

MPBSE Class 12th History - 2023 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hour	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :23
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. Attempt all questions.
2. Read the instructions carefully.
3. Marks allotted to each question are indicated against it.

1. (i) Mutiny of 1857 began from -

- (1) Meerut
- (2) Jhansi
- (3) Lucknow
- (4) Kanpur

Correct Answer: (1) Meerut

Solution:

The Mutiny of 1857, also known as the First War of Indian Independence, began in Meerut on May 10, 1857. It spread rapidly to various parts of northern and central India. Meerut was the starting point where Indian soldiers in the British East India Company's army revolted against their British officers.

Quick Tip

The First War of Indian Independence began in Meerut, marking a significant turning point in Indian history.

1. (ii) Evidence of plowing field has been found from the site of Indus Valley civilization -

- (1) Banawali
- (2) Kalibangan
- (3) Harappa
- (4) Manda

Correct Answer: (2) Kalibangan

Solution:

Kalibangan, an important Harappan site, is where evidence of plowing fields has been found. Excavations have shown the presence of a well-planned agricultural system in the region, with evidence of furrows used for plowing.

Quick Tip

Kalibangan is famous for its evidence of plowing fields, providing insight into the agricultural practices of the Indus Valley Civilization.

1. (iii) Critical version of the Mahabharat prepared in the leadership of -

- (1) V. S. Sukthankar
- (2) B. B. Lal
- (3) Vedvyas
- (4) Cunningham

Correct Answer: (1) V. S. Sukthankar

Solution:

V. S. Sukthankar was the scholar who prepared the critical edition of the Mahabharata. His work is considered one of the most important contributions to the study of the Mahabharata, and it was published after years of detailed research and analysis of different versions of the epic.

Quick Tip

The critical edition of the Mahabharata was prepared by V. S. Sukthankar, who used a scientific approach to analyze and preserve the text.

1. (iv) Rules and regulations for those who joined the sangh were described in -

- (1) Sutta Pitaka
- (2) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- (3) Vinay Pitaka
- (4) Mahavamsa

Correct Answer: (3) Vinay Pitaka

Solution:

The rules and regulations for those who joined the sangha (Buddhist monastic order) are described in the Vinay Pitaka. This text outlines the monastic code of conduct, rules of discipline, and the ethical framework for Buddhist monks and nuns.

Quick Tip

The Vinay Pitaka contains the rules for monastic life in Buddhism, serving as the foundation for the Sangha's code of conduct.

1. (v) Vijay Nagar empire founded in -

- (1) 1336 A.D.
- (2) 1346 A.D.
- (3) 1325 A.D.
- (4) 1351 A.D.

Correct Answer: (1) 1336 A.D.

Solution:

The Vijayanagar Empire was founded in 1336 A.D. by Harihara I and Bukka Raya I. It was established in South India and became one of the most prosperous and powerful empires in Indian history, particularly during the 14th to 16th centuries.

Quick Tip

The Vijayanagar Empire was founded in 1336 A.D. and played a crucial role in the history of South India during the medieval period.

1. (vi) 5th Report was presented in British Parliament -

- (1) 1793 A.D.
- (2) 1813 A.D.
- (3) 1875 A.D.
- (4) 1850 A.D.

Correct Answer: (3) 1875 A.D.

Solution:

The 5th Report of the British Parliament was presented in 1875. This report was a crucial document that discussed the progress of British administration in India, particularly regarding the economic and political situation of the Indian subcontinent under British colonial rule.

Quick Tip

The 5th Report, presented in 1875, was a key document in understanding the colonial administration's impact on India.

2. (i) According to Jaina tradition Mahavir Swami was ----- th tirthankar.
Correct Answer: 24th

Solution:

According to Jaina tradition, Mahavir Swami is considered the 24th Tirthankar. He was the founder of Jainism and preached the teachings of non-violence (Ahimsa), truth (Satya), and asceticism.

Quick Tip

In Jainism, Tirthankars are spiritual teachers, and Mahavir Swami is regarded as the last one in the present cycle of time.

2. (ii) Kitab-ul-Hind composed by -----.
Correct Answer: Al-Biruni

Solution:

Kitab-ul-Hind (The Book of India) was written by the Persian scholar Al-Biruni. In this work, he discussed the geography, culture, and customs of India based on his observations and studies.

Quick Tip

Al-Biruni's "Kitab-ul-Hind" is an important source for understanding early medieval India, written by a scholar who spent considerable time in India.

2. (iii) Shah canal was repaired in the period of -----.
Correct Answer: Firoz Shah Tughlaq

Solution:

Shah canal was repaired during the reign of Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq, who was known for his extensive public works, including the restoration of canals and the building of infrastructure to improve agriculture.

Quick Tip

Firoz Shah Tughlaq's reign is marked by a focus on public welfare projects, including the repair and construction of canals to enhance agriculture.

2. (iv) Revolt of Deccan was started at _____ district.

Correct Answer: Pune

Solution:

The Revolt of the Deccan (also known as the Maratha Rebellion) started in Pune district under the leadership of the Maratha king Shivaji and his successors against the Mughal Empire in the 17th century.

Quick Tip

The Revolt of the Deccan, a significant military campaign led by Shivaji, marked the rise of the Maratha Empire.

2. (v) The soldiers of Royal Indian Navy revolted in _____ A.D.

Correct Answer: 1946 A.D.

Solution:

The Royal Indian Navy Revolt took place in 1946, which was a significant event in the history of India's struggle for independence. The revolt was initiated by sailors protesting against the British colonial rulers due to harsh conditions and discrimination.

