

ISE Board Class 12 History Question Paper 2026 with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :100	Total Questions :13
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General Instructions

1. The paper is divided into Section A and Section B.
2. Section A includes objective-type, short answer, and long answer questions.
3. All questions in Section A are compulsory.
4. Section B contains elective questions based on the chosen topic.
5. Answers must be written legibly within the word limit.
6. Use of unfair means or electronic devices is prohibited.
7. Follow the correct format and instructions for each section.

1(i). In 2017, the 75th Anniversary of a historic Indian Movement was commemorated. Identify the movement.

- (A) The JP Movement
- (B) The Quit India Movement
- (C) The Civil Disobedience Movement
- (D) The Movement for Women's Rights

Correct Answer: (B) The Quit India Movement

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify a major movement in the Indian independence struggle based on its 75th anniversary occurring in 2017.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

To identify the movement, we subtract 75 years from 2017: $2017 - 75 = 1942$.

The Quit India Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress on 8th August 1942.

The JP Movement began in 1974.

The Civil Disobedience Movement was launched in 1930.

The Movement for Women's Rights is a broad category without a single anniversary year of 1942.

Therefore, the movement commemorated in 2017 was the Quit India Movement.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The correct option is (B).

 Quick Tip

For anniversary-based questions, simply subtract the number of years from the given date to find the year of origin. 1942 is synonymous with "Quit India."

1(ii). Which one of the following features of the Mizo movement was SIMILAR to that of the Naga movement?

- (A) It began in the 1960s.
- (B) Mizoram acquired statehood in the 1980s.
- (C) It involved a prolonged armed conflict with the Indian government.
- (D) A peace settlement between the Mizo leader and the Indian government ended decades of insurgency and established stability.

Correct Answer: (C) It involved a prolonged armed conflict with the Indian government.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question requires identifying a shared characteristic between two separatist/autonomy movements in North-East India: the Naga movement and the Mizo movement.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The Naga movement is one of the oldest in India, starting in the late 1940s, whereas the Mizo movement gained momentum in the 1960s.

While Mizoram got statehood in the 1980s (1987), the Naga struggle for statehood reached a milestone earlier (1963).

The defining similarity between both was the nature of the struggle; both the Naga National Council (NNC) and the Mizo National Front (MNF) engaged in years of guerrilla warfare and armed insurgency against the Indian state.

Option (D) is more specific to the success of the Mizo Peace Accord, whereas the Naga issue remains more complex in its resolution phases.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The common feature is (C).

 Quick Tip

When comparing regional movements in the North-East, "Armed Conflict" and "Secessionist Tendencies" are common themes across almost all early insurgencies.

1(iii). Which one of the following features of the Mizo movement was SIMILAR to that of the Naga movement?

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- (D) A peace settlement between the Mizo leader and the Indian government ended decades of insurgency and established stability.

Correct Answer: (C) It involved a prolonged armed conflict with the Indian government.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a repeated question in the paper, focusing on the commonalities of insurgencies in North-Eastern India.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The Naga movement led by Angami Zapu Phizo and the Mizo movement led by Laldenga both rejected the Indian Constitution initially.

They both established "underground" governments and maintained armed wings that fought the Indian Army for decades in the jungles of the North-East.

The prolonged nature of this armed conflict is the most significant historical similarity between these two specific movements.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The shared feature is the involvement in a prolonged armed conflict.

💡 Quick Tip

The Indian government eventually moved from military suppression to political negotiation in both cases, though the Mizo Accord is considered more definitive.

1(v). Appeasement as a diplomatic policy was followed by Britain and France with the objective of:

- (A) avoiding war with aggressive nations at any cost.
- (B) encouraging economic cooperation for mutual benefit.
- (C) checking the spread of communism in western Europe.
- (D) establishing friendly relations with the neighbouring countries.

Correct Answer: (A) avoiding war with aggressive nations at any cost.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Appeasement was the dominant foreign policy of Britain and France in the 1930s regarding the

expansionist aims of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The trauma of World War I left the public and leaders of Britain and France desperate to avoid another total war.

They believed that by making concessions to the dictators (Hitler and Mussolini), their grievances could be satisfied and peace maintained.

This policy reached its peak with the Munich Agreement of 1938, where the Sudetenland was handed to Germany.

The primary objective was the maintenance of peace, even if it meant tolerating the aggressive actions of these nations.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The primary objective was avoiding war at any cost.

 Quick Tip

Appeasement failed because it was interpreted as weakness by the dictators, encouraging them to make even larger territorial demands.

