

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

24th to 30th July, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



History – Period from 850 to 1200 CE: South India

Q.1) The famous emperor “Amoghavarsha I” was belong to which of the following dynasty?

- a) Palas
- b) Shakas
- c) Chalukyas
- d) Rashtrakutas

ANS: D

Explanation: Amoghavarsha I (c.814–878 CE): One of the most famous of the Rashtrakutas, who built a new capital city, that of Manyakheta (modern Malkhed).

- He defeated the invading Eastern Chalukyas at Vingavalli and assumed the title Viranarayana.
- Also made peace with the Western Gangas by giving them two of his daughters in marriage.
- It is interesting to note that unlike his father, he preferred to maintain friendly relations with his neighbours, the Gangas, the Eastern Chalukyas and the Pallavas with whom he also cultivated marital ties.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Who among the following was the founder of the “chola dynasty”?

- a) Sundara chola
- b) Uttama Chola
- c) Vijayalaya
- d) Arvuimola

ANS: C

Explanation: The Cholas, famous in Indian history for their local self-government, founded a mighty empire in southern India during c. 850–1200 CE.

The founder of the Chola dynasty was Vijayalaya (9th century CE).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) The “Sailendra Empire” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Maldives
- c) Malaya Peninsula
- d) Cambodia

ANS: C

Explanation: Rajaraja I (c.985–1014 CE): Greatest Chola ruler, who helped raise the Chola Empire to become the largest dominion in South India till the 13th century.

He led a naval expedition against the Sailendra Empire (Malaya peninsula) and expanded Chola trade with China.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Who among the following constructed the Brihadesvara temple, dedicated to Shiva at Thanjavur?

- a) Sundara Chola
- b) Uttama Chola
- c) Rajaraja I
- d) Aditya I

ANS: C

Explanation: In c.1010 CE Rajaraja I constructed the Rajarajeshwara or Brihadesvara temple, dedicated to Shiva at Thanjavur (Tanjore).

This temple is also called the Rajaraja temple as the Cholas were in the habit of installing the images of kings and queens in the temples in addition to the deity.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following was assumed the title of “Gangaikondachola”?

- a) Rajaraja I
- b) Uttama Chola
- c) Rajendra I
- d) Vijayalaya

ANS: C

Explanation: In 1022 CE, Rajendra I led an expedition to the north, crossed the Ganga following the same route which was taken by the great conqueror Samudragupta and defeated the Pala ruler, Mahipal I and the Western Chalukyas.

- To commemorate this occasion, he assumed the title of Gangaikondachola (meaning ‘the Chola conqueror of Ganga’) and established a new capital named Gangaikondacholapuram (meaning ‘the city of the Chola conqueror of the Ganga’) near the mouth of the river Kaveri.
- He built a Shiva temple here and excavated a tank called Chodagarg.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) The classic writer Kamban (who wrote Ramayana in Tamil) was contemporary to?

- a) Kollitung I
- b) Rajadhiraja
- c) Rajendra I
- d) Rajaraja I

ANS: A

Explanation: The classic writer Kamban (who wrote Ramayana in Tamil) was at Kollitung I court.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) With reference to Cholas administration, the term “ko” was associated with?

- a) Rural administration
- b) Council of Minister
- c) High Priest
- d) King

ANS: D

Explanation: The Chola inscriptions generally refer to the king as ko, perumal, perumal adigal (the great one), raja-rajadhiraja and ko-konmai kondan (king of kings).

The king had all the authority rested in him and had a council of ministers to advise him.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) With reference to Cholas administration, the term “pugas” was associated with?

- a) Slave Labor
- b) Agriculture farmers
- c) Guilds
- d) Spies

ANS: C

Explanation: The administration was also greatly facilitated by the shrenis or pugas (guilds), which were like some autonomous corporate organisations having persons belonging to the same craft.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) With reference to Cholas society, the term “Vellallas” was associated with?

