

CUET-UG History Sample Paper-11

Duration: 1 Hour

Maximum Marks: 250

Instructions

- This paper contains a total of 50 Multiple Choice Questions.
- Each correct answer carries **+5 marks**.
- Each incorrect answer carries **-1 mark**.
- No negative marking for unattempted questions.

- Q1.** Assertion (A): The Harappan script remains undeciphered to this day.
Reason (R): The script contains long inscriptions similar to Egyptian hieroglyphs.
- (A) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A
(B) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A
(C) A is correct, but R is incorrect
(D) A is incorrect, but R is correct
- Q2.** Assertion (A): Dholavira shows advanced water management techniques.
Reason (R): It had reservoirs and channels to store rainwater.
- (A) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A
(B) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A
(C) A is correct, but R is incorrect
(D) A is incorrect, but R is correct
- Q3.** Read the following passage and answer: “Ashoka’s inscriptions were written in different scripts depending on the region.” What does this indicate?
- (A) Lack of administrative control
(B) Adaptation to regional linguistic diversity
(C) Influence of foreign rulers
(D) Absence of a common language



- Q4.** Assertion (A): The Mahajanapadas had standing armies.
Reason (R): They required military strength to expand territories.
- (A) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A
(B) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A
(C) A is correct, but R is incorrect
(D) A is incorrect, but R is correct
- Q5.** Assertion (A): Gotra system prohibited marriage within the same lineage.
Reason (R): It aimed to maintain social hierarchy.
- (A) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A
(B) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A
(C) A is correct, but R is incorrect
(D) A is incorrect, but R is correct
- Q6.** Assertion (A): Buddhism spread rapidly in ancient India.
Reason (R): It used local languages for preaching.
- (A) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A
(B) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A
(C) A is correct, but R is incorrect
(D) A is incorrect, but R is correct
- Q7.** Which of the following best reflects Mauryan administrative centralization?
- (A) Autonomy of local guilds
(B) Network of spies and officials
(C) Independent village republics
(D) Absence of taxation
- Q8.** The use of Prakrit in Ashokan inscriptions indicates:
- (A) Preference for elite communication



- (B) Accessibility to common people
- (C) Influence of Greek culture
- (D) Lack of linguistic diversity

Q9. Which among the following was NOT a feature of early states?

- (A) Tax collection system
- (B) Standing army
- (C) Codified constitution
- (D) Bureaucratic administration

Q10. The concept of gotra primarily regulated:

- (A) Political alliances
- (B) Marriage rules
- (C) Land ownership
- (D) Military organization

Q11. V.S. Sukthankar's Critical Edition aimed to:

- (A) Translate the Mahabharata into English
- (B) Compile the most authentic version from manuscripts
- (C) Identify historical battles
- (D) Simplify the text for modern readers

Q12. Endogamy refers to:

- (A) Marriage outside one's group
- (B) Marriage within a specific social group
- (C) Inter-tribal marriage
- (D) Polygamous unions

Q13. The 'Anda' in a stupa represents:



- (A) The relic chamber
- (B) The hemispherical dome
- (C) The gateway
- (D) The railing

Q14. Which teaching is central to Buddhism?

- (A) Eternal soul doctrine
- (B) Four Noble Truths
- (C) Vedic rituals
- (D) Caste hierarchy

Q15. The patronage of the Sanchi Stupa was significantly supported by:

- (A) Gupta rulers
- (B) Bhopal Begums
- (C) Mughal emperors
- (D) British officials

Q16. Jainism differs from Buddhism in emphasizing:

- (A) Middle path
- (B) Extreme asceticism
- (C) Non-violence
- (D) Meditation

Q17. Harmika in a stupa symbolizes:

- (A) The earthly world
- (B) The abode of gods
- (C) The railing boundary
- (D) The entrance gate



- Q18.** Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind is significant because it:
- (A) Criticizes Indian culture harshly
 - (B) Provides comparative cultural analysis
 - (C) Focuses only on political history
 - (D) Describes trade routes exclusively
- Q19.** Ibn Battuta's Rihla reflects:
- (A) Only religious observations
 - (B) Social and administrative life of India
 - (C) Military campaigns
 - (D) Economic statistics
- Q20.** Bernier criticized the Mughal land system because he believed:
- (A) It promoted private ownership
 - (B) It discouraged agricultural investment
 - (C) It favored peasants
 - (D) It eliminated taxation
- Q21.** Which traveler compared Indian caste system with other societies?
- (A) Ibn Battuta
 - (B) Bernier
 - (C) Al-Biruni
 - (D) Marco Polo
- Q22.** The Alvars and Nayanars were associated with:
- (A) Islamic mysticism
 - (B) Bhakti movement in South India
 - (C) Buddhist philosophy



(D) Jain teachings

Q23. The Chishti Silsila emphasized:

- (A) Political power
- (B) Strict orthodoxy
- (C) Love and tolerance
- (D) Military expansion

Q24. Kabir's teachings rejected:

- (A) Devotion
- (B) Ritualism and caste distinctions
- (C) Monotheism
- (D) Spiritual equality

Q25. Guru Nanak's philosophy focused on:

- (A) Idol worship
- (B) Equality and devotion to one God
- (C) Strict asceticism
- (D) Vedic supremacy

Q26. Hampi was rediscovered by:

- (A) James Prinsep
- (B) Colin Mackenzie
- (C) Alexander Cunningham
- (D) John Marshall