Quick Tip

The 1946 Royal Indian Navy Revolt is considered a precursor to India's independence movement and was one of the last major uprisings before independence in 1947.

2. (vi) In Indus Valley civilization weights were made of a stone called _____.

Correct Answer: Chert

Solution:

In the Indus Valley Civilization, weights were made of a stone called chert. These weights were used in trade and commerce, indicating the presence of a well-established system of measurement.

Quick Tip

Chert was a commonly used stone in the Indus Valley for making weights, highlighting the advanced trade systems of the civilization.

2. (vii) Eight types of marriage were described in -----.

Correct Answer: Manusmriti

Solution:

The eight types of marriage, including Brahma, Daiva, Arsha, and others, are described in the ancient Hindu text Manusmriti. It categorizes marriages based on the customs and traditions prevalent in ancient Indian society.

Quick Tip

Manusmriti, an ancient Hindu text, is one of the primary sources for understanding traditional practices, including marriage customs in ancient India.

3. Match the following:

(ii)	Jins-E-Kamil	-	Sidhu Manjhi
(iii)	Ajivika Tradition	-	Ibn Battuta
(iv)	The Great Bath	-	Perfect Crops
(v)	Devaputra	-	Mohenjo-Daro
(vi)	Santhal Rebellion	-	Kushana rulers

Correct Answer:

(i)	1. Ibn Battuta
(ii)	2. Sidhu Manjhi
(iii)	3. Makkhali Gosala
(iv)	4. Perfect Crops
(v)	5. Mohenjo-Daro
(vi)	6. Kushana rulers

Solution:

(i) **Rihla** was a famous travelogue written by Ibn Battuta, a famous traveler. The travelogue documents his extensive travels, including his experiences in India.

(ii) **Jins-E-Kamil** is associated with the freedom fighter **Sidhu Manjhi**, a prominent figure who played a significant role in the Indian rebellion.

(iii) **Ajivika Tradition** was an ancient Indian religious tradition founded by Makkhali Gosala, who was one of the prominent philosophers of his time.

(iv) **The Great Bath** is a famous structure found in **Mohenjo-Daro**, and it is linked with the urban planning of the Indus Valley Civilization, providing evidence of advanced agricultural techniques that allowed for **perfect crops**.

(v) **Devaputra** refers to a title used by certain rulers, and is closely associated with the archaeological site of **Mohenjo-Daro** where such inscriptions have been found.

(vi) **Santhal Rebellion** was one of the major tribal uprisings in colonial India, but the association with **Kushana rulers** is not direct, though it could reflect broader historical context of tribal uprisings.

Quick Tip

Match the correct terms based on historical events and individuals. Each term and individual represents an important aspect of Indian history, ranging from the ancient Indus Valley Civilization to colonial revolts.

4. Write the answers of the following questions in one word or one sentence each:

(i) When was Sanchi discovered?

Correct Answer: 1818

Solution:

Sanchi, the famous Buddhist site, was rediscovered in 1818 by the British officer Sir John Marshall.

Quick Tip

Sanchi is famous for its stupas and sculptures, which date back to the Mauryan period and are significant to Indian Buddhist history.

4. (ii) Who called Mughal cities as 'Camp Towns'?

Correct Answer: Sir William Foster

Solution:

Sir William Foster, a prominent British historian, referred to Mughal cities as "Camp Towns" due to the military nature of their construction, with fortified walls and organized streets resembling a military camp.

Quick Tip

The term "Camp Towns" reflects the military influence in the planning of Mughal cities, which were often designed for defense and administration.

4. (iii) Who was the controller of Khanqah?

Correct Answer: Sufi Saint

Solution:

The controller of Khanqah was typically a Sufi Saint, responsible for overseeing the religious and spiritual activities of the center, including meditation, prayers, and charity work.

Quick Tip

Khanqah was a Sufi monastery, and its controller was often a respected Sufi Saint who guided followers in religious practices and spiritual growth.

4. (iv) Who composed the Ain-E-Akbari?

Correct Answer: Abul Fazl

Solution:

The Ain-E-Akbari, one of the most important sources of Mughal history, was composed by Abul Fazl, the court historian of Emperor Akbar. It details the administration, culture, and social structure of the Mughal Empire.

Quick Tip

The Ain-E-Akbari is a comprehensive account of Akbar's reign, including his administrative system, military structure, and cultural achievements.

4. (v) When did Cripps Mission come to India?

Correct Answer: 1942

Solution:

The Cripps Mission came to India in 1942, led by Sir Stafford Cripps, to discuss the possibility of granting India self-governance during World War II. However, it failed to gain support from Indian leaders.

Quick Tip

The Cripps Mission was part of British efforts to involve India in the war, but it was rejected by Indian leaders due to its inadequate proposals for self-rule.

4. (vi) How many signs are there in the longest inscription of Indus Valley civilization?

Correct Answer: 417

Solution:

The longest inscription found in the Indus Valley Civilization contains 417 signs. These signs are part of the Indus script, which remains undeciphered but is believed to represent an early form of written language.

Quick Tip

The Indus script is still one of the most mysterious aspects of the Indus Valley Civilization, with over 400 signs, but it remains largely undeciphered.

4. (vii) Who composed the Prayaga Prashasti?

Correct Answer: Harisena

Solution:

The Prayaga Prashasti was composed by Harisena, a poet and court historian under the Gupta Emperor Samudragupta. It praises the emperor's military conquests and victories.

Quick Tip

The Prayaga Prashasti is an important inscription that provides insights into the military achievements of Samudragupta during the Gupta period.

5. Write True/False for the following sentences:

(i) Jawahar Lal Nehru presented 'Objectives Resolution' in Constituent assembly.

Correct Answer: True

Solution:

Jawahar Lal Nehru presented the 'Objectives Resolution' in the Constituent Assembly on December 13, 1946. This resolution outlined the basic principles for India's future constitution, focusing on fundamental rights, independence, and social justice.

Quick Tip

The 'Objectives Resolution' played a crucial role in the formation of India's constitution and was presented by Nehru during the early days of the Constituent Assembly.

5. (ii) The Sudarshan lake was repaired by Rudradaman.

Correct Answer: True

Solution:

The Sudarshan Lake, a major water reservoir in ancient India, was repaired by Rudradaman, a ruler of the Western Kshatrapas, around the 2nd century CE. The inscription commemorating the repair is an important historical record.

Quick Tip

The restoration of the Sudarshan Lake by Rudradaman was a significant achievement in the region's hydraulic engineering and infrastructure development.

5. (iii) Kabir das was the preceptor of Mira bai.

Correct Answer: False

Solution:

While Kabir and Mira Bai were both prominent figures in the Bhakti movement, there is no historical evidence that Kabir was Mira Bai's preceptor. Mira Bai was influenced by the devotional songs of Kabir, but they did not share a teacher-student relationship.

Quick Tip

Mira Bai was a Rajput princess and a devotee of Lord Krishna, and while she admired Kabir's teachings, she did not have him as her spiritual teacher.

5. (iv) In 1976 Hampi was recognised as a site of national importance.

Correct Answer: True

Solution:

In 1976, Hampi, the historic site of the Vijayanagar Empire, was declared a site of national importance by the Indian government due to its cultural, architectural, and historical significance. It later became a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Quick Tip

Hampi is one of India's most famous heritage sites, known for its temples, ruins, and the remnants of the Vijayanagara Empire.

5. (v) Personal land of Zamindars was called Milkiyat.

Correct Answer: True

Solution:

The personal land owned by zamindars was known as Milkiyat. This was land that the zamindars held for their personal use, distinct from the land they held in revenue collection for the state.

Quick Tip

Milkiyat was a term used in the context of land tenure during the Mughal and post-Mughal periods, referring to land held by zamindars for their personal use.

5. (vi) Non Cooperation movement began in 1930.

Correct Answer: False

Solution:

The Non-Cooperation Movement began in 1920, not 1930. It was launched by Mahatma Gandhi in response to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and aimed to resist British rule through non-violent means such as non-payment of taxes and boycotts.

Quick Tip

The Non-Cooperation Movement was a significant part of India's struggle for independence, led by Gandhi, and its goal was to resist British authority peacefully.

6. What rights were demanded by Hansa Mehta for women?**Correct Answer:**

Hansa Mehta was a prominent leader in the women's rights movement during India's freedom struggle. She demanded equal rights for women in various aspects of life, including the right to vote, equal access to education, property rights, and protection from exploitation.

Solution:

Hansa Mehta was a pioneering figure in advocating for women's rights in India. She was a key supporter of the women's suffrage movement and played a crucial role in the demand for women's participation in the political process. Mehta's work emphasized the need for gender equality and the upliftment of women in society.

Quick Tip

Hansa Mehta was one of the earliest champions of women's rights in India and contributed significantly to the progress of women's empowerment.

6. What plea was given by Sardar Patel on the proposal of separate electorates?

Correct Answer:

Sardar Patel opposed the idea of separate electorates as it would divide the people on communal lines. He believed in a united India where all communities would participate together in the electoral process, without any division based on religion or caste.

Solution:

Sardar Patel was a staunch advocate for a united India. When the proposal for separate electorates for different communities was discussed, he strongly opposed it, arguing that it would deepen communal divisions and weaken the unity of the nation. Patel's plea was for a joint electorate system where all communities could vote together.

Quick Tip

Sardar Patel was instrumental in promoting national unity and believed that separate electorates would create more division, undermining the concept of a unified nation.

7. What is central list?

Correct Answer:

The central list refers to the list of subjects on which the central government has the authority to legislate. These subjects are enumerated in the Union List of the Constitution of India. Examples include defense, foreign affairs, and atomic energy.

Solution:

The Union List, as per the Constitution of India, outlines the areas where the central government holds legislative power. These subjects pertain to national issues, such as defense, foreign policy, and currency regulation, which require centralized control for uniformity across the country.

Quick Tip

The central list is essential for the functioning of a federal structure, ensuring that key national issues are governed uniformly across the country.

7. What idea was given by Govind Vallabh Pant for the success of democracy?

Correct Answer:

Govind Vallabh Pant believed that the success of democracy in India would depend on the active participation of the common people, education, and the integration of diverse communities to foster a sense of unity and nationhood.

Solution:

Govind Vallabh Pant, a prominent leader and freedom fighter, emphasized the need for the

people of India to engage actively in democratic processes. He believed that democracy could thrive only through education, social integration, and active participation, ensuring that all sections of society contributed to the development of the nation.

Quick Tip

Govind Vallabh Pant's vision for India's democracy focused on unity, participation, and education, essential pillars for a functioning democracy.

8. What was Faience?

Correct Answer:

Faience was a type of glazed material used in the Indus Valley Civilization. It was made by mixing crushed quartz with a binding material and then glazing it to give a bright, shiny appearance. It was commonly used for making beads, ornaments, bangles, and small decorative objects. Its glossy surface made it a popular substitute for precious stones.

Solution:

Faience was an important manufactured material in the Indus Valley Civilization. It was created by heating a mixture of powdered quartz, alkali, lime, and color pigments. When fired, the surface developed a bright blue or green glaze, making it look similar to precious stones like turquoise or lapis lazuli. Archaeologists have found faience beads, figurines, tiles, and bangles at sites like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. Its widespread use shows the advanced technological skills of the Harappans in high-temperature manufacturing, glazing techniques, and decorative craftsmanship. Faience items were also traded widely, reflecting the economic and cultural significance of this material.

Quick Tip

Faience objects were brightly glazed and often blue or green, showing the advanced craftsmanship of the Harappans.

8. What was grid pattern?

Correct Answer:

A grid pattern was a planned system of town layout used in the Indus Valley Civilization, where streets were built in straight lines and intersected at right angles. This created square or rectangular blocks, showing advanced urban planning.

Solution:

The grid pattern was one of the most remarkable features of Indus Valley urban planning. Cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro were laid out using straight streets running north-south and east-west, intersecting at perfect right angles. This created neatly divided residential and commercial blocks, demonstrating a high level of precision in town planning. The use of the grid pattern also ensured proper drainage, easy movement, and efficient space management. Such planning reflects the administrative efficiency, civil engineering knowledge, and organized

governance of the Harappan people. This design later influenced many ancient and modern cities around the world.

Quick Tip

The grid pattern shows that the Harappans were among the earliest to use planned city layouts with straight streets.

9. Who was Francois Bernier?

Correct Answer:

Francois Bernier was a French physician and traveler who visited India in the 17th century. He is famous for his travelogue, in which he provided detailed observations about Indian society, politics, and culture under the Mughal Empire.

Solution:

Francois Bernier was a French physician who traveled to India between 1656 and 1668. During his time in India, he wrote extensively about the social, political, and economic conditions of the country. His work, "Travels in the Mughal Empire," is a significant source of information about the Mughal Empire and Indian society. He was one of the first Europeans to describe the religious diversity, caste system, and the prosperity of the Mughal Empire in great detail.

Quick Tip

Francois Bernier's accounts provide valuable insights into the Mughal Empire and the lives of people in 17th-century India.

9. What description of Paan was given by Ibn Battuta?

Correct Answer:

Ibn Battuta, the famous Moroccan traveler, described Paan (betel leaf with various fillings) as a popular and refreshing chewable among the people of India. He noted that it was consumed widely, both for its refreshing taste and for its supposed medicinal benefits.

Solution:

Ibn Battuta, during his travels in India, wrote about various aspects of Indian culture, and one of his observations was regarding the consumption of Paan. He mentioned that Paan was a common practice in the subcontinent, often chewed after meals as a digestive aid. It was also considered a social activity, and people would offer Paan to guests as a mark of respect. Ibn Battuta's accounts reflect the cultural significance of Paan in Indian society during his time.

Quick Tip

Paan is not only a cultural practice but also an integral part of social hospitality in India.

10. Write about the Nalayira Divya Prabandham.

Correct Answer:

The Nalayira Divya Prabandham is a collection of 4,000 Tamil hymns composed by the twelve Alvars, devoted to Lord Vishnu. It is one of the most important texts in the Tamil Vaishnavism tradition. The hymns praise various incarnations of Vishnu and are revered by the followers of the Srivaishnavism sect. The Prabandham is an essential part of the religious and cultural life of Tamil-speaking Vaishnavites.

Solution:

The Nalayira Divya Prabandham is a monumental text that captures the devotion of the Alvars to Lord Vishnu. The hymns are composed in Tamil and cover a wide range of subjects, from the praise of Vishnu's avatars to the philosophical and devotional teachings of the Alvars. These hymns form the foundation of the Srivaishnavism tradition, which emphasizes the worship of Vishnu as the supreme deity. The work was compiled and preserved by the famous theologian and philosopher, Nathamuni. It remains a key text for understanding the development of devotional poetry in Tamil Nadu.

Quick Tip

The Nalayira Divya Prabandham is a key text in Tamil Vaishnavism and has influenced the religious and cultural practices of the region.

10. What were Saguna and Nirguna Bhakti traditions?

Correct Answer:

The Saguna Bhakti tradition emphasizes devotion to a personal god with attributes, such as Lord Vishnu, Krishna, or Shiva, depicted with forms and qualities. The Nirguna Bhakti tradition, on the other hand, emphasizes devotion to the formless, attributeless god, often represented by abstract concepts like Brahman, and emphasizes a deeper, spiritual connection with the divine beyond physical representations.

Solution:

The Saguna Bhakti tradition focuses on worshiping God in a form, with specific qualities, images, and rituals. Devotees in this tradition believe in the personal nature of God and worship him with love and devotion. In contrast, the Nirguna Bhakti tradition is based on the concept of a formless, attribute-less god. This form of devotion is more philosophical and spiritual, emphasizing an inner connection with the divine without the need for any external rituals or representations. Figures like Kabir and Guru Nanak were associated with Nirguna Bhakti.

Quick Tip

The distinction between Saguna and Nirguna Bhakti lies in the form and attributes of the deity. Saguna Bhakti is centered on the personal god, while Nirguna Bhakti focuses on the formless divine.

11. When and between whom was the battle Talikota fought?

Correct Answer:

The Battle of Talikota was fought in 1565 between the Vijayanagara Empire and the Deccan Sultanates. It was a decisive defeat for the Vijayanagara Empire, which led to the destruction of its capital, Hampi.

Solution:

The Battle of Talikota, fought on January 26, 1565, was one of the most significant battles in Indian history. It was fought between the forces of the Vijayanagara Empire, led by King Aliya Rama Raya, and the combined forces of the Deccan Sultanates: Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmadnagar, and Bidar. The Vijayanagara Empire suffered a crushing defeat, which marked the decline of the once-powerful empire and the eventual fall of its capital city, Hampi.

Quick Tip

The Battle of Talikota was a turning point in Indian history, leading to the decline of the Vijayanagara Empire and the rise of the Deccan Sultanates.

11. Who were Amara Nayakas?

Correct Answer:

Amara Nayakas were military governors or regional leaders in the Vijayanagara Empire who were entrusted with the task of administering specific regions or provinces. They played a crucial role in the empire's military and administrative structure.

Solution:

Amara Nayakas were military commanders and local rulers who were appointed by the Vijayanagara Empire to govern specific territories or provinces. They were responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting taxes, and overseeing military operations in their regions. The position of Amara Nayakas became particularly important during the reign of Krishnadevaraya, as they helped in managing the vast empire and contributed significantly to the empire's military strength.

Quick Tip

Amara Nayakas played a key role in the administration of the Vijayanagara Empire and were instrumental in maintaining control over its territories.

12. Who were Khud-kashta farmers?

Correct Answer:

Khud-kashta farmers were those who cultivated the land they owned or were given land to till by the government. These farmers were not dependent on any intermediary and directly worked on their own land, often contributing to local economies through agriculture.

Solution:

Khud-kashta farmers were essentially self-sufficient cultivators who worked on land that they

either owned or had been assigned to them by the state. In the Mughal era, the state provided land for cultivation in return for a share of the produce. These farmers were responsible for their own agricultural work, unlike tenant farmers or landless laborers. This system helped create a class of independent farmers who played a crucial role in the agrarian economy of the Mughal period.

Quick Tip

Khud-kashta farmers were integral to the agrarian system during the Mughal era, ensuring that agriculture remained productive and independent from middlemen.

12. What were Jama and Hasil during Mughal era?

Correct Answer:

During the Mughal era, **Jama** referred to the total revenue or tax assessed by the state from land, while **Hasil** referred to the actual amount of revenue collected from the land.

Solution:

In the Mughal administration, **Jama** was the total amount of land revenue assessed by the government, which could be based on the crop yield or land's productivity. The **Hasil**, on the other hand, referred to the actual amount of revenue that was collected from the land after assessment. These terms were essential in the agrarian economy and fiscal policies of the Mughal Empire, and they helped in the efficient administration of resources.

Quick Tip

Jama and Hasil were key terms in the Mughal revenue system, with Jama being the assessed revenue and Hasil being the actual collection.

13. What was Sunset law?

Correct Answer:

The Sunset Law was a regulation introduced by the British during the colonial period in India. It stated that any law, which was not renewed by a specific date, would automatically expire or be considered null and void. This law was primarily used to regulate temporary laws.

Solution:

The Sunset Law was part of British colonial administration to ensure that certain laws, particularly temporary ones, would cease to exist after a fixed period unless they were specifically renewed by the authorities. This helped the British government in controlling laws that were deemed not to serve their purposes any longer. The law was termed 'Sunset' as it represented the end or expiration of the legal status of certain laws unless extended by the government.

Quick Tip

The Sunset Law was used as a tool for managing temporary laws in British India, ensuring they did not remain in force indefinitely without review.

13. Who were Jotedars?

Correct Answer:

Jotedars were large landowners in rural Bengal during the British colonial era. They acted as intermediaries between the peasants and the government, and often exploited the farmers by charging high rents.

Solution:

Jotedars were influential landlords in rural Bengal who controlled large tracts of land. They played an important role in the agricultural economy of Bengal, acting as intermediaries between the peasants and the colonial government. However, the Jotedars were also known for exploiting the farmers, extracting high rents, and sometimes acting as moneylenders, thus increasing the burden on the peasants. This class of landowners held considerable power in rural society and was part of the broader zamindari system that shaped much of rural India under British rule.

Quick Tip

Jotedars were key figures in the rural economy during British rule, but their control over land and exploitation of peasants made them a controversial class.

14. Why was Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah called 'Danka Shah'?

Correct Answer:

Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah was called 'Danka Shah' because of his prominent role in the Indian Rebellion of 1857, particularly in Faizabad, where he rallied local forces and led the revolt. He used a 'danka' (a large drum) to mobilize and inspire the people, which led to his nickname.

Solution:

Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah was a key leader in the revolt of 1857, particularly in the region of Faizabad. He was called 'Danka Shah' due to his use of a large drum or 'danka' to summon people and rally the forces during the uprising. His leadership and bravery in the revolt earned him this title. He was highly respected by the rebels for his courage and leadership in the face of British forces.

Quick Tip

The use of the 'danka' by Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah became a symbol of resistance during the 1857 Rebellion, marking his call to action for the local people.

14. Why was Awadh called 'The Nursery of the Bengal Army'?

Correct Answer:

Awadh was called 'The Nursery of the Bengal Army' because it was the region where many soldiers, especially from rural backgrounds, were recruited into the Bengal Army during the British colonial period. The recruitment from Awadh contributed significantly to the strength of the Bengal Army.

Solution:

Awadh, known for its rich cultural heritage and strategic location, became a key recruitment center for the British East India Company's Bengal Army. The rural population of Awadh provided a large number of soldiers, and the region became crucial in maintaining the British military presence in India. The term 'Nursery of the Bengal Army' referred to the region's role in producing soldiers who served in various British campaigns across India. However, this heavy military presence also contributed to the tensions that eventually led to the Revolt of 1857.

