

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2023

(2nd Year, 3rd Semester)

HISTORY

Course : 14 (Hist/PG/3.4.D)

Colonialism, Nationalism and Beyond :

A social history perspective on modern India

Time : Two Hours

Full Marks : 30

All questions carry equal marks.

Answer *two* questions, taking *one* from each group.

Group – A

1. Critically engage with gender and nation with reference to any of the following :
 - a) Feminist and psychoanalytical theory on how the notion of the nation is innately gendered.
 - b) The representation of the boy hero as the (future) custodian of the British imperial nation.
 - c) The representation of the playing fields in the metropole as preserves of empire-fit masculinity.
2. Bring out the historical significance of the rise of geography in the British imperial metropole with reference of any one of the following:
 - a) The unprecedented proliferation of geographical societies in Victorian and Edwardian Britain.

[Turn over

[2]

- b) The role of pedagogy and class in the dissemination of maps of India among white working class children in Victorian Britain.
3. Examine the applicability of the critical concept of invention of tradition with reference to the Delhi Durbars organized by the British in India.

Group – B

4. Critically engage with British colonialism's construction of knowledge about India (or any aspect thereof) with special reference to any one of the following :
- a) Bernard Cohn's identification of the typical modalities of knowledge production about colonial terrain and demography.
 - b) The inchoate narration of history even while drawing territory in the maps of colonial India as texts of power.
5. Critically bring out the politics of colonial science with reference to any one of the following :
- a) Plant colonialism in Assam : erasure of 'the jungle' and making of 'garden' with the help of the tree plant from China.
 - b) 'Colonial hydrology' as a veritable paradigm shift.

[3]

6. Bring out the dialectic of ideology and exigency, politics and aesthetic in colonial architecture with reference to any one of the following :
- a) The British officer's bungalow in colonial India.
 - b) Lutyens Delhi with special emphasis on the viceregal place at Raisina Hills.

or

Examine the colonial production of 'public space' in the colony in relation to the bazaar/market.