

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

December 2022

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



Polity- Parliament and State Government

Q.1) Which of the following is/are consist/s of Parliament?

1. The President
2. The Council of States
3. The House of People

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: Under the Constitution, the Parliament of India consists of three parts viz, the President, the Council of States and the House of the People.

- In 1954, the Hindi names 'Rajya Sabha' and 'Lok Sabha' were adopted by the Council of States and the House of People respectively.
- The Rajya Sabha is the Upper House (Second Chamber or House of Elders) and the Lok Sabha is the Lower House (First Chamber or Popular House).
- The former represents the states and union territories of the Indian Union, while the latter represents the people of India as a whole.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) "Fourth Schedule" of the constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Territorial Jurisdiction of states
- b) Forms of oath and affirmation
- c) Allocation of seats for States and Union Territories in the Rajya Sabha
- d) Official languages

ANS: C

Explanation: The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Lok Sabha:

1. The maximum strength of Lok Sabha is fixed at 552.
2. The president can nominate two members from the Anglo-Indian community to the Lok Sabha.

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 maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is fixed at 552. Out of this, 530 members are to be the representatives of the states, 20 members are to be the representatives of the union

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

territories and 2 members are to be nominated by the president from the AngloIndian community.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Which constitutional amendment act reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years?

- a) 56th Constitutional Amendment Act
- b) 60th Constitutional Amendment Act
- c) 61st Constitutional Amendment Act
- d) 69th Constitutional Amendment Act

ANS: C

Explanation: The representatives of states in the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people from the territorial constituencies in the states. The election is based on the principle of universal adult franchise.

- Every Indian citizen who is above 18 years of age and who is not disqualified under the provisions of the Constitution or any law is eligible to vote at such election.
- The voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 years by the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Rajya Sabha:

1. It is subjected to dissolution.
2. The retiring members of Rajya Sabha are not eligible for re-election and re-nomination.

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: C

Explanation: The Rajya Sabha (first constituted in 1952) is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution.

- However, one-third of its members retire every second year.
- Their seats are filled up by fresh elections and presidential nominations at the beginning of every third year.
- The retiring members are eligible for re-election and re-nomination any number of times.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Which of the following is/are qualification/s of a person to be chosen as member of the Parliament?

1. He must be not less than 30 years of age in the case of both Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha.
2. He must be registered as an elector for a parliamentary constituency.
3. He must be a citizen of India.

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 Constitution lays down the following qualifications for a person to be chosen a member of the Parliament:

- He must be a citizen of India.
- He must make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the person authorised by the election commission for this purpose. In his oath or affirmation, he swears (a) To bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India (b) To uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India
- He must be not less than 30 years of age in the case of the Rajya Sabha and not less than 25 years of age in the case of the Lok Sabha.
- He must possess other qualifications prescribed by Parliament.

The Parliament has laid down the following additional qualifications in the Representation of People Act (1951).

- He must be registered as an elector for a parliamentary constituency. This is same in the case of both, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.
- The requirement that a candidate contesting an election to the Rajya Sabha from a particular state should be an elector in that particular state was dispensed with in 2003.
- In 2006, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of this change.
- He must be a member of a scheduled caste or scheduled tribe in any state or union territory, if he wants to contest a seat reserved for them. However, a member of scheduled castes or scheduled tribes can also contest a seat not reserved for them.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Speaker of Lok Sabha:

1. Whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker immediately vacates his office.
2. He is the guardian of powers and privileges of the members, the House as a whole and its committees.

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: When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside at the sitting of the House, though he may be present.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- However, he can speak and take part in the proceedings of the House at such a time and vote in the first instance, though not in the case of an equality of votes.
- It should be noted here that, whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate his office and continues till the newly-elected Lok Sabha meets.
- The Speaker is the head of the Lok Sabha, and its representative. He is the guardian of powers and privileges of the members, the House as a whole and its committees.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding state legislative council:

1. Only six states have bicameral legislatures.
2. The Constitution provides for the abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.

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: There is no uniformity in the organisation of state legislatures. Most of the states have an unicameral system, while others have a bicameral system.

- At present (2019), only six states have two Houses (bicameral). These are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- The Constitution provides for the abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
- Accordingly, the Parliament can abolish a legislative council (where it already exists) or create it (where it does not exist), if the legislative assembly of the concerned state passes a resolution to that effect.
- Such a specific resolution must be passed by the state assembly by a special majority, that is, a majority of the total membership of the assembly and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the assembly present and voting.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding state legislative assembly:

1. Its maximum strength is fixed at 600 and minimum strength at 60.
2. The governor can nominate two members from the Anglo-Indian community.

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 legislative assembly consists of representatives directly elected by the people on the basis of universal adult franchise.

- Its maximum strength is fixed at 500 and minimum strength at 60. It means that its strength varies from 60 to 500 depending on the population size of the state.
- However, in case of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa, the minimum number is fixed at 30 and in case of Mizoram and Nagaland; it is 40 and 46 respectively.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- Further, some members of the legislative assemblies in Sikkim and Nagaland are also elected indirectly.
- The governor can nominate one member from the Anglo-Indian community, if the community is not adequately represented in the assembly.
- Originally, this provision was to operate for ten years (ie, up to 1960). But this duration has been extended continuously since then by 10 years each time.
- Now, under the 95th Amendment Act of 2009, this is to last until 2020.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) “Article 123” of Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Ordinance powers of President
- b) Annual Financial Statement
- c) Motion of Thanks
- d) Summoning of Joint Sitting

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 123 deals with the ordinance making power of the President. President has many legislative powers and this power is one of them.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity – Executive (Union and State)

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding pardoning powers of President:

1. Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardons.
2. The pardoning power of the President is independent of the Judiciary.

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: Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardons to persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence in all cases where the:

- Punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union Law;
- Punishment or sentence is by a court martial (military court); and
- Sentence is a sentence of death.

The pardoning power of the President is independent of the Judiciary; it is an executive power. But, the President while exercising this power does not sit as a court of appeal.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following is/are power/s of the prime minister?

1. He advises the President with regard to summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the Parliament.
2. He can recommend dissolution of the Lok Sabha to President at any time.
3. He announces government policies on the floor of the House.

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 Prime Minister is the leader of the Lower House. In this capacity, he enjoys the following powers:

- He advises the President with regard to summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the Parliament.
- He can recommend dissolution of the Lok Sabha to President at any time.
- He announces government policies on the floor of the House.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) “The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha” – is added by which of the following amendment act?

- a) 76th Constitutional Amendment Act
- b) 86th Constitutional Amendment Act
- c) 91st Constitutional Amendment Act
- d) 95th Constitutional Amendment Act

ANS: C

Explanation: The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Which of the following cabinet committee is NOT headed by Prime Minister?

- a) Political Affairs Committee
- b) Economic Affairs Committee
- c) Appointments Committee
- d) Parliamentary Affairs Committee

ANS: D

Explanation: The following four are the more important cabinet committees:

- The Political Affairs Committee deals with all policy matters pertaining to domestic and foreign affairs.
- The Economic Affairs Committee directs and coordinates the governmental activities in the economic sphere.
- Appointments Committee decides all higher level appointments in the Central Secretariat, Public Enterprises, Banks and Financial Institutions.
- Parliamentary Affairs Committee looks after the progress of government business in the Parliament.

The first three committees are chaired by the Prime Minister and the last one by the Home Minister. Of all the Cabinet Committees, the most powerful is the Political Affairs Committee, often described as a “Super-Cabinet”.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding leader of the opposition:

1. The leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than one-third seats of the total strength of the House is recognized as the leader of the Opposition in that House.
2. The leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were accorded statutory recognition in 1977.

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: In each House of Parliament, there is the ‘Leader of the Opposition’. The leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House is recognised as the leader of the Opposition in that House.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- In a parliamentary system of government, the leader of the opposition has a significant role to play. His main functions are to provide a constructive criticism of the policies of the government and to provide an alternative government.
- Therefore, the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were accorded statutory recognition in 1977.
- They are also entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister.
- It was in 1969 that an official leader of the opposition was recognized for the first time. The same functionary in USA is known as the 'minority leader'.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) How many number of members required to presenting in the House before it can transact any business?

- a) One – fifth of the house
- b) One – tenth of the house
- c) One – third of the house
- d) Half of the house

ANS: B

Explanation: Quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present in the House before it can transact any business.

- It is one- tenth of the total number of members in each House including the presiding officer.
- It means that there must be at least 55 members present in the Lok Sabha and 25 members present in the Rajya Sabha, if any business is to be conducted.
- If there is no quorum during a meeting of the House, it is the duty of the presiding officer either to adjourn the House or to suspend the meeting until there is a quorum.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding zero hour:

1. It is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.
2. It starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day.

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: Unlike the question hour, the zero hour is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.

- Thus it is an informal device available to the members of the Parliament to raise matters without any prior notice.
- The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (ie, regular business of the House) is taken up.
- In other words, the time gap between the question hour and the agenda is known as zero hour.
- It is an Indian innovation in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following provision/s is/are part of money bill?

1. The imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax.
2. The regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government.
3. The appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

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: Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the definition of money bills. It states that a bill is deemed to be a money bill if it contains 'only' provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters:

- The imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax;
- The regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government;
- The custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the contingency fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of money from any such fund;
- The appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India;
- Declaration of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or increasing the amount of any such expenditure;

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding joint sitting of the houses:

1. The president can summon both the Houses to meet in a joint sitting.
2. The provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills, financial bills and money bills.

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 president can summon both the Houses to meet in a joint sitting for the purpose of deliberating and voting on the bill.

- It must be noted here that the provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills.
- In the case of a money bill, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a Constitutional amendment bill must be passed by each House separately.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

Q.10) Which of the following is/are come/s under charged expenditure?

1. Emoluments and allowances of the President and other expenditure relating to his office.
2. Salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges of the Supreme Court.
3. Pensions of the judges of high courts.

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 budget consists of two types of expenditure—the expenditure ‘charged’ upon the Consolidated Fund of India and the expenditure ‘made’ from the Consolidated Fund of India. The charged expenditure is non-votable by the Parliament, that is, it can only be discussed by the Parliament, while the other type has to be voted by the Parliament.

The list of the charged expenditure is as follows:

- Emoluments and allowances of the President and other expenditure relating to his office.
- Salaries and allowances of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges of the Supreme Court.
- Pensions of the judges of high courts.
- Salary, allowances and pension of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity – Judiciary: Supreme Court, High Courts, Subordinate Courts

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Constitution has established an integrated judicial system.
2. The integrated judicial system adopted from the Indian Independence Act 1947.

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: Unlike the American Constitution, the Indian Constitution has established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the high court's below it.

- Under a high court (and below the state level), there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts, that is, district courts and other lower courts.
- This single system of courts, adopted from the Government of India Act of 1935, enforces both Central laws as well as the state laws.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on November 26, 1949.
2. Part V of the Constitution deal with the organization, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the Supreme Court.

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 Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on January 28, 1950. It succeeded the Federal Court of India, established under the Government of India Act of 1935.

- However, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is greater than that of its predecessor. This is because; the Supreme Court has replaced the British Privy Council as the highest court of appeal.
- Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers, and procedures and so on of the Supreme Court.
- The Parliament is also authorised to regulate them.

Source: Laxmianth Polity

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding appointment of judges:

1. The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president.
2. The judges of the High Court are appointed by the Governor.

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: The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president. The chief justice is appointed by the president after consultation with such judges of the Supreme Court and high courts as he deems necessary.

- The judges of a high court are appointed by the President. The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the chief justice of India and the governor of the state concerned.
- For appointment of other judges, the chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted.
- In case of a common high court for two or more states, the governors of all the states concerned are consulted by the president.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Which of the following is/are qualification/s to appoint as judge of the Supreme Court?

1. He should have been a judge of a High Court for seven years.
2. He should have been an advocate of a High Court for ten years.
3. He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.

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: A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:

- He should be a citizen of India.
- He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years; or
- He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years; or
- He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.

From the above, it is clear that the Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding tenure of judges:

1. The Constitution has not fixed the tenure of a judge of the Supreme Court.
2. He can be removed from his office by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

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: The Constitution has not fixed the tenure of a judge of the Supreme Court. However, it makes the following three provisions in this regard:

- He holds office until he attains the age of 65 years. Any question regarding his age is to be determined by such authority and in such manner as provided by Parliament.
- He can resign his office by writing to the president.
- He can be removed from his office by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Which of the following is/are come/s under original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court?

1. The dispute between the Centre and one or more states.
2. The dispute between the Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more other states on the other side.
3. The dispute between two or more states.

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: As a federal court, the Supreme Court decides the disputes between different units of the Indian Federation. More elaborately, any dispute:

- Between the Centre and one or more states; or
- Between the Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more other states on the other side; or
- Between two or more states.

In the above federal disputes, the Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction. Exclusive means, no other court can decide such disputes and original means, the power to hear such disputes in the first instance, not by way of appeal.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following is/are come/s under the appellate jurisdiction?

1. Appeals in constitutional matters.
2. Appeals in criminal matters.
3. Appeals by special leave.

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 Supreme Court has not only succeeded the Federal Court of India but also replaced the British Privy Council as the highest court of appeal. The Supreme Court is primarily a court of appeal and hears appeals against the judgments of the lower courts.

It enjoys a wide appellate jurisdiction which can be classified under four heads:

- Appeals in constitutional matters.
- Appeals in civil matters.
- Appeals in criminal matters.
- Appeals by special leave.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding High Court:

1. The institution of high court originated in India in 1935.
2. The Constitution of India provides for a high court for each state.

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 institution of high court originated in India in 1862 when the high courts were set up at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

- In 1866, a fourth high court was established at Allahabad. In the course of time, each province in British India came to have its own high court.
- After 1950, a high court existing in a province became the high court for the corresponding state.
- The Constitution of India provides for a high court for each state, but the Seventh Amendment Act of 1956 authorized the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states or for two or more states and a union territory.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding qualifications of a person to appoint judge of a high court:

1. He should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten years.
2. He should have been an advocate of a high court for ten years.

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: A person to be appointed as a judge of a high court, should have the following qualifications:

- He should be a citizen of India.
- He should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten years; or
- He should have been an advocate of a high court (or high courts in succession) for ten years.

From the above, it is clear that the Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of a high court.

Moreover, unlike in the case of the Supreme Court, the Constitution makes no provision for appointment of a distinguished jurist as a judge of a high court.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) “Article 142” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Enforcement of decrees and orders of Supreme Court and orders
- b) Power of President to consult Supreme Court
- c) Civil and judicial authorities to act in aid of the Supreme Court
- d) Law declared by Supreme Court to be binding on all courts

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 142 provides discretionary power to the Supreme Court as it states that the Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity – Constitutional Bodies

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding election commission of India:

1. It is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India.
2. The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.

