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HISTORY PYQs

With Explanation
2020–2025
UPSC Prelims

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6 Year Section wise breakup of History questions 2020-2025

Year	Ancient	Medieval	Modern	Art & Culture	Total
2025	6	-	8	2	16
2024	2	1	4	3	10
2023	3	3	3	4	13
2022	2	5	5	4	16
2021	3	6	7	3	19
2020	9	0	10	0	19

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2025

Previous Year UPSC History Questions (PYQs) With Explanation 2025

There were 16 questions from History in 2025, out of which

- 4 questions were from Ancient India
- 8 questions were asked from Modern India
- 2 questions were asked from Art & Culture
- 2 questions from Early Medieval India

Overall, the level of the questions was Moderate.

1. Consider the following statements about Raja Ram Mohan Roy: **[Modern India]**

- I. He possessed great love and respect for the traditional philosophical systems of the East.
II. He desired his countrymen to accept the rational and scientific approach and the principle of human dignity and social equality of all men and women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
(b) II only
(c) Both I and II
(d) Neither I nor II

1. Ans-c

Explanation

Rammohun Roy, is rightly regarded as the first great leader of modern India. Rammohun Roy was moved by deep love for his people and country and worked hard all his life for their social, religious, intellectual, and political regeneration.

He was pained by the stagnation and corruption of contemporary Indian society which was at that time dominated by caste and convention.

Popular religion was full of superstitions and was exploited by ignorant and corrupt priests.

The upper classes were selfish and often sacrificed social interest to their own narrow interests.

Rammohun Roy possessed great love and respect for the traditional philosophic systems of the East; but, at the same time, he believed that Western culture alone would help regenerate Indian society.

Hence statement 1 is correct

In particular, he wanted his countrymen to accept the rational and scientific approach and the principle of human dignity and social equality of all men and women. He also wanted the introduction of modern capitalism and industry in the country.

Hence statement 2 is correct

2. Consider the following subjects with regard to Non-Cooperation Programme: **[Modern India]**

- I. Boycott of law-courts and foreign cloth
- II. Observance of strict non-violence
- III. Retention of titles and honours without using them in public
- IV. Establishment of Panchayats for settling disputes

How many of the above were parts of Non-Cooperation Programme?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

2.Ans-c

Explanation

The program of non-cooperation included, within its ambit,

- The surrender of titles and honors,
- Boycott of government-affiliated schools and colleges, **law courts, foreign clothes**, and could be extended to include resignation from government service
- Mass civil disobedience during the non-payment of taxes.
- National schools and colleges were to be set up,
- **Panchayats were to be established for settling disputes**,
- Hand-spinning and waving was to be encouraged and
- People were asked to maintain Hindu-Muslim unity,
- Give up untouchability and
- **Observe strict non-violence.**

Gandhiji promised that if the program was fully implemented, Swaraj would be issued within a year.

The goal of the Congress was changed from attainment of self-government by constitutional and legal means to attainment of Swaraj by peaceful legitimate means.

3. The irrigation device called 'Araghata' was

[Early Medieval India]

- (a) A water bag made of leather pulled over a pulley
- (b) A large wheel with earthen pots tied to the outer ends of its spokes
- (c) A larger earthen pot driven by bullocks
- (d) A large water bucket pulled up by rope directly by hand

3.Ans-b

Explanation

The **Noria** is a wheel which has pots or buckets attached to its rim without a chain for carrying the pots, or a gear mechanism to ensure a continuous flow of water. It could only be used to draw water from close to the surface or from a river.

The Persian wheel, on the other hand, had gears and a chain to carry the pots and was associated with a well.

The general consensus among many historians is that **Araghatta** does refer to something similar to the Persian wheel, if not exactly identical to it.

4. 'Who among the following rulers in ancient India had assumed the titles 'Mattavilasa', 'Vichitrachitta' and 'Gunabhara'? **[Ancient India]**

- (a) Mahendravarman I
- (b) Simhavishnu
- (c) Narasimhavarman I
- (d) Simhavarman

4.Ans-a

Explanation

Pallava king Mahendravarman I ruled from 600 to 630 A.D he had a passion for titles; some of his titles were Chetthakari (Temple builder), Chitrakara Puli (Tiger among painters), **Mattavilasa**(addicted to enjoyment) , **Vichitrachitra** (Myriad minded), Llitankura (charming offspring), **Gunabhadr**a (Virtuous)

5. Fa-hien (Faxian), the Chinese pilgrim, travelled to India during the reign of **[Ancient India]**

- (a) Samudragupta
- (b) Chandragupta II
- (c) Kumaragupta I
- (d) Skandagupta

5.Ans-b

Explanation

During the reign of Chandragupta II (375 to 414 A.D), India was visited by Fa-Hien, the Chinese traveller. He came to India by land route and went back by the sea route. He spent six years in India. His main object in coming to India was to get Buddhist books on the discipline.

Fa-Hien visited Gandhara, Takshila and Peshawar, which were full of Buddhist monuments.

In Punjab, Fa-Hien saw many Buddhist monasteries, and he estimates the number of monks there at more than 10,000.

At Mathura alone, Fa-Hien found 20 monasteries with 3,000 Buddhist monks.

He visited Shravasti, which was full of Buddhist monuments. He visited Buddhist places like Lumbini, Vaishali, Nalanda, Gaya, Bodhgaya and Rajgriha.

Fa-Hien was very much impressed by the city of Pataliputra and also the palace of Ashoka.

According to him, the palace was with various halls , constructed walls and gates, carved designs . Ashoka's palace was still in existence at the time of Fa-Hien's visit.

Fa-Hien ought to have seen that with the revival of Hinduism under the patronage of Gupta kings, Buddhism had gone into the background.

He also visited Ceylon and stayed there for two years. From there, he went to Java and from there back to China.

6. Who among the following led a successful military campaign against the kingdom of Srivijaya, the powerful maritime State, which ruled the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands? *[Early Medieval]*

- (a) Amoghavarsha (Rashtrakuta)
- (b) Prataparudra (Kakatiya)
- (c) Rajendra I (Chola)
- (d) Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala)

6.Ans-c

Explanation

Rajendra I(1012-1044 A.D) - He annexed whole of Ceylon, sent a large naval expedition against the Kingdom of Srivijaya. Srivijaya was a powerful maritime state which ruled the Malayan Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and other neighboring islands and controlled the sea routes from India and China.

The expedition was a complete success. The capital of Srivijaya was sacked, and King Sangrama Vijayothungavarman's successor was taken captive. The campaign apparently ended with the restoration of the kingdom to its ruler, subject to his acknowledging Chola suzerainty

7. With reference to ancient India (600–322 BC), consider the following pairs: *[Ancient India]*

Territorial Region River flowing in the region

- I. Asmaka : Godavari
- II. Kamboja : Vipas
- III. Avanti : Mahanadi
- IV. Kosala : Sarayu

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

7.Ans-b

Explanation

Buddhist and Jaina texts list 16 powerful states (solasa-mahajanapada) that flourished in the

early 6th century BCE. The Anguttara Nikaya's list of the mahajanapadas is as follows: Kasi (Kashi), Kosala (Koshala), Anga, Magadha, Vajji (Vrijji), Malla, Chetiya (Chedi), Vamsa (Vatsa), Kuru, Panchala, Machchha (Matsya), Shurasena, Assaka (Ashmaka), Avanti, Gandhara, and Kamboja.

Asmaka : Assaka (Ashmaka) is located on the Godavari river. Its capital was Potana/Podana or Potali, identified with modern Bodhan.

Hence 1st pair is correctly matched

Kamboja: Kamboja included the area around Rajaori, including the Hazara district of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan, and probably extended up to Kafiristan

Vipas is a Rigvedic name of the **Beas river**, which flows through the states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

Hence 2nd pair is incorrectly matched

Avanti: Avanti, in the Malwa region of central India, was divided into a northern and a southern part by the Vindhya. The two important towns of this kingdom were Mahishmati (identified with modern Maheshwar) and Ujjayini (near modern Ujjain), both of which are mentioned in ancient texts as its capital. The **Narmada River** flows through Avanti.

Hence 3rd pair is incorrectly matched

Kosala : The powerful kingdom of Kosala was bounded by the Sadanira (Gandak) on the east, the Gomati on the west, the Sarpika or Syandika (Sai) on the south, and the Nepal hills to the north. **The Sarayu River divided it into a northern and a southern part.**

Hence 4th pair is correctly matched

8. The first Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, a music training school, was set up in 1901 by Vishnu Digambar Paluskar in:

[Art & Culture]

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Gwalior
- (c) Ujjain
- (d) Lahore

8. Ans-d

Explanation

Vishnu Digambar Paluskar was born on August 18, 1872 at Kurundwad, Maharashtra. He was trained under Balkrishna Bua, who was a doyen of musicians in Maharashtra. From there, he toured Gwalior, Mathura, Bharatpur, Delhi and reached Punjab.

In Punjab, he lived in Amritsar for some time and shifted to Okara in Montgomery district to be the tutor of Sir Khem Singh's children. After a few months there, he came to **Lahore and here, on May 5, 1901, he founded Gandharva Mahavidyalaya.**

This is one of the most interesting turning points in the history of modern music as it was the first school run by a middle-class musician without the direct patronage of Rajas and Maharajas.

The Vidyalaya school was run by public support, donations from richer classes, and funds raised by the concerts of Vishnu Digambar. It was truly a school of the people for the people. In 1908, a branch of Gandharva Mahavidyalaya was opened in Bombay.

Towards the end of his life, his time was devoted almost entirely to religious music, and finally his end also came amidst the singing of Ram Dhun (Ram's name).

Paluskar's Ram Dhun, 'Raghupati Raghava Rajaram' was sung at the head of the famous Dandi March led by Gandhiji in 1930.

9. Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the 'Pradeshika', 'Rajuka' and 'Yukta' were important officers at the **[Ancient India]**

- (a) village-level administration
- (b) district-level administration
- (c) provincial administration
- (d) level of the central administration

9.Ans-b

Explanation

Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the **pradeshika, rajuka, and yukta** were important officers at the district level. Rock edict 3 refers to these officers going on tours every five years in order to instruct people in dhamma and for other purposes.

3rd Major Rock Edict (Translated)

Thus speaks the Beloved of the Gods, the king Piyadassi: When I had been consecrated twelve years I commanded as follows: Everywhere in my empire, **the yuktas** [subordinate officers] with the **rajukas** [rural administrators] and the **pradesikas** [heads of the districts], shall go on tour every five years, in order to instruct people in the Dhamma as well as for other purposes. It is good to be obedient to one's mother and father, friends and relatives, to be generous to brahmans and Sramanas, it is good not to kill living beings, it is good not only to spend little, but to own the minimum of property. The council will instruct the officials to record the above, making it both manifest to the public and explaining why.

10. Consider the following statements in respect of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

- I. The Congress declared the attainment of 'Swaraj' by all legitimate and peaceful means to be its objective.
- II. It was to be implemented in stages with civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes for the next stage only if 'Swaraj' did not come within a year and the Government resorted to repression.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[Modern India]

- (a) I only
(b) II only
(c) Both I and II
(d) Neither I nor II

10.Ans-a

Explanation

Gandhi and the National Congress decided in September 1920 to launch a non-violent non-cooperation movement and continue it till the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were removed and Swaraj established. Gandhi gave the slogan "Swaraj in a year".

Gandhiji proposed that the movement should unfold in stages.

It should begin with the surrender of titles that the government awarded, and a boycott of civil services, army, police, courts and legislative councils, schools, and foreign goods.

Then, in case the government used repression, a full civil disobedience campaign would be launched.

Gandhiji promised that if the program was fully implemented, Swaraj would be issued within a year.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect

The goal of the Congress was changed from attainment of self-government by constitutional and legal means to attainment of Swaraj by peaceful legitimate means.

Hence statement 1 is correct

11. "Sedition has become my religion" was the famous statement given by Gandhiji at the time of

- (a) The Champaran Satyagraha
(b) Publicly violating Salt Law at Dandi
(c) Attending the Second Round Table Conference in London
(d) The launch of the Quit India Movement

[Modern India]

11.Ans-b

Explanation

Civil disobedience movement started by Gandhi on 12th March 1930 with his famous Dandi March. Together with 78 chosen followers, Gandhiji walked nearly 375 km from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, a village on the Gujarat sea coast.

On 6th April, Gandhiji reached Dandi, picked a handful of salt and broke the salt law as a symbol of India's people's refusal to live under British-made laws and therefore British rule. Gandhiji declared,

British rule in India has brought about moral, material, cultural and spiritual ruination of this great country.

I regard this rule as a curse. I am out to destroy this system of government..... **sedition has become my religion**. Ours is a non-violent battle. We are not to kill anybody, but it is our dharma to see that the curse of this government is blotted out.

12. The famous female figurine known as 'Dancing Girl', found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of

- (a) carnelian
- (b) clay
- (c) bronze
- (d) gold

[Art & Culture]

12.Ans-c

Explanation

Bronze female figurine found at Mohenjodaro become famous as the 'dancing girl'.

John Marshall referred to her as the 'dancing girl' due to her resemblance to a semi-impudent 'nautch girl.' He noted her posture, with one hand on her hip and her feet keeping time to the music, which contributed to this characterization.

The figure was made by the lost-wax method.

13. Subsequent to which one of the following events, Gandhiji, who consistently opposed untouchability and appealed for its eradication from all spheres, decided to include the upliftment of 'Harijans' in his political and social programme?

[Modern India]

- (a) The Poona Pact
- (b) The Gandhi-Irwin Agreement (Delhi Pact)
- (c) Arrest of Congress leadership at the time of the Quit India Movement.
- (d) Promulgation of the Government of India Act, 1935

13.Ans-a

Explanation

Poona Pact

- Against communal award, Gandhi began a fast unto death on untouchable separate electorate issue on September 20, 1932.
- Gandhi's concern for untouchables was rooted in his deep humanitarianism. We do not want, as he said, on our register and on our census, untouchables classified as a separate class.... Would untouchables remain untouchables in perpetuity?
- The result was the Pune Pact of September 25th, by which the award was modified.
- The pact reserved a total of 148 seats for untouchables in the provincial legislatures, but provided that election to these seats was to be through joint electorates.
- After Poona Pact, Harijan upliftment became Gandhiji's main concern. Harijan, God's people was the name given by Gandhiji to untouchables.