1(vi). Which one of the following statements is NOT true about the Movements for Women's Rights in the USA and India? [1]

- (A) Both demanded the end to domestic violence against women.
- (B) They protested against the traditional notion that a woman's place was at home.
- (C) They emphasised the importance of achieving gender equality and equal opportunities.
- (D) Both the movements highlighted the complete dependence of women on men for economic support.

Correct Answer: (D) Both the movements highlighted the complete dependence of women on men for economic support.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the statement that contradicts the goals and philosophies of women's rights movements in both the USA and India.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Women's movements globally aim for empowerment and autonomy.

Options (A), (B), and (C) are fundamental goals: ending violence, breaking domestic stereotypes, and seeking equality.

Statement (D) is incorrect because the movements sought to end the economic dependence of women on men. They advocated for property rights, employment opportunities, and equal

wages specifically so women would **not** be completely dependent.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Statement (D) is the one that is NOT true.

 Quick Tip

Feminist movements are built on "Agency" and "Independence." Any statement suggesting they promoted "Dependence" is likely the incorrect one in a "NOT true" question.

1(vii). Which one of the following battles during the Second World War proved to be a turning point in the fight for control of the Pacific? [1]

- (A) Stalingrad
- (B) El Alamein
- (C) Midway Island
- (D) Battle of Britain

Correct Answer: (C) Midway Island

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the decisive battle that changed the course of the war in the Pacific Theater (the war between the Allies, mainly the USA, and Japan).

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The Battle of Midway (June 1942) was a major naval battle.

The US Navy inflicted devastating damage on the Japanese fleet, sinking four of its aircraft carriers.

This victory ended Japanese naval superiority and shifted the initiative to the Allies.

Stalingrad was a turning point on the Eastern Front (Europe); El Alamein was a turning point in North Africa; the Battle of Britain was an air battle over the UK.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The turning point in the Pacific was Midway Island.

 Quick Tip

Remember the "Midway" island as the "Mid-point" of the war where the tide turned against Japan.

1(viii). Given below are two statements marked Assertion and Reason. Read the two statements carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion: The Truman doctrine made it clear that the USA had no intention of returning to isolation as it had done after the First World War.

Reason: The USA was committed to a policy of containing communism throughout the world.

- (A) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation for Assertion.
- (B) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation for Assertion.
- (C) Assertion is true and Reason is false.
- (D) Both Assertion and Reason are false.

Correct Answer: (A) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation for Assertion.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This relates to US foreign policy at the start of the Cold War. Isolationism refers to staying out of international affairs, while the Truman Doctrine (1947) was an interventionist policy.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The Assertion is true: After WWI, the US practiced isolationism. In 1947, President Truman declared that the US must support free peoples resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

The Reason is true: The core of the Truman Doctrine was "Containment"—preventing the spread of Soviet influence and communism.

Connection: Because the US committed to containing communism globally (Reason), it could no longer be isolated (Assertion). Thus, the Reason is the correct explanation.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The correct option is (A).

 Quick Tip

In A&R questions, read the two statements with a "because" in between. If it makes sense, (A) is the likely answer.

1(ix). The _____ Mission Proposals, condemned by Gandhi as a "postdated cheque on a failing Bank", were rejected by the Congress.

Correct Answer: Cripps

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

This refers to a British diplomatic initiative during World War II to secure Indian cooperation in exchange for post-war constitutional changes.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The Cripps Mission was sent to India in March 1942, headed by Sir Stafford Cripps.

It offered "Dominion Status" after the war, which Gandhi found unacceptable because the British Empire appeared to be collapsing under Axis pressure.

He famously described the offer as "a post-dated cheque on a crashing bank."

Step 4: Final Answer:

The blank should be filled with "Cripps".

💡 Quick Tip

The rejection of the Cripps Mission led directly to the launch of the Quit India Movement in August 1942.

1(x). The signatories of the Sykes-Picot Pact were Britain and

Correct Answer: France

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916) was a secret treaty during World War I regarding the partition of the Ottoman Empire.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The agreement was named after Mark Sykes (for Britain) and François Georges-Picot (for France).

It defined their proposed spheres of influence and control in Southwestern Asia (Middle East) after the expected defeat of the Ottoman Empire.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The other signatory was France.

 Quick Tip

This pact is significant because it created the modern borders of the Middle East, often without regard for ethnic or religious boundaries.

1(xi). Who was the author of *The Historic Eight Documents*?

Correct Answer: Kanu Sanyal (Though often associated with Charu Majumdar, the specific title is credited to Kanu Sanyal's formulation of Naxalite ideology).

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This refers to the ideological foundation of the Naxalite movement in India.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The "Eight Documents" laid down the principles of armed peasant revolution in India.