Q27. Krishnadeva Raya is best known for:

- (A) Religious reforms
- (B) Military conquests and patronage of arts



- (C) Trade monopoly
- (D) Decline of empire

Q28. The Mahanavami Dibba was used for:

- (A) Military storage
- (B) Royal ceremonies and celebrations
- (C) Religious sacrifices
- (D) Trade activities

Q29. The Lotus Mahal reflects:

- (A) Dravidian architecture
- (B) Indo-Islamic architectural style
- (C) Pure Islamic style
- (D) Buddhist architecture

Q30. Vijayanagara economy relied heavily on:

- (A) Nomadic trade
- (B) Agriculture and temple economy
- (C) Hunting
- (D) Fishing

Q31. Polaj land refers to:

- (A) Fallow land
- (B) Cultivated annually
- (C) Barren land
- (D) Forest land

Q32. The Zamindari system involved:

- (A) Complete ownership by peasants



- (B) Revenue collection intermediaries
- (C) State-owned agriculture
- (D) Communal farming

Q33. Ain-i-Akbari was written by:

- (A) Babur
- (B) Abul Fazl
- (C) Badauni
- (D) Bernier

Q34. Mughal chronicles were primarily written to:

- (A) Criticize rulers
- (B) Record administrative data
- (C) Glorify emperors
- (D) Describe common life

Q35. Permanent Settlement aimed to:

- (A) Empower peasants
- (B) Fix revenue permanently with zamindars
- (C) Abolish taxes
- (D) Promote industries

Q36. The Santhal Rebellion was caused mainly by:

- (A) Religious conflicts
- (B) Exploitative revenue system
- (C) Foreign invasion
- (D) Industrialization

Q37. Deccan Riots Commission investigated:



- (A) Tribal revolts
- (B) Peasant indebtedness
- (C) Industrial strikes
- (D) Military rebellion

Q38. Colonial policies led to:

- (A) Rural prosperity
- (B) Agrarian distress
- (C) Industrial growth
- (D) Decline in trade

Q39. The Revolt of 1857 began at:

- (A) Delhi
- (B) Meerut
- (C) Kanpur
- (D) Lucknow

Q40. Which leader was associated with Jhansi?

- (A) Nana Saheb
- (B) Rani Lakshmibai
- (C) Bahadur Shah II
- (D) Kunwar Singh

Q41. The revolt is often termed as:

- (A) Sepoy Mutiny
- (B) First War of Independence
- (C) Civil War
- (D) Peasant Revolt



Q42. Visual depictions of 1857 were used to:

- (A) Provide neutral history
- (B) Influence public perception
- (C) Record exact events
- (D) Promote trade

Q43. The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched in:

- (A) 1915
- (B) 1920
- (C) 1930
- (D) 1942

Q44. The Dandi March was related to:

- (A) Quit India
- (B) Salt Satyagraha
- (C) Swadeshi Movement
- (D) Civil Disobedience

Q45. Gandhi's BHU speech (1916) criticized:

- (A) British rule
- (B) Indian elites and social inequality
- (C) Peasants
- (D) Industrialization

Q46. Quit India Movement was launched in:

- (A) 1930
- (B) 1942
- (C) 1919



(D) 1922

Q47. Gandhi's strategy was based on:

- (A) Violence
- (B) Satyagraha and non-violence
- (C) Military power
- (D) Diplomacy

Q48. The Objectives Resolution was proposed by:

- (A) Gandhi
- (B) Nehru
- (C) Ambedkar
- (D) Patel

Q49. Debate over separate electorates was mainly about:

- (A) Economic policy
- (B) Representation of minorities
- (C) Language issues
- (D) Trade policies

Q50. B.R. Ambedkar is known as:

- (A) Father of Indian Constitution
- (B) First Prime Minister
- (C) Freedom fighter leader
- (D) Governor General



Detailed Solutions**Q1.****Solution**

Concept: Characteristics and decipherment status of the Indus Valley (Harappan) script.

Solution: Assertion (A) is a correct statement. The script of the Harappan civilization, consisting of pictographic signs, is one of the world's great undeciphered writing systems. Despite numerous attempts by scholars from various disciplines, no universally accepted decipherment has been achieved.

Reason (R), however, is factually incorrect. A major reason for the difficulty in deciphering the Harappan script is the extreme brevity of the inscriptions. Most are found on seals and contain an average of only five signs. The longest known inscription has only about 26 signs. This is in sharp contrast to other ancient scripts like Egyptian hieroglyphs or Mesopotamian cuneiform, which are often found in long inscriptions on monuments, clay tablets, and papyri. The decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs, for instance, was made possible by the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, which contained a long parallel text in three scripts (Hieroglyphic, Demotic, and Greek). The absence of such long inscriptions or bilingual texts is a primary obstacle to cracking the Harappan code. Therefore, the assertion is correct, but the reason provided is incorrect.

Final Answer : "A is correct, but R is incorrect"

Answer: (C)



Q2.

Solution

Concept: Urban planning and hydraulic engineering in the Harappan Civilization.

Solution: Assertion (A) is correct. The Harappan city of Dholavira, located in the arid region of the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, is renowned for its sophisticated and advanced water management system, which is considered an engineering marvel of its time.

