

CUET-UG History Sample Paper-2

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. Which of the following archaeologists was the first to use the stratigraphic method of excavation in the Indus Valley, arguing that it was necessary to follow the layers of the mound rather than digging along uniform horizontal lines?

- (A) Alexander Cunningham
- (B) John Marshall
- (C) R.E.M. Wheeler
- (D) G.F. Dales

Q2. The Harappan site of Dholavira is unique among Indus Valley sites for which of the following architectural features?

- (A) A large granary located outside the citadel
- (B) A three-tier division of the settlement and sophisticated water reservoirs
- (C) The presence of a dockyard connected to the Gulf of Khambhat
- (D) A grid pattern of streets with no drainage system

Q3. In the context of the Mauryan administration, the term 'Dhamma Mahamattas' refers to:

- (A) Military officers in charge of the elephant corps
- (B) Special officers appointed to spread the message of Dhamma
- (C) Revenue collectors responsible for the 'Bhaga' and 'Bali'



(D) Judicial officers presiding over the 'Dharmasthiya' courts

Q4. James Prinsep's contribution to Indian history was the decipherment of which of the following scripts used in Ashokan inscriptions?

(A) Devanagari and Sharada

(B) Brahmi and Kharosthi

(C) Aramaic and Greek

(D) Pali and Prakrit

Q5. The 'Critical Edition' of the Mahabharata, a massive project spanning 47 years to identify common elements across various versions, was prepared under the leadership of:

(A) B.B. Lal

(B) V.S. Sukthankar

(C) James Prinsep

(D) Max Mueller

Q6. According to the Dharmashastras, the form of marriage where a father gives away his daughter with a dowry after decking her with ornaments is known as:

(A) Gandharva Vivaha

(B) Brahma Vivaha

(C) Asura Vivaha

(D) Rakshasa Vivaha

Q7. The structural feature of a Stupa known as the 'Harmika' is best described as:

(A) The hemispherical mound representing the universe

(B) A balcony-like structure that represented the abode of the gods

(C) The gateway decorated with sculptures of Jataka tales

(D) The path for circumambulation around the mound



- Q8.** The preservation of the Sanchi Stupa in the 19th century was largely due to the financial support and interest of the Rulers of Bhopal. Who among the following was notably involved?
- (A) Razia Sultan
 - (B) Shahjehan Begum
 - (C) Jahanara Begum
 - (D) Chand Bibi
- Q9.** The 11th-century traveller Al-Biruni wrote 'Kitab-ul-Hind' in which language?
- (A) Persian
 - (B) Turkish
 - (C) Arabic
 - (D) Sanskrit
- Q10.** Ibn Battuta, the Moroccan traveller, was appointed as the Qazi (Judge) of Delhi by which Sultan?
- (A) Alauddin Khalji
 - (B) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
 - (C) Ghiyasuddin Balban
 - (D) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
- Q11.** The Alvars and Nayanars were Bhakti saints from South India who led movements against the dominance of:
- (A) Islam and Christianity
 - (B) Buddhism and Jainism
 - (C) Vaishnavism and Shaivism
 - (D) Vedic Ritualism and Caste Hierarchy
- Q12.** The 'Ziyarat', a popular practice in Sufism, refers to:



- (A) The practice of fasting during Ramadan
- (B) Pilgrimage to the tombs of Sufi saints (Dargahs)
- (C) The musical recitations used to evoke divine ecstasy
- (D) The formal initiation of a disciple into a Silsila

Q13. The ruins of Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by which British engineer and antiquarian?

- (A) Colin Mackenzie
- (B) Alexander Cunningham
- (C) Robert Sewell
- (D) James Burgess

Q14. The 'Mahanavami Dibba' in the Royal Centre of Vijayanagara was primarily used for:

- (A) Storing surplus grain for the army
- (B) Ritual ceremonies and displaying the king's prestige during festivals
- (C) A residential palace for the queen
- (D) A military watchtower to monitor the Tungabhadra river

Q15. In the Mughal land revenue system described in 'Ain-i-Akbari', land that was cultivated for every crop in succession and never allowed to lie fallow was called:

- (A) Parauti
- (B) Chachar
- (C) Polaj
- (D) Banjar

Q16. Which of the following statements regarding the 'Zabt' system of land revenue under the Mughals is correct?

- (A) It was based on the measurement of land and the average yield of the past ten years.



- (B) It was a system where the peasant and the state shared the actual harvested crop.
- (C) It was a fixed tax levied on each plough regardless of the area cultivated.
- (D) It was exclusively applied to the rebellious 'Zortalab' regions of the empire.

Q17. The 'Permanent Settlement' of 1793 in Bengal, introduced by Lord Cornwallis, was based on the assumption that:

- (A) The Santhals would become the primary agricultural producers for the state.
- (B) Fixing the revenue demand would encourage Zamindars to invest in land improvement.
- (C) The Ryotwari system was too complex for the Company to manage.
- (D) The state should have a variable share in the increasing agricultural produce.

Q18. The 'Fifth Report', submitted to the British Parliament in 1813, was primarily concerned with:

- (A) The social impact of the Sati Pratha in Bengal.
- (B) The administration and activities of the East India Company in India.
- (C) The educational reforms needed in the Madras Presidency.
- (D) The military strategies used during the Mysore Wars.

Q19. In the context of the 1857 Revolt, which pair of leader and center of revolt is INCORRECTLY matched?

- (A) Shah Mal – Barout, Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Gonoo – Singhbhum, Chotanagpur
- (C) Birjis Qadr – Lucknow, Awadh
- (D) Khan Bahadur Khan – Arrah, Bihar

Q20. The 'Damin-i-Koh' was a specific area of land demarcated by the British for the settlement of which community?

- (A) The Paharias



- (B) The Santhals
- (C) The Bhils
- (D) The Mundas

Q21. Which of the following was the primary objective of the 'Deccan Riots Commission' established in 1875?

- (A) To investigate the causes of the 1857 revolt in Southern India.
- (B) To analyze the reasons for the uprising of peasants against Sahukars (moneylenders).
- (C) To suggest reforms for the Permanent Settlement in the Deccan.
- (D) To study the impact of the American Civil War on Indian Indigo planters.

Q22. Mahatma Gandhi's first major public appearance in India, where he spoke about the exclusion of the poor from the nationalist movement, was at:

- (A) The Champaran Satyagraha in 1917
- (B) The opening of the Banaras Hindu University in 1916
- (C) The Ahmedabad Mill Strike in 1918
- (D) The Rowlatt Satyagraha meeting in 1919

Q23. During the Non-Cooperation Movement, the 'Chauri Chaura' incident led Gandhi to call off the movement because:

- (A) The British agreed to all the demands of the Congress.
- (B) The movement had turned violent, which violated his principle of Ahimsa.
- (C) The Muslim League withdrew its support from the Khilafat cause.
- (D) Most of the top leaders of the Congress were arrested.

Q24. The 'Dandi March' (1930) was a protest specifically directed against:

- (A) The Simon Commission's lack of Indian members.
- (B) The state monopoly on the manufacture and sale of salt.



- (C) The high land revenue rates in the Kheda district.
- (D) The communal award provided by the British government.

Q25. In the Constituent Assembly, who among the following made a powerful plea for 'Strong Centre', arguing that only a strong central government could plan for the well-being of the country?

- (A) K. Santhanam
- (B) B.R. Ambedkar
- (C) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (D) Vallabhbhai Patel

Q26. Which of the following Ashokan edicts provides evidence of his remorse and his decision to give up 'Bherighosha' for 'Dhammaghosha'?

