

CUET-UG History Sample Paper - 8

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. Who among the following used the "Analytic method" to study the social history of the Mahabharata?

- (A) V.S. Sukthankar
- (B) James Prinsep
- (C) B.B. Lal
- (D) R.E.M. Wheeler

Q2. Arrange the following sites of the Harappan Civilization from West to East:
i. Lothal, ii. Dholavira, iii. Mohenjodaro, iv. Kalibangan

- (A) iii, iv, ii, i
- (B) iii, ii, iv, i
- (C) i, ii, iii, iv
- (D) ii, iii, i, iv

Q3. Which of the following statements about the 'Mahanavami Dibba' is INCORRECT?

- (A) It was a massive platform located in the Royal Center.
- (B) Rituals coincided with the ten-day Hindu festival of Dusshera.



- (C) It was used as a residential palace for the Nayakas.
 (D) State horses and elephants were inspected here by the King.

Q4. Match List I (Archaeologists) with List II (Discovery/Contribution):

List I (Archaeologists)	List II (Discovery/Contribution)
a. John Marshall	1. Lothal
b. R.E.M. Wheeler	2. Stratigraphy
c. S.R. Rao	3. Mohenjodaro announcement (1924)
d. Alexander Cunningham	4. First DG of ASI

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

Q5. Which Mughal land classification referred to land that was left uncultivated for 3 or 4 years to help it regain its fertility?

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

Q6. François Bernier's work Travels in the Mogul Empire was dedicated to:

- (A) Louis XIV
 (B) Colbert
 (C) Aurangzeb
 (D) Shah Jahan



Q7. Identify the Sufi saint known as 'Sultan-ul-Mashaykh':

- (A) Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi
- (B) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya
- (C) Baba Farid
- (D) Bakhtiyar Kaki

Q8. The 'Objective Resolution' was moved in the Constituent Assembly on:

- (A) 9 December 1946
- (B) 13 December 1946
- (C) 15 August 1947
- (D) 26 January 1950

Q9. Which of the following travelers described the 'Paan' and the 'Coconut' as strange and unique fruits?

- (A) Al-Biruni
- (B) François Bernier
- (C) Ibn Battuta
- (D) Duarte Barbosa

Q10. In the context of the 1857 Revolt, who led the resistance in Arrah, Bihar?

- (A) Nana Sahib
- (B) Kunwar Singh
- (C) Shah Mal
- (D) Birjis Qadr

Q11. Identify the correct chronological order of the following events:

- i. Santhal Rebellion



- ii. Permanent Settlement in Bengal
- iii. American Civil War (Impact on Cotton)
- iv. Establishment of the Deccan Riots Commission

- (A) ii, i, iii, iv
- (B) i, ii, iv, iii
- (C) ii, iii, i, iv
- (D) iv, ii, i, iii

Q12. The "Lotus Mahal" in the Vijayanagara Empire was likely used as:

- (A) A temple for state deities.
- (B) A council chamber where the king met advisers.
- (C) A treasury for storing war booty.
- (D) A military stable for elephants.

Q13. Which of the following terms in the 'Ain-i-Akbari' refers to a primary category of land that was never allowed to lie fallow?

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

Q14. Assertion (A): The Sanchi Stupa survived while the Amaravati Stupa did not.
Reason (R): The Begums of Bhopal provided funds for the preservation of Sanchi, whereas Amaravati was plundered by local rajas and British officials.

- (A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true, but R is false.



(D) A is false, but R is true.

Q15. Who was the first woman to be ordained as a 'Bhikkhuni' in the Buddhist Sangha?

(A) Mahapajapati Gotami

(B) Yasodhara

(C) Sanghamitta

(D) Dhammananda

Q16. The term 'Amara' in the 'Amara-Nayaka' system of Vijayanagara is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Samara', meaning:

(A) Peace

(B) Agriculture

(C) Battle

(D) Trade

Q17. Which of the following pairs is INCORRECTLY matched?

(A) Ibn Battuta — Morocco

(B) Al-Biruni — Uzbekistan

(C) François Bernier — France

(D) Duarte Barbosa — Italy

Q18. The 'Damin-i-Koh' was a land area specifically demarcated for which community?

(A) Paharias

(B) Santhals

(C) Jotedars



(D) Zamindars

Q19. In the 'Critical Edition' of the Mahabharata, which region's manuscripts showed the most significant variations compared to the Sanskrit core?

(A) Northern India

(B) Central India

(C) Southern India (Tamil/Malayalam)

(D) Western India

Q20. Which British official is famously associated with the 'Relief of Lucknow' painting?

(A) Thomas Jones Barker

(B) Joseph Noel Paton

(C) Felice Beato

(D) Henry Lawrence

Q21. Identify the 'Harappan' site that shows evidence of a ploughed field:

(A) Banawali

(B) Kalibangan

(C) Rakhigarhi

(D) Shortughai

Q22. The 'Ziyarat' in Sufism refers to:

(A) The practice of musical recitation.

(B) Pilgrimage to the tombs of Sufi saints.

(C) The initiation of a new disciple.

(D) The tax levied on non-Muslims.



- Q23.** Who among the following was the political mentor of Mahatma Gandhi?
- (A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
 - (B) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
 - (C) Dadabhai Naoroji
 - (D) Rabindranath Tagore
- Q24.** The 'Fifth Report' submitted to the British Parliament in 1813 was primarily about:
- (A) The 1857 Revolt.
 - (B) The administration of the East India Company in India.
 - (C) The condition of the textile industry.
 - (D) The spread of Christianity in India.
- Q25.** Ashoka's inscriptions were first deciphered by:
- (A) Alexander Cunningham
 - (B) James Prinsep
 - (C) Mortimer Wheeler
 - (D) Max Muller
- Q26.** Which of the following Buddhist texts contains the rules and regulations for those who joined the Sangha?
- (A) Sutta Pitaka
 - (B) Vinaya Pitaka
 - (C) Abhidhamma Pitaka
 - (D) Dipavamsa
- Q27.** The 'Gopuram' in Vijayanagara architecture refers to:



- (A) The main sanctum.
- (B) The royal audience hall.
- (C) The monumental gateway.
- (D) The water tank.

Q28. During the Mughal period, the person responsible for maintaining the accounts of the village was the:

- (A) Muqaddam
- (B) Patwari
- (C) Kotwal
- (D) Diwan

Q29. Which movement began with the 'Dandi March' in 1930?

- (A) Non-Cooperation Movement
- (B) Civil Disobedience Movement
- (C) Khilafat Movement
- (D) Quit India Movement

Q30. Match the following (Mahajanapadas and Capitals):

List I (Mahajanapadas)	List II (Capitals)
a. Magadha	1. Ujjayini
b. Gandhara	2. Rajgir
c. Avanti	3. Taxila
d. Kuru	4. Indraprastha

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



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

Q31. The 'Sankirtana' form of worship was popularized by:

- (A) Kabir
- (B) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
- (C) Mirabai
- (D) Guru Nanak

Q32. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly?

- (A) Rajendra Prasad
- (B) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (C) B.R. Ambedkar
- (D) Sardar Patel

Q33. The Harappan script is called 'enigmatic' because:

- (A) It was written from left to right.
- (B) It has not been deciphered yet.
- (C) It contains only pictures.
- (D) It was written on palm leaves.

