

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

3rd Week Dec, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



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History – Pre Historic India

Q.1) Which of the following is/are form/s the archaeological source of information?

1. Geological sediments
2. Stone tools
3. Rock paintings

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Archaeological sources form the bedrock of information for us to understand this long span of time in Indian history.

They include archaeological sites, geological sediments, animal bones and fossils, stone tools, bone tools, rock paintings and artifacts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are considered as floral evidence?

1. Charred seeds
2. Pollens
3. Phytoliths

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The faunal (animal) and floral (plant) sources are important for understanding the relationship of the Stone Age people with their environment.

Floral evidence found in the form of charred seeds, pollens and phytoliths (plant stones) helps us to gain knowledge of farming practiced by Stone Age people.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following language/s is/are flourished in India?

1. Indo – Aryan
2. Dravidian
3. Austro – Asiatic

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Language is another important source of history.

- Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burman language families have flourished in India.

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- These languages developed and evolved during the various phases of migrations in Indian history.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The period before the development of script is called the pre-historic times.
2. The earliest human ancestor species to migrate out of Africa was the Homo erectus.

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 period before the development of script is called the pre-historic times. It is also referred to as the Stone Age.

- Human ancestors are likely to have first evolved in Africa and later migrated to different parts of the world.
- The earliest human ancestor species to migrate out of Africa was the Homo erectus.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The “animal and plant domestication” took place in which of the following period?

- a) Upper Paleolithic
- b) Mesolithic
- c) Neolithic
- d) Bronze age

ANS: C

Explanation: The period after the Old Stone Age (Paleolithic) is called the Mesolithic Age.

- The period that followed the Mesolithic is called the Neolithic Age.
- This is the age in which animal and plant domestication developed, leading to food production.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The first Paleolithic tools were identified by Robert Foote at the site of?

- a) Pallavarm
- b) Theni
- c) Hampi
- d) Golconda

ANS: A

Explanation: The first Paleolithic tools were identified at the site of Pallavaram near Chennai by Robert Bruce Foote in 1863.

He found many prehistoric sites when he extensively surveyed different parts of South India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following tool/s is/are mainly found in Acheulian industry?

1. Hand axes
2. Cleavers
3. Choppers

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

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

- Acheulian industry mainly had hand axes and cleavers.
- The Sohan industry is considered to have used only chopper and chopping tools.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) In which of the following place/s is/are lower Paleolithic tool/s found?

1. Isampur
2. Bhimbetka
3. Gudiyam

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The only well-known hominin fossil of India was found at?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Assam
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: A

Explanation: Unlike Africa, evidence of hominin [immediate ancestor of Homo sapiens] fossil is rare in India.

- There is a report of a fossil fragment discovered by Robert Bruce Foote from Athirampakkam. Its whereabouts are not known now.
- The only well-known hominin fossil of India was found at Hathnora near Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh. The cranium is named Narmada human.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following is NOT a site of Mesolithic industry?

- a) Paisra
- b) Langhnaj
- c) Chopani Mando
- d) Lothal

ANS: D

Explanation: Mesolithic sites in India are found in Paisra (Bihar), Langhnaj (Gujarat), Baghor II, Chopani Mando, Sarai Nahar Rai, Mahadaha and Damdama (all in Uttar Pradesh), Sankanakallu and Kibbanahalli (Karnataka).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Harappan Civilization – Bronze Age

Q.1) The early evidence of Neolithic culture was/were found in which of the following place/s?

1. Fertile Crescent region of Egypt
2. Mesopotamia
3. The Ganges valley of India

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

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

Early evidence of Neolithic culture is found in the Fertile Crescent region of Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Indus region, the Ganges valley of India and also in China.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are Neolithic site/s of India?

1. Mehrgarh
2. Rana Ghundai
3. Sarai Kala

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Neolithic culture of north-western India is the earliest to have evidence of plant and animal domestication in India.