Reason (R) is also correct and provides the direct explanation for the assertion. The city's survival and prosperity in a water-scarce environment depended entirely on its ability to harvest and conserve water. Archaeological evidence clearly shows an intricate system of large, stone-cut reservoirs, dams, and interconnected channels designed to collect every drop of rainwater during the brief monsoon season. These structures not only stored water for drinking and agriculture but also helped manage floods. The presence of these massive reservoirs and channels is the tangible proof of Dholavira's advanced water management techniques. Thus, R is the correct explanation of A.

Final Answer : “Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A”

Answer: (A)

Q3.

Solution

Concept: Mauryan imperial policy and communication under Emperor Ashoka.

Solution: The passage states a historical fact: Ashoka's edicts were inscribed in different scripts across his vast empire. For instance, Brahmi was used in most of the subcontinent, Kharosthi was used in the northwestern regions, and Greek and Aramaic were used on the western frontiers (in present-day Afghanistan). This policy was not a sign of weak administration (A) or the absence of a common language (D), but rather a demonstration of highly effective and pragmatic governance. To ensure his message of Dhamma was widely understood by his diverse subjects, Ashoka had it inscribed in the local script and language of each region. This strategic decision shows a clear adaptation to the regional linguistic diversity of the empire, aiming for maximum reach and impact. While there was influence from other cultures (C), the primary reason for this policy was effective communication, not foreign pressure.

Final Answer : “Adaptation to regional linguistic diversity”

Answer: (B)



Q4.

Solution

Concept: State formation and military organization in the Mahajanapada period (c. 600-400 BCE).

Solution: Assertion (A) is correct. The rise of the Mahajanapadas marked a significant transition from the smaller, kinship-based 'janas' of the Vedic period to large, territorial states. A key feature of this new form of statehood was the maintenance of professional, standing armies. These armies were recruited by the king and paid regular salaries, often through the state treasury, which was filled by taxes collected from the populace.

Reason (R) is also correct and serves as the direct cause for the development mentioned in A. The Mahajanapada period was characterized by intense political competition and frequent warfare. States like Magadha, Kosala, Avanti, and Vatsa constantly vied for political supremacy and control over resources. To defend their own territories, conquer weaker neighbours, and control trade routes, it was essential to have a powerful and loyal military force available at all times. This need for military strength for defense and expansion directly led to the establishment of standing armies.

Final Answer : “Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A”

Answer: (A)

Q5.

Solution

Concept: Brahmanical social norms, particularly the gotra system of marriage.

Solution: Assertion (A) is correct. A fundamental rule of the gotra system, as prescribed in Brahmanical texts, was exogamy. This meant that individuals were forbidden from marrying someone belonging to the same gotra. Since a gotra signified a lineage traced back to a common mythical male ancestor (a Vedic sage), this rule was essentially designed to prevent marriage between individuals considered to be patrilineally related.

Reason (R) is also a correct statement in a broader context. The entire framework of Brahmanical social rules, including those related to caste (varna) and marriage (like gotra), was designed to structure society and maintain a specific social order and hierarchy. However, the immediate and specific purpose of gotra exogamy was to regulate kinship alliances and prevent what was considered incest, rather than directly maintaining the varna-based hierarchy. While regulating marriage did contribute to the larger goal of social hierarchy, it is not the most direct or primary explanation for the specific rule of marrying outside one's lineage. Therefore, both statements are factually correct, but R provides a general context rather than a direct explanation for A.

Final Answer : “Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A”

Answer: (B)



Q6.

Solution

Concept: Factors contributing to the popular appeal and spread of early Buddhism.

Solution: Assertion (A) is a well-established historical fact. Following the Buddha's teachings, Buddhism spread with remarkable speed across the Indian subcontinent and eventually to other parts of Asia.

Reason (R) is also correct and provides a primary explanation for this rapid dissemination. Unlike Brahmanism, which used Sanskrit—an elite language accessible mainly to the priestly class—the Buddha and his disciples chose to preach in the vernacular languages of the people, such as Pali and other Prakrits. This deliberate choice made their complex philosophical ideas about suffering, desire, and nirvana accessible and understandable to the common populace, including merchants, artisans, women, and those from lower social strata. This linguistic accessibility, combined with its rejection of caste hierarchy and complex rituals, was a crucial factor in its widespread and rapid acceptance.

Final Answer : “Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A”

Answer: (A)

Q7.

Solution

Concept: The structure of Mauryan governance.

Solution: The Mauryan Empire was characterized by a highly centralized administrative system. The emperor maintained control over the vast empire through an extensive and organized bureaucracy. This included a network of high-ranking officials (amatyas) who managed various departments and provinces, and a sophisticated espionage system composed of spies who reported directly to the central authority. This network was essential for collecting information, monitoring officials, and enforcing imperial decrees, thereby reflecting the state's centralized nature. Autonomy of guilds or independent republics would suggest decentralization, and the Mauryans had a comprehensive taxation system.

Final Answer : “Network of spies and officials”

Answer: (B)



Q8.

Solution

Concept: Linguistic policy in Ashokan edicts.

Solution: Emperor Ashoka's primary goal in issuing his edicts was to communicate his policy of Dhamma to the widest possible audience. To achieve this, he used Prakrit, which was the vernacular or common language spoken by the general populace across much of the empire. Unlike Sanskrit, which was the language of the scholarly and priestly elite, Prakrit ensured that his message of ethical conduct was accessible and understandable to common people. This choice demonstrates a pragmatic approach focused on mass communication rather than elite discourse.

