

ForumIAS

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## Prelims Marathon

3rd to 9th May, 2021

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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## *Early Janpaths*

**Q.1)** Consider the following pair of cities of second urbanization:

City	Important centre of
1. Rajgriha	Political and administrative centre
2. Ujjain	Holy Centre
3. Taxila	Centre of trade and commerce

Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Agricultural surplus, the growth of crafts and trade, and the growing population led to the emergence of towns in the Gangetic plains. This is called the second urbanisation in Indian history after the first urbanisation evident in the Harappan Civilization. Different types of towns came into being:

- (i) Political and administrative centres such as Rajgriha, Shravasti, Kaushambi and Champa
- (ii) Centres of trade and commerce such as Ujjain and Taxila
- (iii) Holy centres such as Vaishali.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q.2)** Which one of the following state is best known gana-sangha or oligarchies?

- a) Vajji
- b) Magadha
- c) Assaka
- d) Kuru

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The proto-states of the Gangetic region were known as janapadas and comprised chiefdoms, republics and small kingdoms. Sixteen mahajanapadas find mention in the early texts.

- There were also ganasanghas or oligarchies, which were centred on clans. The Vrijjis were one of the best known of the gana-sanghas, and Vaishali was their capital in the Mithila region.
- These kingdoms did not come under the single decision-making authority of a king but decisions were taken on a collective basis by the heads of the different clans together.
- There were also smaller kingdoms such as Kosala and Kasi. It is interesting to note that the names of the clans, such as Ikshvaku and Vrishni, as well as these early kingdoms, are all mentioned in the two epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q.3)** Bhaga, Kara and Shulka are the terms used for which of the following?

- a) Types of land
- b) Types of taxes
- c) Literary texts

d) Kings of the Mahajanapadas

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The mahajanapadas on the Gangetic plains were all monarchies. Vedic orthodoxy was an established practice in these kingdoms. The kingship was hereditary and the succession was in most cases based on the law of primogeniture.

- The king was assisted by councils called parishad and sabha. The councils were advisory in nature. The king appropriated the agricultural surplus through land revenue apart from a few other taxes.
- Bali was a tax imposed based on the area of cultivable land. Bhaga was obtained as a share of the produce. Kara and Shulka were some of the other taxes collected during this period.
- Thus the king raised revenue through taxes to maintain an elaborate administrative structure and an army.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements:

1. Agriculturally productive region.
2. Presence of iron mines
3. Presence of Elephants in the region
4. Ambitious kings

Which of the above given statements are the reasons for growth of Magadhan power?

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Between the sixth and the fourth centuries BCE, Magadha (in present-day Bihar) became the most powerful mahajanapada.

Modern historians explain this development in a variety of ways:

- Magadha was a region where agriculture was especially productive.
- Besides, iron mines (in present-day Jharkhand) were accessible and provided resources for tools and weapons.
- Elephants, an important component of the army, were found in forests in the region.
- Also, the Ganga and its tributaries provided a means of cheap and convenient communication.
- However, early Buddhist and Jaina writers who wrote about Magadha attributed its power to the policies of individuals: ruthlessly ambitious kings of whom Bimbisara, Ajatasattu and Mahapadma Nanda are the best known, and their ministers, who helped implement their policies.

Source: Themes in Indian History Part.

**Q.5)** Who among the following king was contemporary to Buddha?

- a) Ashoka
- b) Ajatashatru
- c) Bimbisara
- d) Bindusara

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Bimbisara, who was a contemporary of Buddha, started the process of empire building. It was strengthened by his son Ajatashatru and then by the Nandas.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

**Q.6)** Which among the following chronological order of empires is correct?

- a) Shishunaga, Nanda, Mauryas, Haryanka
- b) Haryanka, Shishunaga, Nanda, Mauryas
- c) Haryanka, Nanda, Shishunaga, Mauryas
- d) Shishunaga, Nanda, Haryanka, Mauryas

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Among the 16 mahajanapadas, Kasi was initially powerful. However, Kosala became dominant later.

- A power struggle broke out between Magadha, Kosala, Vriji and Avanti. Eventually Magadha emerged as the dominant mahajanapada and established the first Indian empire.
- The first known ruler of Magadha was Bimbisara of the Haryanka dynasty. The Haryanka dynasty was succeeded by the Shishunaga dynasty.
- The Shishunagas ruled for fifty years before the throne was usurped by Mahapadma Nanda.
- Chandragupta Maurya Founded the Mauryan Empire after winning over Nanda Dynasty.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

**Q.7)** The term 'Hindu' appears for the first in which of the following inscription?

- a) Darius I, Iran
- b) Ancient Greek inscription
- c) Ashokan Rock Edict
- d) Rock inscription of Junagarh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The word "Hindu" appears for the first time in an inscription of Darius I at Persepolis, Iran.

- Darius lists "Hindu" as part of his empire. The word "Sindhu", denoting a river in general and Indus in particular, became "Hindu" in Persian.
- The Greeks dropped the S and called it Indu, which eventually came to be called Hindu and later India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

**Q.8)** Which among the following event is called as 'Mahabhiraskramana'?

- a) White elephant entering the womb of Buddha's mother Mahamaya.
- b) Buddha getting enlightenment.
- c) Buddha leaving the palace.
- d) Buddha's passing away.

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** When Siddhartha was riding on his chariot with his charioteer one day outside the palace, he saw an old man, a sick man, a corpse and finally a religious mendicant.

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Overcome by remorse at the misery of people, he left his palace in the dead of night in search of eternal truth.

He rode in his chariot pulled by his favourite horse Kanthaka and driven by his charioteer Channa far away from the city.

He cut his hair and sent it along with his discarded garments and jewellery to his father. This is known as Mahabhiraskramana or the Great Going Forth.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11, page 51.

**Q.9)** Which of the following text mentions about agricultural activities during later vedic period?

- a) Satapatha Brahamana
- b) Panchvimsa Brahamana
- c) Aiteraya Brahamana
- d) Jaiminiya Brahamana

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Agricultural activities increased during the Late Vedic period. The Satapatha Brahamana mentions rituals related to ploughing undertaken by the kings.

