewarded with the post of Peshwa in 1713. Shahu, ease-loving and weak, was reduced to the position of ceremonial head while real power was exercised by the Peshwa. This was the beginning of the second phase of Maratha history under Peshwa dominance from 1713 to 1818.

Additional points a student may include: Balaji Vishwanath also laid the foundations of the hereditary, dynastic rule of the Peshwas.

(ii) Describe the role of the prominent Maratha families in the Maratha confederacy. [3]

Model answer: A major development under the Peshwas was the rise of the prominent Maratha families — the Sindhia, the Bhonsle, the Holkar and the Gaekwad. The Peshwas divided the erstwhile Mughal provinces into 'spheres of influence' and placed them under the chiefs of these Maratha families. These chiefs enjoyed maximum autonomy within their respective regions. The Peshwa was the official head of this loose union of Maratha chiefs known as the Maratha confederacy.

(iii) Describe the events leading to the Third Battle of Panipat and its aftermath for the Marathas and India. [4]

Model answer: Baji Rao I was succeeded by his 18-year-old son Balaji Baji Rao. When Shahu died, the Peshwa became the official head of the Maratha empire and Poona became the capital. Balaji Baji Rao continued the policy of expansion. During his reign, the Maratha empire reached the heights of its power and glory. In the north, the Marathas became the power behind the Mughal throne. The conquest of Punjab brought them in direct conflict with the Afghan ruler, Ahmad Shah Abdali. A major struggle for mastery over north India began. The Maratha army was decisively defeated by Ahmad Shah Abdali at the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761. The Maratha ambition of replacing the Mughal empire lay scattered on the plains of Panipat. The Afghans, too, failed to capitalize on their victory. The conditions were ideal for the entry of another powerful contender for supremacy — the English East India Company.

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6. Study the image and answer the questions that follow.



Source: Historica.Arican1 | Wikimedia Commons

(i) Describe what happened to the Mughal empire's territory during the first half of the 18th century and its historical significance. [3]

Model answer: During the first half of the 18th century, the great Mughal empire decayed and disintegrated. The Mughal emperors lost their power and glory. Their vast empire finally shrank to a few square miles around Delhi. The decline of the Mughal empire marked the transition from the Medieval to the Modern Period in India. The Modern Period in India is generally regarded as having begun in the mid-18th century.

(ii) Describe the political and military weaknesses of the later Mughals that led to the decline of the vast empire shown on the map. [3]

Model answer: Aurangzeb's successors were pleasure-loving, weak and inefficient. They became puppets in the hands of powerful, ambitious nobles who controlled the administration. The provincial governors took advantage of the weak government at the centre and set up independent kingdoms in the Mughal provinces, which led to the break-up of the empire. The Mughal army was also in decline, as the mansabdars did not maintain their quota of troops and adopted corrupt methods. The Mughal rulers did not have a navy, their equipment and techniques of warfare were obsolete and ineffective, and nothing was done to reform, modernize and strengthen the army.

(iii) Describe how the British took advantage of the Mughal decline to establish their rule over India. [4]

Model answer: The decline of the Mughal empire in the first half of the 18th century was followed by the English East India Company's territorial conquests and the beginning of the political domination of India in the middle of the 18th century. The decline led to intense rivalry among various ambitious powers to fill the political vacuum. All hopes of the revival of the Mughal empire ended when the British decided to challenge the authority of the Mughals. They took full advantage of the empire's weaknesses, including the weaknesses of Aurangzeb's successors, and pursued their plan of establishing control over India. The struggle to fill the political vacuum ended with the victory of the British. They went on to rule India for nearly 200 years. Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last of the Mughals, ruled from 1837 during British colonial expansion in India and faced a diminishing empire amid British ascendancy. He assumed leadership of the rebels in the Revolt of 1857 against the British. He was defeated and exiled to Rangoon, where he died in 1862. The Mughal empire came to an inglorious end after lasting over 3 centuries.

7. The following questions relate to Bengal from Mir Qasim's accession as nawab in 1760 to the Treaty of Allahabad in 1765.

(i) Describe the reforms Mir Qasim introduced and his conflict with the British leading to the 1763 war. [3]

Model answer: Mir Qasim was a competent ruler determined to free himself from foreign control. To strengthen his position, he improved Bengal's financial position and raised a modern army trained by the Europeans. The Company employees misused trade privileges by selling duty-free permits to Indian merchants, which deprived the nawab of large revenues. To put an end to these corrupt practices, Mir Qasim abolished all duties on internal trade. The British were furious and refused to accept equal status with Indian merchants. In 1763, war broke out between Mir Qasim and the British.

(ii) Describe the alliance of three powers and the Battle of Buxar. [3]

Model answer: Mir Qasim was defeated in 1763 and Mir Jafar was reinstated. Mir Qasim was determined to recover his throne. He escaped to Awadh and formed an alliance with Shuja-ud-Daulah, the nawab of Awadh, and the Mughal emperor, Shah Alam II. The combined might of the three was supported by artillery experts of the French East India Company. Despite this, the English East India Company's disciplined infantry and superior strategy secured a decisive victory at Buxar in 1764.

(iii) (a) What was the importance of the Battle of Buxar? [2]

Model answer: The victory of the British in the Battle of Buxar firmly established them as masters of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. It gave them political influence and control over Awadh and the Mughal emperor. It laid the foundation of British rule in India.

(b) What were the main terms of the Treaty of Allahabad regarding Awadh? [2]

Model answer: Awadh was returned to Shuja-ud-Daulah but the two districts of Kora and Allahabad were taken away from the nawab. The nawab of Awadh had to pay a war indemnity of 50 lakh rupees to the Company. The British agreed to defend the nawab of Awadh against his enemies, with the nawab paying for the cost of British troops. Awadh became a buffer state between the British possessions in Bengal and the Marathas.

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