

CUET-UG History Sample Paper - 13

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. The "Seals" found at Harappan sites were primarily used for:

- (A) Identifying the owner of the goods
- (B) As a medium of exchange (Currency)
- (C) To ward off evil spirits
- (D) As a tally for counting grains

Q2. Which of the following is the only Harappan city with a specialized "Dockyard"?

- (A) Chanhudaro
- (B) Lothal
- (C) Balakot
- (D) Nageshwar

Q3. The 'Prayag Prashasti' (Allahabad Pillar Inscription) was composed in Sanskrit by:

- (A) Harishena
- (B) Ravikirti
- (C) Banabhatta
- (D) Kalidasa



- Q4.** Identify the term used for 'Guilds' or organizations of craftsmen and merchants in ancient India:
- (A) Shrenis
 - (B) Gahapatis
 - (C) Vellalars
 - (D) Uzhavars
- Q5.** In the context of the Mahabharata, the term 'Vamsha' refers to:
- (A) Family
 - (B) Lineage
 - (C) Caste
 - (D) Community
- Q6.** Which of the following Begums of Bhopal authored the "Taj-ul-Iqbal Tarikh Bhopal"?
- (A) Shahjehan Begum
 - (B) Sultan Jehan Begum
 - (C) Sikandar Begum
 - (D) Qudsia Begum
- Q7.** The 'Hagiographies' of the Alvars and Nayanars were compiled in the:
- (A) 10th Century
 - (B) 12th Century
 - (C) 14th Century
 - (D) 16th Century
- Q8.** Which traveler compared the city of Delhi to the "most beautiful city" in the world, Cairo?



- (A) Ibn Battuta
- (B) Al-Biruni
- (C) Abdur Razzaq
- (D) François Bernier

Q9. The 'Amuktamalyada', a work on statecraft, was written in Telugu by:

- (A) Harihara I
- (B) Deva Raya II
- (C) Krishnadeva Raya
- (D) Rama Raya

Q10. The 'Zat' and 'Sawar' ranks in the Mughal Mansabdari system represented:

- (A) Salary and Military responsibility
- (B) Land size and Revenue
- (C) Caste and Religion
- (D) Trade status and Tax

Q11. The 'Santhal Pargana' was created by the British after the rebellion of:

- (A) 1855–56
- (B) 1857–58
- (C) 1832–33
- (D) 1875–76

Q12. Who was the President of the Indian National Congress during the Quit India Movement (1942)?

- (A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (B) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad



- (C) Sardar Patel
- (D) J.B. Kripalani

Q13. The 'Separate Electorates' demand for Dalits was first formally made at the:

- (A) First Round Table Conference
- (B) Second Round Table Conference
- (C) Third Round Table Conference
- (D) Poona Pact meeting

Q14. Which Harappan site is famous for "Water Reservoirs" cut out of stone?

- (A) Rakhigarhi
- (B) Dholavira
- (C) Mohenjodaro
- (D) Harappa

Q15. The 'Nalayira Divyaprabandham' is often described as the:

- (A) Tamil Veda
- (B) Tamil Ramayana
- (C) Dravida Purana
- (D) Bhakti Gita

Q16. Who used the term 'Jotedar' to describe the "mighty" peasants in North Bengal?

- (A) Francis Buchanan
- (B) Thomas Munro
- (C) Lord Cornwallis
- (D) William Bentinck



- Q17.** The 'Misl' system was a characteristic feature of the:
- (A) Maratha Administration
 - (B) Sikh Confederacy
 - (C) Mughal Revenue
 - (D) Rajput Clans
- Q18.** In the 1857 Revolt, the 'Azimullah Khan' was the advisor to:
- (A) Nana Sahib
 - (B) Rani Laxmi Bai
 - (C) Bahadur Shah Zafar
 - (D) Begum Hazrat Mahal
- Q19.** Which document in the Constituent Assembly was referred to as the "Substance of Independence"?
- (A) Preamble
 - (B) Objectives Resolution
 - (C) Fundamental Rights
 - (D) Article 32
- Q20.** The 'Kudai-olai' system of election via palm leaves was practiced by the:
- (A) Cholas
 - (B) Pandyas
 - (C) Cheras
 - (D) Pallavas
- Q21.** Identify the archaeologist who conducted excavations at the site of Hastinapur in 1951-52:



- (A) R.D. Banerji
- (B) B.B. Lal
- (C) S.R. Rao
- (D) Daya Ram Sahni

Q22. The "Great Enclosure" and the "Sacred Center" are architectural divisions found in which imperial capital?

- (A) Pataliputra
- (B) Shahjahanabad
- (C) Vijayanagara
- (D) Badami

Q23. Which of the following describes the 'Zimmis' in the medieval period?

- (A) Muslim warriors who protected the state.
- (B) Protected non-Muslim subjects who paid Jizya.
- (C) Hindu merchants in the Mughal court.
- (D) Foreign travelers from Central Asia.

Q24. The "Khutba" was a sermon read in the name of the ruler during:

- (A) Coronation ceremonies
- (B) Friday prayers
- (C) Military parades
- (D) Revenue collection

Q25. Match the following (Foreign Travelers and the Kings they visited):



List I (Foreign Travelers)	List II (Kings)
a. Abdur Razzaq	1. Krishnadeva Raya
b. Domingo Paes	2. Deva Raya II
c. Nikitin	3. Achyuta Deva Raya
d. Fernao Nuniz	4. Bahmani Sultanate

- (A) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3
(B) a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
(C) a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1
(D) a-3, b-4, c-1, d-2

Q26. The 'Milton of India' title is often associated with which Bhakti poet?

- (A) Tulsidas
(B) Surdas
(C) Kabir
(D) Shankaradeva

Q27. Under the Mughal administration, the "Mir Bakshi" was the head of:

- (A) The Judiciary
(B) The Military Department
(C) The Revenue Department
(D) The Religious Charities

Q28. Which of the following was NOT a part of the "Triple Alliance" against the British in the 18th century?

- (A) The Nizam of Hyderabad
(B) The Marathas
(C) Hyder Ali



(D) The Rajputs

Q29. The 'Ghadar Party' was founded in 1913 in which city?

(A) Berlin

(B) San Francisco

(C) London

(D) Tokyo

Q30. Arrange the following movements in correct chronological order:

i. Champaran Satyagraha, ii. Kheda Satyagraha, iii. Ahmedabad Mill Strike, iv. Rowlatt Satyagraha

(A) i, ii, iii, iv

(B) i, iii, ii, iv

(C) iii, i, ii, iv

(D) iv, iii, ii, i

Q31. The term 'Halmalkar' in the Santhal context refers to:

(A) The village headman

(B) The ploughman

(C) The moneylender

(D) The British collector

Q32. Who represented the Tribal people in the Constituent Assembly and demanded rights for the 'Adivasis'?

