Appendix A
Test for Historical Understanding
(For children between 9-14 years)
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This test is meant to assess appreciation of historical material and historical understanding of the students.

Instructions- The students will be instructed as follows- “I am going to talk to you about a few things which are related to past. I may show you some pictures or ask you some questions, please be attentive and try to follow my instructions and answer the questions asked to you. But do not worry this is not an examination. Your performance will not be compared with anybody and it will be used for my research purpose only. So relax and just try to do as well as you can.

(1) Here are few pictures of some weapons. Some of them were made very long time ago, while others are comparatively newer. Can you arrange these photographs in order from older to newer ones?”
Q. - “Why do you think that this picture is oldest?”

(2) Here again I am going to show you pictures of five-some new, some old, some very old vehicles, and here I have the years in which the cars were made. But somehow the year tags are mixed up. Can you tell men which year tag belongs to which vehicle.”

(3) Some people have found a 200 years old house. Which was closed for over 100 years? Some one used to live there, long time ago. I have a few pictures of these things which were found in the house? However there is a problem, the pictures are mixed up with few other picture, can you help me. Sort out the pictures of the things in old house? Seeing the pictures can you guess what kind of a man used to live there? was he-
A) A cobbler
B) A Book Seller
C) A Hunter, or
D) A Carpenter.
- “Why do you think that these pictures do not belong to the old house?”
- “Why do you think that he was – (whatever the child answers)”.

(4) “See this picture. It was made 200 years ago. Do you think your grandfather was alive then?” if yes.
- “Why?”
“Given below is a time scale from very old to very new. Suppose that at one side of it your great grandmother was born and at the other side your younger sibling was born. Now on this time scale can you trace the points where you, your grandfather and your father were born?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your great grandmother</th>
<th>your younger sibling’s birth</th>
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| After the student have done it. She will be asked to explain her placing there. Explain why is the distance between you and your sibling is less than between you and your father?”

(6) Instruction – “I am going to tell you a story. It is about, more than 300 years ago. You listen to it carefully. After narrating it I will ask you a few questions about it. If you want I can repeat the story for you.”

“Long ago, there was a state called Silampur. The state had a young king, who was enthroned very recently. The people of the state did not have good food and clothes. They were very poor. They did not have good houses and could also not send their children to schools, as they did not have money to the fee.

Since the king was new, he did not know much about the conditions of the people in the state. Moreover his staff also did not tell him anything about the problems of the state. Therefore he did not make any effort to help the people. And so they were unhappy with the king.

Everybody in the state was angry with the king that he did not bother about his people. The king on the other side was, did not know anything about what was going on in the state. The king could not do this because he was a newly enthroned king, and did not know much about the administrative affairs. Moreover his staff was also not supportive to him. So he was not well aware of the problems of the public.

As the time went on people became more and more angry. As the poor condition of the public continued the anger against the king went on rising. One day the people of Silampur decided to revolt against the king and get rid of him.

Now-”

1. Q. “Do you think that if the king would have arranged good food and schools, for the people their problems would have solved?

   - “Why do you think so?”

2. Q. “What would have reduced people’s anger against the king?”
   A. Opening schools.
   B. Providing them good food and clothes.
   C. Eliminating their poverty, providing them money or jobs.
   D. The king taking interest in the problems of the people.
3. Q- "Given below are the reasons of the revolution against the king. Can you figure out which reason in the most important which one is next most important and so on? Give them 1, 2, 3 points according to their importance. The most important reason will be given one".

For this question, besides reading aloud the options will be given to the students in a written form:

A) Because the king did not know about the problems of the public.
B) Because the people of Silampur did not have good food and clothes.
C) Because they were poor.
D) Because they did not have jobs to earn money.
E) Because the king's had lots of money.
F) Because people did not have anything else to do so they revolted..
G) Because people were angry with the king.
H) Because the king's staff use to fight with each other.

4. Q- "The public revolution against the king- was it right on wrong?"

5. Q- One of the farmers in Silampur spoke like this –

"What do I tell you!!? Nothing can be worse than that, you know! I see my little son crying of hunger, but I do not have money to buy him milk....... I am not able to send my son to school. I can not even buy him clothes........ My whole family is starving and I am not able to do anything. If they don’t get food for few more days, they’ll all die of hunger. I wish I could have a job, or any way of earning. So that I can feed my family .......... I have been trying to get a job but there are not jobs. Everyday I search here and there for a job, but.... It’s not only me who is in such a condition. There are many others like me, who are very poor and do not have a job as well”.

Q. On the basis of what this farmer said, what can you say about the state of his mind or about how he feels?
Q. Can you guess his real feelings for the king who was responsible for people’s prosperity or their miseries?

6. “Here are two sets of pictures. In one set are the kings. You know how the lives of kings are! They have lots of money, they live in big houses and have nice clothes to wear. They don’t have to do their chores themselves. They have many servants around, to serve them. They have big responsibilities over them. They have to take care of their states and all their people. But they do not need a job for livelihood.

The other group of photos has some common people. They do not have much money and big responsibilities, but they do a lot of other things. For example they work to earn money they cook, and look after their houses etc.”

Q. "Suppose both group of people go out of their states. When they are all alone, nobody knows them. What kind of problem and in convenience they might face at such a place when kings do not have their servants and the common people do not have a job to earn till now,"
7. “You have a schedule (time table) for your whole day! The time you get up, go to school .... Spend your whole day right! Can you tell me how do you spend your whole day? Or what things do you do form morning till night on any normal day?”

A) Q- “Suppose you were born in a time when there were no schools. How would you have managed your whole day?”
B) Q- “Have you ever traveled by any vehicle, or anybody you know travels in vehicles, like motorcycle, bus or train etc?”

“Suppose those who travel by vehicle were born 300 years back. That time we did not have motor vehicles, would it have changed anything? In other words when there were no vehicles would it have been different? How?

What are the things that would have been affected, if there were no vehicles?

8. “Here are few pictures. They are showing either people or some objects. See the pictures carefully and answer the questions?”

A) Can you see anything common across these pictures?
B) Do some pictures resemble each other more than the other?
C) In what way are the pictures related to each other. That is, do the things shown in one picture have any kind of significance for the things shown in the other picture?

9. “Here are some pictures related to a dancer. These are some 30-40 years old photograph. This picture (a dancer’s photo) is of that dancer. However there are some other pictures which are mixed with her pictures, can you find out those pictures, which do not belong to that dancer?”

10. “Suppose you have been asked for a school assignment to write about a place that you have seen. You can do it in two ways. You can either go visit that place, and then write about it. Or you can ask someone who has been there and write the project, which way would you like to do it and why?”

11. “There was a king who thought that those who commit any crime should be given severe punishment, so that they so not dare they commit the mistake again. He used to give strong punishment to such people.

Now there were two story writers. Both of them had different views regarding the punishment for the criminals. One believes that if someone does a crime s/he should be punished because s/he deserves that and so that others can take a lesson from the punishment. On the other hand the other historian believes that criminals in the society are like ailments or diseases which should be cured and reformed. Punishment is not the solution of such problems”.

“These two historians are to write about the king I have mentioned above; a king who used to give severe punishments to the criminals. Now can you tell me which of these historians will describe him as a cruel king?-Why”.

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12. I am going to tell you a story about a country and its people listen to it carefully, you will find it interesting.

Some 400 years ago there was a country called Nikoya. The people of the country were not very kind to each other. They used to fight over various little things. Once a king attacked and took over the country—the people did not want a new king. They did not like foreigner king and his rules. But since they had lost the battle, they gradually accepted the king. As the time passed on the king became weak and his enemies started attacking on Nikoya.

Some 40-50 year later there was another invasion on the state. All the people fought together against the enemy but lost. Initially they did not like the king but after some time, they started liking his new rules. They saw that the new king was kind to his people also.

A long. But wherever they had any external attack they fought well.

Once again they lost a battle against a powerful king. Besides their initial resistance to this king he also ruled the country for 20-25 years successfully.

After some 30-40 years another king took over the country. The natives however were not ready to accept this king at any cost. They kept on revolting and opposing against the king, until he left the country.

Q- A) “What do you think about the people of Nikoya, did they have some characteristic which is typical of them over a period of time? If yes, what was that?”

B) “Did these people have some characteristic which changed later on?” If yes what?”