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 Election Commission is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

- The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix.
- The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following election/s is/are conducted by election commission of India?

1. Parliament
2. Panchayats
3. Municipalities

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: Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.

- Thus, the Election Commission is an all-India body in the sense that it is common to both the Central government and the state governments.
- It must be noted here that the election commission is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states.
- For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are the function/s of election commission of India?

1. To determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country on the basis of the Delimitation Commission Act of Parliament.
2. To grant recognition to political parties and allot election symbols to them.
3. To act as a court for settling disputes related to granting of recognition to political parties and allotment of election symbols to them.

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 powers and functions of the Election Commission with regard to elections to the Parliament, state legislatures and offices of President and Vice-President can be classified into three categories, viz, 1. Administrative 2. Advisory 3. Quasi-Judicial In detail, these powers and functions are:

- To determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country on the basis of the Delimitation Commission Act of Parliament.
- To prepare and periodically revise electoral rolls and to register all eligible voters.
- To notify the dates and schedules of elections and to scrutinize nomination papers.
- To grant recognition to political parties and allot election symbols to them.
- To act as a court for settling disputes related to granting of recognition to political parties and allotment of election symbols to them.
- To appoint officers for inquiring into disputes relating to electoral arrangements.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding union public service commission (UPSC):

1. Part XIV of the Constitution is related to UPSC.
2. The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years.

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: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is the central recruiting agency in India. It is an independent constitutional body in the sense that it has been directly created by the Constitution.

- Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution contain elaborate provisions regarding the composition, appointment and removal of members along with the independence, powers and functions of the UPSC.
- The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Which of the following provision/s is/are related to union public service commission (UPSC)?

1. The chairman or a member of the UPSC can be removed from office by the president only.
2. The entire expenses including the salaries, allowances and pensions of the chairman and members of the UPSC are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. The chairman of UPSC is eligible for further employment in the Government of India.

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: The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the UPSC:

- The chairman or a member of the UPSC can be removed from office by the president only in the manner and on the grounds mentioned in the Constitution. Therefore, they enjoy security of tenure.
- The conditions of service of the chairman or a member, though determined by the president, cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.
- The entire expenses including the salaries, allowances and pensions of the chairman and members of the UPSC are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus, they are not subject to vote of Parliament.
- The chairman of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or a state.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Which of the following is/are outside the functional jurisdiction of UPSC?

1. While making reservations of appointments or posts in favor of any backward class of citizens.
2. While taking into consideration the claims of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in making appointments to services and posts.
3. With regard to the selection for temporary or officiating appointment to a post if the person appointed is not likely to hold the post for more than a year.

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 following matters are kept outside the functional jurisdiction of the UPSC. In other words, the UPSC is not consulted on the following matters:

- While making reservations of appointments or posts in favor of any backward class of citizens.
- While taking into consideration the claims of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in making appointments to services and posts.
- With regard to the selections for chairmanship or membership of commissions or tribunals, posts of the highest diplomatic nature and a bulk of group C and group D services.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- With regard to the selection for temporary or officiating appointment to a post if the person appointed is not likely to hold the post for more than a year.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC):

1. The constitution has the provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states.
2. JSPSC is a statutory and not a constitutional body.

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 Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states.

- While the UPSC and the SPSC are created directly by the Constitution, a JSPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned.
- Thus, a JSPSC is a statutory and not a constitutional body. The two states of Punjab and Haryana had a JSPSC for a short period, after the creation of Haryana out of Punjab in 1966.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) “Article 280” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Finance commission
- b) Inter – State Council
- c) Zonal Council
- d) Comptroller and Auditor General

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body.

It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

Q.9) Who among the following is/are can be selected as member/s of finance commission?

1. A judge of high court or one qualified to be appointed as one.
2. A person who has specialized knowledge of finance and accounts of the government.
3. A person who has special knowledge of economics.

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 chairman should be a person having experience in public affairs and the four other members should be selected from amongst the following:

- A judge of high court or one qualified to be appointed as one.
- A person who has specialized knowledge of finance and accounts of the government.
- A person who has wide experience in financial matters and in administration.
- A person who has special knowledge of economics.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) “The 101st Amendment Act” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) GST council
- b) Finance Commission
- c) Election Commission
- d) Union Public Service Commission

ANS: A

Explanation: The 101st Amendment Act of 2016 paved the way for the introduction of a new tax regime (i.e. goods and services tax - GST) in the country.

- The smooth and efficient administration of this tax requires co-operation and coordination between the centre and the states.
- In order to facilitate this consultation process, the amendment provided for the establishment of Goods and Services Tax Council or the GST Council.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity – Non Constitutional Bodies

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “NITI Aayog”:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is the premier policy ‘Think Tank’ of the Government of 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: B

Explanation: On the 13th of August, 2014, the Modi Government scrapped the 65- year-old Planning Commission and announced that it would be replaced by a new body.

- Accordingly, on January 1, 2015, the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was established as the successor to the planning commission.
- However, it must be noted here that the NITI Aayog, like that of the Planning Commission, was also created by an executive resolution of the Government of India (i.e., Union Cabinet).
- Hence, it is also neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. In other words, it is a non-constitutional or extra-constitutional body (i.e., not created by the Constitution) and a non-statutory body (not created by an Act of the Parliament).
- NITI Aayog is the premier policy ‘Think Tank’ of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.
- While designing strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding national human rights commission:

1. It is a statutory body established through the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
2. The chairperson of the commission should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.

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 National Human Rights Commission is a statutory (and not a constitutional) body. It was established in 1993 under a legislation enacted by the Parliament, namely, the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

- The commission is the watchdog of human rights in the country, that is, the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.
- The commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and five members.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- The chairperson should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court and members should be a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of a high court and three persons (out of which at least one should be a woman) having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are function/s of national human rights commission?

1. To inquire into any violation of human rights or negligence.
2. To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates and make recommendation.
3. To study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation.

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 functions of the Commission are:

- To inquire into any violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant, either suo motu or on a petition presented to it or on an order of a court.
- To intervene in any proceeding involving allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court.
- To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates and make recommendation thereon.
- To review the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.
- To review the factors including acts of terrorism that inhibits the enjoyment of human rights and recommend remedial measures.
- To study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Which of the following is NOT correct regarding state human rights commission?

- a) The State Human Rights Commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and four members.
- b) The chairperson should be a retired Chief Justice or a Judge of a High Court.
- c) The chairperson and members are appointed by the Governor.
- d) The chairperson and members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years.

ANS: A

Explanation: The State Human Rights Commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and two members.

- The chairperson should be a retired Chief Justice or a Judge of a High Court and members should be a serving or retired judge of a High Court or a District Judge in the state with a

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

minimum of seven years experience as District Judge and a person having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.

- The chairperson and members are appointed by the Governor on the recommendations of a committee consisting of the chief minister as its head, the speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the state home minister and the leader of the opposition in the Legislative Assembly.
- In the case of a state having Legislative Council, the chairman of the Council and the leader of the opposition in the Council would also be the members of the committee.
- Further, a sitting judge of a High Court or a sitting District Judge can be appointed only after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court of the concerned state.
- The chairperson and members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- They are eligible for re-appointment. After their tenure, the chairperson and members are not eligible for further employment under a state government or the Central government.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) The Central Information Commission is often seen in news was established in?

- a) 2001
- b) 2002
- c) 2004
- d) 2005

ANS: D

Explanation: The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005.

- It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). Hence, it is not a constitutional body.
- The Central Information Commission is a high-powered independent body which inter alia looks into the complaints made to it and decides the appeals.
- It entertains complaints and appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc., under the Central Government and the Union Territories.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) The chairman and members of the commission are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of?

1. Prime Minister
2. Leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha
3. Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the President

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: The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.

- The Commission, when constituted initially, had five commissioners including the Chief Information Commissioner.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- At present (2019), the Commission has six Information Commissioners apart from the Chief Information Commissioner.
- They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following commission/s is/are fall/s under the purview of Ministry of Personnel?

1. Central Information Commission
2. Central Vigilance Commission
3. National Investigation Agency

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:

Sl. No.	Commission / Body	Falls Under
1.	Central Information Commission	Ministry of Personnel
2.	Finance Commission	Ministry of Finance
3.	Union Public Service Commission	Ministry of Personnel
4.	Inter-State Council	Ministry of Home Affairs
5.	Staff Selection Commission	Ministry of Personnel
6.	National Commission for SCs	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

7.	National Commission for STs	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
8.	Central Vigilance Commission	Ministry of Personnel
9.	Zonal Councils	Ministry of Home Affairs
10.	Central Bureau of Investigation	Ministry of Personnel
11.	National Investigation Agency	Ministry of Home Affairs
12.	Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities	Ministry of Minority Affairs

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following committee was recommended to establish Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)?

- a) Sarkaria Commission
- b) Punchhi Commission
- c) Santhanam Committee
- d) Rajamannar Committee

ANS: C

Explanation: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government.

It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government. Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)”:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

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 Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Later, it was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel and now it enjoys the status of an attached office.
- The Special Police Establishment (which looked into vigilance cases) setup in 1941 was also merged with the CBI.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) The institution of Ombudsman was first created in which of the following country?

- a) Sweden
- b) Norway
- c) New Zealand
- d) Australia

ANS: A

Explanation: The institution of Ombudsman was first created in Sweden in 1809.

- ‘Ombud’ is a Swedish term and refers to a person who acts as the representative or spokesman of another person.
- According to Donald C. Rowat, Ombudsman refers to “an officer appointed by the legislature to handle complaints against administrative and judicial action.”

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity - Elections

Q.1) Which of the following is/are condition/s to be recognized as a nationalist party?

1. If it secures six per cent of valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative assembly.
2. If it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states.
3. If it is recognized as a state party in six states.

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: At present (2019), a party is recognized as a national party if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:

- If it secures six per cent of valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative assembly; and, in addition, it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states; or
- If it wins two per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha at a general election; and these candidates are elected from three states; or
- If it is recognized as a state party in four states.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following is/are condition/s to be recognized as a state party?

1. If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the legislative assembly.
2. If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha.
3. If it wins six per cent of seats in the legislative assembly at a general election to the legislative assembly.

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: At present (2019), a party is recognised as a state party in a state if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:

- If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned; and, in addition, it wins 2 seats in the assembly of the state concerned; or

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state concerned; and, in addition, it wins 1 seat in the Lok Sabha from the state concerned; or
- If it wins three per cent of seats in the legislative assembly at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned or 3 seats in the assembly, whichever is more; or
- If it wins 1 seat in the Lok Sabha for every 25 seats or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state concerned; or
- If it secures eight per cent of the total valid votes polled in the state at a General Election to the Lok Sabha from the state or to the legislative assembly of the state. This condition was added in 2011.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding electoral system in India:

1. Only one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to the Parliament and the state legislatures.
2. Part XVII of the Constitution is related to provisions of electoral system.

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: Articles 324 to 329 in Part XV of the Constitution make the provisions with regard to the electoral system in our country.

- There is to be only one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to the Parliament and the state legislatures.
- Thus, the Constitution has abolished the system of communal representation and separate electorates which led to the partition of the country.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO):

1. The Chief Electoral Officer of a state is authorized to supervise the election work in the state.
2. The President nominates or designates an Officer of the Government of the state as the Chief Electoral Officer.

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 Chief Electoral Officer of a state/ Union Territory is authorized to supervise the election work in the state/Union Territory subject to the overall superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

The Election Commission of India nominates or designates an Officer of the Government of the state / Union Territory as the Chief Electoral Officer in consultation with that State Government / Union Territory Administration.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) What is the maximum time limit to conduct elections after dissolution of Lok Sabha?

- a) Six months
- b) One year
- c) Eighteen months
- d) Two years

ANS: A

Explanation: When the five-year limit is up, or the legislature has been dissolved and new elections have been called, the Election Commission puts into effect the machinery for holding an election.

The Constitution states that there can be no longer than six months between the last session of the dissolved Lok Sabha and the recalling of the new House, so elections have to be concluded before then.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) "Article 327" is related to which of the following?

- a) No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- b) Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of states to be on the basis of adult suffrage.
- c) Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
- d) Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.

ANS: C

Explanation:

Article No.	Subject-matter
324.	Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission
325.	No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex
326.	Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of states to be on the basis of adult suffrage
327.	Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures
328.	Power of Legislature of a state to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature
329.	Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters
329A.	Special provision as to elections to Parliament in the case of Prime Minister and Speaker (Repealed)

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following provision/s is/are covered under the Representation of the People Act, 1950?

1. It was enacted to provide for the allocation of seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States.
2. The act sought to confer on the President the powers to delimit, after consultation with the Election Commission.
3. The act provided for the registration of electors for Parliamentary Constituencies and for the Assembly and Council Constituencies.

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 Representation of the People Act, 1950, was enacted to provide for the allocation of seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States.

- The Act also sought to confer on the President the powers to delimit, after consultation with the Election Commission, the various constituencies for the purpose of elections to fill seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States.
- The Act further provided for the registration of electors for Parliamentary Constituencies and for the Assembly and Council Constituencies, and the qualifications and disqualifications for such registration.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following provision/s is/are covered under the Representation of the People Act, 1951?

1. Notification of general elections.
2. Administrative machinery for the conduct of elections.
3. Conduct of elections.

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 provisions for the actual conduct of elections to the Houses of Parliament and to the House or Houses of the Legislature of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for the membership of these Houses, the corrupt practices and other election offences, and the decision of election disputes were all left to be made in a subsequent measure.

In order to provide for these provisions, the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was enacted. Broadly speaking, this Act contains provisions relating to the following electoral matters:

- Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State Legislatures
- Notification of general elections
- Administrative machinery for the conduct of elections

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- Registration of political parties
- Conduct of elections
- Free supply of certain material to candidates of recognized political parties
- Disputes regarding elections

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) “Dinesh Goswami committee” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Electoral reforms
- b) Parliamentary to Presidential system
- c) Ordinance reforms
- d) Constitutional amendment process

ANS: A

Explanation: In 1990, the National Front Government headed by V.P. Singh appointed a committee on electoral reforms under the chairmanship of Dinesh Goswami, the then Law Minister.

- The Committee was asked to study the electoral system in detail and suggest measures for remedying the drawbacks within it.
- The Committee, in its report submitted in 1990 itself, made a number of proposals on electoral reforms.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) “Part XIV – A” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Tribunals
- b) Electoral process
- c) GST council
- d) Panchayat & Gram Sabha

ANS: A

Explanation: The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as ‘Tribunals’ and consists of only two Articles–Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity - Revision

Q.1) “Acworth Committee Report” is related to which of the following?