- a) Farming groups
- b) Town merchants
- c) King bodyguards
- d) Fortified towns

ANS: A

Explanation: The Cholas society was divided on caste lines and the status of the Paraiyar (untouchables) continued to be pathetic.

The Vellallas (farming groups) were identified with the Shudra varna but since they were land holders and were an economically powerful group they did not suffer from much discrimination or lower social status.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

- a) Persian wheel
- b) Persian horses
- c) Brahmin guilds
- d) Feudal lord

ANS: A

Explanation: There was an expansion in the agrarian economy of Cholas and various factors attributed to it such as extension of the margin of agriculture through land reclamation, the spread of irrigation techniques, and an expansion in the range of crops.

The use of agrahatta (Persian wheel) also facilitated the already established smooth irrigation networks of tanks, canals, wells and sluices.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

*History – Period from 1000 CE to 1200 CE:
North India*

Q.1) Which of the following is/are part of the Rajput clan/s?

1. The Pratiharas
2. The Chahamanas
3. The Chandellas

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 clans also claimed agnikula origins for themselves, referring to a myth wherein these clans emerged out of the sacrificial fire of sage Vashishta on Mount Abu.

The four Agnikula Rajput clans were:

- The Pratiharas.
- The Chahamanas/Chauhans of Ajmer.
- The Chandellas of Bundelkhand.
- The Paramaras of Malwa.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Who among the following was called as “Rai Pithora”?

- a) Prithviraj Chauhan
- b) Ajayaraja II
- c) Vigraha raja IV
- d) Simharaja

ANS: A

Explanation: The most famous of all Chauhans, is popularly known as Prithviraj Chauhan or Rai Pithora in the folk legends.

He scored victories over all his neighbours, including the Chandella king Paramardi, Chalukya Bhima II and Gahadvala Jayachandra.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following temple/s was/were constructed by chandellas?

1. Kandariya Mahadeva Temple
2. Lakshmana Temple
3. Vishvanatha Temple

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 Chandellas are well-known for their art and architecture, most notably for the fully developed Nagara- style temples at their original capital Khajuraho. The Lakshmana Temple (c. 930–950 CE), the Vishvanatha Temple (c. 999-1002 CE), and the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple (c. 1030 CE) were constructed during the reigns of Chandella rulers Yashovarman, Dhanga, and Vidyadhara respectively.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) The “Rani-ki vav” - UNESCO’s World Heritage Site was belong to the which dynasty?

- a) The Chamars
- b) The Solankies
- c) The Pratiharas
- d) The Chandellas

ANS: B

Explanation: The Solanki Rajputs are also known as the Chalukya family of Gujarat, which was different from the earlier Chalukyan dynasty of Badami.

- It ruled parts of Gujarat and Kathiawar between c.950 and 1300 CE. Bhima I built the Sun temple of Modhera.
- His wife Udaymati built the Rani-ki vav (Queen’s step well) in his memory, which is on the list of UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following wrote the famous historical chronicle “Rajatarangini”?

- a) Kalhana
- b) Kalidasa
- c) Amir Khusro
- d) Pampa

ANS: A

Explanation: Much of the history of Kashmir and North-west India is deduced from the legendary and historical chronicle Rajatarangini (which means ‘the river of kings’).

It was probably written in 12th century CE in Sanskrit by a Kashmiri Brahmana called Kalhana, though not much is known about him apart from what is written in the book.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) The famous “Utpala dynasty” ruled which of the following region?

- a) Assam
- b) West Bengal
- c) Bundhelkhand
- d) Kashmir

ANS: D

Explanation: From the 8th to 10th century CE, the Kashmir region was ruled over by the Hindu Utpala dynasty.

The kingdom was established by Avanti Varman, ending the rule of the Karkota dynasty in 855 CE.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Sena dynasty”:

- 1. Vijaya Sena was the founder of the sena dynasty.
- 2. It ruled Bengal area over a 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 Sena Dynasty was a Hindu dynasty that ruled Bengal for little over a century (c. 1097–1225 CE).

Vijaya Sena(c.1095–1158 CE): Founder of the dynasty who had an unusually long reign of over 60 years, which restored peace and prosperity to Bengal and made a deep impression among its people.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Who among the following built the famous Jagannath Temple of Puri?

- a) Lakshamana Sena
- b) Ballal Sena
- c) Anantavarman Chodaganga
- d) Narsimhadeva

ANS: C

Explanation: Anantavarman Chodaganga (c.1076–1150 CE): He assumed the title of Trikingadhipathi in 1076 CE, that is, the ruler of the three Kalingas, which comprises of Kalinga proper (South), Utkal (North), and Kosal (West), and probably was the first king to rule all three divisions of Kalinga.

- He was a religious person as well as a patron of art and literature.
- Credited for having built the famous Jagannath Temple of Puri in Odisha.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Mitakshara, a commentary on Yagnavalkya Smriti wrote by?

- a) Kalhana
- b) Bilhana
- c) Vijnaneshwara
- d) Tikkana

ANS: C

Explanation: Vijnaneshwara, the noted jurist in Vikramaditya VI of Kalyani Chalukyas court, wrote Mitakshara, a commentary on Yagnavalkya Smriti (on Hindu family law).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The famous work “Siddhanta Shiromani” wrote by?

- a) Mahaviracharya
- b) Bhaskar II
- c) Bilhana
- d) Al Biruni

ANS: B

Explanation: Bhaskara II (c.1114– 1185 CE), the greatest mathematician of medieval India and astronomer, was born in Bijapur in modern Karnataka.

His main work, the Siddhanta Shiromani, (Sanskrit for “Crown of Treatises”).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – Rise of Islam & Heterodox Schools of Philosophy

Q.1) Which of the following is/are characteristic/s of “Bhakti Movement”?

1. They used pali and prakrit languages.
2. The bhakti saints went from place to place carrying their message of love and devotion.
3. The bhakti saints belonged to both upper castes and lower castes and also included women saints.

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 word Bhakti comes from the root bhaj, which means to share or participate. Thus, the word ‘bhakta’ implies one who shares or participates in the divine.

- These saints rejected austerities and spoke and wrote in local languages such as Tamil and Telugu, which not only made them popular but also allowed common people to join the Bhakti movement.
- They looked upon religion not as matter of cold, formal worship but based on a living bond between the god and the worshipper.
- These saints went from place to place carrying their message of love and devotion. They belonged to both upper castes and lower castes and also included women saints.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) The famous “Lingayat or Vir Shaiva movement” took place at?

- a) Assam
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Gujarat
- d) Karnataka

ANS: D

Explanation: Another popular movement which arose during the 12th century was the Lingayat or Vir Shaiva movement.

Its founder was Basava and his nephew Channabasava, who lived at the court of the Kalachuri kings of Karnataka.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) The “Sittar” ideology belongs to which of the following region?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Odisha
- c) West Bengal
- d) Maharashtra

ANS: A

Explanation: It is also pertinent to mention the Siddhas (or Sittars) of Tamil Nadu, who held contrasting views with the Bhakti tradition, although some of their ideologies are considered to have originated during the first Sangam Age.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) The “tantra movement” was belongs to which of the following?

- a) Jainism
- b) Lokayata
- c) Nath Panthis
- d) Alwars

ANS: C

Explanation: In the period that the Bhakti movement was gaining popularity in south India, Tantra was gaining traction in northern India.

- They too denounced the caste system and the privileges claimed by the Brahmanas. Tantra, like Bhakti, was open to all.
- The most famous Hindu Yogi who adopted these practices was Goraknath and his followers came to be called Nath Panthis.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) In which of the following philosophical school, reference of god was taken?

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Uttara Mimansa

ANS: D

Explanation: Hindu philosophy is generally classified into six orthodox or classical schools (astika) and three heterodox (nastika) schools.

- The basic difference between these two branches of philosophy schools is based on the recognition of the Vedas: the orthodox schools recognise the authority of the Vedas, while the heterodox schools do not believe in the authority of Vedas.
- Out of these nine systems, eight are atheistic as there is no place for God in them and only the Uttara Mimansa, which is also called Vedanta, has a place for God in it.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Which of the following school was founded by the kapila?

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Uttara Mimansa

ANS: A

Explanation: Samkhya: Literally means 'count', oldest school of philosophy, founded by Kapila.

Samkhya is strongly dualist as its philosophy regards the universe as consisting of two realities, Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (matter), which is further composed of three basic gunas (elements), namely, Tamas, Rajas, and Sattva.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Which of the following philosophical school is also called as "School of Analysis"?

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Uttara Mimansa

ANS: C

Explanation: Nyaya: Also known as School of Analysis, which developed as a system of logic by Gautama. Its principles are mentioned in Nyaya Sutras.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Which of the following philosophical school propounded the atomic theory and can be marked as the beginning of the physics in ancient India?

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Vaisheshika

ANS: D

Explanation: Vaisheshika: This school propounded by Kanada gives importance to discussion of dravya or material elements.

- This school propounded the atomic theory and can be marked as the beginning of the physics in ancient India.
- Earth, water, fire, air, and ether (sky) are the aggregates, which combined give rise to new objects.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Islam lays an emphasis upon the belief in one God (Allah).
2. The Quran is considered as the supreme authority in Islam.

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: In the 7th century CE, a new religion called Islam was founded in Arabia by Muhammad (c.570–632 CE), an Arab merchant from the city of Mecca who would later be known as the Prophet Muhammad.

Islam lays an emphasis upon the belief in one God (Allah) and its holy book, the Quran, which is considered as the supreme authority in Islam as, according to Muslims, it was revealed by Allah to the Prophet Muhammad.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Tripura
- d) Meghalaya

ANS: A

Explanation: Namdapha National Park is a 1,985 km² large protected area in Arunachal Pradesh of Northeast India. The park was established in 1983.

With more than 1,000 floral and about 1,400 faunal species, it is a biodiversity hotspot in the Eastern Himalayas.

Source: FORUMIAS

History – Delhi Sultanate

Q.1) Which of the following dynasties/dynasty was/were part of Delhi Sultanate?

1. Shah Dynasty
2. Slave Dynasty
3. Sayyid's Dynasty

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: Five different dynasties—the Slave, the Khalji, the Tughlaq, the Sayyids, and the Lodhi's are collectively referred to as the Delhi Sultanate.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Which of the following dynasty was also called as “Mameluk dynasty”?

- a) Slave dynasty
- b) Khilji dynasty
- c) Lodhi dynasty
- d) Sayyid's dynasty

ANS: A

Explanation: The Slave dynasty was also called the Mameluk dynasty. 'Mameluk' was the Arabic word meaning 'owned', used to distinguish the important Turkish slaves chiefly meant for military service from the lower slaves, who were used as domestic labour or artisans.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Who among the following was called as “Lakh Baksh”?

- a) Qutbuddin Aibak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Balban
- d) Tajuddin Yalduz

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: Poonam Dahiya

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

1. He belongs to Qutbi dynasty.
2. He shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi.

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: Iltutmish (c.1210–1236 CE): The real consolidator of Turkish rule in India. He belonged to the Ilbari tribe and hence his dynasty also known as the Ilbari dynasty.

- Legends describe that his half-brothers sold him as a slave to Aibak, who made him his-son-in-law by giving his daughter in marriage to him.
- Later, Aibak appointed him as the Iqtadar of Gwalior. After becoming Sultan, he shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following was organized the “turkan-i-chahalgani”?

- a) Qutbuddin Aibak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Balban
- d) Tajuddin Yalduz

ANS: B

Explanation: Iltutmish organized 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: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) The “sijada and paibos” customs were brought by?

- a) Balban
- b) Raziya Sultan
- c) Iltutmish
- d) Nasiruddin Mahmud

ANS: A

Explanation: Balban introduced rigorous court discipline and new customs such as sijada (prostration) and paibos (kissing the Sultan’s feet) to prove his superiority over the nobles.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Which of the following ordinance/s was/were passed by the Alauddin Khilji?