(A) Jaipal Singh

(B) B.R. Ambedkar

(C) Dakshayani Velayudhan



(D) G.B. Pant

Q33. The "Great Bath" of Mohenjodaro was likely used for:

- (A) Storing surplus grain
- (B) Special ritual tanning
- (C) Special ritual bathing
- (D) Raising fish for the elite

Q34. Which of the following inscriptions mentions a guild of 'Silk Weavers' who migrated from Lata to Dashapura?

- (A) Aihole Inscription
- (B) Mandsaur Inscription
- (C) Junagadh Inscription
- (D) Mehrauli Inscription

Q35. The term 'Stridhana' according to the Dharmashastras refers to:

- (A) Wealth inherited from the father's property.
- (B) Gifts received by a woman at the time of her marriage.
- (C) Land owned by the queen.
- (D) Tax paid by female traders.

Q36. Which of the following was a "Major Rock Edict" of Ashoka located in modern-day Odisha?

- (A) Sopara
- (B) Dhauli
- (C) Girnar
- (D) Sannati



- Q37.** The 'Sharia' is the law governing the Muslim community based on:
- (A) The Quran and Hadith
 - (B) Only the Quran
 - (C) The Quran and Ain-i-Akbari
 - (D) The local customs only
- Q38.** Identify the Mughal chronicle that was commissioned by Akbar to record the history of his ancestors and his reign:
- (A) Baburnama
 - (B) Akbarnama
 - (C) Humayunnama
 - (D) Alamgirnama
- Q39.** The 'Lathis' (sticks) used by the subordinates of the Zamindars to enforce collection were known as:
- (A) Amlas
 - (B) Lathiyals
 - (C) Gomastas
 - (D) Jotedars
- Q40.** Who was the author of the famous poem 'Saare Jahan Se Achha'?
- (A) Mirza Ghalib
 - (B) Muhammad Iqbal
 - (C) Faiz Ahmed Faiz
 - (D) Rabindranath Tagore
- Q41.** The 'Peshwa' was the title of the:



- (A) Maratha King
- (B) Prime Minister of Marathas
- (C) Military General of Mughals
- (D) Revenue head of Vijayanagara

Q42. Identify the Harappan site where evidence of a "Dockyard" was found:

- (A) Banawali
- (B) Lothal
- (C) Harappa
- (D) Rangpur

Q43. The 'Cabinet Mission' came to India in which year?

- (A) 1942
- (B) 1945
- (C) 1946
- (D) 1947

Q44. Which member of the Constituent Assembly made a strong plea for the rights of the depressed classes and said, "We were suppressed for thousands of years"?

- (A) K. Santhanam
- (B) J. Nagappa
- (C) Somnath Lahiri
- (D) N.G. Ranga

Q45. The 'Saguna' Bhakti refers to the worship of:

- (A) God without attributes
- (B) God with specific attributes/forms



- (C) Only the ancestors
- (D) Nature as God

Q46. The 'Manusmriti' was compiled between:

- (A) 200 BCE and 200 CE
- (B) 500 BCE and 500 CE
- (C) 1000 BCE and 500 BCE
- (D) 1 CE and 1000 CE

Q47. The 'Khandavaprastha' is the ancient name of which region mentioned in the Mahabharata?

- (A) Kurukshetra
- (B) Indraprastha
- (C) Hastinapur
- (D) Mathura

Q48. Who was the British Prime Minister at the time of India's independence?

- (A) Winston Churchill
- (B) Clement Attlee
- (C) Neville Chamberlain
- (D) Ramsay MacDonald

Q49. The 'Day of Deliverance' was observed by the Muslim League in:

- (A) 1939
- (B) 1940
- (C) 1942
- (D) 1946



Q50. The "Great Wall" of the Vijayanagara city was noted for having NO use of:

- (A) Stone
- (B) Mortar or cementing agent
- (C) Granite
- (D) Gateways



Detailed Solutions**Q1.****Solution****Concept:**

Harappan seals are among the most distinctive artifacts of the Indus Valley Civilization. Made primarily of steatite (a soft stone), these seals usually feature animal motifs and a script that remains undeciphered. Their primary function was administrative and commercial, used to facilitate long-distance trade.

Solution:

1. In the ancient world, goods were packed in bags or vessels and tied with rope.
2. A layer of wet clay was applied to the knot, and one or more seals were pressed onto it, leaving an impression called a "sealing."
3. If the bag reached its destination with the sealing intact, it proved that the goods had not been tampered with.
4. Additionally, the seal conveyed the identity of the sender to the recipient, acting as a mark of authority or ownership.
5. While seals are artistic, their fundamental purpose in the Harappan context was to secure and identify cargo during trade.

Final Answer: The seals were primarily used for identifying the owner of the goods.

Answer: (A)

Q2.**Solution****Concept:**

The Harappan civilization was known for its advanced maritime trade. Certain coastal sites served as specialized centers for naval activity, allowing for the exchange of goods with contemporary civilizations like Mesopotamia and Oman.

Solution:

1. Lothal, located in the Bhal region of modern-day Gujarat, was a vital industrial and trade hub for the Harappans.
2. Archaeologists discovered a massive rectangular structure made of baked bricks, measuring approximately 218 by 37 meters.
3. This structure has been identified as a "Dockyard," the earliest known of its kind in the world.
4. It was connected to the Sabarmati River via a canal, allowing ships and boats to enter from the Gulf of Khambhat during high tide.
5. The presence of this dockyard, along with Persian Gulf-style seals found at the site, confirms Lothal's role as a major maritime port.

Final Answer: The only Harappan city with a specialized dockyard is Lothal.

Answer: (B)



Q3.

Solution**Concept:**

A "Prashasti" is a special type of inscription composed in "praise of" a ruler. The Prayag Prashasti (also known as the Allahabad Pillar Inscription) is one of the most important sources for the history of the Gupta Empire, specifically the reign of Samudragupta.

Solution:

1. The Gupta period saw a revival of Sanskrit literature and the use of the language for official state records and royal eulogies.
2. The Prayag Prashasti was inscribed on an Ashokan pillar at Allahabad.
3. It was composed by Harishena, who was a court poet (Rajkavi) and a high-ranking official (Mahadandanayaka) in the court of Samudragupta.
4. The text is written in Classical Sanskrit in the "Champu" style (a mixture of prose and poetry) and lists the various military conquests and virtues of Samudragupta.
5. Harishena's work provides a detailed "digvijaya" (world conquest) account, describing Samudragupta as a warrior who was never defeated.

Final Answer: The 'Prayag Prashasti' was composed in Sanskrit by Harishena.

Answer: (A)

Q4.

Solution**Concept:**

In ancient India, the growth of trade and urban centers led to the organization of artisans and merchants into collective bodies. These bodies acted as regulatory agencies, banks, and welfare organizations for their members.

Solution:

1. From the sixth century BCE onwards, economic activities became increasingly complex.
2. Merchants and craftspersons organized themselves into groups known as "Shrenis" (often translated as Guilds).
3. These Shrenis controlled the procurement of raw materials, regulated the quality of finished products, and determined prices.
4. They also functioned as financial institutions where people could deposit money, which the Shrenis then invested in trade.
5. While "Gahapati" refers to the head of a household and "Vellalar" refers to large landowners in South India, "Shreni" is the specific term for the craft and merchant organizations.

Final Answer: The term used for guilds or organizations of craftspersons is Shrenis.

Answer: (A)



Q5.

Solution**Concept:**

Sanskrit texts, including the Mahabharata, use specific terminology to describe social structures and kinship. Understanding these terms is crucial for interpreting the social history and family dynamics presented in the epic.

Solution:

1. In early Sanskrit literature, "Kula" is typically used to designate a single family or a small household unit.
2. The term "Vamsha" is used for a broader category, referring to "lineage" or a succession of generations originating from a common ancestor.
3. In the Mahabharata, the conflict is between two branches of the same "Vamsha" (the Kuru lineage)—the Kauravas and the Pandavas.
4. This distinction between the immediate family (Kula) and the extended ancestral line (Vamsha) is fundamental to the patrilineal focus of the text.
5. "Jati" and "Varna" are terms more commonly associated with caste and social hierarchy rather than the biological or ancestral line.

Final Answer: In the context of the Mahabharata, the term 'Vamsha' refers to Lineage.

Answer: (B)

Q6.

Solution**Concept:**

The Begums of Bhopal were remarkable rulers who played a significant role in the preservation of heritage and the documentation of history. Their literary contributions provide detailed insights into the administration and culture of the Bhopal state during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Solution:

1. Shahjehan Begum, the ruler of Bhopal (1868–1901), was a great patron of arts and a prolific writer.
2. She authored "Taj-ul-Iqbal Tarikh Bhopal," which is a comprehensive historical account of the Bhopal state.
3. The work covers the history of the ruling family, the administrative systems, and the socio-cultural landscape of the region.
4. Apart from this, she was instrumental in the preservation of the Sanchi Stupa and provided funds for its conservation, showing her interest in history and archaeology.
5. Her successor, Sultan Jehan Begum, also continued this tradition of scholarship, but the specific work mentioned in the question is attributed to Shahjehan Begum.

Final Answer: The author of "Taj-ul-Iqbal Tarikh Bhopal" was Shahjehan Begum.

Answer: (A)



Q7.

Solution**Concept:**

Hagiographies are biographies of saints or religious leaders that often focus on their spiritual miracles and devotion. In the context of the Bhakti movement in South India, these texts were compiled to institutionalize the legacy of the Alvars and Nayanars.

Solution:

1. The Alvars (devotees of Vishnu) and Nayanars (devotees of Shiva) composed their hymns between the 6th and 9th centuries.
2. However, the systematic compilation of their life stories into hagiographies happened much later.
3. By the 10th century, the Chola kings provided significant patronage to these traditions, leading to the collection of hymns like the "Nalayira Divyaprabandham."
4. During this same period, the stories of the lives of these saints were recorded to strengthen the identity of the Bhakti traditions against other religious groups.
5. These texts often combined historical facts with legends to inspire deep devotion among the followers.

Final Answer: The hagiographies of the Alvars and Nayanars were compiled in the 10th Century.

Answer: (A)

Q8.

Solution**Concept:**

Medieval travelers often used their own cultural centers as benchmarks to describe the cities they visited in India. Comparisons with famous global cities helped their readers understand the scale and grandeur of Indian urban centers.

Solution:

1. Ibn Battuta, the Moroccan traveler, arrived in India in the 14th century during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
2. In his travelogue, the "Rihla," he described Delhi as a vast city with a huge population, being the largest in India.
3. He was particularly struck by the city's size and compared it to Cairo, which was then the most prominent and beautiful city in the Islamic world.
4. He noted that Delhi was not just a political capital but a thriving commercial and cultural center with impressive fortifications and markets.
5. This comparison emphasized that 14th-century Delhi was a global metropolis of immense significance.

Final Answer: Ibn Battuta compared the city of Delhi to Cairo.

Answer: (A)



Q9.

Solution**Concept:**

The Vijayanagara Empire reached its peak under the Tuluva dynasty. The kings were not only great warriors but also scholars who contributed to the development of regional languages and literature.

Solution:

1. Krishnadeva Raya (reigned 1509–1529) is considered the greatest ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire.
2. He was a great patron of Telugu literature and his court was adorned by the "Ashtadiggajas" (eight great poets).
3. He himself composed a famous work titled "Amuktamalyada" in Telugu.
4. The text is a masterpiece of Telugu literature that deals with the story of the Andal (the Alvar saint) and also provides profound insights into statecraft, the duties of a king, and political philosophy.
5. His reign is often called the "Golden Age of Telugu Literature" because of such significant intellectual contributions.

Final Answer: The 'Amuktamalyada' was written by Krishnadeva Raya.

Answer: (C)

Q10.

Solution**Concept:**

The Mansabdari system was the administrative framework of the Mughal Empire. Every officer was assigned a "Mansab" (rank), which was divided into two distinct numerical designations to define their status and obligations.

Solution:

1. 'Zat' was a numerical value that determined the personal status of the Mansabdar and his position in the imperial hierarchy. It also dictated his salary.
2. The higher the 'Zat' rank, the more prestigious was the noble's position in the court.
3. 'Sawar' indicated the number of cavalymen (armored horsemen) the Mansabdar was required to maintain for imperial service.
4. Together, these ranks ensured that the empire had a clear hierarchy of nobles while simultaneously maintaining a standing army of high-quality cavalry.
5. This dual-rank system allowed the Emperor to control the size of his military forces and the expenditure on the nobility with precision.

Final Answer: Zat and Sawar represented Salary and Military responsibility.

Answer: (A)



Q11.

Solution**Concept:**

The Santhals were a tribal community that practiced settled agriculture in the Rajmahal Hills. Their massive uprising in 1855–56 against the British East India Company, zamindars, and moneylenders (dikus) forced the colonial administration to reconsider its tribal policies to maintain peace.

Solution:

1. Following the suppression of the rebellion, the British realized that the Santhals needed a separate administrative unit to protect their interests and culture.
2. In 1855–56, the British government carved out a specific territory from the districts of Bhagalpur and Birbhum.
3. This newly created administrative region was named the "Santhal Pargana," covering an area of approximately 5,500 square miles.
4. Special laws were enacted within this Pargana to regulate the transfer of land and to prevent the exploitation of tribals by non-tribal moneylenders.
5. This was a strategic move by the British to pacify the Santhals and ensure they would not rise in revolt again.

Final Answer: The Santhal Pargana was created after the rebellion of 1855–56.

Answer: (A)

Q12.

Solution**Concept:**

The Quit India Movement of 1942 was a watershed moment in the Indian freedom struggle. During this period, the leadership of the Indian National Congress (INC) was largely imprisoned, but the organizational structure remained under the guidance of its senior-most leaders.