- He started **All India Untouchability League** in September 1932 and Weekly **Harijan** in January 1933. January 8, 1933 was observed as a temple entry day.
- In Harijan work, Gandhi's emphasis was on conversion and not compulsion.
- Gandhiji vigorously toured the country, appealing to the upper caste to change their attitude. Despite the reluctance of the Congress leaders, Gandhi's tour was unsuccessful.

14. Consider the following fruits :

[Modern India]

- I. Papaya
- II. Pineapple
- III. Guava

How many of the above were introduced in India by the Portuguese in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

14.Ans-c

Explanation

The European 'discovery' of America was followed by the dissemination of American food crops to different parts of the world. The Portuguese, being the earliest European nation to arrive in India, became the agents for introducing several American crops like **maize, sweet potato and capsicums** in the country. The Portuguese also introduced many 'New World' fruits like the **pineapple, Papaya, Sapodilla, and the Guava** which found acceptance and became part of Indian food culture.

15. Who among the following was the founder of the 'Self-Respect Movement'? [Modern India]

- (a) 'Periyar' E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker
- (b) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- (c) Bhaskarrao Jadhav
- (d) Dinkarrao Javalkar

15.Ans-a

Explanation

E. V. Ramaswamy , Periyar from a merchant family of Erode. He had joined Congress in 1919, then gradually became disillusioned with what he saw as its Brahminic leadership.

In the early 1920s, he took part in the Vaikom Temple Satyagraha, reportedly clashing with Gandhi while taking a militant position. Nonetheless, Periyar returned to Tamil Nadu as the hero of Vaikom. He subsequently clashed with Congress leaders over the proposed resolution for reservations in the legislatures for non-Brahmins and untouchables.

In 1925, Periyar left Congress.

Self-Respect League

Periyar formed the Self-Respect League in 1926 and its first conference was held in 1929. This movement spread across Tamil Nadu. Its focus was Opposing Brahmin priesthood, calling for abolition of caste and supporting the liberation of women, he attacked all religions taking an atheist stance

- There is no God,
- There is no God,
- There is no God at all.
- He who invented God is a fool.
- He who propagates God is a scoundrel.
- He who worships God is a barbarian.

In 1927, during a tour of South India, Gandhiji defended Varanashrama Dharma and Periyar contested this hotly in personal meetings and in articles in his journal **Kudi Arasu**, he now claimed that three conditions were necessary for the country to gain its freedom.

- Destruction of the Congress,
- Of the so-called Hindu religion and
- Of Brahmin domination.

16. Who provided legal defence to the people arrested in the aftermath of Chauri Chaura incident?

- (a) C. R. Das
(b) Madan Mohan Malaviya and Krishna Kant
(c) Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Khwaja Hasan Nizami
(d) M. A. Jinnah

[Modern India]

16.Ans-b

Explanation

Madan Mohan Malaviya appeared in the High Court in 1923 to support the appeal of the 170 persons sentenced to death by the Session judge of Gorakhpur in the Chauri Chaura case. In this case 225 persons had been tried for setting fire to the police station of Chauri Chaura (in Deoria district) and causing the death of one Sub-Inspector and 21 constables trapped in it. Due to the efforts of Barrister Krishna Kant and Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya, around 150 freedom fighters were saved from hanging.

2024

Previous Year UPSC History Questions (PYQs) With Explanation 2024

There were 10 questions from History in 2024, out of which

- 2 questions were from Ancient India
- 1 question was from Medieval India
- 4 questions were asked from Modern India
- 3 questions were asked from Art & Culture

Overall, the level of the questions was Moderate to Tough.

1. With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets? [Ancient India]

1. Nayaputta
2. Shakyamuni
3. Tathagata

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha

Answer: b

Explanation:

Epithets of Lord Buddha

Buddha- the Awakened One, the Enlightened One, **Sakyamuni** (the Sakya sage), Sakyasimha (the Sakya Lion), Sugata (the Happy One), Satthar, Sattha/Shastar (the Teacher), Jina (the Conqueror), Bhagavat (the Blessed One), Lokanatha (the Lord of the World), Sarvajna (the Omniscient One), Dharma- raja (the King of Truth), **Tathagata** (one who has thus gone).

Epithets of Lord Mahavira

Muni, Mahana, **Nayaputta**, Vira, Mahavira and Bhagavan were the main epithets for Lord Mahavira.

Hence, option b is correct.

2. Consider the following information:

	<i>Archaeological Site</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.	Chandraketugarh	Odisha	Trading Port town
2.	Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic Site
3.	Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic site
4.	Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Rock-cut cave shrines

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched? [Ancient India]

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 4

Answer: b

Explanation:

	<i>Archaeological Site</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.	Chandraketugarh	West Bengal	Important centre of trade
2.	Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic site
3.	Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic site
4.	Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Buddhist Stupa

Chandraketugarh: It is located in the Ganga Delta, in the 24 Parganas district of **West Bengal**, about 25 miles northeast of Kolkata.

In early historic times, Chandraketugarh was connected to the Ganga by the Vidyadhari river and must have been an **important centre of trade**, and possibly also a political centre.

Chandraketugarh was a major centre of terracotta craft.

Inamgaon: (in Pune district, Maharashtra) is located on a terrace of the Ghod, a tributary of the Bhima. It is one of the largest, most intensively and extensively excavated Chalcolithic sites in Maharashtra.

The excavations, undertaken by a team from Deccan College, Pune, under the direction of M.K. Dhavalikar, H. D. Sankalia, and Z.D. Ansari, lasted for 12 seasons between 1968 and 1983 and provided a lot of information about the lives of the farmers who lived in this place hundreds of years ago.

Period I (c. 1600–1400 BCE) belonged to the Malwa culture,

- Period II (c. 1400–1000 BCE) to the early Jorwe culture, and
- Period III (c. 1000–700 BCE) to the late Jorwe culture.

Mangadu: Megaliths are widely distributed in South India.

Important sites in Kerala include Pulimattu, Tengakkal, Cenkotta, Muthukar, Peria Kanal, Machad, Pazhayannur, and **Mangadu**. The megaliths at Mangadu in the Kollam district of Kerala date from c. 1000–100 BCE.

In **Tamil Nadu**, the sites include Adichanallur, Amritamangalam, Kunnattur, Sanur, Vasudevanallur, Tenkasi, Korkai, Kayal, Kalugumalai, Perumalmalai, Pudukkotai, Tirukkampuliyar, and Odugattur.

In **Karnataka** megalithic sites are Brahmagiri, Maski, Hanamsagar, Terda I-Halingali, T. Narsipur, and Hallur, Kumarnahalli.

Sites in **Andhra** include Kadambapur, Nagarjunakonda, Yelleswaram, Gallapalli, Tadapatri, Mirapuram, and Amaravati.

Buddhist Stupas - Salihundam, and Ramathirtham in Andhra are reputed for Buddhist Stupas.

Only 2nd and 3rd rows are correctly matched.

Hence, option b is correct.

3. Who of the following rulers of medieval India gave permission to the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal?

[Medieval India]

- (a) Krishnadevaraya
- (b) Narasimha Saluva
- (c) Muhammad Shah III
- (d) Yusuf Adil Shah

Answer: a

Explanation:

In 1509, Alfonso de Albuquerque became Governor of Portuguese in India.

Krishnadevaraya became king in 1509 and was virtually the master of the entire South India. There were several quasi-independent vassals under Krishnadevaraya - The Chiefs of Srirangapatnam, Barkapur, Garsopa, Calicut, Bhatkal and Barkur.

In 1510, Albuquerque captured Goa under Adil Shah. On the success of Albuquerque at Goa, **Krishnadevaraya granted permission for the Portuguese to build a Fort at Bhatkal for the protection of Portuguese Trade.**

Hence, option a is correct.

4. With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements:

[Modern India] * [UPSC Dropped this question]

1. Under the Ryotwari Settlement of revenue collection, the peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of bad harvests or natural calamities.
2. Under the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenues to the state, on or before the fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Explanation:

Thomas Munro introduced the Ryotwari system. This system was introduced in the early 19th century in the Madras and Bombay presidencies. The system was revised periodically usually after 20 to 30 years when the revenue demand was usually increased.

- Under this system, the cultivator was recognized as the owner of the land and was responsible for the collection of land revenue.
- Peasants were tenants in the eyes of the government for which they paid rent and not tax.
- **The ryots had to pay in times even when their produce was destroyed by floods or when drought prevailed.**
- The land revenue was fixed at exorbitant rates and thus peasants were left with barely enough for their sustenance.

The ultimate aim behind the ryotwari system was to consolidate the Company's government in the south by expanding its revenue base.

It has been argued that a significant social upheaval was brought about by the Ryotwari Settlement which greatly harmed the status held by village headmen and resulted in the outbreak of the Deccan riots.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Cornwallis began the *Permanent Settlement* in Bengal and Bihar (1793).

John Shore, the Record Keeper opined that Zamindars were the owners of the land with regard to revenue settlement and Cornwallis complied with this view.

The Decennial settlement was declared permanent in the year 1793 with approval from the Court of Directors and ***Zamindars were given due recognition as landowners.***

Zamindars were given orders to pay 89 per cent of annual revenue and the rest was the zamindar's share.

The Zamindars had to pay a fixed amount of revenue by the due date and before sunset (known as the sunset law). This provision of the settlement frightened the zamindars, and turned them into paupers because if they failed in being punctual, their zamindari were sold off.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

5. Consider the following statements:

[Art & Culture]

1. There are no parables in the Upanishads.
2. Upanishads were composed earlier than the Puranas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Explanation:

The **Vedas** are generally considered to have two portions- the ***Karma-Kanda*** (portion dealing with action or rituals) and ***Jnana-Kanda*** (portion dealing with knowledge).

The Samhita and the Brahmanas represent mainly the Karma-Kanda or the ritual portion, while the ***Upanishads chiefly represent the Jnana-Kanda or the knowledge portion.***

The **Upanishads** are often called 'Vedanta'. Literally, Vedanta means the end of Veda, Vedasaya antah, the conclusion (Anta) as well as the goal (Anta) of the Vedas.

The word 'Upanishad' has been derived from the root Sad (to sit), to which are added two prefixes: Upa and Ni. The prefix Upa denotes nearness and Ni totality. Thus, this word means 'sitting nearby devotedly.'

The Upanishads contain parables. Some of the important parables are Yama—Nachiketa, the story of Jabala-Satyakama, Satyakama and Upakoshala, the story of Rishi Yajnavalkya, Narada—Sanatkumara, Indra-Virochana and Prajapati, Ushasti Chakrayana, etc.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Period of Composition of some important Ancient Indian Texts.

- **Vedic Text** - 2000 - 500 BCE
- **Vedanga Text** - 600 - 200 BCE
- **Mahabharata** - 400 BCE - 400 CE
- **Ramayana** - 500 BCE - 300 CE
- **Puranas** - 100 BCE - 600 CE
- **Dharmasutras** - 600 BCE - 300 BCE
- **Smritis** - 200 BCE - 900 CE
- **Tripitaka** - 600 BCE - 300 BCE
- **Jaina Canon** - 500 BCE - 500 CE
- **Sangam Texts** - 300 BCE - 300 CE
- **Trikkural** - 500 CE - 600 CE
- **Tamil epics (Silppadikaram and Manimekalai)** - 500 CE - 600 CE

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

6. Who was the Provisional President of the Constituent Assembly before Dr. Rajendra Prasad took over?

[Modern India]

- (a) C. Rajagopalachari
- (b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (c) T.T. Krishnamachari
- (d) Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Constitution was framed by the Constituent Assembly of India, established by the members of the provincial assemblies elected by the people of India. **Dr. Sachidanand Sinha was the first president of the Constituent Assembly.** Later, Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected its president.

Hence, option d is correct.

7. With reference to the Government of India Act of 1935, consider the following statements:

[Modern India]

1. It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation based on the union of the British Indian Provinces and Princely States.
2. Defence and Foreign Affairs were kept under the control of the Federal legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a

Explanation:

Government of India Act 1935

PART II. THE FEDERATION OF INDIA

CHAPTER I. ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERATION AND ACCESSION OF INDIAN STATES.

5.-(1) It shall be lawful for His Majesty if an address on that behalf has been presented to him by each House of Parliament and if the condition hereinafter mentioned is satisfied, to declare by Proclamation that as from the day therein appointed there - shall be united in a Federation under the Crown, by the name of the Federation of India -

(a) the Provinces hereinafter called Governors' Provinces; and

(b) the Indian States which have acceded or may thereafter accede to the Federation

The Government of India act 1935 provided for an All India federation According to the act of 1935 all the Provinces were to join the Indian federation automatically. Entry into the federation was to be purely voluntary action on the part of each state, however small and insignificant the state may be. At the time of joining the federation, the ruler of the state was to execute an Instrument of accession in favour of the crown.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The Act of 1935 also provided for dyarchy at the centre. That dyarchy which was abolished in the provinces, was introduced at the centre, and **certain federal subjects were reserved in the hands of the Governor-General to be administered by him with the assistance of not more than 3 councillors to be appointed by him. Those subjects were Defence, External Affairs, Ecclesiastical Affairs and the Administration of the Tribal Areas.**

In the Administration of other federal subjects, the Governor General was to be aided and advised by a council of Ministers whose number was not to exceed 10.

The federal Ministry was to be to administer all the federal departments except the above-mentioned reserved Departments.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

8. Which one of the following is a work attributed to playwright Bhasa? [Art & Culture]

- (a) Kavyalankara
- (b) Natyashastra
- (c) Madhyama-vyayoga
- (d) Mahabhashya

Answer: c

Explanation:

Bhasa was a playwright who wrote works such as the **Madhyama-vyayoga**, Duta-Ghatotkacha, Dutavakya, Balacharita, Pratima-natak, Charudatta. Pancharatra and Svapna-Vasavadatta,.

Hence, option c is correct.

