

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

4th Week Dec, 2023

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

FORUMIAS



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The Mauryan Empire

Q.1) Which of the following is/are sect/s of Buddhism?

1. Tantrayana
2. Sahajayana
3. Vajrayana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Buddhism faced divisions from time to time. Division into various splinter groups like 'Hinayana', 'Mahayana', 'Vajrayana', 'Tantrayana' and 'Sahajayana' led Buddhism to lose its originality.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Who among the following is NOT part of the Mauryan Empire?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Chandragupta
- c) Bindusara
- d) Ashoka

ANS: A

Explanation: Bimbisara, who was a contemporary of Buddha, started the process of empire building. It was strengthened by his son Ajatashatru and then by the Nandas.

- The empire reached its glory and peaked with the advent of the Mauryan Empire founded by Chandragupta Maurya.
- The first three Mauryan emperors, Chandragupta, Bindusara and Ashoka, were the best known. After Ashoka, the Mauryan Empire went into decline.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The "Brahmi script" was deciphered by which of the following?

- a) Alexander Cunningham
- b) James Prinsep
- c) Bruce Foote
- d) Max Muller

ANS: B

Explanation: In fact, the reconstruction of the Mauryan period to a great extent became possible only after the Brahmi script of the inscriptions at Sanchi was deciphered by James Prinsep in 1837.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) The terms “devanampiya and piyadassi” were associated with?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Bindusara
- c) Padma Nanda
- d) Ashoka

ANS: D

Explanation: Puranic and Buddhist texts referred to a chakravartin named Ashoka.

As more edicts were deciphered, the decisive identification that devananampiya piyadassi was Ashoka was made in 1915.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The play “Mudrarakshasa” was written by which of the following?

- a) Rudradaman
- b) Pushyagupta
- c) Visakhadatta
- d) Nagarjuna

ANS: C

Explanation: The play Mudrarakshasa by Visakhadatta was written during the Gupta period, sometime after the 4th century CE.

It narrates Chandragupta’s accession to the throne of the Magadha Empire and the exploits of his chief advisor Chanakya or Kautilya by listing the strategies he used to counter an invasion against Chandragupta.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

- a) Mahapadma Nanda
- b) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- c) Bindusara
- d) Ashoka

ANS: B

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The Junagadh rock inscription was associated with which of the following?

- a) Mahapadma Nanda
- b) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- c) Bindusara
- d) Bimbisara

ANS: B

Explanation: We know from the Junagadh rock inscription (referred to earlier) that Chandragupta had expanded his empire westward as far as Gujarat.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following king has spent his last years as an ascetic in Chandragiri, near Sravanabelagola, in Karnataka?

- a) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- b) Bindusara
- c) Bimbisara
- d) Ashoka

ANS: A

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following language/s, the Ashokan edicts and inscriptions written?

1. Prakrit
2. Magadhi
3. Greek

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The edicts were written mostly in the Brahmi script and in Magadhi and Prakrit. The Kandahar inscriptions are in Greek and Aramaic, while the two inscriptions in north-west Pakistan are in Kharosthi script.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following inscription mentions lands beyond his borders: "the Chodas (Cholas), the Pandyas, the Satiyaputa, the Keralaputa (Chera), even Tamraparni, the Yona king Antiyoka (Antiochus), and the kings who are the neighbours of this Antioka"?

- a) First inscription
- b) Second inscription
- c) Sixth inscription
- d) Ninth inscription

ANS: B

Explanation: The geographical spread of the edicts essentially defines the extent of the vast empire over which Ashoka ruled.

The second inscription mentions lands beyond his borders: "the Chodas (Cholas), the Pandyas, the Satiyaputa, the Keralaputa (Chera), even Tamraparni, the Yona king Antiyoka (Antiochus), and the kings who are the neighbours of this Antioka".

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Political & Cultural Developments in 200 BCE to 200 AD

Q.1) Which of the following clan/s was/were attacked/invaded the India after Ashokas death?