Kanu Sanyal, along with Charu Majumdar, was a founder of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist).

Sanyal authored these documents to guide the revolution following the Naxalbari uprising of 1967.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The author was Kanu Sanyal.

 Quick Tip

The documents advocated for "annihilation of class enemies" and Maoist guerrilla warfare in the Indian countryside.

1(xii). Name the activist who died after a fifty-six day hunger strike demanding the creation of a Telugu-speaking state.

Correct Answer: Potti Sreeramulu

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This relates to the linguistic reorganization of Indian states after independence.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Potti Sreeramulu was a Gandhian activist.

In 1952, he began a fast unto death demanding a separate Andhra state for Telugu speakers, carved out of the Madras Presidency.

He died on 15 December 1952 after 56 days of fasting.

His death sparked massive riots and forced the government to create Andhra Pradesh, the first linguistic state, in 1953.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The activist was Potti Sreeramulu.

 Quick Tip

Potti Sreeramulu's sacrifice led to the formation of the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC).

1(xiii). What was the title of the report filed by the Committee on the status of Indian women in 1974?

Correct Answer: Towards Equality

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question focuses on the milestone report regarding gender issues in post-independence India.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI) was appointed in 1971.

In 1974, they submitted a report that provided a comprehensive analysis of the status of women in India.

The report, titled "Towards Equality," highlighted the declining sex ratio and poor socio-economic status of women, leading to a new wave of feminist activism in the 1970s.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The title was "Towards Equality."

 Quick Tip

This report is considered the "founding document" of the second wave of the Indian women's movement.

1(xiv). Which country's takeover by the Communists destroyed the 'bridge' between the East and West Europe and completed the 'iron curtain'?

Correct Answer: Czechoslovakia

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This refers to the consolidation of Soviet influence in Eastern Europe following World War II.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

After 1945, Czechoslovakia attempted to maintain a democratic government and act as a neutral "bridge."

In February 1948, the Communist Party staged a coup and seized control.

This event alarmed the West, led to the formation of NATO, and was seen as the final act that firmly divided Europe into two blocs (the Iron Curtain).

Step 4: Final Answer:

The country was Czechoslovakia.

 Quick Tip

The "Iron Curtain" term was popularised by Winston Churchill to describe the ideological and physical boundary dividing Europe.

1(xv). One of the reasons for the defeat of the Axis Powers in the Second World War was the tactical errors made by them. Mention any one serious tactical mistake made by Japan.

Correct Answer: The failure to destroy the US Navy's aircraft carriers and fuel storage tanks during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Tactical errors refer to specific military decisions that had disastrous long-term strategic consequences.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

On 7th December 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor to cripple the US Pacific Fleet.

A serious error was that Japan failed to launch a third wave of attacks to destroy the massive fuel storage tanks and naval repair shops.

Furthermore, the US aircraft carriers were not in the harbor at the time of the attack.

By leaving the carriers and the infrastructure intact, Japan allowed the US to recover and strike back much faster than anticipated.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The failure to destroy US aircraft carriers and fuel reserves at Pearl Harbor.

 Quick Tip

Another valid answer could be Japan's decision to engage at Midway without sufficient reconnaissance, leading to the loss of four carriers.

1(xvi). In the context of America's foreign policy, what was the significance of the formation of NATO (1949)?

Correct Answer: It marked the end of US isolationism and established a system of collective defense against Soviet expansion.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was the first peacetime military alliance the United States entered into outside the Western Hemisphere.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

NATO's significance lies in Article 5, which states that an attack against one member is an attack against all.

It formally committed the US to the security of Western Europe, effectively ending the traditional policy of isolationism.

It acted as the military arm of the "Containment" policy, providing a permanent military shield against potential Soviet aggression in Europe.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The significance was the establishment of collective security and the formal end of US isolationism.

 Quick Tip

NATO was the military counterpart to the economic Marshall Plan.

2 (i). Discuss any four steps taken by Subhash Chandra Bose to revive and reorganise the Indian National Army after taking over as its Supreme Commander.

Correct Answer: (1) Establishment of the Provisional Government. (2) Formation of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment. (3) Mobilization of resources. (4) Creation of unifying slogans.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Subhash Chandra Bose took over the leadership of the INA in Singapore in 1943. He transformed it from a disorganized group of POWs into a disciplined revolutionary army.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Provisional Government:** He established the 'Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind' (Provisional Government of Free India) on 21st Oct 1943. This gave the INA the status of an army representing a sovereign state.

2. **Rani of Jhansi Regiment:** He created a dedicated women's combat unit, showing his progressive vision and maximizing manpower.

3. **Mobilization:** He toured Southeast Asia, appealing to the Indian diaspora for "Total Mobilization" of men, money, and materials. His slogan "Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom" galvanized support.

4. **Unification:** He introduced the greeting "Jai Hind" and high-morale slogans like "Chalo Delhi" to unify soldiers of different religions and ethnicities under a single national identity.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The four steps were: setting up the Provisional Government, creating the women's regiment, mobilizing global Indian resources, and unifying the force with nationalistic slogans.

💡 Quick Tip

Focus on "Political Legitimacy" (Govt), "Inclusion" (Women), "Resources" (Money/Men), and "Morale" (Slogans).

2 (ii). Name the resolution that the All India Congress Committee passed on the 8th August, 1942. Why did Gandhi demand complete freedom immediately?

Correct Answer: The Quit India Resolution. Gandhi demanded immediate freedom because of the failure of the Cripps Mission and the threat of Japanese invasion.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This refers to the climax of the Indian independence movement during the height of World War

II.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The resolution passed was the "Quit India Resolution" at the Bombay session.

Gandhi demanded immediate freedom for several reasons:

1. **Failure of Cripps Mission:** The British proposals were vague and offered only future promises, which the Congress no longer trusted.
2. **Japanese Threat:** Japan was advancing through Southeast Asia. Gandhi believed that a free India could better defend itself, whereas the British presence made India a target for Japan.
3. **Economic Distress:** War-time shortages and high prices were causing immense public anger, making the time ripe for a mass struggle.
4. **Moral grounds:** Gandhi believed that only an independent nation could truly support the cause of democracy in the global war.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The resolution was the Quit India Resolution. The demand was urgent due to the failure of diplomacy (Cripps) and the impending Japanese threat.

 Quick Tip

This was Gandhi's most militant stance, summed up in his famous mantra: "Do or Die" (Karo ya Maro).

3. In the context of India's First General Elections (1952), discuss any four steps followed by the Indian Election Commission during the preparation process, to establish India's first democratic government.

Correct Answer: (1) Delimitation of constituencies. (2) Preparation of electoral rolls. (3) Symbols for illiterate voters. (4) Training of staff.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The 1951-52 election was a massive task for a newly independent, poor, and largely illiterate country. The Election Commission had to create a democratic system from scratch.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Delimitation of Constituencies:** The EC had to draw the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies across the entire country for the first time.
2. **Electoral Rolls:** A massive drive was conducted to register voters. This was difficult because many women were registered by titles (e.g., "wife of X"). The EC chief, Sukumar Sen, ordered a cleanup to ensure individuals were registered by their own names.

3. **Visual Symbols:** Since over 85% of the population was illiterate, the EC introduced party symbols (like bullocks or a hand) on ballot boxes so voters could identify their choice without reading.

4. **Training and Logistics:** Over 3 lakh polling officers and security personnel had to be trained in election procedures. The EC also had to procure thousands of ballot boxes and tonnes of paper.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The four steps were boundary delimitation, name-based voter registration, symbol allocation, and large-scale staff training.

 Quick Tip

The success of this election, led by Sukumar Sen, proved that democracy could survive in a diverse and developing nation.

4. "There comes a time in the life of every nation when it stands on the crossroads of History and must choose which way to go," Lal Bahadur Shastri. Enumerate any four contributions of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, with reference to the path he chose to fulfil his vision of a socialist, democratic and prosperous India.

Correct Answer: (1) Jai Jawan Jai Kisan. (2) Green Revolution. (3) White Revolution. (4) 1965 War leadership.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Lal Bahadur Shastri (1964-66) led India during a period of transition, food crisis, and war. He focused on self-reliance and national morale.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Jai Jawan Jai Kisan:** During the 1965 war and a severe food shortage, he gave this slogan to emphasize the equal importance of soldiers defending the borders and farmers feeding the nation.

2. **Initiation of Green Revolution:** He promoted the use of high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds and modern farming techniques to move India toward food self-sufficiency.

3. **The White Revolution:** He supported the National Dairy Development Board and Operation Flood, led by Verghese Kurien, to increase milk production and rural prosperity.

4. **1965 War Leadership:** He showed great resolve during the conflict with Pakistan, giving a free hand to the military while also later negotiating peace via the Tashkent Declaration.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Shastri's contributions include the "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" philosophy, the foundation of the

Green and White Revolutions, and strong wartime leadership.

 Quick Tip

Shastri's tenure, though short, was critical for India's internal stability and external security post-Nehru.

5. For the first time since independence, the Congress party was defeated in the elections of 1977 and a new party came into power at the Centre. In this context, discuss any four measures adopted by the newly established non-Congress government to restore the civil liberties of the people of India.

Correct Answer: (1) 44th Constitutional Amendment. (2) Restoration of Habeas Corpus. (3) Press Freedom. (4) Release of political prisoners.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Janata Party government was elected following the Emergency (1975-77). Its primary mandate was to dismantle the authoritarian structures built during the Emergency.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **44th Amendment Act:** This Act undid many controversial changes made by the 42nd Amendment. It restricted the power to declare an internal emergency to "armed rebellion" rather than "internal disturbance."
2. **Restoration of Habeas Corpus:** The government restored the right to move the Supreme Court to protect fundamental rights, which had been suspended.
3. **Press Freedom:** It repealed the censorship laws imposed during the Emergency and restored the Feroze Gandhi Act (protecting reporting of parliamentary proceedings).
4. **Repeal of MISA:** The government released thousands of political leaders and activists detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) and eventually repealed the Act itself.

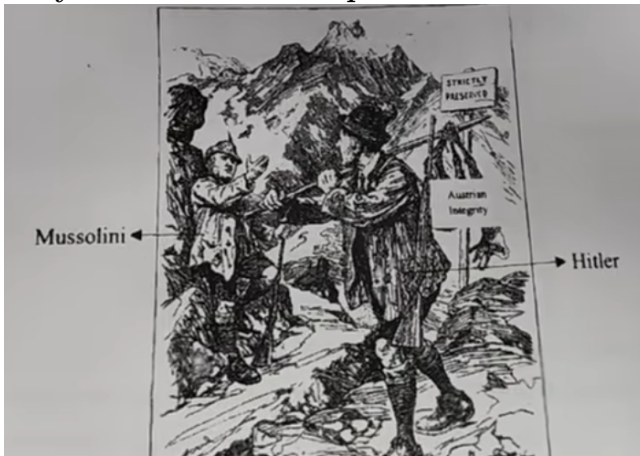
Step 4: Final Answer:

The restored civil liberties via the 44th Amendment, press freedom, release of prisoners, and restoration of judicial rights.

 Quick Tip

The 44th Amendment ensured that "Internal Disturbance" could never again be used to suspend democracy.

6. The cartoon titled *Good Hunting* by Bernard Partridge, depicting Hitler and Mussolini, reflects a major shift in Italy's foreign policy after 1934. Study it carefully and answer the question that follows.



Correct Answer: The shift from the "Stresa Front" (with Britain/France) to the Rome-Berlin Axis with Nazi Germany.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This refers to Mussolini's transition from being a defender of the European status quo to being an ally of Hitler's expansionism.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

In 1934, Mussolini was suspicious of Hitler and moved troops to protect Austria (after the assassination of Dollfuss).

However, after Italy's invasion of Abyssinia (Ethiopia) in 1935, Britain and France imposed sanctions.

Feeling isolated, Mussolini turned toward Hitler. The cartoon "Good Hunting" represents this new partnership where the two dictators act as predators in Europe.

This culminated in the Rome-Berlin Axis (1936) and Italy's withdrawal from the League of Nations.

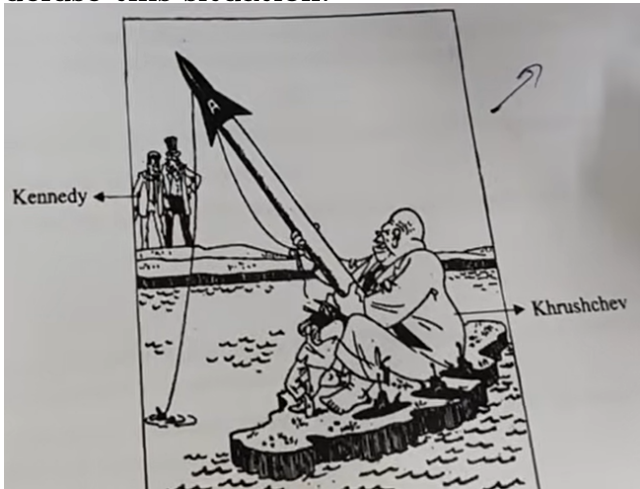
Step 4: Final Answer:

The shift was Italy's movement away from the Western democracies and toward a formal alliance with Nazi Germany due to the Abyssinian crisis.

💡 Quick Tip

"Hunting" in the cartoon is a metaphor for the aggressive territorial expansionism of Fascism and Nazism.

8 (i). Refer to the given image depicting Kennedy and Khrushchev during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Explain any two diplomatic measures that were taken to defuse this situation.



Correct Answer: (1) Naval Quarantine. (2) Secret Missile Deal.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) was the closest the Cold War came to nuclear war. Diplomacy was used to provide an "off-ramp" for both leaders.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Naval Quarantine:** Instead of a direct military strike on Cuba, President Kennedy ordered a "quarantine" (blockade) to stop Soviet ships. This was a firm but non-lethal move that gave both sides time to negotiate.
2. **The Secret Agreement:** Through private channels, the US agreed to remove its Jupiter missiles from Turkey (which threatened the USSR) in exchange for the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. This allowed Khrushchev to save face.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Diplomatic measures included the naval quarantine and the secret exchange involving the removal of US missiles from Turkey.

💡 Quick Tip

Success in the Cuban Missile Crisis was based on "leaving the enemy a path to retreat" to avoid a cornered nuclear response.

8 (ii). Refer to the given image depicting Kennedy and Khrushchev during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Discuss any two significant consequences that followed.

Correct Answer: (1) The Moscow-Washington Hotline. (2) Partial Test Ban Treaty.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The near-miss of nuclear war led to a temporary thawing of relations and the realization that better communication was necessary.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Hotline Establishment:** A direct communication link (teleprinter line) was established between the White House and the Kremlin to ensure leaders could speak instantly in future crises.
2. **PTBT (1963):** The US and USSR signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty, banning nuclear testing in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater, marking the first major arms control agreement.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Consequences included the "hotline" and the 1963 Test Ban Treaty.

 Quick Tip

This period following the crisis is known as the first "Détente" or thawing of Cold War tensions.

9 (i). 'Kwame Nkrumah was both a visionary and a victim of his own ideals.' In this context, evaluate any four reasons for Nkrumah's overthrow by a militia coup in 1966.

Correct Answer: (1) Economic instability. (2) Authoritarian one-party rule. (3) Focus on Pan-Africanism over domestic needs. (4) Resentment in the military.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Nkrumah led Ghana to independence and was a Pan-African icon, but his domestic governance led to widespread dissatisfaction.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Economic Mismanagement:** He spent heavily on massive "prestige projects" (like dams

and factories) which, combined with a crash in the price of cocoa, led to severe debt and inflation.

2. **Authoritarianism:** In 1964, he declared himself "President for Life" and made Ghana a one-party state. He used the Preventive Detention Act to jail political rivals without trial.

3. **Pan-Africanism vs. Domestic Needs:** He spent Ghana's resources on supporting liberation movements across Africa, while ordinary Ghanaians faced shortages of basic food items.

4. **Military Friction:** Nkrumah created his own "Presidential Detail Guards" (an elite private army) separate from the national army. This created deep resentment among the regular military officers, who eventually staged the coup.

Step 4: Final Answer:

He was overthrown due to economic failure, political repression, neglect of internal welfare for continental ideals, and conflict with the military.

💡 Quick Tip

Nkrumah's downfall is a textbook case of a post-colonial leader who prioritized ideological "vision" over practical economic "management."

10 (i). With reference to Kashmir as the bone of contention between India and Pakistan, analyse any four causes of the first Indo-Pak War of 1947-48.

Correct Answer: (1) Ambiguous accession choice. (2) Tribal Invasion. (3) Legal Instrument of Accession. (4) Ideological clash (Two-nation theory).

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The 1947-48 war was the first major military conflict between India and Pakistan, rooted in the partition process.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Princely States' Choice:** The British allowed rulers to choose their side. Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir delayed, hoping for independence.

2. **Tribal Raid:** Pakistan-backed tribesmen (Pashtuns) invaded the state in October 1947 to seize it before India could act.

3. **The Accession:** Fearing for Srinagar, the Maharaja signed the "Instrument of Accession" to India, legally making the state part of the Indian Union and allowing the Indian Army to intervene.

4. **Two-Nation Theory:** Pakistan believed a Muslim-majority state must belong to them, while India's secular vision demanded the state join India as per the legal document.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Causes included the ruler's delay, the invasion from Pakistan, the legal accession to India, and

fundamental ideological differences.

 Quick Tip

The war didn't result in a total victory for either side, leading to the UN-brokered ceasefire and the current division of the state.

10 (ii). Discuss any four consequences of this War to highlight how the unresolved issue of Kashmir continues to be a flash point in Indo-Pak relations.

Correct Answer: (1) Formation of Ceasefire Line (LoC). (2) UN Deadlock. (3) Permanent militarization. (4) Rise of proxy wars.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The war left a "frozen conflict" that has dictated the foreign and defense policies of both nations for decades.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Line of Control (LoC):** The ceasefire left Pakistan in control of about one-third of the territory (PoK) and India in control of the rest, creating a physical and military divide.
2. **UN Intervention:** The issue remains on the UN agenda. The failure to hold a plebiscite (due to conditions like troop withdrawal not being met) has led to a diplomatic stalemate.
3. **Defense Spending:** Both nations have spent massive portions of their budgets on maintaining troops in the Siachen and LoC areas, diverting funds from development.
4. **Cross-border Terrorism:** The dispute has served as a justification for the infiltration of terrorists and non-state actors, leading to further wars in 1965, 1999, and ongoing tensions.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Consequences include the division of territory, a permanent diplomatic deadlock at the UN, immense military spending, and the ongoing threat of terrorism.

 Quick Tip

Kashmir is often described as the "unfinished business of Partition."

10 (iii) (a). In the context of the Sino-Indian War of 1962, answer the following questions: (a) Discuss any four causes of the War.

Correct Answer: (1) Border dispute (Aksai Chin). (2) Dalai Lama asylum. (3) Forward Policy. (4) McMahon Line disagreement.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The 1962 war ended the "Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai" era and reshaped India's security outlook.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **The Aksai Chin Road:** China built a road through this disputed territory. When India discovered this, it claimed the area was part of Ladakh.
2. **Tibetan Uprising:** When the Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 after the Chinese crack-down, India granted him asylum. China saw this as interference in its internal affairs.
3. **The Forward Policy:** India began setting up military posts in disputed areas to block Chinese movement. China interpreted this as aggressive expansion.
4. **Border Rejection:** China rejected the British-drawn "McMahon Line" in the East, claiming large parts of Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The causes were territory disputes, the Tibetan issue, India's military "Forward Policy," and differing historical border maps.

💡 Quick Tip

The 1962 war was largely a result of "intelligence failure" and a naive belief that China would not resort to a full-scale war.

10 (iii) (b). In the context of the Sino-Indian War of 1962, answer the following questions: (b) How did the outcome of the War impact the Congress leadership?

Correct Answer: (1) Damage to Nehru's prestige. (2) Resignation of Krishna Menon. (3) First no-confidence motion. (4) Shift in defense policy.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The military defeat had profound domestic political consequences for the ruling party and Prime Minister Nehru.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Nehru's Image:** Jawaharlal Nehru faced unprecedented criticism. His idealistic foreign policy was seen as a failure, leading to a loss of popularity.
2. **Cabinet Shake-up:** Defense Minister V.K. Krishna Menon, a close ally of Nehru, was forced to resign due to the army's poor preparedness.

3. **Parliamentary Challenge:** In 1963, for the first time, a "No-Confidence Motion" was moved against the Nehru government in the Lok Sabha.
4. **Military Modernization:** The leadership was forced to shift resources from development to defense, leading to a sharp increase in the military budget and a move away from absolute non-alignment.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The war weakened Nehru's authority, led to the loss of key ministers, and forced the government to prioritize military spending over social welfare.

 Quick Tip

Many historians believe the shock of the 1962 defeat contributed to Nehru's rapidly declining health and his death in 1964.

11. According to famous historian Ramachandra Guha, "The Emergency was a script jointly authored by Indira Gandhi and Jayaprakash Narayan." In this context, analyse the roles played by both the leaders in the events leading up to the Emergency of 1975.

Correct Answer: JP provided the external mass agitation and call for army revolt; Indira provided the internal authoritarian response and legal imposition.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Emergency was the result of a confrontation between a powerful executive and a powerful mass opposition movement.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Role of Jayaprakash Narayan (JP): He led the "Total Revolution" movement against Indira Gandhi's government. He united all opposition parties and organized massive protests against corruption and price rise. Crucially, he called upon the police and the military to disobey "illegal" government orders, which Indira Gandhi viewed as an incitement to rebellion.

Role of Indira Gandhi: She responded with increasing centralization of power. Following the Allahabad High Court judgment that invalidated her election, she refused to resign. On the advice of her inner circle, she declared the Emergency on 25 June 1975, citing "internal disturbance" as a justification to arrest JP and other leaders to maintain her hold on power.

Step 4: Final Answer:

JP's role was to create a situation of "total" dissent that threatened the state's stability, while Indira Gandhi's role was to use the constitutional "Emergency" provision as a tool for political survival.

💡 Quick Tip

The "script" refers to how both leaders' actions fed into each other, escalating toward the suspension of democracy.

12 (i). In the brief period between August 1988 and December 1991, communism in Eastern Europe was dramatically swept away. In this context, discuss any four events leading to the downfall of communism in East Germany.

Correct Answer: (1) Hungarian border opening. (2) Monday Demonstrations. (3) Gorbachev's visit. (4) Fall of the Berlin Wall.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The collapse of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) was part of the wider "Revolutions of 1989" that ended Soviet control in Europe.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **The Hungarian Gate:** In May 1989, Hungary opened its border with Austria. Thousands of East Germans traveled there to escape to the West, making the GDR's travel restrictions look obsolete.
2. **Monday Demonstrations:** Peaceful mass protests began in Leipzig (Monday Demonstrations) and spread to other cities. Citizens chanted "Wir sind das Volk" (We are the people).
3. **Gorbachev's Influence:** During the GDR's 40th anniversary, Gorbachev visited and signaled that the USSR would not use force to save the regime (the "Sinatra Doctrine").
4. **Opening of the Wall (Nov 9, 1989):** Due to a communication error by a government official, thousands gathered at the Berlin Wall. The guards opened the gates, and the physical and symbolic barrier between East and West fell.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The downfall was caused by mass migration via Hungary, sustained internal protests, Soviet refusal to intervene, and the iconic fall of the Berlin Wall.

💡 Quick Tip

The fall of the Berlin Wall is the single most recognizable image of the end of the Cold War.

12 (ii). Analyse any four political developments that eventually led to the disintegration of the USSR.

Correct Answer: (1) Glasnost and Perestroika. (2) Nationalist movements in Republics. (3) The August Coup (1991). (4) Rise of Boris Yeltsin.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The USSR's collapse was a combination of economic failure and political liberalization that became uncontrollable.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Gorbachev's Reforms:** "Glasnost" (openness) and "Perestroika" (restructuring) intended to fix the system but instead allowed for open criticism and ethnic tensions to surface.
2. **Republic Nationalism:** States like the Baltics (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) and Ukraine began demanding full independence, challenging the central authority in Moscow.
3. **The August Coup:** Hardliners in the Communist Party tried to overthrow Gorbachev to stop the reforms. The coup failed but destroyed the Party's credibility.
4. **Yeltsin and the CIS:** Boris Yeltsin (President of Russia) emerged as a powerful alternative. He led the leaders of Ukraine and Belarus to sign the Belavezha Accords, effectively ending the Soviet Union and forming the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Step 4: Final Answer:

The disintegration was triggered by reform failures, ethnic nationalism, a failed hardline coup, and the political maneuvering of republican leaders like Yeltsin.

 Quick Tip

The USSR officially ceased to exist on 25 December 1991.

13 (i) (a). The Egyptian President Colonel Nasser was aggressively in favour of Arab unity and independence. In this context, discuss any four hostile measures adopted by him to counter the increasing Anglo-French control of the Suez Canal.

Correct Answer: (1) Nationalization of the Canal. (2) Support for Algerian rebels. (3) Arms deal with Soviet bloc. (4) Blockade of Israeli shipping.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Nasser's "Pan-Arabism" aimed to remove Western colonial influence from the Middle East.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Nationalization (1956):** In response to the US/UK withdrawal of funds for the Aswan Dam, Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal Company, which was owned by Britain and France.
2. **Support for FLN:** Nasser provided money and weapons to the FLN in Algeria fighting

against French rule, directly angering France.

3. **The Czech Arms Deal:** To break the Western monopoly on weapons, Nasser bought arms from the Soviet bloc via Czechoslovakia.

4. **Maritime Blockade:** He blocked Israeli shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Suez Canal, challenging Western-supported regional arrangements.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Nasser used nationalization, support for anti-colonial rebels, Soviet-aligned arms purchases, and naval blockades to challenge Western control.

💡 Quick Tip

Nasser's nationalization of the canal transformed him into a hero of the "Non-Aligned Movement."

13 (i) (b). Examine America's role in escalating tensions that eventually led to the outbreak of the Suez War of 1956.

Correct Answer: (1) Withdrawal of Aswan Dam funding. (2) Mixed signals/Lack of support for allies' military plans.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

While Britain and France were the main actors, US foreign policy decisions under Eisenhower and Dulles were the catalyst for the crisis.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Aswan Dam Financing:** The US (and UK) abruptly withdrew their offer to fund the Aswan High Dam after Nasser's arms deal with the East. This "slap in the face" directly provoked Nasser to nationalize the Suez Canal to fund the dam himself.

2. **Inconsistent Diplomacy:** The US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles tried to restrain Britain and France but failed to offer a viable alternative. The US's lukewarm attitude toward its allies' concerns about the canal led them to secretly plan an invasion with Israel without telling Washington.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The US escalated tensions primarily through the sudden cancellation of the Aswan Dam loan, which triggered the nationalization that started the war.

 Quick Tip

The US actually ended the war by putting massive economic pressure on the British Pound, marking the end of Britain as a global superpower.