- a) Railways
- b) Corruption in administration
- c) Finance commission
- d) Electoral reforms

ANS: A

Explanation: The Railway Budget was separated from the General Budget in 1924 on the recommendations of the Acworth Committee Report (1921).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following provision/s of budget in the Constitution of India is/are correct?

1. No demand for a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the President.
2. No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law.
3. Parliament can reduce or abolish a tax but cannot increase it.

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 Constitution of India contains the following provisions with regard to the enactment of budget:

- The President shall in respect of every financial year cause to be laid before both the Houses of Parliament a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for that year.
- No demand for a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the President.
- No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law.
- No money bill imposing tax shall be introduced in the Parliament except on the recommendation of the President, and such a bill shall not be introduced in the Rajya Sabha.
- No tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law.
- Parliament can reduce or abolish a tax but cannot increase it.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are come/s under the purview of charged expenditure?

1. Emoluments and allowances of the President of India.
2. Salaries and allowances of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
3. Salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges of the Supreme Court.

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 budget consists of two types of expenditure—the expenditure ‘charged’ upon the Consolidated Fund of India and the expenditure ‘made’ from the Consolidated Fund of India. The charged expenditure is non-votable by the Parliament, that is, it can only be discussed by the Parliament, while the other type has to be voted by the Parliament.

The list of the charged expenditure is as follows:

- Emoluments and allowances of the President and other expenditure relating to his office.
- Salaries and allowances of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges of the Supreme Court.
- Pensions of the judges of high courts.
- Salary, allowances and pension of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- Salaries, allowances and pension of the chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) “It represents the disapproval of the policy underlying the demand. It states that the amount of the demand be reduced to Re 1” is related to?

- a) Policy Cut Motion
- b) Economy Cut Motion
- c) Token Cut Motion
- d) Budget Motion

ANS: A

Explanation: Policy Cut Motion: It represents the disapproval of the policy underlying the demand.

- It states that the amount of the demand be reduced to Re 1.
- The members can also advocate an alternative policy.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Which of the following fund/s comes under the purview of “Article 266”?

1. Consolidated Fund of India
2. Public Account of India
3. Contingency Fund of India

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: The Constitution of India provides for the following three kinds of funds for the Central government:

- Consolidated Fund of India (Article 266)
- Public Account of India (Article 266)
- Contingency Fund of India (Article 267)

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Which of the following is/are judicial function/s of the parliament?

1. It can impeach the President for the violation of the Constitution.
2. It can remove the Vice-President from his office.
3. It can punish its members or outsiders for the breach of its privileges or its contempt.

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 judicial powers and functions of the Parliament include the following:

- It can impeach the President for the violation of the Constitution.
- It can remove the Vice-President from his office.
- It can recommend the removal of judges (including chief justice) of the Supreme Court and the high courts, chief election commissioner, comptroller and auditor general to the president.
- It can punish its members or outsiders for the breach of its privileges or its contempt.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following is/are exclusive or special powers of Rajya Sabha?

1. It can authorize the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List.
2. It can authorize the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states.
3. A resolution for the removal of the vice-president can be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha.

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 Rajya Sabha has been given four exclusive or special powers that are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha:

- It can authorize the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List (Article 249).
- It can authorize the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states (Article 312).
- It alone can initiate a move for the removal of the vicepresident. In other words, a resolution for the removal of the vice-president can be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha and not in the Lok Sabha (Article 67).
- If a proclamation is issued by the President for imposing national emergency or president's rule or financial emergency at a time when the Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place within the period allowed for its approval, then the proclamation can remain effective even if it is approved by the Rajya Sabha alone (Articles 352, 356 and 360).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following statement is NOT correct?

- a) Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members.
- b) The Constitution has also extended the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees.
- c) The parliamentary privileges extend to the president who is also an integral part of the Parliament.
- d) Parliamentary privileges can be classified into two broad categories collective privileges & Individual privileges.

ANS: C

Explanation: Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members.

- They are necessary in order to secure the independence and effectiveness of their actions.
- Without these privileges, the Houses can neither maintain their authority, dignity and honour nor can protect their members from any obstruction in the discharge of their parliamentary responsibilities.
- The Constitution has also extended the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- These include the attorney general of India and Union ministers. It must be clarified here that the parliamentary privileges do not extend to the president who is also an integral part of the Parliament.
- Parliamentary privileges can be classified into two broad categories: 1. those that are enjoyed by each House of Parliament collectively, and 2. those that are enjoyed by the members individually.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Public Accounts Committee:

1. It was set up first in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919.
2. It consists of 22 members, 17 from Lok Sabha and 5 from Rajya Sabha.

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: Public Accounts committee was set up first in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 and has since been in existence.

- At present, it consists of 22 members (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).
- The members are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) Which of the following statement regarding Estimates Committee is NOT correct?

- a) The origin of this committee can be traced to the standing financial committee set up in 1921.
- b) The first Estimates Committee in the post-independence era was constituted in 1950 on the recommendation of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- c) All members of Estimates Committee are from Lok Sabha only.
- d) A minister cannot be elected as a member of the committee.

ANS: B

Explanation: The origin of estimates committee can be traced to the standing financial committee set up in 1921.

- The first Estimates Committee in the post-independence era was constituted in 1950 on the recommendation of John Mathai, the then finance minister.
- Originally, it had 25 members but in 1956 its membership was raised to 30. All the thirty members are from Lok Sabha only. The Rajya Sabha has no representation in this committee.
- These members are elected by the Lok Sabha every year from amongst its own members, according to the principles of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. Thus, all parties get due representation in it.
- The term of office is one year. A minister cannot be elected as a member of the committee. The chairman of the committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its members and he is invariably from the ruling party.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity- Governance and Governance

Q.1) Which of the following is/are benefit/s of e-governance?

1. Better delivery of government services to citizens.
2. Citizen empowerment through access to information.
3. Less corruption in administration.

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 benefits (or advantages or goals) of e-Governance are as follows:

- Better delivery of government services to citizens
- Improved interactions with business and industry
- Citizen empowerment through access to information
- More efficient government management
- Less corruption in administration
- Increased transparency in administration
- Greater convenience to citizens and businesses
- Cost reductions and revenue growth

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.2) Which of the following initiative/s is/are taken by government to promote e - governance in India?

1. Creation of Ministry of Information Technology.
2. The Information Technology Act (2000) was enacted.
3. The National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) was set-up at Hyderabad.

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 various steps taken to promote e-Governance in India are as follows:

- A National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development was set-up in 1998.
- The Ministry of Information Technology was created at the Centre in 1999.
- In the year 2000, a 12-point minimum agenda for e-Governance was identified for implementation in all the central ministries and departments.
- The Information Technology Act (2000) was enacted. This Act was amended in 2008.
- The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act (2000) was enacted.
- The first National Conference of States IT Ministers was organized in the year 2000, for arriving at a Common Action Plan to promote IT in India.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- The National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) was set-up at Hyderabad in the year 2002.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.3) Which of the following pair/pairs is/are correct?

1. E- Seva : Tamil Nadu
2. FRIENDS : Andhra Pradesh
3. E – Mitra : Rajasthan

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The state governments launched e-Governance projects like e-seva (Andhra Pradesh), Bhoomi (Karnataka), Gyandoot (Madhya Pradesh), Lokvani (Uttar Pradesh), FRIENDS (Kerala), e-mitra (Rajasthan) and so on.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.4) The national e – Governance plan was launched in which of the following year?

- a) 2004
- b) 2005
- c) 2006
- d) 2008

ANS: C

Explanation: The National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was launched in 2006. Initially, it consisted of 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) and 8 support components.

Later, in 2011, 4 more projects (health, education, PDS and posts) were introduced. With this, the number of MMPs increased from 27 to 31.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.5) Which of the following is/are function/s of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

1. Regulating the business in stock exchanges and any other securities markets.
2. Registering and regulating the working of venture capital funds and collective investment schemes including mutual funds.
3. Promoting and regulating self-regulatory organizations.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. Its objective is to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market. Its functions are:

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- regulating the business in stock exchanges and any other securities markets
- registering and regulating the working of intermediaries who are associated with securities markets in any manner
- registering and regulating the working of venture capital funds and collective investment schemes including mutual funds
- promoting and regulating self-regulatory organizations and
- Prohibiting fraudulent and unfair trade practices relating to securities markets.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)”:

1. It was constituted under the provisions of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.
2. It ensures uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country.

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 Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) was constituted under the provisions of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006. Its mandate is:

- to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas
- to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country
- to ensure development of essential infrastructure and its optimum utilisation
- to protect the interests of both consumers as well as the entities operating in this sector
- to facilitate and promote a competitive market and
- to provide a level playing field to ensure flow of massive investments.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Bar Council of India (BCI)”:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates.

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 Bar Council of India (BCI) is a statutory body constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961 to regulate and represent the Indian bar. Its functions are as follows:

- To lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates.
- To safeguard the rights, privileges and interests of advocates.
- To promote and support law reform.
- To promote legal education and to lay down standards of legal education.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)”:

1. The chairman of the council is Prime Minister.
2. The council deals with macro prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.

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: With a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability and development, the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was set up as the apex level forum in 2010.

- The Chairman of the Council is the Finance Minister and its members include the heads of financial sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC); Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; Secretary, Department of Financial Services; and Chief Economic Adviser.
- The Council deals with issues relating macro prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.9) The “National Green Tribunal (NGT)” is often seen in news was established in?

- a) 2005
- b) 2008
- c) 2010
- d) 2014

ANS: C

Explanation: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in the year 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

It also deals with the cases pertaining to the enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Law Commission of India”:

1. It is a non-statutory advisory body.
2. Its function is to recommend the legislative measures for the purpose of consolidation and codification of laws.

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 Law Commission of India is a non-statutory advisory body. It is established by an order of the Central Government from time to time for a fixed tenure. Its function is to recommend the legislative measures for the purpose of consolidation and codification of laws. However, its recommendations are not binding on the government.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Polity - RTI, Citizen's Charter & Anticorruption

Q.1) Which of the following country was the first to introduce citizen charter?

- a) United States of America
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Russia
- d) Australia

ANS: B

Explanation: The concept of a citizens' charter was first articulated and implemented in the United Kingdom by the Conservative Government of John Major in 1991 as a national programme with a simple aim: to continuously improve upon the quality of public services for the people of the country so that these services respond to the needs and wishes of the users.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.2) Which of the following is/are the principle/s of citizen charter?

- 1. Quality
- 2. Accountability
- 3. Transparency

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 six principles of the citizens' charter movement, as originally framed, were:

- Quality: Improving the quality of services
- Choice: For the users wherever possible
- Standards: Specifying what to expect within a time frame and how to act if standards are not met
- Value: For the taxpayers' money
- Accountability: Of the service provider (individual as well as an organisation) and
- Transparency: In rules, procedures, schemes and grievances redressal.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.3) "Sevottam model" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Decentralized administration
- b) Citizen charter
- c) Peoples participation in administration
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation: The citizens' charter is one of the three modules/components of the "Sevottam Model"—the other two being public grievance redressal and service delivery capability.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- Sevottam is a “Service Delivery Excellence Model” which provides an assessment-improvement framework to bring about excellence in public service delivery.
- The term “Sevottam” is formed by joining two Hindi words “seva” and “uttam” meaning “service” and “excellence” respectively.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.4) In which of the following year the RTI Act was introduced?

- a) 2000
- b) 2001
- c) 2005
- d) 2010

ANS: C

Explanation: The right to information is a fundamental right under Article 19 (1) of the Indian Constitution.

- In 1976, in the Raj Narain vs the State of Uttar Pradesh case, the Supreme Court ruled that Right to information will be treated as a fundamental right under article 19.
- The Supreme Court held that in Indian democracy, people are the masters and they have the right to know about the working of the government.
- Thus the government enacted the Right to Information act in 2005 which provides machinery for exercising this fundamental right.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.5) “Section 2 (h)” of RTI act is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Public authorities
- b) Proactively disclose information
- c) Simple procedure for securing information
- d) Information exempted from disclosure

ANS: A

Explanation: Section 2(h): Public authorities mean all authorities and bodies under the union government, state government or local bodies.

The civil societies that are substantially funded, directly or indirectly, by the public funds also fall within the ambit of RTI.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Committee on Public Undertakings:

1. It was created in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee.
2. It consists of 22 members.

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: Committee on Public Undertakings: This committee was created in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- Originally, it had 15 members (10 from the Lok Sabha and 5 from the Rajya Sabha). However, in 1974, its membership was raised to 22 (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).
- The members of this committee are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its own members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding ethics committee in Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha:

1. It was constituted in rajya Sabha & Lok Sabha in 2000.
2. It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action.

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: Ethics Committee: This committee was constituted in Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in Lok Sabha in 2000.

- It enforces the code of conduct of members of Parliament. It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action.
- Thus, it is engaged in maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)”:

1. It was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi.
2. It exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it.

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 Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states.

- At present, it has 17 regular benches, 15 of which operate at the principal seats of high courts and the remaining two at Jaipur and Lucknow.
- These benches also hold circuit sittings at other seats of high courts. The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it.
- Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Under Article 323 B, the Parliament and the state legislatures are authorised to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to which of the following?

1. Taxation
2. Foreign Exchange
3. Land Reforms

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: Under Article 323 B, the Parliament and the state legislatures are authorised to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to the following matters:

(a) Taxation (b) Foreign exchange, import and export (c) Industrial and labour (d) Land reforms (e) Ceiling on urban property (f) Elections to Parliament and state legislatures (g) Food stuffs (h) Rent and tenancy rights.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) “Part VI” of Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Tribunals
- b) Subordinate courts
- c) Scheduled languages
- d) Seats allocation for Rajya Sabha

ANS: B

Explanation: Articles 233 to 237 in Part VI of the Constitution make the following provisions to regulate the organization of subordinate courts and to ensure their independence from the executive.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity - Special Provisions, Civil Society and Social audit

Q.1) “Article 371 – A” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Tripura
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Gujarat

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 371-A makes the following special provisions for Nagaland: The Acts of Parliament relating to the following matters would not apply to Nagaland unless the State Legislative Assembly so decides:

- religious or social practices of the Nagas;
- Naga customary law and procedure;
- administration of civil and criminal justice involving decision according to Naga customary law; and
- Ownership and transfer of land and its resources.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/jammu-kashmir-amit-shah-what-is-article-371-what-does-it-say-5884176/>

Q.2) Which of the following is/are the recommendation/s of Balwant Rai G Mehta committee?

1. Establishment of a three-tier panchayati raj system.
2. All three tier system would be elected directly.
3. All planning and development activities should be entrusted to these bodies.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: In January 1957, the Government of India appointed a committee to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the National Extension Service (1953) and to suggest measures for their better working. The chairman of this committee was Balwant Rai G Mehta.

The committee submitted its report in November 1957 and recommended the establishment of the scheme of ‘democratic decentralisation’, which ultimately came to be known as Panchayati Raj.

The specific recommendations made by it are:

- Establishment of a three-tier panchayati raj system—gram panchayat at the village level, panchayat samiti at the block level and zila parishad at the district level. These tiers should be organically linked through a device of indirect elections.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- The village panchayat should be constituted with directly elected representatives, whereas the panchayat samiti and zila parishad should be constituted with indirectly elected members.
- All planning and development activities should be entrusted to these bodies.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are recommendation/s of Ashok Mehta Committee?

1. The three-tier system of panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system.
2. Zila parishad should be the executive body and made responsible for planning at the district level.
3. There should be an official participation of political parties at all levels of panchayat elections.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: In December 1977, the Janata Government appointed a committee on panchayati raj institutions under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta.

It submitted its report in August 1978 and made 132 recommendations to revive and strengthen the declining panchayati raj system in the country. Its main recommendations were:

- The three-tier system of panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system, that is, zila parishad at the district level, and below it, the mandal panchayat consisting of a group of villages with a total population of 15,000 to 20,000.
- A district should be the first point for decentralization under popular supervision below the state level.
- Zila parishad should be the executive body and made responsible for planning at the district level.
- There should be an official participation of political parties at all levels of panchayat elections.
- The panchayati raj institutions should have compulsory powers of taxation to mobilize their own financial resources.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) “The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government” is related to?

- a) Article 36
- b) Article 40
- c) Article 243
- d) Article 243 – G

ANS: B

Explanation: This act has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as ‘The Panchayats’ and consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O.

- In addition, the act has also added a new Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution. This schedule contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. It deals with Article 243-G.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- The act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the Constitution which says that, “The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.”
- This article forms a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/panchayats-at-the-cusp-of-new-phase-of-governance/articleshow>

Q.5) Which of the following statement is NOT correct regarding 73rd Constitutional Amendment?

- a) Gram Sabha is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.
- b) All the members of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels shall be elected directly by the people.
- c) The act provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women.
- d) A state having a population not exceeding 40 lakh may not constitute panchayats at the intermediate level.

ANS: D

Explanation: The act provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of the panchayati raj system. It is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.

- The act provides for a three-tier system of panchayati raj in every state, that is, panchayats at the village, intermediate, and district levels.
- Thus, the act brings about uniformity in the structure of panchayati raj throughout the country.
- However, a state having a population not exceeding 20 lakh may not constitute panchayats at the intermediate level.
- All the members of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels shall be elected directly by the people.
- Further, the chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels shall be elected indirectly-by and from amongst the elected members thereof.
- The act provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging the SCs and STs).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Which of the following functional item/s is/are under the purview of panchayats under 11th Schedule?

1. Land improvement
2. Watershed development
3. Fisheries

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: 11th Schedule contains the following 29 functional items placed within the purview of panchayats:

- Agriculture, including agricultural extension
- Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation
- Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development
- Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry
- Fisheries
- Social forestry and farm forestry
- Minor forest produce
- Small-scale industries, including food processing industries
- Khadi, village and cottage industries
- Rural housing
- Drinking water

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following state/s is/are part of fifth scheduled area/s?

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Telangana
3. Karnataka

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: At present (2019), ten states have Fifth Schedule Areas. These are: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following is the first municipal corporation of India?

- a) Madras
- b) Bombay
- c) Calcutta
- d) Mysore

ANS: A

Explanation: The institutions of urban local government originated and developed in modern India during the period of British rule. The major events in this context are as follows:

- (i) In 1688, the first municipal corporation in India was set up at Madras.
- (ii) In 1726, the municipal corporations were set up in Bombay and Calcutta.
- (iii) Lord Mayo's Resolution of 1870 on financial decentralisation visualised the development of local self-government institutions.
- (iv) Lord Ripon's Resolution of 1882 has been hailed as the 'Magna Carta' of local self-government. He is called as the father of local-self government in India.
- (v) The Royal Commission on decentralisation was appointed in 1907 and it submitted its report in 1909. Its chairman was Hobhouse.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Which of the following statement is NOT correct regarding 74th amendment act?

- a) The act has added a new Part IX-A to the Constitution of India.
- b) The act has added a new Twelfth Schedule to the Constitution.
- c) The act gave constitutional status to the municipalities.
- d) The twelfth schedule contains twenty eight functional items of municipalities.

ANS: D

Explanation: The Act has added a new Part IX-A to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as 'The Municipalities' and consists of provisions from Articles 243-P to 243-ZG.

- In addition, the act has also added a new Twelfth Schedule to the Constitution. This schedule contains eighteen functional items of municipalities. It deals with Article 243-W.
- The act gave constitutional status to the municipalities. It has brought them under the purview of justiciable part of the Constitution.
- In other words, state governments are under constitutional obligation to adopt the new system of municipalities in accordance with the provisions of the act.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) Which of the following functional item/s is/are under the purview of municipalities under 12th Schedule?

1. Urban planning
2. Regulation of land use
3. Fire services

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: contains the following 18 functional items placed within the purview of municipalities:

- Urban planning including town planning;
- Regulation of land use and construction of buildings;
- Planning for economic and social development;
- Roads and bridges;
- Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes;
- Public health, sanitation, conservancy and solid waste management;
- Fire services;

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity - Political Parties & Public Policy

Q.1) “Tenth Schedule” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Reservation in employment & education
- b) Anti – defection law
- c) Classical languages
- d) Seat allocation of Rajya Sabha

ANS: B

Explanation: The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution (which talks about the anti-defection law) is designed to prevent political defections prompted by the lure of office or material benefits or other like considerations.

The Anti-defection law was passed by Parliament in 1985 and reinforced in 2002.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following action/s come/s under the definition of disqualification of Anti – defection law?

1. A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified, if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party.
2. A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified, if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party.
3. An independent member of a House becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.

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: A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House,

- if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
- if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.

From the above provision it is clear that a member elected on a party ticket should continue in the party and obey the party directions.

Independent Members: An independent member of a House (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are provision/s of 91st Amendment Act of 2003?

1. The total number of ministers, excluding the Prime Minister, in the Central Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
2. A member of either House of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister.
3. The number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a state shall not be less than 12.

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 91st Amendment Act of 2003 has made the following provisions to limit the size of Council of Ministers, to debar defectors from holding public offices, and to strengthen the antidefection law:

- The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Central Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
- A member of either House of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister.
- The total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a state shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly of that state.
- But, the number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a state shall not be less than 12.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Which of the following is/are pressure group/s (business group/s)?

1. Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
2. Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India
3. Federation of All India Food grain Dealers Association

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: A large number of pressure groups exist in India. But, they are not developed to the same extent as in the US or the western countries like Britain, France, and Germany and so on. The pressure groups in India can be broadly classified into the following categories:

Business Groups: The business groups include a large number of industrial and commercial bodies. They are the most sophisticated, the most powerful and the largest of all pressure groups in India. They include:

- (i) Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); major constituents are the Indian Merchants Chamber of Bombay, Indian Merchants Chamber of

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- Calcutta and South Indian Chamber of Commerce of Madras. It broadly represents major industrial and trading interests.
- (ii) Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM); major constituents are the Bengal Chamber of Commerce of Calcutta and Central Commercial Organisation of Delhi. ASSOCHAM represents foreign British capital.
 - (iii) Federation of All India Food grain Dealers Association (FAIFDA). FAIFDA is the sole representative of the grain dealers.
 - (iv) All-India Manufacturers Organization (AIMO). AIMO raises the concerns of the medium-sized industry.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Which of the following is/are goal/s of National Health Policy 2017?

1. Increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15% to 5 % by 2025.
2. Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 80 by 2025.
3. Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The indicative, quantitative goals and objectives are outlined under three broad components viz. (a) health status and programme impact, (b) health systems performance and (c) health system strengthening. These goals and objectives are aligned to achieve sustainable development in health sector in keeping with the policy thrust.

Life Expectancy and healthy life:

- Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
- Establish regular tracking of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) Index as a measure of burden of disease and its trends by major categories by 2022.
- Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.

Health finance:

- Increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15% to 2.5 % by 2025.
- Increase State sector health spending to > 8% of their budget by 2020.
- Decrease in proportion of households facing catastrophic health expenditure from the current levels by 25%, by 2025.

Source: https://www.nhp.gov.in/nhpfiles/national_health_policy_2017.pdf

Q.6) “Gujral Doctrine” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) National integration policy
- b) Space policy
- c) Foreign policy
- d) Agricultural policy

ANS: C

Explanation: The Gujral Doctrine is a milestone in India’s foreign policy. It was propounded and initiated in 1996 by I.K. Gujral, the then Foreign Minister in the Deve Gowda Government.

- The doctrine advocates that India, being the biggest country in South Asia, should extend unilateral concessions to the smaller neighbours.
- In other words, the doctrine is formulated on India’s accommodating approach towards its smaller neighbours on the basis of the principle of non-reciprocity.
- It recognises the supreme importance of friendly and cordial relations with India’s neighbours.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following is/are salient feature/s of Indian Nuclear Doctrine?

1. Building and maintaining a credible minimum deterrent.
2. A posture of “No First Use”.
3. Nuclear retaliatory attacks can only be authorized by the civilian political leadership.

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: India adopted its nuclear doctrine in 2003. The salient features of this doctrine are as follows:

- Building and maintaining a credible minimum deterrent.
- A posture of “No First Use” - nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian Territory or on Indian forces anywhere.
- Nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage.
- Nuclear retaliatory attacks can only be authorized by the civilian political leadership through the Nuclear Command Authority.
- Non-use of nuclear weapons against nonnuclear weapon states.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following country/countries is/are NOT part of “Connect Central Asia” policy of India?

1. Azerbaijan
2. Kazakhstan
3. Uzbekistan

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: India launched the “Connect Central Asia” Policy in 2012. This policy is aimed at strengthening and expanding of India’s relations with the Central Asian countries.

These countries include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) “M.N. Venkatachaliah commission” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Constitution review
- b) Tax reforms
- c) Bilateral partnership agreements
- d) Finance commission

ANS: A

Explanation: The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) was set up by a resolution of the Government of India in 2000.

The 11-member Commission was headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah, the former Chief Justice of India. It submitted its report in 2002.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) “Paris Club” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Creditor nations
- b) UNSC reforms
- c) Export control regimes
- d) Island countries to control sea rise

ANS: A

Explanation: It is an informal group of official creditors from 22 wealthy countries who find sustainable solutions for challenges faced by debtor countries.

- It provides a platform for governments facing financial difficulties to reduce and renegotiate their debt repayments.
- Formed in 1956, it has signed more than 400 agreements to date, worth more than half a trillion dollars to about 100 countries.
- The “G20 Common Framework” is an initiative endorsed by the G20 together with the Paris Club.
- Other creditor nations are allowed to participate in negotiation meetings on a case-by-case basis, if they meet certain conditions.

Source: FORUMIAS

History – Pre historic India and Indus Valley Civilization

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “early stone age”:

1. The first Paleolithic tools were identified at the site of Pallavaram near Chennai by Robert Bruce Foote.
2. The Acheulian tradition is predominantly found in the Western Ghats, coastal areas and north-eastern 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: A

Explanation: The earliest lithic artefacts come from different parts of the Indian subcontinent. During the Lower Paleolithic cultural phase, human ancestor species of Homo erectus is believed to have lived in India.

- The first Paleolithic tools were identified at the site of Pallavaram near Chennai by Robert Bruce Foote in 1863. He found many prehistoric sites when he extensively surveyed different parts of South India.
- Since then, numerous Paleolithic sites have been identified and excavated all over India. The industries of Palaeolithic cultures are divided into the Early, Middle and Late Acheulian Industries.
- The early Acheulian tools include polyhedrons, spheroids, hand axes, cleavers and flake tools.
- The Acheulian tradition is absent in the Western Ghats, coastal areas and north-eastern India. Heavy rainfall is attributed to its absence.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) “Hunsgi valley” is a famous Paleolithic site located in which of the following state?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Lower Paleolithic tools are found in most parts of India, except in a few regions of the Ganges valley, southern Tamil Nadu and in the hilly areas of the Western Ghats.

Athirampakkam, Pallavaram and Gudiyam near Chennai, Hunsgi valley and Isampur in Karnataka, and Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh are some important Paleolithic sites where the Acheulian tools are found.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) “Acheulian and Sohanian industries” are related to which of the following?

- a) Cave paintings
- b) Stone tools industry
- c) Metallic tools industry
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation: Based on research, two independent cultural traditions of hand axe (Acheulian) and pebble-flake (Sohanian) industries were confirmed in India.

- Acheulian industry mainly had hand axes and cleavers. The Sohan industry is considered to have used only chopper and chopping tools.
- The Sohan industry gets its name from the Sohan river valley of Pakistan. These two cultural traditions are not considered distinct any longer.
- Recent studies argue that there was no independent Sohan tradition as Acheulian tools are found in the Sohan industry as well.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following Neolithic site/s pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Burzahom : Kashmir
- 2. Sangankallu : Tamil Nadu
- 3. Daojali Hading : West Bengal

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: The Neolithic period marked the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication. It is an important phase in Indian history.

- Neolithic culture in Kashmir region was contemporary to the Harappan civilisation. Burzahom, an important site of this culture, provides evidence for the Megalithic and Early Historic Periods.
- Sanganakallu, Tekkalakota, Brahmagiri, Maski, Piklihal, Watkal, Hemmige and Hallur in Karnataka, Nagarjunakonda, Ramapuram and Veerapuram in Andhra Pradesh and Paiyyampalli in Tamil Nadu are the major Neolithic sites in South India.
- Daojali Hading and Sarutaru are the Neolithic sites in the Assam region.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Indus Valley Civilization:

1. It represent first phase of urbanization in India.
2. Harappa was the first site to be identified in this civilization.

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 Indus Civilisation represents the first phase of urbanisation in India.

- The civilisation that appeared in the northwestern part of India and Pakistan in third millennium BCE is collectively called the Indus Civilisation.
- Since Harappa was the first site to be identified in this civilisation, it is also known as Harappan Civilisation.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following is/are the feature/s of Harappan Civilization?

1. Fortification, wellplanned streets and lanes and drainages are noticed in the Harappan towns.
2. The Harappans used baked and unbaked bricks, and stones for construction.
3. The houses were built of mud bricks while the drainages were built with burnt bricks.

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: Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan), Mohenjo-Daro (Sindh, Pakistan), Dholavira, Lothal, and Surkotada (Gujarat, India), Kalibangan and Banawali (Rajasthan, India), and Rakhigarhi (Haryana, India) are the major cities in the Harappan period.

- Fortification, wellplanned streets and lanes and drainages are noticed in the Harappan towns. A civic authority perhaps controlled the planning of the towns.
- The Harappans used baked and unbaked bricks, and stones for construction. The towns had a grid pattern and drainages were systematically built.
- The houses were built of mud bricks while the drainages were built with burnt bricks. Houses had more than one floor.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The term “Zebu” is related to which of the following?

- a) Cattle
- b) Horse
- c) Gharial
- d) Elephant

ANS: A

Explanation: Pastoralism was also practised by the Harappans. They domesticated sheep, goat and fowl.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- They had knowledge of various other animals including buffalo, pig and elephant. But horse was not known to them.
- The Harappan cattle are called Zebu. It is a large breed, often represented in their seals.
- They also ate fish and birds. Evidence of boar, deer and gharial has been found at the Harappan sites.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

1. Lapis lazuli : Shortughai
2. Carnelian : Lothal
3. Copper : Rajasthan

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: Certain Harappan sites specialised in the production of certain craft materials. The following table presents the major centres of craft production.

Material	Site or Source
Shell	Nageshwar and Balakot
Lapis lazuli	Shortughai
Carnelian	Lothal
Steatite	South Rajasthan
Copper	Rajasthan and Oman

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The term “Meluhha” for Indus valley civilization was used by?

- a) Sumerians
- b) Mesopotamians
- c) Persians
- d) Egyptians

ANS: B

Explanation: One of the sources of Harappan economy was trade and exchange activities. Harappans had close trade contacts with the Mesopotamians and also with various cultures of India.

- The Harappan seals and materials have been found in the Sumerian sites in Oman, Bahrain, and Iraq and Iran.
- The cuneiform inscriptions mention the trade contacts between Mesopotamia and Harappans.
- The mention of “Meluhha” in the cuneiform inscriptions refers to the Indus region.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Indus Valley Civilization:

1. The Indus people worshipped nature.
2. The people in Indus valley had developed proper weights which exhibit a binary system.

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 Indus people worshipped nature. They worshipped the pipal tree. Some of the terracotta figures appear to be mother goddess.

- Fire altars have been identified at Kalibangan. They buried the dead. Burials were made elaborately and evidence of cremation is also reported.
- The Harappan burials have pottery, ornaments, jewellery, copper mirrors and beads. These suggest their belief in an afterlife. Harappans had developed proper weights and measures.
- Since they were involved in commercial transactions, they needed standard measures. Cubical chert weights have been unearthed from Harappan sites.
- The weights exhibit a binary system. The ratio of weight is doubled as 1:2:4:8:16:32. The small weight measure of 16th ratio weighs 13.63 grams.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Early and Later Vedic civilization

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding early & later Vedic civilization:

1. The Early Vedic culture is correlated with some of the Chalcolithic cultures of India.
2. The Later Vedic culture is correlated with the Painted Grey Ware Culture of the Iron Age in North 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 Early Vedic culture is correlated with some of the Chalcolithic cultures of India, while the Later Vedic culture is correlated with the Painted Grey Ware Culture of the Iron Age in North India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The “Zend Avesta” is related to which of the following?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Zend Avesta is a Persian/Iranian text of Zoroastrianism. This book speaks about the lands and gods of the people speaking the Indo-Iranian languages.

- It has references to the regions of northern and north-western parts of India. It has terms which show linguistic similarity with the Vedas.
- This text is indirect evidence that the early home of the Aryans was outside the Indian subcontinent.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Samhitas are ritualistic texts, and they explain the social and religious importance of rituals.
2. Each samhita has added texts called brahmanas, which have commentaries on the hymns and rituals.

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 main collections of Vedic hymns are called samhitas. The Rig Vedicsamhita is the earliest text. The Rig Veda is dated to between 1500 and 1000 BCE.

- The Rig Veda contains 10 books. Books 2 to 7 are the earliest and the Books 1, 8, 9 and 10 are assigned to a later period.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- Samhitas are ritualistic texts, and they explain the social and religious importance of rituals.
- Each samhita has added texts called brahmanas, which have commentaries on the hymns and rituals.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Upanishads contain mystical ritual instructions to be undertaken in secret by the sages.
2. The Aranyakas deal with philosophical enquiries.

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: Samhitas are ritualistic texts, and they explain the social and religious importance of rituals.

- Each samhita has added texts called brahmanas, which have commentaries on the hymns and rituals.
- Each brahmana has an aranyaka (forest text) and an upanishad.
- The aranyakas contain mystical ritual instructions to be undertaken in secret by the sages who live in the forests.
- Upanishads deal with philosophical enquiries.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following Veda contains charms and magical spells?

- a) Rig Veda
- b) Sama Veda
- c) Yajur Veda
- d) Atharva Veda

ANS: D

Explanation: The Yajur, Sama and Atharva Vedas are dated to a slightly later period.

- The samhitas of the Sama, Yajur and Atharva Vedas, and the brahmanas, aranyakas and upanishads attached to the Vedas are the Late Vedic texts.
- The Sama Veda was composed in musical notes which are considered to constitute the basis of Indian music.
- The Yajur Veda has rituals and hymns. The Atharva Veda contains charms and magical spells.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Ochre Coloured Pottery Ware culture:

1. It dates to 2600- 1200 BCE and is found in the Indo - Gangetic plain.
2. It is an urban culture and has evidence of the cultivation of rice, barley, and legumes.

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 OCP culture dates to 2600- 1200 BCE and is found in the IndoGangetic plain and may have had some associations with early Vedic culture.

- The OCP culture is seen as an impoverished Harappan culture and some scholars see it as unrelated to the Harappan culture.
- The OCP sites produced copper figures and objects and therefore it is also known as “copper hoard culture.”
- It is a rural culture and has evidence of the cultivation of rice, barley, and legumes. They also had pastoralism with evidence of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and dogs.
- The villages had wattle-and-daub houses. They used copper and terracotta ornaments. Animal figurines have also been found.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is/are chalcolithic sites of India?

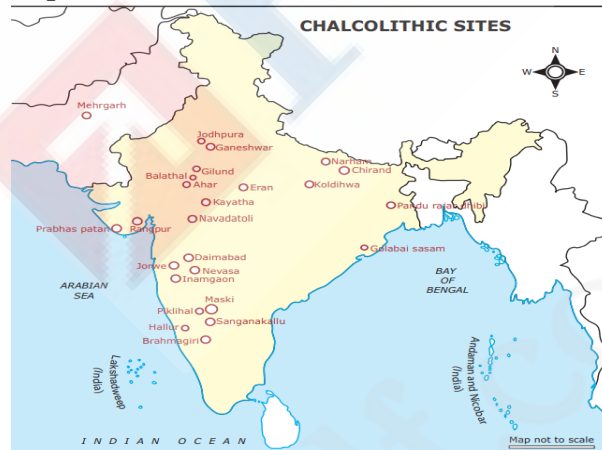
1. Gilund
2. Navadatoli
3. Jorwe

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.8) The term “urn” is related to which of the following?

- a) Nature worship
- b) Burial system
- c) Water transportation
- d) Weights & Measures

ANS: B

Explanation: The burial system followed by the people of Neolithic period continued into the Megalithic period.

- A circular tomb using big stone slabs built upon the place of burial is known as a megalith. Such megaliths have been found in many parts of Tamilnadu.
- The urn burial system was another type of practice and is evidenced in Adichanallur (present Thoothukudi district).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The terms “syama-ayas or krishna-ayas” are associated with which of the following?

- a) Bronze
- b) Copper
- c) Gold
- d) Iron

ANS: D

Explanation: Iron was an important metal used for implements in this period. It was called syama-ayas or krishna-ayas or the dark metal.

- Iron is believed to have played an important role in the conversion of the forests of the Ganga Valley into agricultural lands.
- By the end of Vedic period, the knowledge of iron had reached eastern Uttar Pradesh and Videha.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) “Satyameva Jayate” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Mundaka Upanishad
- b) Taittiriya Upanishad
- c) Mandukya Upanishad
- d) Aitareya Upanishad

ANS: A

Explanation: Satyameva Jayate is from Mudaka Upanishad.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Ancient History

Q.1) Consider the following:

1. Complex rituals of later vedic period
2. High philosophical nature of Upanishads
3. Sacrificial ceremonies were expensive

Which of the above mentioned is/are causes of rise of Jainism and Buddhism in India?

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Causes for the Rise of Jainism and Buddhism:

- The primary cause for the rise of Jainism and Buddhism was the religious unrest in India in the 6th century B.C.
- The complex rituals and sacrifices advocated in the Later Vedic period were not acceptable to the common people.
- The sacrificial ceremonies were also found to be too expensive.
- The superstitious beliefs and mantras confused the people. The teachings of Upanishads, an alternative to the system of sacrifices, were highly philosophical in nature and therefore not easily understood by all.
- Therefore, what was needed in the larger interests of the people was a simple, short and intelligible way to salvation for all people. Such religious teaching should also be in a language known to them. This need was fulfilled by the teachings of Buddha and Mahavira.
- Other than the religious factor, social and economic factors also contributed to the rise of these two religions.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.2) Which of the following statement is/are correct with respect to Jainism and Buddhism in India?

1. Both the religion originated from Kshatriyas.
2. Merchant class did not extended any support to these new religions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The rigid caste system prevalent in India generated tensions in the society. Higher classes enjoyed certain privileges which were denied to the lower classes. Also, the Kshatriyas

had resented the domination of the priestly class. It should also be noted that both Buddha and Mahavira belonged to Kshatriya origin. The growth of trade led to the improvement in the economic conditions of the Vaisyas.

- As a result, they wanted to enhance their social status but the orthodox Varna system did not allow this. Therefore, they began to extend support to Buddhism and Jainism. It was this merchant class that extended the chief support to these new religions.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.3) Which of the following forms the triratnas of Jainism?

1. Ahimsa
2. Right Knowledge
3. Right Conduct

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

The three principles of Jainism, also known as Triratnas (three gems), are:

- right faith
- right knowledge
- right conduct.

Right faith is the belief in the teachings and wisdom of Mahavira. Right Knowledge is the acceptance of the theory that there is no God and that the world has been existing without a creator and that all objects possess a soul. Right conduct refers to the observance of the five great vows:

- not to injure life
- not to lie
- not to steal
- not to acquire property
- not to lead immoral life.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.4) First Jainism Council held at which of the following location?

- a) Valabhi
- b) Patliputra
- c) Sarnath
- d) Rajagriha

ANS: B

Explanation: Spread of Jainism:

- The first Jain Council was convened at Pataliputra by Sthulabahu, the leader of the Digambaras, in the beginning of the 3rd century B.C. The second Jain Council was held at Valabhi in 5th century A.D.
- The final compilation of Jain literature called Twelve Angas was completed in this council.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.5) Consider the following pairs:

Buddhist Council	Location
1. Second Buddhist Council	Rajagraha
2. Third Buddhist Council	Pataliputra
3. Fourth Buddhist Council	Kashmir
4. First Buddhist Council	Vaisali

How many of the pairs above is/are correctly matched?

- a) One pair only
- b) Two pairs only
- c) Three pairs only
- d) All four pairs

ANS: B

Explanation: Buddhist Councils:

- The first Buddhist Council was held at Rajagraha under the chairmanship of Mahakasapa immediately after the death of Buddha.
- Its purpose was to maintain the purity of the teachings of the Buddha.
- The second Buddhist Council was convened at Vaisali around 383 B.C. The third Buddhist Council was held at Pataliputra under the patronage of Asoka. Moggaliputta Tissa presided over it.
- The final version of Tripitakas was completed in this council. The fourth Buddhist Council was convened in Kashmir by Kanishka under the chairmanship of Vasumitra. Asvagosha participated in this council.
- The new school of Buddhism called Mahayana Buddhism came into existence during this council. The Buddhism preached by the Buddha and propagated by Asoka was known as Hinayana.
- The Buddhist texts were collected and compiled some five hundred years after the death of the Buddha. They are known as the Tripitakas, namely the Sutta, the Vinaya and the Abhidhamma Pitakas. They are written in the Pali language.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.6) Which one of the following kingdom was situated on the banks of the river Yamuna, and its capital was Kausambi near modern Allahabad?

- a) Avanti
- b) Kosala
- c) Magadha
- d) Vatsa

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The Buddhist literature Anguttara Nikaya gives a list of sixteen great kingdoms called 'Sixteen Mahajanapadas'. They were Anga, Magadha, Kasi, Kosala, Vajji, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchala, Matsya, Surasena, Asmaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kambhoja.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- The Jain texts also contain references to the existence of sixteen kingdoms. In course of time, the small and weak kingdoms either submitted to the stronger rulers or gradually got eliminated.
- Finally in the mid 6th century B.C., only four kingdoms – Vatsa, Avanti, Kosala and Magadha survived.

Vatsa: The Vatsa kingdom was situated on the banks of the river Yamuna.

- Its capital was Kausambi near modern Allahabad. Its most popular ruler was Udayana.
- He strengthened his position by entering into matrimonial alliances with Avanti, Anga and Magadha. After his death, Vatsa was annexed to the Avanti kingdom.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.7) Who among the following assumed the title “ekarat” in Ancient India?

- a) Ashoka
- b) Ajatashatru
- c) Mahapadma Nanda
- d) Udayin

ANS: C

Explanation: Nandas:

- The fame of Magadha scaled new heights under the Nanda dynasty. Their conquests went beyond the boundaries of the Gangetic basin and in North India they carved a well-knit and vast empire.
- Mahapadma Nanda was a powerful ruler of the Nanda dynasty. He uprooted the kshatriya dynasties in north India and assumed the title ekarat.
- The Puranas speak of the extensive Conquests made by Mahapadma.
- The Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela of Kalinga refers to the conquest of Kalinga by the Nandas. Many historians believe that a considerable portion of the Deccan was also under the control of the Nandas. Therefore, Mahapadma Nanda may be regarded as a great empire builder.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.8) Which of the following is/are the reason of Magadha becoming the most important Mahajanpada in about two hundred years?

1. Many rivers such as Ganga and Son flowed through Magadha.
2. Parts of Magadha were forested.
3. There were iron ore mines in the region.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Magadha:

- Of all the kingdoms of north India, Magadha emerged powerful and prosperous. It became the nerve centre of political activity in north India.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- Magadha was endowed by nature with certain geographical and strategic advantages. These made her to rise to imperial greatness.
- Her strategic position between the upper and lower part of the Gangetic valley was a great advantage. It had a fertile soil.
- The iron ores in the hills near Rajgir and copper and iron deposits near Gaya added to its natural assets. Her location at the centre of the highways of trade of those days contributed to her wealth.
- Rajagriha was the capital of Magadha. During the reign of Bimbisara and Ajatasatru, the prosperity of Magadha reached its zenith.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.9) With reference to fourth century B.C. Alexander of Macedonia used which among the following pass to enter India?