- Mehrgarh, Rana Ghundai, Sarai Kala and Jalilpur are some of the Neolithic sites.
- These sites are now situated in Pakistan.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Indus Civilization represents the first phase of urbanization in India.
2. The Indus valley site of Harappa was first visited by Charles Mason in 1826.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indus Civilization represents the first phase of urbanization in India.

The Indus valley site of Harappa was first visited by Charles Mason in 1826 and Amri by Alexander Burnes in 1831.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following archaeological site/s is/are located at Gujarat?

1. Lothal
2. Surkotada
3. Banawali

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following is/are the feature/s of Harappan Civilization?

1. Fortification
2. Planned Streets
3. Drainages

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Fortification, well planned streets and lanes and drainages are noticed in the Harappan towns.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding harappan urban planning:

1. The towns had a grid pattern and drainages were systematically built.
2. The houses were built of mud bricks while the drainages were built with burnt bricks.

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 Harappans used baked and unbaked bricks, and stones for construction.

The towns had a grid pattern and drainages were systematically built.

The houses were built of mud bricks while the drainages were built with burnt bricks. Houses had more than one floor.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following crop/s is/are grown in "Harappan area"?

1. Wheat
2. Barley
3. Lentil

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Agriculture was an important source of subsistence for the Harappans.

The Harappans cultivated diverse crops such as wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, sesame and various millets.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following craft making is/are found in harappan area?

1. Bead and ornament making
2. Shell bangle making
3. Metalworking

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Craft production was an important part of the Harappan economy.

Bead and ornament making, shell bangle making and metalworking were the major crafts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The “Lapis Lazuli” material is found in which of the following site?

- a) Shortughai
- b) Lothal
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Balakot

ANS: A

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) In which of the following place/s harappan seal/s is/are found?

- 1. Oman
- 2. Iran
- 3. Iraq

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Harappan seals and materials have been found in the Sumerian sites in Oman, Bahrain, and Iraq and Iran.

The cuneiform inscriptions mention the trade contacts between Mesopotamia and Harappans.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Vedic Age

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The Vedas are one of the earliest known texts to have been composed in India.
2. The language of the Vedas is described as prakrit.

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 Vedas (Vid = to know, Vidya) are one of the earliest known texts to have been composed in India. The language of the Vedas is described as Vedic Sanskrit.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding "vedic literature":

1. The Vedic texts were memorized and orally transmitted by Brahmins from generation to generation.
2. The earliest known written manuscripts of the Vedas date to the 10-11th century CE.

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 Vedas are four: Rig is the oldest and the others being Yajur, Sama and Atharva.

- The Vedic texts were memorized and orally transmitted by Brahmins from generation to generation.
- They were written down in the later period, after the introduction of writing.
- The earliest known written manuscripts of the Vedas date to the 10-11th century CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following text is deal with the philosophical enquiry?

- a) Brahmana
- b) Samhita
- c) Upanishads
- d) Aranyaka

ANS: C

Explanation: Upanishads deal with philosophical enquiries.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following Veda has contains the charms and magical spells?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Atharva Veda contains charms and magical spells.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following Veda has considered as the basis of Indian music?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Sama Veda was composed in musical notes which are considered to constitute the basis of Indian music.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The “Zend Avesta” is associated with which of the following?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Zend Avesta is a Persian/Iranian text of Zoroastrianism.

- This book speaks about the lands and gods of the people speaking the Indo-Iranian languages.
- It has references to the regions of northern and north-western parts of India.
- It has terms which show linguistic similarity with the Vedas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following animal/s is/are domesticated by Chalcolithic people?

- 1. Buffaloes
- 2. Pigs
- 3. Sheep

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Chalcolithic people also began to domesticate animals in addition to agriculture.

- They had cattle, sheep, pigs and goats and buffaloes.
- Evidence has been found of turtles and fowls in their settlements.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The famous megalithic site “Adichanallur” is located at?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Adichanallur, 22 km from Tirunelveli, is located in Thoothukudi district. In 1876, a German ethnologist and naturalist, Andrew Jagor conducted an excavation at Adichanallur.

