

ICSE Board
Class IX History & Civics
Sample Paper – 1 Solution

Answer 1

- a) Our Constitution is also referred to as the Fundamental Law of the Land because it is superior to the ordinary laws of the State.
- b) India attained the status of Sovereign State on the 15th August 1947, after it achieved its independence.
- c) The government in which all the powers are vested in one single central government is known as a unitary form of government.
- d) 26th January is referred to as the Date of Commencement of the New Constitution.
- e) Fundamental Rights are those basic human rights guaranteed to all Indian citizens. They give legal sanction to civil liberties such that all Indians live their life in peace and harmony.
- f) The Directive Principles of the State Policy are laid down in Part IV of the Indian Constitution.
- g) The Supreme Court and High Courts are competent to issue writs.
- h) Charter is defined as a written constitution or a description of an organisation's functions.
- i) The fundamental right that was deleted from the list was the 'Right to Property'.
- j) An all India party is recognized in more than four states of the country while a regional party has its presence only in one or two states.

Answer 2

- a) The Indus Valley civilisation is also known as the Harappan civilisation because the first site of the archaeological remains of the Indus Valley civilisation was found at the modern site of Harappa, West Punjab, Pakistan.
- b) The term 'sama' means 'Sweet Song' or 'the melody'. In this Veda, there are 1875 hymns, some of which are borrowed from the Rig Veda. These hymns were meant to be sung at the time of the sacrifice by the priests.
- c) Ashoka sent preachers of Buddhism to Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Egypt and Syria.
- d) The inscriptions of the Cholas are in the form of Copper-plate grants, stone inscriptions and inscriptions inscribed on the walls and pillars of temples. These three types of inscriptions provide us with information about the reign of the Cholas in South India.
- e) The first printing press was set up in Germany in the year 1456 by Johannes Gutenberg.

- f) The Industrial Revolution is the name given to a series of changes that brought about a transition from production by hand to production by machine, from small scale production to large scale production, from hand-made goods to machine-made goods.
- g) The Diwan or the Diwan-i-Ala was the Wazir who headed the revenue department. He was responsible for all income and expenditure. The Mir Bakshi was the head of the military department who also helmed the intelligence and information agencies of the empire.
- h) The five successive ruling dynasties of the Delhi sultanate were – the Mamluk dynasty (slave dynasty), Khilji dynasty, Tughlaq dynasty, Sayyid dynasty and lastly the Lodhi dynasty.
- i) The oldest existing book of Tamil grammar is 'Tolkappiyam'. It was written by Tolkappiar.
- j) The subjects of study at Nalanda University included all the four Vedas, logic, grammar, medicine, samkya, yoga, nyaya and the Buddhist works of the different schools.

Answer 3

- a) The Panchayat Samiti consists of the following members:
 - i. Sarpanchs of all the Panchayats concerned.
 - ii. Elected members of the Legislative Assembly of the State from the area.
 - iii. Members of Parliament belonging to the area.
 - iv. Chairman of the Town Area Committee.
 - v. Block Development Officers of the block or the area served by them.
 - vi. Co-opted members representing women, Scheduled Castes and Tribes.
 - vii. Representatives of Cooperative Societies.
- b) The main function of Panchayati Samiti is to promote development programmes undertaken by the area. The other functions are:
 - i. To supervise and coordinate the working of Gram Panchayats.
 - ii. To conduct higher education for a group of villages or at a block level.
 - iii. To provide hospital and health services with various facilities at the community block level.
 - iv. To pay special attention to the development of agriculture through undertaking minor irrigation schemes, distribution of quality seeds and fertilisers.
 - v. To provide drinking water plans, and undertake other development works like those of roads and bridges.
 - vi. To act as a link between the Gram Panchayat and Zila Parishad.

- c)** The main sources of income of the Panchayat Samiti include:
- Grants provided by the State Government.
 - Income accrued from taxes levied by the Samiti.
 - A fixed percentage of land revenue that is given to the Panchayat Samiti.

Answer 4

- a)** The Indian Constitution states that there shall be one “general electoral roll” for every territorial Constituency of the Lok Sabha and State Assembly. Therefore, to hold elections without minimal difficulty, it is very important to keep the electoral rolls up to date. An electoral roll is a list of all the voters containing the names, father’s name, age, and sex of the voter.

The Election Commission prepares, maintains and periodically updates the electoral roll. It creates a list identifying the eligible voters known as voters list. It also makes sure that no person is deprived of inclusion in an electoral roll on the grounds of religion, caste or creed.

To ensure free and fair elections, the Commission issues a Photo Identity Card to the people to prove their validity as a voter.

- b)** There are various State and National parties in India. The Election Commission under Section 29 A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for the registration of the political parties. It also grants recognition for election purposes. A party registered with the Election Commission can be termed as a State or a National Party once it fulfils its criteria based on its poll performance.
- c)** Under the Indian Constitution, the Government has the right to decide when elections are to be held. However, the exact date of holding an election rests with the Election Commission. It also has the right to hold or not to hold an election in a particular period. Moreover, the Commission to ensure a free and fair election can refuse to hold an election at a particular duration even if the political parties insist on having elections at that particular time.

Answer 5

- a) The term Liberty is inspired by the American and French revolutions which sought to restore the dignity of human lives. It means that a person has the right to speak or write freely on any subject, provided the speaker abides by the restrictions imposed on him/her. This right is an absolute necessity as it helps in self-fulfilment, individual development and effective working of a democratic government.
- b) As our society is divided into various classes, castes, religions and languages, the Constitution placed special importance on Fraternity. This term implies friendship among a group of people that share common interests. These common interests have been made more explicit by adding the words 'the unity and integrity of the Nation'. At the same time, no individual is allowed to threaten the unity of the Nation. As India is a multilingual nation, it is very important to preserve the unity and integrity of the Nation through a spirit of brotherhood among all its citizens, irrespective of its caste, creed, language or religion.
- c) The term Equality means that all people are born equal and should be provided with equal opportunities in all walks of life. The Constitution prohibits discrimination among citizens by the State on the ground of race, religion, caste, sex or place of birth, thereby granting not only political equality but also economic and social equality.

Answer 6

- a) The Vedic texts may be divided into two broad chronological groups:
 - i. The Early Vedic texts (1500-1000 BC), when most of the hymns of the Rig Veda were composed.
 - ii. The Later Vedic texts (1000-500 BC) to which belong the remaining Vedas and their branches (Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads, etc.)
- a) The literature of the Vedic period is divided into two distinct parts. They are known by the names 'Shruti' and 'Smriti'. According to Vedic mythological lore, it is widely believed what we call Shruti was revealed to the sages by God. And subsequently they passed on that knowledge orally from one generation to another generation. The Smriti literature, on the other hand, was composed by the Rishis.
- b) The Rig Veda is the oldest religious text in the world and is, therefore, known as the 'first testament of mankind'. It contains 1028 hymns divided into 10 mandalas. It is said to have been composed during the early Vedic period. The hymns are dedicated by the sages to the Gods. They were passed on orally from teachers to their disciples. The Rig Vedic hymns are the authentic sources of knowledge of the life of the people of that time. Much of the Indian philosophy is based on this Veda. It also contains the famous 'Gayatri mantra'. Although religious in nature, the Vedas are a valuable source of information on various subjects and issues.

Answer 7

- a) The rivalry between the Church and the royalty manifested itself in the politics of France and England. The French monarch, Philip IV had forced Pop Clement V to leave his Rome headquarters in 1309 and shift to Avignon in France. This was a result of the Pope's interference in the political affairs of the Crown. In England, King Henry VIII showed scant regard for the Pope. He went so far as to take over Church lands and pass an Act in 1536 for the dissolution of monasteries.
- c) John Wycliffe, an English priest and Oxford professor, severely criticised the worldliness of the Church and many of its questionable practices. He proclaimed that the Holy Bible was the sole guide to salvation and the clergy should not be taken for its word blindly. As a result of this, the Church took offense and ordered his expulsion from the Oxford university.
- d) Before the Reformation, there had been protests against the power of the Church and their abuses. However, these protests had been dealt with a heavy hand, and the early reformists had failed to bring about much change. The challenge was then taken up by Martin Luther, a German priest. He raised a strong voice against the power abuse by the Church and the Pope. Many soon followed in his footsteps and supported him in his endeavour. This proved to be the immediate cause of the Reformation.