- (A) Major Rock Edict XIII
- (B) Major Rock Edict I
- (C) Rummindei Pillar Inscription
- (D) Kalinga Separate Edict

Q27. The 'Shramana' tradition in ancient India, which included Buddhism and Jainism, was characterized by:

- (A) Strict adherence to the authority of the Vedas.
- (B) The belief that an individual's agency could shape their own destiny (Karma).
- (C) The performace of complex animal sacrifices to please gods.
- (D) The rejection of the idea of rebirth or Samsara.

Q28. In the Mahabharata, the term 'Nishada' refers to which of the following social categories?

- (A) Forest-dwelling hunting communities
- (B) Pastoralists living on the periphery of villages
- (C) Merchants involved in maritime trade



(D) Priests specializing in the performance of Ashvamedha

Q29. The 'Vachana' compositions, which challenged the caste system and emphasized the equality of all devotees, are associated with which medieval movement?

- (A) The Nayanar movement in Tamil Nadu
- (B) The Virashaiva movement in Karnataka
- (C) The Kabirpanthi tradition in Varanasi
- (D) The Chaitanya movement in Bengal

Q30. Which of the following travellers described the Mughal Empire as a 'land of contrasts', where the king was the owner of all land and the people lived in extreme poverty?

- (A) Duarte Barbosa
- (B) Francois Bernier
- (C) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
- (D) Niccolao Manucci

Q31. The 'Amara-nayakas' of the Vijayanagara Empire were similar to which of the following administrative systems?

- (A) The Mansabdari system of the Mughals
- (B) The Iqtadari system of the Delhi Sultanate
- (C) The Sherpas of the Himalayan region
- (D) The Subahdari system of the Deccan

Q32. Under the Mughal Zamindari system, the 'Milkiyat' lands were:

- (A) Lands held by the Zamindars for their personal use and cultivation.
- (B) State lands where the revenue was directly collected by the central treasury.
- (C) Religious endowments given to Sufi shrines.
- (D) Fallow lands given to peasants for new settlements.



- Q33.** The 'Relief of Lucknow', a famous painting depicting the British 'heroism' during the 1857 Revolt, was painted by:
- (A) Felice Beato
 - (B) Thomas Jones Barker
 - (C) Joseph Noel Paton
 - (D) Charles Ball
- Q34.** Which specific event marked the beginning of the 'Civil Disobedience Movement' in 1930?
- (A) The breaking of the salt law at Dandi.
 - (B) The declaration of 'Purna Swaraj' at the Lahore Session.
 - (C) The arrest of Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt.
 - (D) The rejection of the 'Eleven Demands' by Lord Irwin.
- Q35.** In the Constituent Assembly, who argued that 'Separate Electorates' were a 'poison that has entered the body politic of our country'?
- (A) B. Pocker Bahadur
 - (B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
 - (C) Govind Ballabh Pant
 - (D) Begum Aizaz Rasul
- Q36.** The Harappan seal depicting a figure surrounded by animals, identified by archaeologists as 'Proto-Shiva', is significant because it suggests:
- (A) The presence of a rigid monotheistic religion.
 - (B) Continuity between Harappan religious practices and later Hinduism.
 - (C) The influence of Mesopotamian deities on Harappan culture.
 - (D) That Harappans did not believe in animal worship.
- Q37.** The 'Prayag Prashasti', an inscription praising Samudragupta, was composed in Sanskrit by his court poet:



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

Q38. The 'Saddhamma Pundarika' is a text associated with which religious tradition?

- (A) Digambara Jainism
- (B) Mahayana Buddhism
- (C) Vajrayana Buddhism
- (D) Shvetambara Jainism

Q39. In the context of the Mughal administration, the 'Mir Bakshi' was the head of which department?

- (A) The Religious and Judicial Department
- (B) The Military and Intelligence Department
- (C) The Royal Household and Kitchens
- (D) The Finance and Revenue Department

Q40. Who was the President of the Constituent Assembly of India?

- (A) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (B) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- (C) Sachchidananda Sinha
- (D) B.N. Rau

Q41. The 'Saptamatrika' images found in various parts of India represent the seven mothers. In which of the following religious traditions did this concept primarily evolve?

- (A) Shaivism
- (B) Shaktism



- (C) Vaishnavism
- (D) Ajivika tradition

Q42. Which Mughal Emperor introduced the 'Dagh' and 'Chehra' system in the military administration to prevent corruption and false musters?

- (A) Babur
- (B) Humayun
- (C) Akbar
- (D) Aurangzeb

Q43. The 'Jotedars' were a class of rich peasants who became powerful in the rural areas of Bengal. How did they differ from the traditional Zamindars?

- (A) They lived in the cities and managed their lands through agents.
- (B) They lived in the villages and exercised direct control over the local peasantry.
- (C) They were appointed by the British Parliament to collect revenue directly.
- (D) They were purely moneylenders who had no interest in agricultural land.

Q44. Identify the correct sequence of the following movements in the Indian National Struggle: I. Quit India Movement II. Khilafat Movement III. Civil Disobedience Movement IV. Champaran Satyagraha

- (A) IV, II, III, I
- (B) II, IV, I, III
- (C) IV, III, II, I
- (D) I, II, III, IV

Q45. The 'Santhal Pargana' was created by the British after the Santhal Rebellion (1855-56). What was its primary purpose?

- (A) To provide a military base for the East India Company.
- (B) To carve out a separate district where Santhal laws and traditions could be maintained.



- (C) To establish indigo plantations in the tribal heartland.
- (D) To deport the rebellious Santhals to the Andaman Islands.

Q46. In the context of ancient Indian history, 'Gopals' were:

- (A) Village headmen in the Mauryan period.
- (B) Pastoralists or cowherds often mentioned in early literature.
- (C) Buddhist monks who specialized in medicine.
- (D) Royal bodyguards in the Gupta Empire.

Q47. The 'Nayanars' were a group of 63 saints in South India devoted to which deity?

- (A) Lord Vishnu
- (B) Lord Shiva
- (C) Goddess Durga
- (D) Lord Brahma

Q48. The 'Kitab-i-Nauras', a collection of songs in praise of Hindu deities and Muslim saints, was composed by which Deccan ruler?

- (A) Ali Adil Shah
- (B) Ibrahim Adil Shah II
- (C) Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah
- (D) Malik Ambar

Q49. The 'A-in-i-Dahsala' system is associated with the revenue reforms of which Mughal minister?

- (A) Birbal
- (B) Raja Todar Mal
- (C) Raja Man Singh
- (D) Tansen



- Q50.** Who among the following was the first woman to be elected as the President of the Indian National Congress?
- (A) Sarojini Naidu
 - (B) Annie Besant
 - (C) Nellie Sengupta
 - (D) Aruna Asaf Ali



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

The development of Indian archaeology saw a shift from treasure hunting to scientific excavation. A key figure in this transition was R.E.M. Wheeler, who became the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1944. Stratigraphy is the study of rock layers (strata) and layering, which is used to determine the chronological sequence of a site.

Solution:

1. Early archaeologists like John Marshall excavated sites in horizontal units of uniform depth. 2. This method ignored the natural layering of the soil (stratigraphy), which meant artifacts from different historical periods were often mixed together. 3. R.E.M. Wheeler, drawing on his military background, insisted that it was essential to follow the stratigraphy of the mound. 4. By excavating according to the layers, archaeologists could more accurately date the findings based on their position in the earth. 5. This scientific approach revolutionized the understanding of the Harappan civilization's timeline.

Final Answer: The archaeologist who introduced the stratigraphic method was R.E.M. Wheeler.

Answer: (C)

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

Harappan sites exhibit remarkable urban planning, but specific sites show local variations. Dholavira, located in Khadir Beyt in the Rann of Kutch (Gujarat), stands out for its unique layout and hydraulic engineering, which differs from the standard two-part (Citadel and Lower Town) division seen at Mohenjodaro.

Solution:

1. Most Harappan cities were divided into two parts: the Citadel (Upper Town) and the Lower Town. 2. Dholavira was unique because the entire settlement was fortified, and it was divided into three distinct sections: the Citadel, the Middle Town, and the Lower Town. 3. Furthermore, Dholavira is famous for its elaborate system of water management. 4. Archaeologists found massive stone-cut reservoirs used to store rainwater or water diverted from streams, which was critical in the arid region of Kutch. 5. While Lothal had a dockyard, Dholavira's hallmark was its three-tier planning and water conservation.

Final Answer: Dholavira is unique for its three-tier division and sophisticated water reservoirs.

Answer: (B)



Q3.

Solution**Concept:**

The Mauryan Empire, particularly under Ashoka, was characterized by a paternalistic model of kingship. After the Kalinga War, Ashoka promoted 'Dhamma' (a set of ethical social conducts). To ensure these principles were implemented across his vast empire, he created a specialized administrative cadre.

Solution:

1. Ashoka's Dhamma was not a new religion but a code of conduct involving respect for elders, kindness to servants, and religious tolerance. 2. The administration was divided into various departments (e.g., revenue, military, espionage). 3. To specifically propagate Dhamma and look after the welfare of people regardless of their religious sect, Ashoka appointed 'Dhamma Mahamattas'. 4. These officers traveled throughout the empire to teach Dhamma and act as mediators in social or religious disputes. 5. Their existence is frequently mentioned in Ashoka's Major Rock Edicts.

Final Answer: Dhamma Mahamattas were special officers appointed to spread the message of Dhamma.

Answer: (B)

Q4.

Solution**Concept:**

For centuries, the inscriptions of Ashoka remained a mystery because the scripts they were written in—Brahmi and Kharosthi—had been forgotten. James Prinsep, an officer in the Mint of the East India Company and Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, played a pivotal role in unlocking ancient Indian history in the 1830s.

Solution:

1. James Prinsep studied the coins of Indo-Greek kings which contained names written in both Greek and Kharosthi. 2. This bilingual evidence allowed him to decipher Kharosthi. 3. He then applied similar comparative methods to identify the letters in Brahmi, the script used in the majority of Ashokan pillar and rock edicts. 4. He identified the title 'Piyadassi' (Pleasant to behold) on these inscriptions, which was later linked to King Ashoka through Buddhist texts. 5. This decipherment provided the first direct evidence of the Mauryan Empire's extent and Ashoka's policies.

Final Answer: James Prinsep deciphered the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts.

Answer: (B)

Q5.

Solution**Concept:**

The Mahabharata is a dynamic text that evolved over centuries. To understand its core narrative and regional variations, scholars at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune initiated a monumental project in 1919 to produce a 'Critical Edition' of the epic.

Solution:

1. The project was led by the noted Sanskritist V.S. Sukthankar. 2. The team collected thousands of Sanskrit manuscripts of the epic written in various scripts (Sarada, Devanagari, Bengali, etc.) from across India. 3. They compared verses from all manuscripts and selected those that were common to almost all versions. 4. These common verses were published in the main text, while regional variations were documented in footnotes and appendices. 5. The final work comprised 13,000 pages and revealed both a central core of the story and the profound regional diversity of Indian culture.

Final Answer: The Critical Edition was prepared under the leadership of V.S. Sukthankar.

Answer: (B)

Q6.

Solution**Concept:**

The Dharmashastras and Dharmasutras recognized eight forms of marriage. These were classified based on the method of the union and the social acceptability of the act. The first four forms were generally considered "dharmic" (righteous), while the remaining four were frowned upon.

Solution:

1. In the ancient Indian social framework, marriage was seen as a sacred duty. 2. The "Brahma Vivaha" is considered the highest and most honorable form. In this form, the father invites a man learned in the Vedas and of good character to marry his daughter. 3. The father then "gifts" the daughter (Kanyadan) after dressing her in fine clothes and ornaments, often accompanied by a dowry or gifts. 4. Other forms like "Gandharva" (based on mutual love) or "Asura" (where the groom pays the father) were considered less ideal or even prohibited for certain classes. 5. The description provided—decking the daughter with ornaments and giving her away—perfectly matches the definition of Brahma Vivaha.

Final Answer: The form of marriage described is Brahma Vivaha.

Answer: (B)



Q7.

Solution**Concept:**

The architecture of a Buddhist Stupa is highly symbolic, with each component representing a different aspect of the cosmos or the path to enlightenment. The Stupa originated as a simple semi-circular mound of earth (Anda) and evolved into a complex stone structure.

Solution:

1. The main structure of the stupa is the "Anda," a hemispherical dome. 2. Above the Anda is the "Harmika." This is a square, balcony-like structure. 3. In Buddhist cosmology, the Harmika represents the "abode of the gods" or the celestial world. 4. Rising from the Harmika is the "Yashti" (mast), which is usually topped by a "Chhatra" (umbrella). 5. The Harmika is a crucial structural element as it surmounts the mound and serves as the pedestal for the umbrella, symbolizing the central axis of the universe.

Final Answer: The Harmika is a balcony-like structure representing the abode of the gods.

Answer: (B)

Q8.

Solution**Concept:**

The Sanchi Stupa is one of the best-preserved ancient Indian monuments. While many other structures, like the Amaravati Stupa, were scavenged for stone or fell into ruin, Sanchi was saved through the intervention of local rulers and colonial officials in the 19th century.

Solution:

1. In the 1800s, Europeans (both French and British) were keen on taking the beautifully carved eastern gateway of Sanchi to museums in Europe. 2. However, the rulers of Bhopal, specifically Shahjehan Begum and her successor Sultan Jehan Begum, provided significant funds for the preservation of the site. 3. They funded the construction of a museum and a guesthouse at the site, which allowed archaeologists like John Marshall to live there and document the ruins. 4. Their financial patronage ensured that original pieces were not carted away; instead, plaster casts were prepared for the Europeans. 5. This is a rare example of a local Muslim dynasty actively preserving a major Buddhist heritage site.

Final Answer: Shahjehan Begum was the ruler of Bhopal notably involved in the preservation.

Answer: (B)



Q9.

Solution**Concept:**

Al-Biruni was a polymath from Khwarizm (modern-day Uzbekistan) who came to India in the 11th century. His work, 'Kitab-ul-Hind', is a monumental encyclopedia of Indian culture, philosophy, and science, noted for its objective and critical approach.

Solution:

1. Al-Biruni was well-versed in several languages, including Syriac, Arabic, Persian, and Hebrew. 2. After arriving in India, he spent years studying Sanskrit with Brahmanas to read the Vedas and Puranas in their original form. 3. However, he chose to write 'Kitab-ul-Hind' in Arabic, which was the language of scholarship and administration in the Islamic world at that time. 4. The book is divided into 80 chapters, covering subjects ranging from religion and philosophy to festivals, astronomy, and laws. 5. Writing in Arabic allowed his findings to be disseminated throughout the West and Central Asian intellectual circles.

Final Answer: Al-Biruni wrote 'Kitab-ul-Hind' in Arabic.

Answer: (C)

Q10.

Solution**Concept:**

Ibn Battuta was a tireless traveller who reached Delhi in 1333. The Sultan of Delhi at the time was known for his patronage of foreign scholars and his eccentric but ambitious administrative experiments.

Solution:

1. Ibn Battuta arrived in India during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. 2. The Sultan was impressed by Ibn Battuta's scholarly background and his extensive travels across the Islamic world. 3. Consequently, Muhammad bin Tughlaq appointed him as the "Qazi" or Judge of Delhi. 4. Ibn Battuta held this position for several years until he fell out of favor and was briefly imprisoned. 5. Later, the Sultan restored his position and sent him as an imperial envoy to China, showing the high level of trust placed in foreign experts during the Tughlaq era.

Final Answer: He was appointed as Qazi by Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

Answer: (B)



Q11.

Solution**Concept:**

The Bhakti movement in South India (roughly 6th to 9th centuries CE) was led by the Alvars (devotees of Vishnu) and Nayanars (devotees of Shiva). These movements were revolutionary because they challenged the existing religious and social hierarchies of the time.

Solution:

1. During this period, Buddhism and Jainism had significant royal patronage and social influence in South India. 2. The Alvars and Nayanars initiated a movement based on intense personal devotion (Bhakti), which directly competed with the more ascetic and philosophical traditions of Buddhism and Jainism. 3. Their hymns, composed in Tamil, made spiritual paths accessible to the common people, including those from lower castes, whereas the competing traditions were often seen as more formal or elitist. 4. While they also critiqued certain aspects of Brahmanical ritualism, their primary rivals for social and royal influence during the early medieval period were the Buddhist and Jain monastic orders. 5. This shift eventually led to the decline of Buddhism and Jainism in the South and the strengthening of Puranic Hinduism.

Final Answer: The Alvars and Nayanars led movements against the dominance of Buddhism and Jainism.

Answer: (B)

Q12.

Solution**Concept:**

Sufism, the mystical dimension of Islam, emphasizes the spiritual bond between the disciple (Murid) and the master (Pir). This bond continues even after the death of the master, leading to the institutionalization of the Dargah (shrine).

Solution:

1. "Ziyarat" literally means "visitation." In the Sufi context, it refers to the practice of visiting the tombs of Sufi saints. 2. It is believed that the saint's spiritual power (Barakat) is present at their grave, and devotees visit to seek blessings, healing, or fulfillment of wishes. 3. One of the most famous examples of Ziyarat is the pilgrimage to the Dargah of Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti in Ajmer. 4. This practice often involves "Qawwali" (devotional music) and "Langar" (communal kitchen), fostering a sense of community across different religions and social classes. 5. Ziyarat transformed the tombs of saints into major centers of social and cultural interaction in medieval India.

Final Answer: Ziyarat refers to the pilgrimage to the tombs of Sufi saints (Dargahs).

Answer: (B)

Q13.

Solution**Concept:**

The ruins of Hampi, the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, were lost to the jungle following the empire's defeat in 1565. Its scientific "rediscovery" occurred much later during the British colonial period when antiquarians began documenting India's physical history.

Solution:

1. In 1800, Colonel Colin Mackenzie, an engineer and cartographer working for the East India Company, visited Hampi. 2. He prepared the first survey map of the site, which was a crucial step in identifying the layout of the city. 3. Mackenzie gathered much of his initial information from the priests of the Virupaksha temple and the shrine of Pampadevi, who had maintained the oral traditions and local memory of the site. 4. While later figures like Alexander Cunningham and Robert Sewell did extensive work, Mackenzie is credited with bringing the site to light for modern scholarship. 5. Mackenzie eventually became the first Surveyor General of India, and his collection of manuscripts and maps remains a vital source for historians.

Final Answer: The ruins of Hampi were brought to light by Colin Mackenzie.

Answer: (A)

Q14.

Solution**Concept:**

The architecture of Vijayanagara was designed to project the power and authority of the "Rayas" (kings). The Royal Centre contained several ceremonial structures, the most impressive of which was the Mahanavami Dibba.

Solution:

1. The Mahanavami Dibba is a massive platform located on one of the highest points in the city. 2. It was used primarily during the "Mahanavami" (the ten-day Hindu festival of Navaratri or Durga Puja). 3. During this festival, the king would perform rituals, worship the state horse, and witness dances, wrestling matches, and processions of caparisoned elephants. 4. The structure served as a stage for the king to display his prestige, military might, and sovereignty to his subjects and visiting "Nayakas" (military chiefs). 5. The reliefs on the walls of the platform depict scenes from the festival and the daily life of the empire.

Final Answer: The Mahanavami Dibba was used for ritual ceremonies and displaying the king's prestige.

Answer: (B)



Q15.

Solution**Concept:**

The 'Ain-i-Akbari', written by Abul Fazl, provides a detailed account of the administrative and revenue systems of Emperor Akbar. This included a sophisticated classification of land based on its productivity to ensure a fair and stable tax (Jama) system.

Solution:

1. Land was divided into four categories: Polaj, Parauti, Chachar, and Banjar. 2. "Polaj" was the ideal land; it was cultivated for every crop in succession for every year and was never allowed to lie fallow. This land paid the highest revenue. 3. "Parauti" was land left out of cultivation for a time (1-2 years) to regain its strength. 4. "Chachar" was land that had been fallow for 3 or 4 years. 5. "Banjar" was land that had been uncultivated for 5 years or more. 6. This systematic classification allowed the Mughal state to calculate the average yield and set revenue rates accordingly.

Final Answer: Land cultivated annually without being left fallow was called Polaj.

Answer: (C)

Q16.

Solution**Concept:**

The 'Zabt' system was the most advanced and widely used land revenue system during the Mughal era, particularly under Akbar. It was perfected by his finance minister, Raja Todar Mal, and aimed at creating a stable and predictable income for the state while protecting peasants from annual fluctuations.

Solution:

1. The Zabt system relied on the "Dahsala" principle. The state collected data on prices and yields of various crops for the past ten years (1570–1580). 2. One-third of the average produce was fixed as the state's share. 3. Crucially, this system required the physical measurement of land using a standardized unit (the 'Ilahi Gaz' and the 'Tanab' made of bamboo sticks). 4. Unlike systems where the crop was shared after harvest, the revenue in Zabt was fixed in cash based on the area sown and the type of crop grown. 5. This provided the central government with a clear estimate of expected revenue (the 'Jama').

Final Answer: The Zabt system was based on the measurement of land and the average yield of the past ten years.

Answer: (A)



Q17.

Solution**Concept:**

The Permanent Settlement (1793) was the British East India Company's first major land revenue experiment. It was born out of a crisis in the Bengal economy and a desire to create a class of loyal supporters among the local elite.

Solution:

1. Before 1793, revenue demands fluctuated, leading to instability for both the Company and the peasants. 2. Lord Cornwallis believed that if the state's revenue demand was fixed "permanently," the Zamindars would feel secure in their ownership. 3. The logic was that any profit made from increasing agricultural production (beyond the fixed revenue) would go to the Zamindar. 4. The Company hoped this surplus profit would motivate Zamindars to invest in "land improvement," such as building irrigation or clearing forests, thereby making the economy more productive. 5. In reality, many Zamindars failed to pay the high fixed rates and lost their lands.

Final Answer: The assumption was that fixed revenue would encourage Zamindars to invest in land improvement.

Answer: (B)

Q18.

Solution**Concept:**

As the East India Company (EIC) transitioned from a trading body to a political power, its actions came under intense scrutiny by the British Parliament. The 'Fifth Report' is a critical primary source for historians studying the colonial impact on Indian rural society.

Solution:

1. In the early 19th century, many political groups in Britain were jealous of the EIC's monopoly on trade and were critical of its administration. 2. The British Parliament appointed a Select Committee to investigate the Company's affairs. 3. The 'Fifth Report' was the fifth in a series of such reports submitted in 1813. 4. It contained over 1000 pages of evidence, including petitions from Zamindars, reports from Collectors, and statistical tables on revenue. 5. Its main purpose was to provide a detailed account of how the EIC was governing its Indian territories and managing land revenue.

Final Answer: The Fifth Report was concerned with the administration and activities of the East India Company.

Answer: (B)



Q19.

Solution**Concept:**

The Revolt of 1857 was characterized by localized leadership. While the Mughal Emperor was the symbolic head, actual resistance was led by local figures who often had specific grievances against the British.

Solution:

1. **Shah Mal:** A local leader who mobilized the villagers of pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh; he was killed in battle against the British. (Correct match) 2. **Gonoo:** A tribal leader from the Kol community in Singhbhum who led the local resistance. (Correct match) 3. **Birjis Qadr:** The young son of Wajid Ali Shah who was proclaimed the Nawab in Lucknow under the leadership of Begum Hazrat Mahal. (Correct match) 4. **Khan Bahadur Khan:** He was the leader of the revolt in **Bareilly** (Rohilkhand). 5. **Kunwar Singh:** He was the elderly Zamindar who led the revolt in **Arrah, Bihar**. 6. Therefore, matching Khan Bahadur Khan with Arrah is historically incorrect.

Final Answer: The incorrect pair is Khan Bahadur Khan – Arrah, Bihar.

Answer: (D)

Q20.

Solution**Concept:**

In the late 18th century, the British faced resistance from the Paharias, a forest-dwelling community in the Rajmahal Hills. To subdue them and expand settled agriculture, the British turned to the Santhals, who were migrating into the region.

Solution:

1. The Paharias practiced shifting cultivation and were difficult to tax or control. 2. The British encouraged the Santhals to clear the forests and settle in the foothills of the Rajmahal range. 3. In 1832, a large area of land was demarcated and termed the 'Damin-i-Koh'. 4. This land was given to the Santhals on the condition that they live there, practice settled agriculture, and pay revenue to the state. 5. The Santhals initially prospered, but their subsequent exploitation by moneylenders and the state led to the Great Santhal Rebellion of 1855.

Final Answer: Damin-i-Koh was demarcated for the settlement of the Santhals.

Answer: (B)



Q21.

Solution**Concept:**

The Deccan Riots of 1875 were a series of peasant uprisings in the Pune and Ahmednagar districts of the Bombay Presidency. The riots were not directed against the British state initially, but against the "Sahukars" (moneylenders) who had trapped the peasantry in a cycle of debt.

Solution:

1. Following the end of the American Civil War, cotton prices crashed, but the British government continued to raise land revenue demands. 2. Peasants turned to moneylenders to pay these taxes, leading to widespread indebtedness. 3. The riots involved peasants attacking moneylenders, burning their account books (bahi-khatas), and destroying debt bonds. 4. Alarmed by the possibility of a larger rebellion, the Government of Bombay set up the 'Deccan Riots Commission' to investigate the causes. 5. The Commission's report, presented to the British Parliament in 1878, concluded that the primary cause was the exploitative relationship between the indebted ryots and the moneylenders.

Final Answer: The objective was to analyze the reasons for the uprising of peasants against Sahukars.

Answer: (B)

Q22.

Solution**Concept:**

Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in January 1915. On the advice of his mentor, G.K. Gokhale, he spent the first year travelling the country to understand its people. His "debut" in Indian public life occurred at a major academic event.

Solution:

1. In February 1916, Gandhi was invited to the opening ceremony of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU). 2. The audience consisted of the elite—princes, wealthy donors, and senior Congress leaders like Annie Besant. 3. When it was Gandhi's turn to speak, he shocked the audience by pointing out the contrast between the richly dressed nobles and the millions of "poor and starving" Indians who were absent. 4. He stated that there was no "spirit of self-government" in India if the elites did not consider the plight of the peasants. 5. This speech marked the beginning of Gandhi's effort to turn the nationalist movement into a mass movement.

Final Answer: His first major public appearance was at the opening of the Banaras Hindu University in 1916.

Answer: (B)

Q23.

Solution**Concept:**

The Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–1922) was the first nationwide mass movement led by Gandhi. It was based on the twin pillars of Non-violence (Ahimsa) and Non-cooperation. However, Gandhi was always ready to retreat if he felt the moral foundation of the movement was being compromised.

Solution:

1. In February 1922, a group of protestors at Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur district, UP) clashed with the police. 2. After the police opened fire, the angry mob chased them back to the police station and set it on fire, killing 22 policemen. 3. Gandhi was deeply disturbed by this news, as he believed the Indian masses were not yet fully trained in the discipline of non-violence. 4. He argued that a movement based on "Satyagraha" could not succeed through "Himsa" (violence). 5. Against the wishes of many younger leaders, he unilaterally withdrew the movement to prevent further bloodshed and moral decay.

Final Answer: Gandhi called off the movement because it had turned violent at Chauri Chaura.

Answer: (B)

Q24.

Solution**Concept:**

The Dandi March, also known as the Salt Satyagraha, was a stroke of political genius. Gandhi chose a commodity—salt—that was an absolute necessity for every Indian, regardless of religion, caste, or class, to challenge British moral authority.

Solution:

1. Under the British law, the state had an absolute monopoly on the manufacture and sale of salt. 2. Even though salt was freely available on the shores of India, people were forced to buy it at a high price due to the "Salt Tax." 3. Gandhi argued that taxing a basic necessity of life was the most inhuman of all colonial laws. 4. On March 12, 1930, he began his march from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi. 5. On April 6, he picked up a handful of salt, symbolically breaking the law and signaling the start of the Civil Disobedience Movement across the country.

Final Answer: The march was a protest against the state monopoly on the manufacture and sale of salt.

Answer: (B)



Q25.

Solution**Concept:**

The debate over the distribution of power between the Union and the States was one of the most heated topics in the Constituent Assembly. While some members argued for provincial autonomy, the horrors of Partition convinced many leaders of the need for a unified power.

Solution:

1. Jawaharlal Nehru, while moving the Objectives Resolution and during later debates, emphasized that a weak centre would be incapable of maintaining peace or coordinating vital economic tasks. 2. He argued that only a "Strong Centre" could intervene in cases of communal violence and plan for the welfare of the entire nation. 3. He was supported by leaders like B.R. Ambedkar and Vallabhbhai Patel, who felt that a centralized structure was necessary to prevent the country from breaking apart. 4. Consequently, the Indian Constitution gave the Union government more powers (Union List) and the "Residuary Powers" compared to the State governments. 5. This ensured that the "Body Politic" of India remained cohesive in its early years of independence.

Final Answer: Jawaharlal Nehru made a powerful plea for a Strong Centre.

Answer: (C)

Q26.

Solution**Concept:**

Ashoka, the third Mauryan emperor, underwent a profound transformation after the Kalinga War (c. 261 BCE). He recorded his feelings of regret and his change of heart in his inscriptions, which are the earliest self-testimonies of an Indian ruler.

Solution:

1. In Major Rock Edict XIII, Ashoka describes the Kalinga War in detail, noting that 150,000 people were deported, 100,000 were killed, and many more died. 2. The edict expresses his "deep remorse" for the slaughter and suffering caused by the war of conquest. 3. It marks his transition from "Bherighosha" (the sound of the war drum) to "Dhammaghosha" (the sound of the Dhamma or righteousness). 4. He declares that he will no longer seek conquest through force but will instead pursue "Dhammavijaya" (conquest through Dhamma). 5. This inscription is critical evidence of Ashoka's unique pacifist philosophy in the ancient world.

Final Answer: Major Rock Edict XIII provides evidence of his remorse and the shift to Dhammaghosha.

Answer: (A)



Q27.

Solution**Concept:**

The mid-first millennium BCE was a period of intense intellectual turmoil in India. This era saw the rise of 'Shramana' traditions (like Buddhism and Jainism) that challenged the existing Vedic or Brahmanical order.

Solution:

1. Unlike the Brahmanical tradition, which emphasized the authority of the Vedas and the efficacy of sacrifices, the Shramana traditions were "non-Vedic." 2. A core tenet of these traditions was the emphasis on "individual agency." 3. They believed that existence was characterized by suffering and rebirth (Samsara), but that one's own actions (Karma) and efforts could lead to liberation (Nirvana or Moksha). 4. This challenged the idea that social status or spiritual salvation was determined by birth or the performance of rituals by priests. 5. They focused on ethical living and mental discipline as the path to truth.

Final Answer: The Shramana tradition emphasized that an individual's agency could shape their destiny.

Answer: (B)

Q28.

Solution**Concept:**

The Mahabharata is a crucial source for understanding the social categories and hierarchies of ancient India. The text reflects the Varna system but also mentions groups that existed outside or on the fringes of this four-fold classification.

Solution:

1. The term "Nishada" appears in the epic to describe people who lived in the forests and did not follow the agricultural or pastoral lifestyle of the mainstream society. 2. They were primarily hunting-gathering communities. 3. A famous example in the Mahabharata is Eklavya, a Nishada boy who practiced archery but was excluded from the formal training of Dronacharya because he did not belong to the Kshatriya varna. 4. Nishadas were often viewed with suspicion or seen as "uncivilized" by the authors of the Dharmashastras. 5. This category represents the diverse social landscape of ancient India beyond the Varna framework.

Final Answer: Nishada refers to forest-dwelling hunting communities.

Answer: (A)



Q29.

Solution**Concept:**

The 12th century witnessed a radical socio-religious movement in Karnataka led by Basavanna, a minister in the court of the Kalachuri king. His followers were known as Virashaivas (heroes of Shiva) or Lingayats.

Solution:

1. The Virashaivas challenged the ideas of caste and the "pollution" attributed to certain groups by Brahmanas. 2. They questioned the theory of rebirth and the authority of the Vedas. 3. Their philosophy and teachings were recorded in the form of "Vachanas"—short, rhythmic poetic compositions in Kannada, the language of the people. 4. Vachanas emphasized a direct, personal connection with Shiva (symbolized by the Linga) and advocated for social equality and the dignity of labor. 5. This movement had a profound impact on the social and literary history of South India.

Final Answer: The Vachana compositions are associated with the Virashaiva movement.

Answer: (B)

Q30.

Solution**Concept:**

Francois Bernier was a French doctor and philosopher who lived in the Mughal Empire for twelve years (1656–1668). He wrote 'Travels in the Mughal Empire', which was highly influential in shaping European perceptions of the "Orient."

Solution:

1. Bernier was obsessed with the idea of "private property." He argued that the fundamental defect of the Mughal Empire was that the king owned all the land. 2. He believed that because there was no private ownership, the holders of land (officials) had no interest in improving it, leading to the ruin of agriculture. 3. He described the empire as having two extremes: the king and his nobles living in unimaginable luxury, and the vast majority of people living in "abject poverty." 4. He famously called the Mughal Emperor the "king of beggars and barbarians." 5. His views were later used by Western thinkers to develop the theory of "Oriental Despotism."

Final Answer: Francois Bernier described the Mughal Empire as a land of contrasts and state ownership of land.

Answer: (B)



Q31.

Solution**Concept:**

The Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1565) developed a unique military and administrative system to manage its vast territories. The Amara-nayaka system was a key feature of this structure, drawing inspiration from earlier Islamic administrative models while adapting them to a South Indian context.

Solution:

1. The Amara-nayakas were military commanders who were given territories (called 'Amaram') by the Raya (king) to govern and collect taxes. 2. In return, they were required to maintain a stipulated contingent of horses, elephants, and soldiers for the king's use during wars. 3. This system is closely compared by historians to the **Iqtadari system** of the Delhi Sultanate. 4. In the Iqta system, the Sultan assigned land (Iqta) to officers (Iqtadars) in lieu of salary, requiring them to maintain troops and maintain law and order. 5. Both systems allowed the central authority to delegate administration and military readiness to powerful local chiefs, although the Vijayanagara kings exercised tighter control through frequent transfers.

Final Answer: The Amara-nayaka system was similar to the Iqtadari system.

Answer: (B)

Q32.

Solution**Concept:**

In the Mughal rural society, the Zamindars were a powerful class of landed intermediaries. While they did not "own" all the land in the modern sense, they held certain proprietary rights and played a vital role in revenue collection and social order.

Solution:

1. Zamindars held extensive personal lands known as **Milkiyat** (meaning property). 2. Milkiyat lands were cultivated for the private use of the Zamindars, often with the help of hired labor or unfree labor. 3. The Zamindars could sell, mortgage, or bequeath these lands at their will, which gave them a sense of private ownership. 4. Apart from Milkiyat, Zamindars also performed the service of collecting revenue from other peasants' lands on behalf of the state, for which they received a share called 'Nankar'. 5. The existence of Milkiyat lands highlights the socio-economic dominance of the Zamindari class in the Mughal countryside.

Final Answer: Milkiyat lands were lands held by the Zamindars for their personal use and cultivation.

Answer: (A)



Q33.

Solution**Concept:**

Visual representations played a major role in shaping public opinion in Britain during and after the 1857 Revolt. British artists often portrayed the events in a way that emphasized British "bravery," "sacrifice," and "civilizing mission" while depicting the Indian rebels as villains.

Solution:

1. **'Relief of Lucknow'** is a massive oil painting created in 1859. 2. It was painted by **Thomas Jones Barker**. 3. The painting depicts the moment when the British forces led by Colin Campbell entered the Residency in Lucknow to rescue the besieged British garrison. 4. It celebrates the "heroes" of the British side—Campbell, Outram, and Havelock—who are shown in the center of the canvas against a backdrop of victory. 5. Such paintings were highly popular in England and helped justify the brutal suppression of the revolt as a necessary act of "restoring order."

Final Answer: The 'Relief of Lucknow' was painted by Thomas Jones Barker.

Answer: (B)

Q34.

Solution**Concept:**

The transition from the demand for 'Swaraj' to active 'Civil Disobedience' required a powerful symbolic act. While the Lahore Session of 1929 set the goal of 'Purna Swaraj' (Complete Independence), the actual movement needed a trigger that would resonate with the common man.

Solution:

1. After the British government ignored Gandhi's 'Eleven Demands', he decided to launch the movement. 2. He chose the Salt Law as his target because salt was a basic necessity for everyone. 3. On April 6, 1930, Gandhi reached the coastal village of Dandi after a 24-day march. 4. By picking up a handful of natural salt and boiling seawater to produce salt, he technically violated the British law that prohibited Indians from manufacturing salt. 5. This specific act of **breaking the salt law at Dandi** served as the official inauguration of the Civil Disobedience Movement across India.

Final Answer: The movement began with the breaking of the salt law at Dandi.

Answer: (A)



Q35.

Solution**Concept:**

The issue of 'Separate Electorates' (where only members of a specific community vote for their own representatives) was one of the most divisive legacies of British colonial rule. During the Constituent Assembly debates (1946–1949), this topic provoked intense emotional and political responses.

Solution:

1. The British had introduced separate electorates for Muslims through the Morley-Minto Reforms (1909), which many nationalists believed led to the eventual partition of the country. 2. In the Constituent Assembly, some Muslim members like B. Pocker Bahadur argued for their retention to protect minority interests. 3. However, leaders like **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** and **Govind Ballabh Pant** strongly opposed them. 4. Govind Ballabh Pant famously argued that separate electorates were a "poison" that had entered the body politic, creating permanent divisions and preventing the development of a unified Indian nationhood. 5. He believed that for a democracy to function, citizens should vote as individuals based on political programs, not as communal blocks.

Final Answer: Govind Ballabh Pant argued that separate electorates were a poison.

Answer: (C)

Q36.

Solution**Concept:**

The Harappan civilization left behind thousands of seals, mostly made of steatite. These seals are a primary source for reconstructing the religious beliefs of a people whose script remains undeciphered. One of the most famous finds is the "Pashupati" seal.

Solution:

1. The seal depicts a figure seated cross-legged in a yogic posture, wearing a horned headdress and surrounded by animals (an elephant, a tiger, a rhinoceros, and a buffalo). 2. Early archaeologists, notably John Marshall, identified this figure as a "Proto-Shiva"—an early form of one of the major deities of later Hinduism. 3. This interpretation is based on the figure's "Pashupati" (Lord of Animals) aspect and the yogic posture, which are traditional attributes of Shiva. 4. The presence of such symbols suggests that there was a degree of continuity and cultural exchange between the Indus Valley Civilization and the later Vedic/Puranic traditions. 5. While some modern scholars suggest the figure might represent a shaman or a different deity, the "Proto-Shiva" thesis remains a central point of discussion regarding the roots of Indian religion.

Final Answer: The seal suggests a continuity between Harappan religious practices and later Hinduism.

Answer: (B)



Q37.

Solution**Concept:**

A "Prashasti" is a special type of inscription, composed in praise of a king. During the Gupta period, these were used as powerful tools of political propaganda to legitimize the ruler's authority and record his conquests.

Solution:

1. The 'Prayag Prashasti' (also known as the Allahabad Pillar Inscription) is one of the most important historical documents of ancient India. 2. It was composed in chaste Sanskrit, utilizing the "Champu" style (a mix of poetry and prose). 3. The author was Harisena, who was the court poet (Kaviraja) and a high-ranking official (Mahadandanayaka) under Emperor Samudragupta. 4. The inscription lists the various kings and regions Samudragupta defeated, categorizing them into different types of conquests (e.g., direct annexation in Aryavarta versus liberation and reinstatement in Dakshinapatha). 5. It portrays Samudragupta as a god-like figure, equal to deities like Kubera and Varuna in his wealth and power.

Final Answer: The Prayag Prashasti was composed by Harisena.

Answer: (B)

Q38.

Solution**Concept:**

Buddhist literature is divided into various categories. As Buddhism evolved, particularly after the Fourth Buddhist Council, the Mahayana ("Great Vehicle") school emerged, producing a new set of Sanskrit texts that emphasized the role of Bodhisattvas and the divinity of the Buddha.

Solution:

1. The 'Saddhamma Pundarika Sutra', commonly known as the 'Lotus Sutra', is one of the most influential and venerated Mahayana Buddhist texts. 2. It teaches that all people can eventually achieve Buddhahood and introduces the concept of "Skillful Means" (Upaya). 3. Unlike the earlier Pali Canon (Tripitaka) used by the Theravada school, the Lotus Sutra is written in Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit. 4. It is central to many East Asian Buddhist traditions, such as Tiantai and Nichiren Buddhism. 5. The text emphasizes the eternal nature of the Buddha's life and the infinite compassion he has for all sentient beings.

Final Answer: The text is associated with Mahayana Buddhism.

Answer: (B)



Q39.

Solution**Concept:**

The Mughal administrative structure was a highly centralized and bureaucratic system. The Emperor sat at the apex, supported by several ministers who headed specific departments. These roles were crucial for managing the vast resources and military of the empire.

Solution:

1. The 'Mir Bakshi' was one of the four most powerful ministers in the Mughal central government. 2. His primary responsibility was the Military Department. He was the paymaster general of the empire, responsible for the recruitment and payment of the 'Mansabdars'. 3. He also maintained the records of the ranks (Zat and Sawar) held by various officers and supervised the branding of horses (Dagh) and the muster of troops. 4. In addition to military duties, the Mir Bakshi headed the intelligence network, receiving reports from news-writers (Waqia-navis) stationed across the empire. 5. While he managed the military administration, the actual command of the army in the field remained with the Emperor or a designated commander.

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

Answer: (B)

Q40.

Solution**Concept:**

The Constituent Assembly of India was formed in 1946 to draft the constitution of independent India. It operated through a series of committees and plenary sessions, requiring a strong presiding officer to manage the complex and often heated debates.

Solution:

1. When the Constituent Assembly first met on December 9, 1946, Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha was elected as the temporary President (following the French practice of electing the oldest member). 2. On December 11, 1946, **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** was elected as the permanent President of the Assembly. 3. He presided over the sessions for nearly three years, ensuring that every member had a voice and that the proceedings followed democratic norms. 4. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, while B.N. Rau was the Constitutional Advisor. 5. After the Constitution was adopted on January 26, 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad became the first President of the Republic of India.

Final Answer: The President of the Constituent Assembly was Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Answer: (B)



Q41.

Solution

Concept: The "Saptamatrika" (Seven Mothers) represents a significant development in the iconographic history of India. This concept is central to the goddess-oriented traditions within Hinduism.

Solution: 1. Shaktism is the tradition that focuses on "Shakti" or the feminine creative power as the supreme deity. 2. The Saptamatrikas are considered the female counterparts (shaktis) of major male deities (e.g., Brahmani from Brahma, Vaishnavi from Vishnu, Maheshvari from Shiva). 3. They are usually depicted together in a row, often flanked by Veerabhadra and Ganesha. 4. This concept gained immense popularity during the Kushan and Gupta periods and became a staple in temple architecture across India. 5. It reflects the integration of local mother-goddess cults into the formal Puranic structure.

Final Answer: The concept primarily evolved in Shaktism.

Answer: (B)

Q42.

Solution

Concept: The Mughal military was based on the Mansabdari system. To maintain a high standard of efficiency and prevent military commanders from cheating the state, specific regulatory measures were introduced.

