

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

19th to 25th December 2022

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



History – Buddhism and Jainism and their contributions to Indian Culture

Q.1) The terms “Tripitakas and Jatakas” are related to which of the following?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Sikhism
- d) Hinduism

ANS: A

Explanation: The epics Mahabharata and Ramayana, the dharmasastras, Buddhist texts such as the Tripitakas and Jatakas, Jaina texts and Greek accounts such as that of Arian constitute literary sources for the period.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are mahajanapada/s according to Puranic, Buddhist and Jaina traditions?

- 1. Gandhara
- 2. Avanti
- 3. Chedi

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:



Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) “Bali, Kara and Shulka” are associated with which of the following?

- a) Ancient gods
- b) Taxes
- c) Burial systems
- d) Gold coins

ANS: B

Explanation: The mahajanapadas on the Gangetic plains were all monarchies. Vedic orthodoxy was an established practice in these kingdoms.

- The priestly class enjoyed a preeminent status in the mahajanapadas unlike in the gana-sanghas.
- The kingdoms were governed by kings and the administration was centralised. The brahman priests provided legitimacy to the king through various rituals.
- 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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) The terms “grihapatis and kassakas” are related to which of the following?

- a) Bonded labors
- b) Landowners
- c) Agricultural labors
- d) Goldsmiths and Weavers

ANS: B

Explanation: The richer landowners were called grihapatis. These landowners employed labourers called dasas or karmakaras. The smaller landowners were known as kassakas or krishakas.

The society was stratified on the basis of varna. It emerged as a marker of status. Cultivators and artisans were identified as the shudras.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following is/are reason/s for Causes of Intellectual Awakening in sixth century B. C?

1. New State formations
2. Rigidity of the Vedic religion
3. Urbanization and expansion of trade led to formation of new merchant class

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Sixth century BCE was a period of intense intellectual ferment. There are several reasons for the emergence of this ferment.

- State formation and the rigidity of the Vedic religion constrained the liberty of thought and action. A revolt against religious practice of following dogmas found its articulation in heterodox sects.
- The emergence of territorial identities accelerated the process of sociopolitical and economic changes. The elite class, disillusioned with the system in place, began to move in protest towards the heterodox religions blossoming in Magadha or middle Ganges plains.
- As the Vedic religion was not fully organised, its reach did not permeate into the society and hence people did not find it difficult to follow the newly emerging religious sects.
- With urbanisation and expansion of trade, new classes of merchants and bankers such as sethis sought higher social status appropriate to their economic status.
- The grievance of Kshatriyas was that they were denied a staged life of ashramas, a privilege permitted only to Brahmins in the Vedic texts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) “Nanda Vaccha, Kisa Samkicca and Makkhali Gosala” are related to which of the following sect?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Ajivikas
- d) Hinduism

ANS: C

Explanation: The Ajivikas are believed to have evolved from one of the many ascetic groups of the times.

- According to Buddhist records, Nanda Vaccha was considered the founder of the Ajivika sect.
- He was succeeded by Kisa Samkicca, followed by Makkhali Gosala, who was the third and the greatest of the Ajivikas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) “Nirgranthas” is related to which of the following religion?

- a) Jainism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Ajivikas
- d) Hinduism

ANS: A

Explanation: Among the various sects, the sect led by Vardhamana Mahavira (referred to as Nigantha Nataputta by Buddhist texts) bloomed into a religion called Jainism. It was earlier known as Nirgranthas (free from bonds). Mahavira was known as Jina (conqueror) of the soul and hence his sect came to be known as Jainism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) “He was born in Kundagrama, member of the ruling family of a gana-sangha and his father was the chief of the Jnatrika clan” is related?

- a) Makkhali Gosala
- b) Buddhagosa
- c) Vardhamana Mahavira
- d) Purana Kassapa

ANS: C

Explanation: Vardhamana was born around 540 BCE in Kundagrama, a suburb of Vaishali.

- He was a member of the ruling family of a gana-sangha and his father Siddhartha was the chief of the Jnatrika clan.
- His mother Trishala was a Lichchavi princess and sister of its chief Chetaka.
- Mahavira was closely connected to rulers of Magadha, Anga and Videha through his mother.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) “Digambaras and Svetambaras” are related to which of the following?

- a) Jainism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Ajivikas
- d) Hinduism

ANS: A

Explanation: Magadha was affected by severe famine and some of the Jaina monks under Bhadrabahu went south to maintain their strict discipline.

- They remained without garments and were known as Digambaras (space-clad or naked).
- Others stayed back under the leadership of Sthulabhadra and adopted a white garment and were known as Svetambaras (white-clad).
- The schism weakened Jainism in Magadha, but it found ardent followers in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Karnataka.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) “Dharmachakra-parivartana” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Jainism
- b) Ajivikas
- c) Buddhism
- d) Hinduism

ANS: C

Explanation: Siddhartha wandered about and joined Alara Kalama as a disciple for a brief period. He also sought guidance from a hermit Uddaka Ramaputta.

- Siddhartha was not satisfied with their path and practised severe austerities, which left him nearly dead.
- One day, he ate rice boiled in milk given by a milkmaid named Sujata and began meditation under a pipal tree in Bodhgaya.
- After 49 days of meditation, he attained enlightenment, at the age of 35. Thereafter, he came to be called Buddha or the Enlightened.
- He then delivered his first sermon in a deer park in Sarnath near Varanasi. This event is described as Dharmachakra-parivartana or ‘wheel of the great law’.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Early Janpath's and early European Invasions

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The inscriptions of Brahmi script at sanchi was deciphered by Alexander Cunningham.
2. The Mudrarakshasa play was written by Visakhadatta during Satavahana period.

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 reconstruction of the Mauryan period to a great extent became possible only after the Brahmi script of the inscriptions at Sanchi was deciphered by James Prinsep in 1837.

- The play Mudrarakshasa by Visakhadatta was written during the Gupta period, sometime after the 4th 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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Arrange the following in chronological order:

1. Haryanka dynasty
2. Nanda dynasty
3. Maurya dynasty
4. Shishunga dynasty

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- a) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- b) 1 – 4 – 2 – 3
- c) 1 – 2 – 4 – 3
- d) 1 – 3 – 2 – 4

ANS: B

Explanation:

The Five major ancient Magadha dynasties are:

- Harayanka Dynasty: Middle of 6th century B.C. To 413 B.C.
- ShishuNag Dynasty: 413 B.C. To 345 B.C.
- Nanda Dynasty: 345 B.C. To 321 B.C.
- Maurya Dynasty: 321 B.C. To 185 B.C.
- Shung Dynasty: 185 B.C. To 75 B.C.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) “Hathigumpha” caves is often seen in news is related to which of the following state?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Odisha
- d) Gujarat

ANS: C

Explanation: An inscription known as the Hathigumpha (elephant cave) from Udayagiri near Bhubaneshwar, Odisha, records the aqueduct built by King Nanda three hundred years earlier.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Kharosthi script was derived from Aramaic used in the Achaemenid Empire of Persia.
2. The Kharosthi script was written from right to left.

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 cultural impact was felt most in the Gandhara region. The most significant impact was the development of the Kharosthi script, used in the north-western part of India.

- It was used by Ashoka in his inscriptions in the Gandhara region.
- The Kharosthi script was derived from Aramaic used widely in the Achaemenid Empire of Persia.
- Like Aramaic, Kharosthi was written from right to left.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) During which reign, the Alexander invaded North – West India?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Ajathasathru
- c) Kala Asoka
- d) Dana Nanda

ANS: D

Explanation: During Dana Nanda's reign, Alexander invaded north-west India (327–325 BCE).

In many ways, the invasion by Alexander is a watershed in Indian history.

- It marked the beginning of the interaction between India and the West, which spanned many centuries to follow.
- Greek historians began to write about India, and Greek governors and kings ruled in the north-western region of India, which introduced new styles of art and governance.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The “Indica” was written by which of the following?

- a) Megasthenes
- b) Seleucus
- c) Porus
- d) Chandra Gupta Maurya

ANS: A

Explanation: Another major event of his reign was the war against Seleucus, who was one of Alexander's generals. After the death of Alexander, Seleucus had established his kingdom extending up to Punjab.

