

1. Historiography: Development in west

(A) Choose the correct option from the given options and complete the sentences.

(1) it may be said that was the founder of modern historiography.

(a) Voltaire

(b) René Descartes

(c) Leopold Ranké

(d) Karl Marx

(2) wrote the book entitled Archaeology of Knowledge.

(a) Karl Marx

(b) Michel Foucault

(c) Lucien Febvre

(d) Voltaire

B) Identify the wrong pair in the following, correct it and rewrite.

(1) Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel - Reason in History

(2) Leopold von Ranké - The theory and Practice of History

(3) Herodotus - "The Histories"

(4) Karl Marx - Discourse on the Method

Ans: 4) wrong pair: Karl Marx - Discourse on the Method

Correct pair: Karl Marx - Das Kapital

2. Explain the following concept.

1) Dialectics:

Ans. (1) In order to understand the true nature of an event, one needs to know its opposite for e.g. True - False, Good - Bad, etc. A German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel put forward this method of analysis of history which is based on opposites.

(2) A theory called Thesis' is proposed at the beginning. It is followed by another theory called 'Antithesis which is, contrary to Thesis'.

(3) After a thorough logical discussion of both new thesis is proposed having gist of both (Thesis and Antithesis) This process of arriving at a new thesis is called Synthesis. This method of analysis of history which is based on opposites is known as 'Dialectics'.

(2) Annales School :

Ans. (1) At the dawn of the twentieth century, the writing of history got a new direction.

(2) Along with political events, kings, great leaders, the study of climate, local people,

agriculture, trade, technology, means of communication, social decisions and their collective psychology of a group was also considered important in the study of history.

(3) This new school of thought is known as Annales School. Annales School was started by French historians.

3. Explain the following with its reason.

1) Historical research was driven to focus in depth on various aspects of women's life.

Ans. (1) Initially, there was a lot of dominance of male perspective on historical writing. Simone de Beauvoir, a French scholar insisted on inclusion of women perspective in historiography.

(2) She emphasised on the inclusion of women in the process of writing history and on rethinking of the male dominated perspective of history,

(3) Because of her efforts historical research was driven to focus in depth on various aspects of women's lives their employment, their role in trade unions, institution working for their cause, and their family life.

(2) Michel Foucault called his method, "the archaeology of knowledge!"

Ans. (1) According to Michel Foucault, the prevailing method of arranging historical events in a chronological order was not right.

(2) He threw light on the fact that archaeology does not strive to reach the ultimate historical truth but attempts to explain various transitions in the past.

(3) Foucault gave more importance for explaining the transitions in history. Hence, his method is called 'the archaeology of knowledge'.

4. Answer the following in 25-30 words.

(1) What is historiography?

Ans : (1) The writing of critical historical narrative is known as historiography.

(2) A scholar who writes such a narrative is called a historian.

(3) The style of writing is determined by the conceptual framework adopted by the historian.

(2) What did René Descartes insist upon?

Ans. French Philosopher René Descartes insisted on the following in writing historiography:

(1) Never to accept anything as true till all grounds of doubt are excluded'.

(2) Hence, the reliability of a source like historical documents should be verified while writing history.

3) Why is Voltaire said to be the founder of modern historiography?

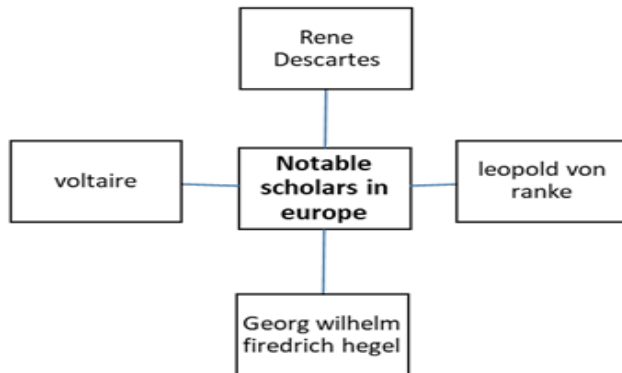
Ans. Voltaire, a French scholar, opined that it was important to consider the following aspects while writing history:

(1) objective truth and chronology of events;

(2) prevalent social tradition, agriculture, trade and economic system.

It was because of his view that all aspects of human life was considered for history writing. Therefore, he is said to be the founder of modern historiography.

5. Complete the concept chart



6. Answer the following in detail.

(1) Explain Karl Marx's 'Class Theory'.

Ans: (1) According to Karl Marx, History was not about abstract ideas, it was about living people.

(2) Human relationships were shaped by the fundamental needs of people and their ownership as well as nature of the prevalent means of production to meet those needs.

(3) The accessibility of these means to different strata of society may not be equal.

(4) This inequality causes a division of society into classes, leading to a class struggle.

(5) The class that owns the means of production economically exploited the rest of the classes.

(2) What are the four characteristics of modern historiography?

Ans. The following are the four characteristics of modern historiography:

(1) Its method is based on scientific principles and begins with formation of relevant questions.

(2) These questions are anthropocentric i.e. they are about ancient human societies and their deeds in that period of time. No interrelation between the divine and human needs is suggested.

(3) Answers to these questions are supported by reliable evidence and they are presented in a logical order.

(4) History presents a graph of man's progress with the help of his deeds in the past.

(3) What is feminist historiography?

Ans. (1) Feminist historiography means writing history with women perspective.

(2) There was a lot of dominance of male perspective on historical writing. Simone de Beauvoir, a French scholar, insisted on rethinking on the male dominated perspective and including the women's perspective in historiography.

(3) The idea of feminist historiography was accepted.

(4) Because of her efforts various aspects of women's lives like their employment, their role in trade unions and their family life became part of historiography.

(4) Explain Leopold von Ranke's perspective of history

Ans. Leopold's view on ways to write history throws light on his perspective of history:

(1) He spoke about the critical method of historical research. He gave importance to information gathered through original documents.

(2) He also stated that all types of original documents related to the historical event should be examined in detail and with great care.

(3) He believed that with this method it was possible to reach the historical truth.

(4) According to him, there should be no imaginative narration in writing history.