CBSE NCERT · Class 12 · History

History

ORIGINAL STUDY COMPANION
PADIKAM
CLASS 12 | HUMANITIES
History
CBSE / NCERT core lessons | Academic year 2026-27
12 chapter lessons
Quick explanations, core points, exam practice and chapter-specific notation in one consistent format.
Padikam explanations are independently written. Official textbooks are used as the coverage map, chapter sequence and terminology reference.
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Contents

01 Bricks, Beads and Bones 07 An Imperial Capital: Vijayanagara
02 Kings, Farmers and Towns 08 Peasants, Zamindars and the State
03 Kinship, Caste and Class 09 Colonialism and the Countryside
04 Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings 10 Rebels and the Raj
05 Through the Eyes of Travellers 11 Mahatma Gandhi and the Nationalist Movement
06 Bhakti-Sufi Traditions
12 Framing the Constitution

Study rhythm
Read the quick explanation, recall the core points aloud, then answer the prompts without looking back. Use the official textbook links for full prescribed readings, activities and diagrams.
Textbook and verification links
1. https://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/CurriculumMain27/SecPart2/History_SecP2_2026-27.pdf
2. https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php
3. https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?lehs1=0-4
4. https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?lehs2=0-4
5. https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?lehs3=0-4
6. https://cbseacademic.nic.in/curriculum_2027.html
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CHAPTER 01
Bricks, Beads and Bones
Quick understanding
Archaeology reconstructs Harappan urban life by comparing settlement plans, artefacts, burials and environmental evidence.
Core points Check your learning
Planned streets and drainage reveal organised urban work. Explain the central idea of Bricks, Beads and Bones in your own words.
Craft, trade and subsistence varied across settlements. Apply one idea from Bricks, Beads and Bones to a textbook-style example or source.
The undeciphered script limits claims, so material context matters.
Timeline anchor

c. 2600-1900 BCE: mature Harappan urban phase.
Map focus
Locate Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Kalibangan and Rakhigarhi.
One-line recall Planned streets and drainage reveal organised urban work.
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CHAPTER 02
Kings, Farmers and Towns
Quick understanding
In early historic India, states, agriculture, towns, trade and inscriptions changed political and economic life.
Core points Check your learning
Mahajanapadas developed varied political forms. Explain the central idea of Kings, Farmers and Towns in your own words.
Mauryan history uses inscriptions as well as later literary accounts. Apply one idea from Kings, Farmers and Towns to a textbook-style example or
Coins, pottery and urban sites reveal exchange source.
networks.
Timeline anchor
c. 600 BCE-600 CE.
Map focus
Locate major mahajanapadas, Pataliputra and important early towns.
One-line recall Mahajanapadas developed varied political forms.
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CHAPTER 03
Kinship, Caste and Class
Quick understanding
Texts and inscriptions reveal ideals and disputes about family, marriage, property, caste and social difference.
Core points Check your learning
Patriliny shaped royal succession but practice Explain the central idea of Kinship, Caste varied. and Class in your own words.
Prescriptive texts describe norms, not a complete Apply one idea from Kinship, Caste and social photograph. Class to a textbook-style example or
source.
The Mahabharata preserves layers of composition and interpretation.
Timeline anchor
c. 600 BCE-600 CE, with the epic composed over a long period.
One-line recall Patriliny shaped royal succession but practice varied.
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CHAPTER 04
Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings
Quick understanding
New religious ideas, devotional practices and monuments emerged through debate, patronage and changing social worlds.
Core points Check your learning
Buddhist and Jaina traditions questioned established Explain the central idea of Thinkers, ritual authority. Beliefs and Buildings in your own words.
Stupas encode relic worship, narrative and Apply one idea from Thinkers, Beliefs patronage. and Buildings to a textbook-style

