

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION TEST**

TIME: 1.30 Hrs

Full Marks: 100

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The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Questions should be answered only in English

Candidates are required to write their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

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**Section A (40 Marks)**

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

“At Sarnath, near Benares, I would almost see the Buddha preaching his first sermon, and some of his recorded words would come like a distant echo to me through two thousand five hundred years. Ashoka’s pillars of stone with their inscriptions would speak to me in their magnificent language and tell me of a man who, though an emperor, was greater than any king or emperor. At Fatehpur-Sikri, Akbar, forgetful of his empire was seated holding converse and debate with the learned of all faiths, curious to learn something new and seeking an answer to the eternal problem of man. Thus slowly the long panorama of India’s history unfolded itself before me, with its ups and downs, its triumphs and defeats.” (Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India*)

(4X10)

- a) What did Jawaharlal Nehru like about the emperors such as Ashoka and Akbar?
- b) Do you think that Nehru’s own political vision is reflected in the passage above?
- c) Explain the following: “At Fatehpur-Sikri, Akbar, forgetful of his empire was seated holding converse and debate with the learned of all faiths [.]”
- d) Do you think that history can be used as criticism of the present?

**Section-B (60 Marks)**

ANSWER ANY TWO

(2X30)

2. Does history offer more accurate picture of society than literature?
3. History is marked by the biases of the present. Comment.
4. Discuss the causes of the Mughal imperial decline.
5. Write an essay on the significance of French Revolution?
6. Do you agree that anti- colonial movement led by Mahatma Gandhi represented the interest of all sections of Indian society?
7. Do you believe that Indian democracy favours the weak and marginalised?