

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

17th to 23rd July, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



The Mauryan Empire

Q.1) The “Sandrakottus” name was related to which of the following?

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka
- c) Bimbisara
- d) Ajatashatru

ANS: A

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

Greek historians have recorded his name as “Sandrakottus” or “Sandrakoptus”, which are evidently modified forms of Chandragupta.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Who among the following has written the famous “Indica”?

- a) Megasthenes
- b) Seleucus
- c) Porus
- d) Alexander

ANS: A

Explanation: 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.
- The original of this work is lost, but many Greek historians had reproduced parts of his account describing the court of Chandragupta and his administration.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Kautilya is also known as vikram gupta.
2. He wrote the famous text “Arthashastra”.

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: Chanakya, also known as Kautilya and Vishnugupta, was a Brahmin and a sworn adversary of the Nandas.

- He is credited with having devised the strategy for overthrowing the Nandas and helping Chandragupta to become the emperor of Magadha.

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- He is celebrated as the author of the Arthashastra, a treatise on political strategy and governance.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Who among the following became ascetic and went to Chandragiri near Sravanabelagola, in Karnataka?

- Chandragupta
- Bindusara
- Asoka
- Kala Asoka

ANS: A

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) With reference to the Mauryan administration, the term "samaharta" related to?

- Personal bodyguards
- Revenue collector
- Fort keepers
- Forest guards

ANS: B

Explanation: Revenue collection was the responsibility of a collector-general (samaharta) who was also in charge of exchequer that he was, in effect, like a minister of finance.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the language/s was/were used by the Ashokan edict/s?

- Pali
- Brahmi
- Prakrit

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The history of Ashoka is reconstructed on the basis of his inscriptions. In his inscriptions, Brahmi, Kharosthi, Prakrit, Aramaic, and Greek languages (deciphered by James Prinsep in c.1837 CE) have been used.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) The “Bheri Ghosha (war drum) replaced by Dhamma Ghosha” was mentioned in which of the following major rock edict?

- a) First rock edict
- b) Fourth rock edict
- c) Ninth rock edict
- d) Thirteenth rock edict

ANS: B

Explanation: Four Edict: Bheri Ghosha (war drum) replaced by Dhamma Ghosha and King Ashoka attached greatest value to this duty.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) In which of the following place/s pillar edict/s was/were found?

- 1. Lauriya-Araraj
- 2. Nigali Sagar
- 3. Topra

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 majestic free-standing Ashokan pillars probably signify the axis of the world (axis mundi) that separated heaven and earth.

Pillar edicts have been found at Lauriya-Araraj, Lauriya Nandangarh, Rampurva, Nigali Sagar, Sarnath, Topra, and Meerut.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Which of the following symbol/s is/are found on Ashokan pillars?

- 1. Lotus
- 2. Bull
- 3. Lion

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 motifs associated with the Ashokan pillars have a rich and varied symbolism in resonance with many prevailing Indian religious traditions.

For instance, the most found motifs were of lotus (symbolised, purity and fecundity in Indian tradition), lion (is a solar symbol and represents the Buddha too, as he is referred to as Sakyasimha, i.e., lion among the Sakyas), bull (symbol of fertility), elephant (relevant in Buddhism as according to Buddhist tradition, Buddha entered his mother’s womb in the form of a white elephant), spoked wheel (represents dharmachakra, i.e., the wheel of dharma and also associated with sovereignty), and horse (symbolises departure of Siddhartha from his home).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The “Sariska Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Maharashtra

ANS: A

Explanation: Sariska Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve in Alwar district, Rajasthan, India.

- It stretches over an area of 881 km² comprising scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills.
- This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1958.

Source: FORUMIAS

History – Political & Cultural Developments in BC 200

Q.1) The Patanjali, the notable grammarian who wrote the Mahabhasya was a contemporary of?

- a) Asoka
- b) Brihadratha
- c) Pushyamitra Sunga
- d) Bindusara

ANS: C

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

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The Indo-Greeks were the first to invade India in 2nd century BC.
2. They were the first to issue gold 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: As we have discussed in the earlier chapter, with the construction of Chinese Wall, the Scythians were pushed back from the China and they turned their attention towards the neighbouring Greeks and Parthians.

- In the beginning of the 2nd century BCE, the Indo-Greeks were the first to invade India.
- They occupied a large part of north-western India, much larger than that conquered by Alexander, and it is believed that they pushed forward to as far as Ayodhya and Pataliputra.
- They were the first to issue gold coins and much of their lineage is determined on the basis of excavated coins which include coins of silver, copper, and nickel as well.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Who among the following was converted the Indo – Greek king “Milinda”?

- a) Nagasena
- b) Kalidasa
- c) Brihadaranyaka
- d) Panini

ANS: A

Explanation: Milinda 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).

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The text claims that impressed by the answers, the king accepted Buddhism as his religion.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following dynasty was called as “moon tribe”?

- Shakas
- Indo – Greeks
- Kushans
- Satavahanas

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.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Which of the following was/were associated with king “Kanishka”?

- His kingdom has two capitals.
- He started the Shaka era.
- He held the third Buddhist Council.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Kanishka had two capitals: Purushapura (present day Peshawar) and Mathura: He built a giant stupa to house the Buddha’s relics in the city of Purushpura.

- The building was still intact with all its magnificence when the Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien visited the area later in the early fifth century CE.
- 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.
- Held the fourth Buddhist council at Kundalavana (near Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir) under the presidency of Vasumitra.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Which of the following was/were correctly matched?

Author	:	Work
1. Ashvagosha	:	Buddhacharita
2. Charaka	:	Sasruta
3. Vasumitra	:	Mahavibhasa

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Kanishka patronised great scholars and eminent personalities of that era such as:

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- Ashvagosha: A Buddhist scholar who wrote the hagiographic Buddhacharita (the sacred biography of the Buddha) and composed the Saundarananda (a Sanskrit kavya).
- Charaka: He is known as the father of Ayurveda who wrote a book on medicine called Charaksamhita and also wrote the Sasruta.
- Vasumitra: An eminent philosopher who authored the encyclopaedia of Buddhist philosophy called Mahavibhasa.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Who among the following propounded the “Sunyavada School”?

- a) Nagarjuna
- b) Vasumitra
- c) Charaka
- d) Ashvagosha

ANS: A

Explanation: Nagarjuna is often termed an Indian Einstein who proposed the Theory of Relativity in his time in the form of a Sutra, the Prajna Parimata Sutra.

He was also a great exponent of the Mahayana doctrine and propounded the Madhyamaka (also known as Sunyavada School) which focuses on sunyata or emptiness.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) In which of the following place, headless statue of Kanishka depicting him as a warrior been found?

- a) Mathura
- b) Ayodhya
- c) Kashi
- d) Agra

ANS: A

Explanation: Kanishka also patronised the Gandhara and Mathura schools of sculpture. At Mathura, a headless statue of Kanishka depicting him as a warrior been found.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) The famous king “Nahapana” was belongs to which of the following dynasty?

- a) The Kshaharatas
- b) Arjunayanas
- c) Malavas
- d) Yaudheyas

ANS: A

Explanation: The king “Nahapana” belongs to the Kshaharatas.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) Sudarshan Lake from Chandragupta Maurya's reign was located at?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Rudradaman I 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: Poonam Dahiya

History – Early Historic Period of South India

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

1. Its society was based on “matrilineal or matriarchal”.
2. They were known in history for starting the practice of giving royal grants of land to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks.

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 Satavahanas claimed Brahmana descent and performed Vedic rituals and worshipped gods like Krishna, Vasudeva, as evident in the Naneghat cave inscription of Naganika (1st century BCE), which mentions the great sacrifices performed by Satkarni I.

- Another striking feature of the kings pertaining to this dynasty was that they used matronyms such as Gautamiputra and Vashishthiputra, although they were not matrilineal or matriarchal in any sense.
- The Satavahanas assumed the title of Dakshinapathapati (Lord of the Dakshinapatha).
- The Satavahanas are also known in history for starting the practice of giving royal grants of land to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks, including those associated with tax exemptions.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Who among the following was described as “the destroyer of the Shakas, Pahlavas, and the Yavanas, as the uprooter of the Kshaharatas and as the restorer of the glory of the Satvahanas”?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Gautamiputra Satakarni achievements are described and eulogised after his death, during his son Pulumayi II’s reign, in a Nashik Inscription of his mother Gautami Balashri (written in Prakrit).

In this inscription, he is described as the destroyer of the Shakas, Pahlavas, and the Yavanas, as the up rooter of the Kshaharatas and as the restorer of the glory of the Satvahanas.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Who among the following authored the “Gatha Sattasai”?

- a) Chanda Satakarni
- b) Vasisthiputra Vijaya Satkarni
- c) Hala
- d) Yajnashri Satakarni

ANS: C

Explanation: The successors of Yajnashri Satakarni included Gautamiputra Vijaya Satakarni, Chanda Satakarni, Vasisthiputra Vijaya Satkarni, Pulumavi, and Hala (probably the 17th king in the line, also a great poet who authored the Gatha Sattasai, which is a collection of 700 erotic poems in the Maharashtri Prakrit dialect).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following was/were the prominent Buddhist site/s under Satavahana dynasty?

- 1. Amaravati
- 2. Nagarjunakonda
- 3. Nashik

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: Nagarjunakonda and Amravati in Andhra Pradesh and Nashik and Junar areas of Maharashtra became important Buddhist sites under the Satavahanas and their successors, the Ikshvakus.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following was the author of “Tolkappiyam”?

- a) Hala
- b) Agathiyar
- c) Tolkappiyar
- d) Bhikshu-Raja

ANS: C

Explanation: The Tolkappiyam (a book on Tamil grammar and poetics written by Tolkappiyar).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Who among the following was called as fifth veda?

- a) Tirukkural
- b) Melkannakku
- c) Kilkanakku
- d) Tolkappiyam

ANS: A

Explanation: Sangam literature can be divided into two groups: narrative and didactic. The narrative texts are called Melkannakku (18 Major Works consisting of eight anthologies and ten

idylls), and are considered works of heroic poetry in which heroes are glorified and perpetual wars and cattle raids are frequently mentioned.

The didactic works are called Kilkanakku (18 Minor Works). A large number of Tamil didactic works such as Tiruvalluvar's Tirukkural (famous work on ethics, philosophy, polity, and love, **and considered the fifth Veda of Tamil Nadu**).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Which of the following was considered as the “Odyssey of Tamil poetry”?

- a) Silappadikaram
- b) Manimekalai
- c) Tirukkural
- d) Gatta Sattasai

ANS: B

Explanation: Tamil epics such as Silappadikaram (considered the brightest gem of early Tamil literature which deals with love story of Kovalan, who prefers a courtesan Madhavi of Kaveripattanam to his noble wedded wife Kannagi).

Manimekalai (a sequel to Silappadikaram and is considered the ‘Odyssey of Tamil poetry’, which deals with the adventures of the daughter born of the union of Kovalan and Madhavi and her subsequent conversion to Buddhism) were written in the period between the 5th and 6th centuries.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) The famous valley “Tamrapani” is located at?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Male
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Cambodia

ANS: C

Explanation: The important vendar (crowned kings) who dominated the Tamilakam region during the Sangam Age were the Pandyas in the valleys of the Tamrapani (Sri Lanka) and Vaigai, the Cholas in the lower Krishna valley, and the Cheras on the Kerala coast.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Which dynasty has the fish symbol insignia of royalty?

- a) Cheras
- b) Cholas
- c) Pandayans
- d) Satavahanas

ANS: A

Explanation:

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Kingdom	Capital	Emblem	Premium Port
The Pandyas (covers modern Tirunelveli, Madurai, Ramnad districts and south Travancore).	Madurai	Fish	Korkai
The Cholas (covers modern Tanjore and Trichinopoly district of Tamil Nadu)	Uraiyur	Tiger	Puhar (modern Kaveripattanam)
The Cheras (covers mostly Kerala coast)	Vanji/Karuvur	Bow	Tondi and Muchiri

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) Who among the following was constructed a dam on the Kaveri River?

- a) Karikala
- b) Tondaiman Ilandiraiyan
- c) Udiyanjeral
- d) Nedunjeliyan I

ANS: A

Explanation: The Chola king Karikala of the Sangam age is credited with constructing a dam on the river Kaveri. It is considered to be the earliest dam in the country.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – The Guptas & Vakatakas

Q.1) Who among the following was the founder of the Gupta dynasty?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Maharaja Gupta/Sri Gupta (Founder of Gupta Dynasty).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Guptas”:

- 1. They have a strong central government.
- 2. Feudalism as an institution began to take root during their 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: C

Explanation: The Gupta kingdom emerged as a great power and achieved the political unification of a large part of the Indian subcontinent.

- It featured a strong central government, bringing many kingdoms under its hegemony.
- Feudalism as an institution began to take root during this period.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Who among the following was written the “Devichandraguptam and Mudrarakshasam”?

- a) Vishakadutta
- b) Kamandaka
- c) Harisena
- d) Kalidasa

ANS: A

Explanation: Devichandraguptam and Mudrarakshasam by Vishakadutta provide details about the rise of the Guptas.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following were navaratnas of Chandra gupta II?

1. Kalidasa
2. Harisena
3. Amarasimha

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: Chandra gupta II court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science.

This included the great Sanskrit poet Kalidasa, the Sanskrit scholar Harisena, the lexicographer Amarasimha, and the physician Dhanvantari.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Fahien, the Buddhist scholar from China, visited India during the reign of?

- a) Sri Gupta
- b) Chandra Gupta I
- c) Samudra Gupta
- d) Chandra Gupta II

ANS: D

Explanation: Fahien, the Buddhist scholar from China, visited India during the reign of Chandra Gupta II.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Who among the following was founded the “Nalanda University”?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumara Gupta I, who founded the Nalanda University.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) The “Vishnukundin empire” belong to which of the following?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Bengal
- d) Assam

ANS: B

Explanation: The Vakatakas had matrimonial ties with the imperial Guptas (Rudrasena II of the royal Vakataka family was married to Prabhavatigupta, the daughter of Chandragupta II of the

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imperial Gupta family), the Nagas of Padmavati, the Kadambas of Karnataka, and the Vishnukundins of Andhra.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Vakatakas”:

1. The rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas of the Ajanta Caves were built under the patronage of the Vakataka king, Harisena.
2. The Vakataka kingdom spread the brahminical culture to southern 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: Culturally, the Vakataka kingdom is important because it became a channel to spread Brahminical culture to southern India.

- The Vakatakas are noted for having been patrons of the arts, architecture, and literature.
- Their legacy in terms of public works and monuments has made significant contributions to Indian culture.
- The rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas of the Ajanta Caves (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) were built under the patronage of the Vakataka king, Harisena.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Who among the following was “composer of the Allahabad prashasti (inscriptions of praise)”?

- a) Vishakadutta
- b) Kamandaka
- c) Harisena
- d) Kalidasa

ANS: C

Explanation: Individuals holding the ranks of kumaramatyas sometimes had additional designations as well, and such ranks were hereditary.

For example, Harisena, composer of the Allahabad prashasti (inscriptions of praise), was a kumaramatya, sandhivigrahika and mahadandanayaka, and was the son of Dhruvabhuti, a mahadandanayaka.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The term “bhukti” was related to which of the following?

- a) Province
- b) District
- c) Mandal
- d) Village

ANS: A

Explanation: The Gupta Empire was divided into provinces known as deshas or bhuktis. They were administered by governors who were usually designated as uparikas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Contributions of Buddhism & Jainism

Q.1) Who among the following was called as “maker of fords”?

- a) Ajivika
- b) Jains
- c) Buddhists
- d) Lokayatas

ANS: B

Explanation: According to Jain tradition, Mahavira was not the founder of Jainism, but the last of the 24 Tirthankaras or ‘maker of fords’ (ford means a shallow place in river or stream to allow one to walk across).

According to Jaina tradition, Risabha was the founder of the sect. He is considered the first Tirthankara.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are Jain text/s?

- 1. Acharrangasutra
- 2. Sutrakritanga
- 3. Kalpasutra

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 Jaina monks not only wrote religious treatises but also promoted secular literature. Acharrangasutra, Sutrakritanga, and Kalpasutra are the earliest Jaina texts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Jainism:

- 1. On the death of Bhadrabahu, Shulabhadra held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon.
- 2. Most of the early Jaina texts were written in Ardha-Magadhi language.

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: On the death of Bhadrabahu, Shulabhadra held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon.

Most of the early Jaina texts were written in Ardha-Magadhi, the language of the common people.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following is/are tenet/s of Jainism?

1. Non – violence
2. Non existence of god
3. Performing austerities

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 central tenet of Jainism is non-violence. No other religion lays as much emphasis on non-violence as does Jainism.

- It also criticizes human emotions. Jainism denies the existence of God. In its early stages, deity was not worshipped in Jainism.
- It emphasizes that salvation cannot be attained by worshipping god or by sacrifices. It stipulates that one can escape misery only by performing austerities.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Jainism:

1. It is an egalitarian religion.
2. Women Jains can attain salvation.

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: Jainism is an egalitarian religion. It does not sanction any inequality based on birth.

- It is one's deeds that determine one's status in society and not birth.
- Jainism believes that "by one's action one becomes a Brahmin, a Kshatriya, or a Vaishya, or a Sudra."
- Pride based on birth is considered a sin.
- Women were admitted into the monastic order. However, as a woman one cannot attain salvation.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) In which of the following place, Buddha gave his first sermon?

- a) Rajgriha
- b) Kapilavastu
- c) Sarnath
- d) Pataliputra

ANS: C

Explanation: 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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Arrange the following life events of Buddha in chronological order:

1. Parinirvana
2. Mahabhiraskramana
3. Dharmachakra-parivartana

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

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

- He rode in his chariot pulled by his favorite horse Kanthaka and driven by his charioteer Channa far away from the city.
- He cut his hair and sent it along with his discarded garments and jewellery to his father. This is known as Mahabhiraskramana or the Great Going Forth.
- 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'.
- At the age of 80, he passed away in Kusinagara. This is known as Parinirvana.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following was/were the disciple/s of Buddha?

1. Ananda
2. Sariputta
3. Rishabha

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 prominent disciples of Buddha were Sariputta, Maha moggallana, Mahakaccayana and Ananda. Buddha had a huge following among both the royalty and lay persons.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following is/are the sect/s of Buddhism?

1. Mahasanghikas
2. Sthaviravadins
3. Sarvastivadins

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: In course of time, Sthaviravadins, Mahasanghikas and Sarvastivadins emerged as major sects of Buddhism.

- New ideas emerged among the Sarvastivadins and Mahasanghikas.
- It led to the emergence of Mahayana and Hinayana (the Great and Lesser Vehicles) in Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The “Hinayana school of Buddhism” is/are famous in which of the following country/countries?

1. Burma
2. Thailand
3. Sri Lanka

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: Hinayana or the Lesser Vehicle became popular in Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand and other South-east Asian countries.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Early Medieval India

Q.1) Which of the following was/were the feature/e of early medieval period?

1. Feudalism
2. Political fragmentation
3. Formation of states at regional level

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 term ‘early medieval’ denotes the intermediate period between the ‘ancient’ and the ‘medieval’.

This period in India is marked by feudalism, political fragmentation, and the formation and proliferation of various states at regional level.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Who among the following wrote the Harshacharita?

- a) Vishakadatta
- b) Kalidasa
- c) Banabhatta
- d) Hala

ANS: C

Explanation: Two major historical sources which provide information regarding the Pushyabhuti dynasty are the Harshacharita, a biography of Harsha written by Harsha’s court poet and travelogues of the Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang/Xuanzang.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Who among the following was the author of “Si-Yu-Ki”?

- a) Fa hein
- b) Hsuan Tsang
- c) Minander
- d) I – Tsang

ANS: B

Explanation: The Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang, who is also known as the Prince of Travelers and author of Si-Yu-Ki, visited India during 629–644 CE.

He earned Harsha’s friendship and left a vivid account of the beauty, grandeur, and prosperity of Kannauj.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following drama/s was/were wrote by “Harshavardhan”?

1. Priyadarshika
2. Ratnavali
3. Nagananda

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: Harsha was a great patron of the arts and learning. He was very talented himself as it is believed that he wrote three dramas Priyadarshika, Ratnavali (both romantic comedies), and Nagananda (based on Bodhisattva Jimutavahana).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following is NOT part of writers Harshavardhan court?

- a) Kalidasa
- b) Mayura
- c) Bhartrihari
- d) Matanga Divakara

ANS: A

Explanation: Banabhatta (author of Harshacharita and Parvatiparinay), Mayura (author of Mayurashataka), renowned grammarian Bhartrihari (author of Vakapadiya), and Matanga Divakara were the accomplished writers at Harshavardhan court.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) “Ravikirti” was a court poet of which of the following?

- a) Pulkeshin II
- b) Kirtivarman I
- c) Pulkeshin I
- d) Dantidurga

ANS: A

Explanation: Pulakesin II most powerful and famous king of Western Chalukyas dynasty, who achieved many military successes.

His eulogy was written by his court poet Ravikirti in the Aihole Inscription, which describes his victories against the Kadambas of Banavasi, Alupas and Gangas of Mysore.

He also led expeditions against eastern Deccan kingdoms, south Kosala and Kalinga.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) The famous “Virupaksha Temple” is located in which of the following state?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: There are ten temples at Pattadakal, six in southern Dravida style and four in the northern Nagara style.

Well known among these are the Sangamesvara Temple, the famous Virupaksha Temple of Karnataka which contains a lot of representations from the Mahabharata, and the Mallikarjuna Temple built in the southern style.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) The term “Vengi” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Assam
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Andhra Pradesh

ANS: D

Explanation: In the second half of the 8th century, the Eastern Chalukyas established themselves in Vengi in Andhra Pradesh.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) The place “Dharanikota” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Goa
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Andhra Pradesh

ANS: D

Explanation: On the ruins of the Satavahanas, in the eastern part of the peninsula (especially in the Krishna–Guntur region), arose the Ikshvakus.

- They were probably a local tribe who adopted the exalted name of the Ikshvakus to demonstrate the antiquity of their lineage.
- Many monuments and copper plate inscriptions at Nagarjunakonda and Dharanikota (Andhra Pradesh) belonged to them.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The “Tondaimandalam” land is situated between which of the following rivers?

- a) Krishna and Godavari
- b) Godavari and Indravati
- c) Pennar and Vellar
- d) Malprabha and Ghatprabha

ANS: C

Explanation: The term Pallava means ‘creeper’, which is a Sanskrit version of the word tondi and in Tamil they are synonymous to robber.

So, the Pallavas were probably a pastoral local tribe who established their authority in the land of creepers called Tondaimandalam (the land between the north Penner and north Vellar rivers), mostly comprising of southern Andhra Pradesh and northern Tamil Nadu with their capital at Kanchi.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Chandragupta Maurya defeated the Greek king the Alexander.
2. Seleucus sent the Megasthenes to Chandragupta's 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: 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.2) In which of the following script/s was/were the asokan editc/s written?

1. Brahmi script
2. Kharosthi script
3. Aramaic script

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 Asokan edicts were written mostly in the Brahmi script and in Magadhi and Prakrit.

The Kandahar inscriptions are in Greek and Aramaic, while the two inscriptions in north-west Pakistan are in Kharosthi script.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding third Buddhist council:

1. It was conducted under the king Asoka.
2. Buddhism was divided into Hinayana and Mahayana sects under this council.

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

- Ashoka's deepening commitment to Buddhism meant that royal patronage was extended to the Buddhist establishment.
- An important outcome of this sangha was the decision to expand the reach of Buddhism to other parts of the region and to send missions to convert people to the religion.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following was NOT a province of mauryan kingdom?

- a) Ujjain
- b) Taxila
- c) Tosali
- d) Tamraparni

ANS: D

Explanation: At the head of the administration was the king. He was assisted by a council of ministers and a purohita or priest, who was a person of great importance, and secretaries known as mahamatriyas.

The capital region of Pataliputra was directly administered. The rest of the empire was divided into four provinces based at Suvarnagiri (near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh), Ujjain (Avanti, Malwa), Taxila in the northwest, and Tosali in Odisha in the southeast.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) With reference to Mauryan administration, the term "rajukas" was related to?

- a) Kings bodyguards
- b) Rural administrators
- c) District heads
- d) Bonded labor

ANS: B

Explanation: Ashoka's rule gives us an alternative model of a righteous king and a just state. He instructed his officials, the yuktas (subordinate officials), rajukas (rural administrators) and pradesikas (heads of the districts) to go on tours every five years to instruct people in dhamma (Major Rock Edict 3).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The “Peutingerian Table” is related to which of the following?

- a) Trade transit station
- b) Stupa Abacus at Kandahar
- c) Roman map
- d) Gold tower

ANS: C

Explanation: The following Greek and Latin sources inform us about the long distance cultural and commercial connections.

- The Periplus of Erythrean Sea, an ancient Greek text of the first century CE.
- Pliny the Elder’s Natural History, first century CE
- Ptolemy’s Geography, second century CE
- Vienna Papyrus G 40822, a Greek document datable to the second century CE.
- A Roman Map called Peutingerian Table

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Who among the following was not part of muvendar, ‘the three crowned kings’?

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

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.8) Which of the following land is used for fishing and salt making?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: 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.9) Which of the following was/were referred as “Manimegalai”?

1. Maratha mechanics
2. Malva smiths
3. Magadha artisans

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 names of persons mentioned in inscriptions on pottery reveal the presence of non-Tamil speakers, mostly traders, in certain craft centres and towns.

- Traders from faraway regions were present in the Tamil country.
- Manimegalai refers to Magadha artisans, Maratha mechanics, Malva smiths and Yavana carpenters working in cooperation with Tamil craftsmen.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The “Jaldapara National Park” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim
- c) West Bengal
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

ANS: C

Explanation: Jaldapara National Park is a national park situated at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Alipurduar District of northern West Bengal, India, and on the banks of the Torsa River.

Jaldapara is situated at an altitude of 61 m and is spread across 216.51 km² of vast grassland with patches of riverine forests.

Source: FORUMIAS