9. Sanghabhuti, an Indian Buddhist monk who travelled to China at the end of the fourth century AD, was the author of a commentary on: [Art & Culture]

- (a) Prajnaparamita Sutra
- (b) Visuddhimagga
- (c) Sarvastivada Vinaya
- (d) Lalitavistara

Answer: c

Explanation:

Many Indian monks travelled to China. They included

Sanghabhuti, author of a commentary on the Sarvastivada Vinaya, who was in China in 381–84 CE.

Other Indian Monks who **travelled to China** - Kumarajiva (5th century), Paramartha (6th century), and Bodhidharma (6th century).

Monk Punyatrata travelled to **central Asia** along with his student Dharmayashas and translated several Sarvastivadin texts between 397 and 401 CE.

Hence, option c is correct.

10. Consider the following pairs: [Modern India]

	<i>Party</i>	<i>Its Leader</i>
1.	Bharatiya Jana Sangh	Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
2.	Socialist Party	C. Rajagopalachari
3.	Congress for Democracy	Jagjivan Ram
4.	Swatantra Party	Acharya Narendra Dev

How many of the above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: b

Explanation:

Party	Its Leader
Bhartiya Jana Sangh	Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
Swatantra Party	C. Rajagopalachari
Congress for Democracy	Jagjivan Ram
Congress Socialist Party	Acharya Narendra Dev

Explanation: The Socialist Party is an independent incarnation of the Congress Socialist Party (CSP) formed in 1934 within the Congress. **The CSP was founded by Jaiprakash Narayan, Acharya Narendra Dev, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia.** It merged itself into the Janata Party in 1977 immediately after the independence.

Only 1st and 3rd pairs are correctly matched.

Hence, option b is correct.

2023

Previous Year UPSC History Questions (PYQs) With Explanation 2023

There were 13 questions from History in 2023, out of which

- 3 questions were from Ancient India
- 3 question were from Medieval India
- 3 questions were asked from Modern India and
- 4 questions were asked from Art & Culture

Overall, the level of the questions was Moderate to Tough.

1. In which of the following regions was Dhanyakataka, which flourished as a prominent Buddhist centre under the Mahasanghikas, located? *[Ancient India]*

- (a) Andhra
- (b) Gandhara
- (c) Kalinga
- (d) Magadha

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The **Andhras** are mentioned in the Aitareya Brahmana and the inscriptions of Ashoka.
- Satavahans are identified with Andhras of Puranas.
- The term **Andhra-Bhritya** in Puranas indicates that the ancestors of Satavahanas were subordinates of Mauryans.
- Satavahana empire covered modern Maharashtra, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh
- Amravati/ancient **Dhanyakataka [Dhannakada]** was an important town and capital of later Satavahanas on the right bank of the Krishna river in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- A large Buddhist establishment was located here. The establishment dates back to the Mauryan period.

Hence, option a is correct.

2. With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements: *[Art & Culture]*

1. The concept of Stupa is Buddhist in origin.
2. Stupa was generally a repository of relics.
3. Stupa was a votive and commemorative structure in Buddhist tradition.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: b

Explanation:

The custom of erecting stupas as a form of memorial to the dead was **pre-Buddhist**.

The stupa began as an earthen burial mound that was revered by the local population, and this cult of stupas was taken up by Buddhism.

There is a reference in *Mahaparinibbana sutta* where Buddha instructs **Ananda** to erect at the crossing of four highways a stupa over the remains of his body, after it had been burnt on the funeral pyre, in the same manner as stupa of a universal monarch.

The custom of erecting this form of memorial was prevalent among the Jainas in the early times. It is the Buddhists, however, who especially selected and adapted it to their use, and gradually it acquired a special Buddhist connotation and association as enshrining the relics [dhattu] of the Buddha or his chief disciples and as the symbol of Mahaparinirvana or the Great Decease of the Master.

Also, the Mahaparinibbana sutta suggested that the practice of erecting funerary mounds over the bodily remains of kings **pre-dated Buddhism**. However, **there are no references to such a practice in Vedic literature**.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The stupa represented many things in the Buddhist tradition. It stood for the axis mundi [the centre of the universe]: it symbolises the parinibbana of Buddhists: it was a **repository of relics of Buddha** and other monks.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The relics enshrined in the stupa were of three kinds - **sarira dhatu [corporeal relics]**, **paribhogika dhatu [relics that had been in use]**, and **niddesika dhatu [indicative, commemorative or referential relics]**.

Stupas were erected as an aspect of **niddesika dhatu** in places specially sacred in the life of Buddha.

The Stupa is the container of the relic and as symbolizing the master himself, a **votive** and devotional aspect is also latent in the stupa from the very beginning.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

3. With reference to ancient South India, Korkai, Poompuhar, and Muchiri were well known as:

- (a) Capital cities

[Ancient India]

- (b) Ports
- (c) Centers of iron-and-steel making
- (d) Shrines of Jain Tirthankaras

Answer: b

Explanation:

The first phase of urbanism in south India dates from 300 B.C. to 300 A.D.

The Tamil word **Pattinam means port**, and Urban Centers is described in Sangam poetry.

Historian Champakalakshmi has given an account of the urban centres of South India. A few centres are:

Korkai was an important Pandyan Port, reputed for its pearls as described in Sangam Poems and Greek accounts. The Arthashastra also refers to the pearl fisheries of Pandyan country.

Kaverippumpattinam, also known as Poompuhar, Puhar, or Pumpuhar, was the premier Chola port. Classical accounts refer to this port as Khaberis or Camara.

Muchiri - the Muziris - was a prime port in the Chera kingdom.

The *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* by an unknown author, which is an astonishing record of trade in the ancient world describes this port.

Vanji or Kuravur / Karur as the Capital of the Chera dynasty on the banks of river Amaravati a tributary of Kaveri and was an important trade center. Jewel-making was an important craft.

Madurai capital of Pandyas, located on the banks of River Vaigai, was a major craft center. Arthashastra mentions Madhurai as a centre for fine cotton textiles.

Uraiyur was the capital of early Cholas, and its fine textiles were described in Tamil and Greco-Roman texts.

Hence, option b is correct.

4. Which one of the following explains the practice of 'Vattakirutal' as mentioned in Sangam's poems?

[Art & Culture]

- (a) Kings employing women bodyguards
- (b) Learned persons assembling in and philosophical matters
- (c) Young girls keeping watch over agricultural fields and driving away birds and animals
- (d) A king defeated in a battle committing ritual suicide by starving himself to death

Answer: d

Explanation:

In Sangam literature, “**Puram**” poems praised the valour and generosity of kings, whereas “**akam**” poems speak of love between men and women.

Sangam's poems are full of warrior ethics, the heroic death of the soldier was greatly valued, and his spirit will live in paradise. The practice of **Vattakirutal** was one in which **a defeated king committed ritual suicide by starving himself to death**, accompanied by those who had been close to him during his lifetime.

Hence, option d is correct.

5. Consider the following dynasties:

1. Hoysala
2. Gahadavala
3. Kakatiya
4. Yadava

How many of the above dynasties established their kingdoms in the early eighth century AD?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) None

[Medieval India]

Answer: d

Explanation:

The dynasties mentioned above established themselves during the 11th and 12th centuries but not in the 8th century. Hence, none of the above is correct.

A brief description of the above dynasties :

Gahadvalas of Kannauj: After Mohammad Ghazni’s attack in Kannauj in 1019 AD Gurjara Pratiharas got a death blow and with its last king Trilochanapala the imperial line of Pratiharas ended.

After Pratiharas, Kannauj was ruled by Rashtrakutas for 50 years. In the third quarter of the 11th century, Kannauj was invaded by Chalukyan king Someshvara I and Chola King Vira Rajendra. Mohammad Ghazni had an ally in Kannauj named **Chandradeva of the Gahadvala** clan (who took care of the sultan’s elephants) and carved a kingdom for himself with capital at Kannauj in 1090 AD. Other Kings of the Gahadvala clan are

At the **Battle of Chandawar(1194)** Ghori defeated Jayachandra, this victory gave Ghori control of much of North India.

King	Time-Period
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Madanchandra	1100-1114 A.D.
Govinda Chandra	1114-1154 A.D.
Jayachandra	1170-1194 A.D.

Hoysalas of Dvarsamudra: In the early 12th Century, Hoysala chief Ballala I (1102-1108 AD) ruled over a small principality as feudatory of Chalukyas. The capital was Belur, and Dvarsamudra (modern Halebid- Karnataka) was an alternative capital.

King	Time-Period
Ballala I	1102-1108 A.D. (Founder)
Vishnuvardhana/ Bittideva	1106-1141 A.D.
Vira Ballala II	1173-1220 A.D.
Narasimha II	1220-1234 A.D.
Someshwara II	1234-1262 A.D.
Narasimha III	1262-1291 A.D.
Vira Ballala III	1292- 1342 A.D.

Other important rulers: Vira Ballala III (1292- 1342 AD)- He was defeated in 1310 by Malik Kafur and then by Mohammad Bin Tughlaq. He died fighting the Sultans of Madurai in 1342. He was succeeded by his son Harihara Raya, who ruled for a short while, and then Hoysalas disappeared from history.

Yadavas of Devagir: They were **feudatories of Rashtrakutas and Western Chalukyas**. They were contemporaries of Hoysalas.

Bhillama (1185-1193 AD) was the founder who made himself master of most parts of Deccan after defeating Western Chalukyas. He established his capital at Devagiri (modern Dulatabad- Maharashtra).

Kings	Time-Period
Bhillama	1185-1193 A.D. (Founder)

Jaitrapala (1193–1200)	1193–1200 A.D.
Singana	1200-1247 A.D.
Krishna	1247-1260 A.D.
Mahadeva	1260-1271 A.D.
Ramachandra	1271-1308 A.D.
Singhana II/ Sankra	1311-1313 A.D.

Other Kings were: Ramachandra- He was the last independent King of the dynasty, he was defeated by Allaudin Khilji in 1295 and by Malik Kafur in 1307, later he ruled as a vassal of Khilji.

Singhana II/ Sankara was son of Ramchandra. He was defeated by Malik Kafur in 1313. The last king was Harapala, the son-in-law of Ramchandra raised a revolt but was taken, prisoner. Thus the Yadavas territory of Deccan became part of the Delhi Sultanate.

Kakatiyas of Warangal: Kakatiyas trace their descent to Karikala Chola, a sudra by caste belonging to Durjaya family. The earliest known king of this family was Beta I (1000-1052 AD), who carved a small kingdom for himself in the Nalgonda district of Telangana.

Beta- I son Prola- I (1052-1076 AD) received Hanamkonda Warangal's vishaya (province) for his services to his suzerain Kalyani Chalukyan King Someshvara-I (1042-1068 AD). Next king **Beta-II**(1079-1090) established capital at Anamkonda/ Hanamkonda.

Other important kings are

Kings	Time- Period
Prola- II	1115- 1157 A.D.
Rudra- I	1162- 1195 A.D.
Mahadeva	1196- 1198 A.D.
Ganapati	1198- 1262 A.D.
Rudramba/ Rudramadevi	1268-1289 A.D.

Prataprudra	1289-1323 A.D
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Ganapati, son of Mahadeva, was the most powerful ruler of this family. He conquered the whole of Andhra and Kanchi in Tamil Nadu. He shifted the capital to Orungallu (Warangal).

At its peak, Kakatiyas territory included present Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and part of Tamil Nadu.

Rudramba (daughter of Ganapati) succeeded him. **Marcopolo visited Motupalli, an important Kakatiya port**, during her period and praised her administrative abilities.

Rudramba was succeeded by her daughter's son Prataprudra. He was defeated by Malik Kafur in 1309-1310 A.D.

In 1323 A.D. Ulugh Khan (Mohammad Bin Tughlaq) defeated Prataprudra and took him as a prisoner, from then the Kakatiya kingdom formed part of the Delhi Sultanate.

Hence, option d is correct.

6. With reference to ancient Indian History, consider the following pairs:

[Art & Culture]

<u>Literary work</u>	<u>Author</u>
1. Devichandragupta	: Bilhana
2. Hammira-Mahakavya	: Nayachandra Suri
3. Milinda-panha	: Nagarjuna
4. Nitivakyamrtia	: Somadeva Suri

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: b

Explanation:

Devichndraguptam (The Queen and ChandraGupta) is a Sanskrit play written by **Vishakdutta** , it is the story of the rise of power of **Chandra Gupta II**, he is also the author of **Mudrarakshasa** (Ministers Signet Ring) which describes Chandragupta Maurya's triumph over Nandas.

Vikaramankadevacarita is written by **Bilahan** - The book deals with the life and adventure of the great Calukya emperor **Vikramaditya VI**.

Hence, the first pair is incorrectly matched.

Nayachandra Suri, a Jain monk, has written **Hammira-maha kavya** - a poem that deals with the life of Hammira, the last of the dynasty Cahamana, who was defeated and killed by **Ala-ud-din Khilji** in 1301 along with the seizure of his capital Ranthambore / Ranasthambhapura.

Hence, the second pair is correctly matched.

Milandpanho is a Non-canonical Buddhist literature in Pali that consists of dialogue on various philosophical issues between **Milinda or Indo greek King Menander and the monk Nagasena**.

Hence, 3rd pair is incorrectly matched.

Nitivakymrtia is written by Jain author **Somadeva Suri**, who wrote it in Sanskrit in the 10th century A.D., he is also the author of Yashastilaka.

Hence, the fourth pair is correctly matched.

7. "Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water, and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects".

The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India?

[Ancient India]

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Shaivism
- (d) Vaishnavism

Answer: b

Explanation:

According to Jainism - "Universe is eternal, and it functions through the interaction of living souls, i.e. [Jivas/lives] and five categories of non-living entities [ajivas] which include akasa [ether], dharma [condition of movement], Adharma [condition of rest], kala [time] and pudgala [matter].

Jainism believes "Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water, and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects".

Hence, option b is correct.

8. Who among the following rulers of Vijayanagara Empire constructed a large dam across Tungabhadra River and a canal-cum-aqueduct several kilometres long from the river to the capital city?