1. Indo – Greeks
2. Sakas
3. Kushanas

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 four centuries following the death of Emperor Asoka and the resulting decline of the Mauryan Empire, parts of India were subject to the invasion of the IndoGreeks, Sakas and Kushanas from West and Central Asia.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Around 305 BCE, Chandragupta waged a war against Seleucus and defeated him.
2. Megasthenes was sent to the Mauryan capital Pataliputra as the Greek ambassador.

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: Seleucus Nicator, one of Alexander’s most capable generals, succeeded in making himself the master of a vast territory from Phrygia (Turkey) to the river Indus after 311BCE.

- Within a few years, probably around 305 BCE, Chandragupta waged a war against Seleucus and defeated him.
- Megasthenes was sent to the Mauryan capital Pataliputra as the Greek ambassador.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The term “Yavana” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Arabs
- b) Greeks
- c) Persians
- d) Turkish

ANS: B

Explanation: The term yavana (or yona) for Greeks, which was used throughout India.

- The word was derived from the Persian word yauna, which referred to Greeks.
- In India the term yavana was used to denote all persons of Greek origin, including those of mixed race and even the Phoenicians.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Who among the following was the teacher to Menander regarding Buddhism?

- a) Nagarjuna
- b) Nagasena
- c) Vishakadatta
- d) Kalidasa

ANS: B

Explanation: Menander is mainly remembered as the eponymous hero of the Buddhist text, Milinda-pinha (questions of Milinda), in which he is engaged in a question-and-answer discussion on Buddhism with the teacher Nagasena. He is believed to have become a Buddhist and promoted Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following nomadic tribe/s was/were usurped the power from Indo - Greeks in North West India?

- 1. Mongolians
- 2. Pahlavis
- 3. yueh-chi

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Indo-Greek kingdoms in north-western India were ousted by various nomadic tribes from Central Asia, known as the Sakas (Scythians), Parthians (Pahlavis) and Kushanas (yueh-chi or yuezhi tribes in Chinese).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The famous kshatrpa "Rudradaman" was associated with which of the following?

- a) Sakas
- b) Parthians
- c) Kushans
- d) Indo - Greeks

ANS: A

Explanation: In India, the Sakas became assimilated into Hindu society. They began to adopt Hindu names and religious beliefs, so much so that their coins had representations of Hindu gods on one side.

- The Sakas appointed kshatrapas or satrapas as provincial governors to administer their territories.
- Many of the kshatrapas titled themselves mahakshatrapas and were virtually independent rulers.
- One of the most famous of the Saka kshatrapas was Rudradaman (130–150 CE).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The famous king “Kanishka” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Sakas
- b) Parthians
- c) Kushans
- d) Indo – Greeks

ANS: C

Explanation: The best known of the Kushana kings was Kanishka, who is thought to have ruled from 78 CE till 101 or 102 CE. Ironically, 78 CE is held to be the beginning of the “Saka era” in the Indian calendar.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

- 1. He conducted the fourth Buddhist council.
- 2. He supported the hinayana 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: A

Explanation: Kanishka was an ardent follower of Buddhism and hosted the fourth Buddhist mahasangha or council (the third council had been held in Pataliputra during Asoka’s reign).

By now Mahayana Buddhism had become the dominant sect, and Kanishka supported the missions sent to China to preach Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Kanishka was the patron of Buddhist philosophers such as?

- 1. Asvaghosha
- 2. Parsva
- 3. Vasumitra

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Kanishka was the patron of Buddhist philosophers such as Asvaghosha, Parsva and Vasumitra, as well as the great Buddhist teacher Nagarjuna.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The famous “Buddhacharita” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Asvaghosha
- b) Nagarjuna
- c) Parsva
- d) Vasumitra

ANS: A

Explanation: Asvaghosha is known for his Buddhacharita and is celebrated as the author of the first Sanskrit play, Sariputrprakarana, in nine acts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Early Historic Period of South India

Q.1) The “Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas” were related to which of the following region?

- a) South India
- b) Northwest India
- c) Central India
- d) Northeast India

ANS: A

Explanation: In the Deccan region, encompassing major parts of present day Andhra, Karnataka and Maharashtra, the Satavahanas established a powerful kingdom in the first century BCE.

