

UP Board Class 12 History - 321(AI) 2023 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed : 3 Hours	Maximum Marks : 100
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. There are five sections in this question paper. Section A consists of 10 Multiple Choice Type questions. Section B consists of 5 Very Short Answer Type questions. Section C consists of 6 Short Answer Type questions. Section D consists of 3 Long Answer Type Questions and Section E consists of historical dates and map related questions.
3. Marks allotted to the questions are indicated against them.

1. Which one of the following was the real name of Mahavir?

- (A) Vardhman
- (B) Gautama
- (C) Siddhartha
- (D) Tathagata

Correct Answer: (A) Vardhman

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks for the original or birth name of Mahavir, the 24th and last Tirthankara of Jainism.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Mahavir was born into a royal Kshatriya family in ancient India. His childhood name was Vardhman, which means "one who grows".

He was given the name Mahavir (meaning "Great Hero") after he attained Kevala Jnana (omniscience).

Let's analyze the other options:

- **Gautama and Siddhartha:** These are names associated with Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. His birth name was Siddhartha Gautama.

- **Tathagata:** This is a title for the Buddha, meaning "one who has thus gone" or "one who has thus come".

Step 3: Final Answer:

Based on historical records, the real name of Mahavir was Vardhman. Therefore, option (A) is the correct choice.

Quick Tip

For history-based exams, it is crucial to remember the original names, titles, and key life events of major religious and historical figures like Mahavir and Buddha. Creating a comparative table can be very helpful.

2. 'Arthshastra' was written by:

- (A) Mahatma Gandhi
- (B) Megasthenes
- (C) Vishnugupta
- (D) Chandragupta

Correct Answer: (C) Vishnugupta

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the author of the 'Arthashastra', an ancient Indian Sanskrit treatise on statecraft, economic policy, and military strategy.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The 'Arthashastra' is traditionally attributed to Kautilya, who was the chief advisor and prime minister to the first Mauryan Emperor, Chandragupta.

Kautilya is also known by two other names: Chanakya and Vishnugupta. Therefore, Vishnugupta is the correct author.

Let's examine the other options:

- **Mahatma Gandhi:** A modern-era leader of India's independence movement. He wrote books like 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth'.
- **Megasthenes:** A Greek historian who wrote 'Indica', an account of India during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya.

- **Chandragupta:** The founder of the Mauryan Empire, who was guided by Kautilya (Vishnugupta). He was a king, not the author of this treatise.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Since Vishnugupta is another name for Kautilya, the author of the 'Arthashastra', option (C) is correct.

Quick Tip

Many historical figures are known by multiple names. For the exam, remember that Kautilya = Chanakya = Vishnugupta. This is a frequently asked question.

3. Vasudev was the prominent deity of which cult?

- (A) Vaishnav
- (B) Shaiv
- (C) Baudh
- (D) Jain

Correct Answer: (A) Vaishnav

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question relates to the different sects and cults within ancient Indian religions and asks about the primary affiliation of the deity Vasudeva.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The worship of Vasudeva, who is identified with Krishna and later syncretized with Vishnu, forms the core of Vaishnavism (the Vaishnav cult).

Vaishnavism is one of the major traditions within Hinduism and it conceives of Vishnu as the supreme being.

Let's look at the other options:

- **Shaiv (Shaivism):** This sect venerates the god Shiva as the supreme being.
- **Baudh (Buddhism):** This is a separate religion founded by Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha).
- **Jain (Jainism):** This is another distinct religion, with its teachings based on the Tirthankaras, most notably Mahavir.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The cult centered around the worship of Vasudeva-Krishna is known as Vaishnavism. Therefore, option (A) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

Understand the principal deities of the major Hindu sects: Vishnu for Vaishnavism, Shiva for Shaivism, and Devi (the goddess) for Shaktism. This is a foundational topic in Indian culture and religion.

4. Who was the founder of Vijaynagara empire?

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

Correct Answer: (A) Harihara and Bukka

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the founders of the Vijayanagara Empire, a prominent kingdom in Southern India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Vijayanagara Empire was established in 1336 A.D. by two brothers, **Harihara I** and **Bukka Raya I**.

They belonged to the Sangama dynasty and established their capital at Vijayanagara (present-day Hampi) on the banks of the Tungabhadra River.

The other individuals listed were also important rulers of the same empire, but they were not the founders:

- **Krishnadeva Raya:** He was the most famous and powerful ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire, belonging to the Tuluva dynasty, who reigned from 1509 to 1529.
- **Rama Raya:** He was a regent and the de facto ruler from the Aravidu dynasty, who led the empire during the fateful Battle of Talikota in 1565.
- **Deva Raya II:** He was a powerful emperor from the Sangama dynasty who ruled before Krishnadeva Raya.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The founders of the Vijayanagara Empire were the brothers Harihara and Bukka. Thus, option (A) is correct.

Quick Tip

When studying dynasties and empires, always distinguish between the founder and the most prominent or powerful ruler. Exam questions often test this specific knowledge.

5. The Dargah of 'Muyinuddin Chisti' is situated in:

- (A) Ajmer
- (B) Delhi
- (C) Ajodhan
- (D) Jaipur

Correct Answer: (A) Ajmer

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the location of the Dargah (tomb shrine) of Moinuddin Chishti, a highly revered Sufi saint.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti was a Persian Sufi saint who introduced and established the Chishti Order of Sufism in the Indian subcontinent.

His tomb, known as the Ajmer Sharif Dargah or Dargah Sharif, is a major pilgrimage site for people of all faiths. It is located in the city of **Ajmer**, in the state of Rajasthan, India.

Let's analyze the other locations:

- **Delhi:** This city has the Dargah of another prominent Chishti saint, Nizamuddin Auliya.
- **Ajodhan:** Now known as Pakpattan in Pakistan, this is the location of the shrine of Baba Farid, another important Sufi saint.
- **Jaipur:** This is the capital city of Rajasthan but is not the location of Moinuddin Chishti's Dargah.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Dargah of Moinuddin Chishti is situated in Ajmer. Therefore, option (A) is the correct

answer.

Quick Tip

For exams, it's useful to create a list of important Sufi and Bhakti saints and the locations of their principal seats or tombs. Questions frequently mix up saints and locations.

6. When did the Simon Commission arrive in India?

- (A) 1927 A.D.
- (B) 1942 A.D.
- (C) 1943 A.D.
- (D) 1944 A.D.

Correct Answer: (A) 1927 A.D.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the year the Simon Commission arrived in India. It's important to distinguish between the year the commission was formed and the year it arrived.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Indian Statutory Commission, popularly known as the Simon Commission, was a group of seven British Members of Parliament.

- **Formation:** The commission was constituted in Britain in **November 1927**.
- **Arrival:** The commission officially arrived in British India on **February 3, 1928**.

The options provided are 1927, 1942, 1943, and 1944. The years in the 1940s are incorrect as they relate to the Quit India Movement and the final phase of the freedom struggle.

Although the commission arrived in 1928, this year is not an option. The closest and most relevant date among the choices is 1927, the year the commission was formed. In the context of multiple-choice questions where the exact answer is missing, the year of its formation (1927) is often considered the intended answer.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Given the available options, 1927 A.D. is the most plausible answer, referring to the year the commission was appointed.

Quick Tip

Be aware that exam questions can sometimes be imprecise. The Simon Commission was appointed in 1927 but arrived in 1928. If both dates are options, 'arrival' points to 1928. If only 1927 is an option, it likely refers to its formation.

7. Who wrote the book 'The Discovery of India'?

- (A) V.D. Savarkar
- (B) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (C) Mahatma Gandhi
- (D) Jawaharlal Nehru

Correct Answer: (D) Jawaharlal Nehru

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks to identify the author of the famous book 'The Discovery of India'.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

'The Discovery of India' (Bharat Ek Khoj) was written by **Jawaharlal Nehru**, the first Prime Minister of India.

He wrote the book during his imprisonment in 1942–1945 at Ahmednagar Fort in present-day Maharashtra. The book provides a broad view of Indian history, culture, and philosophy, starting from ancient times.

Let's consider the other authors:

- **V.D. Savarkar:** Wrote 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857'.
- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** Wrote 'The Arctic Home in the Vedas' and 'Gita Rahasya'.
- **Mahatma Gandhi:** Wrote his autobiography, 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth', and 'Hind Swaraj'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The author of 'The Discovery of India' is Jawaharlal Nehru. Therefore, option (D) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

Authors and their famous literary works, especially those related to the Indian freedom struggle, are a very common topic in general knowledge and history exams. Make a list of prominent leaders and their books.

8. Coronation of Shivaji was held in -----

- (A) 1615 A.D.
- (B) 1627 A.D.
- (C) 1630 A.D.
- (D) 1632 A.D.

Correct Answer: The correct answer is 1674 A.D., which is not available in the options.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the year of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The coronation (Rajyabhishek) of Shivaji Maharaj was a landmark event that formally established the Maratha sovereign state. This ceremony took place on **June 6, 1674 A.D.**, at the Raigad Fort. On this occasion, he assumed the title of 'Chhatrapati'.

Let's analyze the given options:

- (A) 1615 A.D.: This is too early.
- (B) 1627 A.D. and (C) 1630 A.D.: These dates are associated with Shivaji's birth. His exact birth year is debated by historians, with some citing 1627 and others (more commonly) 1630. These are his birth years, not his coronation year.
- (D) 1632 A.D.: This is also incorrect.

Since the actual coronation year is 1674 A.D., none of the provided options are correct. The question is flawed. It might have intended to ask for his birth year, in which case both (B) and (C) are historically debated possibilities. However, as the question explicitly asks for the coronation, no option is valid.

Step 3: Final Answer:

There is an error in the question as the correct year, 1674 A.D., is not listed. All provided

options are incorrect.

Quick Tip

In an exam, if you encounter a question with clearly incorrect options, double-check your knowledge. If you are certain, recognize that the question may be flawed. Usually, such questions are disqualified, or marks are awarded to all students. It's important to know the correct date (1674) for future reference.

9. Which Art reached its zenith in Shah Jahan's reign?

- (A) Sculpture
- (B) Architecture
- (C) Painting
- (D) Calligraphy

Correct Answer: (B) Architecture

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks which form of art reached its peak or highest point of development during the reign of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The reign of Shah Jahan (1628-1658) is widely considered the "Golden Age of Mughal Architecture". He was a prolific builder with a keen aesthetic sense. His architectural marvels are characterized by elegance, symmetry, and the extensive use of white marble and pietra dura (inlay work).

The most famous example is the **Taj Mahal** in Agra. Other major constructions include the **Red Fort (Lal Qila)** and the **Jama Masjid** in Delhi, and the Shalimar Gardens in Lahore. While other arts also flourished:

- **Painting:** Mughal painting reached its zenith under Shah Jahan's father, **Jahangir**. Under Shah Jahan, painting became more formal and rigid, though still of high quality.
- **Sculpture:** Monumental sculpture was not a major feature of Mughal art.
- **Calligraphy:** This was an important art form, but architecture was the defining achievement of his reign.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Architecture undoubtedly reached its zenith during Shah Jahan's reign. Therefore, option (B) is correct.

Quick Tip

To easily remember the peaks of Mughal art, associate emperors with their primary passion: Jahangir is known for Painting, and Shah Jahan is renowned for Architecture. This is a high-yield topic for history questions.

10. When was Rowlatt Act passed?

- (A) 1917 A.D.
- (B) 1918 A.D.
- (C) 1919 A.D.
- (D) 1920 A.D.

Correct Answer: (C) 1919 A.D.

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks for the year when the infamous Rowlatt Act was enacted by the British Indian government.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, popularly known as the **Rowlatt Act**, was a legislative act passed by the Imperial Legislative Council in Delhi. It was officially passed in **March 1919**.

The act was based on the recommendations of the Sedition Committee chaired by Sir Sidney Rowlatt. It gave the government immense powers to repress political activities and allowed for the detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.

This "black act" was met with widespread anger and discontent among Indians. Mahatma Gandhi launched a nationwide hartal (strike), known as the Rowlatt Satyagraha, in protest. The tragic Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar on April 13, 1919, was a direct consequence of protests against this act.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Rowlatt Act was passed in the year 1919 A.D. Therefore, option (C) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

Creating a timeline of key events during the Indian freedom struggle is essential. Link acts like the Rowlatt Act (1919) to the movements they triggered, such as the Rowlatt Satyagraha and the subsequent Jallianwala Bagh massacre, to build a strong conceptual understanding.

11. Who started the excavation of Harappan site first?

Answer:

The excavation of the Harappan site was first started by **Daya Ram Sahni** in **1921**. He was an Indian archaeologist who, under the supervision of Sir John Marshall, the then Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India, led the initial excavations at Harappa in the Punjab province of British India (present-day Pakistan).

Quick Tip

For exams, remember the key archaeologists and the sites they are associated with. A common pair is: Harappa - Daya Ram Sahni (1921) and Mohenjo-Daro - R.D. Banerji (1922).

12. Who wrote the book 'Indica'?

Answer:

The book 'Indica' was written by **Megasthenes**. He was a Greek ambassador, historian, and ethnographer sent by the Hellenistic king Seleucus I Nicator to the court of the Mauryan emperor **Chandragupta Maurya** in Pataliputra. His work, although now lost in its original form, survives through fragments quoted by later Greek and Roman authors and provides a valuable account of India during that period.

Quick Tip

Accounts of foreign travelers are a crucial topic. Create a list matching the traveler (e.g., Megasthenes, Fa-Hien, Hiuen Tsang), the ruler they visited (e.g., Chandragupta Maurya, Chandragupta II, Harshavardhana), and their written work.

13. What do you mean by 'Stupa'?

Answer:

A 'Stupa' is a mound-like or dome-shaped structure containing relics that is used as a place of meditation. Stupas originated as pre-Buddhist burial mounds in India and were later adopted by Buddhism to house the relics of the Buddha and other venerable figures.

Key features include:

- **Anda:** The hemispherical dome.
- **Harmika:** A square railing on top of the dome.
- **Chhatra:** A central pillar supporting a triple umbrella form.
- **Pradakshina Patha:** A circumambulatory path around the stupa.

The Great Stupa at Sanchi is one of the most famous examples.

Quick Tip

For art and culture questions, it's essential to know the terminology related to ancient architecture. Learn the distinct features and purposes of Stupas, Chaityas (prayer halls), and Viharas (monasteries).

14. When and where did the Chauri-Chaura incident take place?**Answer:**

The Chauri-Chaura incident took place on **February 4, 1922**, at **Chauri Chaura** in the **Gorakhpur district** of the United Province (modern-day Uttar Pradesh) in British India. During the Non-Cooperation Movement, a large group of protesters clashed with police, who opened fire. In retaliation, the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants. This act of violence led Mahatma Gandhi to call off the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Quick Tip

When studying the Indian freedom struggle, focus on cause and effect. The Chauri-Chaura incident is a classic example: its violence directly led to Gandhi's decision to withdraw the nationwide Non-Cooperation Movement.

15. What was the 'Astapradhana' system under Shivaji?

Answer:

The 'Ashtapradhan' (council of eight) was the administrative and advisory council established by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It was a system of eight ministers who assisted Shivaji in the governance of the Maratha Empire. Each minister was directly responsible to the ruler and headed a specific department.

The eight ministers were:

1. **Peshwa** (Prime Minister): Looked after general administration and welfare.
2. **Amatya** or **Majumdar** (Finance Minister): Managed the public accounts.
3. **Waqia-Navis** or **Mantri** (Chronicler): Maintained the king's daily records.
4. **Shurunavis** or **Sachiv** (Superintendent): Looked after royal correspondence.
5. **Dabir** or **Sumant** (Foreign Minister): Advised on matters of foreign affairs.
6. **Senapati** or **Sar-i-Naubat** (Commander-in-Chief): Managed the military.
7. **Panditrao** (High Priest): Dealt with religious matters and charities.
8. **Nyayadhish** (Chief Justice): Was responsible for dispensing justice.

Quick Tip

Remember key administrative councils from Indian history, such as Shivaji's Ashtapradhan and Akbar's Navaratnas. Creating a table with the minister's title and their function can be a very effective study tool.

16. Give the reasons for the decline of 'Maurya Empire'.

Answer:

The decline of the Mauryan Empire, which began after the death of Ashoka in 232 BCE, was caused by a combination of factors:

- **Weak Successors:** Ashoka's successors were weak and incompetent rulers who could not hold the vast empire together.
- **Division of the Empire:** The empire was partitioned into western and eastern parts after Ashoka's death, which weakened its unity.
- **Financial Crisis:** The enormous expenditure on the army and the bureaucracy, along with large grants to Buddhist monks, strained the royal treasury.

- **Oppressive Provincial Rule:** Provincial governors (amatyas) often became corrupt and oppressed the local population, leading to revolts.
- **Ashoka's Pacifist Policies:** Some historians argue that Ashoka's policy of Dhamma and non-violence undermined the military strength and aggressive spirit required to maintain a large empire.
- **Brahmanical Reaction:** The patronage of Buddhism by Ashoka and his anti-sacrifice policies antagonized the Brahmins, who may have contributed to the empire's downfall. The last Mauryan king, Brihadratha, was assassinated by his Brahmin commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Shunga.
- **Vastness of the Empire and Communication Challenges:** The sheer size of the empire made it difficult to administer and control from the center, especially with developing communication lines.

Quick Tip

For "decline of empire" questions, structure your answer by categorizing the reasons into political (weak successors), economic (financial crisis), administrative (oppressive rule), and social/religious factors. This provides a comprehensive and well-organized response.

17. Give a brief account of the teachings of Jainism.

Answer:

The core teachings of Jainism are based on the path to liberate the soul from the cycle of rebirth (samsara) and attain moksha (liberation). The fundamental principles are:

1. The Triratnas (Three Jewels): This is the three-fold path to liberation.

- **Samyak Darshana (Right Faith):** Belief in the teachings of the Tirthankaras.
- **Samyak Jnana (Right Knowledge):** Correct and complete knowledge of the Jaina creed.
- **Samyak Charitra (Right Conduct):** Living one's life according to Jaina ethical rules.

2. The Panch Mahavratas (Five Great Vows): These are the codes of conduct to be followed.

- **Ahimsa (Non-violence):** Not to cause harm to any living being. This is the cornerstone of Jain philosophy.
- **Satya (Truthfulness):** To speak the truth and not lie.
- **Asteya (Non-stealing):** Not to take anything that is not willingly given.
- **Aparigraha (Non-possession):** To detach from people, places, and material things.

- **Brahmacharya (Chastity):** To abstain from sensual pleasures. This vow was added by Mahavir.

Jainism also emphasizes concepts like Anekantavada (many-sidedness of reality) and Syadvada (theory of conditioned predication).

Quick Tip

When studying Jainism and Buddhism, create a comparative table. Compare their Three Jewels, Five Vows (Jainism) vs. the Eightfold Path (Buddhism), their concept of God, and their key patrons to avoid confusion.

18. Write a short note on Megasthenes.

Answer:

Megasthenes was an ancient Greek historian, diplomat, and ethnographer who lived in the 4th century BCE. He is best known for being the ambassador of the Hellenistic king Seleucus I Nicator to the court of the Mauryan emperor, Chandragupta Maurya, in Pataliputra.

During his time in India, he compiled his observations and experiences into a four-volume work titled '**Indica**'. Although the original book is lost, extensive fragments have been preserved in the works of later Greek and Latin authors like Strabo, Diodorus, and Arrian.

'Indica' is one of the most important foreign accounts of ancient India. It provides valuable information on the geography, administration, social structure (mentioning a seven-class system), economy, customs, and culture of the Mauryan period. Despite some fantastical elements and misunderstandings of Indian culture, his work remains an indispensable source for historians studying this era.

Quick Tip

Megasthenes and his book 'Indica' are very frequently asked topics. Remember the key association: Megasthenes -> Seleucus I Nicator's ambassador -> Chandragupta Maurya's court -> 'Indica' -> Description of Mauryan administration and society.

19. 'The revolt of 1857 was the first freedom struggle of India'. Explain.

Answer:

The statement that the Revolt of 1857 was the "first freedom struggle of India" is a significant interpretation of the event, famously articulated by V.D. Savarkar in his book 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857'. This perspective is based on several key arguments:

- **Unprecedented Scale and Geographical Spread:** Unlike previous uprisings, which were localized, the 1857 Revolt engulfed a vast area of Northern and Central India, from Delhi and Awadh to Bihar and Bundelkhand.
- **Widespread Participation:** It was not just a military mutiny. It saw the participation of diverse sections of society including rulers of princely states (like Rani Lakshmibai and Nana Saheb), landlords (zamindars), peasants, artisans, and religious leaders, both Hindu and Muslim.
- **Common Enemy and Goal:** Despite having different grievances, all participants were united by a common goal: to overthrow the rule of the British East India Company. This shared objective gave it the character of a national struggle against a foreign power.
- **Challenge to British Authority:** The revolt posed the most serious challenge to British power in India since its inception. It shook the foundations of the Company's rule and led to its dissolution, with the British Crown taking direct control of India in 1858.

While some historians argue that it lacked a unified command and a forward-looking vision for a new India, and thus call it a "sepoy mutiny" or a series of disconnected revolts, its scale, popular participation, and clear anti-colonial objective justify its characterization as the first major struggle for India's freedom.

Quick Tip

For subjective questions like this, it is important to understand different historical perspectives. Acknowledge both viewpoints: the arguments for it being the "First War of Independence" (widespread participation, common enemy) and the counter-arguments (lack of unified leadership, limited geographical scope).

20. Describe the Administration of Sher Shah.

Answer:

Sher Shah Suri, who ruled for a brief period (1540-1545), was a brilliant administrator whose reforms laid the foundation for the later Mughal administration. His system was efficient, well-organized, and focused on public welfare.

1. Central Administration: The king was the supreme authority. He was assisted by four important ministers:

- **Diwan-i-Wizarat:** Head of the revenue and finance department.
- **Diwan-i-Ariz:** Head of the army.
- **Diwan-i-Rasalat:** Foreign Minister.
- **Diwan-i-Insha:** Head of royal correspondence.

2. Provincial and Local Administration: The empire was divided into provinces called **iqtas**. Below them, the administrative structure was:

- **Sarkar (District):** Headed by two chief officers, the **Shiqdar-i-Shiqdaran** (to maintain law and order) and the **Munsif-i-Munsifan** (to supervise revenue collection).
- **Pargana (Sub-district):** Comprised several villages and was managed by officials like the **Shiqdar** (military officer), **Munsif** (judge), and **Karkuns** (clerks).

3. Revenue Administration: This was one of his greatest achievements.

- Land was systematically surveyed and measured using a uniform standard (**sikandari gaz**).
- Land was classified into good, middle, and bad categories based on fertility.
- The state's share was fixed at one-third of the average produce, payable in cash or kind.
- He introduced formal documents like the **patta** (title deed) and **qabuliyat** (deed of agreement).

4. Infrastructure and Communication: He built an excellent network of roads for trade and military movement, most famously the **Grand Trunk Road (Sadak-i-Azam)**. He also established **sarais** (inns) for travelers and a **dak-chowki** (postal system).

5. Currency Reform: He introduced a standardized silver coin called the **rupia** and a copper coin called the **dam**, which improved trade and commerce.

Quick Tip

Remember that Sher Shah's administrative model was a precursor to Akbar's system. Many of Sher Shah's innovations, especially in revenue (**patta**, **qabuliyat**) and infrastructure (**Grand Trunk Road**), were adopted and refined by the Mughals. This connection is a key point for historical analysis.

21. What were causes of Champaran Satyagraha?

Answer:

The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917, Mahatma Gandhi's first major satyagraha movement in India, was launched to address the grievances of the tenant farmers (**ryots**) in the Champaran district of Bihar. The primary causes were rooted in the exploitative practices of the European indigo planters.

1. The Tinkathia System: This was the most significant cause. Under this system, the European planters forced the Indian farmers to cultivate indigo on 3/20th (three kathas out of twenty) of their land. This was a compulsory obligation, and the choice of land was often made by the planters, usually the most fertile parts.

2. Exploitative Pricing: The planters fixed the price for the indigo, which was extremely

low and non-remunerative for the farmers. The farmers were bound by contract and could not sell their produce on the open market.

3. Illegal Dues and Fines (Abwabs): The planters imposed numerous illegal taxes and fines on the tenants for various pretexts. This placed an unbearable financial burden on the already impoverished farmers.

4. Coercion and Oppression: Farmers who resisted indigo cultivation or demanded fair prices were subjected to harassment, physical intimidation, and legal persecution by the planters, who enjoyed significant power and influence over the local administration.

5. Impact of German Dyes: By the early 20th century, German synthetic dyes had made indigo cultivation unprofitable. To release the farmers from their obligation to grow indigo, the planters demanded exorbitant rents and lump-sum payments as compensation, further exacerbating the farmers' plight.

These conditions led Raj Kumar Shukla, a local farmer, to persuade Mahatma Gandhi to visit Champaran and lead the struggle against this injustice.

Quick Tip

For Gandhi's early movements, remember the chronological order and the key issue for each: **C**hamparan (1917) for indigo farmers, **A**hmedabad Mill Strike (1918) for workers' wages, and **K**heda (1918) for crop failure and tax remission. The acronym "CAK" can help you remember the order.

22. (a) Discuss the salient features of the 'Vedic Civilization'.

Answer:

The Vedic Civilization, which flourished in the northern Indian subcontinent between approximately 1500 BCE and 500 BCE, is named after the Vedas, the sacred texts that are the primary source of information for this period. Its features can be broadly divided into the Early Vedic (Rigvedic) Period and the Later Vedic Period.

Salient Features of the Early Vedic (Rigvedic) Period (c. 1500–1000 BCE):

- **Political Structure:** The basic political unit was the *kula* (family), headed by a *kulapa*. Several families formed a *grama* (village), and a group of villages formed a *vis*. The highest political unit was the *jana* (tribe). The tribal chief, the *Rajan*, was primarily a military leader. His power was not absolute and was checked by popular assemblies like the *Sabha* and *Samiti*.
- **Social Life:** The society was semi-nomadic and pastoral. Kinship was the basis of social structure. The society was patriarchal, with the *grihapati* as the head of the family. Women enjoyed a respectable position; they could attend assemblies and compose hymns. There was no rigid caste system, and occupation was not based on birth.

- **Economy:** The economy was predominantly pastoral and agrarian. Cattle were the main source of wealth, and wars were often fought for them (*gavishti*). Agriculture was secondary, with barley (*yava*) being the main crop. There was no concept of private land ownership. The barter system was prevalent.
- **Religion:** The Rigvedic people worshipped nature gods. They personified natural forces into deities like Indra (god of thunder), Agni (god of fire), Varuna (god of water), and Surya (sun god). Religious practices involved the performance of yajnas (sacrifices) to please the gods. There were no temples or idol worship.

Salient Features of the Later Vedic Period (c. 1000–500 BCE):

- **Political Structure:** The *janas* started consolidating into larger kingdoms called *jana-padas*. The power of the *Rajan* increased significantly, and kingship became hereditary. The king performed elaborate royal consecration ceremonies like the *Ashvamedha* and *Rajasuya* to assert his authority. The Sabha and Samiti lost their importance.
- **Social Life:** Society became more complex and stratified. The *Varna* system became rigid and based on birth, dividing society into four classes: Brahmanas (priests), Kshatriyas (warriors), Vaishyas (merchants and farmers), and Shudras (servers). The position of women declined; they were denied participation in assemblies and education. The concept of *gotra* (lineage) emerged.
- **Economy:** Agriculture became the primary occupation, aided by the use of iron tools for clearing forests and iron ploughs. Rice (*vrihi*) and wheat became major crops. The concept of private property and land ownership emerged. Trade and commerce grew, leading to the beginnings of urbanization.
- **Religion:** The nature gods of the Rigvedic period like Indra and Agni lost their prominence. New deities like Prajapati (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver), and Rudra (the destroyer) became more important. The rituals and sacrifices became much more complex and elaborate, increasing the power and influence of the Brahmanas. The philosophical texts like the Upanishads, which critique rituals and emphasize knowledge (*jnana*), were also composed during this phase.

Quick Tip

When answering questions about the Vedic Civilization, always clearly differentiate between the Early Vedic (Rigvedic) and Later Vedic periods. The changes in society, polity, economy, and religion between these two phases are the most crucial points to highlight.

(OR)

Write the main features of the 'Bhakti Movement'.

Answer:

The Bhakti Movement was a socio-religious reform movement that swept across medieval India from the 7th to the 17th century. It emphasized devotion (*bhakti*) as the primary means to achieve salvation (*moksha*). Originating in the Tamil-speaking regions of South India with the Alvars (devotees of Vishnu) and Nayanars (devotees of Shiva), it gradually spread to the north.

The main features of the Bhakti Movement were:

1. **Belief in One God (Monotheism):** While the Bhakti saints worshipped different gods and goddesses, they all preached the fundamental unity of God. They propagated that God could be called by different names (Rama, Krishna, Allah, etc.) but is ultimately one.
2. **Emphasis on Bhakti (Devotion):** The movement's core principle was that intense, personal devotion and love for God was the only way to attain salvation. This path was considered superior to the traditional paths of Jnana (knowledge) and Karma (rituals).
3. **Rejection of Rituals and Ceremonies:** The Bhakti saints condemned elaborate rituals, ceremonies, and blind faith. They taught that God could be reached through simple, heartfelt devotion, not through complex priestly practices.
4. **Condemnation of the Caste System:** The movement was a powerful voice against the rigidities of the caste system. Saints like Kabir, Ravidas, and Guru Nanak strongly preached the equality of all human beings, stating that one's caste or creed was irrelevant in the eyes of God.
5. **Use of Local Languages:** To make their teachings accessible to the common people, the Bhakti saints composed their hymns, poems, and songs in vernacular languages like Tamil, Kannada, Marathi, Hindi, and Punjabi, rather than Sanskrit, which was understood only by the elite.
6. **Importance of the Guru:** The Bhakti tradition stressed the necessity of a Guru (spiritual teacher) to guide the devotee on the path of devotion and help them attain salvation.
7. **Direct Relationship with God:** The movement encouraged a personal, emotional bond between the devotee and God. It opposed the idea of priests or intermediaries being necessary for worship.
8. **Two Schools of Thought:** The movement was broadly divided into two streams:
 - **Saguna Bhakti:** Worshipped God with attributes (form), as an incarnation like Rama or Krishna. Key proponents were Tulsidas, Surdas, and Mirabai.
 - **Nirguna Bhakti:** Worshipped a formless God without attributes. Key proponents were Kabir and Guru Nanak.

Quick Tip

For an essay on the Bhakti Movement, structure your answer around its key features. Start with its core idea (devotion), then discuss its social impact (anti-caste), its methods (use of vernaculars), and its main branches (Saguna and Nirguna), citing a few key saints for each point.

23. What do you mean by Pillars? What are their types?

Answer:

In the context of ancient Indian history and art, "Pillars" primarily refer to the magnificent, freestanding columns erected by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE. These pillars are considered masterpieces of Mauryan art and are a significant symbol of Ashoka's reign and his policy of Dhamma.

Meaning and Characteristics of Ashokan Pillars:

Ashokan pillars are monolithic, meaning they are carved from a single block of stone, typically chunar sandstone. They are not part of any larger architectural structure but stand independently. Their primary purpose was to disseminate Ashoka's royal edicts and his message of Dhamma (righteous conduct) to the public.

Key Characteristics:

- **Monolithic Shaft:** The shaft of the pillar is a single piece of stone, tapering towards the top. It has a smooth, highly polished surface, often referred to as "Mauryan polish," which gives it a lustrous appearance.
- **Capital:** The top part of the pillar is known as the capital. It consists of three main parts:
 1. **Base:** A bell-shaped or lotus-shaped base (inverted lotus).
 2. **Abacus:** A platform above the base, which can be square or circular. It is often decorated with relief carvings of animals or floral motifs (like the Dharma Chakra).
 3. **Crowning Animal Sculpture:** A sculpture of one or more animals, seated or standing, placed on top of the abacus. These animal figures are carved with remarkable realism.

Types of Ashokan Pillars:

The pillars can be classified based on two main criteria: their crowning animal sculpture and the presence of inscriptions.

1. Classification by Crowning Animal:

- **Lion Pillars:** This is the most common type. Some have a single lion (e.g., Lauriya-Nandangarh, Vaishali), while the most famous one at Sarnath has four lions seated back-to-back. The Lion Capital of Sarnath is the National Emblem of India.
- **Bull Pillars:** A pillar with a single bull capital was found at Rampurva. This bull is celebrated for its powerful and realistic depiction.

- **Elephant Pillars:** A pillar with an elephant capital is found at Sankassa. The elephant symbolizes the conception of Prince Siddhartha (the future Buddha).
- **Horse Pillars:** Although no complete pillar with a horse capital has been found in situ, fragments suggest their existence. A pillar at Rummindei (Lumbini) is believed to have originally been crowned by a horse.

2. Classification by Inscriptions:

- **Pillars with Edicts:** Most of the surviving pillars are inscribed with Ashoka's edicts. These are known as the Pillar Edicts, where Ashoka explains his policies of Dhamma and instructs his officials.
- **Pillars without Edicts:** Some pillars, like the one at Vaishali with a single lion capital, do not have any inscriptions. These were likely erected for commemorative or symbolic purposes rather than for proclaiming edicts.

Quick Tip

When discussing Ashokan Pillars, always remember to mention their three key features: monolithic shaft, Mauryan polish, and the distinct animal capital. The Sarnath Lion Capital is the most important example to describe in detail, as it is India's National Emblem.

(OR)

Write an essay on the Mughal Architecture.

Answer:

Mughal architecture represents a unique blend of Persian, Turkish, and Indian architectural styles that evolved in India during the rule of the Mughal Empire (16th to 19th centuries). It is renowned for its grandeur, symmetry, and intricate ornamentation. The evolution of this style can be traced through the reigns of various Mughal emperors.

Early Phase: Babur and Humayun

The early Mughal rulers were more focused on consolidating their empire and had limited time for grand construction. Babur, the founder, built a few mosques, such as the one at Panipat, but most have not survived. Humayun's reign was tumultuous, but his tomb in Delhi, built by his widow Haji Begum during Akbar's reign, is a magnificent early example of Mughal architecture. It was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent and introduced key features like the large central dome, the use of red sandstone and white marble, and the *charbagh* (a four-quadrant garden) layout.

The Zenith under Akbar

Emperor Akbar's reign was a period of great architectural activity. He extensively used red sandstone and blended Persian and Indian (especially Rajput) architectural elements. His constructions were massive and robust. Key examples include:

- **Agra Fort:** A massive fortress-palace built of red sandstone on the banks of the river Yamuna.
- **Fatehpur Sikri:** Akbar's new capital city, which showcases a synthesis of different regional styles. It includes magnificent structures like the Buland Darwaza (the highest gateway in India), the Tomb of Salim Chishti (made of marble), Panch Mahal (a five-storied palace), and the Diwan-i-Khas with its unique central pillar.

Transition under Jahangir

Jahangir was more interested in painting, but his reign marked a transition from the robust red sandstone of Akbar's time to the more delicate and ornate white marble. The most significant architectural achievement of his period is the **Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah** in Agra, built by his wife Nur Jahan. This tomb is the first Mughal structure built completely of white marble and is notable for its extensive use of *pietra dura* (inlay work with semi-precious stones), which became a hallmark of later Mughal architecture.

The Golden Age under Shah Jahan

Shah Jahan's reign is considered the golden age of Mughal architecture. His buildings are characterized by perfect symmetry, elegance, and an almost exclusive use of white marble, adorned with exquisite *pietra dura* and *jali* (latticed screen) work. His masterpieces include:

- **The Taj Mahal:** The pinnacle of Mughal architecture, a mausoleum built in Agra for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. It is celebrated for its perfect proportions, magnificent dome, intricate marble carvings, and *pietra dura* work.
- **The Red Fort (Lal Qila) in Delhi:** A vast complex of palaces, halls, and pavilions, including the Diwan-i-Aam and the Diwan-i-Khas.
- **Jama Masjid, Delhi:** One of the largest mosques in India.

Decline under Aurangzeb

Aurangzeb, a devout puritan, had little interest in art and architecture. His reign saw a sharp decline in architectural patronage. The few notable buildings from his time, such as the **Bibi Ka Maqbara** in Aurangabad (a mausoleum for his wife) and the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, are considered poor imitations of earlier Mughal structures, lacking the same sense of proportion and elegance.

Quick Tip

To write a good essay on Mughal architecture, follow a chronological approach. Associate each major emperor (Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan) with their preferred building material (Red Sandstone -, White Marble), key architectural innovations (*Pietra Dura*, *Charbagh*), and at least one iconic monument.

24. Describe the causes and results of Civil Disobedience Movement.

Answer:

The Civil Disobedience Movement, launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930, was a pivotal phase in India's struggle for independence. It marked a significant escalation from the Non-Cooperation Movement of the early 1920s, involving the deliberate and non-violent breaking of laws.

Causes of the Civil Disobedience Movement:

1. **The Simon Commission (1928):** The British government appointed an all-white commission under Sir John Simon to review the constitutional setup in India. The exclusion of Indians from the commission was seen as an insult and led to widespread protests and boycotts under the slogan "Simon Go Back."
2. **Rejection of the Nehru Report (1928):** Indian political parties, in response to the Simon Commission, drafted a constitutional framework known as the Nehru Report, which demanded dominion status for India. The British government's lack of response to this demand caused deep dissatisfaction.
3. **Lahore Congress Session and 'Purna Swaraj' (1929):** At its Lahore session, the Indian National Congress, under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, declared 'Purna Swaraj' (complete independence) as its goal. It was decided that 26th January 1930 would be celebrated as Independence Day, and a nationwide Civil Disobedience Movement would be launched.
4. **Rejection of Gandhi's 11-Point Ultimatum:** Before launching the movement, Gandhi presented an 11-point ultimatum to the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, which included demands like the abolition of the salt tax, reduction of land revenue, and release of political prisoners. The Viceroy's rejection of these demands set the stage for the movement.
5. **Economic Hardship:** The Great Depression of 1929 had a severe impact on the Indian economy. Prices of agricultural produce plummeted, leading to immense hardship for peasants and farmers, creating a fertile ground for a mass movement.

Results and Significance of the Movement:

1. **The Dandi March and Widespread Defiance:** The movement began with Gandhi's historic Dandi March (Salt March) in March-April 1930, where he and his followers broke the salt law. This act of defiance inspired millions across India to break the salt law and other oppressive laws.
2. **Mass Participation:** The movement saw an unprecedented level of mass participation. People from all walks of life, including peasants, workers, and students, joined in. A notable feature was the large-scale participation of women, who came out of their homes to take part in processions and picketing.
3. **Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931):** The widespread impact of the movement compelled the British government to negotiate. Lord Irwin signed a pact with Mahatma Gandhi in March 1931. As part of the pact, the government agreed to release political prisoners, and the Congress agreed to suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement and participate in the Second Round Table Conference in London.

4. **Second Round Table Conference and Resumption of Movement:** Gandhi attended the conference as the sole representative of the Congress, but the talks failed. Upon his return, he found that the government had resumed its repressive policies, leading to the resumption of the movement in 1932, which continued until 1934.
5. **Increased Political Consciousness:** Although the movement did not achieve immediate independence, it significantly radicalized the Indian masses. It instilled a new sense of confidence and a determination to fight for freedom. It demonstrated the power of non-violent satyagraha on a massive scale.
6. **Foundation for Future Reforms:** The movement put immense pressure on the British, which eventually contributed to the passing of the Government of India Act of 1935, which granted a degree of provincial autonomy.

Quick Tip

When discussing the Civil Disobedience Movement, always start with the Dandi March as the trigger event. Structure your answer by clearly separating the "Causes" (Simon Commission, Purna Swaraj) from the "Results" (Gandhi-Irwin Pact, mass participation).

(OR)

Write an essay on 'Quit India Movement'.

Answer:

The Quit India Movement, or the 'Bharat Chhodo Andolan', was the final and most intense mass struggle for freedom launched by the Indian National Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. It began on August 8, 1942, during the height of World War II, with the core demand for an "orderly British withdrawal" from India.

Background and Causes:

The movement was a culmination of growing frustration with British policies. The primary cause was the failure of the **Cripps Mission** in March-April 1942. The mission's proposal of dominion status after the war was rejected by all major Indian political parties as insufficient. Gandhi famously described it as a "post-dated cheque on a crashing bank." Furthermore, the ongoing World War II was causing immense hardship for the Indian people, including high inflation and shortages of essential goods. The imminent threat of a Japanese invasion of India also created a sense of urgency, with Gandhi and other leaders believing that the presence of the British in India was an invitation to the Japanese.

The Launch of the Movement and Gandhi's "Do or Die" Call:

On August 8, 1942, at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay, the All-India Congress Committee passed the 'Quit India' resolution. In his historic speech on this occasion, Mahatma Gandhi gave the clarion call to the nation: "**Do or Die.**" He urged the people to act as if they were free and not to rest until freedom was achieved. He stated, "We shall either free India or die

in the attempt.”

Progress and Nature of the Movement:

The British government responded with unprecedented force. In the early hours of August 9, Gandhi and all other prominent Congress leaders were arrested. This sudden removal of leadership did not crush the movement; instead, it led to a spontaneous and widespread popular revolt. The movement was characterized by:

- **Mass Upsurge:** People across the country engaged in hartals (strikes), processions, and demonstrations. There were widespread attacks on symbols of British authority, such as police stations, post offices, and railway lines.
- **Underground Activities:** With the mainstream leaders in jail, a new group of younger leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Aruna Asaf Ali emerged. They organized an underground movement, which included broadcasting on a clandestine radio station and coordinating acts of sabotage.
- **Parallel Governments (*Jatiya Sarkars*):** In several parts of the country, local parallel governments were established after overthrowing British rule. The most prominent examples were in Satara (Maharashtra), which lasted for a long time, and in Tamluk (Bengal) and Ballia (Uttar Pradesh).

Suppression and Significance:

The British suppressed the movement with brute force. Mass arrests, lathi charges, and firings were common, leading to the death of thousands. Despite being crushed by 1944, the Quit India Movement was of immense significance. It demonstrated the depth of nationalist feeling in the country and the people’s capacity for struggle and sacrifice. The movement made it unequivocally clear to the British government that their rule in India could not be maintained on the basis of Indian consent, and that they would have to quit India once the war was over. It marked the final, decisive phase of India’s struggle for independence, ensuring that freedom was no longer a matter of negotiation but an inevitability.

Quick Tip

An essay on the Quit India Movement should emphasize its unique character as a spontaneous, leaderless mass uprising. Highlight three key elements: the “Do or Die” slogan, the immediate arrest of leaders, and the emergence of parallel governments and underground activities.

25. Mention the events related to the following historical dates:

- 563 B.C.
- 527 B.C.
- 305 B.C.
- 78 A.D.
- 319 A.D.
- 380 A.D.

- (vii) 712 A.D.
- (viii) 1540 A.D.
- (ix) 1565 A.D.
- (x) 1885 A.D.

Answer:

The events related to the given historical dates are as follows:

- (i) **563 B.C.:** The birth of Gautama Buddha at Lumbini, Nepal.
- (ii) **527 B.C.:** The traditional year of the Nirvana (death) of Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, at Pavapuri in Bihar.
- (iii) **305 B.C.:** The Seleucid–Mauryan war, where Chandragupta Maurya defeated Seleucus I Nicator. The conflict ended with a treaty where Seleucus ceded territories to the Mauryan Empire.
- (iv) **78 A.D.:** The beginning of the Saka Era, which is widely associated with the accession of the Kushan emperor Kanishka the Great.
- (v) **319 A.D.:** The beginning of the Gupta Era, marking the accession of Chandragupta I as the first Maharajadhiraja (king of kings) of the Gupta Dynasty.
- (vi) **380 A.D.:** The accession of Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) to the Gupta throne. His reign is often considered the golden age of the Gupta Empire.
- (vii) **712 A.D.:** The invasion of Sindh by the Arab general Muhammad bin Qasim, leading to the establishment of Arab rule in the region.
- (viii) **1540 A.D.:** The Battle of Kannauj, where Sher Shah Suri defeated the Mughal emperor Humayun, forcing him into exile and establishing the Sur Empire.
- (ix) **1565 A.D.:** The Battle of Talikota, where an alliance of the Deccan Sultanates decisively defeated the Vijayanagara Empire, leading to its decline.
- (x) **1885 A.D.:** The formation of the Indian National Congress (INC) in Bombay, which became the principal leader of the Indian independence movement.

Quick Tip

For date-based questions, creating a timeline is the most effective study method. Group dates by era (Ancient, Medieval, Modern) and associate each date with a key person, event, and its significance to build a strong memory link.

26. Show the following places on the outline map of India supplied to you by the symbol ☉ and also write their names. For correct name and location 1 + 1 marks are allotted.

- (i) The place where the capital of Uttar Pradesh is located.

- (ii) The place where 'Mahavir Swami' was born.
- (iii) The place where 'Khusro Bagh' is situated.
- (iv) The place where 'Tomb of Akbar' is situated.
- (v) The place where 'Taj Mahal' is situated.

Answer:

The locations for the given descriptions are as follows:

- (i) The place where the capital of Uttar Pradesh is located:
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- (ii) The place where 'Mahavir Swami' was born:
Kundagrama (near Vaishali), Bihar.
- (iii) The place where 'Khusro Bagh' is situated:
Prayagraj (Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) The place where 'Tomb of Akbar' is situated:
Sikandra (Agra), Uttar Pradesh.
- (v) The place where 'Taj Mahal' is situated:
Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

Quick Tip

For map-based questions, practice on blank outline maps of India. Focus on locating major cities, capitals, ancient sites, and locations of historical monuments. Notice how many locations in this question are clustered in or near Agra, Uttar Pradesh. Grouping sites by state or region can simplify learning.