1. Confiscating the properties of the nobles.
2. The use of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited.
3. Social gatherings and festivities without the permission of Sultan were forbidden.

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: According to Barani, the author of Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, Alauddin was convinced that the general prosperity of the nobles, inter-marriages between noble families, inefficient spy-system, and drinking liquor, were the basic reasons for the rebellions. Therefore, he passed four ordinances.

- He confiscated the properties of the nobles.
- The intelligence system was re-organised and all the secret activities of the nobles were immediately reported to the Sultan.
- The use of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited.
- Social gatherings and festivities without the permission of Sultan were forbidden.

By such harsh measures, his reign was free from rebellions.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Which of the following was/were constructed by the Alauddin Khilji?

1. Alai Darwaza
2. Hauz Khas
3. Alai Minar

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: Although the Sultan Alauddin was illiterate, he patronized poets like Amir Khusrau and Mir Hasan Dehlvi.

He also built a famous gateway known as Alai Darwaza, Hauz Khas, Mahal Hazaar Satoon, Jamait Khana Mosque, Alai Minar, and constructed a new capital at Siri.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Alauddin was the first Sultan to have a large permanent standing army and paid them in cash.
2. Chehra and Dagh System were introduced by Alauddin.

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: Alauddin was the first Sultan to have a large permanent standing army and paid them in cash from the royal treasury.

- He imported horses and according to historian Ferishta, he recruited 4,75,000 cavalymen.
- An innovative Chehra and Dagh System were introduced by him wherein the Chehra (detailed description of each soldier) and Dagh (branding of horses) was maintained.
- In order to ensure maximum efficiency, a strict review of the army from time to time was carried out.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

- a) Spies
- b) Personal bodyguards
- c) Farmers
- d) Slaves

ANS: A

Explanation: To ensure implementation, each market was under the control of a superintendent called Shahna-i- Mandi who was assisted by an intelligence officer.

Apart from Shahna-i-Mandi, Alauddin received daily reports of the market from two other independent sources, barids (intelligence officer) and munhiyans (secret spies).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – Delhi Sultanate

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

1. Yadavas of Bihar
2. Kakatiyas of Warangal
3. Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra

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: Conquest of Deccan and South India: This region was ruled by four important dynasties – Yadavas of Devagiri, Kakatiyas of Warangal, Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra, and the Pandyas of Madurai.

The expeditions to the south were sent under Malik Kafur, a trusted commander of Alauddin who held the office of the Naib.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) The term “barids” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Intelligence officers
- b) Farmers sowing on kings lands
- c) Domestic slaves
- d) Prisoners of war

ANS: A

Explanation: To ensure implementation, each market was under the control of a superintendent called Shahna-i- Mandi who was assisted by an intelligence officer.

Apart from Shahna-i-Mandi, Alauddin received daily reports of the market from two other independent sources, barids (intelligence officer) and munhiyans (secret spies).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following measure/s was/were taken by Alauddin Khilji?

1. The department of Diwani Riyasat was created by him.
2. No hoarding was allowed and even during the famine the same price was maintained.
3. The sale of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited and gambling was banned.

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 supply of grain was ensured by holding stocks in government store houses. Regulations were issued to fix the price of all commodities.

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- No hoarding was allowed and even during the famine the same price was maintained.
- A separate department called Diwani Riyasat was created under an officer called Naib-i-Riyasat.
- Every merchant was registered under the Market Department.
- The sale of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited and gambling too was banned.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Alauddin Khalji was the first Sultan of Delhi who ordered for the measurement of land.
2. Land revenue was collected in cash in order to enable the Sultan to pay the soldiers in cash.

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: Alauddin Khalji was the first Sultan of Delhi who ordered for the measurement of land. Even the big landlords could not escape from paying land tax.