Final Answer : "Accessibility to common people"

Answer: (B)

Q9.

Solution

Concept: Characteristics of early state formation in India (Mahajanapadas).

Solution: The early states, or Mahajanapadas, that emerged around the 6th century BCE, exhibited several key features of statehood. They developed systems for regular tax collection to fund state activities, maintained professional standing armies for defense and expansion, and established a bureaucratic administration to manage their territories. However, the concept of a modern, written, or codified constitution, which is a single formal document outlining the fundamental principles and laws of a state, was not a feature of these ancient polities. Governance was based on a combination of monarchical authority, customary laws, and religious-legal texts (Dharmasutras).

Final Answer : "Codified constitution"

Answer: (C)



Q10.

Solution

Concept: Social organization and kinship in ancient India.

Solution: The concept of gotra, as defined in Brahmanical texts, is a system of patrilineal classification. Its primary function in society was to regulate marriage. The fundamental rule associated with the gotra system was exogamy, which mandated that individuals must marry outside their own gotra. Since people belonging to the same gotra were considered to be descendants of a common male ancestor (a Vedic sage), marriage within the gotra was prohibited as it was viewed as incestuous. This system was crucial in defining kinship and establishing rules for marital alliances.

Final Answer : “Marriage rules”

Answer: (B)

Q11.

Solution

Concept: Textual criticism and the historiography of the Mahabharata.

Solution: The Critical Edition of the Mahabharata was a monumental scholarly project led by V.S. Sukthankar. The project’s main objective was to address the issue of the epic existing in numerous different versions across India. The team collected hundreds of manuscripts from various regions and meticulously compared them, verse by verse. By identifying verses common to most versions and noting the regional variations, they aimed to reconstruct a version of the text that was as close as possible to the original or most authentic form. It was an exercise in textual criticism, not translation, historical identification, or simplification for a modern audience.

Final Answer : “Compile the most authentic version from manuscripts”

Answer: (B)



Q12.

Solution

Concept: Sociological terms related to marriage practices.

Solution: Endogamy is a social practice that requires an individual to marry within a specific social group, caste, or community. The boundaries of the endogamous group can be defined by factors like kinship (kula), caste (jati), village, or religion. This practice promotes group solidarity and helps maintain social hierarchies and traditions. It is the opposite of exogamy, which is the practice of marrying outside one's own group.

Final Answer : "Marriage within a specific social group"

Answer: (B)

Q13.

Solution

Concept: Architectural elements of a Buddhist stupa.

Solution: The 'Anda' is the central and most prominent part of a Buddhist stupa. It is the large, solid, hemispherical dome that forms the main body of the structure. The Anda symbolizes the mound of earth originally used to cover the Buddha's relics and is also interpreted as a symbol of the cosmos or the dome of heaven. While the sacred relics are enshrined within the Anda, the Anda itself refers to the entire dome structure. The gateway is the 'Torana', and the railing is the 'Vedika'.

Final Answer : "The hemispherical dome"

Answer: (B)



Q14.

Solution

Concept: Core doctrines of Buddhist philosophy.

Solution: The foundational teaching of Buddhism, delivered by the Buddha in his first sermon, is the Four Noble Truths. These truths form the core of Buddhist philosophy and provide a framework for understanding the nature of existence and the path to liberation (nirvana). They are: 1) The truth of suffering (Dukkha), 2) The truth of the origin of suffering (Samudāya), 3) The truth of the cessation of suffering (Nirodha), and 4) The truth of the path to the cessation of suffering (Magga). Buddhism explicitly rejects the Vedic concept of an eternal soul (atman), Vedic rituals, and the caste system.

Final Answer : “Four Noble Truths”

Answer: (B)

Q15.

Solution

Concept: The history of preservation of major historical sites in India.

Solution: While the Sanchi Stupa was originally commissioned by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE, its remarkable state of preservation in modern times is largely due to the efforts of the Begums of Bhopal in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Shah Jahan Begum and her successor Sultan Jahan Begum provided crucial funds for the upkeep and restoration of the ancient site. They famously resisted attempts by the French and British to remove the stupa’s magnificent gateways to museums in Europe, ensuring that the monument remained intact in its original location. Their patronage was instrumental in preserving this world heritage site.

Final Answer : “Bhopal Begums”

Answer: (B)



Q16.

Solution

Concept: Philosophical differences between early Indian religions.

Solution: Both Jainism and Buddhism are non-Vedic traditions that emphasize non-violence and meditation. However, a key point of difference lies in their approach to asceticism. Buddhism advocates the 'Middle Path' (Madhyama Marg), which avoids the extremes of both sensual indulgence and severe self-mortification. In contrast, Jainism, particularly for its ascetics, prescribes a path of extreme austerity and self-control. Practices such as rigorous fasting, even to the point of death (sallekhana), exemplify this emphasis on extreme asceticism, which is not a feature of the Buddhist path.

Final Answer : "Extreme asceticism"

Answer: (B)

Q17.

Solution

Concept: Symbolism in Buddhist stupa architecture.

Solution: The Harmika is a square railing-like structure that sits atop the hemispherical dome (Anda) of the stupa. It is surmounted by a central pillar (Yashti) supporting a triple umbrella (Chhatra). Symbolically, the Harmika is considered the sacred precinct, representing the abode of the gods (devaloka). It separates the divine realm from the earthly world below, which is symbolized by the Anda. The Vedika is the railing boundary, and the Torana is the entrance gate.

