

St Andrews Scots School
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Delhi-110092
Session 2026-2027

CLASS: VI	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: HISTORY	CH-5
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2026-27

THEME B: TAPEST OF THE PAST
INDIA, THAT IS BHARAT

Q1. Tick (✓) the correct option:

1. Which of the following names was given to India by the inhabitants of our country?

☐ (i) **Bharat**

2. Who referred to India as Gyagar in ancient times?

☐ (iii) **Tibetans**

3. The king who used the term 'Jambudvipa' to describe the geography of India was

☐ (i) **Ashoka**

4. The term 'al-Hind' to refer to the Republic of India was used by

☐ (ii) **Arabic**

5. What does the Sanskrit word Sindhu signify?

☐ (i) **Indus**

Q2. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False:

1. The term 'Bharata' was first used in Samaveda. **False**
2. The people from Persian (now Iran) were the first foreigners who named India. **True**
3. The word 'Hindustan' comes from Hebrew language. **False**
4. During the British rule, the term 'India' was synonymously used with 'Hindustan'. **True**
5. The term Jambudvipa refers to the island of the fruit of the Jackfruit

tree. **False**

Q3. Answer the following questions in brief:

1. What was the Chinese name for India? Chinese name for India is Yindu

2. What was India called in the Tibetan language?
In the Tibetan language, India was called Gyagar and Phagyul.

3. Why was the term 'Hindustan' used to refer to 'the land beyond the River Indus'?

The term 'Hindustan' became more prevalent in Persian sources. It was used to describe the northern part of the Indian subcontinent, particularly the regions beyond the Indus River, known as the land of the Hindus.

4. Explain the etymology of the term Bharat.

Etymologically, the term Bharat is often interpreted as being derived from the Sanskrit roots 'Bha,' meaning light or truth, and 'rat,' meaning engaged or devoted. Thus, Bharat can be understood as a place where its inhabitants are engaged in the pursuit of truth or light.

Q4. Answer the following questions in detail:

1. What was the oldest name for India? Explain how it came to exist

The name 'Bharat' is given by its inhabitants. It is one of the oldest names for our country, derived from Sanskrit. The term 'Bharata' first appears in the Rig Veda, where it refers to one of the main groups of Vedic people known as the Bharata.

2. Write a note on the following:

a. Gyagar and Phagyul

India is known as 'Gyagar' and 'Phagyul' in Tibetan. The term 'Gyagar' means 'Land of the Gods' or 'Land of the Noble Ones,' reflecting the deep spiritual connection that Tibetans have with India, especially because of Buddhism. The name 'Phagyul,' which means 'Land of Abundance,' highlights the rich natural resources and beautiful landscapes of India. Both names reflect how important India

is to the Tibetan people and their history, as it represents a place of learning, spirituality, and cultural exchange.

b. Jambudvīpa

The term 'Jambudvīpa' means 'the island of the fruit of the jamun tree,' a common tree native to India, also known as the 'Jambul' or 'Malabar plum tree.' In ancient Indian cosmology, Jambudvīpa referred to one of the continents, with India as its central region. Over time, as Indian civilisation developed, Jambudvīpa came to symbolise the Indian subcontinent in both cultural and geographical contexts.

3. Discuss how the meaning of the name 'Hindustan' changed across different historical.

Different countries and cultures have their unique names for India, often based on historical trade, geography or cultural connections.

For example, the ancient Greeks called India 'Indos,' and the Persians used the name 'Hindustan.' In China, India is known as 'Yìndù' while in Tibet, it is called 'Bod'. In Southeast Asia, countries such as Thailand and Indonesia historically referred to India as 'Bharata.