Solution: 1. Although first introduced in India by Alauddin Khalji, it was **Akbar** who perfected these systems within the Mughal framework. 2. 'Dagh' referred to the branding of horses with a royal mark to prevent Mansabdars from bringing poor-quality horses to the muster. 3. 'Chehra' (or Huliya) was the descriptive roll or physical description of each soldier to prevent the practice of "proxy" soldiers being presented during inspections. 4. These measures ensured that the central government only paid for the actual troops and equipment that the officers maintained. 5. This reform was crucial in establishing the Mughal army as a disciplined and formidable force.

Final Answer: Akbar introduced the Dagh and Chehra systems.

Answer: (C)



Q43.

Solution

Concept: In colonial Bengal, the rural social structure was not just limited to Zamindars and peasants. A new class of powerful intermediaries, the Jotedars, emerged by the late 18th century.

Solution: 1. While many Zamindars were "absentee landlords" living in cities like Calcutta, Jotedars were based directly in the villages. 2. Jotedars were "rich peasants" who often owned vast tracts of land (thousands of acres). 3. Because they lived locally, they exercised immense influence over the village community and the poorer "ryots" (peasants). 4. They actively resisted the authority of the Zamindars, often preventing the Zamindar's agents from collecting revenue or buying up Zamindari lands during auctions. 5. Their power was rooted in landownership, grain trade, and moneylending at the local level.

Final Answer: Jotedars lived in the villages and exercised direct control over the local peasantry.

Answer: (B)

Q44.

Solution

Concept: Chronology is a vital part of history. Understanding the sequence of Gandhian movements is essential to see how the Indian National Movement evolved from localized struggles to nationwide mass protests.

Solution: 1. ****Champanan Satyagraha (1917):**** Gandhi's first experiment with Satyagraha in India, focusing on indigo planters in Bihar. 2. ****Khilafat Movement (1919-1920):**** Launched in support of the Ottoman Caliphate and merged with the Non-Cooperation Movement. 3. ****Civil Disobedience Movement (1930):**** Launched with the Dandi March to protest the Salt Tax. 4. ****Quit India Movement (1942):**** The final mass uprising during World War II with the slogan "Do or Die." 5. Following this timeline, the sequence is IV, II, III, I.

Final Answer: The correct sequence is IV, II, III, I.

Answer: (A)



Q45.

Solution

Concept: The Santhal Rebellion (Hul) was one of the most violent anti-colonial tribal uprisings. It forced the British to rethink their administrative policies regarding tribal lands and people.

Solution: 1. After the rebellion was suppressed in 1856, the British realized that the Santhals needed a distinct administrative space to prevent further unrest. 2. They passed the Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act and created a new administrative unit called the "Santhal Pargana," comprising about 5,500 square miles. 3. The main objective was to pacify the Santhals by acknowledging their specific needs and protecting them from the unchecked exploitation of "Dikus" (outsiders). 4. Special laws were enacted to ensure that the tribal people could maintain their social traditions and that their land could not be easily alienated. 5. It was a strategic move to ensure stability in a sensitive border region.

Final Answer: The purpose was to carve out a separate district for Santhal laws and traditions.

Answer: (B)

Q46.

Solution**Concept:**

Ancient Indian society was multifaceted, and terms used in contemporary literature provide insight into the occupational groups of the time. The term 'Gopala' is rooted in the Sanskrit words 'Go' (cow) and 'Pala' (protector/keeper).

Solution:

1. In early historic India, particularly in the Vedic and Post-Vedic periods, wealth was often measured in cattle. 2. 'Gopals' were individuals or communities primarily engaged in pastoralism, specifically the rearing and protection of cows. 3. They played a vital role in the rural economy by providing dairy products and bullocks for agriculture. 4. In various texts, including the Mahabharata and Buddhist Jatakas, Gopals are depicted as living on the outskirts of settled agricultural villages. 5. This term highlights the importance of the pastoral economy alongside the developing agrarian states.

Final Answer: Gopals were pastoralists or cowherds mentioned in early literature.

Answer: (B)



Q47.

Solution**Concept:**

The Bhakti movement in South India was characterized by the poetic and emotional devotion of two main groups of saints. While the Alvars were 12 in number and devoted to Vishnu, the Nayanars were a larger group with a different focus.

Solution:

1. The Nayanars were a group of 63 saints who lived in South India (modern-day Tamil Nadu) between the 6th and 9th centuries. 2. Their lives and devotion were dedicated entirely to **Lord Shiva**. 3. The group was highly diverse, including kings, Brahmanas, and even people from "untouchable" castes, as well as women like Karaikkal Ammaiyar. 4. Their hymns were eventually compiled into a massive collection called the 'Tevaram' (or Tirumurai). 5. Together with the Alvars, they helped foster a vibrant, inclusive religious culture that relied on the vernacular Tamil language rather than Sanskrit.

Final Answer: The Nayanars were devoted to Lord Shiva.

Answer: (B)

Q48.

Solution**Concept:**

The Deccan Sultanates were known for their unique blend of Perso-Arabic and indigenous Indian cultures. Some of their rulers were great patrons of art and literature, and their works reflect a deep sense of religious syncretism.

Solution:

1. **Ibrahim Adil Shah II**, the ruler of Bijapur, was a remarkably tolerant and artistic king. 2. He was famously known as 'Jagadguru Badshah' (World Teacher) and 'Abla Bali' (Friend of the Poor). 3. He composed the **'Kitab-i-Nauras'** (Book of Nine Rasas), which is a collection of 59 songs and 17 couplets. 4. The songs are written in Dakhni Urdu and are dedicated to various Hindu deities like Saraswati and Ganapati, as well as Sufi saints like Sayyid Muhammad Gesu Daraz. 5. This work stands as a testament to the cultural synthesis and the concept of 'Nauras' (new essence) that he promoted in his court.

Final Answer: The Kitab-i-Nauras was composed by Ibrahim Adil Shah II.

Answer: (B)



Q49.

Solution**Concept:**

The Mughal revenue system reached its peak of efficiency under Emperor Akbar. This was due to the implementation of the 'Dahsala' (Ten-Year) system, which balanced the needs of the state with the actual productivity of the land.

Solution:

1. The 'A-in-i-Dahsala' (Regulations of the Ten-Year system) was introduced in 1580. 2. It was the brainchild of Akbar's finance minister, **Raja Todar Mal**, who had previously worked under Sher Shah Suri. 3. Under this system, the state calculated the average produce and the average price of various crops over the preceding ten years. 4. One-third of this average was fixed as the state's share, usually payable in cash. 5. This reform provided the Mughal government with a stable revenue base and relieved the peasants from the burden of annual assessments.

Final Answer: The system is associated with Raja Todar Mal.

Answer: (B)

Q50.

Solution**Concept:**

The Indian National Congress (INC), founded in 1885, was the primary vehicle for the independence struggle. Over time, it became more inclusive, and women began to take on leadership roles as the movement expanded under the influence of global trends and local pressure.

Solution:

1. **Annie Besant**, a British socialist, theosophist, and supporter of Indian self-rule, joined the INC and launched the Home Rule League. 2. In **1917**, at the Calcutta session, she became the first woman ever to be elected as the President of the Indian National Congress. 3. It is important to distinguish her from Sarojini Naidu, who was the first **Indian** woman to become Congress President (in 1925 at the Kanpur session). 4. Annie Besant's presidency marked a significant moment in the entry of women into the highest tiers of Indian political leadership. 5. Her leadership helped bridge the gap between moderate and extremist factions within the party during that period.

Final Answer: The first woman President of the INC was Annie Besant.

Answer: (B)



Answer Key

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