Final Answer : "The abode of gods"

Answer: (B)



Q18.

Solution

Concept: The methodology and significance of Al-Biruni's historical work.

Solution: Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind (History of India) is a masterpiece of medieval scholarship, highly significant for its unique methodology. Al-Biruni was not a mere chronicler; he was an analytical scholar. He learned Sanskrit to study Indian texts directly and systematically described Indian religion, philosophy, science, and society. A key feature that makes his work unique is its comparative approach. He frequently compared Indian ideas and social structures with those from other cultures he knew, such as Greek philosophy and Persian society, to better understand and explain them. This comparative cultural analysis was remarkably advanced for his time.

Final Answer : "Provides comparative cultural analysis"

Answer: (B)

Q19.

Solution

Concept: The content and historical value of Ibn Battuta's travelogue.

Solution: Ibn Battuta's travelogue, the Rihla, is an invaluable source for the history of the 14th-century Delhi Sultanate under Muhammad bin Tughlaq. Because Ibn Battuta served as a qazi (judge) in Delhi, his account is not just a traveler's observation but an insider's view. He provides rich, detailed descriptions of a wide range of topics, including court politics, the personality of the Sultan, the functioning of the administrative and legal systems, urban life, trade, social customs, and agriculture. His work is a comprehensive reflection of the social and administrative life of India during that period.

Final Answer : "Social and administrative life of India"

Answer: (B)



Q20.

Solution

Concept: François Bernier's critique of the Mughal economy.

Solution: François Bernier, a French traveler, analyzed the Mughal Empire through the lens of European ideas about private property. He was highly critical of the Mughal system where the emperor was considered the owner of all land. He argued that since the nobles (jagirdars) were granted only temporary rights to revenue from the land, which could be taken away at any time, they had no incentive to make long-term investments in improving agricultural productivity. He believed this lack of secure private property rights led nobles to exploit the peasantry for short-term gain, ultimately resulting in agricultural ruin and the impoverishment of the state.

Final Answer : "It discouraged agricultural investment"

Answer: (B)

Q21.

Solution

Concept: The comparative methodology used by foreign travelers.

Solution: Al-Biruni adopted a distinctly scholarly and comparative approach in his Kitab-ul-Hind. When describing the Indian caste system (the four varnas), he tried to make it understandable to his non-Indian audience by searching for parallels in other societies. He noted that a similar four-fold social division existed in ancient Persia among the priests, warriors, artisans, and farmers. By drawing this comparison, he suggested that social stratification was not unique to India, although he also pointed out that the Indian system was far more rigid. This comparative method is a hallmark of his work.

Final Answer : "Al-Biruni"

Answer: (C)



Q22.

Solution

Concept: The origins of the Bhakti movement.

Solution: The Bhakti movement, which emphasized personal devotion to a deity as the primary path to salvation, originated in South India around the 6th century CE. Its earliest proponents were the Alvars and the Nayanars. These were groups of poet-saints who roamed the Tamil region, composing and singing ecstatic hymns in the local language. The Alvars were devotees of Vishnu, and the Nayanars were devotees of Shiva. They rejected rigid caste structures and orthodox rituals, championing a religion of love and devotion accessible to all.

Final Answer : “Bhakti movement in South India”

Answer: (B)

Q23.

Solution

Concept: Core tenets of major Sufi orders in India.

Solution: The Chishti Silsila (order), founded in India by Moinuddin Chishti, became the most influential Sufi order in the subcontinent. A defining characteristic of the Chishti saints, such as Nizamuddin Auliya and Baba Farid, was their emphasis on the doctrine of "love for God and service to humanity." They generally kept aloof from state politics, lived simple lives, and preached a message of love, peace, and tolerance among people of all faiths. Their khanqahs (hospices) were open to everyone, regardless of religion or social status, reflecting their inclusive and humanitarian values.

Final Answer : “Love and tolerance”

Answer: (C)



Q24.

Solution

Concept: The teachings of the Nirguna Bhakti saint Kabir.

Solution: Kabir was a central figure of the Nirguna school of the Bhakti movement, which believed in a formless, universal God. The core of his teachings was a powerful critique of organized religion and social evils. He vehemently rejected all forms of external worship and empty ritualism, whether Hindu or Islamic, such as idol worship, pilgrimages, and ceremonial bathing. He was also a staunch critic of social hierarchy and caste distinctions, preaching that all human beings are spiritually equal. While he championed devotion (A), monotheism (C), and spiritual equality (D), he emphatically rejected ritualism and caste distinctions (B).

Final Answer : “Ritualism and caste distinctions”

Answer: (B)

Q25.

Solution

Concept: The core teachings of Guru Nanak and the founding of Sikhism.

Solution: Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, was a Nirguna Bhakti saint whose philosophy centered on two fundamental principles. First was the belief in one, formless, eternal God (Ik Onkar), accessible through meditation and devotion rather than rituals or idol worship (A). Second was the profound emphasis on the equality of all humanity. He strongly rejected the caste system, gender discrimination, and religious intolerance, advocating a social order based on justice, compassion, and service. His teachings did not involve asceticism (C) or accept the authority of the Vedas (D).

Final Answer : “Equality and devotion to one God”

Answer: (B)



Q26.

Solution

Concept: The history of archaeological exploration in India.