- This suggests the importance given to cultivation by the rulers, and the shift to agriculture to support the increasing population.
- The god Balarama is depicted with a plough, which suggests the importance of cultivation. The Vedic people cultivated barley and rice, and wheat.
- Wheat was the staple food of Punjab region. The Vedic people began to use rice in the Ganga-Yamuna doab. The use of rice, rather than wheat, is noticed in the Vedic rituals.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

**Q.10)** Who among the following translated Upanishads into Persian?

- a) Abu Fasal
- b) Gulbadan Begam
- c) Badauni
- d) Dara Shikoh

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Dara Shukoh, the Mughal prince, translated the Upanishads into Persian in 1657, much before the colonial scholars developed any interest in ancient Indian literature.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

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## *The Mauryan Empire*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following text narrates Chandragupta's accession to the throne of Magadha?

- a) Mudrarakshasa
- b) Patanjali
- c) Arthashastra
- d) Buddhavacana

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The play Mudrarakshasa by Visakhadatta was written during the Gupta period, sometime after the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE.

- It narrates Chandragupta's accession to the throne of the Magadha Empire and the exploits of his chief advisor Chanakya or Kautilya by listing the strategies he used to counter an invasion against Chandragupta.
- This play is often cited as a corroborative source since it supports the information gathered from other contemporary sources about Chandragupta.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q.2)** Greek historians have recorded the name 'Sandrakottus' or 'Sandrakoptus' for who among the following?

- a) Aryabhatta
- b) Maha Pala
- c) Chandragupta Maurya
- d) Ashoka

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Contemporary accounts by Greek historians show that Chandragupta was a youth living in Taxila when Alexander invaded India.

- Greek historians have recorded his name as "Sandrakottus" or "Sandrakoptus", which are evidently modified forms of Chandragupta.
- Inspired by Alexander, Chandragupta led a revolt against the Nandas years later and overthrew them.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q.3)** Hathigumpha Inscriptions, which tells about the Kalinga Ruler in detail, is located at?

- a) Udaygiri Caves
- b) Adichallanur
- c) Kausambi
- d) Ujjain

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The defining event of Ashoka's rule was his campaign against Kalinga (present-day Odisha) in the eighth year of his reign.

- This is the only recorded military expedition of the Mauryas. The number of those killed in battle, those who died subsequently, and those deported ran into tens of thousands.



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**Q.6)** Arrange the following provinces of Ashokan Empire from north to south:

1. Tosali
2. Taxila
3. Suvarnagiri

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 – 2 – 3
- b) 2 – 1 – 3
- c) 3 – 2 – 1
- d) 3 – 1 – 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The capital region of Pataliputra was directly administered. The rest of the empire was divided into four provinces based at Suvarnagiri (near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh), Ujjain (Avanti, Malwa), Taxila in the northwest, and Tosali in Odisha in the southeast. The provinces were administered by governors who were usually royal princes.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

**Q.7)** “Providing medical care should be one of the functions of the state, the emperor ordered hospitals to be set up to treat human beings and animals.” The above mentioned instruction of King Ashoka has been found on which of the Edicts of Ashoka?

- a) Kalinga Pillar Edict I
- b) Major Rock Edict 2
- c) Rock Inscription at Junagarh
- d) Major Rock Edict 3

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Ashoka’s rule gives us an alternative model of a righteous king and a just state.

- He instructed his officials, the yuktas (subordinate officials), rajjukas (rural administrators) and pradesikas (heads of the districts) to go on tours every five years to instruct people in dhamma (Major Rock Edict 3).
- Ashoka realised that an effective ruler needed to be fully informed about what was happening in his kingdom and insisted that he should be advised and informed promptly wherever he might be (Major Rock Edict 6).
- He insisted that all religions should co-exist and the ascetics of all religions were honoured (Major Rock Edicts 7 and 12).
- Providing medical care should be one of the functions of the state, the emperor ordered hospitals to be set up to treat human beings and animals (Major Rock Edict 2).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q.8)** Mauryan Empire was succeeded by which of the following Empire?

- a) Nandas
- b) Sunga
- c) Gurjara
- d) Palas

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The highly centralized administration became unmanageable when Ashoka’s successors were weak and inefficient.



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The last ruler Brihadratha was killed by his commander-in-chief Pushyamitra Sunga who founded the Sunga Dynasty that ruled India for over hundred years.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q.9)** Barabar caves carved out on the orders of King Ashoka were for the use of which of the following sect?

- a) Buddhist
- b) Jains
- c) Ajivika
- d) Hindu

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Around 40 km from Bodh Gaya lies a cluster of four caves, namely Karan Chaupar, Lomas Rishi, Sudama and Visvakarma, known as the Barabar Caves.

- Carved out from a monolithic granite rock, these are supposed to have been constructed by emperor Ashoka for the use of Ajivika ascetics.
- The most unique cave is Lomas Rishi, whose façade is an exact replica of the wood and thatch huts of monks. The interior of the cave has a remarkable glass-like polish.

Source: Old NCERT page 133.

**Q.10)** Which among the following historical chronicle in Pali from Sri Lanka serves as an important source of information about Mauryan Period?

- a) Mahavamsa
- b) Brahmanas
- c) Indica
- d) Deepavamsa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The names of Chandragupta and his two successors in the Mauryan period are well known now. But reconstructing their lives and careers was a laborious and difficult process for the earlier historians.

- There are hardly any comprehensive contemporary accounts or literary works which refer to the Mauryan emperors though they are mentioned in various Buddhist and Jain texts as well as in some Hindu works like the brahmanas.
- The Mahavamsa, the comprehensive historical chronicle in Pali from Sri Lanka, is an important additional source.
- The scattered information from these sources has been corroborated by accounts of Greek historians who left their accounts about India following Alexander's campaign in north-western part of the country.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

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## *Post Mauryan kingdoms and the Early Kingdoms in Southern India*

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**Q.1)** The three crowned kings, the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas are known by which of the following term in Sangam text?

- a) Muvendar
- b) Athiyaman
- c) Kizhar
- d) Velir

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Though the three Tamil ruling families were known to Asoka in the third century BCE itself, some individual names are known only from the Sangam poems of the first century and later.

- Known as muvendar, ‘the three crowned kings’, the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas controlled major agrarian territories, trade routes and towns.
- But the Satiyaputra (same as Athiyaman) found in the Asokan inscription along with the above three houses is a Velir chief in the Sangam poems.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.2)** “Kanaganahalli”- ancient Buddhist site is located in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) None

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Early Buddhist art in India expanded exponentially when, in 1994, archaeologists unearthed a spectacular ancient stupa outside the hamlet of Kanaganahalli in modern Karnataka State, in India’s southwest.