Quick Tip

Awadh's role as a major recruitment center for the Bengal Army made it an important region for the British, but also a source of resentment, contributing to the 1857 rebellion.

15. Who were known as 'Lal, Bal and Pal'?

Correct Answer:

'Lal, Bal and Pal' refers to the three prominent leaders of the Indian independence movement: Lala Lajpat Rai (Lal), Bal Gangadhar Tilak (Bal), and Bipin Chandra Pal (Pal). They were known for their radical approach to Indian nationalism and their role in promoting Swadeshi and boycotting British goods.

Solution:

'Lal, Bal and Pal' was a famous trio of leaders in the early 20th century who played a significant role in India's struggle for independence. Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal were influential in the rise of nationalistic sentiments. They advocated for self-reliance, the promotion of Indian industries, and the importance of education. They were part of the extremist faction within the Indian National Congress, seeking more direct action against British rule.

Quick Tip

'Lal, Bal and Pal' were key figures in the early stages of the Indian independence movement and are often remembered for their radical stance against British colonial rule.

15. When and where was the first Round Table Conference held?

Correct Answer:

The first Round Table Conference was held in 1930 in London. It was an attempt by the British government to discuss constitutional reforms in India with Indian political leaders.

Solution:

The first Round Table Conference took place in London in 1930. The conference was convened by the British government to discuss constitutional reforms for India. Indian leaders, including the Congress Party, participated in the conference. However, Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress boycotted the conference initially, as they were demanding full self-rule for India. The conference was part of the broader negotiations between the British government and Indian leaders about the future governance of India.

Quick Tip

The Round Table Conferences were an important step in the discussions about India's constitutional future, though the first one was marked by the absence of key leaders like Gandhi.

16. Describe the water structure system of the Vijayanagar.**Correct Answer:**

The water structure system of the Vijayanagar Empire was highly advanced, reflecting the empire's engineering expertise. The city of Vijayanagar had an intricate network of tanks, reservoirs, and canals that helped in the efficient management of water resources. The most notable of these were the step wells, large water tanks, and canals, which were constructed to store water for both drinking and irrigation purposes. One of the most significant water systems was the Krishna and Tungabhadra river canals, which provided water for the agricultural lands. Additionally, the city had well-planned irrigation systems, helping agriculture thrive in the dry Deccan region.

Solution:

The water supply system of the Vijayanagara Empire was one of the most advanced in medieval India. The rulers implemented highly structured methods for water storage and irrigation. Notable examples of their water management include the large tanks like the Hosapet Tank and the step wells that stored water for daily use. Moreover, they constructed a series of canals to channel water from the rivers to the agricultural fields, ensuring that farming in the region remained productive. The integration of such infrastructure played a crucial role in the growth and prosperity of the empire.

Quick Tip

The advanced water management system in Vijayanagara was essential for supporting agriculture in the region's arid climate.

16. Write the cultural importance of Mahanavami Dibba.**Correct Answer:**

The Mahanavami Dibba is a significant monument located in the Vijayanagara ruins. It is an elevated platform used for royal ceremonies, military processions, and other state functions. The structure is intricately carved with scenes depicting royal life, military triumphs, and religious

practices. Its cultural importance lies in its role as a symbol of the grandeur and power of the Vijayanagara kings. The Mahanavami Dibba reflects the high cultural and religious importance given to state rituals and the grandeur of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Solution:

Mahanavami Dibba, located in the Hampi ruins of the Vijayanagara Empire, is a large stone platform that was used for ceremonial purposes, especially during the Mahanavami festival. The platform has detailed carvings that depict the cultural richness of the empire, including military conquests and royal events. This platform was a center for the king's public appearances and state rituals. It was also used for military processions, symbolizing the military prowess of the Vijayanagara rulers. Its cultural significance is immense, reflecting the blend of royal, military, and religious activities of the empire.

Quick Tip

Mahanavami Dibba is an excellent example of Vijayanagara architecture and holds a key position in the study of royal rituals and state governance.

17. What conditions were imposed on the Nawab of Awadh under the policy of the Subsidiary Alliance?

Correct Answer:

Under the policy of Subsidiary Alliance, the Nawab of Awadh was required to maintain a British force within his territory at his own expense. He had to pay for the upkeep of the British troops, and if he failed to do so, parts of his territory would be taken away. Additionally, the Nawab had to agree not to employ any foreign forces and allow the British to control his foreign affairs.

Solution:

The Subsidiary Alliance was a diplomatic strategy used by Lord Wellesley to consolidate British control over India. The Nawab of Awadh, like other Indian rulers, was forced to accept the presence of a British army within his state. He had to bear the cost of the army's maintenance, and in return, the British offered military protection. Furthermore, the Nawab was prohibited from having any diplomatic relations with other powers without British consent. This policy significantly reduced the Nawab's autonomy and led to the annexation of Awadh when the Nawab failed to meet the British conditions.

Quick Tip

The Subsidiary Alliance was a key tool for the British East India Company to control Indian states by weakening their independence and compelling them to financially support British military presence.

17. What steps did the British take to repress the mutiny?

Correct Answer:

The British took several steps to repress the 1857 Mutiny, including the deployment of additional troops from Britain, the execution of leaders, and the reorganization of the Indian

military. They also sought the support of loyal Indian rulers and used terror tactics, such as massacres and collective punishments, to suppress the rebels.

Solution:

To suppress the 1857 Mutiny, the British used a combination of military force, strategic alliances, and punitive measures. They brought reinforcements from Britain, including soldiers and artillery, to counter the growing number of rebels. Key leaders of the mutiny were captured and executed, including Bahadur Shah Zafar, the Mughal Emperor. The British also restructured the Indian army by recruiting new soldiers from regions that were less likely to rebel. They used terror tactics, such as the burning of villages and public executions, to intimidate and dissuade further uprisings.

Quick Tip

The British response to the 1857 Mutiny was marked by brutal repression, which included both military action and psychological warfare aimed at breaking the morale of the rebels.

18. How could women and men acquire wealth in ancient times?

Correct Answer:

In ancient times, men and women could acquire wealth through various means, including agriculture, trade, and craftsmanship. Men often accumulated wealth through landownership, military service, and commerce. Women, particularly from the upper classes, could inherit wealth, manage estates, or engage in trade. Additionally, some women accumulated wealth through the arts, such as music and dance, or by owning jewelry and other valuables.

Solution:

In ancient India, wealth acquisition was primarily based on agricultural output, trade, and craftsmanship. Men typically acquired wealth through land, military service, and involvement in commercial activities, while women, depending on their social status, might inherit wealth or gain economic power by managing estates. The wealth of women also came through personal properties, including jewelry and household items. Women of higher social classes had more opportunities to acquire wealth, especially through familial inheritance or through their skills in performing arts or managing family affairs.

Quick Tip

Wealth acquisition in ancient India was largely dependent on social status and occupation, with men generally engaged in agriculture and trade, while women had more limited avenues unless they came from wealthy or noble families.

18. Why is the Mahabharata called a dynamic text?

Correct Answer:

The Mahabharata is called a dynamic text because it has been continually interpreted, modified, and re-contextualized throughout history. Its themes, characters, and philosophical teachings

have evolved in response to changing societal contexts, making it relevant to various generations across time.

Solution:

The Mahabharata is considered a dynamic text because it is not a static work; it has been subject to various interpretations and adaptations over centuries. The text contains deep philosophical teachings, moral dilemmas, and complex characters, which have allowed it to remain relevant to different eras and cultures. Its stories have been retold in different languages, regional traditions, and through various forms of art and literature. Its adaptability and continued relevance make it a living, evolving text that resonates with each new generation.

Quick Tip

The Mahabharata's status as a dynamic text comes from its ability to be continuously interpreted and applied to the challenges and values of each generation.

19. Describe the Vaishnavism.

Correct Answer:

Vaishnavism is one of the major branches of Hinduism, dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu and his incarnations, primarily Rama and Krishna. The followers of Vaishnavism, known as Vaishnavas, believe in Vishnu as the supreme deity who is both the creator and protector of the universe. This tradition emphasizes devotion (bhakti) to Vishnu, and its scriptures include the Vedas, Bhagavad Gita, and the Puranas.

Solution:

Vaishnavism is a religious tradition that centers around the worship of Lord Vishnu and his various avatars like Rama and Krishna. It is one of the oldest and most widespread forms of Hinduism. Vaishnavas believe that Vishnu is the preserver and protector of the universe, and by dedicating their lives to him, they aim to achieve moksha (liberation). The Bhagavad Gita, a dialogue between Lord Krishna and Arjuna, is considered a central text for Vaishnavas. The tradition also emphasizes the importance of bhakti, or devotion, in achieving spiritual progress. Over time, Vaishnavism has shaped Indian culture, influencing art, music, and philosophy.

Quick Tip

Vaishnavism is distinct for its focus on Vishnu as the supreme deity and the role of devotion (bhakti) in spiritual growth.

19. Why did the stupa of Amaravati get destroyed?

Correct Answer:

The stupa of Amaravati, a major Buddhist monument, was destroyed primarily during the rule of the Deccan Sultanates and later by the invasions and destruction of Buddhist sites by the Hindu kings. It suffered further destruction during the colonial era due to neglect and excavation.

Solution:

The Amaravati Stupa, originally a large Buddhist monument built in the 2nd century BCE, is located in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The destruction of the stupa can be attributed to multiple factors, including invasions by the Deccan Sultanates during the medieval period, when many Buddhist structures were targeted for destruction. Furthermore, the decline of Buddhism in India and the rise of Hinduism led to the neglect and eventual ruin of many Buddhist sites, including Amaravati. During the British colonial era, the stupa was further damaged due to excavation and lack of preservation efforts, leading to the loss of many of its sculptures.

Quick Tip

The decline of Buddhism and the neglect by both local rulers and colonial authorities led to the destruction of the Amaravati stupa over time.

20. Write main characteristics of Mahajanapadas.**Correct Answer:**

The Mahajanapadas were sixteen large kingdoms or republics that existed in ancient India from around the 6th century BCE to the 4th century BCE. They were characterized by their well-organized political systems, cities with fortified walls, and agricultural development. The major Mahajanapadas were either monarchical or republican in nature. Some of the key features included a strong military presence, trade and commerce, and the presence of major religious movements like Buddhism and Jainism. The Mahajanapadas were ruled by powerful kings or republican assemblies, and they played a significant role in shaping the political landscape of ancient India.

Solution:

The Mahajanapadas were 16 major states in ancient India, each with distinct characteristics. They were geographically spread across the northern Indian subcontinent. Some of the notable Mahajanapadas include Magadha, Kosala, and Vatsa. These states were either monarchical, where the king held central power, or republican, where power was vested in assemblies of elders or elected officials. Agriculture, trade, and crafts played important roles in the economy. The rise of urban centers with fortified cities also marked the Mahajanapadas, which fostered religious, cultural, and intellectual movements like Buddhism and Jainism. Their significance lies in their contribution to political, cultural, and social advancements in ancient India.

Quick Tip

The Mahajanapadas were important in shaping the political and social landscape of early India, with their development of cities and strong political structures.

20. Describe the limitations of inscriptional evidence.**Correct Answer:**

Inscriptional evidence is an important source of historical information, but it has several lim-

itations. Inscriptions often reflect the perspectives of those in power, such as kings or priests, and may not provide a complete or unbiased account of historical events. The language and content of inscriptions were often shaped by political or religious motives, leading to a selective representation of facts. Additionally, inscriptions are limited to the areas where they were inscribed, so they may not offer a comprehensive view of the larger historical context.

Solution:

Inscriptions are valuable sources of historical data, but they come with limitations. First, they tend to reflect the views of those in power, such as rulers, and often overlook the experiences of common people. Since they are primarily created for official or religious purposes, they may not offer a balanced or complete narrative of events. Another limitation is the scarcity of inscriptions from certain regions, leading to gaps in our understanding of those areas. Moreover, inscriptions are sometimes written in languages or scripts that are not easily understood, making interpretation difficult. Finally, many inscriptions are fragmented or damaged, which reduces their historical utility.

Quick Tip

Inscriptions are often biased towards the elite and can provide a limited perspective, so they should be supplemented with other forms of evidence for a fuller understanding of history.

21. Describe the Virashaiva tradition of Karnataka.

Correct Answer:

The Virashaiva tradition, also known as Lingayatism, originated in Karnataka in the 12th century. It was a reform movement led by the philosopher and saint Basava. The followers of this tradition worship Lord Shiva as the supreme deity in the form of a linga. The Virashaivas rejected the caste system and rituals associated with Hinduism, emphasizing personal devotion and a direct connection with God. They also advocated for social equality and were opposed to the orthodox Brahmanical traditions. The movement had a significant impact on the religious and social fabric of Karnataka.

Solution:

The Virashaiva tradition, also called Lingayatism, was a religious movement in Karnataka founded by Basava and other saints during the 12th century. It emphasized worship of Shiva in the form of a linga (symbol of divine energy) and promoted personal devotion (bhakti) over ritualistic practices. This tradition rejected caste distinctions and opposed the dominance of Brahmanical rituals. The followers, known as Virashaivas or Lingayats, aimed for social reform, including the abolition of caste-based discrimination. They practiced a simple, devotional form of worship, focusing on meditation, service, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Quick Tip

Virashaivism was significant for its emphasis on equality, social reform, and rejection of traditional caste hierarchies, making it an influential movement in Karnataka.

21. Why did rulers want the support of Sufis?

Correct Answer:

Rulers sought the support of Sufis because they were seen as spiritual and political figures who could help legitimize the ruler's authority. Sufis were respected for their religious influence and were able to build a strong relationship with the local population. By supporting Sufis, rulers could gain the loyalty of the masses, improve their rule, and enhance their legitimacy. The Sufi tradition promoted peace, tolerance, and harmony, which aligned with the rulers' needs to maintain stability.

Solution:

Rulers, especially in medieval India, sought the support of Sufis for both religious and political reasons. Sufis were seen as spiritually influential figures who could mediate between the ruler and the general population, often promoting peace and harmony. Their popularity with the masses made them important allies for rulers who wanted to ensure stability and legitimacy. Sufis also had a reputation for being tolerant and non-sectarian, which helped rulers maintain control over diverse and often fragmented populations. Additionally, Sufis played a role in spreading Islam and in shaping cultural and religious policies in the regions they inhabited.

Quick Tip

Sufis were important political and religious figures in medieval times, and their support was vital for rulers seeking to consolidate power and ensure the loyalty of their subjects.

22. How did Gandhi ji become a people's leader?

Correct Answer:

Gandhi ji became a people's leader through his ability to connect with the common man, his emphasis on non-violence (ahimsa), and his leadership in key movements like the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Salt March. He understood the struggles of the poor and marginalized and advocated for social equality. His simple lifestyle and deep understanding of Indian culture endeared him to people from all walks of life, making him a leader who spoke for the masses.

Solution:

Gandhi ji's rise to leadership was based on his unique ability to inspire the masses and connect with them on a personal level. Unlike previous leaders, Gandhi ji adopted the principles of non-violence and civil disobedience to challenge British colonial rule. He mobilized ordinary people across India, regardless of their social or economic status. His leadership during the Non-Cooperation Movement, his ability to unite people during the Salt March, and his strong stance on social issues like untouchability and caste discrimination made him a beloved figure and a true people's leader.

Quick Tip

Gandhi ji's success as a leader lay in his understanding of the people's struggles and his ability to connect with them through non-violent movements and simple, relatable ideals.

22. Why was the Salt March of Gandhi ji notable?

Correct Answer:

The Salt March, led by Gandhi ji in 1930, was notable because it was a powerful act of civil disobedience against the British salt tax. Gandhi ji walked 240 miles to the coastal town of Dandi, where he broke the salt law by producing salt from seawater. The march mobilized millions of Indians, gained international attention, and marked the beginning of a nationwide movement for independence.

Solution:

The Salt March, also known as the Dandi March, was one of the most significant acts of civil disobedience during the Indian independence movement. Gandhi ji led a 240-mile journey from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi in Gujarat to protest the British monopoly on salt production and the heavy taxes imposed on it. The march symbolized the Indian people's defiance of British colonial laws and became a unifying moment in the struggle for independence. It garnered widespread support and helped to galvanize the Indian masses in their fight for freedom, making it a landmark event in Indian history.

Quick Tip

The Salt March was an effective use of non-violent protest, drawing widespread participation and international attention to the Indian independence movement.