

Tumkur University, Tumakuru

Department of Studies and Research in History and Archaeology

Model Syllabus Patten for Ph.D Entrance Test-2026

Part—A

Unit-01:

Definition and Meaning of Research; Nature, Scope and Importance of Historical Research. Meaning and Scope of Research Methodology. History and Allied disciplines: Relationship with Geography, Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, Political science, Archeology, Epigraphy and Numismatics and Technology, Auxiliary sciences and History.

Types of Data. Methods of Collection of Data; Nature and Classification of Sources. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in archaeological research. Research Ethics. Plagiarism

Unit-02

Historical Criticism; External and Internal Criticism; Positive and Negative Criticism; Objectivity and Subjectivity in Writing History; Synthesis and Interpretation; Exposition.

Types of Research Presentations: Report, Dissertation, Paper Presentation, Poster, PPT. Writing a Research Report: Selection of Topic; Formulation of Hypothesis; Review of Literature. Importance and Purpose of References Notes; Bibliography, Important Terms: Appendix, Index, Glossary. Methods of systematic referencing: APA and MLA.

Unit-03

Definition of Historiography. Historical Background: Western Tradition: Herodotus and Thucydides (Greek); Livy and Tacitus (Roman). St. Augustine (Church Historiography); Ibn Khaldun (Arab).

Types of Historiography: Colonial: Orientalist: William Jones & James Prinsep. Imperialist: James Mill & Vincent Adam Smith. Nationalist: R.G. Bhandarkar, H.C. Raychoudhari and J.N. Sarkar. Marxist: D.D. Kosambi, Romila Thapar & Irfan Habib.

Post-Colonial Historiography: Subaltern: Ranjit Guha. Recent Trends in Historiography: Peasant, Tribal, Dalit, Gender and Diaspora History


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Part – B

Cognate Subject

Unit-04

Definition; Objectives of Archaeology; Relation of Archaeology and other disciplines; Kinds of Archaeology (Archaeobotany, Palaeontology, Ethno-archaeology, Geo-archaeology, Marine Archaeology, Environment Archaeology); History of Archaeology in Europe; History of Archaeology in pre-Independent India. Important Archaeological Theories: Concept of Culture; Culture-Historical Approach; New Archaeology; Functionalism; Processual Theory; General Systems Theory; Behavioural Archaeology; Post-Processual approaches; Contextual Archaeology.

Excavation Methods: Excavation of Settlements. Excavation techniques: Horizontal/ Vertical Area excavation. Open-area Excavation; Excavation types: Site Grid. Quadrant Method. Trial Trenches. Principles of Excavation: Excavation of Structural Remains. Excavation of a Burial Excavation of a Megalithic Burial. Excavation of Caves and Rock-shelters. 3-D Recording.

Dating Methods in Archaeology; Dating system; **Relative dating techniques:** Stratigraphy, Seriation, Typology and Cross Dating, Fluorine Test, Pollen Analyses, Varve Analysis. **Absolute dating techniques:** Radio Carbon or C^{14} Dating. Potassium Argon or K-Ar Dating, Tephrochronology, Thermoluminescence (TL), Electron Spin Resonance (ESR), Dendrochronology. **Derivative or Calibrated dating techniques:** Protein and Amino Acid Recemization, Archaeo-magnetic Dating, Obsidian Hydration Method.

The Mesolithic Age: Nature of the Mesolithic sites- Patterns of ecological adaptation and distribution: Sites in the alluvial plains, horseshoe lakes, coastal sites, sand-dune sites, sites in the plateaus and rock-shelter sites.; Types of Mesolithic tools; Microliths; Mesolithic art. Major Mesolithic Sites in India: Teri Sites; Sarai Nahar Rai; Mahadaha; Damdama; Langhnaj; Bagor; Bhimbetka; Patne; Sangankallu.

The Neolithic Age and the beginnings of food production; Why domestication? Types of Neolithic tools Changes in Cultic and Belief systems. Major Neolithic Sites in India: Mehrgarh; Burzhom; Chopani Mando; Koldihawa; Chirand; Deojali Hading; Brahmagiri; Piklihal. Ashmound Sites.

Unit - 05:

Indian Scripts: Brahmi and Kharoshthi scripts- origin and Characteristics, Indian Numerals. Nagari- Devanagari, Sharada, Bengali, Shanku Scripts.

Dating systems and Eras. Writing Materials. Stampage System and materials, Indian important inscriptions: Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela, Junagarh Inscription of Rudradamana; Allahabad Pillar Inscription, Kurkyala Inscription of Jina Vallabha. Mavtur inscription and Mitakshara samhita

South Indian Scripts: Satavahana, Kadamba, Ganga, Badami Chalukya, Pallava, Rashtrakuta, Kalyana Chalukya, Hoysala and Vijayanagara, Important South Indian Inscriptions: Uttaramerur inscription of Parantaka I. Important inscriptions of Karnataka- Ashokan edicts, Halmidi inscription, Talagunda pillar inscription Kappe Arabhatta Inscription, Aihole prashasti of Pulakeshi II, Shravanabelagola inscription of Bukka.

Unit -06:

Introduction; Sources :Primary and Secondary. Formation of States during 6th century BC: 16 Mahajanpadas, Magadha The Mauryan Empire

Post-Mauryan Period: Kalinga – Kharavela and Andhra Satavahanas. Imperial Gupta Period. Huna Invasion. Harshavardhana and his contribution. Muktapida of Kashmir.

Polity of Sangam Age: the Early Cholas, Chera, Pandyan. The Pallavas. The Imperial Cholas. The Kakatiyas.

Origin of Rajputs. Brief Study of Gurjara Pratiharas (Rajasthan - Gujarat), Paramars (Malwa), Chauhans (Ajmer/ Delhi), Chandellas (Bundelkhand).

Unit -07: Introduction. Source of Information. The Vedic Civilization – Society – Economy. Rise of heterodox sects- Ajivakas and Charavaka.

Rise of Buddhism and Jainism. Nature of the Mauryan Society- Religion and Economy.

Satavahana- Kushanas- Imperial Guptas- Social and Economic conditions.

The Sangam Period: Society and Economy- Chalukyas – Rashtrakutas – Cholas – Rajputs - Social-Economic condition.

Unit -08:

The Sultanate Period. The Slave dynasty, the Khaljis: Allaudin Khalji; the Tughlaqs: Muhammadbin- Tughlaq, Feroze Shah Tughlaq; the Sayyids and the Lodis. Administration under the Sultanate.

Foundation of the Mughal Empire- Babar and Humayun. The Sur Empire: Sher Shah's administration. Akbar, Aurangzeb. Mughal Administration - Civil, Judicial, Land Revenue. Mansabdari and Jagirdari. Decline of Mughal Empire- causes.

Marathas under Shivaji- Swaraj - Its expansion under the Peshwas. Balaji Vishwanatha, Balaji Baji Rao, Madhava Rao Peshwa. Causes of decline

Unit -09:

European Traders in India in the 17th and 18th Centuries – Portuguese, Dutch, French and British, British Subjugation of.. Bengal, Hyderabad, Mysore, Marathas and Sikhs

Colonialism and the agrarian system: Land Revenue Systems; Zamindari, Ryotwari, Inamdari Systems. Famines. Commercialization of Agriculture.

Peasant Rebellions – Economic Nationalism, Transport and Communication Systems

British Education Policy: Reforms of Judiciary and Civil services – British Industrial Policy - Decline of Indian industries.

Unit -10:

First World War – Treaty of Versailles – the League of Nations and its failure, the Great Depression.

Rise of Fascism and Nazism – Mussolini – Hitler. The Second World War: Cause and impact.

Emergence of the United Nations – Truman Doctrine – Marshall plan –
Warsaw pact, the Cold war – Non Aligned movement.

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