- a) Banihal pass
- b) Khyber pass
- c) Zojila pass
- d) Pir Panjal pass

ANS: B

Explanation:

- In the fourth century BC, the Greeks and Iranians fought for the supremacy of the world. Under the leadership of Alexander of Macedonia, the Greeks finally destroyed the Iranian empire.
- Alexander conquered not only Asia minor and Iraq but also Iran.
- The Indian campaign of Alexander the Great began in 327 BC.
- Following the conquest of Iran, Alexander moved on to Kabul, from where he marched to India through the Khyber pass in 326 BC.
- It took him five months to reach the Indus.
- Ambhi, the ruler of Taxila, readily submitted to the invader, augmenting Alexander's army and replenishing his treasure.
- When he reached the Jhelum, Alexander encountered the first and the strongest resistance from Porus.
- Although Alexander defeated Porus, he was impressed by the bravery and courage of the Indian prince.
- He, therefore, restored his kingdom to him and made him his ally.
- He then advanced as far as the Beas River.
- He wanted to move still further eastward, but his army refused to accompany him.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Cyrus, the Archaemadian ruler of Iran was contemporary to Bindusara.
2. Darius - I conquered Indus valley as a whole & annexed Punjab & Sindh.
3. Darius - I employed Indian infantry & cavalry in the war against Greece.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Persian Invasions:

Cyrus (558 – 530 B.C.):

- Cyrus the Great was the greatest conqueror of the Achaemenian Empire. He was the first conqueror who led an expedition and entered into India. He captured the Gandhara region.
- All Indian tribes to the west of the Indus river submitted to him and paid tribute. His son Cambyses had no time to pay attention towards India.

Darius I (522 – 486 B.C.)

- Darius I, the grandson of Cyrus, conquered the Indus valley in 518 B.C. and annexed the Punjab and Sindh. This region became the 20th Satrapy of his empire. It was the most fertile and populous province of the Achaemenian Empire. Darius sent a naval expedition under Skylas to explore the Indus.

Xerxes (465-456 B.C.)

- Xerxes utilized his Indian province to strengthen his position.
- He deployed Indian infantry and cavalry to Greece to fight his opponents. But they retreated after Xerxes faced a defeat in Greece.
- After this failure, the Achaemenians could not follow a forward policy in India. However, the Indian province was still under their control.
- Darius III enlisted Indian soldiers to fight against Alexander in 330 B.C. It is evident that the control of Persians slackened on the eve of Alexander's invasion of India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

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.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- 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?

- a) The Chandragupta Maurya
- b) The Ashoka
- c) The Bindusara
- d) 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?

- 1. Mahavamsa
- 2. Milindapanho
- 3. Mahabhashya

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 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.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- 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.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

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

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

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

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

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, 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

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

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

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

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

*History – Early Medieval developments in India
and Indian Culture in South East Asia*

Q.1) Arrange the following Dynasties in chronological order:

1. Khalji Dynasty
2. Slave Dynasty
3. Sayyid Dynasty
4. Tughlaq Dynasty

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Sultanate (1206–1526) itself was not homogenous. Its rulers belonged to five distinct categories: (a) Slave Dynasty (1206-1290) (b) Khalji Dynasty (1290-1320) (c) Tughlaq Dynasty (1320- 1414) (d) Sayyid Dynasty (1414-1451) and (e) Lodi Dynasty (1451-1526).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

1. Al-Beruni : Tarikh-Al-Hind
2. Minhaj us Siraj : Tabaqat-i-Nasiri
3. Ziauddin Barani : Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi

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: 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).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) “He is a mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, and historian, came to India along with Mahmud of Ghazni” – description of which of the following?

- a) Al-Beruni
- b) Minhaj us Siraj
- c) Ziauddin Barani
- d) Amir Khusrau

ANS: A

Explanation: Al-Beruni, mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, and historian, came to India along with Mahmud of Ghazni.

- He learned Sanskrit, studied religious and philosophical texts before composing his work Kitab Ul Hind.
- He also translated the Greek work of Euclid into Sanskrit. He transmitted Aryabhata’s magnum opus Aryabattiyam (the thesis that earth’s rotation around its axis creates day and night) to the West.
- He was the inter-civilization connect between India and the rest of the world.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The first battle of tarain was held between Mahmud of Ghazni and Prithviraj Chauhan.
2. Prithviraj was scored a brilliant victory in this battle.

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: 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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

1. Tomars : Delhi
2. Chauhans : Rajasthan
3. Gahadavalas : Kanauj

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: By the beginning of the tenth century two powerful Rajput Kingdoms Gurjar Pratihara and Rashtrakutas had lost their power.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

Tomaras (Delhi), Chauhans (Rajasthan), Solankis (Gujarat), Paramaras (Malwa), Gahadavalas (Kanauj) and Chandelas (Bundelkhand) had become important ruling dynasties of Northern India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) “The world famous Khajuraho temple complex” was built by which of the following?

- a) Chandelas
- b) Paramaras
- c) Chauhans
- d) Gahadavalas

ANS: A

Explanation: The world famous Khajuraho temple complex consisting of many temples including the Lakshmana temple, Vishwanatha temple and Kandariya Mahadeva temple was built by the Chandelas of Bundelkhand who ruled from Khajuraho.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following dynasty was also known as “Mamluk dynasty”?

- a) Slave Dynasty
- b) Khalji Dynasty
- c) Sayyids Dynasty
- d) Lodhi Dynasty

ANS: A

Explanation: The Slave dynasty is also known as the Mamluk dynasty. Mamluk means property. It is also the term for the Arabic designation of a slave.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The term “Bandagan” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Military slaves
- b) Revenue officials
- c) Village policeman
- d) Noble preists

ANS: A

Explanation: Bandagan is the plural of banda, literally military slaves. They were graded according to the years of service, proximity and trustworthiness. This trust led to their appointment as governors and military commanders.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Pallavas and Pandyas patronized the bhakti movement.
2. Ramanujar challenged the monistic ideology of Adi Sankara and expounded Visishtatvaita.

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 hymns of Azhwars and Nayanmars inaugurated the bhakti cult in Tamil country.

- Pallavas and Pandyas patronized the bhakti movement. Bhakti as ideology helped integrate all sections of society under the banner of religion.
- Ramanujar challenged the monistic ideology of Adi Sankara and expounded Visishtatvaita.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Who among the following was known as“Lakh Baksh”?

- a) Qutub-ud-din Aibak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Balban
- d) Ruknuddin Firuz Shah

ANS: A

Explanation: Qutub-ud-din Aibak (c.1206–10 CE): Founder of the Slave dynasty; considered by many scholars as the real founder of Muslim rule in India.

He was known as ‘Lakh Baksh’ or giver of lakhs for his magnanimity, as he gave a lot of liberal donations.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Delhi Sultanate (Political and Administrative policies)

Q.1) Who among the following diplomatically saved India by refusing to support the Khwarizmi Shah Jalaluddin of Central Asia against the Mongol ruler Chengiz Khan?

- a) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
- b) Shams-ud-din Iltutmish
- c) Aram Shah
- d) Alivardan

ANS: B

Explanation: Shams-ud-din Iltutmish, the slave and son-in-law of Qutb-ud-din Aibak, ascended the throne of Delhi setting aside the claim of Aram Shah, the son of Qutb-ud-din Aibak.

- During his tenure he put down the internal rebellions of Rajputs at Gwalior, Ranthambor, Ajmer and Jalore.
- He overcame the challenge of Nasiruddin Qabacha in Lahore and Multan, and frustrated the conspiracy of Alivardan, the Governor of Bengal.
- He diplomatically saved India by refusing to support the Khwarizmi Shah Jalaluddin of Central Asia against the Mongol ruler Chengiz Khan.
- Had he supported Jalaluddin, the Mongols would have overrun India with ease.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The term “mafuzi” is related to which of the following?

- a) Rent free lands
- b) Temple lands
- c) Kings own lands
- d) Donated lands to artists

ANS: A

Explanation: Assertion of authority by Balban led to constant military campaigns against defiant governors and against their local allies.

- Barani mentions Balban’s campaigns in the regions surrounding Delhi and in the doab.
- During these campaigns forests were cleared, new roads and forts constructed, the newly deforested lands given to freshly recruited Afghans and others as rent-free lands (mafuzi) and brought under cultivation.
- New forts were constructed to protect trade routes and village markets.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The term “Lakhnauti” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Oudh
- b) Bengal
- c) Punjab
- d) Sind

ANS: B

Explanation: The slave governors located in the eastern province of Lakhnauti (modern Bengal) and the Punjab and Sind provinces in the west were the first to break free from Delhi.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) The “turkan-i-chahalgani” was formed by whom among the following?

- a) Balban
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Raziya Sultana
- d) Aramshah

ANS: B

Explanation: Iltutmish organised turkan-i-chahalgani, a new class of ruling elite of forty powerful military leaders, the Forty.

- These were Turkish amirs (nobles) who advised and helped the Sultan in administering the Sultanate.
- After the death of Iltutmish, this group assumed great power in its hands. For a few years they decided on the selection of Sultans one after the other.
- The group was finally eliminated by Balban.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding internal reforms by Ala-ud-din Khalji:

1. He prohibited liquor and banned the use of intoxicating drugs.
2. He collected land taxes directly from the cultivators.

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 Sultan prohibited liquor and banned the use of intoxicating drugs.

- Gambling was forbidden and gamblers were driven out of the city.
- However, the widespread violations of prohibition rules eventually forced the Sultan to relax the restrictions.
- Ala-ud-din collected land taxes directly from the cultivators.
- The village headman who traditionally enjoyed the right to collect them was now deprived of it.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Tughlaq Dynasty:

1. Ghazi Malik was the founder of the dynasty.
2. Ghazi Malik was the first sultan to start irrigation works.

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: Ala-ud-din nominated his eldest son Khizr Khan, as his successor. However, Ala-ud-din's confidant at that time was Malik Kafur. So Malik Kafur himself assumed the authority of the government.

- But Kafur's rule lasted only thirty-five days as he was assassinated by hostile nobles. Thereafter there were a series of murders which culminated in Ghazi Malik, a veteran of several campaigns against the Mongols, ascending the throne of Delhi in 1320 as Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq.
- He murdered the incumbent Khalji ruler Khusrau and thereby prevented anyone from Khalji dynasty claiming the throne. First sultan to start irrigation works.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The "Diwan-i-Amir Kohi" was related to which of the following?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Accounts
- c) Weights & Measures
- d) Irrigation

ANS: A

Explanation: Equally innovative was Muhammad Tughlaq's scheme to expand cultivation. But it also failed miserably. It coincided with a prolonged and severe famine in the Doab.

- The peasants who rebelled were harshly dealt with. The famine was linked to the oppressive and arbitrary collection of land revenue.
- The Sultan established a separate department (Diwan-i-Amir Kohi) to take care of agriculture.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Firoz Shah Tughlaq:

1. He had the unique distinction of being chosen as Sultan by the nobles.
2. He appointed Khan-i-Jahan Maqbal, a Telugu Brahmin convert, as Wazir.

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: Firoz Shah Tughlaq (c.1351–1388 CE): He had the unique distinction of being chosen as Sultan by the nobles. So, his policy aimed to appease the nobles, the army, and theologians.

- He appointed Khan-i-Jahan Maqbal, a Telugu Brahmin convert, as Wazir (prime minister).

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- The Wazir helped the Sultan in his administration and maintained the prestige of the Sultanate during this period.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Jizya”:

1. It is a tax levied and collected per head by Islamic states on non-Muslim subjects living in their land.
2. Qutb-ud-din Aibak imposed jizya on non-Muslims for the first time 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: Jizya is a tax levied and collected per head by Islamic states on non-Muslim subjects living in their land.

- In India, Qutb-ud-din Aibak imposed jizya on non-Muslims for the first time.
- Jizya was abolished by the Mughal ruler Akbar in 16th century but was re-introduced by Aurangzeb in the 17th century.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) “In the entire history of the Delhi Sultanate there was only one Sultan who voluntarily abdicated his throne and moved to a small town away from Delhi, where he lived for three full decades in contentment and peace” – describes which of the following?

- a) Alam Shah
- b) Khizr Khan
- c) Bahlol Lodi
- d) Mubarak Shah

ANS: A

Explanation: In the entire history of the Delhi Sultanate there was only one Sultan who voluntarily abdicated his throne and moved to a small town away from Delhi, where he lived for three full decades in contentment and peace. He was Alam Shah of the Sayyid dynasty. – Abraham Eraly, The Age of Wrath.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Delhi Sultanate (Contribution the field of Economy, Art, Science and Technology etc.)

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the administration of the Sultanate:

1. There were well-defined and accepted rules of royal succession for Sultanates.
2. Sultans were the supreme political heads.

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 Sultanate was formally considered to be an Islamic State. Most of the Sultans preferred to call themselves the lieutenant of the Caliph. In reality, however, the Sultans were the supreme political heads.

- As military head, they wielded the authority of commander-in-chief of the armed forces. As judicial head they were the highest court of appeal.
- There were no well-defined and accepted rules of royal succession and therefore contested succession became the norm during the Sultanate.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The holder of iqta's to maintain troops for royal service out of the taxes collected by them.
2. The areas were retained by the Sultans under their direct control are called as Khalisa.

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 Sultans required the holders of iqta's (called muqtis or walis) to maintain troops for royal service out of the taxes collected by them.

- Certain areas were retained by the Sultans under their direct control (khalisa).
- It was out of the revenue collected from such areas that they paid the officers and soldiers of the sultan's own troops (hashm-i qalb).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following pair/s is/are NOT correctly matched?

1. Basava : Tamil Nadu
2. Siddhars : Karnataka
3. Namdev : Maharashtra

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: In the thirteenth century, the Virashaiva or Lingayat sect of Karnataka founded by Basava believed in one God (Parashiva).

- Caste distinctions were denied, women given a better status, and Brahmans could no longer monopolise priesthood.
- A parallel, but less significant, movement in Tamil Nadu was in the compositions of the Siddhars, who sang in Tamil of one God, and criticised caste, Brahmans and the doctrine of transmigration of souls.
- Two little known figures who played a part in transmitting the southern Bhakti and monotheism to Northern India were Namdev of Maharashtra, a rigorous monotheist who opposed image worship and caste distinctions and Ramanand, a follower of Ramanuja.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Sultanate was driven by an urban economy encompassing many important towns and cities.
2. The import–export trade flourished well both through overland and overseas.

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 Sultanate was driven by an urban economy encompassing many important towns and cities.

- Delhi, Lahore, Multan, Kara, Lakhnauti, Anhilwara, Cambay and Daulatabad were the important cities that thrived on the mercantile activities of Jain Marwaris, Hindu Multanis and Muslim Bohras, Khurasanis, Afghans and Iranians.
- The import–export trade flourished well both through overland and overseas.
- While the Gujaratis and Tamils dominated the sea trade, the Hindu Multanis and Muslim Khurasanis, Afghans and Iranians dominated the overland trade with Central Asia.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Paper-making technology was introduced in India during the rule of the Delhi Sultans.
2. The spinning wheel came to India through Iran in the fourteenth 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: Paper-making technology evolved by the Chinese and learnt by the Arabs was introduced in India during the rule of the Delhi Sultans.

The spinning wheel invented by the Chinese came to India through Iran in the fourteenth century and enabled the spinner to increase her output some six fold and enlarged yarn production greatly.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The terms “maktab & dars” are related to which of the following?

- a) Traders
- b) Taxes
- c) Education
- d) Agriculture

ANS: C

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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q7. Consider the following statements:

1. Slavery grew substantially in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.
2. In upper class Muslim society, women had to observe purdah and were secluded in the zenana.

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: Slavery, though it had already existed in India, grew substantially in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

- Both in war and in the event of default in payment of taxes, people could be enslaved. They were put to work as domestic servants as well as in crafts.
- The village community and the caste system remained largely unaltered. Gender inequalities remained practically untouched.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- In upper class Muslim society, women had to observe purdah and were secluded in the zenana (the female quarters) without any contact with any men other than their immediate family. Affluent women travelled in closed litters.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The famous “Alai Darwaza” was built by which of the following?

- Ala - ud-din Khalji
- Balban
- Iltutmish
- Raziya Sultana

ANS: A

Explanation: 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 Ala ud-din Khalji as a gateway to the Quwwatul-Islam Mosque is adorned with the first true dome.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The “Nu Siphir” is associated with which of the following?

- Amir Khusrau
- Zia-ud-din Barani
- Nusrat Khatun
- Mihr Afroz

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’).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Tuti Namah, the Book of Parrots, is a collection of Sanskrit stories translated into Persian by?

- Zia Nakshabi
- Fakhr-ud-din Qawwas
- Muhammad Shadiabadi
- Amir Khusrau

ANS: A

Explanation: Tuti Namah, the Book of Parrots, is a collection of Sanskrit stories translated into Persian by Zia Nakshabi.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Kingdoms of Vijaya Nagar and Bhamini Sultanate and other regional kingdoms

Q.1) Which of the following dynasty was established around Vaigai river basin?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: After the eclipse of the Chola kingdom, Pandyas, who began their rule in the Vaigai river basin at Madurai, wielded tremendous power during the 14th century.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) “The Gangaikonda Chozhapuram temple was built to commemorate his victories in North India” is related to which of the following?

- a) Rajendra I
- b) Rajaraja I
- c) Vijayalaya
- d) Sri Vijaya

ANS: A

Explanation: Rajendra I conducted the most striking military exploit after his accession in 1023 by his expedition to northern India.

- He led the expedition up to the Godavari River and asked his general to continue beyond that place.
- The Gangaikonda Chozhapuram temple was built to commemorate his victories in North India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The term “Urar” is related to which of the following?

- a) Landholders
- b) Military class
- c) Priests
- d) Traders

ANS: A

Explanation: With the expansion of agriculture, numerous peasant settlements came up in the countryside.

- They were known as ur. The urar, who were landholders in the village, acted as spokesmen in the ur.
- The urar were entrusted with the upkeep of temples, maintenance of the tanks and managing the water stored in them.
- They also discharged administrative functions of the state such as collection of revenue, maintenance of law and order, and obeying the king's orders.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

1. Yadavas : Devagiri
2. Hoyasalas : Dvarasamudra
3. Kakatiyas : Warangal

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: At the beginning of the fourteenth century, when the Delhi Sultanate was preparing to extend southwards, the Deccan and south India were divided into four kingdoms: the Yadavas of Devagiri (Western Deccan or present Maharashtra), the Hoysalas of Dvarasamudra (Karnataka), the Kakatiyas of Warangal (eastern part of present Telengana) and the Pandyas of Madurai (southern Tamil Nadu).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

1. Ibn Battutah : Morocco
2. Abdur Razzak : Persia
3. Nikitin : Russia

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: Several foreign visitors who came to South India during the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries wrote about their travels which throw useful light on the political, social, and cultural aspects.

Of them, Ibn Battutah a Moroccan traveller (1333-45), Abdur Razzak from Persia (1443-45), Nikitin, a Russian (1470-74), the Portuguese visitors Domingo Paes and Nuniz (1520-35) provide remarkably rich information.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The terms “Varaha, Pon and Honnu” are related to which of the following?

- a) Gold coins
- b) Lead coins
- c) Silver coins
- d) Bronze coins

ANS: A

Explanation: The Vijayanagara kings issued a large number of gold coins called Varaha (also called Pon in Tamil and Honnu in Kannada).

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

These gold coins have the images of various Hindu deities and animals like the bull, the elephant and the fabulous gandaberunda (a double eagle, sometimes holding an elephant in each beak and claw).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Arrange the following dynasties in chronological order:

1. Sangama dynasty
2. Saluva dynasty
3. Tuluva dynasty
4. Aravidu dynasty

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Vijayanagar kingdom was successively ruled by four dynasties over a period of more than three hundred years: the Sangama dynasty (1336–1485), the Saluva dynasty (1485–1505), the Tuluva dynasty (1505–1570) and the Aravidu dynasty (1570–1650).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following is the contemporary visit of foreign traveler during Krishnadevaraya?

- a) Paes
- b) Ibn Battutah
- c) Marco polo
- d) Baruni

ANS: A

Explanation: There are some other reasons for the celebration of Krishnadevaraya as the greatest ruler of Vijayanagar.

- He made very large donations to many of the greatest Siva and Vishnu temples of the day- Srisailam, Tirupati, Kalahasti, Kanchipuram, Tiruvannamalai, Chidambaram, etc.
- He added towering gopuras to many of those temples, which survive to this day.
- Contemporary foreign visitors like Paes and Nuniz, who visited Vijayanagar left glowing tributes to his personality, and the grandeur and opulence of the city.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

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

1. Dalavay : Commander
2. Vassal : Accountant
3. Kariya-karta : Guard of the palace

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: The king was the ultimate authority in the kingdom. He was also the supreme commander of the army. He was assisted by several high-ranking officers.

The chief minister was known as the mahapradhani. He led a number of lower-ranking officers, like Dalavay (commander), Vassal (guard of the palace), Rayasam (secretary/ accountant), Adaippam (personal attendant), and Kariya-karta (executive agents).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The term “pattadaior” is related to which of the following?

- a) Workshop people
- b) Agriculture labor
- c) Village guards
- d) Revenue officials

ANS: A

Explanation: Artisans like weavers, smiths, and masons became more prominent in the society. These nonagrarian groups were generally called the pattadaior (workshop people) and kasayavargam -that is- the group that pays taxes in cash.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Mughal Empire

Q.1) Which of the following statement is/are correct?

1. The first battle of Panipat took place between Humayun and Ibrahim Lodi
2. First battle of Panipat was won by Ibrahim Lodi.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

- On the eve of Babur's invasion of India, there were five prominent Muslim rulers – the Sultans of Delhi, Gujarat, Malwa, Bengal and the Deccan – and two prominent Hindu rulers – Rana Sangha of Mewar and the Vijayanagar Empire.
- Once again by the end of 1525, Babur started from Kabul to conquer India.
- He occupied Lahore easily by defeating its governor, Daulat Khan Lodi.
- Then he proceeded against Delhi where Ibrahim Lodi was the Sultan.
- On 21st April 1526 the first Battle of Panipat took place between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi, who was killed in the battle. Babur's success was due his cavalry and artillery.
- Babur occupied Delhi and sent his son Humayun to seize Agra. Babur proclaimed himself as "Emperor of Hindustan".

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.2) Which of the following statement is not correct?

- a) Tuzuk-i-Baburi is written in persian language.
- b) Battle of Khanua (1527) was fought between Babur and Rana Sangha of Mewar.
- c) Diwan-i-Insha is the term used for Minister of Communications.
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation:

- Babur's subsequent victories over Rana Sangha and the Afghans secured his position as the ruler of India. Rana Sangha of Mewar was a great Rajput warrior.
- He marched against Babur and in the Battle of Khanua (near Agra) held in 1527 Babur won a decisive victory over him. Babur assumed the title Ghazi.
- Babur was a great statesman and a man of solid achievements.
- He was also a great scholar in Arabic and Persian languages. Turki was his mother tongue. He wrote his memoirs, Tuzuk-i-Baburi in Turki language. It provides a vivid account of India.
- He frankly confesses his own failures without suppressing any facts. He was also a naturalist and described the flora and fauna of India.

Sher Shah's Administration

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- Although his rule lasted for five years, he organized a brilliant administrative system. The central government consisted of several departments. The king was assisted by four important ministers:
- Diwan -i- Wizarat – also called as Wazir - in charge of Revenue and Finance.
- Diwan-i-Ariz – in charge of Army.
- Diwan-i-Rasalat- Foreign Minister.
- Diwan-i-Insha- Minister for Communications.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.3) Which of the following pairs of Sher Shah's administration is/are correctly matched?

Term	Meaning
1. Fotedar	Treasurer
2. Amin	Land revenue
3. Shiqdar	Accountant
4. Karkuns	Military Officer

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Sher Shah's empire was divided into forty seven sarkars.
- Chief Shiqdar (law and order) and Chief Munsif (judge) were the two officers in charge of the administration in each sarkar. Each sarkar was divided into several parganas. Shiqdar (military officer), Amin (land revenue), Fotedar (treasurer) Karkuns (accountants) were in charge of the administration of each pargana.
- There were also many administrative units called iqtas.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.4) Who among the following was the tutor of Akbar?

- a) Shaikh Mubarak
- b) Abul Fazl
- c) Abul Faizi
- d) Abdul Latif

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Akbar rose to fame in the pages of history due to his religious policy. Various factors were responsible for his religious ideas.
- The most important among them were his early contacts with the sufi saints, the teachings of his tutor Abdul Latif, his marriage with Rajput women, his association with intellectual giants like Shaikh Mubarak and his two illustrious sons – Abul Faizi and Abul Fazl – and his ambition to establish an empire in Hindustan.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.5) With respect to Din Ilahi, which of the following given statement is/are correct?

1. It believes in one God.
2. It was aimed at bridging the gulf that separated different religions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

- In 1582, he promulgated a new religion called Din Ilahi or Divine Faith. It believes in one God. It contained good points of all religions. Its basis was rational.
- It upholds no dogma. It was aimed at bridging the gulf that separated different religions. However, his new faith proved to be a failure.
- It fizzled out after his death. Even during his life time, it had only fifteen followers including Birbal.
- Akbar did not compel anyone to his new faith.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.6) Bandobast system of Akbar is related to which of the following?

- a) Land revenue system
- b) New Religious Policy
- c) Taxation Policy
- d) Military reforms

ANS: A

Explanation:

Land Revenue Administration

- Akbar made some experiments in the land revenue administration with the help of Raja Todar Mal. The land revenue system of Akbar was called Zabt or Bandobast system.
- It was further improved by Raja Todar Mal. It was known as Dahsala System which was completed in 1580. By this system, Todar Mal introduced a uniform system of land measurement.
- The revenue was fixed on the average yield of land assessed on the basis of past ten years. The land was also divided into four categories – Polaj (cultivated every year), Parauti (once in two years), Chachar (once in three or four years) and Banjar (once in five or more years).
- Payment of revenue was made generally in cash.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

Q.7) Who among the following assumed the title of Alamgir, World Conqueror?

- a) Akbar
- b) Shah Jahan
- c) Jahangir
- d) Aurangzeb

ANS: D

Explanation: Aurangzeb (1658-1707)

- Aurangzeb was one of the ablest of the Mughal kings. He assumed the title Alamgir, World Conqueror. His military campaigns in his first ten years of reign were a great success.
- He suppressed the minor revolts. But he faced serious difficulties in the latter part of his reign. The Jats and Satnamis and also the Sikhs revolted against him. These revolts were induced by his harsh religious policy.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.8) Which Mughal ruler stopped the celebration of Muharram in his reign?

- a) Babur
- b) Aurangzeb
- c) Shah Jahan
- d) Bahadur shah Zafar

ANS: B

Explanation: Religious Policy:

- Aurangzeb was a staunch and orthodox Muslim in his personal life. His ideal was to transform India into an Islamic state.
- He created a separate department to enforce moral codes under a high-powered officer called Muhtasib. Drinking was prohibited.
- Cultivation and use of bhang and other drugs were banned.
- Aurangzeb forbade music in the Mughal court. He discontinued the practice of Jarokhadarshan. He also discontinued the celebration of Dasarah and royal astronomers and astrologers were also dismissed from service.
- Initially Aurangzeb banned the construction of new Hindu temples and repair of old temples. Then he began a policy of destroying Hindu temples. The celebrated temples at Mathura and Benares were reduced to ruins. In 1679, he reimposed jiziya and pilgrim tax. He was also not tolerant of other Muslim sects. The celebration of Muharram was stopped. His invasions against the Deccan sultanates were partly due to his hatred of the Shia faith.
- He was also against the Sikhs and he executed the ninth Sikh Guru Tej Bahadur. This had resulted in the transformation of Sikhs into a warring community.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.9) Which among the following is the original name of Shah Jahan?

- a) Salim
- b) Khurram
- c) Dara Shikoh
- d) Farid

ANS: B

Explanation:

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- In 1611, Jahangir married Mehrunnisa who was known as Nur Jahan (Light of World). Her father Itimaduddaula was a respectable person.
- He was given the post of chief diwan. Other members of her family also benefited from this alliance. Nur Jahan's elder brother Asaf Khan was appointed as Khan-i-Saman, a post reserved for the nobles. In 1612, Asaf Khan's daughter,
- Arjumand Banu Begum (later known as Mumtaz), married Jahangir's third son, prince Khurram (later Shah Jahan).

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.10) Which of the following given statement is/are correct?

1. *Zat* means personal and it fixed the personal status of a person.
2. *Sawar* rank indicated the number of cavalymen of a person who was required to maintain.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Mansabdari System:

- Akbar introduced the Mansabdari system in his administration.
- Under this system every officer was assigned a rank (mansab).
- lowest rank was 10 and the highest was 5000 for the nobles.
- Princes of royal blood received even higher ranks. The ranks were divided into two – *zat* and *sawar*. *Zat* means personal and it fixed the personal status of a person.
- *Sawar* rank indicated the number of cavalymen of a person who was required to maintain. Every *sawar* had to maintain at least two horses.
- The mansab rank was not hereditary. All appointments and promotions as well as dismissals were directly made by the emperor.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

The Mughal Empire

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Agra Fort:

1. It was built in red sandstone.
2. It was built during the reign of Humayun.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The architecture of the Mughals includes the magnificent forts, palaces, public buildings, mosques and mausoleums.
- The Mughals were fond of laying gardens with running water. Some of the Mughal gardens such as the Nishat Bagh in Kashmir, the Shalimar Bagh at Lahore and the Pinjore garden in the Punjab have survived even today.
- During the reign of Sher Shah, the mausoleum at Sasaram in Bihar and the Purana Qila near Delhi were built. These two monuments are considered as the architectural marvels of medieval India.
- Large scale construction of buildings started with the advent of Akbar. He built many forts and the most famous one was the Agra Fort. It was built in red sandstone. His other forts are at Lahore and Allahabad.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.2) With reference to Buland Darwaza, which of the statement given below is/are correct?