Answer 8

- a) The empire of the Cholas was divided into mandalams or provinces. These were further divided into sub units known as the valanadu or nadu. Princes of the royal family were appointed as governors of the provinces in order to negate the possibility of rebellions.
- b) The Chola king Rajaraja I is known to have campaigned in many directions and won many territories for his kingdom. He attacked the lands of the Pandyas and the Cheras as well as some parts of Mysore. He also took his troops north to the Deccan and in the region of the Vengi (modern Andhra Pradesh). He is known to have conquered some territories of Mysore, Travancore and Coorg.
Acutely aware of the importance of controlling the sea cost of the peninsula, Rajaraja I also took out a naval expedition and attacked Sri Lanka and the Maldives islands. However, he was not very successful in this endeavour. Later on, he annexed the north-west part of the Ganga. Under his rule, the Chola kingdom is said to have reached the zenith of power in South India.

- c) The Chola kingdom had been weakened by the death of Rajadhiraj Chola in the famous battle of Koppam against the Chalukyas in AD 1052. The decay started by his death was accelerated by reassertion of the power of the Pandyas, Cheras and the Hoysalas. Ultimately, the Chola kingdom was decimated completely when Malik Kafur, a general of Alauddin Khilji, invaded the south.

Answer 9

- a) A stupa is a semi-spherical solid dome-like structure made of unburnt bricks and stones. The Buddhist stupa has special significance in the sense that it represents the spiritual body of Buddha, containing his relics such as hair, teeth or bones. A casket containing these relics is placed at the base of the dome.
- b) The reign of Emperor Ashoka constitutes one of the brightest epochs in the history of India. Ashoka devoted his life to human welfare after the traumatic experience of the Kalinga war. He considered his subjects as his children. He built many marvels in art and architecture, some of which have stood the test of time. Also, the highest standard and progress in art, literature, culture and civilisation were during Ashoka's reign.
- c) The Sanchi stupa was built around the 3rd century BC by Ashoka at Sanchi, about 60 km from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. During the Sunga period, the wooden railings were replaced by stone railings. There are four gateways in four directions. They have carved panels depicting events from the life of Buddha and some tales from the Jataka stories. Buddha is represented by symbols like the peepal tree, the lotus or a wheel. The pillars are surmounted by capitals which contain sculptures of lions.

Answer 10

- a) The eight anthologies comprising the Ettuttogai constitute a large body of poetic literature, comprising 2,282 poems ascribed to more than 200 authors. Besides the anthologies, there are ten long poems or ten idylls (Pattuppattu). The poems in the anthologies and the Pattuppattu are divided into two main groups – the Aham and the Puram. The Aham category of poems idealise love and aspects related to it. The Puram category is diametrically different and deals with militarism and the concept of hero worship.
- b) 'Tolkappiyam' is known to be the earliest surviving Tamil literary work. It is supposed to have been written by Tolkappiar, one of the 12 disciples of the saint Agastya. The book stands testimony to the development of Tamil as a language. It is not merely a grammar textbook but includes classification of habitats, animals, plants and human beings. It also discusses human emotions and interactions. Tolkappiyam is divided into three chapters: orthography, atymology and subject matter (Porul). While the first two chapters help codify Tamil language, the last part refers to the people and their behavior. The grammar helps to convey the literary message on human behavior.
- c) Silappadikaram or 'The Jewelled Anklet' is considered to be the earliest and greatest of the epics of the Sangam Age. It is regarded as one of the great achievements of Tamil genius since it is a poetic rendition with intricate details of Tamil culture; its varied religions; its town plans and city types; the mingling of Greek, Arab, and Tamil peoples; and the arts of dance and music.