example or source.
Temple and sculpture styles changed across
regions.
Timeline anchor
c. 600 BCE-600 CE.
Map focus
Locate Sanchi, Bharhut, Amaravati, Bodh Gaya and major cave sites.
One-line recall Buddhist and Jaina traditions questioned established ritual authority.
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CHAPTER 05
Through the Eyes of Travellers
Quick understanding
Travel accounts are valuable situated observations whose purpose, language and assumptions must be examined.
Core points Check your learning
Al-Biruni used comparison and Sanskrit learning. Explain the central idea of Through the
Eyes of Travellers in your own words.
Ibn Battuta described mobility, cities and court life.
Apply one idea from Through the Eyes
Bernier interpreted Mughal India through European
of Travellers to a textbook-style example
debates.
or source.
Timeline anchor
c. tenth-seventeenth centuries.
One-line recall Al-Biruni used comparison and Sanskrit learning.
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CHAPTER 06
Bhakti-Sufi Traditions
Quick understanding
Devotional movements used song, poetry, teaching lineages and shared sacred spaces to reshape religious experience.
Core points Check your learning
Alvars and Nayanars expressed intense personal Explain the central idea of Bhakti-Sufi
devotion. Traditions in your own words.
Sufi silsilas organised teaching and service around Apply one idea from Bhakti-Sufi
khanqahs. Traditions to a textbook-style example or
source.
Poet-saints challenged boundaries in diverse, locally
specific ways.
Timeline anchor
c. eighth-eighteenth centuries.
Map focus
Connect major traditions with Tamil region, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and north India.
One-line recall Alvars and Nayanars expressed intense personal devotion.
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CHAPTER 07
An Imperial Capital: Vijayanagara
Quick understanding
Architecture, inscriptions and travellers accounts reconstruct Vijayanagara as a political, sacred and commercial landscape.
Core points Check your learning

The city joined fortified zones, water systems, markets and temples. Capital: Vijayanagara
Royal and sacred centres overlapped but served distinct functions. Vijayanagara
Archaeological survey helps read the ruined urban plan.
Timeline anchor
c. fourteenth-sixteenth centuries.
Map focus
Locate Hampi on the Tungabhadra and major neighbouring powers.
One-line recall The city joined fortified zones, water systems, markets and temples.
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CHAPTER 08
Peasants, Zamindars and the State
Quick understanding
Mughal agrarian relations linked cultivators, village elites, zamindars and imperial revenue institutions.
Core points
The Ain-i Akbari is systematic but reflects an official viewpoint.
Production included food crops and commercial crops.
Zamindars combined local social power with revenue claims.
Timeline anchor
c. sixteenth-seventeenth centuries.
One-line recall The Ain-i Akbari is systematic but reflects an official viewpoint.
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CHAPTER 09
Colonialism and the Countryside
Quick understanding
Colonial revenue systems transformed land rights and generated archives that reveal both policy and rural conflict.
Core points
Permanent Settlement fixed state demand through zamindars.
Ryotwari addressed cultivators directly in other regions.
Official reports must be read against petitions, surveys and resistance.
Timeline anchor
Late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
Map focus
Compare Bengal, Bombay Deccan and other revenue regions.
One-line recall Permanent Settlement fixed state demand through zamindars.
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CHAPTER 10
Rebels and the Raj

Quick understanding
The uprising of 1857 spread through military revolt, local grievances and political alliances, then acquired competing memories.
Core points Check your learning
Sepoy concerns interacted with annexation and rural discontent. Explain the central idea of Rebels and the Raj in your own words.
Leadership and aims varied by region. Apply one idea from Rebels and the Raj to a textbook-style example or source.
British and Indian representations shaped later memory.
Timeline anchor
1857-1858.
Map focus
Locate Meerut, Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, Bareilly and Arrah.
One-line recall Sepoy concerns interacted with annexation and rural discontent.
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CHAPTER 11
Mahatma Gandhi and the Nationalist Movement
Quick understanding
Gandhi connected local struggles, mass politics and ethical methods while the freedom movement remained socially diverse.
Core points Check your learning
Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad built early leadership experience. Explain the central idea of Mahatma Gandhi and the Nationalist Movement in your own words.
Non-Cooperation, Salt Satyagraha and Quit India mobilised at different moments. Apply one idea from Mahatma Gandhi and the Nationalist Movement to a textbook-style example or source.
Private letters, newspapers and official reports offer contrasting views.
Timeline anchor
1915-1948.
Map focus
Locate Champaran, Kheda, Ahmedabad, Dandi and major movement centres.
One-line recall Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad built early leadership experience.
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CHAPTER 12
Framing the Constitution
Quick understanding
The Constituent Assembly debated rights, representation, federalism, language and social justice while building a democratic republic.
Core points Check your learning
Debates reveal disagreement within a shared constitutional project. Explain the central idea of Framing the Constitution in your own words.
Partition and inequality shaped urgent choices. Apply one idea from Framing the Constitution to a textbook-style example or source.
The Constitution distributes power while protecting rights and enabling reform.
Timeline anchor
Constituent Assembly first met in 1946; Constitution took effect on 26 January 1950.

One-line recall Debates reveal disagreement within a shared constitutional project.
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