1. It was built to commemorate Akbar's victory over Gujarat.
2. It was built at Fatehpur Sikri.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Akbar also built a palace cum-fort complex at Fatepur Sikri (City of Victory), 36 kilometres from Agra. Many buildings in Gujarathi and Bengali styles are found in this complex. Gujarathi style buildings were probably built for his Rajput wives. The most magnificent building in it is the Jama Masjid and the gateway to it called Buland Darwaza or the Lofty Gate. The height of the gateway is 176 feet. It was built to commemorate Akbar's victory over Gujarat. Other important buildings at Fatepur Sikri are Jodh Bai's palace and Panch Mahal with five storeys.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.3) The term “pietra dura” is related to which of the following?

- a) Inlay work with precious stones
- b) Rugs used by royal families
- c) Famous sweet of Mughal era
- d) Fountains made in Mughal Gardens

ANS: A

Explanation: During Akbar’s reign, the Humayun’s tomb was built at Delhi and it had a massive dome of marble. It may be considered the precursor of the Taj Mahal. Akbar’s tomb at Sikandara near Agra was completed by Jahangir. Nur Jahan built the tomb of Itimaddaulah at Agra. It was constructed wholly of white marble with floral designs made of semi-precious stones on the walls. This type of decoration was called pietra dura. This method became more popular during the reign of Shah Jahan. The pietra dura method was used on a large scale in the Taj Mahal by Shah Jahan. Taj Mahal is considered a jewel of the builder’s art. It contains all the architectural forms developed by the Mughals. The chief glory of the Taj is the massive dome and the four slender minarets. The decorations are kept to the minimum.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.4) Which of the statements given below is/are not correct?

- a) The Moti Masjid at Agra was built entirely in white marble.
- b) The Jama Masjid at Delhi was built in red stone.
- c) Mir Sayyid Ali and Abdal Samad were famous painters during Shah Jahan’s reign.
- d) Akbar patronized Tansen of Gwalior.

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Mosque building had reached its peak during Shah Jahan’s reign. The Moti Masjid at Agra was built entirely in white marble. The Jama Masjid at Delhi was built in red stone.
- The foundation for the Mughal painting was laid by Humayun when he was staying in Persia. He brought with him two painters – Mir Sayyid Ali and Abdal Samad to India. These two painters became famous during Akbar’s reign. Akbar commissioned the illustrations of several literary and religious texts.
- Music had also developed under the Mughals. Akbar patronized Tansen of Gwalior. Tansen composed many ragas. Jahangir and Shah Jahan were also fond of music.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.5) Which of the following pair is/are correctly matched?

Text	Writer
1. Ain-i-Akbari	Abul Fazl
2. Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri	Jahangir
3. Padshah Nama	Abdul Hamid Lahori

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Language and Literature

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- Persian language became widespread in the Mughal Empire by the time of Akbar's reign. Abul Fazl was a great scholar and historian of his period. He set a style of prose writing and it was followed by many generations. Many historical works were written during this period. They include Ain-i-Akbari and Akbar Nama authored by Abul Fazl.
- The leading poet of that period was his brother Abul Faizi. The translation of Mahabharata into the Persian language was done under his supervision.
- Utbi and Naziri were the two other leading Persian poets.
- Jahangir's autobiography, Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri was famous for its style. He also patronized many scholars like Ghiyas Beg, Naqib Khan and Niamatullah.
- Shah Jahan also patronized many writers and historians like Abdul Hamid Lahori, author of Padshah Nama and Inayat Khan who wrote Shah Jahan Nama. His son Dara Shikoh translated the Bhagavat Gita and Upanishads into the Persian language.
- Many historical works were written during the reign of Aurangzeb. Famous dictionaries of the Persian language were also compiled during the Mughal period.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.6) With respect to Mughal Era, Which of the following statements is/are not correct?

1. Dara Shikoh translated the Bhagavat Gita and Upanishads into the Persian language.
2. Regional Languages declined during the Mughal Reign.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Shah Jahan also patronized many writers and historians like Abdul Hamid Lahori, author of Padshah Nama and Inayat Khan who wrote Shah Jahan Nama. His son Dara Shikoh translated the Bhagavat Gita and Upanishads into the Persian language. Many historical works were written during the reign of Aurangzeb. Famous dictionaries of the Persian language were also compiled during the Mughal period. Regional languages such as Bengali, Oriya, Rajasthani and Gujarathi had also developed during this period. Many devotional works including the Ramayana and Mahabharata were translated into regional languages. From the time of Akbar, Hindi poets were attached to the Mughal court. The most influential Hindi poet was Tulsidas, who wrote the Hindi version of the Ramayana, the Ramcharitmanas.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.7) With respect to trade during Mughal empire, consider the following statements:

1. The banjaras used to move to long distances with their goods on the back of oxen.
2. Local traders were called banik.

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 Indian trading classes were large in numbers and spread throughout the country. They were well organized and highly professional.

Seth, bohra traders specialized in long distance trade while local traders were called banik. Another class of traders was known as banjaras, who specialized in carrying bulk goods.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

The banjaras used to move to long distances with their goods on the back of oxen. Bulk goods were also taken through rivers on boats. The trading community did not belong to one caste or religion.

The Gujarathi merchants included the Hindus, Jains and Muslims. In Rajasthan, Oswals, Maheshwaris and Agarwals came to be called the Marwaris. Multanis, Khattris and Afghanis conducted trade with central Asia.

In south India, the Chettis on the Coramandal coast and the Muslim merchants of Malabar were the most important trading communities.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.8) Which of the following given statement about growth of trade during Mughal period is/are correct?

1. The Coramandal coast became a centre of textile production.
2. Bengal was an entry point of foreign goods.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Bengal exported sugar, rice as well as delicate muslin and silk. The Coramandal coast became a centre of textile production. Gujarat was an entry point of foreign goods. From there, fine textiles and silk were taken to north India. Indigo and food grains were exported from north India through Gujarat. It was also the distribution centre for the luxury products of Kashmir such as shawls and carpets.

The major imports into India were certain metals such as tin and copper, war horses and luxury items such as ivory. The balance of trade was maintained by the import of gold and silver. The growth of foreign trade had resulted in the increased import of gold and silver in the seventeenth century. The Dutch and English traders who came to Gujarat during the seventeenth century, found that Indian traders were alert and brisk.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.9) With respect to agriculture during Mughal period, which of the following statement is/are not correct?

1. Tobacco and maize were cultivated first during seventeenth century.
2. New agricultural techniques were introduced during this period.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Agriculture

An estimate claims that the population of India at the beginning of the seventeenth century was about 125 million. As plenty of land was available for cultivation, agriculture was prosperous. A large variety of crops such as wheat, rice, gram, barley, pulses were cultivated. Commercial crops

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

such as cotton, indigo, sugarcane and oil-seeds were also cultivated. During the seventeenth century two new crops, namely, tobacco and maize were added. Potato and red chillies came later in the eighteenth century. But, no new agricultural technique was introduced during this period. However, India was able to export food items like rice and sugar to the neighbouring countries.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.10) Rang Mahal, Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-i-Khas are part of which of the following complex?

- a) Agra Fort
- b) Old Fort
- c) Red Fort
- d) Fatehpur Sikri

ANS: C

Explanation: The climax of fort-building reached its climax during the reign of Shah Jahan. The famous Red Fort at Delhi with its Rang Mahal, Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-i-Khas was his creation.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

Text	Author
1. Krishnadevaraya	Maduravijayam
2. Gangadevi	Amukthamalyada
3. Allasani Peddanna	Manucharitam

How many of the above mentioned pairs is/are correctly matched?

- One pair only
- Two pairs only
- All three pairs
- None

ANS: A

Explanation:

The history of Vijayanagar Empire constitutes an important chapter in the history of India. Four dynasties – Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva and Aravidu – ruled Vijayanagar from A.D. 1336 to 1672. The sources for the study of Vijayanagar are varied such as literary, archaeological and numismatics. Krishnadevaraya's Amukthamalyada, Gangadevi's Maduravijayam and Allasani Peddanna's Manucharitam are some of the indigenous literature of this period.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.2) Before founding Vijayanagara Empire, Harihara and Bukka served which of the following kingdom?

- Hoyasala Kingdom
- Kakatiya Kingdom
- Sultanates of Madurai
- Bahmani Kingdom

ANS: B

Explanation:

- Vijayanagar was founded in 1336 by Harihara and Bukka of the Sangama dynasty.
- They were originally served under the Kakatiya rulers of Warangal.
- Then they went to Kampili where they were imprisoned and converted to Islam. Later, they returned to the Hindu fold at the initiative of the saint Vidyananya.
- They also proclaimed their independence and founded a new city on the south bank of the Tungabhadra river.
- It was called Vijayanagar meaning city of victory

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.3) The greatest of the Vijayanagar rulers, Krishna Deva Raya belonged to which of the following dynasty?

- a) Sangama
- b) Saluva
- c) Tuluva
- d) Aravidu

ANS: C

Explanation: Krishna Deva Raya (1509 – 1530)

- The Tuluva dynasty was founded by Vira Narasimha.
- The greatest of the Vijayanagar rulers, Krishna Deva Raya belonged to the Tuluva dynasty.
- He possessed great military ability.
- His imposing personality was accompanied by high intellectual quality. His first task was to check the invading Bahmani forces.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.4) Who among the following is also addressed with the name, “Andhra Bhoja”?

- a) Deva Raya II
- b) Krishna Deva Raya
- c) Saluva Narasimha
- d) Vira Narasimha

ANS: B

Explanation:

- Though a Vaishnavite, he respected all religions.
- He was a great patron of literature and art and he was known as Andhra Bhoja.
- Eight eminent scholars known as Ashtadiggajas were at his royal court.
- Allasani Peddanna was the greatest and he was called Andhrakavita Pitamaga.
- His important works include Manucharitam and Harikathasaram. Pingali Suranna and Tenali Ramakrishna were other important scholars.
- Krishna Deva Raya himself authored a Telugu work, Amukthamalyadha and Sanskrit works, Jambavati Kalyanam and Ushaparinayam.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.5) Who among the following built Vittalaswamy and Hazara Ramaswamy temples at Vijayanagar?

- a) Harihara
- b) Sri Ranga III
- c) Krishna Deva Raya
- d) None of the above

ANS: D

Explanation: Krishna Deva Raya (1509 – 1530)

- The Tuluva dynasty was founded by Vira Narasimha.
- The greatest of the Vijayanagar rulers, Krishna Deva Raya belonged to the Tuluva dynasty.
- He possessed great military ability.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

- His imposing personality was accompanied by high intellectual quality. His first task was to check the invading Bahmani forces.
- He repaired most of the temples of south India.
- He also built the famous Vittalaswamy and Hazara Ramaswamy temples at Vijayanagar. He also built a new city called Nagalapuram in memory of his queen Nagaladevi. Besides, he built a large number of Rayagopurams.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.6) Consider the following statement about administrator of Vijaynagar Empire:

1. The king was the heights court of appeal.
2. The succession of the throne was on the principal of the hereditary.

Which of the statement 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 administration under the Vijayanagar Empire was well organized. The king enjoyed absolute authority in executive, judicial and legislative matters. He was the highest court of appeal. The succession to the throne was on the principle of hereditary.
- Sometimes usurpation to the throne took place as Saluva Narasimha came to power by ending the Sangama dynasty. The king was assisted by a council of ministers in his day to day administration.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.7) Consider the following statement:

1. The top grade officer of the army during Vijaynagar was known as Poligars.
2. Solider were paid in kind.

Which of the statement 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 Vijayanagar army was well-organized and efficient.
- It consisted of the cavalry, infantry, artillery and elephants. High-breed horses were procured from foreign traders.
- The top-grade officers of the army were known as Nayaks or Poligars. They were granted land in lieu of their services. These lands were called amaram.
- Soldiers were usually paid in cash.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.8) Which among the following was the capital of Bahmani Kingdom?

- a) Bidar
- b) Golkonda
- c) Bejjapur
- d) Gulbarga

ANS: D

Explanation: Bahmani Kingdom:

- The founder of the Bahmani kingdom was Alauddin Bahman Shah also known as Hasan Gangu in 1347. Its capital was Gulbarga.
- There were a total of fourteen Sultans ruling over this kingdom.
- Among them, Alauddin Bahman Shah, Muhammad Shah I and Firoz Shah were important. Ahmad Wali Shah shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar.
- The power of the Bahmani kingdom reached its peak under the rule of Muhammad Shah III. It extended from the Arabian sea to the Bay of Bengal.
- On the west it extended from Goa to Bombay. On the east, it extended from Kakinada to the mouth of the river Krishna. The success of Muhammad Shah was due to the advice and services of his minister Mahmud Gawan.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.9) Who among the following was the Bahmani Kingom?

- a) Hasan Gangu
- b) Mahmud Gawan
- c) Muhammad Shah I
- d) Ahmad Wali Shah

ANS: A

Explanation: Bahmani Kingdom:

- The founder of the Bahmani kingdom was Alauddin Bahman Shah also known as Hasan Gangu in 1347. Its capital was Gulbarga.
- There were a total of fourteen Sultans ruling over this kingdom.
- Among them, Alauddin Bahman Shah, Muhammad Shah I and Firoz Shah were important.
- Ahmad Wali Shah shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar. The power of the Bahmani kingdom reached its peak under the rule of Muhammad Shah III. It extended from the Arabian sea to the Bay of Bengal.
- On the west it extended from Goa to Bombay. On the east, it extended from Kakinada to the mouth of the river Krishna. The success of Muhammad Shah was due to the advice and services of his minister Mahmud Gawan.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022

Q.10) Which among the following Mughal Ruler beheaded the 5th Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan?

- a) Akbar
- b) Jhangir
- c) Shahjahan
- d) Aurangzeb

ANS: B

Explanation: Jahangir (1605-1627):

When Akbar died, Prince Salim succeeded with the title Jahangir (Conqueror of World) in 1605. Jahangir's rule witnessed a spate of rebellions. His son Khusrau revolted but was defeated and imprisoned. One of his supporters, Guru Arjun, the fifth Sikh Guru, was beheaded.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11