[Medieval India]

- (a) Devaraya I
- (b) Mallikarjuna
- (c) Vira Vijaya
- (d) Virupaksha

Answer: a

Explanation:

The accounts of **Domingo Paes**, who visited in 1520 and **Fernao Nuniz**, who visited in 1535, are important sources in the reconstruction of the History of Vijayanagara. Based on these accounts **Robert Sewell**, in 1900, wrote a book, "**A Forgotten Empire: Vijayanagar**".

Nuniz states that **Devaraya I** greatly improved the city of Vijayanagara, raising fresh walls and towers, increasing its extent, and building further lines of fortification. His **great work was the construction of a huge dam in the Tungabhadra River and forming an aqueduct fifteen miles long from the river into the city.**

Hence, option a is correct.

9. Who among the following rulers of medieval Gujrat surrendered Diu to the Portuguese?

- (a) Ahmad Shah
- (b) Mahmud Begarha
- (c) Bahadur Shah
- (d) Muhammad Shah

[Medieval India]

Answer: c

Explanation:

Expansion of Portuguese in India - Surat, Bassein, and Diu carried on flourishing trade with the Red Sea, these ports were under the control of **Bahadur Shah**, who carved out a kingdom for himself in Gujarat. Portuguese tried thrice to capture Diu in 1519, 1521, 1531 but failed.

Sultan Bahadur of Gujarat, proud of his success in the Deccan and Malwa, brought on himself the wrath of Emperor Humayun.

In 1535 Humayun attacked the **Bahadur Shah of Gujrat**, a defense alliance was concluded by the Bahadur Shah, and the Portuguese who in reward were allowed to build a fortress at Diu.

Hence, option c is correct.

10. By which one of the following Acts was the Governor General of Bengal designated as the Governor General of India?

[Modern India]

- (a) The Regulating Act
- (b) The Pitt's India Act
- (c) The Charter Act of 1793
- (d) The Charter Act of 1833

Answer: d

Explanation:

REGULATING ACT of 1773

- Prior to the enactment of the Act the three governments of presidencies Bengal, Bombay, and Madras, were separate and independent from each other even in matters of war and peace. The company was inconvenienced because of their irregular actions.
- In order to have a uniform policy, under The Regulating Act of 1773 Governor of Bengal was made the governor-general of the company in India, and the governors of Madras and Bombay were subordinated to him. ***This provision laid the foundation of a Unitary type of government in British India.***
- Governors in councils at Madras and Bombay were brought under Bengal's control, particularly in foreign policy matters.
- The act made provision for the establishment of a council of four members to assist the Governor General. The Governor General was **bound to accept the majority decision of the Council**. He did not possess any overriding powers. Warren Hastings was the first Governor-General.
- The act provided for the establishment of the ***Supreme Court at Fort William Calcutta.***

PITTS INDIA ACT 1784

- Setting up of a Board of Control: The Act empowered the crown to create a board of six commissioners for the affairs of India.
- The Board was to consist of the Secretary of State, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and four other members of the privy council, directors and proprietors of the company were made subordinate to the board.
- The Act empowered the board to superintend, direct, and control all acts, operations, and concerns that are in any way related to the civil and military government or revenues of British possessions in India.

CHARTER ACT OF 1793:

- The Act provided that the members of the Board of Control and their staff were to be paid out of the Indian revenues.
- The Act also provided the Governor General and Governors power to override the majority decisions of their Councils in matters relating to the maintenance of law and order, internal security, and interests of the British possessions in India.

CHARTER ACT OF 1833

- The 1833 Charter Act strengthened the hands of the central government over the presidencies. **The designation of Governor General of Bengal was changed to Governor General of India.**
- The Charter Act of 1813 deprived the company of its Indian trade monopoly except for trade in tea and trade with China, but the Charter Act of 1833 put an end to this remaining trade monopoly of the Company and divested it of all commercial functions.
- The Act vested in the Governor General full power and authority to control the civil and military administration of the presidential governments, and it is binding on the Governors of the presidencies to obey the instructions of the Governor General.
- The Act further laid that the Governor General could suspend any provincial government when they failed to carry out his instructions.
- ***The Act also provided that no Indian subject of the Company would be debarred from holding any office under the Company because of his religion, descent, or colour.***

Hence, option d is correct.

11. With reference to the Indian History, Alexander Rea, A.H. Longhurst, Robert Sewell, James Burgess, and Walter Elliot were associated with: **[Modern India]**

- (a) Archaeological excavations
- (b) Establishment of English Press in Colonial India
- (c) Establishment of Churches in Princely States
- (d) Construction of railways in Colonial India

Answer: a

Explanation:

A.H. Longhurst, Walter Elliot, Alexander Rea, James Burgess, Robert Sewell, and many others conducted systematic and careful excavation conducted at Bhattiprolu, Ghantasala, Amravati, etc, and exposed relic caskets which created much curiosity among Indian scholars about various aspects of these valuable reliquaries.

Hence, option a is correct.

12. Consider the following pairs:

[Art & Culture]

<u>Site</u>	<u>Well known for</u>
1. Besnagar	: Shaivite cave shrine
2. Bhaja	: Buddhist cave shrine
3. Sittanavasal	: Jain cave shrine

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

- (c) All three
(d) None

Answer: b

Explanation:

Besanagr pillar inscription of Heliodorus is an important inscription of the Shungan period at the site of ancient Vidisha.

Heliodorus, a Greek ambassador at the court of either the fifth Shungan king Kasiputta Bhagadara or Bhadraka or ninth king Bhagavata.

In this inscription, Heliodorus describes himself as a Bhagavata i.e. Worshipper of god Vasudeva Krishna.

Hence, 1st pair is incorrectly matched.

Rock-cut Buddhist monasteries in western ghats are located at sites such as Kondivte, Nadsur, **Bhaja**, Tulja, Pitalkhora, Kondane, Ajanta, Nasik, Bedsa, Junnar, Karle, Kanheri, Kuda, Mahad, Karadh and Shelarvadi.

Hence, 2nd pair is correctly matched.

Sittanavasal is the earliest example of a Jain cave painting of south India. The name Sittanavasal means the abode of the Siddhas [Jain saints who have won their spiritual freedom]

Hence, 3rd pair is correctly matched.

Early Cave architecture in India can be traced to Mauryans in the form of Lomas Rishi and Sudama caves in Barabar Hills.

Udaygiri and Khandagiri [near the site of Sisupalgarh] in Odisha is one of the oldest groups of rock-cut Jain caves.

13. Consider the following statements:

[Modern India]

Statement I: 7th August is declared as the National Handloom Day

Statement II: It was in 1905 that the Swadeshi Movement was launched on the same day.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct statements, But Statment II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
(c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
(d) Statement II is incorrect, but Statement I is correct

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Handloom sector is the symbol of our country's rich and varied cultural heritage and is an important source of livelihood in the rural and semi-rural parts of our country. This sector directly addresses women's empowerment, with upto 70% of all weavers and allied workers being female.

The Swadeshi Movement which was launched on 7th August, 1905 had encouraged indigenous industries and in particular handloom weavers.

In 2015, the Government of India decided to designate the 7th of August every year as the National Handloom Day. The first National Handloom Day was inaugurated on 7th August 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hence, option a is correct.

2022

Previous Year UPSC History Questions (PYQs) With Explanation 2022

There were 16 questions from History in 2022, out of which

- 2 questions were from Ancient India,
- 5 question were from Medieval India,
- 5 questions were asked from Modern India and
- 4 questions were asked from Art & Culture.

Overall, the level of the questions was Moderate to Tough.

1. In the Government of India Act 1919, the functions of Provincial Government were divided into "Reserved" and "Transferred" subjects. Which of the following were treated as "Reserved" subjects? *[Modern India]*

1. Administration of Justice
2. Local Self-Government
3. Land Revenue
4. Police

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 2 and 4

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Act of 1919 set up a *bicameral legislature of the Centre* in place of the Imperial Council consisting of One House .

The Act provided for *two lists of subjects: Central list and Provincial list* .

The Central subjects - Defence, Foreign and Political Relation, Public Debt , Tariffs and Customs, Posts, and Telegraphs, Patents and Copyright, Currency and Coinage, Communication, Commerce and Shipping , Civil and Criminal Law and Procedure, Major Ports, etc.

The Provincial subjects - Local Self-Government, Public Health and Sanitation

And Medical Administration, Education Public Works, Water Supplies and Irrigation, Land Revenue Administration, Famine Relief, Agriculture, Forests, Co-operative societies, Law and order ,etc.

The principle underlying the division was the matter in regard to which uniformity in legislation was necessary or desirable for the whole of India or in more than one province should be regarded as central , while others in which only a particular province was interested , should be regarded as provincial.

The Act of 1919 introduced **dyarchy in the provinces**. Under this system, the subjects to be dealt with by the Provincial Government were divided into two parts: **Transferred and Reserved subjects**.

The Reserved subjects were administered by the Governor with the help of the Executive Council and The Transferred subjects were dealt with by the Governor with the help of his ministers.

Reserved Subjects:- Administration of justice, police, irrigation and canals, Drainage and Embankments, Water Shortage and Water Power, **Land Revenue Administration**, Land Improvements and Agriculture loans, Famine relief, Control of Newspapers, Books and Printing press, Prisons and Reformatories, Borrowing money on credit of the province, Forest except in Bombay and Burma, Factory inspections, Settlement of Labour disputes, Industrial insurance and Housing.

Transferred subject:- Local self-government including matters relating to Municipal Corporations and District Boards, Public health, Sanitation, and medical administration, including Hospital and Asylum and provision for medical education. Education of Indians with some exceptions, public work, including Roads, bridges and municipal tramways, but excluding irrigation, Agriculture and Fisheries, Co-operative Societies, Excise, Forest in Bombay and Burma only, Development of industries, Including Industrial Research and technical education.

Hence, option c is correct.

2. In medieval India, the term "Fanam" refers to:

[Medieval India]

- (a) Clothing
- (b) Coins
- (c) Ornaments
- (d) Weapons

Answer: b

Explanation:

According to the description of Abdul Razzaq, the units of **currency** that were in circulation in the Vijayanagara Empire during the time of his visit were as follows:

Gold coins

1. Varaha
2. Partab - 1/2 of Varaha

3. **Fanam** - $1/10$ of Partab

Silver coins

1. Tar- $1/6$ of Fanam

Copper coins

1. Djitel - $1/3$ of Tar

Among all the currencies **Fanom** was the most popular

Hence, option b is correct.

3. Consider the following freedom fighters: [Modern India]

1. Barindra Kumar Ghosh
2. Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee
3. Rash Behari Bose

Who of the above was/were actively associated with the Ghadar Party?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Answer: d

Explanation:

After the outbreak of the first World War in 1914 Ghadar Revolutionaries based in North America attempted violent Over throw of British rule.

About Ghadar

Hindi Association was setup in Portland (USA) in 1913,

Its First meeting was attended by Bhai Parmanand, Sohan Singh Bhakna, and Harnam Singh, and Lala Har Dayal. At the meeting Har Dayal said “ **The root cause of Indian Poverty and degradation is British rule and it must be overthrown , not by Petitions but by Armed revolt**”;

The idea of Har Dayal was accepted , a Weekly **Ghadar(Revolt)** was started and setup headquarters called **Yugantar Ashram** in San Francisco.

Ghadar militants began an extensive propaganda visiting mills and farms where most of Punjabis Immigrant labours worked in U.S.

The Ghadar Party was determined to wage war against the British in India and with that object in view decided to send arms and men to India to start a revolt with the help of soldiers and local revolutionaries.

Several thousand men volunteered to go back to India, millions of dollars were collected for that purpose.

The Ghadarites contacted Indian soldiers in the Far East, South-East Asia and all over India and persuaded many regiments to revolt.

21 February 1915 was fixed for an all-India revolt and vigorous preparations were made for that purpose, **Rash Behari Bose, Sachindra Sanyal, Ganesh Pingale and Baghi Kartar Singh** prepared a master plan for that purpose.

The all-India revolt failed because one **Kirpal Singh** passed on all the secret plans to the Government.

Prominent leaders like **Baghi Kartar Singh, Bhai Parmanand, Ganesh Pingale, Jagat Singh and Harnam Singh** were also tried for conspiracy to overthrow the British Government.

Hence, option d is correct.

4. With reference to the proposals of Cripps Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The Constituent Assembly would have members nominated by the Provincial Assemblies as well as the Princely States.
2. Any Province, which is not prepared to accept the new Constitution would have the right to sign a separate agreement with Britain regarding its future status.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[Modern India]

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Explanation:

To secure Indian cooperation in the World War II, the British Government sent to India in **March 1942** a mission headed by a Cabinet minister **Stafford Cripps**, the draft declaration of British Government was brought to India by Stafford Cripps

The Declaration promised India

- Dominion Status
- a constitution-making body after the War **whose members would be elected by the provincial assemblies and nominated by the rulers in case of the Princely states.**

The Pakistan demand was accommodated by the provision that **any province which was not prepared to accept the new constitution would have the right to sign a separate agreement** with Britain regarding its future status.

Hence, option b is correct.

5. With reference to Indian history, consider the following texts:

[Art & Culture]

1. Nettipakarana
2. Parishishtaparvan
3. Avadanashataka
4. Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana

Which of the above are Jaina texts?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

Explanation:

Buddhist canonical literature

Canonical texts are the books which lay down basic tenets and principles of religion, these include 9 or 12 Angas and 3 Pitikas

Buddhist non-canonical literature in Pali

Milindapanha- dialogue on philosophical issues between Indo-Greek King Milinda/Menander and Buddhist monk Nagasena.

Nettigandha, or Nettipakarana (The book of guidance), it is a connected account of the teaching of Buddha.

Nidanakatha that is an introduction to jataka stories.

Srilankan chronicles are dipavamsa and mahavamsa

Sanskrit Buddhist texts:

Buddhacharita by **Asvaghosa**

Avadanashataka and **Divyavadana** have stories connected with the Buddha and the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka

Ashtasahasrika -Prajnaparamita, **Saddharma -Pundarika** offer accounts of the various Buddhas, **Boddhisatvas** and **Mahayana doctrines**

Jain literature:

The sacred book of Jains are collectively called **Siddhantra or Agama**.

Jain puranas are called **charitas**

Adipurana is about life of first **tirthankaras Rishabhnaatha**.

Harivamsapurana - jain version or stories of **kaurav & pandavas(Mahabharata)**

Trishakti Lakshana Mahapurana - written by Jinasena and Gunabhadra has life stories of Jain Saints , Kings & Heroes . Few sections covers life cycle rituals , interpretation of dreams , town planning , duties of warrior and how a king should rule

Parishishtaparvan by Hemachandra gives a list of early Jain teachers and some details about political history .

Hence, option b is correct.

6. With reference to Indian history, consider the following pairs:

[Art & Culture]

Historical person		Known as
1. Aryadeva	:	Jaina scholar
2. Dignaga	:	Buddhist scholar
3. Nathamui	:	Vaishnava scholar

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) None of the pairs
- (b) Only one pair
- (c) Only two pairs
- (d) All three pairs

Answer: c

Explanation:

Mahayana Buddhist thinkers -Nagarjuna , Vasubandhu , Asanga , **Aryadeva** , Buddhapalita , **Dignana**.

Nathamuni is an Alvar saint / Vaishnava saint, He collected Alvar hymns into a Canon known as the "**Nalayira Divya Prabandham**".

Hence, option c is correct.

7. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements: **[Medieval India]**

1. The first Mongol Invasion of India happened during the reign of Jalal-ud-din Khalji.
2. During the reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji, one Mongol assault marched up to Delhi and besieged the city.
3. Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq temporarily lost portions of the north-west of his kingdom to Mongols.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Answer: b

Explanation:

The first Mongol invasion of India took place in the reign of **Illtutmish**. In 1221, the Mongols appeared on the banks of the Indus under the command of their formidable leader, Changiz Khan [1162-1227].

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

In 1303 A.D., the Mongols attacked India under the leadership of Targhi. They were 100,000 strong and **marched to Delhi and seized it**. **Ala-ud-din** was away to Chittor, and when he came back, he had to encamp himself in the Fort of Siri.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Muhammad Bin Tughluq -The change of capital from Delhi to Daulatabad and the neglect of the defence of the North-Western frontier by Muhammad Tughluq encouraged the Mongols to attack the country.

In 1328-29, Tarmashirin Khan, the Chaghatai chief of Transoxiana, invaded India. He ravaged the country from Multan and Lahore to the outskirts of Delhi. According to Yahiya-bin-Ahmad and Badauni, Muhammad Tughlaq defeated the Mongols and drove them out of the country.

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

8. With reference to Indian history, who of the following were known as "Kulah-Daran"? **[Medieval India]**

- (a) Arab merchants
- (b) Qalandars
- (c) Persian calligraphists
- (d) Sayyids

Answers: d

Explanation:

The Sayyids [1414-1451]

Khizr Khan(1414-1421) was founder of sayyad dynasty.

- The **Sayyids** claimed descent from the Prophet through his daughter Fatima.
- They commanded special requests in Muslim Society. Even Timur protected the lives of Sayyids during his invasion of India, although his policy was one of general slaughter.
- The Sayyids put on an a **pointed cap [Kulah]**, and they are called **Kulah-Daran**

Hence, option d is correct.

9. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements: *[Modern India]*

1. The Dutch established their factories/warehouses on the East Coast on lands granted to them by the Gajapati rulers.
2. Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate.
3. The English East India Company established a factory at Madras on a plot of land leased from a representative of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

Dutch factories in east coast & Pulicat were established during the time of **Vijayanagara king** of the Aravidu dynasty Venkata III.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The conquest of Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate was **Albuquerque's** first achievement [February 1610], but the Adil Shah quickly recaptured the city under his second expedition.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

During the reign of Venkata III, the **Vijayanagara** king of the Aravidu dynasty, East India Company was permitted to construct a **factory at Fort St. George, Madras**, known as Chennapatnam.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

10. According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which of the following are correct? *[Ancient India]*

1. A person could be a slave as a result of a judicial punishment.
2. If a female slave bore her master a son, she was legally free.
3. If a son born to a female slave was fathered by her master, the son was entitled to the legal status of the master's son.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answers: b

Explanation:

- The Arthashastra, has a very detailed discussion of dasa (slaves) and ahitakas (those pledged to creditors when contracting a debt)
- In Arthashastra there is a reference to slaves in the service of private individuals as well as the state.
- There is reference to the manumission of slaves on payment of a sum of Money in Arthashastra
- Kautilya also states that if a dasi bore her master a son, she was released from enslavement, and the child was considered the father's legitimate son.
- Ashoka's rock edict 9 mentions courteous behaviour towards dasa and bhatakas (bhritakas, i.e. servants) as part of dhamma.

Hence, statements 2 and 3 are correct.

11. Consider the following pairs: *[Art & Culture]*

Site of Ashoka's major rock edicts	Location in the State of
------------------------------------	--------------------------

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Dhauli | : Odisha |
| 2. Erragudi | : Andhra Pradesh |
| 3. Jaugada | : Madhya Pradesh |
| 4. Kalsi | : Karnataka |

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Answer: b

Explanation:

Set of 14 Major rock edicts (or portions thereof) occur at

1. Kandahar [Afghanistan]
2. Shahbazgarhi { Pakistan }
3. Mansehra [Pakistan]
4. **Kalsi [Dehradun district, Uttarakhand]**
5. Girnar [Junagadh district, Gujarat]
6. Bombay-Sopara [Maharashtra]
7. **Dhauli [Puri district, Orissa]**
8. **Jaugada [Ganjam district , Orissa]**
9. **Erragudi [Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh]**
10. Sannati [Gulbarga district, Karnataka]

1st and 2nd pairs are correctly matched. Hence, option b is correct

12. Consider the following pairs:

[Ancient India]

King		Dynasty
1. Nannuka	:	Chandela
2. Jayashakti	:	Paramara
3. Nagabhata II	:	Gurjara-Pratihara
4. Bhoja	:	Rashtrakuta

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Chandellas of Bundelkhand

Originally The Chandellas were vassals of the Pratiharas of Kanauj

- Founder -**Nannuka**.
- They rose into prominence in the 9th century A.D, and established a kingdom, later known as Jejakabhukti, in the bundelkhand region. The capital of this kingdom was Kharjjuravahaka/Khajuraho.
- The Chandellas were involved in conflicts with Pratiharas of Kanauj , as well as with the Palas and Kalachuris.
- The Chandella kingdom expanded under kings such as **Jayashakti , Vijayashakti and Harsha(900-925)**.

- Harsha helped the Pratihara ruler Mahipala recover his throne after it was captured by the Rashtrakutas Indra III in about 914 CE.
- **Dhanga (954 AD)**, the first independent Chandella king, took the title of maharajadhiraja. Several of the Khajuraho temples were built during his reign.

Hence, 1st pair is correctly matched.

Paramaras of Malwa

- The capital of the main branch of the Paramaras was Dhara (identified with modern Dhar, MP).
- Upendra alias Krishnaraja, the founder of the Paramara dynasty, was originally the governor of Malwa under the Rashtrakutas.
- Upendra have been made ruler of the Deccan by Rashtrakuta king Govinda III
- The important Parmara kings were- Vairasimha II, Siyaka II (also known as Harsha) and Munja (also known as Utpala or Vakpatiraja).
- Munja was an accomplished military leader, poet, and patron of art and literature. He was finally defeated by the Chalukya ruler Taila II.

Hence, 2nd pair is incorrectly matched.

Gurjara Pratiharas

Gurjara Pratiharas rose in North India on the ruins of Gupta empire, The dynasty was founded by **Harichandra** in area around Jodhpur.

Nagabhata I

- The Gurjara Pratihara came to prominence in the second quarter of the 8th century, when Nagabhata I offered successful resistance to the Arabs, his line soon became the powerful Pratihara family, eclipsing the Jodhpur branch.
- Nagabhata's control extended over parts of Malwa, Rajputana, and Gujarat.
- Later Gurjara-Pratihara kings, including **Nagabhata II**, moved into the Kanauj region.

Bhoja

- The best known Gurjara-Pratihara King was **Bhoja**, grandson of **Nagabhata II**. He ascended the throne in or before 836 CE, his earliest inscription - The Barah copper plate of this date was issued from the skandhavara (royal camp of victory) at Mahodaya.
- The Gurjara-Pratiharas subsequently suffered several defeats. In the early 10th century, during the time of **Mahipala**, the Rashtrakuta Indra III completely devastated the city of Kannauj, there was
- Another Rashtrakuta attack under king Krishna 963 CE who defeated Gurjara-Pratiharas

The expansion of the Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom involved constant conflicts with other contemporary powers such as the Palas and Rashtrakutas.

Tripartite struggle for empire between the Palas, the Gurjaras, and the Rashtrakutas was the most important factor in the political history of India.

Hence, 3rd pair is correctly matched.

The Rashtrakutas

- The Rashtrakutas were originally feudatories of the Chalukyas.
- They assumed an independent status under **Dantidurga, 733 CE**.
- The Rashtrakutas empire expanded during the reigns of Dantidurga's successors, especially under **Krishna I, Govind III, and Amoghavarsha**.
- The magnificent **Kailashanatha temple at Ellora** was built during the reign of the Rashtrakuta king **Krishna I**.
- **Amoghavarsha (814-878) built a new capital city of Manyakheta** (identified with modern Malkhed).
- **Indra III** -The Rashtrakuta king Indra III captured Kanauj under Mahipala of Gurjara Pratihara

Towards the end of the 10th century, the Paramaras sacked Manyakheta and this event signalled the decline of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.

Hence, 4th pair is incorrectly matched.

13. Which one of the following statements about Sangam literature in ancient South India is correct? [Art & Culture]

- (a) Sangam poems are devoid of any reference to material culture.
- (b) The social classification of Varna was known to Sangam poets.
- (c) Sangam poems have no reference to warrior ethics.
- (d) Sangam literature refers to magical forces as irrational.

Answer: b

Explanation:

Sangam poems contain several incidental references to **material culture**, often as part of the poem setting or in similes and allusions.

These are references to farming [rice and barley are mentioned], battle rearing, and fishing. There are also several references to iron. **Kuruntokai** refers to iron-tipped arrows.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The social classification of **varna** was known to Sangam poets. There is mention of Arashar [kings], Vaishiyar [traders], and Velalar [farmers]

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Sangam poems are **pervaded with warrior ethics**. The goals of the hero of the Puram poems were pukal [glory fame] and a heroic death was greatly valued and his spirit will live in paradise.

In Sangam literature, “*Puram*” poems praised the valour and generosity of kings, whereas “*akam*” poems speak of love between men and women.

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

Sangam literature reflects a **belief in sacred or magical forces** called ananku that were supposed to inhabit various objects.

Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.

14. “Yogavasistha” was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of:

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Humayun
- (c) Shahjahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

[Medieval India]

Answer: a

Explanation:

The **Yogavasistha** is an appendix to the Ramayana. It is possible that Abul Fazl had this text in mind when he referred to “the many unique points of wisdom” in connection with the Ramayana.

The manuscripts exist of a translation by Nizam Panipati, prepared with the help of two pundits and dedicated to Prince Salim. It must, therefore, have been prepared before 1605 and must be received at **Akbar's Court**.

Hence, option a is correct.

15. The world's second tallest statue in sitting pose of Ramanuja was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India at Hyderabad recently. Which one of the following statements correctly represents the teachings of Ramanuja? *[Medieval India]*

- (a) The best means of salvation was devotion.
- (b) Vedas are eternal, self-existent, and wholly authoritative.
- (c) Logical arguments were essential means for the highest bliss.
- (d) Salvation was to be obtained through meditation.

Answer: a

Explanation:

RAMANUJA

Ramanuja [1017-1137] consolidated and systematically expounded the philosophy of southern Vaishnavism known as Visistadvaita.

According to him, ‘the way to moksha lies through karma, gyan and bhakti. When bhakti matures and becomes complete, the soul has a vision of god’. Thus, he propagated the cult of devotion to God and preached that salvation lies only in this.

Hence, option a is correct.

16. The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the new Circuit House near Somnath Temple at Veraval. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Somnath Temple? [Modern India]

1. Somnath Temple is one of the Jyotirlinga shrine
2. A description of Somnath Temple was given by Al-Biruni
3. Pran Pratishtha of Somnath Temple [installation of the present day temple] was done by President S. Radhakrishnan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1,2 and 3 only

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Somnath temple located in Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Saurashtra on the western coast of Gujarat, **is believed to be the first among the twelve jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The site of Somnath has been a pilgrimage site from ancient times on account of being a Triveni sangam (the confluence of three rivers — **Kapila, Hiran and Sarasvati.**

Reconstructed several times in the past after repeated destruction by several Muslim invaders and Portuguese the present temple was reconstructed in **Chalukya style of Hindu temple architecture** and completed in May 1951.

The ancient temple's timeline can be traced from 649 BC but is believed to be older than that. The present form was reconstructed in 1951. **The reconstruction was completed by Vallabhbhai Patel. The first President of India, Rajendra Prasad, performed the Pran-Pratishtha Ceremony of the Jyotirlinga on May 11, 1951 in the Garbh - Gruh of the Somnath Temple which was being reconstructed at that time.**

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

A description of the temple by Al-Biruni, an Arab traveller, was so glowing that it prompted a visit in 1024 by a most unwelcome tourist – the legendary looter Mahmud of Ghazni from Afghanistan.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

2021

Previous Year UPSC History Questions (PYQs) With Explanation 2021

There were 19 questions from History in 2021, out of which

- 3 questions were from Ancient India
- 6 question were from Medieval India
- 7 questions were asked from Modern India and
- 3 questions were asked from Art & Culture.

Overall, the level of the questions was Moderate to Tough.

1. Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelling water into connected reservoirs?

[Ancient India]

- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Kalibangan
- (c) Rakhigarhi
- (d) Ropar

Answer: a

Explanation:

Dholavira

- Dholavira is located on Kadir island in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
- The site is flanked by two streams - The Manhar and Mandsar.
- An important stopping point on busy maritime route.
- The city had an impressive and unique water harvesting and management system.
- An Interesting feature is a large open area ('called the stadium'), which may have been used for special ceremonial occasions.
- The fortified acropolis, with gateways in the centre of its four walls.
- In one of the side rooms of the Northern gateway of Dholavira lay what seems to be a fallen Signboard with an inscription made with white gypsum paste inlaid into a wooden board.

Hence, option a is correct.

Kalibangan

- Kalibangan (**black bangles**) gets its name from clusters of black bangles lying all over the surface of its mounds. The Bangle making was an important craft.
- This site lies on the banks of the dry bed of the **Ghaggar river, in the Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan.**

- It is noted for a series of mud-bricks platforms with a row of seven clay-plastered pits. The Pits have been interpreted as **Fire altars, i.e., sacrificial pits** in which offerings were made into the Fire.
- Some **circular pits with grave goods** (pottery, bronze mirrors etc) but no Human remains.
- Corbelled drains made of bricks have been found on the citadel mound.
- **Street drains of the Mohenjodaro type were absent** in the lower town at Kalibangan. The sewage from houses was discharged into **troughs or large jars** embedded in the ground outside.

Rakhigarhi

- Rakhigarhi (**Hissar district, Haryana**) the citadel mound, surrounded by a mud-brick fortification wall, had platforms, a brick well, fire altars, some streets and drains of various sizes.

There are several **mature Harappan sites** where there is no early Harappan level, **e.g., Lothal, Desalpur, Chanhudaro, Mitathal, Alamgirpur, and Ropar.**

2. In the first quarter of the seventeenth century, in which of the following was/were the factory/factories of the English East India Company located? **[Modern India]**

1. Broach
2. Chicacole
3. Trichinopoly

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- (a) 1 Only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 3 Only
(d) 2 and 3

Answer: a

Explanation:

Captain Hawkins (1609-1611)

- Captain Hawkins reached Surat in 1609 met Mughal Empire Jahangir.
- English company was given permission to open factories on the West Coast.

In 1612 at the **Battle of Swally Hole**, British had defeated the Portuguese and portuguese reputation as naval power was shrunk, after this victory it became easy for British to get firman to establish factory in Surat and areas around Gulf of Cambay.

Accordingly, **first factory on west coast was opened in 1613 at Surat.**

Thomas Roe (1615-19)

Sir Thomas Roe secured imperial farman from the Jahangir for establishing factories in all parts of Mughal empire.

By 1623 it had established Factories (trading posts) at **Surat, Broach, Ahmedabad, Agra, and Masulipatam.**

Masulipatam

In 1611 The English opened their first factory in the South at Masulipatam , the chief port of Golkonda under QutubShahis.

Madras, the lease of Madras was granted to British by the local Raja (successor of Vijaynagar empire) in 1639.

This fortified factory developed into the Fort of St. George which in 1641 became the head quarters of the English on the Coromondal Coast and in 1652 became the seat of the Eastern presidency.

In 1633 factories were established in Orissa at **Harepur and Balasore**, and

In 1650-51 in Bengal a settlement was established at **Hugli** and factories were thrown up at **Patna and Qasim Bazar** in the interior.

Bombay

The island of Bombay was acquired by East India company from the British government in 1688 (the island was part of the dowry of British King Charles for marrying portuguese princess Catherine Braganza) who in turn handed over Bombay to the company in 1688.

Hence, option a is correct.

3. From the decline of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India? **[Ancient India]**

1. The Guptas of Magadha
2. The Paramaras of Malwa
3. The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
4. The Maukharis of Kanauj
5. The Yadavas of Devagiri
6. The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) 1, 2, and 5
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 5 and 6

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Gupta empire began to disintegrate after the death of Skandagupta in 168 A.D.

From the down fall of the Gupta Empire to the rise of Harshavardhana in 607 A.D., India was broken up into a number of small states. - The Hunas, Yashodharman of Malwa, The Maitrakas of Valabhi, Later Guptas of Magadha and Malwa, The Maukharis kingdom of Kanauj, Pushyabhutis of Thaneswar.

Hunas The successors of Skanda Gupta could not hold Hunas attacks from west. By 466-67 A.D. the Hunas conquered a portion of the Gupta empire.

Tormana, (466-510) the Hunas-chief set up his kingdom in the north-western portion of the Gupta empire. His Kingdom extended over the Punjab, Rajputana and some parts of Central India.

Tormana was succeeded by his son, **Mihiragula** who ruled **510-530 A.D.**

Mihiragula was defeated by **Yasodharman of Malwa** later **Mihiragula** went to Kashmir where he gained the throne of Kashmir.

Yashodharman of Malwa

According to **Mandsor inscription** Yashodharman ruled from **532 A.D.**

The Mandsor inscription says that Yashodharman was the emperor of a vast territory from the Himalayas to Mahendra (Eastern Ghats) in the South, and from the Brahmaputra to the Western sea his capital was Mandasor.

The Maitrakas of Valabhi

The Dynasty of the Maitrakas was founded by Bhattaraka, the chief Senapati of the Guptas. According to a few copper plates, the origin of this dynasty is dated about the end of the 5th century A.D.

Hiuen Tsang (Yuan Chwang) visited their capital Valabhi in Saurashtra (Wala, near Bhavnagar) in 7th Century.

The later Guptas of Magadha and Malwa

These Guptas have absolutely no relation with their imperial Guptas, except that both of them have same names ending in 'Guptas' and that they ruled over 'Magadha'.

Krishnagupta was the founder of the later Guptas of Magadha and Malwa.

The Maukharis of Kanauj

Harivarman was the founder of Maukharis dynasty.

Other kings were Adityavarman, Ishvaravarman, Isanavarman, Avantivarman, Grahavarman.

Grahavarman married Rajyashri (sister of Harshavardhana) of the Thaneshvar family.

After the death of Grahavarman the kingdom of Kanauj was combined with that of Thaneshwar and thus was developed into an Empire by Harshavardhana.

Pushyabhutis of Thaneshwar

The Kingdom of Thaneshwar had humble beginnings around Thaneshwar beginning in early 6th century was extended to an empire covering the whole of North India and ushering in an era of unity, glory and prosperity.

At the beginning Thaneshwar comprised of portions of punjab and its rulers tried to check the attack of Hunas

Naravardhana (500-525 A.D) is described as the founder of this kingdom

Other kings were Rajyavardhana and Adityavardhana, Prabhakarvardhana.

Prabhakarvardhana had two sons Rajyavardhana and Harshavardhana (606-647) .

Hence, option b is correct.

4. According to Portuguese writer Nuniz, the women in the Vijayanagar Empire were experts in which of the following areas?

[Medieval India]

1. Wrestling
2. Astrology
3. Accounting
4. Soothsaying

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2, and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3, and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d

Explanation:

According to Portuguese writer Nuniz - there were a large number of Palanquin bearers who were women. Achyutaraya had 4,000 women in his service, consisting of dancers, **wrestlers**, Palanquin-bearers, **soothsayers**, **astrologers**, **accountants** etc.

Hence, option d is correct.

5. With reference to Madanapalle of Andhra Pradesh, which one of the following statements is correct?

[Modern India]

- (a) Pingali Venkaya designed the tricolour Indian National Flag here.
- (b) Pattabhi Sitaramaiah led the Quit India Movement of the Andhra region from here.
- (c) Rabindranath Tagore translated the National Anthem from Bengali to English here.
- (d) Madam Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott set up headquarters of Theosophical Society first here.

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Jan gana mana, India's national anthem, was written by Rabindranath Tagore around 1911 and was sung by Sarala Devi Chowdhurani for the first time at the annual session of the Indian National Congress on 27 December 1911.
- During **Rabindranath Tagore's South India tour in 1919**, Tagore stayed briefly at the Besant Theosophical College. During his stay there, between 25th February 1919 to 2nd March 1919, Tagore participated in the 'Sing Song fun session', an informal college gathering held every Wednesday night, and **sang his Bengali song Jana gana mana, which he later translated into English known as "Morning Song of India."**

Hence, option c is correct.

6. Consider the following pairs:

[Ancient India]

Historical Place		Well-known for
1. Burzahom	:	Rock-cut shrines
2. Chandra-Ketugarh	:	Terracotta art
3. Ganeshwar	:	Copper artifacts

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

Answer: d

Explanation:**Burzahom**

- During the Pleistocene era, the Kashmir valley was a gigantic lake and the neolithic sites are located on the remnants of the ancient lake beds known as **karewas**.
- In the Kashmir valley, there are several neolithic sites, these include Burzahom, Gufkral, Hariparigom, Jayadeviudar, Olchibag, Pampur, Panzgom, Sombur, Thajiwor, Begagund, Waztal, Gurhoma Sangri, and Damodara.
- Burzahom, is located on a terrace of karewa clay above the flood plain of the Jhelum river, northeast of Srinagar.
- The site was discovered in 1935 by de Terra and Paterson
- Burzahom is a Kashmiri word meaning '**place of birch**', burnt birch trees were excavated, indicates that birch trees grew in the area in neolithic times
- There are four periods of occupation at Burzahom. The first two are neolithic, the third megalithic, and the fourth early historical.
- A distinguishing feature Burzahom is the presence of **mudplastered pit dwellings**
- Other finds included ill-fired, handmade, coarse pottery in grey, red, brown, and buff colours.

- Burzahom had a well-developed bone tool industry
- At Burzahom neolithic humans were sometimes buried along with wild animals such as deer, wolf, ibex, nilgai, snow leopard, and pig, and domesticated animals such as cattle, buffalo, dog, sheep, and goat. The joint burials of humans and animals at Burzahom reflect a close relationship between people and the animals concerned.
- Hunting and fishing were important parts of the lives of the neolithic people of Burzahom.

Hence, 1st pair is incorrectly matched

Chandraketugarh

Chandraketugarh, is located in the Ganga delta in 24 Parganas district of West Bengal

In early historic times, Chandraketugarh was connected to the Ganga by the Vidyadhari river and must have been an **important centre of trade**, and possibly also a political centre.

Chandraketugarh major centre of **terracotta craft** during 200-300 C.E.

Hence, 2nd pair is correctly matched.

The Ganeshwar–Jodhpura culture

The Ganeshwar–Jodhpura culture was located in the north-eastern part of Rajasthan.

Jodhpura, on the banks of the Sahibi river, is the first site where evidence of the Ganeshwar–Jodhpura culture was identified.

The typical pottery here is wheel-made, orange to red in colour, with incised designs. Shapes include dishon-stand with a thick slip

Pottery similar to that found at Jodhpura was later discovered at Ganeshwar, near Nim-ka-Thana

There are three cultural phases at Ganeshwar. The dates for

- Period I are from c. 3800 BCE onwards,
- Period II from c. 2800 BCE, and
- Period III from c. 2000 BCE.

Period I reflects a hunting-gathering community using **microliths** made of chert and quartz. Charred bones, almost all belonging to wild animals, were found.

Period II was marked by the **beginning of metallurgy**. **A few copper objects** were found—five arrowheads, three fishhooks, one spearhead, and one awl.

People lived in circular huts with floors paved with pebbles and rock fragments.

Both handmade and wheel-made pottery was found.

There was a profusion of Ganeshwar–Jodhpura ware, a poorly fired pottery made of micaceous clay, with a bright red slip

Period III had a wide range of pots. **Hundreds of copper objects of different types**— arrowheads, spearheads, celts, chisels, rings, bangles, balls, etc were found. This shows that Ganeshwar was a major centre for the manufacture of copper artefacts.

Hence, 3rd pair is correctly matched.

Hence, option d is correct.

7. Consider the following statements:

[Medieval India]

1. It was during the reign of Iltutmish that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Khwarezm prince.
2. It was during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughluq that Taimur occupied Multan and crossed the Indus.
3. It was during the reign of Deva Raya II of Vijayanagara Empire that Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 Only
- (d) 2 and 3

Answer: a

Explanation:

The First Mongol invasion of India took place in the reign of Iltutmish. The Mongols appeared on the bank of the river Indus in 1221 under the command Changiz khan (1162-1227). Changiz khan came in hot pursuit of Jalal-ud-Din Mangbarni up to the Indus.

Jalal-ud-Din Mangbarni, the last Shah of Khwarism of Khiva, sought shelter from the Mongols in the Doab between the Indus and the Jhelum.

Hence, 1st statement is correct.

During the reign of Muhammad Tughluq. In 1328-29, Tarmashirin khan, the Chaghatai chief of Transoxiana, invaded India. He Revaged the country from Multan and Lahore to the Outskirts of Delhi.

Yahiya-bin-Ahmad and Badauni tell us that Muhammad Tughluq defeated the Mongols and drove them out of the country.

Timur's invaded India in 1398 during the reign of Tughluq king Nasiruddin Mohammed Shah , Timur crossed the Indus, the Chenab, and the Ravi and occupied Multan.

Hence, 2nd statement is incorrect.

During the reign of **Narasa Nayaka**, the famous Portuguese navigator Vasco de Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope with a fleet of three ships and arrived at Calicut in August 1498.

Hence, 3rd statement is incorrect.

8. Consider the following statements:

[Medieval India]

1. St. Francis Xavier was one of the founding members of the Jesuit Order.
2. St. Francis Xavier died in Goa and a church is dedicated to him there.
3. The Feast of the St. Francis Xavier is celebrated in Goa each year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1,2 and 3 only

Answer: c

Explanation:

St. Francis Xavier

- born April 7, 1506, Navarre [Spain]
- died December 3, 1552, Sancian [now Shangchuan] Island, China;

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

St. Francis Xavier was the greatest Roman Catholic missionary of modern times who was instrumental in the establishment of Christianity in India, the Malay Archipelago, and Japan.

In Paris in 1534 he pronounced vows as one of the **first seven members of the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, under the leadership of St. Ignatius of Loyola.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Feast of St Francis Xavier or Goinchea Saibache Fest, (Lord of Goa Festival), is the biggest of all the Christian festivals in Goa. **This feast is celebrated every year in Old Goa** on 3rd December at the Basilica of Bom Jesus

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

9. With reference to the History of Ancient India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

[Medieval India]

1. Mitakshara was the civil law for upper caste and Dayabhaga was the civil law for lower castes.
2. In the Mitakshara system, the sons can claim right to the property during the lifetime of the father, whereas in the Dayabhaga system, it is only after the death of the father that the sons can claim right to the property.
3. The Mitakshara system deals with the matters related to the property held by male members only of a family, whereas the Dayabhaga system deals with the matters related to the property held by both male and female members of a family

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Answer: b

Explanation:

Vijnaneshvara (11th–12th centuries) wrote commentary on the Yajnavalkya Smriti titled the Mitakshara, became an authority on various aspects of Hindu law.

Jimutavahana wrote a work on procedural law called the Vyavaharamatrika and a digest of laws on inheritance called the Dayabhaga,

In Bengal and Assam the Dayabagha School was established and in the entire of India apart from in Bengal and Assam Mitakshara School is followed.

In the Mitakshara School, the allocation of inherited property was based on the law of possession by birth and a man could leave his self-acquired property to which he willed. The joint family property went to the group known as coparceners, i.e. those who belonged to next three generations and also the joint family property by partition could be, at any time, converted into separate property . Therefore in Mitakshara School, Sons had an exclusive right **by birth** in joint family property.

The property is inherited in the Dayabhaga School after the death of the person who was in possession of it.

Hence, option b is correct.

10. With reference to the history of ancient India, Bhavabhuti, Hastimalla, and Kshemeshvara were famous:

[Art & Culture]

- (a) Jain monks
- (b) Playwrights
- (c) Temple architects
- (d) Philosophers

Answer: b

Explanation:

- **Bhavabhuti** - mentioned by Kalhana in his Rajatarnagini as a poet in the court of King Yasovaraman of Kanyakubja(8th Century A.D). The drama mahaviracarita, Malatimadhava and Uttararamacarita are ascribe to Bhavabhuti.
- **Hastimalla**, He lived in the 9th century AD. He wrote many poems, such as Adipurana, Purucarita, and Uddayanarajakavya. He also wrote several dramas, such as Arjunaraja, Bharataraja, Meghesvaran, Maithiliparinaya, Subhadsaharana, Anjanapavanajaya, and Vikrantikaurava.
- **Kshemendra** belongs to the eleventh century A.D. - he wrote the later version of Brihat-katha by Gunadhya. His version is known as **Kshemendra's** Brihat-kathamajari. The other version of Brihat-katha is Somadeva's Katha-Saritsagara.

Hence, option b is correct.

11. Consider the following statements:

[Modern India]

1. The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 recommended granting voting rights to all the women above the age of 21.
2. The Government of India Act of 1935 gave women reserved seats in the legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Government of India Act, 1919 set up a bicameral legislature at the centre in place of the Imperial Council consisting of one House. The names of the two Houses were the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of States.

Franchise for both Houses of the Central Legislature was very much restricted. **The voting rights were restricted to the income tax payers & the municipal tax payers of certain amount, the rent receivers and the land revenue payers of a certain amount.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The Government of India Act, 1935 did not set up provincial legislatures of a uniform pattern. The six provinces of Assam, Bengal, Bihar, U.P, Madras and Bombay were given two Chambers each while the legislatures of the Punjab, Sind, North-Western Frontier Province, Orissa and C.P had only one Chamber.

The Houses were named as the Provincial Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Legislative Council.

The seats in the various provinces were distributed according to the Communal Award as amended by the Poona Pact. Some seats were known as general seats out of which some were reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Separate representation on communal lines was given to the Muslims, Sikhs, Anglo-Indians, Europeans and the Christians. Some seats were reserved for commerce, industry, mining and planting, landholders, labours and universities. **Out of seats exclusively reserved for women, some were given to the Hindus and the others to the Muslims, Sikhs, Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians.**

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

12. With reference to 8th August 1942 in Indian History, which one of the following statements is correct? **[Modern India]**

- (a) The Quit India Resolution was adopted by AICC
- (b) The viceroy's Executive Council was expected to include more Indians.
- (c) The congress ministries resigned in seven provinces.
- (d) Cripps proposed an Indian Union with full Dominion status once the Second War was over.

Answer: a

Explanation:

On 8th August 1942, the famous "Quit India" resolution was moved by Jawaharlal Nehru and passed by an overwhelming majority. It was declared in that resolution that the immediate ending of the British rule in India was an urgent necessity. Mahatma Gandhi gave the Mantra: "Do or die. We shall either free India or die in the attempt; we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery". Hence, option a is correct.

13. Who among the following is associated with 'Songs from Prison', a translation of ancient Indian religious lyrics in English? **[Modern India]**

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
- (d) Sarojini Naidu

Answer: c

Explanation:

Famous books written by **Mahatma Gandhi**:

- The story of my experiment with truth
- Satyagraha
- **Songs from Prison**
- Hind Swaraj

Hence, option c is correct.

14. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequences in ascending order in terms of size? **[Medieval India]**

- (a) Pargana–Sarkar–Suba
- (b) Sarkar–Pargana–Suba
- (c) Suba–Sarkar–Pargana
- (d) Paragana–Suba–Sarkar

Answer: a

Explanation:

Administrative Structure Under the Mughals

- The Mughals retained many features of the administrative systems of the Sultanate and Shershah.
- Sher Shah Sur was the founder of the local system of government, including the districts (sarkars) and tehsils (parganas).
- For administrative convenience, the Mughal empire was divided into provinces called **subahs**.
- Under Akbar there were fifteen provinces, seventeen provinces under Jahangir, twenty-two under Shah Jahan and twenty-one under Aurangzeb.
- Each province was headed by a governor called the **Nazim, subedar or sipahsalar**.
- A Mughal subah or province was divided into a number of **Sarkars** or Districts. A district was governed by **Faujdar**.
- Each sarkar or district consisted of a few **Parganas or Tehsils**, administered by **Shikdar** and assisted by Amil, Fotdar and Qanungo.
- **Hence, option a is correct.**

15. Who among the following was associated as Secretary with the Hindu Female School which later came to be known as Bethune Female School?

[Modern India]

- (a) Annie Besant
- (b) Debendranatha Tagore
- (c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- (d) Sarojini Naidu

Answer: c

Explanation:

J.E.D Bethune

- John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune (J.E.D Bethune) arrived in India in 1848, as the Law member of the Governor General's Council and by virtue of his position, Bethune became the President of the Council of Education.
- He considered education as the only means for the rapid improvement of women and took a keen interest in spreading education of women as well as in eradication of social evils.
- **J.E.D Bethune established Calcutta Female School**, the first school for girls in Calcutta with the help of Raja Dakshinaranjan Mukhopadhyay, Ramgopal Ghosh, and Pandit Madan Mohan Tarkalankar in 1849, with 21 girls on its roll.
- The school established by Bethune was maintained from the private funds of its founder until his death in August, 1851. In later days this school came to be known as Bethune School. **Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar was the first Secretary of Bethune School.**

Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

- A great scholar and reformer dedicated his entire life to the cause of social reform.
- A Sanskrit scholar and served as Principal of Sanskrit college.
- He waged a long struggle in favour of widow remarriage. The agitation was successful and Widow remarriage act was enacted by Lord Canning in 1856
- Vidyasagar protested against child marriage. All his life he campaigned against polygamy.
- As secretary to the Bethune school, he was one of the pioneers of higher education for women.

Hence, option c is correct.

16. In the context of Colonial India, Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon are remembered as: [Modern India]

- (a) Leaders of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement
- (b) Members of the Interim Government in 1946
- (c) Members of the Drafting Committee in the Constituency Assembly
- (d) Officers of the Indian National Army

Answer: d

Explanation:

After the End of the Second World War, **the British authorities decided to try Col. Shah Nawaz, Captain Sehgal and Dhillon and other members of the Indian National Army for the crime of waging war against the King-Emperor before a Court-Martial.**

- The trial started on 5 November 1945 in the Red Fort of Delhi and lasted up to 31 December. The decision was announced on 3 January 1946, and Shah Nawaz, Sehgal and Dhillon were found guilty and sentenced to transportation for life.
- There were mass Demonstrations throughout the country for their release. On certain occasions, Police resorted to firing and many Indians lost their lives.
- The result was that Field Marshal Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief of India, granted clemency to Shah Nawaz, Sehgal and Dhillon.
- On 6 February 1946, the Government of India announced its decision not to proceed any further with the trials and Consequently, cases against the rest of the I.N.A men were withdrawn.

Hence, option d is correct.

17. With reference to Indian History, which of the following statements is/are correct? [Medieval India]

1. The Nizam of Arcot emerged out of Hyderabad State
2. The Mysore Kingdom emerged out of the Vijayanagara Empire
3. Rohilkhand Kingdom was formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Answer: b

Explanation:

Mughal successor states

The Nizamat of Arcot/Nawayat dynasty

The **Nizamat of Arcot** emerged out of the large Mughal suba [province] of the Carnatic and like its counterparts in the north, was a successor state operating under the carapace of Mughal sovereignty. The founders of its **Nawayat dynasty** were Daud Khan Panni and Sa'adatullah Khan.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Mysore

Mysore originated as a vice-royalty under the Vijayanagara Empire in the sixteenth century, **Mysore** was transformed into an autonomous state by the Wodeyar chieftaincy in the seventeenth century. The new principality afforded opportunities for the rise of dynamic military commanders like Haider Ali to assume political power by eliminating the prime minister of the Wodeyar state and thereafter reducing the Wodeyar ruler to a titular head.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Rohilkhand

"Rohilkhand Kingdom was formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani." The aftermath of Persian and Afghan invasions, Afghan soldiers circulated in the military market of north India and enabled some of them to carve out principalities that became important urban centres as well.

The Rohilla mercenaries defeated local rajput lineages and subsequently converted them into muslim Qasba towns. This kingdom was referred to as Muslim conquest state.

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

18. Which one of the following statements is correct?

[Art & Culture]

- (a) Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of Waghora River.
- (b) Sanchi Stupa lies in the gorge of Chambal River.
- (c) Pandu-Lena Cave Shrines lie in the gorge of Narmada River.
- (d) Amaravati Stupa lies in the gorge of Godavari River

Answer: a

Explanation:

The most prominent examples of rock-cut architecture are found at **Ajanta** and Bagh. The spectacular Buddhist site of Ajanta consists of several caves nested in a curving section of Sahyadri hills overlooking the **Waghora River**.

Hence, option a is correct.

19. With reference to Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements: **[Art & Culture]**

1. It is a circular temple built during the reign of Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
2. It is the only circular temple built in India
3. It was meant to promote the Vaishnava cult in the region
4. Its design has given rise to a popular belief that it was the inspiration behind the Indian Parliament building

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4
- (d) 2,3 and 4

Answer: c

Explanation:

Chausath Yogini Temple, Monera, Madhya Pradesh

The Chausath Yogini Temple, Mitaoli, also known as Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple, is an 11th-century temple in Morena district in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

According to an inscription, the temple was constructed by Maharaja Devapala of the **Kacchapagata dynasty**, dated VS 1380 (1323 CE).

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

This temple is situated on top of a small hill and has a circular plan. The small cells that form 64 subsidiary shrines have a shallow mandapa in front, While a circular main shrine facing east stands in the middle of the courtyard.

But this is not the only circular temple in India; there are many other circular yogini temples in India, such as

- Chausath Yogini Temple, Hirapur, Odisha
- Ranipur-Jharial, Balangir, Odisha temple

Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.

The Chausath Yogini Temple, Morena, also known as **Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple**. This temple is so named because of the presence of multitude of **Shivalingas** inside its cells. This is a yogini temple dedicated to sixty-four yoginis. Hence, it belongs to the **Shiavism cult**.

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

The uniqueness of this Yogini temple is its circular shape, which is popularly believed to have inspired the design of the **Indian Parliament**. The circular shape is likely to have represented a Sri-Yantra in which the Yoginis reside, with the Supreme Yogini or Maha Sakti residing in the centre (represented by the circular central main shrine).

Hence, statement 4 is correct.

2020

Previous Year UPSC History Questions (PYQs) With Explanation 2020

There were 19 questions from History in 2020, out of which

- 9 questions were from Ancient India
- No questions from Medieval India
- 10 questions were asked from Modern India
- No questions were asked from Art & Culture.

Overall, the level of the questions was Moderate to Tough.

1. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:

[Modern India]

1. Aurang : In charge of treasury of the State
2. Banian : Indian agent of the East India Company
3. Mirasidar : Designated revenue payer to the State

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

Aurang- A collecting centre for textiles. The company organised several such collection centres where weavers were assembled and ordered to produce cloth according to specifications.

Banian- Banian was the name given to an **Indian agent of the East India Company**, who was in charge of information gathering, of securing capital for investment and of marketing. He received a commission for the same.

Banian is not the same as Bania, a term indicating a particular caste generally engaged in a range of trade and money related functions.

Mirasidar- Co-parcenary title holder and **designated revenue payer**. The term was familiar in southern India. This landowner had the power to command retainers who tilled his land and received their subsistence from him.

Hence, option b is correct.

2. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sthaviravadins belong to Mahayana Buddhism. **[Ancient India]**
2. Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
3. The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered Mahayana Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

100 years after death of Buddha, at the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali, there was schism of the Buddhist order which broke into two sections-

- The orthodox **Sthaviravadins (Theravadin in Pali)** or the **"Believer in the Teaching of the Elders"** and
- The **Mahasanghikas** or Members of **"The Great Community"**.

200 years after the death of Buddha, Mahasanghikas were further divided into two sects-

- Gokulika (Kukkulika) and
- Ekavyavaharika (Lokottaravadina)

According to the Mahasanghikas, the Bodhisattvas are supramundane, and do not pass through the four embryonic stages of ordinary beings. They enter their mothers' wombs in the form of white elephants and come out of the wombs on the right side. They never experience feelings of lust (kama), malevolence (vyapada) or injury (vihimsa). For the benefit of all classes of sentient beings, they are born of their own free will in any form of existence they choose. These conceptions led to the deification of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

Hence, option b is correct.

3. Which of the following statements correctly explains the impact of Industrial Revolution on India during the first half of the nineteenth century? **[Modern India]**

- (a) Indian handicrafts were ruined.
- (b) Machines were introduced in the Indian textile industry in large numbers.
- (c) Railway lines were laid in many parts of the country
- (d) Heavy duties were imposed on the imports of British manufactures

Answer: a

Explanation:

The **Charter Act, 1813** abolished East India Company's monopoly of Indian trade.

With this event, a new phase in Britain's economic relations with India began. Agricultural India was to be made an economic colony of industrial England.

The Government of India now followed a policy of free trade or unrestricted entry of British goods.

Indian handicrafts were exposed to the fierce and unequal competition of the machine-made products of Britain and faced extinction.

Hence, option a is correct.

4. Consider the following events in the history of India:

[Ancient India]

1. Rise of Pratiharas under King Bhoja
- 2 Establishment of Pallava power under Mahendravarman-I
3. Establishment of Chola power by Parantaka-I
4. Pala dynasty was founded by Gopala

What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest time?

- (a) 2-1-4-3
- (b) 3-1-4-2
- (c) 2-4-1-3
- (d) 3-4-1-2

Answer: c

Explanation:

Mahendravarman I (590–630)

Mahendravarman I (590–630), renowned as a great patron of the arts, and apparently a poet and musician in his own right. His reign saw the beginning of a conflict between the Pallavas and Western Chalukyas.

Gopala

Gopala(750-770), founder of the Pala dynasty, was elected by the people, rescuing them from matsya-nyaya (chaos).

Bhoja

The best known Gurjara-Pratihara king was Bhoja, grandson of Nagabhata II. He ascended the throne in or before 836 CE, and had a long reign of over 46 years. His earliest inscription—the Barah copper plate of this date was issued from the skandhavara (royal camp of victory) at Mahodaya. Mahodaya may have been another name for Kanauj.

Parantaka I

Parantaka I (907–953), won several victories with the help of his allies such as the Western Gangas, the Kodumbalur chiefs, and the ruler of Kerala. He succeeded in conquering Madurai, after which he took the title of Madurantaka (destroyer of Madura) and Maduraikonda (capturer of Madurai).

Hence, option c is correct.

5. With reference to the book “Deshar Katha” written by Saktharam Ganesh Deuskar during the freedom struggle, consider the following statement: **[Modern India]**

1. It warned against the Colonial States' hypnotic conquest of the mind.
2. It inspired the performance of swadeshi street plays and folk songs.
3. The use of 'desh' by Deuskar was in the specific context of the region of Bengal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Explanation:

In Maharashtra, Saktharam Ganesh Deuskar popularised the ideas of Naoroji and Ranade and promoted swadeshi in a popular idiom.

His text, titled Deshar Katha (Story of the Nation/ Country), warned against the colonial state's 'hypnotic conquest of the mind'.

By the time Deshar Katha was banned by the colonial state in 1910, it had sold over 15,000 copies, inspired swadeshi street plays and folk songs, and had become a mandatory text for an entire generation of swadeshi activists.

Hence, option a is correct.

6. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following?

[Modern India]

1. Invitation to Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference
2. Withdrawal of Ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement
3. Acceptance of Gandhiji's suggestion for enquiry into police excesses.
4. Release of only those prisoners who were not charged with violence

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1, 2, and 4 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2, 3, and 4 only

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Pact was signed by Gandhiji on behalf of the Congress and by Lord Irwin on behalf of the Government on 5th march 1931.

- The terms of agreement included:
- The immediate release of of all political prisoners not convicted for violence
- The remission of all fines not yet collected
- The return of confiscated lands not yet sold to third parties
- Lenient treatment for those government employees who had resigned.
- The government also conceded the right to make salt for consumption to villages along the coast
- As also the right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing

The Congress demand for a public inquiry into police excess was not accepted. The Congress, on its part agreed to discontinue the Civil Disobedience Movement. It was also understood that the Congress would participate in the next Round Table Conference.

Hence, option b is correct.

7. The Vital-Vidhvansak, the first monthly journal to have the untouchable people as its target audience was published by [Modern India]

- (a) Gopal Baba Walangkar
- (b) Jyotiba Phule
- (c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
- (d) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

Answer: a

Explanation:

Gopal Baba Walangkar

- Gopal Krishna (alias Gopal Baba) was born at Ravdal (near Mahad, in the present Raigad district).
- He came under the dynamic influence of Jotiba Phoolley.
- Gopal Baba was a pioneer of the movement for the emancipation of the “Untouchables”, in the nineteenth century.

- He founded the **Anarya Dosh-Parihar Samaj** in 1886; and in 1888, he published his monthly **Vital-Vidhvansak** (Destroyer of Brahmanical or Ceremonical Pollution) which was the first-ever journal of the “Untouchables”.
- Subsequently, in 1889, he published his book entitled **Vital Vidvansan** (Annihilation of Ceremonical Pollution)

Hence, option a is correct.

8. With reference to the history of India, the terms “kulyavapa” and “dronavapa” denote

- (a) Measurement of land
- (b) Coins of different monetary value
- (c) Classification of urban land
- (d) Religious rituals

[Ancient India]

Answer: a

Explanation:

Texts and inscriptions mention various land measure terms. The angula (probably $\frac{3}{4}$ inch) was the smallest measure. The hasta (cubit) was the standardised distance between the tip of the elbow and the middle finger (18 inches). Larger units of measure included the dhanu/danda and nala.

The land measures used in eastern India included the **adhavapa** ($\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ acre), **dronavapa** ($\frac{1}{2}$ –2 acres), and **kulyavapa** (12–16 acres).

Hence, option a is correct.

9. Who among the following rulers advised his subjects through this inscription?” “Whosoever praises his religious sect or blames other sects out of excessive devotion to his own sect, with the view of glorifying his own sect, he rather injures his own sect very severely”. **[Ancient India]**

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Harshavardhana
- (d) Krishnadeva Raya

Answer: a

Explanation:

According to the 12th major rock edict - The beloved of gods, the King Piyadassi honour all sects and both ascetics and laymen, with gifts and various forms of recognition.

“On each occasion, one should honour another man’s sect, for by doing so one increase the influence of one’s own sect and benefits that of the other man; while by doing otherwise one diminishes the

influence of one's own sect and harm the other man's. Again, **whosoever honours his own sect or disparages that of another man, wholly out of devotion to his own, with a view to showing it in a favourable light, harms his own sect even more seriously.** Therefore, concord is to be commended, so that men may hear one another's principle and obey them.

Hence, option a is correct.

10. With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following is the correct description of the term 'paramitas'? [Ancient India]

- (a) The earliest Dharmashastra texts written in aphoristic (sutra) style
- (b) Philosophical schools that did not accept the authority of Vedas
- (c) Perfections whose attainment led to the Bodhisattva path
- (d) Powerful merchant guilds of early medieval South India

Answer: c

Explanation:

The idea of the Bodhisattva assumed greater importance in Mahayana.

Paramitas, or great spiritual perfections, are the cardinal virtues developed by Bodhisattvas. **These were originally listed as six and later expanded to ten. They consisted of generosity (dana), good conduct (shila), patient forbearance (kshanti), mental strength (virya), meditation (dhyana), wisdom (prajna), skilfulness in means (upaya-kaushalya), determination (pranidhana), power (bala), and knowledge (jnana).**

Hence, option c is correct.

11. In the context of Indian history, the Rukhmabai case of 1884 revolved around [Modern India]

- 1. Women's right to gain education
- 2. age of consent
- 3. restitution of conjugal rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

Rukhmabai was married off at the age of 11 to Dadaji Bhikaji who was aged 19. She, however, continued to stay at the house of her widowed mother, who later got married to a doctor Sakharam Arjun Raut. She was supported by her stepfather when she refused to stay with Bhikaji and his family at his house. She completed her matriculation staying with her mother. This led to the Dadaji Bhikaji vs Rukhmabai case, 1885.

Dadaji Bhikaji filed a case against his wife Rukmabai in the Bombay High Court in 1884 for **restitution of conjugal rights**. In this case Justice Pinhey declined to pass a decree of restitution of conjugal rights in favour of the husband. Rukhmabai refused to be bound to the marriage contracted when she was eleven years old.

Rukmabai went on to become India's first qualified physician and was the major cause behind the enactment of **Age of Consent Act in 1891**.

Hence, option b is correct.

12. Indigo cultivation in India declined by the beginning of the 20th century because of

- (a) Peasant resistance to the oppressive conduct of planters **[Modern India]**
- (b) Its unprofitability in the world market because of new inventions
- (c) National leaders' opposition to the cultivation of indigo
- (d) Government control over the planters

Answer: b

Explanation:

In Champaran under the tinkathia system the European planters had agreements with the Indian peasants. Indigo was cultivated on 3/20th land under this system .

In the early twentieth century, there was decreased demand for Indigo globally because of invention of German synthetic dye in late 19th century .

Synthetic dyes forced indigo out of the market. Inorder to release cultivators from the obligation of cultivating indigo planters enhanced rents, which was resisted by peasants. Exaction of planters continued. On the invitation of Rajkumar Shukla, Gandhi reached Champaran to investigate the problem.

Hence, option b is correct.

13. Wellesley established the Fort William College at Calcutta because **[Modern India]**

- (a) He was asked by the Board of Directors at London to do so
- (b) He wanted to revive interest in oriental learning in India
- (c) He wanted to provide William Carey and his associates with employment
- (d) He wanted to train British civilians for administrative purposes in India

Answer: d

Explanation:

In 1800, Lord Wellesley established the College of Fort William at Calcutta for the education of young recruits to the Civil Service. The directors of the Company disapproved of his action and in 1806 replaced it by their own East Indian College at Haileybury in England.

Hence, option d is correct.

14. With reference to the history of India, “Ulgulan” or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events? [Modern India]

- (a) The Revolt of 1857
- (b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
- (c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859 – 60
- (d) Birsa Munda’s Revolt of 1899-1900

Answer: d

Explanation:**Ulgulan**

The rebellion (ulgulan) of the Munda tribesmen was led by **Birsa Munda** during 1899-1900.

Birsa munda was born in a poor share-cropper household in 1874, had a vision of God in 1895. He declared himself to be a divine messenger, possessing miraculous healing powers.

On Christmas Eve, 1899, Birsa proclaimed a rebellion to establish Munda rule in the land and encouraged ‘the killing of thikadars and jagirdars and Rajas and Hakims(rulers) and Christians.’ Satyug would be established in place of the present-day Kalyug.

To bring about liberation, Birsa gathered a force of 6000 Mundas armed with swords, spears, battle-axes, and bows and arrows. He was, however, captured in the beginning of February 1900 and he died in jail in June. The rebellion had failed.

Hence, option d is correct.

15. With reference to the scholars/litterateurs of ancient India, consider the following statements:

[Ancient India]

- 1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra Shunga.
- 2. Amarasimha is associated with Harshavardhana.
- 3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandra Gupta-II.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

Panini, Sanskrit grammarian, author of Ashtadhyayi **lived in 5th century or 4th century B.C.** Sunghas dethroned Mauryans and established themselves in **187 B.C (2nd century B.C)**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Amarasimha, the author of Amarkosha (Sanskrit dictionary) **belonged to the Gupta Age.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Kalidasa was in the court of the Gupta King **Chandra Gupta II.**

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

16. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following pairs: [Ancient India]

1. Parivrajaka : Renunciant and Wanderer
2. Shramana : Priest with a high status
3. Upasaka : Lay follower of Buddhism

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

The renunciants were referred to by various terms including

- paribbajaka (Sanskrit—**parivrajaka**, ‘wanderer’),
- samana (Sanskrit—**shramana**, ‘one who strives’, i.e., to realise the truth), and
- bhikkhu (Sanskrit—bhikshu, ‘one who lives by begging alms’).

These were people who had left their homes and lived as wanderers, dependent on food and alms offered by sympathetic or generous householders.

Lay followers of the Buddha included male followers (**upasakas**) and female followers (**upasikas**). An upasaka/upasika was a person who had declared that he/she had taken refuge in the Buddha, dhamma, and sangha, but who had not taken monastic vows.

Hence, option b is correct.

17. With reference to the period of the Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Ghantasala, Kadura, and Chaul were well-known as *[Ancient India]*

- (a) Ports handling foreign trade
- (b) Capitals of powerful kingdoms
- (c) Places of exquisite stone art and architecture
- (d) Important Buddhist pilgrimage centres

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Gupta period was an era of brisk trade, both internal as well as external.

The **ports** on the western coast were- *Kalyan, Chaul, Broach and Cambay*.

The ports on the eastern coast were- *Tamralipti (modern Tamluk)* in Bengal and *Kadura and Ghantasala in Andhra*.

Hence, option a is correct.

18. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs: *[Ancient India]*

Famous Place	Present State
1. Bhilsa	: Madhya Pradesh
2. Dwarasamudra	: Maharashtra
3. Girinagar	: Gujarat
4. Sthanesvara	: Uttar Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 4 only

Answer: a

Explanation:

<i>Famous Place</i>	<i>Present State</i>
Bhilsa	Madhya Pradesh
Dwarasamudra	Karnataka
Girinagar	Gujarat

Sthanesvara	Haryana
-------------	---------

Vidisha is the another name of **Bhilsa** which is located in **Madhya Pradesh**.

Dwarasamundra, the capital of Hoysalas is located in **Karnataka**.

Girinagar or Girnar or Junagarh, reputed for the Junagarh Inscription of Rudradaman is located in **Gujarat**.

Sthanesvara- the capital of Pushyabhuti is located in **Haryana**.

Hence, option a is correct.

19. Which of the following phrases defines the nature of “Hundi” generally referred to in the sources of the post-Harsha period?

[Modern India]

- (a) An advisory issued by the king to his subordinate
- (b) A Dairy to be maintained for daily accounts
- (c) A bill of exchange
- (d) An order from the feudal lord to his subordinates

Answer: c

Explanation:

Sarafs (local Money lenders) issued **Hundis or Letters of authority or Bills of Exchange**, in modern terminology.

It enabled a person to transmit large sums of money from one place to another without any risk. He would deposit the amount, sometimes running into lakhs, with a saraf who would issue a hundi or letter of authority in the name of his agent which would enable the depositor to get his money within a specified time at a place of his choice after paying some charges .

The English factors freely used this medium for sending money from one place to another.

Hence, option c is correct

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