Solution:

1. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was a prominent theologian and a senior leader of the Congress who advocated for Hindu-Muslim unity.
2. He was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1940 at the Ramgarh session.
3. Due to the outbreak of the Second World War and the subsequent political crisis, no fresh elections for the Congress presidency were held for several years.
4. As a result, Maulana Azad continued to hold the office of President during the crucial years of the Quit India Movement (1942) and until 1946.
5. He played a vital role in the negotiations with the British during the Cripps Mission and later the Simla Conference.

Final Answer: The President of the INC during the Quit India Movement was Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Answer: (B)



Q13.

Solution**Concept:**

The Round Table Conferences were held in London to discuss constitutional reforms in India. The issue of communal representation was a major point of debate, particularly regarding the status of the "Depressed Classes" (Dalits).

Solution:

1. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar represented the Depressed Classes at the Round Table Conferences.
2. During the Second Round Table Conference (1931), Ambedkar formally and forcefully demanded "Separate Electorates" for the Dalits, similar to those already granted to Muslims and Sikhs.
3. Mahatma Gandhi strongly opposed this demand, arguing that separate electorates would permanently divide the Hindu community.
4. This disagreement led to a deadlock, which was later resolved through the Communal Award and the subsequent Poona Pact of 1932.
5. The Second Round Table Conference is historically significant as the platform where this specific demand for political representation gained international attention.

Final Answer: The demand for Separate Electorates for Dalits was first formally made at the Second Round Table Conference.

Answer: (B)

Q14.

Solution**Concept:**

The Harappan civilization demonstrated an extraordinary understanding of hydraulic engineering. In arid regions, they developed sophisticated methods to collect and store rainwater to sustain their urban populations.

Solution:

1. Dholavira, located in the Rann of Kutch (Gujarat), faced a scarcity of fresh water due to its saline surroundings.
2. To counter this, the inhabitants built a series of massive water reservoirs, many of which were cut directly out of the local bedrock.
3. These reservoirs were part of a complex water management system that included dams and channels to divert water from seasonal streams.
4. Archaeologists have found at least 16 such reservoirs, which are considered among the most efficient water storage systems of the ancient world.
5. This archaeological evidence highlights the technological prowess of the Harappans in adapting to harsh environmental conditions.

Final Answer: Dholavira is famous for water reservoirs cut out of stone.

Answer: (B)



Q15.

Solution**Concept:**

The Alvars were the Tamil poet-saints of South India who propagated devotion to Lord Vishnu. Their collective works are regarded with the same level of sanctity as the ancient Vedic scriptures in the Sri Vaishnavism tradition.

Solution:

1. The "Nalayira Divyaprabandham" is a collection of 4,000 Tamil verses composed by the 12 Alvars.
2. It was compiled in its present form by Nathamuni in the 9th–10th century.
3. In South Indian devotional culture, this text is frequently referred to as the "Tamil Veda" or "Dravida Veda."
4. The title signifies that the spiritual depth and authority of these Tamil hymns are equal to the four Sanskrit Vedas.
5. The inclusion of these hymns in temple rituals marked a significant shift where local vernacular languages gained high liturgical status.

Final Answer: The Nalayira Divyaprabandham is described as the Tamil Veda.

Answer: (A)

Q16.

Solution**Concept:**

During the colonial period, the agrarian structure of Bengal was meticulously documented by British officials and surveyors. These reports highlighted the emergence of various social classes within the village hierarchy, particularly those who held significant local power.

Solution:

1. Francis Buchanan was a physician and surveyor who undertook detailed journeys through the territories of the East India Company.
2. In his surveys of North Bengal, he provided a vivid description of a class of rich peasants known as "Jotedars."
3. Buchanan noted that while the Zamindars were the titular heads of the land, the Jotedars were the "mighty" figures on the ground.
4. They lived in the villages, controlled local trade, practiced moneylending, and often incited the poor ryots to defy the Zamindar's authority.
5. His reports are a primary source for historians to understand how the Permanent Settlement failed to empower the traditional nobility and instead led to the rise of this new rural elite.

Final Answer: Francis Buchanan used the term 'Jotedar' to describe the mighty peasants.

Answer: (A)



Q17.

Solution**Concept:**

The 18th century saw the decline of the Mughal central authority and the rise of regional powers. In the Punjab region, the Sikh community organized itself into a decentralized political and military structure to resist foreign invasions and Mughal governors.

Solution:

1. The "Misl" refers to the sovereign states of the Sikh Confederacy that rose during the mid-18th century.
2. There were twelve major Misls, each led by a Misl-dar (chief). They operated on a democratic and egalitarian principle, often meeting at Amritsar for the "Sarbat Khalsa" (general assembly).
3. These Misls controlled specific territories and maintained their own armies, which were primarily composed of highly mobile cavalry.
4. The system provided a platform for the later unification of the Punjab under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who belonged to the Sukerchakia Misl.
5. The Misl system was unique to the Sikh political tradition and was central to their struggle for sovereignty in Northwest India.

Final Answer: The 'Misl' system was a characteristic feature of the Sikh Confederacy.

Answer: (B)

Q18.

Solution**Concept:**

The Revolt of 1857 involved various local leaders who were supported by brilliant advisors and military strategists. These advisors often handled diplomatic correspondence and planned the political direction of the rebellion.

Solution:

1. Nana Sahib was the adopted son of the last Peshwa, Baji Rao II, and led the revolt in Kanpur.
2. Azimullah Khan was a trusted official and advisor to Nana Sahib. He was a man of great intellect who had even traveled to London to plead Nana Sahib's case for his pension.
3. During the revolt, Azimullah Khan played a key role in the administration of Kanpur and in managing the propaganda against the British.
4. He was instrumental in drafting the proclamations issued in the name of the Peshwa to mobilize the local population.
5. While leaders like Rani Laxmi Bai and Bahadur Shah Zafar had their own councils, Azimullah Khan is specifically remembered as the right-hand man of Nana Sahib.

Final Answer: Azimullah Khan was the advisor to Nana Sahib.

Answer: (A)



Q19.

Solution**Concept:**

The framing of the Indian Constitution began with a declaration of its core values and aims. This document acted as a guiding light for the Constituent Assembly, ensuring that the legal framework aligned with the aspirations of the freedom struggle.

Solution:

1. On 13 December 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the "Objectives Resolution" in the Constituent Assembly.
2. This resolution outlined the fundamental principles that would guide the drafting of the Constitution, such as the commitment to a "Sovereign Democratic Republic."
3. It guaranteed justice, equality, and freedom to all citizens and provided safeguards for minorities and backward classes.
4. During the debates, Nehru referred to this resolution as the very "Substance of Independence," asserting that it gave meaning to the political freedom India was about to achieve.
5. It eventually formed the basis of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

Final Answer: The Objectives Resolution was referred to as the "Substance of Independence."

Answer: (B)

Q20.

Solution**Concept:**

The Chola administration is famous for its highly organized local self-government. Village assemblies (Sabhas) functioned as autonomous units, and their members were chosen through a unique and transparent electoral process.