- Chandragupta defeated him in a battle some time before 301 BCE and drove him out of the Punjab region.
- The final agreement between the two was probably not too acrimonious, since Chandragupta gave Seleucus 500 war elephants, and Seleucus sent an ambassador to Chandragupta's court.
- This ambassador was Megasthenes, and we owe much of the information that we have about Chandragupta to Indica, the account written by Megasthenes.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding third Buddhist council:

1. It was convened during the reign of Kala Asoka.
2. An important outcome of this council was the decision to expand the reach of Buddhism to other parts of the region.

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: 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.

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- 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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) “Suvarnagiri” is a province under the control of Ashoka is located at?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Odisha

ANS: A

Explanation: Kanakagiri (also known as Suvarnagiri) is a town in Karnataka state of India. It was a provincial capital of the Mauryan Empire and later became the capital of the Nayaka dynasty who was the Palegars of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) “Erragudi” major rock edict often seen in news is located at?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

ANS: A

Explanation: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has geared up for protecting the Ashoka rock edict site near Erragudi on Gooty-Pathikonda road in Kurnool district.

- The inscriptions were one of the important treasures of Mouryan king Ashoka (269-231 BCE) falling under major and minor rock inscriptions.
- From the archaeological point of view, Yerraguidi site is the most important location in the entire South India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) In the Mauryan Empire, the coins are known as pana is made up of?

- a) Gold
- b) Silver
- c) Lead
- d) Copper

ANS: B

Explanation: Though coinage was known, barter was the medium of exchange in pre-modern economies.

- In the Mauryan Empire, the silver coin known as pana and its sub-divisions were the most commonly used currency.
- Hordes of punch-marked coins have been found in many parts of north India, though some of these coins may have been from earlier periods.
- Thus while coins were in use, it is difficult to estimate the extent to which the economy was monetised.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – The Mauryan Empire

Q.1) During which of the following reign the construction of a Sudarshana lake was started?

- The Chandragupta Maurya
- The Ashoka
- The Bindusara
- The Rudradaman I

ANS: A

Explanation: The sources of the Maurya period are more varied and considered more authentic than the earlier periods.

For the first time now, we have at our disposal a number of sources (literary sources like Arthashastra of Kautilya, Indica of Megasthenes, and the Junagarh Inscription of Rudradaman I, which attributes to the beginning of construction of a Sudarshana lake during Chandragupta's reign), and edicts issued by Ashoka that throw a clearer light on the history of this period.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following Buddhist text/s is/are gave an account of Chandragupta's life?

- Mahavamsa
- Milindapanho
- Mahabhashya

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The major literary sources for the period include Hemachandra's Parishishtaparvan (establishing Chandragupta's connections with Jainism);

- Vishakhadatta's Mudrarakshasa from the 5th century (a historical drama describing the clever machinations of Chanakya against Chandragupta's enemies);
- Dandin's Dashakumaracharita; Banabhatta's Kadambari; the trinity of Buddhist texts that give us an account of Chandragupta's life, namely, the Mahavamsa, Milindapanho, and Mahabhashya.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) “famine has never visited India and that there has never been a general scarcity in the supply of nourishing food and even in times of war the Indians would never ravage the cultivated soil as was done by other nations but would fight their battles, away from agricultural fields allowing the tillers of the soil to carry on cultivation even when battles were raging” – statement was made by?

- a) Megasthenes
- b) Strabo
- c) Pliny
- d) Arrian

ANS: A

Explanation: Megasthenes was so impressed by the contentment and prosperity of the people that he made the sweeping remark that, “famine has never visited India and that there has never been a general scarcity in the supply of nourishing food and even in times of war the Indians would never ravage the cultivated soil as was done by other nations but would fight their battles, away from agricultural fields allowing the tillers of the soil to carry on cultivation even when battles were raging.”

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Who among the following committed sallekhana?

- a) The Chandra Gupta Maurya
- b) The Bindusara
- c) The Ashoka
- d) The Kala Asoka

ANS: A

Explanation: According to Jain texts and tradition, Chandragupta adopted Jainism and went to the hills of Shravana Belagola (near Mysore) with Bhadrabahu and committed Sallekhana (death by slow starvation).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Who among the following organized the third Buddhist council at Pataliputra?

