

ForumIAS

F

# Prelims Marathon

3<sup>rd</sup> Week October, 2024

---

*HISTORY*  
*ECONOMICS*  
*POLITY*  
*SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY*  
*GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

---

FORUMIAS



**INDEX**

History – Ancient.....	2
Harappan Civilization / Bronze Age .....	5
The Vedic Age (Rig Vedic and Later Vedic).....	9
The Mahajanapadas of the Indo - Gangetic Plain .....	12
The Mahajanapadas of the Indo-Gangetic Plain - II .....	16
Buddhism (Origin, Doctrine, Schools) Jainism and Ajivika sect .....	19
Revision.....	23
The Mauryan Empire .....	26
Political and Cultural developments 200 BCE to 300 CE (Political history of North India) .....	29

## History – Ancient

### Ancient India (Pre-history phase)

**Q.1) The earliest human ancestor species to migrate out of Africa was?**

- a) Homo habilis
- b) Homo erectus
- c) Homo antecessor
- d) Homo sapiens

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** 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.2) In which of the following period animal and plant domestication developed, leading to food production?**

- a) Paleolithic age
- b) Mesolithic age
- c) Neolithic age
- d) Chalcolithic 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.3) Which of the following was/were tools of Lower Paleolithic age?**

1. Pebbles
2. Choppers
3. Cleavers

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The study of pre-history mainly depends upon lithic tools. Pre-historic sites are identifiable based on the presence of stone tools.

- Human ancestors made large stone blocks and pebbles and chipped tools out of them, using another strong stone.
- Hand axes, cleavers, choppers and the like were designed in this way by flaking off the chips.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) The famous lower Paleolithic culture centre “Hunsgi valley” is located at?**

- a) Assam
- b) West Bengal
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Karnataka

**ANS: D**

**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.5) Which of the following is/are correctly matched regarding middle Paleolithic age?**

- 1. Europe - Neanderthal
- 2. Africa - Homo Erectus
- 3. India - Homo Sapiens

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Middle Paleolithic culture in India is dated between 3,85,000 and 40,000 BCE.

- While the African Middle Stone Age is associated with the Homo sapiens, it is associated with the Neanderthals in Europe.
- No hominine fossil bones of this species have been found in India.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following was/were features of “Indian Middle Paleolithic period”?**

- 1. The tools are larger as compared with lower Paleolithic period.
- 2. The decrease in the use of hand axes in relation to other tools.
- 3. Use of core preparation techniques in stone tool production.

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The main features of the Indian Middle Paleolithic period include the following:

- The tools became smaller.
- The decrease in the use of hand axes in relation to other tools.
- Use of core preparation techniques in stone tool production.
- Use of chert, jasper, chalcedony and quartz as raw materials.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are Mesolithic sites found in Uttar Pradesh?**

1. Paisra
2. Damdama
3. Chopani Mando

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**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).

Rock shelter sites are found in Lekhakia, Baghai Khor, Adamgarh and Bhimbetka.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Which of the following activities is/are carried out during “Mesolithic period”?**

1. Building of temporary huts
2. Fishing
3. Hunting of wild animals

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Hunting wild animals and gathering plant food and fishing were people’s main occupation during Mesolithic age.

- The Mesolithic people were highly mobile. They moved in search of animals and plant foods.
- They made temporary huts and also used caves and rock shelters.
- Circular huts with postholes and burnt clay lumps bearing reed impressions have been found.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) Which of the following is/are characteristics of “Mesolithic Cultures”?**

1. They buried the dead.
2. They were spread over very limited geographical regions.
3. They had no artistic skill.

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Characteristics of the Mesolithic Cultures:

- The Mesolithic people lived in semipermanent and temporary settlements.
- They occupied caves and open grounds.
- They buried the dead.
- They had artistic skill.
- They were spread over wider geographical regions.
- Cultural continuity is noticed in many parts of India from this period.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.10) In which of the following places the early evidence of Neolithic cultures was/were found?**

1. Fertile Crescent region of Egypt
2. Indus region
3. Ganges valley

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

- 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**

## Harappan Civilization / Bronze Age

**Q.1) Which of the following Neolithic sites is/are located in India?**

1. Mehrgarh
2. Sarai Kala
3. Rana Ghundai

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**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.2) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Mehrgarh culture is preceded the Indus Civilization culture.
2. The Indus Civilization represents the second phase of urbanization in 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: A**

**Explanation:** The site of Mehrgarh has produced evidence of early Neolithic times, dating to c. 7000 BCE.

- Wheat and barley were cultivated and sheep, goat and cattle were domesticated.
- This culture preceded the Indus Civilization.
- The Indus Civilization represents the first phase of urbanization in India.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Who among the following was the first surveyor of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)?**

- a) Charles Mason
- b) Alexander Burnes
- c) Alexander Cunningham
- d) Sir John Marshal

**ANS: C**

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

- The site of Harappa was destroyed for laying the railway line from Lahore to Multan.
- The seal from this site reached Alexander Cunningham, the first surveyor of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

Indus Valley Site	:	Country
1. Shortugai	:	Pakistan
2. Daimabad	:	Afghanistan
3. Sutkagen-dor	:	India

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Indus Civilization and the contemporary cultures covered nearly 1.5 million sq. km area in India and Pakistan.