In the south, the three family ruling houses, the Cholas, the Cheras and the Pandyas were their contemporaries, ruling the fertile parts of Tamizhagam.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following place/s is/are located in Tamil Nadu?

- 1. Arikamedu
- 2. Kodumanal
- 3. Alagankulam

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Excavated materials from ancient sites of Tamil Nadu are Arikamedu, Kodumanal, Alagankulam, and Uraiyur.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The Buddhist site Nagarjunakonda is located at which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Telangana
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

ANS: B

Explanation: Buddhist sites with stupas and chaityas located in Telangana (Nagarjunakonda) and Karnataka regions.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Gatha Saptasati, composed by the Satavahana king Hala in which of the following language?

- a) Pali
- b) Prakrit
- c) Sanskrit
- d) Ardha Magadhi

ANS: B

Explanation: Gatha Saptasati, a Prakrit text composed by the Satavahana king Hala.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The Classical Sangam corpus consists of Tholkappiyam, Ettuththokai and Paththuppattu.
2. Tholkappiyamis the earliest extant Tamil grammatical text dealing with poetry only.

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 Classical Sangam corpus consists of Tholkappiyam, the eight anthologies (Ettuththokai), Paththuppattu.

Tholkappiyam, attributed to Tholkappiyar, is the earliest extant Tamil grammatical text dealing not only with poetry but also the society and culture of the times.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The famous "Peutingerian Table" was associated with which of the following?

- a) Map
- b) Geographical text
- c) History
- d) Poetry

ANS: A

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

- The Periplus of Erythrean Sea, an ancient Greek text of the first century CE.
- A Roman Map called Peutingerian Table.

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- Vienna Papyrus G 40822, a Greek document datable to the second century CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following rock edict of Ashoka mentions about southern kingdoms?

- Rock edict I
- Rock edict II
- Rock edict VI
- Rock edict IX

ANS: B

Explanation: The Asokan edicts (c. 270-30 BCE) present for the first time a picture of the political condition in south India.

Rock Edict II lists the Tamil ruling houses Cholas, Pandyas, Keralaputras and Satiyaputra as neighbour rulers, lying beyond his domain, where he is said to have made provision for two types of medical treatment: medical treatment for both humans and animals.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The famous "Gautamiputra Satakarni" was associated with?

- Kushans
- Sakas
- Parthians
- Satavahanas

ANS: D

Explanation: Gautamiputra Satakarni was the greatest of the Satavahana kings.

He defeated the Shaka ruler Nahapana and reissued the coins of Nahapana with his own royal insignia.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Offering land grants was an important development of the Satavahana times.
2. The beneficiaries of these grants were mostly Buddhists and Brahmins.
3. The Naneghat inscription refers to tax exemptions given to the lands granted to Buddhist monks.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

ANS: C

Explanation: Offering land grants was an important development of the Satavahana times.

- The beneficiaries of these grants were mostly Buddhists and Brahmins.
- The Naneghat inscription refers to tax exemptions given to the lands granted to Buddhist monks.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following is NOT part of “muvendar”?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Though the three Tamil ruling families were known to Asoka in the third century BCE itself, some individual names are known only from the Sangam poems of the first century and later.

Known as muvendar, ‘the three crowned kings’, the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas controlled major agrarian territories, trade routes and towns.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Guptas

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Gupta economic system:

1. Feudalism as an institution began to take root during this period.
2. It has effective guild and overseas trade system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Gupta’s economy featured a strong central government, bringing many kingdoms under its hegemony.

- Feudalism as an institution began to take root during this period.
- With an effective guild system and overseas trade, the Gupta economy boomed.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The “Nitisara, a work on polity addressed to the king” written by?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Kamandaka’s Nitisara, a work on polity addressed to the king (400 CE).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The “Allahabad inscription” was associated with?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Allahabad Pillar inscription – describing Samudragupta’s personality and achievements in 33 lines composed by Harisena and engraved in Sanskrit in Nagari script.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The first ruler of the Gupta Empire was Sri Gupta.
2. The Chandra Gupta I was the son of Sri Gupta.

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 first ruler of the Gupta Empire was Sri Gupta (240–280 CE) who was succeeded by his son Ghatotkacha (280–319 CE).

- Both Sri Gupta and Ghatotkacha are mentioned as Maharajas in inscriptions.
- Chandragupta I, the son of Ghatotkacha, ruled from 319 to 335 CE and is considered to be the first great king of the Gupta Empire.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Samudragupta rule”:

1. The kings of the south and the east were forced to pay homage to Samudragupta.
2. Lanka ruler Meghavarman sent presents and requested permission from Samudragupta to build a Buddhist monastery at Gaya.

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: Four northern kings were conquered mainly in the area around Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh.

- The kings of the south and the east were forced to pay homage, and from the places mentioned, it appears that Samudragupta campaigned down the eastern coast as far as Kanchipuram.
- The relationship with Kushanas is not certain, but with regard to Lanka, its ruler Meghavarman sent presents and requested permission from Samudragupta to build a Buddhist monastery at Gaya.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Who among the following patronized scholars and poets like Harisena and thus promoted Sanskrit literature?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Samudragupta patronised scholars and poets like Harisena and thus promoted Sanskrit literature.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Who among the following was called as “Kaviraja”?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Samudragupta patronised scholars and poets like Harisena and thus promoted Sanskrit literature.

- Though an ardent follower of Vaishnavism, he also patronised the great Buddhist scholar Vasubandhu.
- As a lover of poetry and music, he was given the title “Kaviraja”. His coins bear the insignia of him playing the vina (lute).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following was also known as “Vikramaditya”?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Named after his grandfather, Chandragupta II was a capable ruler, who ruled for 40 years from c. 375 to 415 CE.

He came to power after a succession struggle with his brother Rama Gupta. He is also known as Vikramaditya.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Whose court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: After establishing himself in eastern and western India, Chandragupta II defeated northern rulers like the Huns, Kambojas and Kiratas.

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- He was a great conqueror and an able administrator as well.
- His other names (as mentioned in coins) include Vikrama, Devagupta, Devaraja, Simhavikrama, Vikramaditya and Sakari.
- His court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Who among the following was a lexicographer?

- a) Harisena
- b) Amarasimha
- c) Dhanvantari
- d) Kalidasa

ANS: B

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Buddhism

Q.1) Which of the following is/are common trait/s of Buddhism & Jainism?

1. Charity
2. Frugality
3. Non - violence

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: India witnessed the growth of two great alternative religions: Buddhism and Jainism.

These religions emphasized that true happiness does not lie in material prosperity or performance of rituals, but in non-violence, charity, frugality, and good social conduct.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Buddhist literature is generally divided into canonical and non-canonical texts.
2. Canonical texts are those texts that are directly linked to Gautama 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: Our understanding of Gautama Buddha and various other facets of Buddhism is derived mostly from early Buddhist literature.

- Early Buddhist literature is generally divided into canonical and non-canonical texts.
- Canonical texts are those texts that are directly linked to Gautama Buddha in one way or another.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Milindapanho”:

1. It was written in Prakrit.
2. It consists of a dialogue on various philosophical issues between the Indo-Greek king Milinda/Menander and the monk Nagasena.

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: Some important non-canonical texts are Milindapanho (written in Pali, it consists of a dialogue on various philosophical issues between the Indo-Greek king Milinda/Menander and the monk Nagasena).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) The text “Visuddhimagga” was written by which of the following?

- a) Buddhaghosa
- b) Kalidasa
- c) Nagasena
- d) Nagarjuna

ANS: A

Explanation: Visuddhimagga - The Path to Purity, written by Buddhaghosa, deals with development from purity of discipline to nibanna/enlightenment.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Which of the following Pitaka known as “Buddhavacana”?

- a) Sutta Pitaka
- b) Vinaya Pitaka
- c) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- d) All of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: The Sutta Pitaka (Sutra/Basket of Discourses): This contains the Buddha’s discourses on various doctrinal issues in dialogue form.

These texts are also known as ‘Buddhavacana’ or ‘the word of the Buddha’, as it refers to texts that are supposed to contain what the Buddha himself said.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) The “Alara Kalama and Uddaka Ramaputta” were associated with which of the following?

- a) Gautam Buddha
- b) Mahavira
- c) Gosala
- d) Nagarjuna

ANS: A

Explanation: Gautam Buddha meditated with established teachers of that era – firstly with Alara Kalama and then with Uddaka Ramaputta – but was not convinced with their instructions that man could obtain liberation from sorrow by mental discipline and knowledge only.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Which of the following was/were the wandering ascetic/s?

- 1. Kondanna
- 2. Bhaddiya
- 3. Mahanama

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Later on, Buddha accompanied by five wandering ascetics – Kondanna, Bhaddiya, Vappa, Mahanama, and Assaji – he practiced severe austerities until his body was almost emaciated.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Who among the following was the founder of the Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhism?

- a) Nagasena
- b) Nagarjuna
- c) Kanishka
- d) Asvaghosha

ANS: B

Explanation: Nagarjuna: He is considered to be the founder of the Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhism. He was a friend and contemporary of Satvahana King Gautamiputra of Andhra.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Which of the following school known as “Diamond Vehicle”?

- a) Hinayana
- b) Mahayana
- c) Vajrayana
- d) Mahasanghika

ANS: C

Explanation: Vajrayana: Literally means ‘Vehicle of Thunderbolt’. The Vajrayana or ‘Diamond Vehicle’ is also referred to as Mantrayana, Tantrayana, Tantric, or esoteric Buddhism.

The period of Indian Vajrayana Buddhism has been classified as the final period of Buddhism in India.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) Who among the following was the founder of the “Buddhist logic”?

- a) Buddhaghosa
- b) Asanga
- c) Vasubandhu
- d) Dinnaga

ANS: D

Explanation: Dinnaga: The last mighty intellectual of the fifth century, also well known as the founder of the Buddhist logic.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

The Age of Regional Configurations

Q.1) “A land grant in favour of a Brahmin as well as gifts to merchants for the repair and worship of temples” – describes?

- a) Secular grants
- b) Devagrahara grants
- c) Agrahara grants
- d) All the above

ANS: B

Explanation: Devagrahara grants: A land grant in favour of a Brahmin as well as gifts to merchants for the repair and worship of temples.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The Maithriyas had organised a powerful state in which of the following place?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Assam

ANS: A

Explanation: Maithriyas had organised a powerful state in Sourashtra (Gujarat), with Valabhi as their capital.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The founder of the Vardhana dynasty was Pushyabhuti who ruled from Thaneswar.
2. Pushyabhuti served as a military general under the imperial Guptas and rose to power after the fall of the Guptas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The founder of the Vardhana dynasty was Pushyabhuti who ruled from Thaneswar.

- He served as a military general under the imperial Guptas and rose to power after the fall of the Guptas.
- With the accession of Prabhakara Vardhana (580–605 CE), the Pushyabhuti family became strong and powerful.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) The “king Pulikesin II” was associated with which of the following kingdom?

- a) Maithriyas
- b) Palas
- c) Chalukyas
- d) Cholas

ANS: C

Explanation: Harsha sought to extend his authority southward into the Deccan. However the Chalukya king Pulikesin II, who controlled the region, humbled Harsha.

- In commemoration of his victory over Harsha, Pulikesin assumed the title of “Parameswara”.
- Inscriptions in Pulikesin’s capital Badami attest to this victory.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The king Harsha has hostility towards the king Sasanka belongs to?

- a) Saurashtra
- b) Bengal
- c) Assam
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: B

Explanation: Harsha ruled for 41 years. His feudatories included those of Jalandhar (in the Punjab), Kashmir, Nepal and Valabhi. Sasanka of Bengal remained hostile to him.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The famous rulers “the Palas” were associated with?

- a) Bengal
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Deccan
- d) Cheras

ANS: A

Explanation: The Palas ruled eastern India from Pataliputra between the ninth and the early twelfth centuries.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali languages were used in Pala kingdom.
2. Palas followed Mahayana 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: The Palas ruled eastern India from Pataliputra between the ninth and the early twelfth centuries.

- Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali were the languages in use in their kingdom.
- Palas followed Mahayana Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The famous philosopher “Haribhadra” was associated with?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Palas were great patrons of Mahayana Buddhism. The Buddhist philosopher Haribhadra was the spiritual preceptor of Dharmapala, the founder of the Pala kingdom.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Who among the following is/are Buddhist scholar/s of Vikramashila and Nalanda universities?

1. Atisha
2. Saraha
3. Tilopa

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The prominent Buddhist scholars of Vikramashila and Nalanda universities were Atisha, Saraha, Tilopa, Dansheel, Dansree, Jinamitra, Muktimitra, Padmanava, Virachan and Silabhadra.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The famous ruler "Dandidurga" was related to which of the following?

- a) Maithriyas
- b) Western Chalukyas
- c) Rashtrakutas
- d) Palas

ANS: C

Explanation: The Rashtrakutas were originally known to be the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Vatapi. Though Rashtrakutas were early rulers, the greatest ruler of the dynasty was Dandidurga.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following is the southernmost mahajanapada?

- a) Avanti
- b) Assaka
- c) Cedi
- d) Vatsa

ANS: B

Explanation:



Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding land system in mahajanapadas:

1. The richer landowners were called grihapatis.
2. These landowners employed labourers called dasas or karmakaras.

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 richer landowners were called grihapatis. These landowners employed labourers called dasas or karmakaras. The smaller landowners were known as kassakas or krishakas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding society of mahajanapadas:

1. The society was stratified on the basis of varna.
2. A new social category that emerged during this period was placed below the shudras in the social hierarchy and considered untouchables.

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 society was stratified on the basis of varna. It emerged as a marker of status.

- Cultivators and artisans were identified as the shudras.

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- A new social category that emerged during this period was placed below the shudras in the social hierarchy and considered untouchables.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following is NOT a Jain text?

- a) Acharrangasutra
- b) Sutrakritanga
- c) Kalpasutra
- d) Samannaphala Sutta

ANS: D

Explanation: The Jaina monks not only wrote religious treatises but also promoted secular literature.

- Acharrangasutra, Sutrakritanga, and Kalpasutra are the earliest Jaina texts.
- Most of the early Jaina texts were written in Ardha-Magadhi, the language of the common people.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following is/are disciples of Buddha?

1. Sariputta
2. Maha moggallana
3. Mahakaccayana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Buddhist Council:

1. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgriha after Buddha's death.
2. First Buddhist council was headed by Ananda.

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: 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. It was headed by Upali.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is/are Buddhist literature?

1. Nikayas
2. Jatakas
3. Tripitakas

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Buddhist texts were compiled in Pali. The Pali canons are called as the Tripitakas (Three Baskets). They are Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka and Abhidhamma Pitaka. Vinaya Pitaka deals with monastic rules and moral disciplines.

- The Sutta Pitaka, which contains the teachings of Buddha, is divided into five groups or Nikayas.
- They contain popular works such as Theragatha and Therigatha (Hymns of the Elder Monks and Nuns) and Jataka tales (Buddha's deeds in previous births as Bodhisattva).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following university was an important centre of Vajrayana Buddhism?

- a) Taxila
- b) Nagarjuna Konda
- c) Vikramasila
- d) Avanti

ANS: C

Explanation: By the end of the Gupta period, Vajrayana or the Vehicle of the Thunderbolt emerged.

- It was popular in Bengal and Bihar. It was influenced by primitive local cults and spread to Tibet in the 11th century CE.
- The Vikramasila University in Bihar was an important centre of Vajrayana Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

1. Hinayana
2. Mahayana
3. Sahajayana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Buddhism faced divisions from time to time. Division into various splinter groups like 'Hinayana', 'Mahayana', 'Vajrayana', 'Tantrayana' and 'Sahajayana' led Buddhism to lose its originality.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) From which Buddhist council, Sanskrit language was adopted?

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

ANS: D

Explanation: Pali and Prakrit were the spoken languages of people of north India and it was through these languages the message of Buddhism was spread.

But ever since the times of Fourth Buddhist Council held during the reign of Kanishka, Sanskrit had come to be adopted.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT