

ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 11**Changing Cultural Traditions**

History · Chapter 5 · Use this with the Board Paper · Companion to Quick Drill

HOW TO USE

Attempt the Board Paper first (closed-book, full time). Then come here. For 2-mark+ questions, compare your answer to the model. For 3-4 mark questions, also consult the **Topper Templates** below — these show the exact step-by-step structure that scores full marks per CBSE marking-scheme conventions.

MODEL ANSWERS · BOARD PAPER**Section A — Very Short Answers (1 mark each)****Q1. In which year did Martin Luther post his 95 Theses, and in which town? [1 mark]****Ans:** 1517, in Wittenberg (Saxony).**Q2. Name the family that financed the Florentine Renaissance. [1 mark]****Ans:** The Medici (notably Cosimo and Lorenzo the Magnificent).**Q3. Who proposed in 1543 that the Sun is at the centre of the universe? [1 mark]****Ans:** Nicolaus Copernicus (in *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*).**Q4. What is meant by sola scriptura? [1 mark]****Ans:** The principle that the Bible alone — not Church tradition or papal authority — is the final source of Christian truth.**Section B — Short Answers (3 marks each)****Q5. Mention any three ideas of Martin Luther that challenged the Catholic Church. [3 marks]****Ans:** (i) Sola scriptura — only the Bible is final authority. (ii) Sola fide — salvation by faith alone, not by works or indulgences. (iii) Priesthood of all believers — every Christian can read scripture, and Luther translated the Bible into German (1534) so they could.**Q6. What was the contribution of the Medici family to Renaissance Florence? [3 marks]****Ans:** The Medici Bank (under Cosimo, d. 1464) made Florence wealthy. Cosimo and Lorenzo the Magnificent (d. 1492) commissioned Brunelleschi, Donatello and Botticelli, supported the young Michelangelo, and built the Medici library of classical manuscripts. Without their patronage, Renaissance Florence would not have had the means to finance the artists and scholars who defined the period.**Section C — Long Answers (5 marks each)****Q7. How did the invention of the printing press change European cultural life? [5 marks]****Ans:** Gutenberg's movable-type press (c. 1454) had five transformative effects. (i) Book prices fell by an estimated 80%, putting private libraries within reach of merchants and lawyers. (ii) Luther's 95 Theses (1517) circulated across Germany within four weeks — the Reformation became continental rather than local. (iii) Luther's German Bible (1534) and Tyndale's English Bible (1525) standardised modern vernacular languages. (iv) Literacy in north-western Europe rose from perhaps 10% in 1500 to 50% by 1700; new genres — pamphlets, newspapers (Strasbourg, 1605), scientific journals (*Philosophical Transactions*, 1665) — emerged. (v) The Scientific Revolution — Copernicus (1543), Newton (1687) — depended on books that could be checked and replicated by scholars across countries.**Q8. Why is Florence regarded as the cradle of the Renaissance? [5 marks]****Ans:** Four reasons. (i) Wealth: Florence was the centre of the European wool trade and home to the Medici Bank, the largest in 15th-century Europe. (ii) Patronage: Cosimo (d. 1464) and Lorenzo the Magnificent (d. 1492) commissioned Brunelleschi, Donatello, Botticelli and the young Michelangelo. (iii) Humanist scholarship: Coluccio Salutati, Leonardo Bruni and Marsilio Ficino revived classical Latin and Greek and propagated civic humanism. (iv) Greek refugee scholars: after Constantinople fell to the Ottomans in 1453, they settled in Florence carrying classical Greek manuscripts. These four — money, patronage, ideas, scholars — made Florence the engine room of the European Renaissance.

Section D — Essay (8 marks)

Q9. Discuss the causes and consequences of the Protestant Reformation. [10 marks]

Ans: Causes (5 marks). (i) Church corruption: the sale of indulgences (under Pope Leo X to fund St Peter's Basilica), absentee bishops, and clerical wealth alienated ordinary believers. (ii) Humanist scholarship: Erasmus's Greek New Testament (1516) exposed errors in the Vulgate and gave reformers textual grounds for critique. (iii) The printing press (c. 1454) made Luther's 95 Theses (1517) and German Bible (1534) reach a mass audience in weeks. (iv) Political opportunity: German princes resented papal taxation flowing to Rome and saw Lutheranism as a route to political independence. (v) Theological substance: Luther's three solas — scriptura, fide, gratia — offered a coherent alternative to the late-medieval Catholic sacramental system. Consequences (5 marks). (i) Religious: Christianity split into Catholic, Lutheran, Calvinist (Geneva, 1541) and Anglican (1534) churches. (ii) Linguistic: vernacular Bibles standardised modern German, English, French. (iii) Political: the Peace of Augsburg (1555) and Peace of Westphalia (1648) accepted cuius regio, eius religio. (iv) Catholic renewal: the Council of Trent (1545–63) launched the Counter-Reformation, founding the Jesuits (1540) and renewing missionary energy across Asia and the Americas. (v) Long-term: the Reformation laid the ground for religious tolerance, vernacular literacy, and the modern sovereign state. Together, these consequences transformed Europe from a single Latin Christendom into a plural confessional order — one of the foundations of the modern world.

★ TOPPER ANSWER TEMPLATES

5 TEMPLATES · MEMORISE THE FORMAT

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — Topper template 1

Common

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Skipping definitions or terminology mid-answer
- No clear paragraph/point structure
- Conclusion absent or one-line

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — Topper template 2

Common

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Skipping definitions or terminology mid-answer
- No clear paragraph/point structure
- Conclusion absent or one-line

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — Topper template 3

Common

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Skipping definitions or terminology mid-answer
- No clear paragraph/point structure
- Conclusion absent or one-line

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — Topper template 4

Common

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Skipping definitions or terminology mid-answer
- No clear paragraph/point structure
- Conclusion absent or one-line

★ TOPPER TEMPLATE — Topper template 5

Common

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Skipping definitions or terminology mid-answer
- No clear paragraph/point structure
- Conclusion absent or one-line

MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES

- 1-mark answers must give the exact term, name, year, or place. Vague answers (e.g. 'a long time ago', 'in Europe') earn zero.
- 3-mark answers should contain three distinct points OR one fully developed paragraph with three named facts.
- 5-mark answers should have an opening sentence, FOUR–FIVE distinct points (each with a named exemplar or date), and a closing synthesis sentence.
- 8/10-mark answers must use sub-headings or paragraph breaks (causes / consequences) and contain at least eight named dates or persons across the answer.

- Citing specific dates (1453, 1454, 1517, 1543, 1545, 1687) and named persons (Luther, Calvin, Loyola, Erasmus, Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Medici) is the principal way marks are gained in this chapter.
- Avoid 'dark age then sudden light' clichés; reward continuity arguments (e.g. classical learning survived in Islamic and Byzantine worlds).
- Do not penalise British vs American spelling; do penalise mixing Catholic / Protestant doctrines (e.g. attributing predestination to Luther).