Solution:

1. The 'Kudai-olai' system (literally meaning "pot-ticket") was a method used by the Cholas to elect members to various village committees (variyaams).
2. The names of eligible candidates were written on small palm-leaf slips and placed in a mud pot (kudam).
3. A young boy was then asked to pick out the slips one by one to determine the winners.
4. Detailed information about this system is found in the Uttaramerur inscriptions of the 10th century.
5. This system highlights the democratic traditions and administrative sophistication of the Chola Empire at the grassroots level.

Final Answer: The 'Kudai-olai' system was practiced by the Cholas.

Answer: (A)



Q21.

Solution**Concept:**

The reconstruction of the history of the Later Vedic period and the Mahajanapada era often relies on archaeological excavations of sites mentioned in ancient literature. Hastinapur, a key city in the Mahabharata, is one such site that provides crucial data on the Painted Grey Ware (PGW) culture.

Solution:

1. B.B. Lal (Braj Basi Lal) was a renowned Indian archaeologist who served as the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India.
2. In 1951–52, he excavated the mound at Hastinapur, located in the Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh.
3. His primary objective was to investigate whether there was any archaeological basis for the stories in the Mahabharata.
4. Lal discovered five distinct occupational periods at the site. Of particular interest was the second period (c. 1100–800 BCE), which yielded Painted Grey Ware.
5. This excavation provided a stratigraphic sequence that linked archaeological cultures with the transition of Vedic society into an urbanized one.

Final Answer: The archaeologist who excavated Hastinapur was B.B. Lal.

Answer: (B)

Q22.

Solution**Concept:**

The layout of the Vijayanagara capital was meticulously planned to separate the administrative, residential, and religious functions of the city. Modern historians and archaeologists have categorized these zones based on the types of structures found in them.

Solution:

1. The "Royal Center" of Vijayanagara included the "Great Enclosure," which housed nearly 60 temples and secular structures like the Mahanavami Dibba and the Audience Hall.
2. This area was the hub of imperial power and administrative ritual.
3. The "Sacred Center" was located on the rocky northern bank of the Tungabhadra River, an area traditionally associated with local deities like Pampa Devi and Virupaksha.
4. This zone contained the massive temple complexes that were the focus of spiritual life and royal patronage.
5. The distinct separation of these zones, connected by a network of roads and fortified walls, is a unique characteristic of the Vijayanagara urban landscape.

Final Answer: These architectural divisions are found in Vijayanagara.

Answer: (C)



Q23.

Solution**Concept:**

As Islamic empires expanded into India, the rulers had to develop legal and social frameworks to manage their non-Muslim subjects. These subjects were granted a specific status that defined their rights and obligations under the protection of the state.

Solution:

1. The term "Zimmi" is derived from the Arabic word 'dhimma', meaning "protection."
2. It referred to protected non-Muslim subjects (primarily Jews and Christians in the Middle East, and later Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains in India) living under an Islamic government.
3. Zimmis were allowed to practice their own religion and maintain their communal laws without interference.
4. In exchange for the state's military protection and exemption from military service, they were required to pay a tax called 'Jizya'.
5. This status provided a degree of religious autonomy while integrating non-Muslims into the socio-economic fabric of the medieval state.

Final Answer: Zimmis were protected non-Muslim subjects who paid Jizya.

Answer: (B)

Q24.

Solution**Concept:**

In Islamic political tradition, the religious sermon delivered during congregational prayers was not only a spiritual event but also a powerful tool for political legitimation. It was the primary way through which the sovereign's authority was proclaimed to the public.

Solution:

1. The "Khutba" is a formal sermon delivered in mosques during the Friday prayers (Jumu'ah) and on Eid festivals.
2. In medieval India, the name of the reigning Sultan or Emperor was included in the Khutba.
3. Mentioning the ruler's name was a formal recognition of his sovereignty and legitimacy as the defender of the faith.
4. When a new king ascended the throne, one of his first acts was to order that the Khutba be read in his name.
5. Conversely, if a rebel wanted to challenge the ruler, he would have the Khutba read in his own name, signifying an act of open defiance.

Final Answer: The Khutba was a sermon read in the name of the ruler during Friday prayers.

Answer: (B)



Q25.

Solution**Concept:**

The Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms attracted numerous foreign travelers whose accounts provide essential data on the political climate and court life of the 15th and 16th centuries. Each traveler visited during the reign of a specific monarch.

Solution:

1. Abdur Razzaq (a): An ambassador from Persia, he visited the court of Deva Raya II (2) in 1443 and wrote extensively about the city's fortifications.
2. Domingo Paes (b): A Portuguese traveler who visited during the reign of the great Krishnadeva Raya (1) around 1520–22.
3. Afanasy Nikitin (c): A Russian merchant who traveled through the Bahmani Sultanate (4) in the 1470s, providing a rare non-Western European perspective.
4. Fernao Nuniz (d): A Portuguese horse trader who visited during the reign of Achyuta Deva Raya (3) and recorded the empire's history and social customs.
5. Matching these correctly gives the sequence: a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3.

Final Answer: The correct matching sequence is A.

Answer: (A)

Q26.

Solution**Concept:**

The Bhakti movement produced numerous poet-saints who were celebrated for their literary excellence and profound devotion. Scholars often compared these Indian poets to famous Western literary figures to highlight their mastery over language and emotional depth.

Solution:

1. Tulsidas (1532–1623) was a great poet-saint and philosopher, best known for his devotion to Lord Rama.
2. He authored the "Ramcharitmanas," an epic poem written in Awadhi, which brought the story of the Ramayana to the common people.
3. Due to his grand style, his command over various poetic meters, and the epic scale of his work, he is frequently referred to as the "Milton of India."
4. Just as John Milton's "Paradise Lost" is a cornerstone of English literature, Tulsidas's "Ramcharitmanas" is a cornerstone of North Indian devotional and literary tradition.
5. His work is celebrated for its blend of deep philosophy with accessible, rhythmic poetry.

Final Answer: The title 'Milton of India' is associated with Tulsidas.

Answer: (A)



Q27.

Solution**Concept:**

The Mughal administrative machinery was a highly centralized and specialized system. The Emperor was assisted by several high-ranking ministers, each heading a specific department to ensure the smooth functioning of the vast empire.

Solution:

1. The "Mir Bakshi" was one of the most powerful officials in the Mughal government, ranking just below the Diwan.
2. He was the head of the military department and was responsible for the recruitment of soldiers and the maintenance of the Mansabdari records.
3. It was the Mir Bakshi who presented candidates for appointment or promotion to the Emperor and oversaw the branding of horses (dagh) and the verification of troops (chehra).
4. While he was the paymaster-general for the military, he did not handle the state's financial treasury; that was the responsibility of the Diwan.
5. He also served as the head of the intelligence and information agencies, as the news-reporters (waqia-navis) reported directly to his office.

Final Answer: The Mir Bakshi was the head of the Military Department.

Answer: (B)

Q28.

Solution**Concept:**

During the 18th century, the expansion of the British East India Company in South India faced stiff resistance from local powers. Strategic alliances were frequently formed to check British aggression, though these alliances were often fluid and short-lived.

Solution:

1. In the Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780–84), a formidable "Triple Alliance" was formed to drive the British out of the Carnatic and the Deccan.
2. This alliance consisted of the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Marathas, and Hyder Ali of Mysore.
3. These three powers combined their resources to deal a series of defeats to the British forces initially.
4. The Rajputs, while influential in North and Western India, were not part of this specific southern geopolitical alliance against the British during this period.
5. The British eventually managed to break this alliance through diplomacy, winning over the Nizam and the Marathas to their side.

Final Answer: The Rajputs were NOT a part of the Triple Alliance.

Answer: (D)



Q29.

Solution**Concept:**

The Indian freedom struggle was not limited to the borders of the subcontinent. Indian revolutionaries living abroad organized movements to overthrow British rule, often seeking support from international enemies of the British Empire.

Solution:

1. The Ghadar Party was an international revolutionary movement founded by expatriate Indians to free India from British rule.
2. It was established in 1913 by leaders like Lala Hardayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna, and Taraknath Das.
3. The headquarters of the party, known as "Yugantar Ashram," was located in San Francisco, USA.
4. The party published a weekly newspaper called "The Ghadar," which carried the caption: "Angrezi Raj Ka Dushman" (An Enemy of British Rule).
5. Its members were primarily Punjabi immigrants (mostly Sikhs) who had moved to the United States and Canada for work but became radicalized by the racism they faced and the colonial status of their homeland.

Final Answer: The Ghadar Party was founded in San Francisco.

Answer: (B)

Q30.

Solution**Concept:**

Mahatma Gandhi's early political career in India (1917–1919) was defined by a series of localized satyagrahas that tested his methods of non-violence before he launched his first nationwide movement against the Rowlatt Act.

Solution:

1. Champaran Satyagraha (i): This was Gandhi's first major movement in India, occurring in 1917 in Bihar to help indigo farmers.
2. Ahmedabad Mill Strike (iii): In early 1918, Gandhi intervened in a dispute between mill owners and workers in Ahmedabad, where he used the fast as a weapon for the first time.
3. Kheda Satyagraha (ii): Shortly after the Ahmedabad strike in 1918, Gandhi led a movement in Gujarat for peasants who were unable to pay land revenue due to crop failure.
4. Rowlatt Satyagraha (iv): In 1919, Gandhi launched a nationwide protest against the repressive Rowlatt Act, which led to the tragic Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
5. Therefore, the sequence is Champaran (1917) → Ahmedabad (1918) → Kheda (1918) → Rowlatt (1919). Note: Some sources place Ahmedabad slightly before Kheda in the same year.

Final Answer: The correct chronological order is i, iii, ii, iv.

Answer: (B)



Q31.

Solution**Concept:**

The Santhals were skilled forest-clearers and settled agriculturists who were settled in the Rajmahal region by the British. Their socio-economic structure was organized around the village unit, with specific roles assigned to individuals to maintain internal order and manage production.

Solution:

1. Within the Santhal village community, the division of labor was clearly defined to ensure the smooth functioning of their agricultural lifestyle.
2. The term "Halmalkar" is derived from the word "Hal" (Plough). It refers to the "Ploughman" or the one who tilled the land.
3. This role was central to Santhal identity, as the British had specifically brought them to the Damin-i-Koh to transform the "wilderness" into settled, ploughed fields.
4. The "Manjhi" was the village headman who handled administrative and judicial matters, while the "Halmalkar" represented the productive force of the community.
5. Understanding these terms helps historians reconstruct the labor-intensive nature of Santhal society during the 19th century.

Final Answer: The term 'Halmalkar' refers to the Ploughman.

Answer: (B)

Q32.

Solution**Concept:**

The Constituent Assembly was composed of representatives from various sections of Indian society. While the major focus was on federalism and fundamental rights, specific leaders championed the cause of the original inhabitants of India, highlighting their unique social and geographical challenges.

Solution:

1. Jaipal Singh Munda was a brilliant orator, a gifted athlete (captain of the 1928 Olympic gold-winning hockey team), and a dedicated leader of the Adivasis from the Chhota Nagpur region.
2. In the Constituent Assembly, he was the most vocal representative of the tribal people.
3. He argued that the "Adivasis" were the original owners of the land but had been exploited and pushed back into the hills and forests for centuries.
4. He did not demand separate electorates but insisted on "reservations" of seats in legislatures and the protection of tribal lands to ensure their integration into the Indian nation with dignity.
5. His interventions were crucial in the inclusion of the Fifth and Sixth Schedules in the Constitution, which provide for the administration of tribal areas.

Final Answer: Jaipal Singh represented the Tribal people in the Constituent Assembly.

Answer: (A)



Q33.

Solution**Concept:**

The most iconic structure within the Citadel of Mohenjodaro is the "Great Bath." Its unique design and location suggest that it was not used for mundane daily activities but held a deeper socio-religious significance for the Harappan people.

Solution:

1. The Great Bath is a large rectangular tank situated in a courtyard, surrounded by a corridor on all four sides.
2. It was made watertight using a layer of bitumen (natural tar) and featured two flights of steps leading into the tank from the north and south.
3. The fact that it was located in the "Citadel"—the elevated and fortified part of the city—indicates that it was intended for a specialized elite or for specific occasions.
4. Scholars generally agree that the structure was used for "Special Ritual Bathing," similar to the concept of holy dips in later Indian traditions.
5. This interpretation is supported by the presence of small rooms (changing rooms) along the sides and a sophisticated drainage system to empty and refill the tank.

Final Answer: The Great Bath was likely used for special ritual bathing.

Answer: (C)

Q34.

Solution**Concept:**

Ancient inscriptions often provide insights into the mobility of labor and the social organization of artisans. Guilds (Shrenis) were not always static; they moved across regions in search of better economic opportunities or due to changes in political patronage.

Solution:

1. The Mandsaur Inscription (also known as the Dashapura Inscription), dating to the 5th century CE, records a fascinating story of a guild of silk weavers.
2. It states that this guild originally lived in "Lata" (modern Gujarat) but migrated to "Dashapura" (Mandsaur in modern Madhya Pradesh).
3. The reason for their migration was the fame of the local king, but it also reflects the shifting economic importance of trade routes.
4. Interestingly, the inscription mentions that once they settled in Dashapura, many members of the guild took up other professions like archery, astrology, and storytelling, while still maintaining their collective identity.
5. The guild collectively funded the construction of a magnificent temple dedicated to the Sun God, which is recorded in the inscription.

Final Answer: The Mandsaur Inscription mentions the guild of silk weavers.

Answer: (B)



Q35.

Solution**Concept:**

The Dharmashastras and Dharmasutras laid down elaborate rules regarding property and inheritance. While women generally had limited rights to the family estate, they were granted absolute ownership over a specific category of wealth received during life transitions.

Solution:

1. The term "Stridhana" literally translates to "woman's wealth."
2. According to the ancient law codes, this consisted of the gifts—including jewelry, clothes, and cash—received by a woman at the time of her marriage or from her parents and relatives on other occasions.
3. Crucially, the husband had no legal claim over this wealth, and the woman could dispose of it as she wished.
4. Stridhana was supposed to be inherited by the woman's children (specifically daughters) rather than her husband's family.
5. This concept provided a small degree of economic security and autonomy to women in a predominantly patriarchal social structure.

Final Answer: 'Stridhana' refers to gifts received by a woman at the time of her marriage.

Answer: (B)

Q36.

Solution**Concept:**

Ashoka, the third Mauryan emperor, communicated his message of 'Dhamma' through inscriptions engraved on rocks and pillars across his empire. These are classified into Major Rock Edicts, Minor Rock Edicts, and Pillar Edicts depending on their size and location.

Solution:

1. Ashoka's 14 Major Rock Edicts were placed on the frontiers of his empire or in strategically important provinces.
2. Dhauli is located near Bhubaneswar in modern-day Odisha. It is the site where a famous version of the Major Rock Edicts is carved on a rock face.
3. This site is particularly significant because it is close to the region where the Kalinga War took place, the event that transformed Ashoka's worldview.
4. At Dhauli, the standard list of Edicts 11, 12, and 13 is replaced by "Separate Kalinga Edicts," which emphasize the King's paternal concern for his newly conquered subjects ("All men are my children").
5. Above the inscription, there is a forepart of an elephant carved out of solid rock, which is one of the earliest examples of Indian stone sculpture.

Final Answer: Dhauli was a Major Rock Edict of Ashoka located in modern-day Odisha.

Answer: (B)



Q37.

Solution**Concept:**

The Sharia is the sacred law of Islam that provides a moral, social, and legal framework for the Muslim community. It is not a single static book but a set of principles derived from primary and secondary sources.

Solution:

1. The primary source of the Sharia is the **Quran**, which is believed by Muslims to be the literal word of God revealed to Prophet Muhammad.
2. The second most important source is the **Hadith** (and Sunnah), which records the traditions, sayings, and actions of the Prophet.
3. When the Quran did not provide a direct answer to a specific problem, scholars used the Prophet's life as a guide to interpret and expand the law.
4. Over time, other tools like 'Qiyas' (analogical reasoning) and 'Ijma' (community consensus) were also used by jurists to develop the Sharia.
5. Therefore, the Sharia is fundamentally based on the combination of the divine revelation and the prophetic tradition.

Final Answer: The Sharia is based on the Quran and Hadith.

Answer: (A)

Q38.

Solution**Concept:**

Mughal emperors placed a high value on history as a way of legitimizing their rule and preserving their legacy. They commissioned court historians to write "Chronicles"—detailed year-by-year accounts of the empire's activities.

Solution:

1. The **Akbarnama** (Book of Akbar) is the most famous official chronicle of the Mughal Empire.
2. It was commissioned by Emperor Akbar and written by his close friend and court historian, Abu'l Fazl.
3. The work is divided into three volumes: the first deals with Akbar's ancestors, the second records the events of Akbar's reign up to his 46th year, and the third is the 'Ain-i-Akbari', which details the administration.
4. Abu'l Fazl spent thirteen years working on this project, using government records and oral testimonies to ensure accuracy.
5. While Babur wrote his own memoirs (Baburnama) and Gulbadan Begum wrote the Humayun-nama, the Akbarnama was the definitive state-sponsored project of Akbar's era.

Final Answer: The chronicle commissioned by Akbar was the Akbarnama.

Answer: (B)



Q39.

Solution**Concept:**

The zamindari system in colonial Bengal was often a struggle for power between the landlord and the peasantry. To collect high revenue demands, zamindars maintained a local force of enforcers to ensure compliance and deal with resistance from the ryots.

Solution:

1. Collecting rent was often difficult for zamindars, especially during years of bad harvest.
2. To handle "recalcitrant" (stubborn) peasants who refused to pay, the zamindar's agent (the amla) would visit the village.
3. He was usually accompanied by a group of strongmen or muscle-men known as **Lathiyals**.
4. The name is derived from 'Lathi' (a heavy bamboo stick), which was their primary weapon.
5. These Lathiyals were used to intimidate the ryots, clear lands of squatters, or even fight the muscle-men of rival zamindars or the emerging Jotedar class.

Final Answer: The subordinates used to enforce collection were known as Lathiyals.

Answer: (B)

Q40.

Solution**Concept:**

The early 20th century was a period of intense cultural and political awakening in India. Poets and thinkers used their craft to inspire a sense of patriotism and unity among the Indian people, regardless of their religious background.

Solution:

1. **Muhammad Iqbal** (1877–1938) was a celebrated philosopher, poet, and politician.
2. In 1904, he composed the poem "Tarana-e-Hindi," popularly known as **"Saare Jahan Se Achha"**.
3. The poem was written in Urdu and celebrated the beauty of the Indian subcontinent and the shared heritage of its people.
4. It contains the famous lines: "Mazhab nahi sikhata aapas mein bair rakhna" (Religion does not teach us to bear ill-will toward each other).
5. Although Iqbal later became an advocate for the political rights of Muslims, this poem remains one of the most beloved patriotic songs in modern India.

Final Answer: The author of 'Saare Jahan Se Achha' was Muhammad Iqbal.

Answer: (B)



Q41.

Solution**Concept:**

The Maratha Empire developed a unique administrative structure following the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Over time, the authority shifted from the monarch to the hereditary office of the chief minister, who became the de facto ruler of the Maratha Confederacy.

Solution:

1. The "Peshwa" was originally one of the eight ministers (Ashta Pradhan) in Shivaji's council.
2. The word 'Peshwa' is of Persian origin and literally means "Leader" or "Foremost."
3. During the reign of Shahu Maharaj, the office of the Peshwa became hereditary and supreme under Balaji Vishwanath and his son Baji Rao I.
4. The Peshwas shifted the seat of power from Satara to Pune, making Pune the administrative heart of the Maratha Empire.
5. While the Chhatrapati remained the ceremonial head (the King), the Peshwa functioned as the Prime Minister and the chief executive of the state.

Final Answer: The Peshwa was the title of the Prime Minister of the Marathas.

Answer: (B)

Q42.

Solution**Concept:**

The Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan) was part of a vast international trade network. Coastal settlements played a vital role in connecting the hinterland of India with the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia through maritime routes.

Solution:

1. Lothal, located in the Ahmedabad district of Gujarat, was a specialized Harappan port town.
2. Archaeologists found a massive rectangular basin made of kiln-burnt bricks, which is identified as a dockyard.
3. This dockyard was a sophisticated feat of engineering, featuring an inlet channel that allowed boats to enter during high tide and a spillway to maintain the water level.
4. The discovery of seals from the Persian Gulf and specialized bead-making factories at the site further confirms Lothal's status as a major international trading port.
5. Other sites like Banawali (A) were inland agricultural or industrial centers, but only Lothal provides clear evidence of a naval dock.

Final Answer: Evidence of a dockyard was found at Lothal.

Answer: (B)



Q43.

Solution**Concept:**

As the demand for Indian independence grew after World War II, the British government sent a high-level mission to India to discuss the transfer of power and the framing of a new constitution.

Solution:

1. The Cabinet Mission was composed of three British cabinet ministers: Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps, and A.V. Alexander.
2. It arrived in India in **March 1946**.
3. The mission proposed a plan for a federal structure with a weak center and strong provinces to keep India united while addressing the Muslim League's concerns.
4. Although the mission's plan for a United India eventually failed, it was this mission that led to the formation of the Constituent Assembly.
5. The year 1946 was a turning point, marking the final phase of British colonial rule before the Partition and Independence in 1947.

Final Answer: The Cabinet Mission came to India in 1946.

Answer: (C)

Q44.

Solution**Concept:**

The Constituent Assembly debates were a platform for marginalized groups to voice their historical grievances. Leaders of the "Depressed Classes" (now Dalits) argued that political freedom would be meaningless without social equality and protection against age-old oppression.

Solution:

1. J. Nagappa was a representative from Madras and a vocal advocate for the rights of the Scheduled Castes.
2. During the debates on minority rights and reservations, he made a poignant intervention about the history of the Dalit community.
3. He famously stated that "We were suppressed for thousands of years," highlighting that their suffering was not due to a lack of ability but because they were systematically excluded from education and society.
4. He argued that the Depressed Classes were not a religious minority but a part of the Hindu community that had been treated as outcasts.
5. His arguments, along with those of Dr. Ambedkar and others, ensured that the Constitution included strong provisions for the abolition of untouchability and the introduction of reservations.

Final Answer: J. Nagappa made the plea regarding the thousands of years of suppression.

Answer: (B)



Q45.

Solution**Concept:**

The Bhakti movement is broadly categorized into two traditions based on how the devotee perceives the nature of the Divine. These traditions influenced the art, poetry, and temple architecture of medieval India.

Solution:

1. The word 'Saguna' means "with attributes" (Sa = with, Guna = qualities/attributes).
2. Saguna Bhakti is the worship of God in a tangible, personified form. This usually involves the use of idols (murtis), symbols, and specific incarnations (avatars).
3. Famous Saguna saints include Tulsidas (devoted to Rama), Mirabai, and Surdas (devoted to Krishna).
4. In contrast, 'Nirguna' Bhakti refers to the worship of an abstract, formless Divine without physical attributes, a path followed by saints like Kabir and Guru Nanak.
5. Saguna Bhakti played a major role in the development of temple-centric rituals and the popularity of epic stories among the common people.

Final Answer: Saguna Bhakti refers to the worship of God with specific attributes/forms.

Answer: (B)

Q46.

Solution**Concept:**

The Manusmriti (Laws of Manu) is the most significant and early legal text of the Hindu tradition. It provides a comprehensive code of conduct, covering social classes, duties of the king, and civil and criminal law.

Solution:

1. The Manusmriti was composed in Sanskrit and reflects the efforts of Brahmanical scholars to codify social norms.
2. Historians and philologists have dated the final compilation of this text to the period between **200 BCE and 200 CE**.
3. This period was characterized by significant political shifts and the rise of various religious challenges, which prompted the Brahmanas to document and standardize the "Dharma."
4. The text is written in verse and is traditionally attributed to Manu, the mythical progenitor of humanity.
5. It remained the foundational reference for Hindu law for centuries, influencing the legal systems of several Southeast Asian kingdoms as well.

Final Answer: The Manusmriti was compiled between 200 BCE and 200 CE.

Answer: (A)



Q47.

Solution**Concept:**

The Mahabharata describes the geography of ancient North India, linking specific tribes and dynasties to particular territories. Many of these names refer to forest regions that were cleared to establish grand urban capitals.

Solution:

1. In the Adi Parva of the Mahabharata, the Pandavas are given a barren, forested territory by Dhritarashtra to prevent further conflict.
2. This forested region was known as **Khandavaprastha**.
3. With the help of Lord Krishna and the fire god Agni, the Pandavas cleared the Khandava forest.
4. On this cleared land, they built their magnificent capital city, **Indraprastha** (identified by many historians with the site of Purana Qila in modern Delhi).
5. While Hastinapur was the ancestral capital of the Kurus, Khandavaprastha was the original name of the land that became the Pandavas' independent kingdom.

Final Answer: Khandavaprastha is the ancient name of the region that became Indraprastha.

Answer: (B)

Q48.

Solution**Concept:**

The end of British rule in India was overseen by the Labour Party government in Britain, which had come to power shortly after the conclusion of World War II.

Solution:

1. **Clement Attlee** became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in 1945.
2. Unlike his predecessor, Winston Churchill (who was a staunch imperialist), Attlee believed that British rule in India was no longer sustainable.
3. On 20 February 1947, Attlee made a historic announcement in the British Parliament, stating that the British would transfer power to responsible Indian hands no later than June 1948.
4. He appointed Lord Mountbatten as the last Viceroy to oversee this transition.
5. It was under Attlee's premiership that the Indian Independence Act of 1947 was passed, leading to the creation of India and Pakistan.

Final Answer: Clement Attlee was the British Prime Minister at the time of India's independence.

Answer: (B)



Q49.

Solution**Concept:**

The political rivalry between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League intensified during the Second World War. When the Congress ministries resigned in protest against British policies, the Muslim League celebrated the event as a significant political milestone.

Solution:

1. In 1939, the British government declared India a party to World War II without consulting Indian leaders.
2. In protest, the Congress provincial ministries, which had been in power since the 1937 elections, resigned in October and November **1939**.
3. Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League viewed the Congress rule as "Hindu Raj" and were relieved at their departure.
4. Jinnah called upon Indian Muslims to celebrate 22 December 1939 as the "***Day of Deliverance**" from the "tyranny" of Congress rule.
5. This event marked a deepening of the communal divide that eventually led to the demand for a separate state of Pakistan.

Final Answer: The 'Day of Deliverance' was observed by the Muslim League in 1939.

Answer: (A)

Q50.

Solution**Concept:**

The city of Vijayanagara was famous for its massive and unique fortifications. Foreign travelers were particularly impressed by the construction techniques used by the Vijayanagara engineers to build walls that could withstand sieges.

Solution:

1. The fortifications of Vijayanagara consisted of seven concentric lines of walls.
2. A remarkable feature of these walls, as noted by the Persian traveler Abdur Razzaq, was that they were built without the use of any ***mortar or cementing agent**.
3. The massive blocks of granite were wedge-shaped and were held together by the principle of friction and by being carefully fitted into one another.
4. This "dry masonry" technique made the walls exceptionally strong; the inner core of the walls was filled with earth and rubble, which absorbed the impact of cannon fire.
5. This engineering marvel ensured that the city remained a secure bastion for over two centuries.

Final Answer: The walls were built with no use of mortar or cementing agent.

Answer: (B)



Answer Key

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