- a) The Bindusara
- b) The Kala Asoka
- c) The Ashoka
- d) The Kanishka

ANS: C

Explanation: The Ashoka organized the third Buddhist council at Pataliputra (in the 18th year of his reign), after which he sent Buddhist missionaries to Ceylon and Suvarnabhumi.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following pair/s is/are correct?

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Rock Edict | : | Prominence |
| 1. First Edict | : | Prohibition of animal sacrifice |
| 2. Fourth Edict | : | Appointment of Dhamma Mahamattas |
| 3. Sixth Edict | : | Religious tolerance amongst all sects |

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

- First Edict: Declared prohibition of animal sacrifice
- Second Edict: Medical treatment of human and animals, planting beneficial medicinal herbs and roots, fruits, and the digging of wells
- Third Edict: Mentions Pradeshikas, Rajukas, and Yuktas and their need for going on tours of inspection every five years as part of their other duties, preaching dhamma, and also adopting liberal attitude towards Brahmanas and Shramanas
- Fourth Edict: Bheri Ghosha (war drum) replaced by Dhamma Ghosha and King Ashoka attached greatest value to this duty
- Fifth Edict: Appointment of Dhamma Mahamattas, a special cadre of officials entrusted to spread dhamma within the kingdom
- Sixth Edict: Mantri parishad and officers like Pulisani and Pativedakas (reporters)
- Seventh Edict: Religious tolerance amongst all sects and welfare measures for public not only in his own kingdom but also in the neighbouring kingdoms of Cholas, Pandyas, and that of Antiochus in the north-west.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following pair/s is/are correct?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Administrative official | : | Subject |
| 1. Samahartri | : | Chief collector of revenue |
| 2. Samnidhatri | : | Treasurer |
| 3. Akshapatala | : | Records-cum-audit office |

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Among all the executive officials, Samahartri (chief collector of revenue) was the most important and his responsibility involved maintaining accounts and collection of taxes from all types of sources.

Most of the superintendents mentioned above functioned on his orders. There was also the office of Samnidhatri (treasurer) who was also in charge of the royal stores, akshapatala (records-cum-audit office), and dauvarika (chief of the palace attendants).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following is/are the capital city/cities of province/s of Mauryan Empire?

1. Taxila
2. Ujjain
3. Tamraparni

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Apart from Magadha with its capital at Pataliputra, the Mauryan Empire was divided into four other provinces, with capitals at Taxila (north-western India), Suvarnagiri (southern India), Tosali (eastern India), and Ujjain (western India). During Ashoka's reign, a fifth province of Kalinga was added.

- The head of the provincial administration was viceroy, who was in charge of law and order, and collection of taxes for the centre.
- He was generally a prince from the royal family (kumara or aryaputra) and was assisted by Mahamattas and a council of ministers.
- Besides imperial provinces, there were a number of territories that enjoyed some measure of autonomy.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The term "Bhartiakas" is related to which of the following?

- a) Hereditary warriors
- b) Mercenaries
- c) Security of frontier forts
- d) Village elders

ANS: B

Explanation: There is mention of periodic levies of troops such as Maula (hereditary warriors), Bhartiakas (mercenaries), and forest tribe soldiers, and allies (furnished by friends).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The term "Panyadhyaksha" is associated with which of the following?

- a) Officer in charge of trade
- b) Superintendent of markets
- c) Inspector of coins
- d) In charge of standardized weights and measures

ANS: A

Explanation: Certain important officials of Mauryan Administration:

- Panyadhyaksha (Officer in charge of trade, price fixation, and sale of goods produced by state-run manufacturing units)
- Sansthadhyaksha (Superintendent of markets)
- Rupadarshaka (Inspector of coins)
- Pautavadhyaksha (In charge of standardised weights and measures)

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Post Mauryan kingdoms and the Early Kingdoms in Southern India

Q.1) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

1. Ashtadhyayi : Patanjali
2. Malavikaagnimitram : Kalidasa
3. Harshacharita : Banabhatta

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Sungas are considered Brahmanas in their caste origins, and they are referred to in both Buddhist and Brahminical texts such as the Harshacharita, the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, Panini's Ashtadhyayi, Kalidasa's Malavikaagnimitram, Divyavadana and Tarantha's (a Buddhist scholar) account.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Who among the following is contemporary of Pushyamitra Sunga?

- a) Kalidasa
- b) Banabhatta
- c) Patanjali
- d) Panini

ANS: C

Explanation: Patanjali, the notable grammarian who wrote the Mahabhasya was a contemporary of Pushyamitra Sunga.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Who among the following was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena?

- a) Demetrius
- b) Menander
- c) Hermaius
- d) Rishi Kanva

ANS: B

Explanation: Menander /Milinda/Minedra (165 BCE – 145 BCE): The most celebrated Indo-Greek ruler who not only stabilised Indo-Greek power, but also extended his empire's frontiers in India.

- He was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena has been identified with the King Milinda mentioned in the famous Buddhist text Milindapanho (Question of Milinda), which contains philosophical questions that Milinda asked Nagasena (the Buddhist author of the text).
- The text claims that impressed by the answers, the king accepted Buddhism as his religion.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Indo – Greek rule:

1. They were the first rulers in India to issue coins which can be definitely attributed to any dynasty.
2. They were the first to issue gold coins in India.

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 Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue coins (gold, silver, copper, and nickel) which can be definitely attributed to any dynasty and were also the first to issue gold coins in India (which increased in number under the Kushanas).

Interestingly, the coins of the Shakas, Parthians and the Kshatrapas followed the basic features of Indo-Greek coinage, including the bilingual and bi-script legends.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding kushans:

1. They were nomadic tribal people who were originally from the steppes of North Central Asia.
2. The Kanishka was the famous king of Kushans.

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 Kushanas were also referred as Yueh-Chis (Moon tribe) or Tocharians, who were one of the five clans (Kuei-shang) into which the Yue-chi tribe was divided.

- They were nomadic tribal people who were originally from the steppes of north Central Asia.
- The Kushanas first occupied Bactria (or north Afghanistan), where they displaced the Shakas, and gradually seized Gandhara, replacing the rule of the Greeks and the Parthians in these areas.
- Ultimately, they set up their authority over the lower Indus basin and the greater part of the **Gangetic basin.**

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Kanishka:

1. He started the Shaka era.
2. The third Buddhist council held in his time period.

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: Started the Shaka era (78 CE), which is accepted as the beginning of his reign, and which is now used by the Government of India for its calendar.

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- The probable explanation as to why the name Shaka era and not Kushana era probably lies in the belief that either Kanishka was mistakenly considered a Shaka, or that the era was in continuous use throughout the reigns of the Shakas kshatrapas of Western India, who acknowledged the overlordship of the Kushanas.
- Held the fourth Buddhist council at Kundalavana (near Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir) under the presidency of Vasumitra. Kanishka was a great patron of Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Rudradaman I”:

1. He belongs to Shaka kshtarapa rulers.
2. He undertook the repairs to improve the Sudarshan Lake from Chandragupta Maurya’s reign.

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 famous of all the Shaka kshtarapa rulers, who ruled in the middle of second century CE.

- His empire was spread over almost whole of western India which included Sindh, Gujarat, Konkan, Narmada Valley, Malwa and Kathiawar except the Nashik and Pune areas.
- He is famous in history because of the repairs he undertook to improve the Sudarshan Lake from Chandragupta Maurya’s reign, located in the semi-arid zone of Kathiawar, and this task is described in the famous Junagarh or Girnar Inscription (dated in the Shaka year 72, i.e., 150– 151 CE).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following was the founder of Satavahana dynasty?

- a) Simuka
- b) Gautamiputra Satkarni
- c) Vashishthiputra Pulumayi
- d) Yajna Sri Satakarni

ANS: A

Explanation: Simuka was founder of the Satavahana Dynasty and was immediately active after Ashoka’s death.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The “gaulmika” term was associated with which of the following?

- a) Village Headman
- b) Tax collectors
- c) Treasurers
- d) Bonded laborers

ANS: A

Explanation: The lowest level of administration was a grama (village), which was under the charge of a gaulmika (village headman), who was also the head of a military regiment consisting of nine chariots, nine elephants, 25 horses and 45 foot soldiers.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The famous “Gathasattasai” was written by which of the following?

- a) Hala
- b) Yajnashri Satakarni
- c) Chanda Satakarni
- d) Pulumavi

ANS: A

Explanation: During the Satavahana phase, many chaityas (sacred shrines) and viharas (monasteries) were cut out of the solid rock in the north-western Deccan or Maharashtra with great precision and skill.

- The Karle Chaitya in the western Deccan belongs to this era. The Nashik inscriptions of Nahapana and Gautamiputra Satakarni, which are on the walls of the three viharas , is another important architectural site belonging to this period.
- The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit, though the script was Brahmi.
- One famous Prakrit text, Gathasattasai, is attributed to a Satavahana king called Hala, which consisted of 700 verses all written in Prakrit.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – The Gupta Empire and their Successors

Q.1) Which of the following three kingdoms is part of Muvendar?

1. Cholas
2. Pandyas
3. Cholas
4. Pallavas
5. Chalukayas

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 5 only

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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) "Puhar" is an ancient port town located in which of the following modern states?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Kerala

ANS: A

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.
- Pattinappalai, composed by the poet Kattiyalur Uruttirankannanar, offers elaborate descriptions of the bustling trading activity here during the rule of Karikalan.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. Kurinji | : | Hilly region |
| 2. Marutham | : | Forested region |
| 3. Mullai | : | Riverine tract |

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

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 NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following pair/s is/are NOT correctly matched?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. Nitisara | : | Vishakadutta |
| 2. Mehrauli Iron Pillar inscription | : | Chandragupta I |
| 3. Allahabad Pillar inscription | : | Samudragupta |

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Kamandaka's Nitisara, a work on polity addressed to the king (400 CE).

- Mehrauli Iron Pillar inscription – achievements of Chandragupta I.
- Allahabad Pillar inscription – describing Samudragupta's personality and achievements in 33 lines composed by Harisena and engraved in Sanskrit in Nagari script.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Who among the following founded the Gupta Dynasty?

- a) Sri Gupta
- b) Ghatotkacha Gupta
- c) Chandragupta I
- d) Samudragupta

ANS: A

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).
- His imperial position is inferred from the records of others. No inscriptions or coins have survived from his reign.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Who among the following is called as “Kaviraja”?

- a) Chandragupta I
- b) Samudra Gupta
- c) Chandragupta II
- d) Kumara Gupta I

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 NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Chandra Gupta II:

1. The peak of the territorial expansion of the Gupta Empire was reached during Chandragupta II’s reign.
2. He was the first ruler to issue silver coins.

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: According to some legends, Samudragupta was succeeded by his elder son Ramagupta, but Chandragupta II killed him.

It is also believed that during Ramagupta’s tenure, the Gupta Empire was invaded by a powerful Shaka king.

- The peak of the territorial expansion of the Gupta empire was reached during Chandragupta II’s reign (also known as Chandragupta Vikramaditya), who extended the limits of his empire by conquests and marital alliances with other royal dynasties of the period.
- He was the first ruler to issue silver coins. He also issued copper coins and is referred to as Chandra on his coins. He also issued gold coins called dinara.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Fa Hien/Faxian, the famous Chinese traveler, visited India during which of the following reign?

- a) Chandragupta II
- b) Chandragupta I
- c) Samudragupta
- d) Kumara Gupta I

ANS: A

Explanation: Fa Hien/Faxian, the famous Chinese traveler, visited India during the reign of Chandra Gupta II.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following is/are contribution/s of Kalidasa?

- 1. Abhijanashakuntalam
- 2. Malavikagnimitram
- 3. Vikramorvasiyam

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Kalidasa: Renowned classical Sanskrit poet and playwright of India and a peerless genius whose works such as Abhijanashakuntalam, Malavikagnimitram, Vikramorvasiyam became famous worldwide.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) "Vetala Bhatta" is a member of navaratnas of Chandragupta II is famous for?

- a) Sanskrit scholar
- b) Magician
- c) Physician
- d) Mathematician

ANS: B

Explanation: Vetala Bhatta: A magician who wrote the Mantrashastra.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Kingdoms of Deccan and Pallava and Chola dynasty

Q.1) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------|
| Type of land | : | Purpose |
| 1. Kshetra | : | Cultivable land |
| 2. Khila | : | Waste land |
| 3. Aprahata | : | Jungle land |

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: 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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) “A land grant in favour of a Brahmin as well as gifts to merchants for the repair and worship of temples” is related to?

- a) Agrahara grants
- b) Devagrahara grants
- c) Secular grants
- d) Aprada dharma

ANS: B

Explanation: Devagrahara grants: A land grant in favour of a Brahmin as well as gifts to merchants for the repair and worship of temples.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The terms “bhaga, bhoga and kara” are related to which of the following?

- a) Taxes
- b) Forests
- c) Dances
- d) Security guards

ANS: A

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 Upaklipta	related to sale and purchase of lands.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) The terms “sresti and sarthavaha” are related to which of the following?

- a) Tax collectors
- b) Traders
- c) Treasuries
- d) Record keepers

ANS: B

Explanation: 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 NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Usury was in practice during the Gupta period.
2. The Guptas issued many gold coins but comparatively few silver and copper coins.

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: Usury (the lending of money at an exorbitant rate of interest) was in practice during the Gupta period.

- The detailed discussion in the sources of that period indicates that money was used, borrowed and loaned for profit.
- The Guptas issued many gold coins but comparatively few silver and copper coins. However, the post-Gupta period saw a decline in the circulation of gold coins.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following is/are rock cut cave/s?

1. Ajanta
2. Ellora
3. Bagh

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The rock-cut caves continue the old forms to a great extent but possess striking novelty by bringing about extensive changes in the ornamentation of the facade and in the designs of the pillars in the interior.

The most notable groups of the rock-cut caves are found at Ajanta and Ellora (Maharashtra) and Bagh (Madhya Pradesh). The Udayagiri caves (Orissa) are also of this type.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following text/s is/are related to grammar?

1. Ashtadhyayi
2. Mahabhashya
3. Chandrvyakaranam

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

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.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER. [THIRD WEEK] 2022

- 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 Chandravayakaranam.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) “Hiuen Tsang, hailed as the prince of pilgrims, visited India during the reign of”?

- a) Harsha vardhana
- b) Kumara Gupta I
- c) Rajavardhana
- d) Prabhakaravardhana

ANS: A

Explanation: Hiuen Tsang hailed as the prince of pilgrims, visited India during the reign of Harsha. Born in China in 612 CE he became a Buddhist monk at the age of twenty.

- During his travels, he visited various sacred places of northern and southern India. Hiuen Tsang spent about five years in the University of Nalanda and studied there.
- Harsha admired him for his deep devotion to Buddha and his profound knowledge of Buddhism.
- Hiuen Tsang carried with him 150 pieces of the relics of Buddha, a large number of Buddha image in gold, silver, sandalwood and above all 657 volumes of valuable manuscripts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

Kingdom	:	Area
1. Palas	:	Bengal
2. Pratiharas	:	Rajasthan
3. Rashtrakutas	:	Deccan

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: After the death of Harsha, the Pratiharas (Jalore-Rajasthan), the Palas (Bengal) and the Rashtrakutas (Deccan) engaged in a triangular contest for the control of the Ganga-Yamuna doab and the lands adjoining it.

- The Palas controlled vast areas of the eastern Gangetic Plain.
- Apart from earning revenue from agriculture, Palas also derived income from their wide commercial contacts in South-east Asia.
- Buddhism in Bengal provided a link between eastern India and Java and Sumatra.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The Dandidurga was considered as greatest ruler of which of the following Dynasty?

- a) Rashtrakutas
- b) Pallavas
- c) Pratiharas
- d) Palas

ANS: A

Explanation: The Rashtrakutas were originally known to be the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Vatapi.

Though Rashtrakutas were early rulers, the greatest ruler of the dynasty was Dandidurga.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding rashtrakutas:

1. Kannada and Sanskrit literature made great progress during their reign.
2. Kavichakravarthi Ponna, Adikavi Panpa and Kavichakravarti Ranna three gems of ancient kannada literature.

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 Rashtrakuta rulers were great patrons of learning. Kannada and Sanskrit literature made great progress during their reign.

- Amoghavarsha I was the author of Prasnotaramalika, a Sanskrit work, and Kavirajamarga, a Kannada work.
- Jinasena wrote the Adipurana of the Jains. Krishna II's spiritual guide, Gunabhadra, wrote the Mahapurana of the Jains.
- The three gems of ancient Kannada literature – Kavichakravarthi Ponna, Adikavi Panpa and Kavichakravarti Ranna – were patronised by Rashtrakuta king Krishna III, as well as by Tailapa and Satyashraya of Western Chalukyas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding rashtrakutas architecture:

1. The rock cut shrines at Ellora and Elephanta located in present-day Maharashtra belong to their period.
2. The Monolithic Kailasanath Temple was hewn out of a single rock during the time of Krishna I in the 8th century.

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 Rashtrakutas made splendid contributions to Indian art. The rockcut shrines at Ellora and Elephanta located in present-day Maharashtra belong to their period.

- The Ellora cave complex contains the features of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments and art work.
- Amoghavarsha I espoused Jainism and there are five Jain cave temples at Ellora ascribed to his period.
- The most striking structure at Ellora is the creation of the Monolithic Kailasanath Temple.
- The temple was hewn out of a single rock during the time of Krishna I in the 8th century.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

1. Maithrakas : Valabhi
2. Maukharis : Kanauj
3. Yasodharman : Mandasor

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Huns, Maithrakas of Valabhi, Maukharis of Kanauj, Yasodharman of Mandasor, Pushyabhutis of Thaneswar and Later Guptas of Magadha were sub regional kingdoms.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the palas:

1. Gopala was the founder of Pala dynasty.
2. Mahayana Buddhism flourished during the Pala reign.

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 founder of Pala dynasty Gopala was elected to rule by the chieftains and rulers of little kingdoms.

- Dharmapala, Devapala and Mahipala I ruled ably and kept their domain under effective control.
- Weak successors contributed to the decline of the dynasty.
- Mahayana Buddhism flourished during the Pala reign.
- The patronage of Palas to Vikramashila and Nalanda universities paved the way for the progress of Buddhist, Jain and Sanskrit literature.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The “nala kavundas” are related to which of the following?

- a) Traders
- b) Security guards
- c) Revenue officials
- d) Priests

ANS: C

Explanation: The traditional revenue officials of the villages were called the nalakavundas. The central figure in village administration was kamunda or pokigan who were appointed by the kings.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The “vatapi” was the capital of which dynasty?

- a) Cholas
- b) Chalukyas
- c) Cheras
- d) Pallavas

ANS: B

Explanation: The Chalukya dynasty was established by Pulakeshin I in 543. Pulakeshin I took Vatapi (modern Badami in Bagalkot district, Karnataka) under his control and made it his capital.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) “Aihole Inscription” is a famous inscription was located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh

ANS: B

Explanation: The Megudi temple at Aihole (in Karnataka) stands on top of a hill. On the eastern wall of this Jaina temple is a 19-line Sanskrit inscription (dated to 556 Saka era: 634-635).

- The composer is a poet named Ravikriti. The inscription is a prashasti of the Chalukyas especially the reigning king Pulikesin II, referred to as Sathyasraya (the abode of truth).
- It highlights the history of the dynasty, defeat of all his enemies, especially Harshavardhana.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The “Cheras” – ancient kingdom was located at which of the following?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) West Bengal
- d) Assam

ANS: B

Explanation: Though the Kerala region seems to have been under the rule of the Chera Perumals during the period from sixth to ninth century little is known about its history until the beginning of the ninth century.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The term “eripatti” is related to which of the following?

- a) Forest land
- b) Tank land
- c) Sacred groves
- d) Revenue villages

ANS: B

Explanation: A special category of land, eripatti or tank land was known only in south India. This land was donated by individuals, the revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The terms “sudesi, nanadesi, and ainurruvar” are related to which of the following?

- a) Trade Guilds
- b) Village guards
- c) Noble priests
- d) Temple styles

ANS: A

Explanation: 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 NCERT