

BOARD-PATTERN PRACTICE PAPER · CBSE CLASS 12**Kinship, Caste and Class — Early Societies (c. 600 BCE-600 CE)**

History · Chapter 3 · Matches current CBSE blueprint · Each question PYQ-sourced where indicated

DATE	TOTAL MARKS	DURATION	MARKING	TARGET
_____	30	60 min	As per board	≥ 24/30

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- All compulsory.
- Specific facts (names, terms, dates) mandatory for full marks.
- Source-based questions require quoting/referencing evidence from the passage.
- Always distinguish the textual IDEAL (norm) from actual PRACTICE where relevant.

Section A — VSA (1 mark × 4)

4 MARKS · 8 MIN

- Q1.** Who led the preparation of the Critical Edition of the Mahabharata? [PYQ 2019 All India] [1 mark]
- Q2.** What is meant by patriliney? [PYQ 2020 Delhi] [1 mark]
- Q3.** Define gotra exogamy. [PYQ 2018 Outside Delhi] [1 mark]
- Q4.** Name the form of marriage represented by Draupadi's union with the five Pandavas. [PYQ 2022 All India] [1 mark]

Section B — SA-I (3 marks × 2)

6 MARKS · 12 MIN

- Q5.** Why is the Mahabharata considered a dynamic (evolving) text? (any 3 points) [PYQ 2021 All India] [3 marks]
- Q6.** How did Brahmanical texts treat people placed outside the four varnas? (any 3 points) [PYQ 2023 Delhi] [3 marks]

Section C — SA-II (5 marks × 2)

10 MARKS · 20 MIN

- Q7.** Explain the rules of kinship and marriage in early Indian society. Why were they not always followed? [PYQ 2020 Delhi] [5 marks]
- Q8.** Describe the fourfold varna order laid down in the Dharmashastras and explain how Brahmanas sought to enforce it. [PYQ 2022 All India] [5 marks]

Section D — Source-based (10 marks)

10 MARKS · 20 MIN

- Q9.** Read the passage and answer the 3 sub-questions. **PASSAGE:** 'A young Nishada named Ekalavya came to Drona, the renowned teacher of archery, and asked to be taught. But Drona, mindful of Ekalavya's low birth, refused. Undeterred, Ekalavya made a clay image of Drona, worshipped it as his teacher, and practised on his own until he became an archer greater even than Arjuna. When Drona learnt of this, he came to Ekalavya and demanded as his teacher's fee (dakshina) the boy's right thumb. Ekalavya, without hesitation, cut off his thumb and gave it — and so could never again shoot as before.' **SUB-QUESTIONS:** (a) Why did Drona refuse to teach Ekalavya, and what does this tell us about access to learning? (b) Why did Drona later demand Ekalavya's thumb? (c) What does this episode reveal about social differences in early society? [PYQ 2024 Delhi] [10 marks]

Marking scheme & model answers — see companion Answer Key PDF · all PYQs traceable to actual CBSE papers · readyforboards.com · +91 70330 05444