As if by magic, a lost Buddhist monastic center from the early first millennium emerged from a shapeless mound.

By virtue of its remarkable stone sculpture and hundreds of ancient stone inscriptions, Kanaganahalli instantly took its place among the most celebrated early Buddhist sites in India.

One location mentioned in the inscriptions even turns up in Ptolemy’s Geographia of the 2nd century CE, a reminder of how small the world was becoming even at the beginning of the first millennium.

Source: Ncert History

**Q.3)** Which one of the following term is used for the riverine tract type of landscape in Tamilangam?

- a) Kurinji
- b) Mullai
- c) Neythal
- d) Marutham

**ANS: D**

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**Explanation:** Sangam poems help us understand the social formation of the time. According to the thinai concept, Tamilagam was divided into five landscapes or eco-regions namely Kurinji, Marutam, Mullai, Neytal and Palai.

Each region had distinct characteristics – a presiding deity, people and cultural life according to the environmental conditions, as follows:

- Kurinji: hilly region: hunting and gathering
- Marutham: riverine tract: agriculture using plough and irrigation.
- Mullai: forested region: pastoralism combined with shifting cultivation
- Neythal: coastal land: fishing and salt making.
- Palai: parched land. Unsuitable for cultivation and hence people took to cattle lifting and robbery.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements about the Society and economy of Sangam Age:

1. Southern India had both day and night markets selling several craft goods.
2. Manimegalai referred to mobile merchants.
3. Umanars were the salt merchants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** There is evidence of craft production such as bronze vessels, beads and gold works, textiles, shell bangles and ornaments, glass, iron smithy, pottery making.

- Craft production was common in the major urban centres such as Arikamedu, Uraiyur, Kanchipuram, Kaviripattinam, Madurai, Korkai, and Pattanam in Kerala. Maduraikanchi speaks about day markets as well as and night markets selling several craft goods.
- The names of persons mentioned in inscriptions on pottery reveal the presence of non-Tamil speakers, mostly traders, in certain craft centres and towns. Traders from faraway regions were present in the Tamil country.
- Manimegalai refers to Magadha artisans, Maratha mechanics, Malva smiths and Yavana carpenters working in cooperation with Tamil craftsmen.
- Traderelated terms such as vanikan, chattan and nigama appear in the Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions. Salt merchants called umanar, travelled in bullock carts along with their families for trade activities. Chattu referred to the itinerary or mobile merchants.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.5)** Which Indo-Greek King is known as eponymous hero of the Buddhist text Milinda-Pinha?

- a) Demetrius
- b) Menander
- c) Antialcidas
- d) Euthydemus

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Menander is mainly remembered as the eponymous hero of the Buddhist text, Milinda-pinha (questions of Milinda), in which he is engaged in a question-and-answer discussion on Buddhism with the teacher Nagasena.

He is believed to have become a Buddhist and promoted Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements:

1. Kushans are known as yueh-chi tribe.
2. Scythians is the term used for Prathians.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Indo-Greek kingdoms in north-western India were ousted by various nomadic tribes from Central Asia, known as the Sakas (Scythians), Parthians (Pahlavis) and Kushanas (yueh-chi or yuezhi tribes in Chinese).

In spite of the fact that they followed the Greek practice of issuing vast amounts of coinage with their names and titles (mostly "king of kings"), this is a very confusing period in our history.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.7)** Which of the following kingdom introduced turban, tunic, trousers and heavy long boots and coats?

- a) Kushans
- b) Cheras
- c) Mughals
- d) Mauryan

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Shakas – Kushanas introduced better cavalry & use of riding horses on large scale along with use of turban, tunic, trousers & longcoats.

- Kushanas were the 1st ruler in India to issue gold coins on wide scale & controlled major part of silk trade.
- Kushanas adopted pompous titles as King of Kings & were called Sons of god like Asoka was called Dear to gods.

Source: Old NCERT.

**Q.8)** 'Buddhacharita' is written by which of the following?

- a) Kanishka
- b) Ashoka
- c) Ashvaghosha
- d) Vasumitra

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Kanishka was the patron of Buddhist philosophers such as Asvaghosha, Parsva and Vasumitra, as well as the great Buddhist teacher Nagarjuna.

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- Asvaghosha is known for his Buddhacharita and is celebrated as the author of the first Sanskrit play, Sariputraprakarana, in nine acts.
- The great dramatist Bhasa, whose plays were re-discovered only about a hundred years ago in South India, most probably belonged to this period.
- Among the Hindu treatises, we find the Manusmriti, Vatsyayana's Kamasutra and Kautilya's Arthashastra taking final shape by the second century CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.9)** Consider the following pairs:

<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>
1. Gaha Sattasai	King Hala
2. Sariputraprakarana	Asvaghosha
3. Kamasutra	Bhasa

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** King Hala is credited with the writing of Gatha Sattasai, a collection of 700 love poems. Written in Maharshtri Prakrit dialect, it has themes similar to those found in the Tamil Sangam poetry.

- Asvaghosha is known for his Buddhacharita and is celebrated as the author of the first Sanskrit play, Sariputraprakarana, in nine acts.
- Among the Hindu treatises, we find the Manusmriti, Vatsyayana's Kamasutra and Kautilya's Arthashastra taking final shape by the second century CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.10)** Musiri and Tondi, ancient ports were under the control of which of the following empire?

- Cheras
- Cholas
- Pandyas
- Satavahanas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

The Cheras controlled the central and northern parts of Kerala and the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu.

- Vanji was their capital and the ports of the west coast, Musiri and Tondi, were under their control.
- Vanji is identified with Karur, while some scholars identify it with Tiruvanchaikalam in Kerala.
- Now it is accepted by most scholars that there were two main branches of the Chera family and the Poraiya branch ruled from Karur of present-day Tamil Nadu.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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## *The Gupta Empire and their Successors*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements:

1. Chandragupta I was the founder of Gupta Dynasty.
2. According to Allahabad pillar inscription, Samudragupta had conquered plains west of Prayag till Mathura and in the south till Kanchipuram.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Evidence on the origin and antecedents of the Gupta dynasty is limited. The Gupta kings seem to have risen from modest origins.

- Chandragupta I, who was the third ruler of the Gupta dynasty, married Kumaradevi, a Lichchavi prince.
- The marriage is mentioned in the records of his successors with pride indicating that that royal connection would have contributed to the rise of Guptas. Lichchavi was an old, established gana-sangha and its territory lay between the Ganges and the Nepal Terai.
- According to Allahabad pillar inscription Samudragupta, the illustrious son of Chandragupta I, had conquered the whole fertile plains west of Prayag to Mathura and launched a spectacular raid through Kalinga into the south as far as Kanchipuram, the Pallava capital.
- The Puranas mention Magadha, Allahabad and Oudh as the Gupta dominions.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.2)** Who among the following rulers held the title of 'Kaviraja'?

- a) Chandragupta
- b) Samudragupta
- c) Kumargupta I
- d) Chandraputa II

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Samudragupta patronised scholars and poets like Harisena and thus promoted Sanskrit literature.

- Though an ardent follower of Vaishnavism, he also patronised the great Buddhist scholar Vasubandhu.
- As a lover of poetry and music, he was given the title "Kaviraja". His coins bear the insignia of him playing the vina (lute).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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**Q.3)** Consider the following pairs of kings and titles:

King	Title
1. Chandragupta I	maharaja-adhiraja
2. Samudragupta	Napoleon of India
3. Chandragupta II	Maharaja Adhiraja

Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The first ruler of the Gupta Empire was Sri Gupta (240–280 CE) who was succeeded by his son Ghatotkacha (280–319 CE). Both Sri Gupta and Ghatotkacha are mentioned as Maharajas in inscriptions.

- Chandragupta I, the son of Ghatotkacha, ruled from 319 to 335 CE and is considered to be the first great king of the Gupta Empire.
- Chandragupta held the title of maharaja-adhiraja (great king over other kings). Historians call Samudragupta as the Napoleon of India.
- This statement is undeniable that the southern kings paid tribute, while the northern kingdoms were annexed to the Gupta Empire under Samudragupta.
- His direct control was confined to the Ganges valley, since the Sakas remained unconquered in western India.
- The tribes of Rajasthan paid tribute, but the Punjab was outside the limits of his authority.
- Samudragupta's campaign broke the power of the tribal republics in those regions that led to repeated invasions from the Huns.
- Named after his grandfather, Chandragupta II was a capable ruler, who ruled for 40 years from c. 375 to 415 CE.
- He came to power after a succession struggle with his brother Rama Gupta. He is also known as Vikramaditya.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements about the land classification of Gupta period:

- 1. Vasti was the waste land while Khila was habitable land.
- 2. Aprahata was the forest land while Gapata Saraha was pastoral land.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** As stated in Paharpur plates, an officer called ustapala maintained records of all the land transactions in the district and the village accountant preserved records of land in the village. During the Gupta period, the land was classified as detailed below.

Kshetra	Cultivable land
Khila	Waste land
Aprahata	Jungle or waste land
Vasti	Habitable land
Gapata Saraha	Pastoral land

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Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.5)** Which of the following text provides the information of irrigation facilities at the time of Guptas?

- a) Nitisara
- b) Narada Smriti
- c) Paharpur copper plate inscription
- d) Brihaspati Smriti

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The importance of irrigation to agriculture was recognised in India from the earliest times.

- From the Narada Smriti, we understand that there were two kinds of dykes: the bardhya, which protected the field from floods, and the khara, which served the purpose of irrigation.
- To prevent inundation, jalanirgamah (drains) were constructed, which is mentioned by Amarasimha.
- Canals were constructed not only from rivers but also from tanks and lakes. The most famous lake was the Sudarsana Lake at the foot of Girnar Hills in Gujarat.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements:

1. The Mehrauli Iron Pillar in the Qutb Minar Complex in Delhi belongs to Gupta period.
2. The sarthavaha was a caravan trader who carried his goods to different places for profitable sale while Sresti was usually settled at a particular place.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The most important and visible evidence of the high stage of development in metallurgy is the Mehrauli Iron Pillar of King Chandra in the Qutb Minar Complex in Delhi, identified with Chandragupta II.

- This monolith iron pillar has lasted through the centuries without rusting. It is a monument to the great craftsmanship of the iron workers during the Gupta period.
- Coin casting, metal engraving, pottery making, terracotta work and wood carving were other specialised crafts.
- The contribution of traders to the soundness of the Gupta economy is quite impressive. Two distinctive types of traders called sresti and sarthavaha existed.
- Sresti was usually settled at a particular place and enjoyed an eminent position by virtue of his wealth and influence in the commercial life and administration of the place.
- The sarthavaha was a caravan trader who carried his goods to different places for profitable sale.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.



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**Q.7)** Consider the following pair of Authors and Sanskrit grammar books:

Author	Book
1. Panini	Ashtadhyayi
2. Patanjali	Mahabhashya
3. Amarasimha	Chandravyakaranam

Which of the above given pair are correctly matched?

- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Gupta period also saw the development of Sanskrit grammar based on Panini who wrote Ashtadhyayi and Patanjali who wrote Mahabhashya on the topic.

- This period is particularly memorable for the compilation of the Amarakosa, a thesaurus in Sanskrit, by Amarasimha.
- A Buddhist scholar from Bengal, Chandrogomia, composed a book on grammar named Chandravyakaranam.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.8)** In which of the following book, Aryabhata examined the true cause of solar eclipse?

- Aryabhattiyam
- Surya Siddanta
- Brahmasphuta-siddhanta
- Khandakhadyaka

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In the Surya Siddanta, Aryabhata (belonging to late fifth and early sixth century CE) examined the true cause of the solar eclipses. In calculation of the size of the earth, he is very close to the modern estimation.

- He was the first astronomer to discover that the earth rotates on its own axis. He is also the author of Aryabhattiyam, which deals with arithmetic, geometry and algebra.
- Varahamihira's Brihat Samhita (sixth century CE) is an encyclopaedia of astronomy, physical geography, botany and natural history.
- His other works are Panch Siddhantika and Brihat Jataka. Brahmagupta (late sixth and early seventh century CE) is author of important works on mathematics and astronomy, namely Brahmasphuta-siddhanta and Khandakhadyaka.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.9)** Harsha lost to which of the following ruler south of Vindyas?

- Dantidurga
- Pulikesin II
- Vasishta pulomavi
- Gautamiputra Satkarni

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Harsha sought to extend his authority southward into the Deccan. However the Chalukya king Pulikesin II, who controlled the region, humbled Harsha.

In commemoration of his victory over Harsha, Pulikesin assumed the title of "Parameswara". Inscriptions in Pulikesin's capital Badami attest to this victory.

