M. Phil. in History

COURSE I: HISTORICAL THEORY
Maximum marks: 100 (4x25) Time allowed: Three hours

The course shall consist of 4 units. The examiner shall set a total of 8 questions, with 2 questions being set in each unit. Candidates shall answer one question from each unit. All questions carry equal marks.

UNIT I
1. Historical concepts: fact, causation, generalization, objectivity
2. Research Methodology: Evidence and internal criticism, note-taking, final draft: chapterization, foot-noting and bibliography

UNIT II
1. Leopold Ranke and his disciples; positivism and the critics of positivism
2. Whig interpretation of history

UNIT III
1. Relating history with other disciplines: Natural sciences, Geography, Sociology, Social Anthropology, Economics, Politics, Literature
2. Karl Marx: historical materialism, determinist and evolutionary theories, critiques of determinism

UNIT IV
1. Annales School: Early agenda set by Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch, arguments of Fernand Braudel, later developments regarding history of mentalities and narrative history
2. Recent Trends: Essential ideas of Michel Foucault, Hayden White, oral tradition, ethnohistory

Reading List
49. Webster, John C.B. *An Introduction to History*, (2nd edn.), Macmillan India Ltd., Delhi, 1981.
M. Phil. in History

COURSE II: TRENDS IN INDIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

Maximum marks: 100 (4x25)  Time allowed: Three hours

The course shall consist of 4 units. The examiner shall set a total of 8 questions, with 2 questions being set in each unit. Candidates shall answer one question from each unit. All questions carry equal marks.

Explanatory note: The course seeks to teach the main trends and interpretive approaches of Indian historiography from the 19th century onwards and how these approaches are reflected in historical works dealing with ancient, medieval and modern Indian history.

UNIT I
1. European writings on Indian History in the 19th and 20th centuries: Orientalism; British interpretation of Indian society and polity; interpretation of British impact on Indian economy

UNIT II
1. Communal interpretation of Indian history: Ideology of communalism; communal understanding of ancient and medieval Indian history; communal writing on modern and contemporary India
2. Nationalism in history writing: Ideology of nationalism; nationalist response to colonial historiography; nationalist response to communal history writing

UNIT III
1. Marxist approach to Indian history: Marxist understanding of Indian society; economic determinism and colonial economy; interpretation of Indian polity and Indian national movement.
2. Other recent trends since the 1970s: writings on the nature of the pre-modern state in India, social structure and change in ancient and medieval Indian societies, the 18th century debate.

UNIT IV
1. Subaltern historiography: concept of ‘history from below’ changes and new trends in subaltern writing
2. New fields of historical research: Science and technology, environmental history, gender, urban history

Reading List
11. Chandra, Satish. Communal Interpretation of Indian History, Delhi, n.d.
M. Phil. in History

COURSE II (A): LITERATURE AND THOUGHT IN EARLY INDIA

Maximum marks: 100 (4x25)  
Time allowed: Three hours

The course shall consist of 4 units. The examiner shall set a total of 8 questions, with 2 questions being set in each unit. Candidates shall answer one question from each unit. All questions carry equal marks.

Section A: Early Indian Literature

UNIT I
1. Vedic and post-vedic literature: main works, problems of chronology, and contents.
2. Scientific and historical literature: major works on astronomy, medicine and mathematics; the itihasa-purana tradition, the Rajatarangini of Kalhana

UNIT II
3. Buddhist literature: canonical and non-canonical
4. Survey of canonical literature of Jainism

Section B: Early Philosophical Schools

UNIT III
5. Indian Philosophy: what is it?
6. Upanishadic thought and its influence on Bhagavadgita
7. Caravakas

UNIT IV
8. Buddhist thought: Madhyamaka and Vijjanavada
9. Anekantavada and Syadvada doctrines of Jainism
10. Shadadarshan: Sankhya-Yoga and Nyaya-Visheshika

Reading List

Section A (Units I and II)


Section B (Units III and IV)


