

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

2nd Week June, 2024

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

INDEX

Early Medieval India: The Age of regional configurations (600 - 1200 CE).....	2
Revision.....	5
Period from c. 850-1200ce: Southern India	8
Period from c. 1000 to 1200 CE: Northern India.....	12
Heterodox Schools of Indian Philosophy	15
The Delhi Sultanate.....	19
The Delhi Sultanate - II.....	22

Early Medieval India: The Age of regional configurations (600 - 1200 CE)

Q.1) Which of the following area/s was/were under the patronage of “huns”?

1. Punjab
2. Rajasthan
3. Malwa region

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: North India splintered into several warrior kingdoms after the downfall of the Gupta Empire. Excepting in the areas that were subdued by the Huns (modern Punjab, Rajasthan and Malwa), regional identity became pronounced with the emergence of many small states.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) The “Maithriyas” had organized a powerful state in?

- a) Andhra
- b) Oudh
- c) Sourashtra
- d) Malabar

ANS: C

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

Source: NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following area/s was/were under the influence of “Maukharis”?

1. Agra
2. Oudh
3. Bengal

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Agra and Oudh were organized into an independent and sovereign state by the Maukharis.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.4) Thaneswar, lying north of Delhi between Sutlej and Yamuna, was formed into an independent state by?

- a) Vakatakas
- b) Pushyabhutis
- c) Shungas
- d) Utpalas

ANS: B

Explanation: Thaneswar, lying north of Delhi between Sutlej and Yamuna, was formed into an independent state by Pushyabhutis. It rose to prominence under Harsha.

Harsha ruled the kingdom as large as that of the Guptas from 606 to 647 CE.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Harshacharita was the first formal biography of a king.
- 2. Harshacharita was written by Bana.

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: Bana's Harshacharita was the first formal biography of a king. It inaugurated a new literary genre in India.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following provide/s the epigraphical sources about Harsha's reign?

- 1. Madhuban copper plate inscription
- 2. Sonpat inscription on copper seal
- 3. Banskhera copper plate inscription

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Despite political rivalry and conflict among the states, Thaneswar, lying north of Delhi between Sutlej and Yamuna, was formed into an independent state by Pushyabhutis.

It rose to prominence under Harsha. Harsha ruled the kingdom as large as that of the Guptas from 606 to 647 CE.

Epigraphical sources:

- Madhuban copper plate inscription
- Sonpat inscription on copper seal
- Banskhera copper plate inscription
- Nalanda inscription on clay seals

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.7) Consider the following statements Pushyabhuti:

1. He was the founder of the Vardhana dynasty.
2. He served as a military general under the imperial 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 Thanesar. He served as a military general under the imperial Guptas and rose to power after the fall of the Guptas.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following was treacherously murdered by Sasanka, the Gauda ruler of Bengal?

- a) Pushyabhuti
- b) Prabakara Vardhana
- c) Rajavardhana
- d) Harsha-varhdhana

ANS: C

Explanation: Rajavardhana (605-606 CE), the eldest son of Prabhakaravardhana, ascended the throne after his father's death.

- He was treacherously murdered by Sasanka, the Gauda ruler of Bengal.
- This resulted in his younger brother Harsha-varhdhana becoming the king of Thanesar.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) The term "Pragiyatisha kingdom" is related to which of the following?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Warangal
- c) Assam
- d) Vidarbha

ANS: C

Explanation: Harsha entered into an alliance with the king of Kamarupa (Pragiyatisha), which is today the modern Assam.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following is/are come/s under the "Gauda Empire"?

1. Magatha
2. Gouda
3. Odra

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Harsha have successfully subjugated the Gauda Empire, which included Magatha, Gouda, Odra and Kongoda only after the death of Sasanka.

Source: NCERT

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following was/were the feudatories of “Harsha”?

1. Jalandhar
2. Kashmir
3. Nepal

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

Source: NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is NOT correctly matched with regarding to Harsha’s Administration?

- a) Avanti – Minister for Foreign Relations and War
- b) Simhananda – Commander-in-Chief
- c) Skandagupta – Chief Commandant of Elephant Force
- d) Dirghadhvajjas – Chief Cavalry Officer

ANS: D

Explanation: It appears that the ministerial administration during the reign of Harsha was the same as that of the imperial Guptas.

- The emperor was assisted by a council of ministers (Mantri Parishad) in his duties.
- Dirghadhvajjas - Royal Messengers
- Kuntala - Chief Cavalry Officer

Source: NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following tax/taxes was/were collected during Harsha’s Reign?

1. Bhaga
2. Hiranya
3. Bali

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Bhaga, Hiranya and Bali were the three kinds of tax collected during Harsha’s reign.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Harsha’s Administration”:

1. Bhaga was the land tax paid in kind.
2. Hiranya was the tax paid by farmers and merchants 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: Bhaga, Hiranya and Bali were the three kinds of tax collected during Harsha’s reign.

- Bhaga was the land tax paid in kind.
- One-sixth of the produce was collected as land revenue.
- Hiranya was the tax paid by farmers and merchants in cash.
- There is no reference to the tax Bali.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) With reference to the administration of Harsha, the term “Mimamsakas” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Spies
- b) Priests
- c) Traders
- d) Justice

ANS: D

Explanation: Criminal law was more severe than that of the Gupta age. Mimamsakas were appointed to dispense justice. Banishment and the cutting of limbs of the body were the usual punishments.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Who among the following was called as “prince of pilgrims”?

- a) Nikitin
- b) Al-beruni
- c) Hieun Tsang
- d) Menander

ANS: C

Explanation: Hieun Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, spent nearly 13 years in India (630–643 CE), collecting sacred texts and relics which he took back to China.

He was known as the “prince of pilgrims” because he visited important pilgrim centres associated with the life of Buddha.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) With reference to the administration of Harsha, the term “Vishayas” related to which of the following?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Empire was divided into several provinces. The actual number of such provinces is not known.

- Each province was divided into Bhuktis. And each Bhukti was divided into several Vishayas.

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

- They were like the districts. Each vishaya was further divided into Pathakas.
- Each such area was divided into several villages for the sake of administrative convenience.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding society during Harsha's reign:

1. Women wore purdah.
2. Both men and women adorned themselves with gold and silver ornaments.

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: Hieun Tsang's account also provides us information on the position of women and the marriage system of the times. Women wore purdah.

- The life pattern of the people of India during the rule of Harsha is known from the accounts of Hieun Tsang. People lived a simple life. They dressed in colorful cotton and silk clothes.
- The art of wearing fine cloth had reached perfection. Both men and women adorned themselves with gold and silver ornaments.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following was/were written by "Harshavardhan"?

1. Kadambari
2. Priyadarsika
3. Rathnavali

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Harsha patronised literary and cultural activities. It is said the state spent a quarter of its revenue for such activities.

- Bana, the author of Harshacharita and Kadambari, was a court poet of Harsha.
- The emperor himself was a renowned litterateur, which is evident from the plays he wrote such as Priyadarsika, Rathnavali and Nagananda.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Nalanda University” during Harsha reign:

1. Shilabhadra was the head of the University during the visit of Hieun Tsang.
2. Students and scholars from Buddhist countries were stayed and studied in the university.

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: Hieun Tsang recorded the fame of the Nalanda University. Students and scholars from the Buddhist countries like China, Japan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Tibet and some other countries of Central and Southeast Asia stayed and studied in the university.

Shilabhadra, a reputed Buddhist scholar, who probably hailed from Assam, was the head of the University during the visit of Hieun Tsang.

Source: NCERT

Period from c. 850-1200ce: Southern India

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

1. It was made during Pulikesin II reign.
2. It was composed by poet Ravikirti in Sanskrit.

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 Aihole inscription of Pulikesin II composed by his court poet Ravikirti in Sanskrit is among the most important of Chalukyan inscriptions.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) The “Nalayira Divya Prabhandam” was related to which of the following?

- a) Poems of the Vaishnavite
- b) Poems of the Shaivite
- c) Poems of the Durga
- d) Poems of the Karthikeya

ANS: A

Explanation: The Bhakti movement which originated in South India found its greatest expression in the songs composed by the Azhwars and Nayanmars.

The poems of the Vaishnavite Azhwars were later compiled as the Nalayira Divya Prabhandam.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.3) Which of the following was/were correctly matched?

1. Thevaram – Appar
2. Thiruvavasagam – Manickavasagar
3. Periyapuram – Sundarar

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Saiva literature was canonized as the Panniru Tirumurai. The Thevaram, composed by Appar (Thirunavukkarasar), Sambandar (Thirugnanasambandar) and Sundarar; and Thiruvavasagam by Manickavasagar are prominent texts which are read as sacred literature to this day.

Periyapuram written by Sekizhar, in a later period, also provides much historical information.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Hiuen Tsang and Itsing give us details about the socio-religious and cultural conditions of the Pallava times.
2. Coins help us to understand the economic condition of the period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Many inscriptional sources including the Allahabad Pillar inscription of Samudragupta and the Aihole inscription of the Chalukya king Pulakesin II provide details of Pallava - Chalukya conflict.

- The Kuram copper plates of Parameshwaravarman and the Velurpalayam copper plates of Nandivarman III record their military achievements.
- Coins help us to understand the economic condition of the period.
- Buddhist sources such as Deepavamsa and Mahavamsa, written in Pali, the accounts of Chinese travellers Hiuen Tsang and Itsing give us details about the socio-religious and cultural conditions of the Pallava times.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) With reference to the ancient India, the “Gangas of Talakad” related to which of the following?

- a) Mysore
- b) Assam
- c) Bengal
- d) Warangal

ANS: A

Explanation: Chalukya dynasty emerged as a strong power with its founder Pulikesin I (c. 535- 566 CE) fortifying a hill near Badami.

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

- One of the most outstanding victories of Pulikesin II was the defeat of Harshavardhana's army on the banks of the Narmada.
- The kings of Malwa, Kalinga, and eastern Deccan accepted his suzerainty.
- His victories over Kadambas of Banvasi, and Gangas of Talakad (Mysore) are also worthy of note.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) The famous "Megudi temple" is located at which of the following state?

- Andhra Pradesh
- Tamil Nadu
- Karnataka
- Bengal

ANS: C

Explanation: The Megudi temple at Aihole (in Karnataka) stands on top of a hill. On the eastern wall of this Jaina temple is a 19-line Sanskrit inscription (dated to 556 Saka era: 634-635). The composer is a poet named Ravikriti.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding "Chalukya Administration":

1. The king was the head of the administration.
2. The wild boar was the royal insignia of the Chalukyas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The king was the head of the administration. In dynastic succession primogeniture was not strictly followed.

- Generally, the elder was to be appointed as yuvaraja while the king was in the office.
- The wild boar was the royal insignia of the Chalukyas.
- It was claimed that it represented the varaha avatar of Vishnu in which he is said to have rescued the Goddess of the Earth.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) With reference to the "Chalukya Administration", the term "Samaharta" was associated with?

- Head minister
- Minister of foreign affairs
- Revenue minister
- Minister of exchequer

ANS: D

Explanation: All powers were vested in the king. Inscriptions do not specifically speak of a council of ministers, but they do refer to an official called maha-sandhi-vigrahika.

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Four other categories of ministers are also referred to in the epigraphs: Pradhana (head minister), Mahasandhi-vigrahika (minister of foreign affairs), Amatya (revenue minister), and Samaharta (minister of exchequer).

Source: NCERT

Q.9) With reference to the “Chalukya Administration”, the term “Mahatras” was associated with?

- a) Prominent village men
- b) Village officials
- c) Feudal lords
- d) Governor

ANS: A

Explanation: Vishayam, Rastram, Nadu and Grama. Epigraphs speak of the officials like vishayapatis, samantas, gramapohis and mahatras.

- Vishayapatis exercised the power at the behest of the kings.
- Samantas were feudal lords functioning under the control of the state.
- Grampohis and gramkudas were village officials.
- Mahatras were the prominent village men.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The Chalukyas patronised both Saivism and Vaishnavism.
2. Chalukyas gave prominent place to Kartikeyan, the war god.

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 Chalukyas patronised both Saivism and Vaishnavism. They built temples for Siva and Vishnu.

- Brahmin groups were invited from the Gangetic regions and settled to perform regular pujas and conduct festivals and ceremonies in the temples.
- Notable Chalukya rulers like Kirtivarman (566-597), Mangalesa (597-609), and Pulikesin II (609-642) performed yagnas.
- They bore titles such as parama-vaishana and parama-maheswara. Chalukyas gave prominent place to Kartikeyan, the war god.

Source: NCERT

Period from c. 1000 to 1200 CE: Northern India

Q.1) Which of the following is not a Rajput clan?

- a) Pratiharas
- b) Paramaras
- c) Chahamanas
- d) Maukharis

ANS: D

Explanation: The four Agnikula Rajput clans were:

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

Source: NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following was/were rajput clan/s of northern India?

- 1. Gahadavalas
- 2. Tomaras
- 3. Chalukyas

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: According to medieval bardic traditions, there were about 36 Rajput clans which included Gahadavalas of Kannauj, the Tomaras of Delhi, the Solankis, the Chalukyas of Gujarat, and so on.

Source: NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding "social organization" among rajput clans:

- 1. The sense of brotherhood and egalitarianism which prevailed among them.
- 2. They treated war as a sport.

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: Rajput social organization had its advantages as well as disadvantages.

- The sense of brotherhood and egalitarianism which prevailed among the Rajputs was both an advantage and a disadvantage as it also made it difficult to maintain discipline among the different clans.
- They treated war as a sport, which led to continuous warfare among them over struggle for land and cattle.

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

- Most of the Rajput rulers were staunch Hindus, though some of them patronized Jainism too.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following was/were king/s of Chahamanas dynasty?

1. Simharaja
2. Vighararaja II
3. Ajayaraja II

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Chahamanas of Shakambhari, colloquially known as the Chauhans of Sambhar, ruled in parts of the present-day Rajasthan and its neighbouring areas between 7th and 11th centuries CE.

They were originally feudatories of the Pratiharas and assumed independence during the reign of King Simharaja.

- Simharaja (c. 944–971 CE): Founded the Chahamanas/Chauhan dynasty around 10th century CE and adopted the title of Maharajadhiraja.
- Vighararaja II (c. 971–998 CE): Defeated Mulraj I and overran Gujarat. Captured the Chittor.
- Ajayaraja II (c. 1110–1135 CE): Next important ruler, who carried on the aggressive policy, defeated the Paramaras and captured their capital Ujjaini.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) Who among the following founded the city of Ajmer?

- a) Simharaja
- b) Vighararaja II
- c) Ajayaraja II
- d) Vighararaja IV

ANS: C

Explanation: Ajayaraja II (c. 1110–1135 CE): who carried on the aggressive policy, defeated the Paramaras and captured their capital Ujjaini.

He founded the city of Ajayameru (Ajmer).

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Who among the following authored the famous play “Harikeli Nataka”?

- a) Simharaja
- b) Vighararaja II
- c) Ajayaraja II
- d) Vighararaja IV

ANS: D

Explanation: Vighararaja IV (c. 1150–1164 CE): Also known as Visaldev, who captured Delhi from the Tomars in c.1151 CE but allowed them to rule as feudatories.

- He also took possession of Eastern Punjab, sacked and plundered Gujarat.

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

- The records of his reign states that his kingdom extended in the north up to the Siwalik Hills and in the south up to Udaipur.
- He Patronized literature and authored a famous play, Harikeli Nataka.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) Who among the following called as “Rai Pithora”?

- Simharaja
- Vigraharaja II
- Ajararaja II
- Prithviraj III

ANS: D

Explanation: Prithviraj III (c.1177–1192 CE): 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 neighbors, including the Chandella king Paramardi, Chalukya Bhima II and Gahadvala Jayachandra.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following rajput rulers built the Lakshmana Temple, Vishvanatha Temple and Kandariya Mahadeva Temple?

- Pratiharas
- Paramaras
- Chahamanas
- Chandellas

ANS: D

Explanation: 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: NCERT

Q.9) Who among the following was founder of Chandella dynasty?

- Nannuka
- Vakpati
- Jayashakti
- Vijayashakti

ANS: A

Explanation: In the first quarter of the 9th century CE, the dynasty was founded by Nannuka, who was the ruler of a small kingdom and established his capital at Kharjjuravahaka (Khajuraho).

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.10) The famous king “Dhanga-Deva” was related to which of the following dynasty?

- a) Pratiharas
- b) Paramaras
- c) Chahamanas
- d) Chandellas

ANS: D

Explanation: Dhanga-Deva (c. 950–999 CE): The first independent Chandella king who took the title of Maharajadhiraja and under whose reign the Chandellas had become a sovereign power as unlike the earlier Chandella inscriptions, the records of Dhanga do not mention any Pratihara overlord.

Source: NCERT

Heterodox Schools of Indian Philosophy

Q.1) The “Basava and Channabasava” was related to which of the following?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Vir Shaiva movement
- d) Alvars movement

ANS: C

Explanation: The 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.
- The Lingayats were worshippers of Shiva and established their faith after bitter disputes with the Jainas.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following was/were trait/s of Lingayat or Vir Shaiva movement?

1. Opposed caste system
2. Rejected pilgrimage
3. Supported widow remarriage

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Lingayats were worshippers of Shiva and established their faith after bitter disputes with the Jainas.

They strongly opposed the caste system and child marriage, and rejected feasts, fasts, pilgrimage and sacrifices. They supported widow remarriage.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

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

1. It was founded by Sittars of Tamil Nadu.
2. It is a kind of martial art for self-defense and medical treatment simultaneously.

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: 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.

- Siddhas are also believed to be the founders of Varmam, a kind of martial art for self-defence and medical treatment simultaneously.
- Varmam are specific points located in the human body, which, when pressed in different ways can give various results, such as disabling an attacker in self-defence, or balancing a physical condition as an easy first-aid medical treatment.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) The famous “Nath Panthis” were the followers of?

- a) Kabirdas
- b) Goraknath
- c) Tulsiram
- d) Shankara

ANS: B

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: NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The orthodox schools and heterodox schools recognize the authority of the Vedas.
2. The Vedanta school of philosophy has a place for God in it.

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

- 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: NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following is/are part of shatdarshan?

1. Samkhya
2. Purva Mimansa
3. Uttar Mimansa

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: By the beginning of Christian era, six prominent schools of philosophy (shatdarshan) developed which are Samkhya, Yoga, Nyaya, Vaisheshik, Purva Mimansa and Uttar Mimansa (Vedanta).

Source: NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Samkhya is dualist philosophy.
2. It emphasizes more on self knowledge.

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: Samkhya: Literally means 'count'. It is the 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.
- Emphasises that it is self-knowledge that leads to liberation and not any exterior influence or agent.
- Self-knowledge can be attained by the means of concentration and meditation.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

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

1. It was founded by Patanjali.
2. Practice of control over pleasure, senses and bodily organs is central theme of this school.

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 Yoga school founded by Patanjali, which presents a practical path for the realization of the self based on the method of physical and mental discipline by releasing Purusha from Prakriti. Practice of control over pleasure, senses and bodily organs is central theme of this school.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following philosophy also called as “School of Analysis”?

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Purva 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: NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following was propounded by Kanada gives importance to discussion of dravya or material elements?

- 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.
- It signifies a realistic and objective way of looking at the universe.

Source: NCERT

The Delhi Sultanate

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The geographical location of Arabia facilitated trade contact between India and Arabia.
2. The pre-Islamic Arabs had maritime contacts with the western and eastern coasts of 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 geographical location of Arabia facilitated trade contact between India and Arabia. As sea-faring traders the pre-Islamic Arabs had maritime contacts with the western and eastern coasts of India.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) With reference to medieval India, the term "Mappillais" associated with?

- a) Coromandel Coast
- b) Malabar area
- c) Bengal area
- d) Gulf of Kutch

ANS: B

Explanation: Arabs who married Malabar women and settled down on the West Coast were called Mappillais (sons-in-law).

Source: NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following was the last dynasty of Delhi Sultanate to rule India?

- a) Slave Dynasty
- b) Tughlaq Dynasty
- c) Sayyid Dynasty
- d) Lodi Dynasty

ANS: D

Explanation: The Sultanate (1206–1526) itself was not homogenous. Its rulers belonged to five distinct categories: (a) Slave Dynasty (1206-1290) (b) Khalji Dynasty (1290-1320) (c) Tughlaq Dynasty (1320- 1414) (d) Sayyid Dynasty (1414-1451) and (e) Lodi Dynasty (1451-1526).

Source: NCERT

Q.4) The famous "Tarikh-Al-Hind – Indian Philosophy and Religion written in Arabic by who among the following?

- a) Al-Beruni
- b) Minhaj us Siraj
- c) Amir Khusrau
- d) Ziauddin Barani

ANS: A

Explanation: Al-Beruni: Tarikh-Al-Hind (Indian Philosophy and Religion written in Arabic).

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Alaptigin, a Turkic slave seized the city of Ghazni in eastern Afghanistan and established an independent kingdom.
2. Sabuktigin initiated the process of southward expansion into the Indian subcontinent.

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 963 Alaptigin, a Turkic slave who had served Samanids as their governor in Khurasan, seized the city of Ghazni in eastern Afghanistan and established an independent kingdom.

- Alaptigin died soon after. After the failure of three of his successors, the nobles enthroned Sabuktigin.
- Sabuktigin initiated the process of southward expansion into the Indian subcontinent.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Mahmud’s Military Raids”:

1. He targeted Hindu temples that were depositories of vast treasures.
2. The Ghaznavid soldiers viewed demolishing temples and smashing idols as a demonstration of the invincible power of their god.

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: Mahmud ruled for thirty-two years. During this period, he conducted as many as seventeen military campaigns into India.

- He targeted Hindu temples that were depositories of vast treasures.
- Though the motive was to loot, there was also a military advantage in demolishing temples and smashing idols.
- The Ghaznavid soldiers viewed it also as a demonstration of the invincible power of their god.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) Who among the following wrote the famous book “Kitab Ul Hind”?

- a) Al-Beruni
- b) Minhaj us Siraj
- c) Amir Khusrau
- d) Ziauddin Barani

ANS: A

Explanation: Al-Beruni, mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, and historian, came to India along with Mahmud of Ghazni. He learned Sanskrit, studied religious and philosophical texts before composing his work Kitab Ul Hind.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.8) In which of the following place/s was/were garrisons established by Muhammad Ghori?

1. Sind
2. Punjab
3. Haryana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: If Ghaznavid invasions were intended for loot, the Ghurids enlarged their scope to establish garrison towns to ensure the regular flow of plunder and tribute.

- Muizzuddin Muhammad of the Ghori dynasty, known generally as Muhammad Ghori, invested in territories he seized.
- Through the 1180s and 1190s Ghori established garrisons in the modern provinces of Punjab, Sind, and Haryana.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. In 1175 Muhammad Ghori seized for the city of Multan.
2. The Chalukyas of Gujarat inflicted a crushing defeat on Muhammad Ghori at Mt. Abu (1179).

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 1175 Ghori headed for the city of Multan which he seized from its Ismaili ruler. The fort of Uchch fell without a fight.

- The Chalukyas of Gujarat inflicted a crushing defeat on Muhammad Ghori at Mt. Abu (1179).
- After this defeat Ghori changed the course of his expedition, consolidating his position in Sind and the Punjab.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Muhammad Ghori attacked the fortress of Tabarhinda, a strategic point for the Chauhans of Ajmer.
2. The ruler of Ajmer Prithviraj Chauhan marched to Tabarhinda and faced the invader in the First Battle of Tarain (1191).

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: Ghori attacked the fortress of Tabarhinda (Bhatinda), a strategic point for the Chauhans of Ajmer.

- The ruler of Ajmer Prithviraj Chauhan marched to Tabarhinda and faced the invader in the First Battle of Tarain (1191).

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

- Prithviraj scored a brilliant victory in this battle but failed to consolidate his position believing this battle to be a frontier fight, and did not expect the Ghurids to make regular attacks.

Source: NCERT

The Delhi Sultanate – II

Q.1) The chronicles of “Mifta Ul Futuh and Khazain Ul Futuh” was written by?

- a) Al-Beruni
- b) Minhaj us Siraj
- c) Amir Khusrau
- d) Ziauddin Barani

ANS: C

Explanation: Amir Khusrau: Mifta Ul Futuh (Victories of Jalal-ud-din Khalji); Khazain Ul Futuh (Victories of Allauddin Khalji - Texts in Persian).

Source: NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is not correctly matched?

- a) Tomaras – Allahabad
- b) Chauhans – Rajasthan
- c) Solankis – Gujarat
- d) Paramaras – Malwa

ANS: A

Explanation: By the beginning of the tenth century two powerful Rajput Kingdoms Gurjar Pratihara and Rashtrakutas had lost their power. Tomaras (Delhi), Chauhans (Rajasthan), Solankis (Gujarat), Paramaras (Malwa), Gahadavalas (Kanauj) and Chandelas (Bundelkhand) had become important ruling dynasties of Northern India.

Source: NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding military skills of Turks and Rajputs:

1. The Rajput forces depended more on war elephants.
2. The Turkish horsemen had greater mobility and were skilled in mounted archery.

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 Rajputs had a long tradition of martial spirit, courage and bravery. There was little difference between the weapons used by the Turks and the Rajputs. But in regimental discipline and training the Rajputs were lax.

- In planning their tactics to suit the conditions, the Turks excelled. Moreover, the Turkish cavalry was superior to the Indian cavalry.

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

- The Rajput forces depended more on war elephants, which were spectacular but slow moving compared to the Turkish cavalry.
- The Turkish horsemen had greater mobility and were skilled in mounted archery. This was a definite military advantage which the Turks used well against their enemies and emerged triumphant in the battles.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following was/were related to slave dynasty?

1. Qutb-ud-din Aibak
2. Iltutmish
3. Balban

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: After the death of Ghori there were many contenders for power.

- One was Qutb-uddin Aibak, who ascended the throne in Delhi with his father-in-law Yildiz remaining a threat to him for the next ten years.
- The three important rulers of this dynasty are Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Iltutmish and Balban.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) Who among the following was died in an accident while playing chaugan?

- a) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Balban
- d) Yildiz

ANS: A

Explanation: Qutb-ud-din Aibak was enslaved as a boy and sold to Sultan Muhammad Ghori at Ghazni.

- Impressed with his ability and loyalty the Sultan elevated him to the rank of viceroy of the conquered provinces in India.
- Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji, a Turkish general from Afghanistan assisted him in conquering Bihar and Bengal.
- Qutb-ud-din Aibak reigned for four years (1206 to 1210 CE) and died in 1210 in Lahore in an accident while playing chaugan.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.6) Who among the following is charged with destroying the glorious Buddhist University of Nalanda in Bihar?

- a) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Balban
- d) Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji

ANS: D

Explanation: Bhakthiyar Khalji is charged with destroying the glorious Buddhist University of Nalanda in Bihar, who is said to have mistaken it for a military camp! Detailed descriptions of Nalanda are found in the travel accounts of Chinese pilgrim Hieun Tsang.

The manuscripts and texts in the hundreds of thousands in the Nalanda library on subjects such as grammar, logic, literature, astronomy and medicine were lost in the Turkish depredations.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) The Bukhara, Samarqand and Baghdad were mainly associated with?

- a) Trade centres
- b) Mining zones
- c) Pilgrimage centres
- d) Paleolithic sites

ANS: A

Explanation: Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1210-36) of Turkish extraction was a slave of Qutbud-din Aibak. Many of his elite slaves were also of Turkish and Mongol ancestry.

They were brought to Delhi by merchants from trade centres like Bukhara, Samarqand and Baghdad.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following diplomatically saved India by refusing to support the Khwarizmi Shah Jalaluddin of Central Asia against the Mongol ruler Chengiz Khan?

- a) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Balban
- d) Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji

ANS: B

Explanation: Shams-ud-din Iltutmish, the slave and son-in-law of Qutb-ud-din Aibak, ascended the throne of Delhi setting aside the claim of Aram Shah, the son of Qutb-ud-din Aibak.

- During his tenure he put down the internal rebellions of Rajputs at Gwalior, Ranthambor, Ajmer and Jalore.
- He overcame the challenge of Nasiruddin Qabacha in Lahore and Multan, and frustrated the conspiracy of Alivardan, the Governor of Bengal.
- He diplomatically saved India by refusing to support the Khwarizmi Shah Jalaluddin of Central Asia against the Mongol ruler Chengiz Khan.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation June [Second Week] 2024

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Shams-ud-din Iltutmish”:

1. He completed the Qutb Minar.
2. He introduced the copper and silver tankas.

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: Shams-ud-din Iltutmish reign was remarkable for the completion of Qutb Minar, a colossal victory tower of 243 feet at Delhi, and for the introduction of copper and silver tanka, the two basic coins of the Sultanate period.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) With reference to medieval India, the term “nisba” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Priests
- b) Spies
- c) Slaves
- d) Farmers

ANS: C

Explanation: Bandagan is the plural of banda, literally military slaves. They were graded according to the years of service, proximity and trustworthiness.

- This trust led to their appointment as governors and military commanders. The Ghurid bandagan in North India were the slaves of Muiz-ud Din Ghuri.
- Since these slaves were without a social identity of their own they were given new names by their masters, which included the nisba, which indicated their social or regional identity.
- Slaves carried the nisba of their master: hence Mu'izz alDin's slave carried the nisba Mu'izzi and later Sultan Shams-ud-Din Iltutmish's slave were called the Shamsi bandagan.

Source: NCERT