Q34. Which traveler criticized the 'East' for having no private property in land?

- (A) Ibn Battuta
- (B) François Bernier
- (C) Abdur Razzaq
- (D) Nicolo Conti



Q35. The 'Hampi' ruins were brought to light by Colin Mackenzie in the year:

- (A) 1750
- (B) 1800
- (C) 1856
- (D) 1902

Q36. Under the Permanent Settlement, if the Zamindar failed to pay the revenue, his estate was:

- (A) Gifted to the Ryots.
- (B) Auctioned by the Company.
- (C) Taken over by the Mughals.
- (D) Forgiven for one year.

Q37. The 'Virashaiva' movement in Karnataka was led by:

- (A) Basavanna
- (B) Ramanuja
- (C) Madhvacharya
- (D) Shankara

Q38. Which city was known as the 'City of Victory'?

- (A) Delhi
- (B) Agra
- (C) Vijayanagara
- (D) Pataliputra

Q39. In Jainism, 'Jina' means:



- (A) The Saint
- (B) The Conqueror
- (C) The Liberated
- (D) The Teacher

Q40. The 'Ryotwari System' was primarily introduced in:

- (A) Bengal Presidency
- (B) Bombay and Madras Presidencies
- (C) Awadh
- (D) Punjab

Q41. Who was the Governor-General during the 1857 Revolt?

- (A) Lord Dalhousie
- (B) Lord Canning
- (C) Lord Wellesley
- (D) Lord Cornwallis

Q42. The Harappan site of 'Dholavira' is located in the state of:

- (A) Rajasthan
- (B) Punjab
- (C) Gujarat
- (D) Haryana

Q43. Which document is considered the 'Magna Carta' of the Indian Constitution?

- (A) Preamble
- (B) Fundamental Rights
- (C) Directive Principles



(D) Fundamental Duties

Q44. The 'Kitab-ul-Hind' was written in which language?

(A) Persian

(B) Arabic

(C) Turki

(D) Urdu

Q45. Who was known as 'Frontier Gandhi'?

(A) Maulana Azad

(B) Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan

(C) Sheikh Abdullah

(D) Mohammad Ali Jinnah

Q46. The 'Hazara Rama Temple' in Vijayanagara was meant for the use of:

(A) The common people.

(B) The King and his family.

(C) The Buddhist monks.

(D) Foreign traders.

Q47. The 'Jotedars' were:

(A) Poor peasants.

(B) Rich peasants in Bengal.

(C) Company officials.

(D) Mughal ministers.

Q48. The 'Tirthankaras' are associated with:



- (A) Buddhism
- (B) Jainism
- (C) Hinduism
- (D) Sikhism

Q49. Gandhiji's first major public appearance in India was at:

- (A) Champaran
- (B) Banaras Hindu University (BHU)
- (C) Ahmedabad Mill Strike
- (D) Kheda Satyagraha

Q50. Who was the first President of the Constituent Assembly?

- (A) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (B) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- (C) Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha (Interim)
- (D) Jawaharlal Nehru



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

The study of the Mahabharata's social history required a rigorous philological approach to handle thousands of manuscripts written in various scripts across the Indian subcontinent. The "Analytic Method" in this context refers to the critical comparison of these manuscripts to identify a common core text while documenting regional variations.

Solution:

1. In 1919, under the leadership of the noted Indian Sanskritist V.S. Sukthankar, a team of scholars began the ambitious project of preparing a "Critical Edition" of the Mahabharata.
2. The team collected Sanskrit manuscripts of the epic written in a variety of scripts (such as Kashmiri, Bengali, Maithili, Grantha, etc.) from different parts of the country.
3. By comparing every verse, the scholars practiced an analytic approach to find the elements common to all versions.
4. Out of the 13,000 pages produced, nearly half documented regional variations, showing that the text was not static but evolved through a dialogue between "Great" and "Little" traditions.
5. This colossal task took 47 years to complete and remains a landmark in Indian historiography.

Final Answer: The scholar associated with this method and the Critical Edition is V.S. Sukthankar.

Answer: (A)



Q2.

Solution**Concept:**

Geographical mapping of the Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilization requires identifying the relative positions of major urban centers located across modern-day Pakistan and Western India. The "West to East" alignment involves moving from the core Indus region toward the Ghaggar-Hakra belt and finally into the Gujarat peninsula.

Solution:

1. Mohenjodaro (iii): Located in the Larkana district of Sindh, Pakistan, on the right bank of the Indus River. This is the westernmost site among the given choices.
2. Dholavira (ii): Located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, India. It lies to the east of the Sindh region but west of the inland sites in Rajasthan and mainland Gujarat.
3. Kalibangan (iv): Located in the Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan, India. Geographically, it is situated to the east of Dholavira.
4. Lothal (i): Located in the Ahmedabad district of Gujarat at the head of the Gulf of Khambhat. Among the options provided, it is the easternmost site.
5. Therefore, the sequence from West to East is Mohenjodaro → Dholavira → Kalibangan → Lothal.

Final Answer: the correct sequence is iii, ii, iv, i.

Answer: (B)



Q3.

Solution**Concept:**

The Mahanavami Dibba was one of the most prominent structures in the Royal Center of Vijayanagara. It was a massive ritual platform that played a central role in state ceremonies during the "Mahanavami" (Dussehra) festival, symbolizing the power and prestige of the Vijayanagara kings.

Solution:

1. **Structure and Location:** The Mahanavami Dibba was indeed a massive platform located in the Royal Center, rising to a height of about 40 feet from a base area of 11,000 square feet. This confirms statement A.
2. **Ritual Significance:** The ceremonies performed here coincided with the ten-day Hindu festival known variously as Durga Puja, Navaratri, or Mahanavami in South India. This confirms statement B.
3. **State Functions:** During these rituals, the king displayed his prestige. Activities included worship of the state horse, wrestling matches, and the inspection of horses and elephants belonging to the subordinate Nayakas. This confirms statement D.
4. **Residential Use:** There is no evidence to suggest that the Dibba was a residential palace for Nayakas. Its structure (a tiered platform) was purely ceremonial and symbolic rather than domestic. Therefore, statement C is incorrect.

Final Answer: The incorrect statement is that it was used as a residential palace for the Nayakas.

Answer: (C)



Q4.

Solution**Concept:**

The history of Indian archaeology is marked by the contributions of Directors General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and other renowned archaeologists who introduced scientific methods like stratigraphy and explored specific Harappan sites.

Solution:

1. John Marshall (a): As the Director General of the ASI, he famously announced the discovery of a new civilization in the Indus Valley (Mohenjodaro) to the world in 1924. Thus, a-3.
2. R.E.M. Wheeler (b): He was the DG of ASI from 1944. He recognized that it was necessary to follow the stratigraphy of the mound rather than dig mechanically along uniform horizontal lines. Thus, b-2.
3. S.R. Rao (c): He was a prominent Indian archaeologist who led the excavations at the Harappan port city of Lothal in Gujarat. Thus, c-1.
4. Alexander Cunningham (d): He was the first Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India and is often called the "Father of Indian Archaeology." Thus, d-4.
5. Matching these gives: a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4.

Final Answer: The correct match is A.

Answer: (A)

Q5.

Solution**Concept:**

The 'Ain-i-Akbari', written by Abu'l Fazl during Akbar's reign, provides a detailed classification of land based on the frequency of cultivation and soil fertility. This classification was used to determine the state's share of the revenue.

Solution:

1. Polaj: This was land that was cultivated for every harvest and was never allowed to lie fallow.
2. Parauti: This was land left out of cultivation for a time so that it might recover its strength (fallow land).
3. Chachar: This was land that had lain fallow for three or four years. When it was brought back into cultivation, the state revenue was collected at a lower rate.
4. Banjar: This was land that had remained uncultivated for five years or more.
5. The question asks for the classification for land left uncultivated for 3 or 4 years, which corresponds exactly to Chachar.

Final Answer: The term for land left uncultivated for 3 or 4 years is Chachar.

Answer: (C)



Q6.

Solution**Concept:**

François Bernier was a French physician and traveler who spent twelve years in the Mughal court during the reign of Aurangzeb. He wrote extensively about the socio-political and economic conditions of India, comparing them with Europe in his famous work.

Solution:

1. François Bernier arrived in India in 1656 and stayed until 1668. He was closely associated with the Mughal court, serving as a physician to Prince Dara Shikoh and later to the Mughal Emperor.
2. His book, titled "Travels in the Mogul Empire," provides a detailed account of his observations. Unlike many other travelers, Bernier constantly compared what he saw in India with the situation in Europe, particularly France.
3. He sought to influence European policymakers by highlighting the "evils" of the Mughal system, such as the lack of private property in land.
4. To gain political patronage and ensure his work reached the highest levels of authority, he dedicated his book to Louis XIV, the King of France.
5. This dedication was a common practice among scholars of that era to seek royal favor and validation for their research.

Final Answer: Bernier dedicated his work to Louis XIV.

Answer: (A)

Q7.

Solution**Concept:**

The Chishti Silsila was one of the most influential Sufi orders in India. The masters of this order were given various honorific titles that reflected their spiritual stature and the immense respect they commanded among their followers.

Solution:

1. The Chishti silsila was established in India by Khwaja Muinuddin Sijzi (Gharib Nawaz). After him, a chain of great saints followed, including Bakhtiyar Kaki, Baba Farid, and Nizamuddin Auliya.
2. Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya (1238–1325) is perhaps the most famous of the Chishti saints. His hospice (khanqah) in Ghiyaspur, Delhi, became a major center for spiritual and social gathering.
3. He was bestowed with the title "Sultan-ul-Mashaykh," which translates to "the Sultan (King) of the Sheikhs."
4. This title signified his supreme position among the Sufi saints of his time and his widespread influence over both the common masses and the political elite.
5. Other saints had different titles; for instance, Shaikh Muinuddin was known as 'Gharib Nawaz' (Comforter of the Poor), and Nasiruddin Mahmud was known as 'Chirag-i-Dehli' (Lamp of Delhi).

Final Answer: The title Sultan-ul-Mashaykh refers to Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya.

Answer: (B)



Q8.

Solution**Concept:**

The 'Objectives Resolution' was a historic document that outlined the fundamental principles and philosophy of the Indian Constitution. It defined the ideals of an independent, sovereign, and democratic India.

Solution:

1. The Constituent Assembly met for the first time on 9 December 1946. This initial session was primarily concerned with procedural matters and electing an interim president.
2. A few days later, on 13 December 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the 'Objectives Resolution.'
3. The resolution proclaimed India as an "Independent Sovereign Republic" and guaranteed its citizens justice, equality, and freedom.
4. It provided the framework within which the drafting of the Constitution was to take place. It was eventually adopted by the Assembly on 22 January 1947.
5. This resolution later became the basis for the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Final Answer: The Objectives Resolution was moved on 13 December 1946.

Answer: (B)

Q9.

Solution**Concept:**

Foreign travelers often recorded aspects of Indian life that seemed ordinary to locals but exotic to outsiders. Such descriptions provide valuable insights into the cultural and social landscape of medieval India.

Solution:

1. Ibn Battuta, a Moroccan traveler who visited India in the 14th century during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, was fascinated by things he had never seen before in North Africa or West Asia.
2. He dedicated several pages of his travelogue, "Rihla," to describing the 'Paan' (betel leaf) and the 'Coconut.'
3. He described the coconut as looking like a human head because it has something resembling eyes and a mouth, and its interior resembles the brain.
4. He explained that the Paan was consumed for its digestive properties and was a significant part of Indian social etiquette, though he found the practice of chewing a leaf quite unusual.
5. These descriptions highlighted his role as a curious observer of local customs and natural products.

Final Answer: Ibn Battuta described the Paan and Coconut as strange and unique.

Answer: (C)



Q10.

Solution**Concept:**

The Revolt of 1857 was characterized by various local leaders taking command of the resistance in their respective regions against British rule. Identifying these leaders and their centers is a high-yield topic for History exams.

Solution:

1. When the mutiny spread across Northern India, local traditional leaders and zamindars often led the rebellion.
2. Kunwar Singh was a 80-year-old disgruntled zamindar of Jagdispur near Arrah, Bihar.
3. He took up arms against the British due to the loss of his estates under British revenue policies. He was a brilliant military strategist and led successful campaigns in Bihar and parts of Uttar Pradesh.
4. Other leaders mentioned include: Nana Sahib (Kanpur), Shah Mal (Barout, UP), and Birjis Qadr (Lucknow).
5. Kunwar Singh's heroic resistance in Arrah made him one of the most celebrated figures of the 1857 uprising in Bihar.

Final Answer: The resistance in Arrah was led by Kunwar Singh.

Answer: (B)

Q11.

Solution**Concept:**

Establishing a timeline of the British colonial impact on India requires understanding the sequence of land revenue policies, tribal resistances, and global economic shifts that influenced agrarian conditions in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Solution:

1. Permanent Settlement in Bengal (ii): This was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793. It was the first major land revenue experiment by the British, fixing the land revenue in perpetuity.
2. Santhal Rebellion (i): This massive tribal uprising against the dikus (outsiders) and the British occurred in 1855–1856. It led to the creation of the Santhal Pargana.
3. American Civil War (iii): The war broke out in 1861. It led to a "Cotton Boom" in India as Britain turned to India for raw cotton when supplies from America were cut off.
4. Deccan Riots Commission (iv): Following the riots in the Deccan countryside in 1875, the British government established this commission to investigate the causes of the agrarian unrest. The report was submitted in 1878.
5. Therefore, the correct chronological order is 1793 → 1855 → 1861 → 1875.

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

Answer: (A)



Q12.

Solution**Concept:**

The sacred and royal architecture of Vijayanagara contains several structures whose names were given by later British antiquarians. The "Lotus Mahal" is one such elegant building in the Royal Center, blending Indo-Islamic architectural styles.

Solution:

1. The Lotus Mahal was named by British travelers in the 19th century due to its lotus-like appearance.
2. While the exact function remains a subject of debate among historians, a map drawn by the British surveyor Colin Mackenzie suggests its purpose.
3. According to Mackenzie's notes and the layout of the building, it was most likely a Council Chamber.
4. This was a place where the king met his senior advisers and ministers to discuss state matters in a secure and aesthetically pleasing environment.
5. It was not a religious temple, nor was it used for military or treasury purposes, as evidenced by its open arches and central location in the royal enclave.

Final Answer: The Lotus Mahal was likely used as a council chamber for the king and his advisers.

Answer: (B)

Q13.

Solution**Concept:**

The 'Ain-i-Akbari' classifies land into four categories to ensure a fair and systematic collection of land revenue (Zabt system). The classification depends entirely on the continuity of cultivation.

Solution:

1. Polaj: This is the ideal category of land. It is land that is annually cultivated for each crop in succession and is never allowed to lie fallow. This land paid the highest revenue.
2. Parauti: This land was left out of cultivation for a short duration so that it might recover its strength or fertility.
3. Chachar: This was land that had lain fallow for three or four years.
4. Banjar: This was the lowest category, consisting of land that had remained uncultivated for five years or more.
5. Since the question asks for the land that was "never allowed to lie fallow," it refers to Polaj.

Final Answer: The correct term is Polaj.

Answer: (C)



Q14.

Solution**Concept:**

The survival of ancient monuments often depends on the intervention of local rulers and the presence of early colonial "archaeological greed." The divergent fates of Sanchi and Amaravati highlight the importance of systematic preservation.

Solution:

1. Analysis of Assertion (A): It is historically accurate that the Sanchi Stupa remains largely intact today, whereas the Amaravati Stupa is now just a mound of rubble, with its beautiful sculptures scattered across various museums.
2. Analysis of Reason (R): The rulers of Bhopal, Shahjehan Begum and her successor Sultan Jehan Begum, provided significant funds for the preservation of Sanchi. They funded the museum and the guesthouse where John Marshall wrote his reports.
3. In contrast, Amaravati was discovered earlier, and its slabs were taken away by the Raja of Guntur to build his palace, and later by British officials like Walter Elliot, who sent "the Elliot marbles" to London and Madras.
4. The Reason (R) directly explains why Sanchi survived (local patronage and systematic care) while Amaravati was destroyed (plunder and lack of early protection).

Final Answer: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Answer: (A)

Q15.

Solution**Concept:**

The Buddhist Sangha was initially restricted to men. However, following the intervention of Ananda (Buddha's favorite disciple), the Buddha agreed to allow women to join the monastic order, leading to the formation of the Bhikkhuni Sangha.

Solution:

1. Initially, the Buddha was reluctant to admit women into the Sangha. Ananda persuaded him by arguing that women were equally capable of reaching enlightenment.
2. Mahapajapati Gotami, the Buddha's foster mother (his aunt who raised him), became the first woman to be ordained as a Bhikkhuni.
3. Following her, many other women joined the Sangha and became teachers of the Dhamma.
4. Many of these women reached the status of 'Theris' (respected elder nuns) who had attained liberation.
5. Their experiences and verses were later compiled in the "Therigatha," a unique Buddhist text.

Final Answer: The first woman ordained was Mahapajapati Gotami.

Answer: (A)



Q16.

Solution**Concept:**

The 'Amara-Nayaka' system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire. It was based on the 'Iqta' system of the Delhi Sultanate. The term 'Amara' helps explain the military character of these local administrators who were given territories by the Raya.

Solution:

1. The Amara-Nayakas were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the Raya. They collected taxes and maintained a stipulated contingent of horses and elephants.
2. Scholars have traced the linguistic origin of the term 'Amara' to the Sanskrit word 'Samara'.
3. In Sanskrit, 'Samara' translates to 'Battle' or 'War'. This etymology highlights the primary identity of the Nayakas as military leaders.
4. Some historians also suggest a link to the Persian term 'Amir', which refers to a high-ranking noble or commander.
5. This linguistic connection underscores that the Vijayanagara political structure was not isolated but was influenced by contemporary Indo-Islamic military terminology.

Final Answer: The term 'Amara' is derived from 'Samara', meaning Battle.

Answer: (C)

Q17.

Solution**Concept:**

Medieval and early modern history are rich with accounts from foreign travelers. To understand their perspectives, it is crucial to correctly identify their country of origin, as their writings were often shaped by their cultural backgrounds.

Solution:

1. Ibn Battuta (A): He was a Moroccan traveler born in Tangier. He is famous for his extensive travels across the Islamic world. This pair is correct.
2. Al-Biruni (B): He was born in Khwarizm in modern-day Uzbekistan. He came to India with Mahmud of Ghazni. This pair is correct.
3. François Bernier (C): He was a French physician who lived in the Mughal court for 12 years. This pair is correct.
4. Duarte Barbosa (D): He was a Portuguese official and traveler who wrote about South India and the Vijayanagara Empire. The option states he was from Italy, which is incorrect.
5. Other Italian travelers to Vijayanagara included Nicolo de Conti, but Barbosa was strictly Portuguese.

Final Answer: The incorrectly matched pair is Duarte Barbosa — Italy.

Answer: (D)



Q18.

Solution**Concept:**

The British colonial government in the 19th century struggled to manage the hilly tracts of Rajmahal. The conflict between the shifting cultivators (Paharias) and settled agriculturists led to a specific land policy involving the Santhals.

Solution:

1. The British initially tried to subdue the Paharias, but when they failed, they decided to bring in the Santhals to clear the forests and practice settled agriculture.
2. In 1832, a large area of land was circumscribed and acted as the 'Damin-i-Koh' (Skirt of the Hills).
3. This land was specifically declared to be the land of the Santhals. They were to live within it, practice plough agriculture, and become settled peasants.
4. The Santhals expanded rapidly in this region, which eventually led to tension with the British and the Zamindars, culminating in the Santhal Rebellion of 1855.
5. Damin-i-Koh was not for the Paharias; in fact, the creation of this boundary pushed the Paharias further into the rocky, infertile heights of the hills.

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

Answer: (B)

Q19.

Solution**Concept:**

The Critical Edition of the Mahabharata revealed that while there was a common Sanskrit core, the epic was fluid and varied across the subcontinent. Identifying which regions provided the most significant diversions is key to understanding the epic's transmission.

Solution:

1. V.S. Sukthankar's team found that a vast number of Sanskrit manuscripts were remarkably similar despite being found as far apart as Kashmir and Kerala.
2. However, when they looked at the regional versions, the manuscripts from South India (specifically those in Tamil, Malayalam, and Telugu scripts) showed the most distinct and complex variations.
3. These variations included different episodes, different character emphasis, and unique moral dilemmas not always found in the Northern recensions.
4. These variations were documented in the footnotes and appendices of the Critical Edition, taking up nearly half of the 13,000 pages.
5. This proved that the Mahabharata was a living tradition that adapted to local cultures.

Final Answer: The most significant variations compared to the Sanskrit core were found in Southern India.

Answer: (C)



Q20.

Solution**Concept:**

Visual representations of the Revolt of 1857 played a crucial role in shaping public opinion in Britain. Paintings often depicted the British as heroic saviors and the Indian rebels as villains.

Solution:

1. 'Relief of Lucknow' is a famous oil painting produced in 1859 that celebrates the British "victory" during the siege of Lucknow.
2. The painting was created by the British artist Thomas Jones Barker.
3. It depicts the moment when the British troops led by Colin Campbell and Henry Havelock broke through the rebel lines to rescue the besieged British garrison.
4. In the painting, the dead and dying rebels are relegated to the corners, while the British officers are highlighted in the center as figures of order and triumph.
5. Joseph Noel Paton (B) is associated with the painting 'In Memoriam', and Felice Beato (C) was a photographer of the era.

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

Answer: (A)

Q21.

Solution**Concept:**

The Harappan civilization was an advanced agrarian society. Evidence of their agricultural practices comes from various sources, including charred grains, terracotta models of farm equipment, and actual field remains preserved under layers of silt.

Solution:

1. While terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites like Banawali (Haryana) and Cholistan, the most direct evidence of a cultivated field comes from Kalibangan.
2. Kalibangan is located in Rajasthan. Archaeologists discovered a "furrowed field" dating back to the Early Harappan levels.
3. The field had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two different crops were grown together simultaneously.
4. This discovery provides crucial evidence regarding the use of the plough and the sophistication of Harappan cropping patterns.
5. Other sites like Shortughai (Afghanistan) are known for traces of canals, while Dholavira is famous for water reservoirs.

Final Answer: The site with evidence of a ploughed field is Kalibangan.

Answer: (B)



Q22.

Solution**Concept:**

Sufism emphasized spiritual devotion and the veneration of saints. Over time, the burial places or tombs of these saints became centers of great religious and social importance, leading to specific ritual practices.

Solution:

1. 'Ziyarat' is an Arabic term that literally means "visitation." In the context of Sufism, it refers to the act of performing a pilgrimage to the 'Dargah' (tomb-shrine) of a Sufi saint.
2. This practice is based on the belief in 'Barakat' (spiritual grace). It is believed that even after death, the saint can act as an intercessor between the devotee and God.
3. During Ziyarat, devotees often engage in 'Qawwali' (musical recitation of devotional poetry) and offer 'Langar' (communal food).
4. The most famous center of Ziyarat in India is the Dargah of Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti at Ajmer, which attracted even Mughal emperors like Akbar.
5. It is a ritual aimed at seeking spiritual blessings and the fulfillment of worldly desires.

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

Answer: (B)

Q23.

Solution**Concept:**

When Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915, he spent time understanding the Indian socio-political landscape. He was guided by a senior leader of the Indian National Congress who advised him on his initial approach to Indian politics.

Solution:

1. Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a moderate leader of the Indian National Congress and a respected statesman.
2. When Gandhi arrived in India, Gokhale advised him to travel around the country for a year to get a firsthand sense of the "real India" before taking any active political stance.
3. Gandhi deeply respected Gokhale's moderate philosophy, his commitment to constitutional means, and his dedication to social reform.
4. Gandhi referred to Gokhale as his "political guru" or mentor in his writings and followed his advice of spending 1915 as an observer.
5. Other leaders like Tilak represented the "Extremist" faction, with whom Gandhi had different ideological starting points.

Final Answer: The political mentor of Mahatma Gandhi was Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

Answer: (B)



Q24.

Solution**Concept:**

The East India Company's rule in India was subject to periodic review by the British Parliament. These reviews were often triggered by complaints from rival British traders and concerns regarding the Company's corruption and maladministration.

Solution:

1. The "Fifth Report" was a voluminous document running into 1002 pages, submitted to the British Select Committee in 1813.
2. It was the fifth in a series of reports on the administration and activities of the East India Company in India.
3. The report contained petitions from zamindars and ryots, reports from collectors, and statistical tables regarding the revenue and administration of Bengal and Madras.
4. Its primary purpose was to provide the British Parliament with a basis to debate whether the Company's monopoly over Indian trade should be continued.
5. Historians now treat the Fifth Report with caution, as it tended to exaggerate the collapse of traditional zamindari power to justify parliamentary intervention.

Final Answer: The Fifth Report was about the administration of the East India Company.

Answer: (B)

Q25.

Solution**Concept:**

Ancient Indian history remained a mystery for a long time because the scripts used in early inscriptions (Brahmi and Kharosthi) had been forgotten. The breakthrough in deciphering these scripts opened up the history of the Mauryan Empire.

Solution:

1. James Prinsep was an officer in the mint of the East India Company and a founding editor of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.
2. In 1838, Prinsep successfully deciphered the Brahmi script, which was used in the majority of Ashoka's inscriptions.
3. He noticed that many inscriptions referred to a king called "Piyadassi" (meaning 'pleasant to behold').
4. By correlating this with Buddhist texts, he concluded that "Piyadassi" was none other than the great Mauryan Emperor Ashoka.
5. This decipherment provided the first solid chronological framework for Indian history and allowed for the reconstruction of Ashokan lineage and policy.

Final Answer: Ashoka's inscriptions were first deciphered by James Prinsep.

Answer: (B)



Q26.

Solution**Concept:**

The teachings and organization of the Buddhist Sangha were preserved in the 'Tripitaka' (Three Baskets). These texts were compiled after the Buddha's death to ensure that his followers followed a standardized set of rules and doctrines.

Solution:

1. The 'Vinaya Pitaka' is specifically dedicated to the monastic order. It contains the code of conduct, disciplinary rules, and regulations that every monk (Bhikkhu) and nun (Bhikkhuni) had to follow upon joining the Sangha.
2. It outlines how a person enters the order, how they should behave toward elders, and the penalties for breaking specific vows.
3. The 'Sutta Pitaka' (A), on the other hand, contains the actual teachings or discourses of the Buddha, often presented as dialogues.
4. The 'Abhidhamma Pitaka' (C) deals with the philosophical and psychological analysis of the teachings, catering to a more scholarly audience.
5. 'Dipavamsa' (D) is a chronicle from Sri Lanka that provides a history of the island and the spread of Buddhism, rather than monastic rules.

Final Answer: The Vinaya Pitaka contains the rules for the Sangha.

Answer: (B)

Q27.

Solution**Concept:**

Vijayanagara architecture is known for its grand and majestic style. One of its most distinctive features was the evolution of the temple entrance into a massive structure that often dwarfed the central shrine itself.

Solution:

1. The 'Gopuram' refers to the monumental gateway at the entrance of a temple complex.
2. In the Vijayanagara period, these were also called 'Raya Gopurams' to signal the power and patronage of the Vijayanagara kings (Rayas).
3. These gateways were often decorated with intricate carvings of deities and mythical creatures and could be seen from a great distance, signaling the presence of the temple.
4. The purpose of these massive gopurams was to symbolize the king's authority over the spiritual realm and to impress visitors before they even reached the main sanctum.
5. The central shrine where the deity was kept is known as the 'Garbhagriha', which is distinct from the Gopuram.

Final Answer: The Gopuram refers to the monumental gateway.

Answer: (C)



Q28.

Solution**Concept:**

Mughal rural society was highly organized, with specific officials responsible for various administrative and financial tasks at the village level. Understanding these roles is essential for grasping the Mughal revenue administration.

Solution:

1. The village was the lowest unit of administration. Two main officials were crucial: the village headman and the accountant.
2. The 'Patwari' was the village accountant. His primary job was to maintain the land records, track the areas under cultivation, and record the revenue collected from individual peasants.
3. The 'Muqaddam' (A) was the village headman, responsible for maintaining order and often acting as the link between the state and the villagers.
4. The 'Kotwal' (C) was a police officer, but usually served in urban areas (cities) rather than villages.
5. The 'Diwan' (D) was a high-ranking provincial or central official in charge of the entire revenue department.

Final Answer: The village accountant was known as the Patwari.

Answer: (B)

Q29.

Solution**Concept:**

The Indian nationalist movement under Gandhi was marked by phases of mass mobilization. Each major movement was triggered by a specific event or the breaking of a specific colonial law.

Solution:

1. On 12 March 1930, Mahatma Gandhi began his march from Sabarmati Ashram to the coastal village of Dandi to protest against the British salt monopoly.
2. This 'Dandi March' ended on 6 April 1930, when Gandhi symbolically broke the law by picking up a handful of natural salt.
3. This act of defiance served as the official launch of the 'Civil Disobedience Movement'.
4. Unlike the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22), which asked people not to cooperate with the government, the Civil Disobedience Movement actively encouraged people to break colonial laws, starting with the Salt Law.
5. The Quit India Movement came much later, in 1942, during the Second World War.

Final Answer: The Dandi March marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Answer: (B)



Q30.

Solution**Concept:**

The period of the 'Sixteen Mahajanapadas' (6th century BCE) saw the rise of powerful regional states in Northern India. Each state had a fortified capital city that served as its political and economic hub.

Solution:

1. Magadha (a): Its early capital was Rajgir (Rajagriha), surrounded by hills which made it naturally fortified. Later, the capital shifted to Pataliputra. (a-2)
2. Gandhara (b): Located in the northwestern part of the subcontinent (modern-day Pakistan/Afghanistan), its capital was the famous center of learning, Taxila. (b-3)
3. Avanti (c): A powerful state in Central India, its capital was Ujjayini (Ujjain), which was a vital trade node. (c-1)
4. Kuru (d): Located in the Indo-Gangetic plain, its traditional capital was Indraprastha (modern-day Delhi). (d-4)
5. Matching these pairs leads to the sequence: a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4.

Final Answer: The correct matching sequence is A.

Answer: (A)

Q31.

Solution**Concept:**

The Bhakti movement in India was characterized by diverse forms of devotion. While some focused on silent meditation, others used music, dance, and congregational singing to express their love for the Divine.

Solution:

1. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (1486–1534) was a 15th-century Vedic spiritual leader and the founder of Gaudiya Vaishnavism.
2. He revolutionized the Bhakti movement in Bengal by introducing 'Sankirtana'—the congregational chanting of the names of Krishna and Rama accompanied by the playing of the 'mridanga' and 'cymbals'.
3. Chaitanya believed that through ecstatic singing and dancing, a devotee could experience a direct, emotional connection with God, transcending the need for complex rituals or caste hierarchies.
4. His influence spread rapidly throughout Eastern India, making the 'Hare Krishna' mantra a household chant.
5. While Kabir (A) emphasized the formless God and Guru Nanak (D) founded Sikhism based on Shabad-Kirtan, the specific ecstatic form of 'Sankirtana' is most closely identified with Chaitanya.

Final Answer: Chaitanya Mahaprabhu popularized the Sankirtana form of worship.

Answer: (B)



Q32.

Solution**Concept:**

The Constituent Assembly of India worked through various committees to frame the Constitution. Each committee had a specific focus, but the one responsible for the actual legal wording and structure of the document was the most critical.

Solution:

1. The Drafting Committee was appointed on 29 August 1947. Its task was to prepare a draft of the new Constitution for India based on the reports of other committees.
2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a brilliant legal mind and a champion of social justice, was appointed as the Chairman of this seven-member committee.
3. Under his leadership, the committee meticulously scrutinized the drafts and incorporated the various debates held in the Assembly.
4. Because of his pivotal role in giving the Constitution its final shape, Ambedkar is often referred to as the 'Father of the Indian Constitution'.
5. Rajendra Prasad (A) served as the President of the entire Constituent Assembly, while Jawaharlal Nehru (B) moved the Objectives Resolution.

Final Answer: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Answer: (C)

Q33.

Solution**Concept:**

The Harappan script is one of the most intriguing aspects of the Indus Valley Civilization. Unlike Egyptian hieroglyphics or Mesopotamian cuneiform, the Harappan script has not yet been decoded, leaving many questions about their administration and literature unanswered.

Solution:

1. The Harappan script consists of various signs, numbering between 375 and 400. It is largely logosyllabic, meaning symbols represent both words and sounds.
2. It is called "enigmatic" primarily because, despite decades of archaeological research, it remains undeciphered. Scholars cannot read what the Harappans wrote on their seals or pottery.
3. We know certain technical aspects: it was written from right to left (based on the spacing of the characters), and it was not alphabetical as it had too many signs.
4. The absence of a bilingual inscription (like the Rosetta Stone) has made the task of deciphering it nearly impossible so far.
5. Therefore, the mystery lies in the fact that we have the text, but we don't have the "key" to its meaning.

Final Answer: The script is enigmatic because it has not been deciphered yet.

Answer: (B)



Q34.

Solution**Concept:**

European travelers in the 17th century often analyzed Asian societies through the lens of European feudalism. Their observations were sometimes biased by their desire to prove the superiority of the European system of private property.

Solution:

1. François Bernier, the French traveler, spent a significant amount of time analyzing the Mughal economic structure.
2. In his book "Travels in the Mogul Empire," he argued that the fundamental difference between Europe and India was the "lack of private property in land" in the East.
3. He claimed that the Mughal Emperor owned all the land and only distributed it among his nobles, which prevented peasants from investing in improvements to the soil.
4. Bernier believed this absence of private property led to the "ruination of agriculture" and the general impoverishment of the peasantry.
5. Modern historians have challenged Bernier's view, noting that diverse forms of land rights and ownership did exist in medieval India.

Final Answer: François Bernier criticized the lack of private property in land.

Answer: (B)

Q35.

Solution**Concept:**

The ruins of Hampi (the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire) lay abandoned for centuries until systematic archaeological and historical interest was revived in the early 19th century by officials of the East India Company.

Solution:

1. Colin Mackenzie was a Scottish army officer, surveyor, and cartographer who became the first Surveyor General of India.
2. In 1800, he visited the site of Hampi and prepared the first survey map of the ruins.
3. He collected much of his initial information from the priests of the Virupaksha temple and the shrine of Pampadevi, who preserved the local oral traditions.
4. His work laid the foundation for later scholars like Alexander Greenlaw and John Marshall to conduct more detailed photographic and structural studies.
5. 1856 (C) marks the year of the first photographs of Hampi, but the initial "discovery" and mapping by Mackenzie happened exactly in 1800.

Final Answer: Colin Mackenzie brought Hampi to light in 1800.

Answer: (B)



Q36.

Solution**Concept:**

The Permanent Settlement, introduced in 1793, transformed the relationship between the British East India Company and the Indian Zamindars. It turned the Zamindars into proprietors of the land, provided they paid a fixed revenue to the state by a specific date.

Solution:

1. Under the terms of the Permanent Settlement, the revenue amount was fixed forever. However, the British implemented the "Sunset Law," which mandated that if the payment did not arrive by sunset of the specified date, the Zamindari would be liable to be forfeited.
2. In the initial decades, many Zamindars failed to meet these high revenue demands. When a Zamindar defaulted, the British government did not offer extensions or loans.
3. Instead, to recover the arrears of revenue, the Company would put the Zamindari up for public auction.
4. These auctions often led to the transfer of land to other wealthy individuals or even "benami" (fictitious) purchasers acting on behalf of the original Zamindar to circumvent the law.
5. This system was designed to ensure a stable income for the Company and to replace "lazy" Zamindars with "enterprising" ones.

Final Answer: The estate was auctioned by the Company to recover revenue.

Answer: (B)

Q37.

Solution**Concept:**

The 12th century witnessed a significant socio-religious movement in Karnataka that challenged the prevailing caste system and the authority of the Brahmanical order. This movement was rooted in the worship of Shiva in the form of a linga.

Solution:

1. The 'Virashaiva' (Heroes of Shiva) or 'Lingayat' (Wearers of the Linga) movement was led by a Brahmana named Basavanna (1106–68).
2. Basavanna was initially a minister in the court of a Kalachuri king. He advocated for a society based on equality and rejected the idea of "pollution" associated with certain caste groups.
3. The Virashaivas questioned the theory of rebirth and challenged the authority of the Vedas. They encouraged practices such as post-puberty marriage and the remarriage of widows, which were disapproved of in the Dharmashastras.
4. Their teachings were preserved in the form of 'Vachanas' (sayings) composed in Kannada, making the philosophy accessible to the common people.
5. While Ramanuja (B) and Shankara (D) were also great philosophers, they focused on different theological frameworks (Vishishtadvaita and Advaita, respectively).

Final Answer: The Virashaiva movement was led by Basavanna.

Answer: (A)



Q38.

Solution**Concept:**

Ancient and medieval empires often named their capital cities to reflect their military triumphs and the divine favor they claimed to possess. The name of the capital often became synonymous with the empire itself.

Solution:

1. The name 'Vijayanagara' is derived from two Sanskrit words: 'Vijaya' (Victory) and 'Nagara' (City). Thus, it literally translates to the "City of Victory."
2. The empire was founded in 1336 by two brothers, Harihara and Bukka. The city served as its capital until the empire's defeat at the Battle of Talikota in 1565.
3. The city was strategically located on the banks of the Tungabhadra River, surrounded by a landscape of granite boulders that provided natural fortification.
4. Foreign travelers like Abdul Razzaq were amazed by the city's seven layers of fortifications, which enclosed not just the royal and sacred centers but also agricultural hinterlands.
5. Pataliputra (D) was known as the "City of Flowers" (Pushpapura) in ancient times, but the specific title "City of Victory" belongs to Vijayanagara.

Final Answer: Vijayanagara was known as the City of Victory.

Answer: (C)

Q39.

Solution**Concept:**

Jainism is one of the oldest religions in the world, emphasizing non-violence (ahimsa) and asceticism. Its terminology reflects the spiritual journey of a soul seeking liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

Solution:

1. In Jain tradition, the term 'Jina' is an honorific title applied to those who have achieved supreme knowledge and have conquered their inner passions (such as anger, greed, and attachment).
2. The word is derived from the Sanskrit root 'Ji', which means "to conquer." Therefore, 'Jina' literally means "The Conqueror."
3. This conquest is not over external enemies or territories, but over the 'karma' that binds the soul to the physical world.
4. Vardhamana Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara, is the most famous figure to be called 'Jina'. His followers came to be known as 'Jainas' (followers of the Jina).
5. Achieving the status of a Jina is the ultimate goal, leading to 'Moksha' or infinite bliss and knowledge.

Final Answer: In Jainism, Jina means The Conqueror.

Answer: (B)



Q40.

Solution**Concept:**

Following the difficulties encountered with the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, the British sought alternative revenue systems for the newly acquired territories in the South and West. They aimed for a more direct relationship with the actual cultivators.

Solution:

1. The 'Ryotwari System' was developed by Thomas Munro and Alexander Read at the end of the 18th century and was implemented in the early 19th century.
2. Unlike the Permanent Settlement, where the Zamindar was the intermediary, the Ryotwari system involved the government dealing directly with the 'Ryots' (peasants).
3. The land was surveyed, and the revenue was fixed based on the soil quality and the crop-paying capacity of the land. The settlement was not permanent; it was revised every 20 or 30 years.
4. This system was primarily introduced in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. It was believed that this would prevent the oppression of peasants by middlemen.
5. Bengal (A) was under the Permanent Settlement, while Punjab (D) and parts of Awadh (C) later saw the implementation of the Mahalwari system.

Final Answer: The Ryotwari System was introduced in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.

Answer: (B)

Q41.

Solution**Concept:**

The transition of power and the administrative response during the 1857 Revolt were overseen by the highest British authority in India. The Governor-General at the time had to manage both the military suppression of the uprising and the subsequent political fallout.

Solution:

1. Lord Canning served as the Governor-General of India from 1856 to 1862. He was in office when the mutiny broke out at Meerut in May 1857.
2. He was famously known as "Clemency Canning" because of his efforts to restrain the British forces from taking indiscriminate and excessive revenge against the Indian population after the revolt was suppressed.
3. During his tenure, the Government of India Act 1858 was passed, which transferred the power from the East India Company to the British Crown.
4. As a result of this Act, Lord Canning also became the first Viceroy of India, acting as the direct representative of the Queen.
5. While Lord Dalhousie (A) is often blamed for the resentment leading to the revolt due to his "Doctrine of Lapse," it was Canning who actually faced the conflict.

Final Answer: The Governor-General during the 1857 Revolt was Lord Canning.

Answer: (B)



Q42.

Solution**Concept:**

The Harappan civilization was spread across a vast geographical area. Identifying the modern-day locations of these ancient sites is a fundamental part of Indus Valley studies, as it helps in understanding trade routes and environmental adaptations.

Solution:

1. Dholavira is one of the most remarkable Harappan sites, known for its unique water management system and the use of stone in construction.
2. It is located on Khadir Beyt in the Rann of Kutch, which is in the state of Gujarat, India.
3. Unlike other Harappan cities which were divided into two parts (the Citadel and the Lower Town), Dholavira was divided into three sections: the Citadel, the Middle Town, and the Lower Town.
4. The site is also famous for the discovery of a "signboard" containing ten large-sized signs of the Harappan script.
5. Other states have different key sites: Rajasthan (B) has Kalibangan, Haryana (D) has Banawali and Rakhigarhi, and Punjab (C) has Ropar.

Final Answer: Dholavira is located in Gujarat.

Answer: (C)

Q43.

Solution**Concept:**

The Constitution of India contains certain sections that are considered so vital to the dignity and freedom of the individual that they are often compared to historical charters of liberty like the Magna Carta of 1215.

Solution:

1. Part III of the Indian Constitution (Articles 12 to 35) deals with Fundamental Rights.
2. These rights are justiciable, meaning they can be enforced by the courts. They protect the citizens against the arbitrary exercise of state power.
3. Because these rights guarantee the basic civil liberties of all Indians—such as equality before the law, freedom of speech, and the right to constitutional remedies—they are described as the 'Magna Carta' of India.
4. The Preamble (A) is the 'Identity Card' or preface of the Constitution, while Directive Principles (C) are guidelines for the state but are not legally enforceable by individuals.
5. The term 'Magna Carta' signifies that these rights are the supreme law of the land regarding individual liberty.

Final Answer: Fundamental Rights are considered the Magna Carta of the Indian Constitution.

Answer: (B)



Q44.

Solution**Concept:**

Al-Biruni was a prolific scholar who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni to India. His work, 'Kitab-ul-Hind', is a monumental encyclopedic account of Indian philosophy, religion, social organization, and science in the 11th century.

Solution:

1. Al-Biruni was born in Khwarizm (modern Uzbekistan) and was well-versed in several languages including Syriac, Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit.
2. He chose to write his masterpiece, 'Kitab-ul-Hind', in Arabic. This was the language of scholars and high literature across the Islamic world during the medieval period.
3. The book is known for its distinctive structure: each chapter begins with a question, followed by a description based on Sanskrit traditions, and concludes with a comparison with other cultures.
4. Writing in Arabic allowed his observations of Indian society to reach a wide audience of intellectuals from Spain to Central Asia.
5. Although he translated some Sanskrit works into Arabic, 'Kitab-ul-Hind' remains his most significant original contribution to the study of India.

Final Answer: 'Kitab-ul-Hind' was written in Arabic.

Answer: (B)

Q45.

Solution**Concept:**

The Indian independence movement saw the rise of leaders who adopted Gandhian principles of non-violence in regions far from the heartland of India. One such leader mobilized the Pashtun people in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP).

Solution:

1. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, also known as Badshah Khan, was a devout follower of Mahatma Gandhi and his philosophy of Satyagraha.
2. He founded the 'Khudai Khidmatgar' (Servants of God), a non-violent movement that played a crucial role in the struggle against British rule in the NWFP.
3. Because he led a movement based on Gandhian ideals in the frontier region of the Indian subcontinent, he earned the popular title 'Frontier Gandhi' (Sarhadi Gandhi).
4. He remained a staunch opponent of the Partition of India and continued to advocate for the rights of the Pashtun people throughout his life.
5. Maulana Azad (A) was a prominent theologian and leader of the Congress, but the specific epithet of 'Frontier Gandhi' belongs exclusively to Ghaffar Khan.

Final Answer: Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was known as Frontier Gandhi.

Answer: (B)



Q46.

Solution**Concept:**

The sacred center of Vijayanagara was home to several magnificent temples. While most temples were open to the public, some were specifically constructed for the private worship of the royal household, reflecting the king's personal devotion.

Solution:

1. The 'Hazara Rama Temple' is located in the Royal Center of the city, near the enclosure of the kings.
2. It is called "Hazara Rama" because the walls of the temple are covered with nearly a thousand ("Hazara") relief carvings depicting scenes from the Ramayana.
3. Unlike the large temples like Virupaksha or Vitthala, which served the entire population and hosted grand festivals, the Hazara Rama Temple was relatively smaller and secluded.
4. Historians believe that this temple was intended exclusively for the use of the King and his immediate family members.
5. The absence of large gateways (gopurams) typical of public temples and its proximity to the royal residences support the view that it was a private chapel for the Rayas.

Final Answer: The Hazara Rama Temple was meant for the use of the King and his family.

Answer: (B)

Q47.

Solution**Concept:**

Colonial agrarian society in Bengal was not just divided between Zamindars and poor peasants. There was an influential class of wealthy peasants who often wielded more actual power on the ground than the Zamindars themselves.

Solution:

1. By the early 19th century, a group of rich peasants known as 'Jotedars' had consolidated their position in the villages of North Bengal.
2. While the Zamindars often lived in cities and struggled to pay the high revenue demands of the Permanent Settlement, the Jotedars lived in the villages and directly controlled local trade and money-lending.
3. They occupied vast areas of land and exerted significant influence over the poor cultivators (adhiyars) who worked on their fields.
4. Interestingly, Jotedars were often the biggest rivals of the Zamindars; they frequently deliberately delayed the payment of revenue to the Zamindar to force his estate into auction, and then bought the land themselves.
5. In different regions, they were also known as 'Hauladars', 'Gantidars', or 'Mandalas'.

Final Answer: The Jotedars were rich peasants in the Bengal countryside.

Answer: (B)



Q48.

Solution**Concept:**

Jainism emphasizes a lineage of great teachers who appear at different intervals to guide humanity toward spiritual liberation. These teachers are the core of Jain hagiography and theology.

Solution:

1. The word 'Tirthankara' literally means a "ford-maker"—someone who creates a path (a ford) across the river of worldly existence (Samsara).
2. According to Jain tradition, there is a succession of 24 Tirthankaras. The first was Rishabhanatha (Adinatha), and the 24th and last was Vardhamana Mahavira.
3. Each Tirthankara is believed to have attained 'Kevala Jnana' (omniscience) and then preached the path of 'Ahimsa' (non-violence) and 'Anekantavada' (many-sidedness of truth) to their followers.
4. They are not considered gods in the sense of creators of the universe, but rather as enlightened human beings who have conquered all passions.
5. Tirthankaras are the most revered figures in the Jain religion, and their life stories form the basis of most Jain temple art and literature.

Final Answer: Tirthankaras are associated with Jainism.

Answer: (B)

Q49.

Solution**Concept:**

Mahatma Gandhi's entry into Indian politics was gradual. After his return in 1915, he spent time understanding the country's issues. His transition from an observer to a mass leader began with his participation in an event at a major educational institution.

Solution:

1. Mahatma Gandhi's first major public appearance after returning from South Africa was at the opening of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in February 1916.
2. At this event, Gandhi gave a famous speech that shocked the elite audience. He criticized the gathered princes and lawyers for their distance from the poor masses of India.
3. He pointed out that while the university was a grand achievement, there was no salvation for India unless the elite were willing to serve the millions of poor peasants.
4. This speech marked the first time Gandhi's unique philosophy—linking political independence with the upliftment of the poor—was heard on a national platform.
5. His active political work began later in 1917 with the Champaran Satyagraha, but the BHU speech was his first "public appearance."

Final Answer: Gandhiji's first major public appearance was at the Banaras Hindu University.

Answer: (B)



Q50.

Solution**Concept:**

The formation of the Constituent Assembly was a complex process. Because the assembly needed to start its work immediately, an interim president was chosen based on seniority before a permanent president could be formally elected.

Solution:

1. The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly was held on 9 December 1946.
2. Following the French practice of appointing the oldest member as the presiding officer for the opening session, Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha was chosen as the 'Interim' or 'Provisional' President.
3. Two days later, on 11 December 1946, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was unanimously elected as the permanent President of the Constituent Assembly.
4. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (A) served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and Jawaharlal Nehru (D) was the leader who moved the Objectives Resolution.
5. Therefore, while Rajendra Prasad was the long-term President, the very first person to hold the office (as an interim measure) was Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha.

Final Answer: The first (interim) President was Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha.

Answer: (C)



Answer Key

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