Solution: The magnificent ruins of Hampi, the capital of the erstwhile Vijayanagara Empire, were effectively lost to the wider world after the city's destruction in 1565. The site was brought to public and scholarly attention in the year 1800 by Colonel Colin Mackenzie, an engineer, surveyor, and antiquarian working for the British East India Company. He conducted the first detailed survey of the ruins and prepared the first map of the site. His work laid the foundation for all subsequent archaeological research at Hampi.

Final Answer : "Colin Mackenzie"

Answer: (B)

Q27.

Solution

Concept: The reign of Krishnadeva Raya of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Solution: Krishnadeva Raya (reigned 1509–1529) is considered the greatest ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire and one of the most celebrated monarchs in Indian history. His reign is best known for two major achievements. First, he was a formidable military strategist and warrior who led his armies to decisive victories against the Deccan Sultanates and the Gajapatis of Odisha, expanding the empire to its greatest extent. Second, he presided over a cultural golden age, acting as a great patron of art, architecture (commissioning iconic structures at Hampi), and literature, particularly in Telugu and Kannada.

Final Answer : "Military conquests and patronage of arts"

Answer: (B)



Q28.

Solution

Concept: The function of major structures within the Royal Centre of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Solution: The Mahanavami Dibba was a large, multi-tiered stone platform located at the highest point in the Royal Centre of Vijayanagara. According to historical and archaeological evidence, including accounts by foreign travellers like Domingo Paes, this platform was the hub of major state ceremonies. The king would use it to watch army parades, wrestling matches, musical and dance performances, and to preside over the grand nine-day Mahanavami festival (Dussehra). It was a symbol of the king's power, prestige, and central authority over the empire. The other options are incorrect; military storage was in armouries, trade in bazaars, and while religious rituals were part of ceremonies, it was not solely for sacrifices.

Final Answer : “Royal ceremonies and celebrations”

Answer: (B)

Q29.

Solution

Concept: Architectural synthesis in the buildings of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Solution: The Lotus Mahal, located in the Zenana Enclosure (a secluded area for royal women), is a prime example of the unique architectural style developed in Vijayanagara. It combines elements from traditional Indian temple architecture with features from Islamic architecture prevalent in the neighbouring Deccan Sultanates. The structure's lobed arches and vaulted ceilings are characteristic of Islamic styles, while its tiered roof, culminating in finials shaped like lotus buds, is derived from Indian temple (vimana) designs. This blend of two distinct architectural traditions is known as the Indo-Islamic style, which was commonly used for secular and courtly buildings in the empire.

Final Answer : “Indo-Islamic architectural style”

Answer: (B)



Q30.

Solution

Concept: The economic foundations of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Solution: The prosperity of the Vijayanagara Empire was fundamentally based on its strong agricultural sector. Rulers invested heavily in sophisticated irrigation systems, such as dams, canals, and tanks (e.g., the Hiriya canal), to make agriculture highly productive. This agricultural surplus supported a large population, a powerful army, and vibrant trade. Alongside agriculture, temples were major economic institutions. They owned vast lands, acted as employers and consumers, and provided credit, playing a central role in the rural economy. While trade was also important, agriculture and the temple economy formed the bedrock of Vijayanagara's wealth.

Final Answer : "Agriculture and temple economy"

Answer: (B)

Q31.

Solution

Concept: Land classification in the Mughal revenue system as detailed in the Ain-i-Akbari.

Solution: Under Akbar's reign, for the purpose of revenue assessment, land was classified into four categories based on the continuity of cultivation. 'Polaj' was the ideal and most fertile category of land that was cultivated annually for each harvest and was never left fallow. The other categories were 'Parauti' (land left fallow for a year or two to recover fertility), 'Chachar' (land left fallow for three or four years), and 'Banjar' (land left uncultivated for five or more years). Polaj land, being the most consistently productive, was assessed for the highest revenue.

Final Answer : "Cultivated annually"

Answer: (B)



Q32.

Solution

Concept: The role and position of Zamindars in the Mughal agrarian structure.

Solution: In the Mughal Empire, the Zamindari system involved a class of local, hereditary intermediaries who were responsible for collecting land revenue from the peasants on behalf of the state. Zamindars were not the 'owners' of the land but held superior rights over it. In return for their service of revenue collection, they were entitled to a share of the collected amount (nankar) or were granted their own revenue-free lands (khudkasht). They acted as a crucial link between the imperial administration and the rural peasantry, also performing certain local administrative and military functions.

Final Answer : "Revenue collection intermediaries"

Answer: (B)

Q33.

Solution

Concept: Authorship of major historical chronicles during the Mughal period.

Solution: The Ain-i-Akbari ("Constitution of Akbar") was written by Abul Fazl, who was a grand vizier in Emperor Akbar's court and one of his 'Navaratnas' (nine jewels). The Ain-i-Akbari is the third and final volume of a much larger work, the Akbarnama ("Book of Akbar"), which is the official chronicle of Akbar's reign. While the first two volumes narrate the history of Akbar and his ancestors, the Ain-i-Akbari is a detailed gazetteer providing a rich statistical account of the empire's administration, economy, society, and geography.

Final Answer : "Abul Fazl"

Answer: (B)



Q34.

Solution

Concept: The purpose and ideology behind the writing of Mughal court chronicles.

Solution: Mughal chronicles, such as the Akbarnama, Padshahnama, and Alamgirnama, were official histories commissioned by the emperors themselves. Their primary purpose was to project a very specific and favorable image of the ruler and the empire. They were meticulously crafted to legitimize Mughal rule, often by portraying the emperor as a just, powerful, and divinely sanctioned figure. These texts focused on the court, military victories, and administrative successes, serving as a form of imperial propaganda designed to glorify the emperor and his dynasty, rather than to provide an objective history or describe the lives of common people.

Final Answer : “Glorify emperors”

Answer: (C)

Q35.

Solution

Concept: Objectives of the British land revenue policies, specifically the Permanent Settlement.

Solution: The Permanent Settlement was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa in 1793. Its primary objective was to create a stable and predictable source of revenue for the East India Company. To achieve this, the system recognized the zamindars (local landlords) as the proprietors of the land and fixed the amount of revenue they had to pay to the Company in perpetuity. The British hoped this would not only secure their income but also encourage the zamindars to invest in agricultural improvement to increase their own profits. This policy did not empower peasants, who became tenants at the mercy of the zamindars, and it fixed taxes at a very high rate rather than abolishing them.

Final Answer : “Fix revenue permanently with zamindars”

Answer: (B)



Q36.

Solution

Concept: Causes of major tribal uprisings against British colonial rule.

Solution: The Santhal Rebellion (1855-56), led by Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu, was a major uprising against the oppressive practices that came with British rule and the influx of outsiders ('dikus'). The core cause was the exploitative revenue system imposed by the British, which was executed through zamindars. This system was coupled with the predatory practices of moneylenders who charged exorbitant interest rates, leading to the Santhals losing their lands and falling into debt bondage. The British legal system offered no justice, siding with the exploiters. The rebellion was thus a direct response to this severe economic exploitation and land alienation.

Final Answer : "Exploitative revenue system"

Answer: (B)

Q37.

Solution

Concept: British response to agrarian unrest in the 19th century.

Solution: The Deccan Riots of 1875 were a series of peasant uprisings in the Bombay Deccan region, primarily targeting moneylenders (sahukars). The peasants were suffering under a heavy burden of debt, caused by the high revenue demands of the Ryotwari system, falling cotton prices after the end of the American Civil War, and predatory lending practices. The riots involved peasants seizing and burning the bonds and debt records held by the moneylenders. In response, the Government of Bombay appointed the Deccan Riots Commission to investigate the causes of the unrest. The commission's report identified peasant indebtedness as the central issue, leading to the passage of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act in 1879.

Final Answer : "Peasant indebtedness"

Answer: (B)



Q38.

Solution

Concept: The overall economic impact of British colonial rule on Indian agriculture.

Solution: British colonial policies, taken as a whole, were detrimental to the Indian agrarian economy. High and inflexible land revenue demands, the forced commercialization of agriculture to grow cash crops for British industries, and the destruction of indigenous handicrafts (which increased pressure on land) led to widespread poverty and hardship in rural India. This resulted in frequent famines, peasant indebtedness, and the loss of land to moneylenders and landlords. This entire situation is best described as 'agrarian distress'. The policies led to the drain of wealth from India and hindered, rather than promoted, rural prosperity or industrial growth.

Final Answer : "Agrarian distress"

Answer: (B)

Q39.

Solution

Concept: The starting point and initial events of the 1857 Revolt.

Solution: The Revolt of 1857 is widely acknowledged to have begun with the sepoy mutiny in the cantonment town of Meerut on the evening of May 10, 1857. The immediate trigger was the controversy over the new Enfield rifle cartridges, rumoured to be greased with cow and pig fat. After some sepoys were punished for refusing to use them, their comrades rose in open rebellion, freeing the prisoners, killing British officers, and marching towards Delhi. While Delhi quickly became the symbolic centre of the revolt, the initial large-scale outbreak occurred in Meerut.

Final Answer : "Meerut"

Answer: (B)



Q40.

Solution

Concept: Key leaders and centers of the 1857 Revolt.

Solution: Rani Lakshmibai was the queen of the princely state of Jhansi and one of the most prominent and courageous leaders of the 1857 Revolt. She led the rebellion in Jhansi after the British annexed her state under the Doctrine of Lapse. Her leadership and valour in battle against the British forces made her an iconic symbol of resistance and a national heroine. Nana Saheb led the revolt in Kanpur, Bahadur Shah II was the figurehead leader in Delhi, and Kunwar Singh led the rebellion in Bihar.

Final Answer : “Rani Lakshmibai”

Answer: (B)

Q41.

Solution

Concept: Historiography and different perspectives on the 1857 Revolt.

Solution: The terminology used to describe the 1857 Revolt reflects different perspectives. British colonial historians and administrators predominantly termed it the "Sepoy Mutiny." This term emphasizes its origins as a rebellion among Indian soldiers (sepoys) and downplays its widespread civilian participation, thereby framing it as a localized military issue rather than a national uprising. While Indian nationalists, notably V.D. Savarkar, later called it the "First War of Independence," the term "Sepoy Mutiny" is a common historical label, particularly from the colonial viewpoint. Given the options, it represents a primary and widely used name for the event.

Final Answer : “Sepoy Mutiny”

Answer: (A)



Q42.

Solution

Concept: The use of art and media as propaganda during historical events.

Solution: Visual depictions of the 1857 Revolt, particularly those produced in Britain, were powerful tools of propaganda. Paintings, sketches, and cartoons in British magazines were not neutral historical records. They were created to shape public opinion and sentiment back home. These images often depicted the British as heroic saviours and besieged victims (e.g., "The Relief of Lucknow") and portrayed the Indian rebels as barbaric and treacherous. This was done to justify the brutal British response, evoke feelings of anger and revenge, and reinforce the moral and racial superiority of the British, thereby garnering support for the war effort.

Final Answer : "Influence public perception"

Answer: (B)

Q43.

Solution

Concept: Chronology of major nationalist movements led by Mahatma Gandhi.

Solution: The Non-Cooperation Movement was a pivotal phase in the Indian struggle for independence. It was launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 in the wake of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and the Khilafat issue. The movement called for a nationwide, non-violent boycott of British goods, services, legislative councils, schools, and courts. The Indian National Congress formally adopted the resolution for the movement at its Nagpur session in December 1920. The movement continued until it was suspended by Gandhi in 1922 after the Chauri Chaura incident.

Final Answer : "1920"

Answer: (B)



Q44.

Solution

Concept: Key events of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Solution: The Dandi March, which took place from March to April 1930, was an act of non-violent protest against the oppressive British salt tax, which gave the state a monopoly on the manufacture and sale of salt. Mahatma Gandhi led a large group of people on a 240-mile march from Sabarmati Ashram to the coastal village of Dandi to produce salt from the seawater, thereby breaking the salt law. This specific act of defying the salt tax is known as the Salt Satyagraha. It was the defining event that launched the nationwide Civil Disobedience Movement.

Final Answer : “Salt Satyagraha”

Answer: (B)

Q45.

Solution

Concept: Gandhi’s early political messaging upon his return to India.

Solution: In his speech at the inauguration of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in February 1916, Mahatma Gandhi delivered a powerful critique not primarily aimed at the British, but at the Indian elite. Speaking to an audience of princes, notables, and educated nationalists, he expressed his dismay at the stark contrast between their opulence and the destitution of millions of poor Indian peasants. He argued that the nationalist movement was too elitist and that true swaraj (self-rule) was impossible without uplifting the masses and addressing internal social and economic inequality.

Final Answer : “Indian elites and social inequality”

Answer: (B)

Q46.

Solution

Concept: Chronology of major nationalist movements in India.

Solution: The Quit India Movement (Bharat Chhodo Andolan) was the final major nationwide movement launched by the Indian National Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. On August 8, 1942, at the All-India Congress Committee session in Bombay, Gandhi gave the call for "Do or Die" in a final push to make the British leave India. The movement was launched amidst World War II, demanding an immediate end to British rule.

Final Answer : “1942”

Answer: (B)



Q47.

Solution

Concept: The core principles of Mahatma Gandhi's political philosophy and method of protest.

Solution: Mahatma Gandhi's entire approach to the Indian independence struggle was built on the twin principles of Satyagraha and Ahimsa (non-violence). Satyagraha, meaning "truth force" or "soul force," was a method of non-violent resistance aimed at converting the opponent through self-suffering and appealing to their conscience. It involved acts of civil disobedience like boycotts, marches, and non-payment of taxes. This strategy stood in stark contrast to methods based on violence, military confrontation, or conventional diplomacy alone, and it became the defining characteristic of the Indian National Movement under his leadership.

Final Answer : "Satyagraha and non-violence"

Answer: (B)

Q48.

Solution

Concept: Key milestones in the framing of the Indian Constitution.

Solution: On December 13, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, moved the historic "Objectives Resolution" in the Constituent Assembly. This resolution was a declaration that laid down the guiding principles, philosophy, and aspirations for the constitution being framed. It defined India as an Independent Sovereign Republic and outlined its commitment to securing justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for all its citizens. This resolution was unanimously adopted and its principles were later incorporated into the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Final Answer : "Nehru"

Answer: (B)



Q49.

Solution

Concept: Major debates within the Constituent Assembly of India.

Solution: The debate over separate electorates was a highly contentious issue in the Constituent Assembly. This system, introduced by the British, provided for separate constituencies where only members of a particular minority community could vote for candidates of their own community. While some members argued for its continuation to protect the political interests of minorities, the overwhelming consensus, led by figures like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was that separate electorates were a poison that divided the nation. The debate was fundamentally centered on the question of how to ensure fair political representation for minorities without compromising national unity. Ultimately, the Assembly rejected separate electorates in favour of a system of joint electorates with reserved seats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Final Answer : “Representation of minorities”

Answer: (B)

Q50.

Solution

Concept: The role and legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Solution: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly. In this capacity, he was the principal architect of the Constitution of India. His profound knowledge of law, politics, and the constitutions of various countries, combined with his deep commitment to social justice, enabled him to steer the complex drafting process and create a document that guaranteed fundamental rights and democratic principles for all citizens. For his monumental and pivotal role in crafting the constitution, he is widely and deservedly known as the "Father of the Indian Constitution."

Final Answer : “Father of Indian Constitution”

Answer: (A)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	C	2	A	3	B	4	A	5	B
6	A	7	B	8	B	9	C	10	B
11	B	12	B	13	B	14	B	15	B
16	B	17	B	18	B	19	B	20	B
21	C	22	B	23	C	24	B	25	B
26	B	27	B	28	B	29	B	30	B
31	B	32	B	33	B	34	C	35	B
36	B	37	B	38	B	39	B	40	B
41	A	42	B	43	B	44	B	45	B
46	B	47	B	48	B	49	B	50	A

