

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

31st July to 6th August, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



History – Provincial Kingdoms (Deccan & Northern India)

Q.1) Who among the following built the famous “Golconda fort”?

- a) Nizam Shahis
- b) Qutb Shahis
- c) Barid Shahis
- d) Adil Shahis

ANS: B

Explanation: Qutub Shahis of Golconda: Founded by Quli Qutub Shah, who built the famous Golconda fort.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) With reference to Bahamani Kingdom, the term “taraf” related to which of the following?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Bahmani administrative system was well-organised. The Sultanate was divided into four (before Gawan; Gawan divided the Sultanate into eight units) administrative units called ‘taraf ’ or provinces.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following province/s was/were part of the “Bahamani Kingdom”?

- 1. Daultabad
- 2. Bidar
- 3. Berar

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 Bahmani administrative system was well-organised.

- The Sultanate was divided into four (before Gawan; Gawan divided the Sultanate into eight units) administrative units called ‘taraf ’ or provinces.
- These provinces were Daultabad, Bidar, Berar, and Gulbarga.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Who among the following lost the battle against the Portuguese and gave the site of “Diu”?

- a) Hasan Gangu
- b) Muzaffar Shah
- c) Ahmed Shah
- d) Mahmud Begarha

ANS: D

Explanation: Mahmud Begarha (c.1459–1511 CE): In c. 1507 CE, Mahmud led an expedition against the Portuguese (who had settled on the western coast) to break their trade monopoly, which was causing immense harm to the Muslim traders.

For this, he sought help of the ruler of Egypt but he was unsuccessful and finally he had to give the Portuguese a site for a factory in Diu.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) The famous Mandu fort was built by which of the following?

- a) Mahmud Khalji
- b) Ghiyas-ud-Din
- c) Hoshang Shah
- d) Dilawar Khan Ghori

ANS: C

Explanation: Hoshang Shah is also remembered for his wonderful taste in architecture.

- It was he who made Mandu one of the most impregnable forts of India.
- Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh (earlier called Narmadapur) was founded by Hoshang Shah.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Who among the following was defeated the Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodhi at Ghatoli?

- a) Rana Sanga
- b) Rana Kumbha
- c) Maharana Raimal
- d) Rana Hammira

ANS: A

Explanation: Rana Sanga (c.1508–1528 CE): Originally called Sangram Singh, the grandson of Rana Kumbha was a ferocious and brave Rajput ruler who fought several battles.

- He also defeated the Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodhi in c.1518 CE at Ghatoli (near Gwalior).
- Lodhi, reportedly stunned by this Rajput aggression, moved again against Sanga’s army in c.1519 CE, but was humbled again at Dholpur.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) The famous “battle of Khanwa” was happened between Rana Sanga and?

- a) Feroz Shah Tughlaq
- b) Ibrahim Lodhi
- c) Babur
- d) Humayun

ANS: C

Explanation: According to some legends, it was on the invitation of Rana Sanga that Babur invaded India in c. 1526 CE.

- But just after a year, Rana Sanga fought against Babur in the famous battle of Khanwa near Fatehpur Sikri (c.1527 CE).
- The Rajput forces of Rana Sanga, supplemented by the contingents of Hasan Khan Mewati and the Afghan Mahmud Lodhi and Raja Medini Rai of Alwar, fought against Babur.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) The legendary poet, saint and passionate devotee of Lord Krishna “Meera Bai” was daughter in law of?

- a) Rana Sanga
- b) Rana Kumbha
- c) Maharana Raimal
- d) Rana Hammira

ANS: A

Explanation: It is pertinent to note that poet, saint and passionate devotee of Lord Krishna, the legendary Meera Bai, was the daughter in law of Maharana Sanga, and Maharana Pratap too belonged to his lineage.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) The famous “Rajatarangini” - history of Kashmir written by which of the following?

- a) Kalhana
- b) Bilhana
- c) Kalidasa
- d) Nanyya

ANS: A

Explanation: In Rajatarangini (a history of Kashmir written by Kalhana in the mid12th century) it is stated that the valley of Kashmir was formerly a lake.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The “Lohara dynasty” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Malwa
- b) Merwar
- c) Kashmir
- d) Pala's

ANS: C

Explanation: In the 11th century, the rulers were followers of Shaivism, and Shaivism was the central religion in Kashmir.

The oppressive taxation, corruption, internecine fights, and rise of the Damaras (feudal lords) during the unpopular rule of the Lohara dynasty (c. 1003–1320 CE) paved way for foreign invasions of Kashmir.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – The Mughals

Q.1) Consider the following statements “Babur”:

1. He was the founder of the Mughal Empire.
2. In first battle of panipat he defeated the sikander lodhi.

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 Mughal Empire was founded by Babur, a Central Asian ruler who claimed lineage from Timur (the founder of the Timurid Empire) on his father’s side and from Chagatai, the second son of the Mongol ruler Chengiz Khan, on his mother’s side.

- The First Battle of Panipat (c.1526 CE): This was one of the decisive battles of Indian history, fought between Ibrahim Lodhi and Babur.
- Ibrahim Lodhi was defeated and Babur was not only able to take control of Delhi and Agra but also got the rich treasure of Lodhis.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) The terms “Rumi and Tulguma” were associated with which of the following?

- a) Guilds
- b) Warfare methods
- c) Slave labors
- d) Pastoralists

ANS: B

Explanation: Babur effectively applied the Rumi (Ottoman) method of warfare, also known as Tulguma system of warfare, wherein he encircled Ibrahim Lodhi’s army from both flanks. From the centre, his cavalry mounted attack with arrows and gun-fires under expert Ottoman gunners Ustad Ali and Mustafa, whereas the trenches and barricades provided adequate defence against the march of the enemy.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) The battle of chanderi was took place between which of the following?

- a) Babur and Sikander lodhi
- b) Babur and Mahumad lodhi
- c) Babur and Rana Sanga
- d) Babur and Medini Rai

ANS: D

Explanation: Battle of Chanderi (c.1528 CE): This battle was fought between Babur and Medini Rai, the Rajput ruler of Malwa.

In spite of the great valour with which the Rajputs fought, Babur faced little difficulty in overcoming Medini Rai. With his defeat, resistance across Rajputana was completely shattered.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Babur”:

1. He popularized the use of gun powder.
2. He introduced the char bagh system of gardens.

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: Babur introduced new mode of warfare and led to the popularisation of gun powder, cavalry, and artillery in India.

- Although gunpowder was used earlier too in India, it is Babur who popularised its use.
- Introduced Char-Baghs and symmetrically laid out gardens with running waters and fountains.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following wrote the “Humayun-nama”?

- a) Humayun
- b) Gulbadan Begum
- c) Rumi Khan
- d) Hamida Banu Begum

ANS: B

Explanation: Humayun’s half sister Gulbadan Begum wrote Humayun-nama.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) The famous city “Dinapanah” built by which of the following?

- a) Babur
- b) Humayun
- c) Akbar
- d) Shershah

ANS: B

Explanation: Humayun built a new city at Delhi which he named Dinapanah, and constructed the Jamali mosque and mosque of Isa Khan at Delhi.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Who among the following was died from an accidental explosion of gun powder?

- a) Humayun
- b) Mahumad Shah
- c) Babur
- d) Sher shah

ANS: D

Explanation: Sher Shah’s last campaign was against Kalinjar (Bundelkhand), in which he succeeded but died from an accidental explosion of gun powder in c.1545 CE.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) With reference to Sher Shah Administration, the term “mauza” related to?

- a) Province
- b) Paraganas
- c) Divisions
- d) Village

ANS: D

Explanation: Although his rule lasted for only five years, he organised a brilliant administrative system which served as inspiration to not only the Mughal administration but to the British too.

- The 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), Amil (land revenue), Fotedar (treasurer), and Karkuns (accountants) were in charge of the administration of each pargana.
- Mauza (village) was lowest level of administration.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) The ministry of “Diwan-i-Rasalat” deals with?

- a) Communications
- b) Treasury
- c) War
- d) Foreign affairs

ANS: D

Explanation: There were also many administrative units called iqtas. The government was highly centralised and consisted of several departments.

The king was assisted by four important ministers:

- Diwan-i- Wizarat – Also called Wazir, in charge of Revenue and Finance.
- Diwan-i-Ariz – In charge of the Army.
- Diwan-i-Rasalat – Foreign Minister
- Diwan-i-Insha – Minister for Communications.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) With reference to Sher Shah Administration, the term “Qanungo” related to?

- a) Intelligence officer
- b) Revenue records officer
- c) Chief judicial officer
- d) Endowment officer

ANS: B

Explanation: The land revenue administration was very well organised and revenue officers were called Amils while Qanungo were the officials in charge of maintaining revenue records.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – The Mughals

Q.1) Which of the following measure/s was/were introduced by “Sher Shah Suri”?

1. Patta and Qabuliyat
2. Dam – silver coins
3. Rupayia – copper coins

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: Sher Shah introduced two documents: Patta (amount each peasant had to pay) Qabuliyat (Deed of agreement).

- Sher Shah also introduced new copper coins called Dam and it is interesting to note that they were in circulation till c.1835 CE.
- He was also the first ruler to introduce silver Rupayia (1 Rupayia = 64 dams) and gold coin (Ashrafi/Mohur).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Which of the following highway/s was/were lay down by the “Sher Shah”?

1. Sonargaon to Sind
2. Agra to Burhampur
3. Jodhpur to Chittor

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: Sher Shah also improved the communications by building roads, called arteries of the empire. He laid four important highways. They were:

- Sonargaon to Sind: He restored the old imperial road (the Grant Trunk road by Ashoka) and also restored the Uttarapatha which connected Tamralipti (Bengal) to Purushpur (Peshawar).
- Agra to Burhampur.
- Jodhpur to Chittor.
- Lahore to Multan.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) The term “Khasa Kail” was related to which of the following?

- a) Slaves
- b) Fort guards
- c) Personal royal force
- d) Nobles

ANS: C

Explanation: The military administration was also efficiently reorganised and Sher Shah revived Alauddin’s Chehra and Dagh system.

- He personally supervised recruitment of soldiers and paid them directly.
- He divided the army into sawars (serving as linchpin of entire organisation), elephants and frontmen.
- He maintained his personal royal force called Khasa Kail.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following architectural feature/s was/were seen during Akbar period?

1. Use of sandstone
2. Use of arches
3. Colored patterns on the interiors

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 reign of Akbar, many indigenous art styles were encouraged leading to the common use of sandstone, the use of arches (mainly in a decorative form) and the decoration that comprised mainly of boldly carved or inlaid patterns complemented by brightly coloured patterns on the interiors.

He built the Agra fort in red sandstone. His other forts are at Lahore and Allahabad.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Which of the following was/were constructed in “Fatehpur Sikri’ by Akbar?

1. Jama Masjid
2. Buland Darwaza
3. Panch Mahal

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: Akbar built Fatehpur Sikri (city of victory) near Agra, and a palace-cum-fort complex in it. Many buildings in Gujarati and Bengali styles are found in this complex.

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- The most magnificent building in it is the Jama Masjid and the gateway to it called Buland Darwaza (the Lofty Gate), the height of which is 176 ft.
- It was built in c.1572 CE to commemorate Akbar's victory over Gujarat.
- Other important buildings at Fatehpur Sikri are Jodha Bai's palace, the Panch Mahal with five storeys built in the plan of a Buddhist Vihara, the Diwani-Khas, the Diwan-i-Aam, and Sheikh Salim Chisti's tomb.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Who among the following wrote the "Ramcharitmanas"?

- a) Tulsidas
- b) Abul Fazl
- c) Abul Faizi
- d) Abdul Qadir Badauni

ANS: A

Explanation: 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: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) With reference to the administration of Akbar, the territories of the empire were divided into?

1. Jagir
2. Inam
3. Khalsa

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 Mughals retained many features of the administrative system of the Sultanate and Sher Shah Suri's administration.

The administration was highly centralised and the territories of the empire were divided into Jagir, Khalisa (income went directly to the royal exchequer), and Inam (lands allowed to learned and religious men).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

1. He was the head of the military administration.
2. He was the head of the intelligence and information agencies of the empire.

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 head of the military administration was Mir Bakshi who was also considered as head of the nobility.

The Mir Bakshi was also the head of the intelligence and information agencies of the empire.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Who among the following was the officer in-charge of the royal household and royal karkhanas?

- a) Mir bakshi
- b) Mir Saman
- c) Wazir
- d) Muhtasibs

ANS: B

Explanation: The Mir Saman was the officer in-charge of the royal household and royal karkhanas.

- He was responsible for all kinds of purchases, manufacturing of different articles for the use, and their storage for the royal household.
- Only nobles who enjoyed the complete confidence of the emperor were appointed to this office.
- The maintenance of etiquette at the court, the control of the royal body guard, etc., was all under his supervision.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) With reference to the administration of Akbar, the term “Suba” was related to?

- a) Province
- b) Sarkar
- c) Paraganas
- d) Village

ANS: A

Explanation: The Mughal empire was divided into twelve subas or provinces by Akbar.

These were Allahabad, Agra, Awadh, Ajmer, Ahmedabad, Bihar, Bengal, Delhi, Kabul, Lahore, Malwa, and Multan. Later on Ahmednagar, Berar, and Khandesh were added.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – The Later Mughals

Q.1) The Captain Hawkins and Thomas Roe visited India during the reign of?

- Akbar
- Jahangir
- Shah Jahan
- Aurangzeb

ANS: B

Explanation: The British visited Machlipatnam during Jahangir's reign. Captain Hawkins (c.1608–11 CE) and Thomas Roe (c.1615–19 CE) visited his court. Thomas Roe got the farman for setting up an English factory at Surat.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding "Jahangir":

- He started the practice of Pietra Durra.
- He built Shalimar and Nishant gardens in Kashmir.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Art and Architecture during Jahangir's reign: The practice of putting up buildings in marble and decorating the walls with floral designs made of semi-precious stones (known as Pietra Durra) started during his reign.

Jahangir built Moti Masjid at Lahore and his own mausoleum at Lahore. He laid a number of gardens such as the Shalimar and Nishant gardens in Kashmir.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following was/were the painter/s worked under Jahangir?

- Bishan Das
- Ustad Mansur
- Abul Hasan

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: Mughal painting reached its zenith under Jahangir. He employed a number of painters like Abul Hasan, Bishan Das (regarded as master of portraits), Madhu, Anant, Manohar, Govardhan and Ustad Mansur (specialist in animal painting).

- The use of 'Halo' or 'Divine lights' behind king's head started under him.

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- Apart from painting the scenes of hunting, battles and royal courts, progress was made in portrait painting and paintings of animals.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following was/were constructed by “Shah Jahan”?

1. Sheesh Mahal
2. Red Fort
3. Mussaman Burj

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: Mosque-building reached its peak during Shah Jahan’s reign. He built the Moti Masjid at Agra (built entirely in white marble), the Sheesh Mahal and Mussaman Burj at Agra (where he spent his last years in captivity), while the Jama Masjid at Delhi was built in red stone.

- The climax of fort-building reached 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.
- He also built the Jama Masjid in Delhi, Shalimar Bagh in Lahore, and the city of Shahjahanabad.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following was translated the Bhagavat Gita and Upanishads into the Persian language?

- a) Inayat Khan
- b) Dara Shikoh
- c) Manucci
- d) Peter Mundy

ANS: B

Explanation: Shah Jahan also patronised many writers and historians like Inayat Khan, who wrote Shah Jahan Nama.

His son Dara Shikoh translated the Bhagavat Gita and Upanishads into the Persian language.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) The term “bohra” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Farmers
- b) Royal guards
- c) Spies
- d) Trade specialists

ANS: D

Explanation: Seth, bohra traders specialised in long distance trade while local traders were called banik.

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Another class of traders known as banjaras, were specialised in carrying bulk goods and used to move to long distances with their goods on the back of oxen.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) The term “hundis” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Financial document
- b) Donations to god
- c) Pots for funerals
- d) Ornaments storage pits

ANS: A

Explanation: The movement of goods was also facilitated by the growth of a financial system which permitted easy transmission of money from one part of the country to another. This was done through the use of hundis, a paper document promising payment of money after a fixed period of time at a discount and certain place.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Nadir Shah invaded India during the reign of?

- a) Rafi-us-Daula
- b) Rafi-us-Darajat
- c) Mohd. Shah Rangeela
- d) Farrukh Siyar

ANS: C

Explanation: The weakness of the empire was exposed when Nadir Shah not only invaded India but also imprisoned the Mughal Emperor (Mohd. Shah Rangeela/ Roshan Akhtar) and looted Delhi in c.1739 CE.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Who among the following Mughal Emperor fought the battle of plassey?

- a) Alamgir II
- b) Ahmad Shah
- c) Farrukh Siyar
- d) Shah Alam II

ANS: A

Explanation: The famous Battle of Plassey (c.1757 CE) was fought during tenure of Alamgir II.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) Who among the following conferred the title of “Raja” on Ram Mohan Roy?

- a) Shah Alam II
- b) Akbar II
- c) Bahadur Shah II
- d) Ahmad Shah

ANS: B

Explanation: Akbar II conferred the title of ‘Raja’ on Ram Mohan Roy.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – Other Provincial Kingdoms

Q.1) Which of the following was/were correctly matched?

Founder	:	State
1. Saadat Khan	:	Awadh
2. Murshid Quli Khan	:	Hyderabad
3. Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah	:	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 founder of the Awadh state was Saadat Khan, whereas the founder of Bengal was Murshid Quli Khan and the founder of Hyderabad state was Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah. All three were former governors of these provinces and powerful members of the Mughal nobility.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) The “Ijaradari system” was related to which of the following?

- a) Farming system
- b) Iron production system
- c) Tax collection system
- d) Defense system

ANS: C

Explanation: An interesting aspect pertaining to administration of these states (provincial kingdoms) was that in these states, many reforms were undertaken in the field of revenue assessment and even the zamindari system.

- In these states, revenue was collected in cash with great strictness from all zamindars.
- As a result of this, many zamindars had to borrow money and thus there was rise of the bankers and moneylenders or mahajans.
- Both the state and the landed class depended on them for loans. Gradually, there was a rise in the status of these bankers who not only became powerful but also started to influence the administration.
- This also resulted in development of a new system known as Ijaradari system, under which the state auctioned its right to collect taxes to the highest bidders known as Ijaredars, who were usually bankers and mahajans.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Who among the following was popularized the “Hindu-pad-padshahi”?

- a) Baji Rao I
- b) Balaji Vishwanath Bhatt
- c) Ramchandra Pant Amatya
- d) Moreshwar Pingale

ANS: A

Explanation: Baji Rao I (c.1720–1740 CE): Eldest Son of Balaji Vishwanath who succeeded him as Peshwa at the young age of twenty.

He preached and popularised the idea of Hindu-padpadshahi (Hindu Empire) to secure the support of the Hindu chiefs against the common enemy, the Mughals.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Who among the following peshwa of Maratha fought the third battle of panipat?

- a) Madhav Rao
- b) Balaji Baji Rao I
- c) Baji Rao I
- d) Balaji Vishwanath

ANS: B

Explanation: Balaji Baji Rao I/ Nana Sahib I (c.1740–61 CE): Balaji Baji Rao succeeded his father as Peshwa at the young age of nineteen and was appointed as Peshwa by Shahuji.

Marathas fought the Third Battle of Panipat (c.1761 CE) when Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded India, in which the Marathas were defeated.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following was signed the Treaty of Bassein with the British?

- a) Madhav Rao
- b) Balaji Baji Rao I
- c) Baji Rao II
- d) Balaji Vishwanath

ANS: C

Explanation: Baji Rao II (c.1796–1818 CE): Son of Raghunath Rao and the last Peshwa.

Weakest and most incompetent Peshwa who signed the humiliating Treaty of Bassein with the British (c. 1802 CE), which gave the British effective control of not only the Maratha region but also of Deccan and western India.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

1. The Gaikwads of Baroda
2. The Holkars of Indore
3. The Bhonsles of Nagpur

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 Gaikwads of Baroda: The Gaikwads, who gathered prominence in c.1720 CE, were initially subordinate not only to the Bhonsles but also to the powerful Dabhade family.

- The Holkars of Indore: In the case of the Holkars, there was marked and rapid rise in their status and wealth. Though initially they had very little political power, by the c.1730s their prominent ruler, Malhar Rao Holkar, consolidated his position and succeeded in obtaining a large share of the chauth collection in Malwa, eastern Gujarat, and Khandesh.
- The Bhonsles of Nagpur: The Bhonsles of Nagpur were clearly subordinate to the Satara rulers. An important ruler from this line was Raghuji Bhonsle (c.1727–55 CE), who was responsible for the Maratha incursions on Bengal and Bihar in the 1740s and early 1750s. He occupied Orissa from Nawab Alivardi Khan.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding administration of Marathas:

1. Chauth and sardeshmukhi were two major sources of revenue for Marathas.
2. These two taxes were collected on the lands of Marathas.

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: Chauth and sardeshmukhi were two major sources of revenue and it is interesting to note that these taxes were collected not in the Maratha kingdom but in the neighbouring territories of the Mughal Empire or Deccan sultanates.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) The famous “Martanda Varma and Rama Varma” were belonged to which of the following state?

- a) Travancore
- b) Mysore
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Odisha

ANS: A

Explanation: In the south, several states did make a determined effort during this period to consolidate their power by the use of access to sea and ports.

Principal among these were Travancore in Kerala under Martanda Varma and Rama Varma, and Mysore under Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) The famous Wodeyar dynasty is related to which of the following?

- a) Travancore
- b) Mysore
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Odisha

ANS: B

Explanation: Under the rulers of the Vadiyar (or Wodeyar) dynasty, such as Kanthirava Narasaraja and Chikka Devaraja, Mysore emerged as an important state.

- Mysore being a landlocked kingdom was dependent on trade and military supplies brought through the ports of the Indian east coast.
- As these ports came increasingly under European control, Mysore's vulnerability increased.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The "Kuno National Park" is often seen in news located at?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Kuno National Park is a national park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, India. It derives its name from Kuno River.

It was established in 1981 as a wildlife sanctuary with an initial area of 344.686 km² in the Sheopur and Morena districts. In 2018, it was given the status of a national park.

Source: FORUMIAS

History – The Bhakti & Sufi Movement

Q.1) Which of the following was/were the characteristic/s of Bhakti movement?

1. Non – ritualistic
2. Use of vernacular language
3. Encouraged women’s participation

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 Bhakti saints usually emerged from lower castes, preached a religion which was non-ritualistic and open to all without any distinction of caste or creed, encouraged women to join in the gatherings, and taught in the local vernacular languages.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Which of the following Islam characteristic/s was/were influenced the Bhakti Movement in North India?

1. Monotheism
2. Equality of brotherhood
3. Rejection of rituals

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 northern medieval Bhakti Movement had the influence of the spread of Islam in India.

The distinctive characteristics of Islam such as Monotheism or belief in one God, equality and brotherhood of man, and rejection of rituals and class divisions certainly influenced the Bhakti Movement of this era.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following was/were the characteristic/s of Saguna Bhaktas?

1. Upheld the caste system
2. Idol worship
3. Emergence of new 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: B

Explanation: The Bhakti movement is also divided into two different ideological streams of 'Saguna' (those poet-saints who composed verses extolling a god with attributes or form) and 'Nirguna' (those extolling god without and beyond all attributes or form).

- For instance, the Saguna Bhaktas like Tulsidas upheld the caste system and the supremacy of the Brahmans, and preached a religion of surrender and simple faith in a personal God, having a strong commitment towards idol worship.
- On the other hand, the Nirguna Bhaktas like Kabir rejected the varnashrama and all conventions based on caste distinctions.
- They championed new values, helping the emergence of new groups and new unorthodox or protestant sects.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding "Sankaracharya":

1. He was born in Andhra Pradesh and moved to north India.
2. He advocated the philosophy of Advaita.

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: Sankaracharya: Great thinker, distinguished philosopher, and leader of the Hindu revivalist movement of the 9th century, which gave a new orientation to Hinduism.

He was born in Kaladi (Kerala) and propounded the Advaita (Monism) philosophy and Nirgunabrahman (god without attributes).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Which of the following was/were written by Sankaracharya?

1. Upadesh Shastri
2. Vivek Chudamani
3. Bhaja Govindum Stotra

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: Sankaracharya wrote commentary on the Bhagvat Gita, on the Brahmasutra and the Upanishads, and wrote books like: (a) Upadesh Shastri (b) Vivek Chudamani (c) Bhaja Govindum Stotra.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "Ramanuja":

1. He advocated the philosophy of Vishista Advaitavada.
2. He founded the Shrivaishnava sect.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Ramanuja: Born at Sriperumbudur near modern Chennai in the 12th century. He opposed the mayavada of Shankara and advocated the philosophy of Vishista Advaitavada (qualified monism), and founded the Shrivaishnava sect. According to him, God is Saguna Brahman.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Who among the following propounded the philosophy of Bheda Abheda?

- a) Nimbraka
- b) Madhavacharya
- c) Ramanujam
- d) Vallabhacharya

ANS: A

Explanation: Nimbraka: Younger contemporary of Ramanujam who propounded the Dvaita advaita philosophy and the philosophy of Bheda Abheda (difference/ non-difference).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Which of the following was/were belong to Vithoba cult?

1. Tukaram
2. Namdeva
3. Vallabhacharya

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 three great saints belonging to the Vithoba cult were Jnaneswar, Jnanadeva, Namdeva, and Tukaram.

The Bhakti movement in Maharashtra centred around the shrine of Vithoba or Vitthal, the residing deity of Pandharpur, who was regarded as a manifestation of Krishna.

That is why it is also known as the Pandharpur movement, which led to great cultural and social development in Maharashtra such as the development of Marathi literature, elevation in the status of women, breaking of caste barriers, etc.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Who among the following is NOT part of Dadupanth tradition?

- a) Vidyapati
- b) Hardas
- c) Ravidas
- d) Dadu

ANS: A

Explanation: Namdeva is considered one the five revered gurus in the Dadupanth tradition within Hinduism, the other four being Dadu, Kabir, Ravidas, and Hardas.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) Who among the following was the spiritual guide of Shivaji?

- a) Vidyapati
- b) Hardas
- c) Ramdasa
- d) Dadu

ANS: C

Explanation: Ramdasa was born in c.1608 CE and was the spiritual guide of Shivaji.

He wrote Dasabodha, combining his vast knowledge of various sciences and arts with the principles of spiritual life.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – Revision

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

1. He was the disciple of Ramananda.
2. His poet verses are found in the Sikh Holy Scripture, Adi Granth.

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: Kabir: Among the disciples of Ramananda, one of the most famous was Kabir. He was a 15th century Bhakti poet and saint, whose verses are found in the Sikh Holy Scripture, Adi Granth.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Who among the following was/were influenced by the “Kabir”?

1. Raidas
2. Guru Nanak
3. Dhanna

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: Kabir is regarded as the greatest of the mystic saints and his followers are called Kabirpanthis.

Among those who were influenced by Kabir were Raidas, who was a tanner by caste, from Benares, Guru Nanak, who was a Khatri merchant from Punjab, and Dhanna, who was a Jat peasant from Rajasthan.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Who among the following popularized the “Sankirtan/Kirtan system”?

- a) Kabir
- b) Tulsidas
- c) Ramananda
- d) Chaitanya mahaprabhu

ANS: D

Explanation: Chaitanya Mahaprabhu: Well-known saint, ascetic Hindu monk, and social reformer of Bengal, who popularised the Krishna cult in the 16th century.

- With him, the Bhakti Movement in Bengal began to develop into a reform movement as it questioned social division on the basis of caste.

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- Popularised the Sankirtan/Kirtan system (group devotional songs accompanied with ecstatic dancing).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following is/are the characteristic/s of Sufism?

1. Ishq
2. Fana
3. Hulul

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: God, man, and the relation of love between God and man, are fundamental to Sufism.

The ideas of ruh (soul), qurbat (divine proximity), and hulul (infusion of the divine spirit), Ishq (divine love), and Fana (self-annihilation) are central to the theory of Sufism.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Which of the following is/are most popular Silsilahs?

1. Chistis
2. Suhrawardis
3. Qadiriyaahs

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 12th century, the Sufis were organised in Silsilahs (i.e., orders, which basically represented an unbreakable chain between the Pir, the teacher, and the murids, the disciples).

The four most popular Silsilahs among these were the Chistis, Suhrawardis, Qadiriyaahs, and Naqshbandis.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) The term “ziyarat” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Pilgrimage
- b) Masjid construction
- c) Fasting unto death
- d) Singing songs for god

ANS: A

Explanation: The ziyarat or pilgrimage to the tombs of the Sufi saints soon emerged as an important form of ritual pilgrimage.

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Most of the Sufis believed in the performance of miracles. Almost all pirs were associated with the miracles performed by them.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Who among the following was the foster brother of Akbar?

- a) Raja Man Singh
- b) Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khanan
- c) Mirza Aziz Koka
- d) Fakir Aziao Din

ANS: C

Explanation: Mirza Aziz Koka: He was also known as Khan-i-Azam or Kotaltash and was one of the leading nobles, and also the foster brother of Akbar. He also served as the Subedar of Gujarat.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) The jagirs which were given to Muslim nobles in their family towns or place of birth?

- a) Tankha Jagirs
- b) Mashrut Jagirs
- c) Watan Jagirs
- d) Altamgha Jagirs

ANS: D

Explanation: Altamgha Jagirs: Which were given to Muslim nobles in their family towns or place of birth.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Which of the following is/are the category/categories of land during Akbar period?

- 1. Polaj
- 2. Chachar
- 3. Banjar

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 land was divided into four categories –

- Polaj (cultivated every year)
- Parati (fallow, once in two years): Parati land paid at the full polaj rate when it was cultivated.
- Chachar (once in three or four years)
- Banjar (once in five or more years).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The term “Kotwal” was associated with which of the following?

- a) In charge of revenue collection
- b) In charge of accounts
- c) In charge of law & order
- d) In charge of masjids

ANS: C

Explanation: At the level of Pargana, the Shiqdar was the executive officer. He assisted the Amil in the task of revenue collection.

- The Quanungo kept all the records of land in the Pargana.
- The Kotwals were appointed mainly in towns by the imperial government and were in charge of law and order.

Source: Poonam Dahiya