He carried with him samples of backed earthenware, utensils of all sizes and shapes, a considerable number of iron weapons and implements, and great quantities of bones and skulls.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Mahajanapadas

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Aryans used domesticated horses and chariots.
2. Aryans practiced agriculture and pastoralism.

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: From the Vedas it is evident that Aryans used domesticated horses and chariots.

- Their chariots had spoked wheels and they used bows and arrows. They practiced agriculture and pastoralism.
- They buried and also cremated the dead. The cult of fire and the use of soma drink were prevalent among the speakers of the Indo Aryan languages.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following metal helped to pave the growth of urbanization and mahajanpadas?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Aryans began migrating eastwards from about 1000 BCE. As they moved eastwards, they encountered thick forests.

- Iron played a significant role in the clearing of the forest. The fertile soil of the Gangetic valley and the use of iron ploughshares improved agricultural productivity.
- Iron also played a big role in improving craft production such as pottery, carpentry and metal working. This in turn paved the way for urbanization.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The "Arrian texts of literary sources" is associated with which of the following?

- a) Greek
- b) Roman
- c) Persian
- d) Anatolians

ANS: A

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following ancient city/town is a centre for trade and commerce?

- a) Taxila
- b) Vaishali
- c) Kaushambi
- d) Champa

ANS: A

Explanation: Agricultural surplus, the growth of crafts and trade, and the growing population led to the emergence of towns in the Gangetic plains.

This is called the second urbanization in Indian history after the first urbanization evident in the Harappan Civilization.

Different types of towns came into being:

- (i) Political and administrative centers such as Rajgriha, Shravasti, Kaushambi and Champa
- (ii) Centers of trade and commerce such as Ujjain and Taxila
- (iii) Holy centers such as Vaishali.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following element/s was/were found in mahajanapadas?

- 1. People
- 2. Territory
- 3. Sovereignty

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Territory, people, government and sovereignty are important elements of a state.

- All these elements were found in some of the mahajanapadas.
- The mahajanapadas represented the emergence of territorial kingdoms that ruled over people (jana).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following mahajanpada was gana sanghas or oligarchy?

- a) Vrijji
- b) Matsya
- c) Puru
- d) Avanti

ANS: A

Explanation: The proto-states of the Gangetic region were known as janapadas and comprised chiefdoms, republics and small kingdoms.

- Sixteen mahajanapadas find mention in the early texts. There were also gana sanghas or oligarchies, which were centred on clans.
- The Vrijjis were one of the best known of the gana-sanghas, and Vaishali was their capital in the Mithila region.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The mahajanapadas on the Gangetic plains were all monarchies.
2. The kingdoms were governed by kings and the administration was decentralized.

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

- The priestly class enjoyed a preeminent status in the mahajanapadas unlike in the gana-sanghas.
- The kingdoms were governed by kings and the administration was centralized.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following was/were considered “homeless wanderers” of longstanding (chira-pabbajito), founders of sects (tithakaro) and leaders of their orders (ganachariyo)?

1. Purana Kassapa
2. Makkhali Gosala
3. Pakudha Kachchayana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: A Buddhist text, Samannaphala Sutta, while making a reference to Ajatashatru of Magadha meeting Gautama Buddha, mentions that before his meeting, the former had a philosophical discourse with the leaders of the various sects such as Purana Kassapa, Makkhali Gosala, Ajita Kesakambalin, Pakudha Kachchayana, Sanjaya Belatthiputta and Nigantha Nataputta (Mahavira).

They are described as “homeless wanderers” of longstanding (chira-pabbajito), founders of sects (tithakaro) and leaders of their orders (ganachariyo).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Who among the following was/were associated with “Ajivika sect”?

1. Nanda Vaccha
2. Kisa Samkicca
3. Makkhali Gosala

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following has/have the reference/s of Ajivika doctrine?

1. Manimekalai
2. Nilakesi
3. Sivagnanasiddhiyar

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Manimekalai, Nilakesi and Sivagnanasiddhiyar have references to Ajivika doctrine.

- Nilakesi's quest for truth takes her to Buddha and Puranan.
- Puranan was the leader of the Ajivika sect.
- The Cholas are known to have levied a tax on the Ajivikas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Mahajanapadas & Indo – Gangetic Plain

Q.1) Which of the following mahajanapada is a gana sangha?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: It should be noted that the most powerful states in the 6th century were Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, and Avanti and two of the Mahajanapads, the Vajji and Malla were Gana-Sanghas.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding "gana sanghas":

1. The chief office was not hereditary and was known as Ganapati or Ganaraja.
2. The power was vested in an aristocratic council comprising heads of leading Kshatriya families.

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: Gana Sanghas: The chief office was not hereditary and was known as Ganapati or Ganaraja.

The power was vested in an aristocratic council comprising heads of leading Kshatriya families and the authority structure of ganas had greater elements of tribal organisation.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) The famous “Bimbisara” was belongs to which of the following dynasty?

- a) Haryanka dynasty
- b) Shishunaga dynasty
- c) Nanda dynasty
- d) Maurya dynasty

ANS: A

Explanation: The political conflict among the Mahajanapadas ultimately led to the emergence of Magadha as the most powerful state and the centre of a vast empire.

Magadha’s rise to political supremacy began with Bimbisara, who belonged to the Haryanka dynasty, and ruled for 52 years, from 544 to 492 BCE.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Who among the following used the two innovative military weapons Mahashilakantaka and Rathamusala?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Prasenjit
- c) Ajatashatru
- d) Udayabhadra

ANS: C

Explanation: Ajatashatru used two innovative military weapons: War engine, which was used to those stones like catapults (Mahashilakantaka) and Chariot with mace for mass-killing (Rathamusala).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following arranged the first Buddhist council?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Prasenjit
- c) Ajatashatru
- d) Udayabhadra

ANS: C

Explanation: Ajatashatru arranged the first Buddhist council.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Kalasoka”:

1. He belongs to Nanda dynasty.
2. He held second Buddhist 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: B

Explanation: Kalasoka was the son and successor of Shishunaga and belongs to Shishunaga Dynasty.

- Also he was known as Kakarvarna (according to the Puranas).
- Second Buddhist Council held at Vaishali by Kalasoka.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Who among the following was also known as “Ugrasena”?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Prasenjit
- c) Ajatashatru
- d) Mahapadma Nanda

ANS: D

Explanation: Mahapadma Nanda also called Ugrasena in Pali texts, because of his large army.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Who among the following was credited with the invention of Nandopakramani?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Prasenjit
- c) Dhanananda
- d) Mahapadma Nanda

ANS: C

Explanation: Dhanananda was credited with the invention of Nandopakramani (a particular measuring standard).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Which of the following is/are major item/s of import to mahajanapadas?

1. Jade
2. Silver
3. Gold

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The internal trade routes joined the external trade routes, and there are evidences of flourishing trade of the subcontinent along both eastern (Bengal with Myanmar) and western (Taxila with Afghanistan, Iran and Mesopotamia) regions.

The major items of import included precious stones such as gold, lapis lazuli, jade, silver, etc., while finished crafts, textile goods, sandalwood, and pearls were major items of export.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

- a) Slaves
- b) Iron smiths
- c) Custom officials
- d) Farmers

ANS: C

Explanation: Pali texts also mention sea travel and trade. Custom officials (Kammikas) and Toll officials (Shaulkika/Shulkadhyaksha) levied taxes on merchandise, and special royal officials called Rajabhatas were deputed to safeguard the lives and property of travellers.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The terms “Nishka and Satamana” were associated with which of the following?

- a) Custom officials
- b) Iron smiths
- c) Currency denominations
- d) Village heads

ANS: C

Explanation: Trade was facilitated by use of money termed Nishka and Satamana.

The earliest coins are punch-marked (called so as pieces of metals were punched with certain marks such as hill, tree, bull, fish, crescent, elephant, etc.) and made of silver, though a few copper coins are also found.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Buddhism & Jainism

Q.1) Who among the following was/were renounced the world and wandered across the Gangetic plains?

- 1. Gosala
- 2. Mahavira
- 3. Ajita Kesakambalin

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: In the sixth and fifth centuries before the Common Era, north India underwent a remarkable intellectual awakening that profoundly impacted India and influenced its culture in subsequent millennia as well. The impact also swept across South Asia.

This awakening was the outcome of questioning the existing philosophy by a host of heterodox thinkers. Gosala, Gautama Buddha, Mahavira, Ajita Kesakambalin and other thinkers renounced the world and

wandered across the Gangetic plains, contemplating and reflecting on the social and cultural scenario of their times.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are cause/s of intellectual awakening in 6th century BC?

1. State formation and the rigidity of the Vedic religion constrained the liberty of thought and action.
2. The emergence of territorial identities accelerated the process of socio political and economic changes.
3. The Vedic religion was not fully organized.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

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

- State formation and the rigidity of the Vedic religion constrained the liberty of thought and action. A revolt against religious practice of following dogmas found its articulation in heterodox sects.
- The emergence of territorial identities accelerated the process of sociopolitical and economic changes.
- The elite class, disillusioned with the system in place, began to move in protest towards the heterodox religions blossoming in Magadha or middle Ganges plains.
- As the Vedic religion was not fully organized, its reach did not permeate into the society and hence people did not find it difficult to follow the newly emerging religious sects.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The text, "Samannaphala Sutta" was related to which of the following?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Ajivika
- d) Brahmanism

ANS: A

Explanation: A Buddhist text, Samannaphala Sutta, while making a reference to Ajatashatru of Magadha meeting Gautama Buddha, mentions that before his meeting, the former had a philosophical discourse with the leaders of the various sects such as Purana Kassapa, Makkhali Gosala, Ajita Kesakambalin, Pakudha Kachchayana, Sanjaya Belatthiputta and Nigantha Nataputta (Mahavira).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Who among the following was known as "Nigantha Nataputta"?

- a) Mahavira
- b) Pakudha Kachchayana
- c) Purana Kassapa
- d) Sanjaya Belatthiputta

ANS: A

Explanation: A Buddhist text, Samannaphala Sutta, while making a reference to Ajatashatru of Magadha meeting Gautama Buddha, mentions that before his meeting, the former had a philosophical discourse with

the leaders of the various sects such as Purana Kassapa, Makkhali Gosala, Ajita Kesakambalin, Pakudha Kachchayana, Sanjaya Belatthiputta and Nigantha Nataputta (Mahavira).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Who among the following was founder of the Ajivika sect?

- a) Kisa Samkicca
- b) Nanda Vaccha
- c) Makkhali Gosala
- d) Pakudha Kachchayana

ANS: B

Explanation: The Ajivikas are believed to have evolved from one of the many ascetic groups of the times. According to Buddhist records, Nanda Vaccha was considered the founder of the Ajivika sect.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "Ajivika sect":

1. The Ajivikas were naked ascetics.
2. The basic principle of the Ajivikas was niyati or fate.

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: Gosala met Mahavira for the first time in Nalanda and their friendship lasted for six years.

- They separated due to doctrinal differences. Gosala then went to Sravasti, where he was patronised by a rich potter woman called Halahala.
- He believed in the doctrine of reanimation, and criticised and ridiculed the severe austerities of the Vedic ascetics.
- Being rival sects, both the Buddhist and Jaina accounts portray Gosala as a person of vicious character.
- Sravasti was the headquarters of the Ajivika sect. The Ajivikas were naked ascetics.
- The basic principle of the Ajivikas was niyati or fate: they believed that nothing in this world could be changed as everything was predetermined.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following was/were follower/s of materialist thought school?

1. Carvaka
2. Ajita Kesakambalin
3. Gautam Buddha

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: The term "lokayata" signifies materialist thought. Indian materialism has also been named Carvaka after one of the two founders of the school.

Carvaka and Ajita Kesakambalin are said to have established Indian materialism as a formal philosophical system.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The famous text, "Bhagavatisutra" is related to which of the following?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: There was intense rivalry among the various heterodox sects. This is evident from the various religious accounts of the period.

- Buddhist and Jaina texts not only mention other heterodox sects but also belittle them.
- For example, Bhagavatisutra, a Jaina text, provides a poor account of Makkhali Gosala.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The term "Nirgranthas" was associated with which of the following?

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

ANS: B

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Who among the following is NOT associated with Jainism?

- a) Risabha
- b) Ajitanatha
- c) Aristanemi
- d) Nilakesi

ANS: D

Explanation: According to Jaina tradition, Risabha was the founder of the sect.

- He is considered the first Tirthankara.
- Yajur Veda mentions three of the Tirthankaras, viz., Risabha, Ajitanatha and Aristanemi.
- Mahavira organized his members into monastic and lay followers.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding "Vardhamana Mahavira":

1. He was born in Magadha.
2. He was a member of the ruling family of a gana-sangha.

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

He was a member of the ruling family of a gana-sangha and his father Siddhartha was the chief of the Jnatrika clan.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

1. Acharrangasutra
2. Sutrakritanga
3. Kalpasutra

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Acharrangasutra, Sutrakritanga, and Kalpasutra are the earliest Jaina texts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The most of the early Jaina texts were written in which language?

- Pali
- Prakrit
- Sanskrit
- Ardha-Magadhi

ANS: D

Explanation: 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 statements is/are correct?

- Bhadrabahu was the leader of Svetambaras.
- Sthulabhadra was the leader of Digambaras.
- On the death of Shulabhadra, Bhadrabahu held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

ANS: D

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

- They remained without garments and were known as Digambaras (space-clad or naked).
- Others stayed back under the leadership of Sthulabhadra and adopted a white garment and were known as Svetambaras (white-clad).
- On the death of Bhadrabahu, Shulabhadra held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding "Gautama Buddha":

- He delivered his first sermon in a deer park in Sarnath near Varanasi.
- Parinirvana event was considered as Buddha's death.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: After 49 days of meditation, Buddha 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'.

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- Buddha and his followers travelled for eight months of the year and stayed at a place for four months of the rainy season.
- At the age of 80, he passed away in Kusinagara. This is known as Parinirvana.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Buddhist councils”:

1. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgriha after Buddha’s death.
2. The Second Buddhist Council met at Vaishali a century after Buddha’s death.

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: After the death of Buddha, the tenets and other aspects of Buddhism were decided upon in the councils of Buddhist monks.

- Over a period of time, four Buddhist councils were held. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgriha after Buddha’s death.
- The Second Buddhist Council met at Vaishali a century after Buddha’s death.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is/are sect/s of Buddhism?

1. Sthaviravadins
2. Mahasanghikas
3. Sarvastivadins

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Nalanda University was an important centre of Buddhist learning and was patronised by the Palas.
2. The Vikramasila University in Bihar was an important centre of Vajrayana Buddhism.

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: Mahayana or the Great Vehicle became popular and influential in India.

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- Nalanda University was an important centre of Buddhist learning and was patronised by the Palas. It spread to China and Japan.
- The Vikramasila University in Bihar was an important centre of Vajrayana Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The Buddhist texts were compiled in Pali.
2. The Pali canons are called as the Tripitakas.

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 Buddhist texts were compiled in Pali. The Pali canons are called as the Tripitakas (Three Baskets).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Vinaya Pitaka deals with monastic rules and moral disciplines.
2. Sutta Pitaka dwells upon discourses and teachings of Buddha.

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: Vinaya Pitaka deals with monastic rules and moral disciplines. Sutta Pitaka dwells upon discourses and teachings of Buddha. Abhidhamma Pitaka expounds Buddhist philosophy.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT