

THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN
Three Year Degree Course in History (Honours)
Syllabus (1 + 1 + 1 Year Pattern)
To be effective from the academic session-2005-2006

PART-I

- Paper- I** History of India with special reference to Bengal
(from earliest times to 1206 A.D.)
- Paper-II** History of India with special reference to Bengal (1206-1757 A.D.)

PART-II

- Paper-III** Greek History and Civilization (510 BC.-356 BC.) or History of Medieval Europe (800-1250 A.D.)
- Paper-IV** Transformation of Europe (15th - 17th centuries)

PART-III

- Paper-V** History of India with special reference to Bengal (1757-1964 A.D.)
- Paper-VI** History of Europe (1789-1945 A.D.)
- Paper-VII** The Making of the Contemporary World.
- Paper-VIII** History of East Asia since 1839.

Each paper carries 100 marks and ideally should be covered in 60 lectures of one hour each. Of the eight papers, Paper I & II should be studied in Part I, Papers III & IV in Part II and Papers V to VIII in Part III.

Part-I
PAPER-I

HISTORY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BENGAL
(FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO 1206 A.D.)

- A. Politics and Administration
1. The Harappan civilization – origin, antiquity, extent, general features, downfall.
 2. The Aryans in different directions of India.
 3. Magadhah imperialism – the early phase –the Mauryas –Chandra Gupta-Ashoka - Maurya administration, downfall

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4. Foreigners in India- Greeks, Sakas, Pallavas (in brief)- Kushanas – Kadphises group and Kanishka Group - Kanishka-extent of empire and political exploits.
5. Satavahanas in the Deccan – early kings – Gautamiputra Satakarni – Saka-Satavahana Struggle in the 1st century A.D.
6. Gupta imperialism- early history-Samudragupta – Chandragupta II – Gupta history between Kumaragupta I and Budhagupta – Gupta administration – downfall.
7. Harshavardhana – career and achievements.
8. Bengal-Bengal under the Guptas- Sasanka – the Pala Dynasty (Dharmapala, Devapala, Mahipala I and Rampala)-the Sena dynasty (Vijaysena and Lakshmansena) – downfall.
9. South India – Pallavas, Western Chalukyas and Cholas with special reference to local self – government.

B. Society

1. Social life of the Aryans in the Vedic times—emergence of the caste system (Varnabheda)—position of women.
2. Mauryan society as revealed in the Arthasastra, the Indika and the Asokan Edicts.
3. Society under the Satavahanas—Strengthening of the caste system.
4. Growth of social patterns upto the Gupta period—the evidence of the Manu Samhita and other Dharmasastras and Smriti texts.
5. Slavery in ancient India—untouchability and caste rigidity.
6. Indian society in transition—advent of the foreigners—caste divisions and sub-divisions (mixed castes).
7. Changes in the social layers during the early medieval period.

C. Economy

1. Indian economy from the time of the Aryans to the 3rd century B. C.—from animal rearing to agriculture, trade, industry, trade-routes, coinage.
2. Mauryan economy as revealed in the Arthasastra, the Indika and contemporary writings.
3. Economy under the Satavahanas—Indo-Roman trade—Inland and maritime trade with china and other foreign countries.

4. Role of economic factors in political history as exemplified by the history of the Kushanas.
5. Gupta economy—Land system, Revenue system, Agriculture, Industry, Trade and Commerce—Corporate economic life (guild)—commencement of donations of land—rise of feudal economy—growth, climax and decline of feudalism upto 12th/13th century A. D.
6. The Chola maritime trade.

D. Art and Culture, Religion and Literature.

1. Maurya and Sunga Art.
2. Gandhara Art and the emergence of the Buddha image—Art in Mathura, Vengi (including other important centres like Amaravati and Nagarjunakunda).
3. Rise of Buddhist architecture—Stupa, Chaitya, Sangharama, Vihara.
4. Gupta Art—Gupta sculpture—Temple architecture in the Gupta period—Cave paintings in Ajanta and Ellora.
5. Art and architecture of Pallavas—the Chola Art.
6. Religious faith of the Indus people and the Aryans.
7. Protestant religions—Buddhism and Jainism—Asokan Dhamma—Hinayana—Mahayana split.
8. Revival of Brahmanism in the Gupta period—Vaisnavism, Saivism, Saktism etc.—Buddhism and Jainism in the Gupta period—Buddhism in the Pala Age.
9. The vedic-literature—occasional actions—Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka, Upanisad and Sutra (Vedanga).
10. The Epic—Ramayana and Mahabharata—Manimekalai and Sillappadikaram—the Sangam Literature.
11. Sanskrit literature in the Gupta period—Kalidasa.
12. Major historical biographies (Rajavrittis) in the early medieval period—Harsacharita of Banabhatta, Gaudavaho of Vakpatiraja, Vikramankadevacharita of Bilhana, Ramcharita of Sandhyakaranandi, Prithviraja Vijaya Kavya of Jayanaka—Regional chronicle—Rajtarangini of Kalhana.
13. The theory of the Gupta Golden Age—the recent debate.

14. Development of scientific knowledge with reference to Astronomy, Mathematics and Medicine.

First Reading

1. B. and R. Allchin—*The Rise of Civilisation in India and Pakistan*, Cambridge, 1982.
2. A. L. Basham—*A Cultural History of India*, OUP, 1988.
3. Ranabir Chakravarti (ed.)—*Trade in Early India*, OUP, 2001.
4. D. N. Jha—*Ancient India—An Introductory Outline*, Delhi, 1977.
5. D. D. Kosambi—*An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*, Mumbai, 1985.
6. A. K. Majumdar—*Concise History of Ancient India*, Vol. I (1977), II (1980) and III (1983), Delhi.
7. R. C. Majumdar—*History of Ancient Bengal*, Calcutta, 1971.
8. নীহাররঞ্জন রায়—*বঙ্গালীর ইতিহাস, আদিপর্ব*, দেজ পাবলিশিং, কোলকাতা, ১৯৯৩।
9. H. C. Raychaudhuri—*Political History of Ancient India with a commentary by B. N. Mukherjee*, New Delhi, 1996.
10. K. A. N. Shastri—*A History of South India from Pre-historic times to the fall of Vijaynagar*, 4th edition, Madras, 1976.
11. R. S. Sharma—*Early Medieval Indian Society—A Study in Feudalisation*, Orient Longman, 2001.
12. Romila Thapar—*A History of India*, Vol. I, Harmondsworth, 1968, several reprints.
13. Romila Thapar (ed.)—*Recent Perspectives in Early Indian History*, Mumbai, 1995.

Further Reading

1. D. C. Ahir—*Asoka the Great*, Delhi, 1995.
2. R. Champaklakshmi—*Trade, Ideology and Urbanisation in South India (300 B. C.-1300 A. D.)*, OUP, 1999.
3. B. D. Chattopadhyay—*The Making of Early Medieval India*, OUP, 1998.
4. রণবীর চক্রবর্তী—*প্রাচীন ভারতের অর্থনৈতিক ইতিহাসের সন্ধান*, কোলকাতা, বাংলা সন, ১৩৬৮।
5. সুনীল চট্টোপাধ্যায়—*প্রাচীন ভারতের ইতিহাস*, প্রথম ও দ্বিতীয় খণ্ড, পঃ বঃ রাজ্য পুস্তক পর্যদ, কোলকাতা।