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Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.10)** Priyadarsika, Ratnavali and Nagananda were written by whom among the following?

- a) Amarakosa
- b) Hala
- c) Jayadeva
- d) Harsha

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Harsha patronised literary and cultural activities. It is said the state spent a quarter of its revenue for such activities.

- Bana, the author of Harshacharita and Kadambari, was a court poet of Harsha.
- The emperor himself was a renowned litterateur, which is evident from the plays he wrote such as Priyadarsika, Rathnavali and Nagananda.
- Harsha gifted liberally for the promotion of education. Temples and monasteries functioned as centres of learning.
- Renowned scholars imparted education in the monasteries at Kanauj, Gaya, Jalandhar, Manipur and other places. The Nalanda University reached its utmost fame during this period.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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## *Kingdoms of Deccan and Pallava and Chola dynasty*

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**Q.1)** Who among the following composed Aihole inscription of Pulikesin II?

- a) Ravikirti
- b) Pampa
- c) Nannaya
- d) Appar

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Aihole inscription of Pulikesin II composed by his court poet Ravikirti in Sanskrit is among the most important of Chalukyan inscriptions.

Kavirajamarga, a work on poetics in Kannada, Vikramarjuna-vijayam, also called Pampa-bharata, by Pampa in Kannada, which was all of a later period, and Nannaya's Mahabharatam in Telugu also provide useful historical data.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements:

- 1. The wild boar is the royal insignia of the Pallavas.
- 2. The bull, Shiva's mount was the symbol of Chalukyas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The wild boar was the royal insignia of the Chalukyas.

- It was claimed that it represented the varaha avatar of Vishnu in which he is said to have rescued the Goddess of the Earth.
- The bull, Siva's mount, was the symbol of the Pallavas.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.3)** Consider the following pairs of ministers of Chalukyas:

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Pradhana             | Head Minister               |
| 2. Mahasandhi-vigrahika | Minister of Foreign Affairs |
| 3. Samharta             | Revenue Minister            |

Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 2 only

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** All powers were vested in the king. Inscriptions do not specifically speak of a council of ministers, but they do refer to an official called maha-sandhi-vigrahika.

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- Four other categories of ministers are also referred to in the epigraphs: Pradhana (head minister), Mahasandhi-vigrahika (minister of foreign affairs), Amatya (revenue minister), and Samaharta (minister of exchequer).
- Chalukyas divided the state into political divisions for the sake of administration: Vishayam, Rastram, Nadu and Grama.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.4)** Saptavataram, a grammar work authored by chieftain of Pulikesin II was for which of the following language?

- a) Kannada
- b) Tamil
- c) Sanskrit
- d) Telugu

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Chalukyas used Sanskrit in pillar inscriptions such as in Aihole and Mahakudam.

- A seventh-century inscription of a Chalukya king at Badami mentions Kannada as the local prakrit, meaning the people's language, and Sanskrit as the language of culture.
- A chieftain of Pulikesin II authored a grammar work Saptavataram in Sanskrit.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.5)** The term Sudesi, Nanadesi and Ainurruvar during Pallava Kingdom was related with which of the following?

- a) Craftsmen
- b) Traders
- c) Army divisions
- d) Taxes

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Kanchipuram was an important trading centre in the Pallava period. The merchants had to obtain license to market their goods.

- Traders founded guilds and called themselves as sudesi, nanadesi, ainurruvar and others. Their main guild functioned at Aihole.
- Foreign merchants were known as Nanadesi. It had a separate flag with the figure of bull at the centre, and they enjoyed the right of issuing vira-sasanas.
- The jurisdiction of this guild stretched over entire south-east Asia.
- The chief of this guild is registered in the inscriptions as pattanswamy, pattnakilar, and dandanayaka. Its members were known as ayyavole-parameswariyar.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.6)** Consider the following pairs:

Author	Book
1. Mahendrarman I	Mathavilasa Prahasanam
2. Bharavi	Kiratarjuniya
3. Dandin	Dashakumaracharita

Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only

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d) 1, 2 and 3 only

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Mahendravarman I composed Mathavilasa Prahasanam in Sanskrit.

- Two extraordinary works in Sanskrit set the standard for Sanskrit literature in the south: Bharavi's Kiratarjuniya and Dandin's Dashakumaracharita.
- Dandin of Kanchipuram, author of the great treatise on rhetoric Kavyadarsa, seems to have stayed in Pallava court for some time.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements about Ellora caves:

1. The rock-cut cave temples of Ellora are carved in Charanadri Hills.
2. The Ellora caves are designated as UNESCO world heritage site.
3. The temples are only linked to Buddhism and Brahmanism.

Which of the above given statements is/are correctly matched?

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The rock-cut cave temples in Ellora are in 34 caves, carved in Charanadri hills. Without knowledge of trigonometry, structural engineering, and metallurgy, the Indian architects could not have created such exquisite edifices.

- The patrons of these caves range from the dynasties of Chalukyas to Rashtrakutas. The heterodox sects first set the trend of creating this model of temples.
- Later, orthodox sects adopted it as a medium of disseminating religious ideologies. These temples were linked to Ajivikas, Jainism, Buddhism, and Brahmanism.
- The Ellora caves were designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements about Shore temples of Pallavas at Mamallapuram:

1. The temples are dedicated to Shiva only.
2. The complex had the famous monolithic rathas known as Panchapandava Rathas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The iconic Shore Temple of Pallavas at Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) was constructed during the reign of Rajasimha (700-728).

- The temple comprises three shrines, where the prominent ones are dedicated to Siva and Vishnu.
- The exterior wall of the shrine, dedicated to Vishnu, and the interior of the boundary wall are elaborately carved and sculpted.
- In southern India, this is one amongst the earliest and most important structural temples. Unlike other structures of the region, the Shore Temple is a five-storeyed rock-cut monolith.

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- The monolithic vimanas are peculiar to Mamallapuram. The Rathas there are known as the Panchapandava Rathas.
- The Arjuna Ratha contains artistically carved sculptures of Siva, Vishnu, mithuna and dwarapala.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.9)** Which of the following is the philosophy propounded by Adi Sankara?

- a) Advaita
- b) Dvaita
- c) Shudh dvaita
- d) Visistavaita

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Fundamentally, Sankara's Advaita or non-dualism had its roots in Vedanta or Upanishadic philosophy.

- His attempts to root out Buddhism and to establish smarta (traditionalist) mathas resulted in the establishment of monasteries in different places viz., Sringeri, Dvaraka, Badrinath, and Puri, which were headed by Brahmin pontiffs.
- Sankara looked upon Saiva and Vaishnava worship as two equally important aspects of the Vedic religion.
- Monastic organization and preservation of Sanskrit scriptures were the two major thrusts of Sankara School.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.10)** The texts like Periyapuram and Mathavilasa Prahasanam are a good literary source for the knowledge of which of the following empire?

- a) Cheras
- b) Chalukyas
- c) Pallava
- d) Vijayanagar

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The poems of the Vaishnavite Azhwars were later compiled as the Nalayira Divya Prabhandam.

- The Saiva literature was canonized as the Panniru Tirumurai. The Thevaram, composed by Appar (Thirunavukkarasar), Sambandar (Thirugnanasambandar) and Sundarar.
- And Thiruvavasagam by Manickavasagar are prominent texts which are read as sacred literature to this day.
- Periyapuram written by Sekizhar, in a later period, also provides much historical information.
- The Mathavilasa Prahasanam written by Mahendravarman I in Sanskrit is an important source for the Pallava period.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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## *Early Medieval developments in India and Indian culture in South East Asia*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following pair of authors and their books:

Author	Book
1. Amir Khusrau	Khazain Ul Futuh
2. Al-Beruni	Mifta Ul Futuh
3. Minhaj us Siraj	Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi

Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 2 only

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Al-Beruni: Tarikh-Al-Hind (Indian Philosophy and Religion written in Arabic)

- Minhaj us Siraj: Tabaqat-i-Nasiri (1260) (World Islamic History written in Arabic)
- Ziauddin Barani: Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi(1357) History of Delhi Sultanate up to Firuz Tughlaq
- Amir Khusrau: Mifta Ul Futuh (Victories of Jalal-ud-din Khalji); Khazain Ul Futuh (Victories of Allauddin Khalji - Texts in Persian)
- Tughlaq Nama (History of Tughlaq dynasty in Persian)
- Shams-i-Siraj Afif: Tarikh i Firuz Shahi (after Barani's account of Delhi Sultanate in Persian)

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.2)** Who among the following holds the title of Yamini-ud-Daulah?

- a) Mahmud Ghazni
- b) Muhammad Ghori
- c) Qutub-Ud-Din-Aibak
- d) Sabuktigin

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Sabuktigin initiated the process of southward expansion into the Indian subcontinent.

- He defeated the Shahi ruler of Afghanistan, Jayapal, and conferred the governorship of the province on Mahmud, his eldest son. When Sabuktigin died in 997, Mahmud was in Khurasan.
- Ismail, the younger son of Sabuktigin had been named his successor.
- But defeating Ismail in a battle, Mahmud, aged twenty-seven, ascended the throne and the Caliph acknowledged his accession by sending him a robe of investiture and by conferring on him the title Yamini-ud-Daulah ('Right-hand of the Empire').

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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**Q.3)** Battles of Tarain were fought between which of the following kings?

- a) Prithviraj Chauhan vs. Allauddin Khilji
- b) Prithviraj Chauhan vs. Muhammad Ghori
- c) Jai Chandra vs. Babur
- d) Jai Chandra vs. Mahmud Ghazni

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Ghori attacked the fortress of Tabarhinda (Bhatinda), a strategic point for the Chauhans of Ajmer.

- The ruler of Ajmer Prithviraj Chauhan marched to Tabarhinda and faced the invader in the First Battle of Tarain (1191).
- Prithviraj scored a brilliant victory in this battle but failed to consolidate his position believing this battle to be a frontier fight, and did not expect the Ghurids to make regular attacks.
- Ghori was wounded and carried away by a horseman to safety. Contrary to the expectations of Prithviraj Chauhan, Muhammad Ghori marched into India in the following year (1192).
- Prithviraj underestimated the potential danger of the enemy. In the Second Battle of Tarain, one of the turning points in Indian history, Prithviraj suffered a crushing defeat and was eventually captured. Ghori restored him to his throne in Ajmer.
- But on charges of treason he was later executed, and Ghori's trusted general Qutbud-din Aibak was appointed as his deputy in India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.4)** The term 'Bandagan' during Delhi sultanate was used for which of the following?

- a) Land revenue
- b) Domestic labor
- c) Military Slaves
- d) Traders

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1210-36) of Turkish extraction was a slave of Qutbud-din Aibak. Many of his elite slaves were also of Turkish and Mongol ancestry.

- They were brought to Delhi by merchants from trade centres like Bukhara, Samarqand and Baghdad. (There were some slaves of other ethnicities as well).
- But Iltutmish gave them all Turkish titles. Iltutmish's reliance on his elite military slaves (Bandagan) and his practice of appointing them for the posts of governors and generals in far-off places did not change despite the migration into North India of experienced military commanders from distinguished lineages fleeing from the Mongols.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.5)** Consider the following pairs:

Dynasty	Founder
1. Tughlaq	Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
2. Khaljis	Jala-ud-din-Khalji
3. Lodi	Sikander Lodhi

Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 2 and 3 only



d) 1 and 2 only

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq followed a policy of reconciliation with the nobles. But in the fifth year of his reign (1325) Ghiyas-uddin died.

- Three days later Jauna ascended the throne and took the title Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
- Khaljis Dynasty was founded by Jalal-ud-din Khalji (1290-1296). He was succeeded by Ala-ud-din Khalji (1296-1316).
- The Lodi Dynasty was established by Bahlol Lodi (1451-1489) whose reign witnessed the conquest of Sharqi Kingdom (Bengal).
- It was his son Sikander Lodi (1489-1517) who shifted the capital from Delhi to Agra in 1504.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements about Arab conquest of Sind:

1. Dahar was the ruler of Sind when the Arabs invaded it in the 8th century.
2. Muhammad Bin Qasim led the strong army in the conquest of Sind.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Arab governor of Iraq, Hajjaj Bin Yusuf, under the pretext of acting against the pirates, sent two military expeditions against Dahar, the ruler of Sind, one by land and the other by sea. Both were defeated and commanders killed.

Hajjaj then sent, with the Caliph's permission, a full-fledged army, with 6000 strong cavalry and a large camel corps carrying all war requirements under the command of his son-in-law, a 17-year-old Muhammad Bin Qasim.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.7)** Amir Khusrau called himself an Indian in which of the following book?

- a) Nu Siphir
- b) Baburnama
- c) Fathl - I - Hind
- d) Akbarnama

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Amir Khusrau emerged as a major figure of Persian prose and poetry. Amir Khusrau felt elated to call himself an Indian in his Nu Siphir ('Nine Skies').

In this work, he praises India's climate, its languages - notably Sanskrit - its arts, its music, its people, even its animals.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11, page 180.

**Q.8)** Consider the following pairs of the books and author who worked in collaborating Sanskrit literature with Persian literature:

Book	Author
1. Farhang-i-Qawas	Fakhr-ud-din Qawwas
2. Miftah-ul-Fuazala	Zia Nakshabi

3. Tuti Nama

Muhammad Shadiabadi

Which of the above given pairs is/are correctly matched?

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Persian literature was enriched by the translation of Sanskrit works.

- Persian dictionaries with appropriate Hindawi words for Persian words were composed, the most important being Farhang-i-Qawas by Fakhr-ud-din Qawwas and Miftah-ul- Fuazala by Muhammad Shadiabadi.
- Tuti Namah, the Book of Parrots, is a collection of Sanskrit stories translated into Persian by Zia Nakshabi.
- Mahabharata and Rajatarangini were also translated into Persian.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements:

1. Arch, dome, vaults and use of lime cement are the striking Saracenic features that were introduced by the Mughals.
2. A pleasure resort at Hauz Khas of Firuz Tughlaq is purely a building complex of Saracenic feature.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Arch, dome, vaults and use of lime cement, the striking Saracenic features, were introduced in India by Arabs.

- The use of marble, red, grey and yellow sandstones added grandeur to the buildings. In the beginning the Sultans converted the existing buildings to suit their needs.
- Qutb-ud-din Aibak's Quwwat-ul- Islam mosque situated adjacent to Qutb Minar in Delhi and the Adhai din ka Jhopra in Ajmer illustrate these examples.
- A Hindu temple built over a Jain temple was modified into Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque. Adhai din ka Jhopra was earlier a Jain monastery before being converted as a mosque.
- With the arrival of artisans from West Asia the arch and dome began to show up with precision and perfection.
- Gradually local artisans also acquired the skill. The tomb of Balban was adorned with the first true arch and the Alai Darwaza built by Alaud- din Khalji as a gateway to the Quwwatul- Islam Mosque is adorned with the first true dome.
- The palace fortress built by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq and Muhammad bin Tughlaq in Tughlaqabad, their capital city in Delhi, is remarkable for creating an artificial lake around the fortress by blocking the river Yamuna.
- The tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq introduced the system of sloping walls bearing the dome on a raised platform.
- The buildings of Firuz Tughlaq, especially his pleasure resort, Hauz Khas, combined Indian and Saracenic features in alternate storeys, displaying a sense of integration.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.10)** The primary education in the Islamic World is provided at which of the following institution?

- a) Madrasa
- b) Maktab
- c) Mosque
- d) At residence

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Certain traditions of education were now implanted from the Islamic World. At the base was the maktab, where a schoolmaster taught children to read and write.

- At a higher level, important texts in various subjects were read by individual pupils with particular scholars who gave instruction (dars) in them.
- A more institutionalized form of higher education, the madrasa, became widely established in Central Asia and Iran in the eleventh century, and from there it spread to other Islamic countries.
- Usually the madrasa had a building, where instruction was given by individual teachers. Often there was a provision of some cells for resident students, a library and a mosque.
- Firoz Tugluq built a large madrasa at Delhi whose splendid building still stands. From Barani's description it would seem that teaching here was mainly confined to "Quran-commentary, the Prophet's sayings and the Muslim Law (fiqh)."
- It is said that Sikander Lodi (1489– 1517) appointed teachers in maktab and madrasas in various cities throughout his dominions, presumably making provision for them through land or cash grants.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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## Revision

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**Q.1)** Who among the following ruler spent his last years as an ascetic in Chandragiri in Karnataka?

- a) Ashoka
- b) Chandragupta Maurya
- c) Kala Asoka
- d) Kanishka

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Chandragupta's son Bindusara succeeded him as emperor in 297 BCE in a peaceful and natural transition.

- We do not know what happened to Chandragupta. He probably renounced the world.
- According to the Jain tradition, Chandragupta spent his last years as an ascetic in Chandragiri, near Sravanabelagola, in Karnataka.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.2)** Who among the following is popularly known for taking the branches of original Bodhi tree to Sri Lanka?

- a) Mahinda and Sanghamitta
- b) Ashoka
- c) Bindusara
- d) Mahananda

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** One of the major events of Ashoka's reign was the convening of the Third Buddhist sangha (council) in 250 BCE in the capital Pataliputra.

- Ashoka's deepening commitment to Buddhism meant that royal patronage was extended to the Buddhist establishment.
- An important outcome of this sangha was the decision to expand the reach of Buddhism to other parts of the region and to send missions to convert people to the religion.
- Buddhism thus became a proselytizing religion and missionaries were sent to regions outlying the empire such as Kashmir and South India.
- According to popular belief, Ashoka sent his two children, Mahinda and Sanghamitta, to Sri Lanka to propagate Buddhism. It is believed that they took a branch of the original bodhi tree to Sri Lanka.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements:

1. The kantasodhana courts mostly dealt with civil law relating to marriage, inheritance and other aspects of civil life.
2. The main purpose of dharmasthiya courts was to clear the society of anti-social elements and various types of crimes.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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- c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Justice was administered through courts, which were established in all the major towns. Two types of courts are mentioned.

- The dharmasthiya courts mostly dealt with civil law relating to marriage, inheritance and other aspects of civil life.
- The courts were presided over by three judges wellversed in sacred laws and three amatyas (secretaries).
- Another type of court was called kantakasodhana (removal of thorns), also presided over by three judges and three amatyas.
- The main purpose of these courts was to clear the society of anti-social elements and various types of crimes, and it functioned more like the modern police, and relied on a network of spies for information about such antisocial activities.
- Punishments for crimes were usually quite severe. The overall objective of the judicial system as it evolved was to extend government control over most aspects of ordinary life.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.4)** Consider the following pairs:

Empire	Emblem/symbol
1. Cholas	Lion
2. Cheras	Bow and Arrow
3. Pandyas	Fish

Which of the above given pair is/are NOT correctly matched?

- a) 1 only  
b) 1 and 2 only  
c) 3 only  
d) 2 and 3 only

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Cholas controlled the central and northern parts of Tamil Nadu. Their core area of rule was the Kaveri delta, later known as Cholamandalam.