- Land revenue was collected in cash in order to enable the Sultan to pay the soldiers in cash.
- The state officials measured the cultivated land and fixed land revenue accordingly. Biswa was the standard unit of measurement.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) The term “Kismat-i-Khuti” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Headman’s cess
- b) Pasture tax
- c) Pilgrimage tax
- d) Temple tax

ANS: A

Explanation: State demand was one fifth of the produce and along with it house tax (Grahi) and pasture tax (Chari) were imposed, but Kismat-i-Khuti (Headman’s cess) was abolished.

- His land revenue reforms provided a basis for the future reforms of Sher Shah and Akbar.
- He centralized administration and even confiscated religious endowments and free lands (Inam and Wakt).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Which of the following dynasty was known as “Quaraunah Turks”?

- a) Slave dynasty
- b) Khilji dynasty
- c) Tughlaq dynasty
- d) Sayyid’s dynasty

ANS: C

Explanation: The Tughlaqs were also known as the Quaraunah Turks as the father of Ghazi Malik was a Qaraunah Turk in origin.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq:

- 1. He was the first sultan to start irrigation works.
- 2. He built a strong fort called Tughlaqabad near Delhi.

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: Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (c.1320–25 CE): Founder of the Tughlaq dynasty and the first Sultan to take the title of Ghazi/ Slayer of Infidels.

- First sultan to start irrigation works. Built a strong fort called Tughlaqabad near Delhi.
- Dispatched his son, Jauna Khan /Mohammad Bin Tughlaq, to re-establish authority in Warangal (Kakatiyas) and Madurai (Pandayas).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) The “Diwan-i-amir-i-kohi” department was established by Mohammad Bin Tughlaq was related to?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Army
- c) Communications
- d) Revenue

ANS: A

Explanation: Mohammad Bin Tughlaq set up a new department of Agriculture, Diwan-i-amir-i-kohi.

- He launched a scheme by which takkavi loans (loans for cultivation) were given to the farmers to buy seed and to extend cultivation.
- A model farm under the state was created in an area of 64 square miles, for which the government spent seventy lakh tankas.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Who among the following sultan was chosen as Sultan by the nobles?

- a) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
- b) Mohammad Bin Tughlaq
- c) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
- d) Nasiruddin Muhammad

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.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

- a) Irrigation tax
- b) Hoarding tax
- c) Slave tax
- d) Pasture tax

ANS: A

Explanation: Firoz Shah Tughlaq was the first Sultan to impose Sharb (irrigation tax).

But at the same time, he built number of canals and also set up a separate department of public works.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – Provincial Kingdoms of Deccan & Southern India

Q.1) The famous duo “Harihara & Bukka” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Bahamanis kingdom
- b) Vijayanagara Kingdom
- c) Kandesh kingdom
- d) Malwa Kingdom

ANS: B

Explanation: Harihara and Bukka (c.1336–1377 CE): Founders of the Sangama dynasty of Vijayanagar kingdom.

- According to legends, they belonged to a family of five brothers and were originally feudatories of the Kakatiyas of Warangal and after their fall, they served as ministers in the Kampili state (modern Karnataka).
- When Kampala was overrun by Muhammad bin Tughlaq for giving refuge to a Muslim rebel, the two brothers 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 to commemorate the memory of their guru, the brothers founded a new city of Vidyanagar or Vijayanagara (meaning city of victory) on the south bank of river Tungabhadra.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) The term “Pattanulkars” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Silk weavers
- b) Agriculturalists
- c) Gold smiths
- d) City administrators

ANS: A

Explanation: There were well-established trade and commerce networks, and regular migration of artisans occurred from one region to another, as evident in the migration of the silk weavers — Pattanulkars — from the Gujarat region to the Vijayanagar state in the 15th century.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Arrange the dynasties of Vijayanagara Kingdom in chronological order:

1. Sangama
2. Saluva
3. Tuluva

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Vijayanagar kingdom constituted four dynasties — Sangama (c.1336–1485 CE), Saluva (c.1485–1503 CE), Tuluva (c.1503–1570 CE) and Aravidu (till the end of the 17th century).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

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

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: There are varied sources for the study of the Vijayanagar kingdom, such as literary and archaeological sources, as well as numismatics. Krishnadevaraya's Amukthamalyada, Gangadevi's Maduravijayam, and Allasani Peddanna's Manucharitam are some of the indigenous literature of this period.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following traveler was from Persia?

- a) Abdur Razzak
- b) Ibn Batuta
- c) Domingo Paes
- d) Nicolo de Conti

ANS: A

Explanation: Many foreign travelers' valuable accounts on the socioeconomic conditions of the Vijayanagar kingdom are also available, since they visited the Vijayanagar kingdom. This includes the Moroccan Ibn Batuta, Venetian Nicolo de Conti, Persian Abdur Razzak, and the Portuguese Domingo Paes.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) The famous “Hazare Rama temple” was constructed by which of the following?

- a) Deva Raya I
- b) Harihara II
- c) Bukka Raya
- d) Hasan Gangu

ANS: A

Explanation: The noted Hazare Rama temple, an excellent example of Deccan architecture, was constructed during Deva Raya I rule.

The credit for making the capital city of the Vijayanagar kingdom one of the biggest cities in the 15th century goes to him.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Who among the following poet/s was/were present at the court of Deva Raya II?

- 1. Srinatha
- 2. Gunda Dimdima
- 3. Bilhana

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: Some of the most noted Kannada poets of the medieval period, such as Chamarasa and Kumara Vyasa gained patronage of Deva Raya II.

The Sanskrit poet Gunda Dimdima, and gifted Telugu poet Kavisarvabhauma (Emperor among Poets) Srinatha, author of Haravilasam, was also present at his court.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) The famous traveler “Ferno Nuniz” came to vijayanagara kingdom during the reign of?

- a) Krishna Deve Raya
- b) Achyuta Deva Raya
- c) Vira Narasimha Raya
- d) Deva Raya II

ANS: B

Explanation: Achyuta Deva Raya (c.1529 –1542 CE): Was the younger brother of Krishna Deva Raya, who handpicked him to be his successor. A Portuguese traveller, Ferno Nuniz, came to India during his reign.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) The battle of “Rakshasa Thangadi” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Vijayanagara kingdom
- b) Hoyasala Kingdom
- c) Pandyan Kingdom
- d) Kakatiya Kingdom

ANS: A

Explanation: The Deccan states (Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Golkonda and Bidar, except Berar) thus formed a confederacy and inflicted a crushing blow on the Vijayanagar armies at Bannihatti in the battle of Talaikotta in c.1565 CE. This battle is also known as Rakshasa Thangadi.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

- a) Gold smiths
- b) Army officers
- c) Intelligence officers
- d) Temple priests

ANS: B

Explanation: One of the important characteristics of the Vijayanagar administration was the amara- nayaka system.

- The top-grade officers of the army were known as Nayaks or Palaiyagars or Poligars.
- Interestingly, these officers were granted land (called amaram) in lieu of their services while soldiers were usually paid in cash.
- The nayaka was responsible for expanding agricultural activities in his amaram (area).
- He collected taxes in his area and with this income maintained his army, horses, elephants, and weapons of warfare that he had to supply to the raya or the Vijayanagar ruler.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

History – Revision

Q.1) The “amara – nayaka” system was associated with which of the following?

- a) Bahamanis kingdom
- b) Vijayanagara Kingdom
- c) Kandesh kingdom
- d) Malwa Kingdom

ANS: B

Explanation: One of the important characteristics of the Vijayanagar administration was the amara- nayaka system.

- The top-grade officers of the army were known as Nayaks or Palaiyagars or Poligars.
- Interestingly, these officers were granted land (called amaram) in lieu of their services while soldiers were usually paid in cash.
- The nayaka was responsible for expanding agricultural activities in his amaram (area).
- He collected taxes in his area and with this income maintained his army, horses, elephants, and weapons of warfare that he had to supply to the raya or the Vijayanagar ruler.
- The nayaka was also the commander of the forts.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Which of the following dynasty of vijayanagara kingdom were the followers of Shaivaites?

- a) Sangama
- b) Saluva
- c) Tuluva
- d) Aravidu

ANS: A

Explanation: The Sangama rulers were chiefly Shaivaites and Virupaksha was their family deity while other dynasties were Vaishnavites.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following is/are the characteristic/s of vijayanagara architecture?

1. Raya gopurams
2. Kalayana mandapam
3. Horse motif on pillars

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 temple building activity further gained momentum during the Vijayanagar rule.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, [FOURTH WEEK] 2023

- The chief characteristics of the Vijayanagar architecture were the construction of tall Raya Gopurams or gateways and the Kalyanamandapam with carved pillars in the temple premises.
- The sculptures on the pillars were carved with distinctive features. The horse was the most common motif found on these pillars.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following temple/s was/were constructed under vijayanagara style?

1. Vittalaswamy
2. Ekamparanatha
3. Varadharaja

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 most important temples of the Vijayanagar style were found in the Hampi ruins or the city of Vijayanagar.

- Vittalaswamy and Hazara Ramaswamy temples were the best examples of this style.
- The Varadharaja and Ekamparanatha temples at Kanchipuram stand as examples for the magnificence of the Vijayanagara style of temple architecture.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following was the founder of the “Bahamani Sultanate” kingdom?

- a) Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah
- b) Muhammad Shah I
- c) Taj-ud-din Firoz Shah
- d) Ahmah Shah Wali

ANS: A

Explanation: Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah (c.1347–58 CE): Founder of the Bahmani Sultanate who was an Afghan adventurer, who began his career as a general serving under the Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Which of the following was/were part of “Deccan Sultanates”?

1. Nizam Shahis of Ahmadnagar
2. Qutb Shahis of Golconda
3. Barid Shahis of Bidar

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 c.1518 CE, the Sultanate broke up into five states: the Nizam Shahis of Ahmadnagar, the Adil Shahis of Bijapur, the Qutb Shahis of Golconda, and the Imad Shahis of Berar and the Barid Shahis of Bidar, which are collectively known as the “Deccan Sultanates”.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Which of the following state built the world's second largest dome (Gol Gumbaz)?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Adil Shahis of Bijapur: Founded by Yusuf Adil Shah. Mohd. Adil Shah built the world's second largest dome (Gol Gumbaz of Bijapur).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding "Amir Khusrau":

- 1. He introduced many new ragas such as Ghora and Sanam.
- 2. He evolved a new style of light music known as qawwalis by blending the Hindu and Iranian systems.

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: New musical instruments such as the sarangi and the rabab were introduced during this period.

- Amir Khusrau introduced many new ragas such as Ghora and Sanam.
- He evolved a new style of light music known as qawwalis by blending the Hindu and Iranian systems.
- The invention of sitar is also attributed to him.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Which of the following was/were the historian/s of "Delhi Sultanate" period?

- 1. Hasan Nizami
- 2. Minhaj-us-Siraj
- 3. Ziauddin Barani

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 Delhi Sultans patronised learning and literature. Many of them had great love for Arabic and Persian literature.

- The most famous historians of this period were Hasan Nizami, Minhaj-us-Siraj, Ziauddin Barani, and Shams Siraj Afif.
- Barani's Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi contains the history of Tughlaq dynasty.

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- Minhaj-us- Siraj wrote Tabaqat-i-Nasari, a general history of Muslim dynasties up to c.1260 CE.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) Who among the following created a new style of poetry “Sabaq- i-Hind”?

- Amir Khusrau
- Minhaj-us- Siraj
- Hasan Nizami
- Ziauddin Barani

ANS: A

Explanation: Amir Khusrau (c.1252–1325 CE) was the most famous Persian writer of this period. He wrote a number of poems.

He experimented with several poetical forms and created a new style of Persian poetry called Sabaq- i-Hind or the Indian style.

Source: Poonam Dahiya