- Their capital was Uraiyur (near Thiruchirapalli town) and Puhar or Kaviripattinam was an alternative royal residence and chief port town.
- Tiger was their emblem. Kaviripattinam attracted merchants from various regions of the Indian Ocean.
- The Cheras controlled the central and northern parts of Kerala and the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu.
- Vanji was their capital and the ports of the west coast, Musiri and Tondi, were under their control.
- Vanji is identified with Karur, while some scholars identify it with Tiruvanchaikkalam in Kerala.
- There are many other Chera coins with their bow and arrow emblem but without any writing on them.
- The Pandyas ruled from Madurai. Korkai was their main port, located near the confluence of Thampraparani with the Bay of Bengal.
- It was famous for pearl fishery and chank diving. Korkai is referred to in the Periplus as Kolkoi. Fish was the emblem of the Pandyas.

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- Their coins have elephant on one side and a stylised image of fish on the other. They invaded Southern Kerala and controlled the port of Nelkynda, near Kottayam.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.5)** Which of the following Indo-Greek King erected a pillar or garuda-dhvaja with its capital adorned by a figure of Garuda, in honour of God Krishna (Vaasudeva)?

- a) Heliodorus
- b) Menander
- c) Demetrius II
- d) Euthydemus

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Another Indo-Greek king whose name is remembered is Antialcidas (or Antialkidas), c. 110.

- He is known to us primarily because his emissary, Heliodorus, who was sent to the court of King Bhagabhadra erected a pillar or garudadhvaja with its capital adorned by a figure of Garuda, in honour of God Krishna (Vasudeva).
- Heliodorus had evidently become a follower of Vishnu. (The pillar stands in isolation in the middle of an open ground in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh.)

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements:

1. The fourth Buddhist Council was hosted by Pushyamitra Shunga.
2. Kanishka was supported Hinayana Sect.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The best known of the Kushana kings was Kanishka, who is thought to have ruled from 78 CE till 101 or 102 CE.

- Ironically, 78 CE is held to be the beginning of the “Saka era” in the Indian calendar.
- Historians are, hence, divided about Kanishka’s period. His rule is said to have started anywhere between 78 and 144 CE.
- Kanishka was an ardent follower of Buddhism and hosted the fourth Buddhist mahasangha or council (the third council had been held in Pataliputra during Asoka’s reign).
- By now Mahayana Buddhism had become the dominant sect, and Kanishka supported the missions sent to China to preach Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.7)** Yavanas is term used for which of the following?

- a) Foreign Merchants
- b) Priest
- c) Sailors
- d) Taxes

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY (FIRST WEEK), 2021

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The expansion of overseas trade and shipping brought foreign merchants and sailors to the Tamil region.

- Because of the seasonal nature of the monsoon winds, and the prevailing levels of technology, long voyages necessitated long periods of stay in host countries.
- Yavana merchants lived in especially ear-marked residential quarters in the harbour area.
- Though they were allowed to trade freely, and were noted for their attractive goods, there was a good deal of reserve in the attitude of the local Tamils to foreign merchants who were considered an alien, barbaric people, who spoke a harsh-sounding language.
- Other yavanas also came with the merchants. The fortress of Madurai was guarded by yavanas carrying large swords.
- There are also references to yavana metal workers and carpenters, who were described as “hard-eyed” probably because they had grey or blue eyes.
- All these may not have been strictly of Greek origin, as implied by the term yavana, which had become a generic word to denote persons from the eastern Mediterranean regions.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements related to taxation during Gupta period:

1. Kara is a period tax levied on traders.
2. Periodic supply of fruits, firewood, flowers, etc., which the village had to provide to the king is called as Bhoga.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

### List of Different Kinds of Taxes

Tax	Nature
Bhaga	King's customary share of the produce normally amounting to one-sixth of the produce paid by cultivators
Bhoga	Periodic supply of fruits, firewood, flowers, etc., which the village had to provide to the king
Kara	A periodic tax levied on the villagers (not a part of the annual land tax)
Bali	A voluntary offering by the people to the king, but later became compulsory. It was an oppressive tax.
Udianga	Either a sort of police tax for the maintenance of police stations or a water tax. Hence, it was also an extra tax.
Uparikara	Also an extra tax. Scholars give different explanations about what it was collected for.
Hiranya	Literally, it means tax payable on gold coins, but in practice, it was probably the king's share of certain crops paid in kind.
Vata-Bhuta	Different kinds of cess for maintenance of rites for the winds ( <i>vata</i> ) and the spirits ( <i>bhuta</i> )
Halivakara	A plough tax paid by every cultivator owning a plough
Sulka	A royal share of merchandise brought into a town or harbour by merchants. Hence it can be equated with the customs and tolls.
Klipta and Upaklipa	related to sale and purchase of lands.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY (FIRST WEEK), 2021**

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.9)** Who among the following founded Vikramasila University?

- a) Dharmapala
- b) Mahapala
- c) Gopala I
- d) Vikramapala

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Dharmapala proved to be a great patron of Buddhism.

- He founded the Vikramasila monastery in Bhagalpur district in Bihar, which developed into a great centre of Buddhist learning and culture.
- He built a grand vihara at Somapura in modern Paharapura (presentday Bangladesh).
- Dharmapala also built a monastery at Odantapuri in Bihar.
- He patronised Harisbhadra, a Buddhist writer.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

**Q.10)** Consider the following pairs of post of Pallava Administration:

Term	Meaning
1. Adhikarna Mandapa	Council of Ministers
2. Rahasyadhikrita	Spy
3. Manikkappandaram Kappan	Officer-in-charge of the treasury

Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Distinctions are made between amatyas and mantrins. While a mantri is generally understood to be a diplomat, amatya is a counsellor.

- Mantri Mandala was a council of ministers. Rahasyadhikrita was a private secretary of the king.
- Manikkappandaram-Kappan was an officer in charge of the treasury (Manikka - valuables; Pandaram - treasury; Kappan - keeper).
- Kodukkappillai was the officer of gifts. They were central officers under the Pallava king.
- Kosa-adhyaksa was the supervisor of the Manikkappandaram-kappan.
- Judicial courts were called Adhikarna Mandapa and judges called Dharmadhikarins.
- Fines are mentioned in the Kasakudi plates of Nandivarman Pallava as Karanadandam (fine in superior/ higher court) and Adhikaranadandam (fine in district level).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.