The settlements of Sutkagen-dor in the west on the Pakistan- Iran border; Shortugai (Afghanistan) in the north; Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh, India) in the east and Daimabad (Maharashtra, India) in the south are the boundaries of this civilisation.



Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.5) Which of the following Indus valley sites is/are located in Gujarat?**

1. Banawali
2. Dholavira
3. Surkotada

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

- 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.6) Which of the following is/are urban features of Indus valley cities?**

1. Fortification
2. Planned streets
3. Drainage

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

- 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.7) With respect to Indus valley cities, the Great Bath is found in which of the following site?**

- a) Mohenjo-Daro
- b) Kalibangan
- c) Chanhudaro
- d) Rakhigarhi

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In Mohenjo-Daro, a building has been identified as a warehouse. The Great Bath is a tank situated within a courtyard.

- The corridors were present on all four sides and stairs are seen on the northern and southern sides.
- It was well paved with several adjacent rooms. Some structures are identified as granary.
- The bricks were laid watertight with gypsum mortar. It had drainage. It is associated with a ritual bath.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT



**Q.8) Which of the following crops was/were grown by Harappans?**

1. Chickpea
2. Sesame
3. Lentil

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

- 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.9) Which of the following statements is/are correct about agriculture in Indus valley civilization?**

1. They adopted a double cropping system.
2. Ploughed fields have been found at Kalibangan.
3. There is no presence of well irrigation.

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**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.
- Agricultural surplus was an important stimulus for a number of developments. They adopted a double cropping system.
- The Harappans used ploughs. They perhaps ploughed the land and then sowed the seeds.
- Ploughed fields have been found at Kalibangan. They used both canal and well irrigation.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.10) Which of the following is/are domesticated by Harappans?**

1. Sheep
2. Goat
3. Fowl

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Pastoralism was also practiced by the Harappans. They domesticated sheep, goat and fowl.

They had knowledge of various other animals including buffalo, pig and elephant.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

## The Vedic Age (Rig Vedic and Later Vedic)

**Q.1) Which of the following type of people were found after the decline of the Indus Civilization around 1900 BCE?**

1. Hunter – gatherers
2. Pastoral
3. Sedentary agro – pastoral

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The history of India, after the decline of the Indus Civilization around 1900 BCE, is characterized by the presence of nomadic microlith-using hunter-gatherers and pastoral, semi-sedentary and sedentary agro-pastoral communities of the Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Iron Ages and Vedic Cultures.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.2) Consider the following statements:**

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

**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.3) Which of the following is the oldest “Veda”?**

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

**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.

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

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.4) With reference to Vedic age, which of the following is correctly sequenced?**

- Upanishad – Samhitas – Brahmanas
- Brahmanas – Samhitas – Upanishad
- Samhitas – Upanishad – Brahmanas
- Samhitas – Brahmanas – Upanishad

**ANS: D**

**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.
- Each brahmana has an aranyaka (forest text) and an upanishad.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.5) Which of the following contain mystical ritual instructions to be undertaken in secret by the sages?**

- Upanishads
- Brahmanas
- Aranyakas
- Samhitas

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The aranyakas contain mystical ritual instructions to be undertaken in secret by the sages who live in the forests.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.6) Which of the following was/were late Vedic texts?**

- Rig Veda
- Samhitas of Yajur Veda
- Brahmanas of Sama Veda

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Yajur, Sama and Atharva Vedas are dated to a slightly later period.

The samhitas of the Sama, Yajur and Atharva Vedas, and the brahmanas, aranyakas and upanishads attached to the Vedas are the Late Vedic texts.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

1. Sama Veda – musical notes
2. Yajur Veda – charms and magical spells
3. Atharva Veda – ritual and hymns

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

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

- The Yajur Veda has rituals and hymns.
- The Atharva Veda contains charms and magical spells.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.8) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Chalcolithic people domesticated animals in addition to agriculture.
2. Ochre Coloured Pottery Ware culture is found in northern India dating to the Chalcolithic 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:** 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.
- Ochre Coloured Pottery Ware culture is found in northern India dating to the Chalcolithic period.
- The OCP pottery has red slip and appears ochre in colour (the ochre colour comes off when the pottery is touched) and hence, it is called Ochre Coloured Pottery.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.9) With reference to Vedas, the Aryans was/were used which of the following?**

1. Horses
2. Chariots
3. Bows and Arrows

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**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.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) The famous “Purusha Sukta” related to which of the following?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** According to the Purusha Sukta of the Rig Veda the various varnas emerged thus: Brahmanas from the mouth, the kshatriya from the arms, the vaisya from the thighs and the sudra from the feet of Purusha, when he was sacrificed.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

## The Mahajanapadas of the Indo - Gangetic Plain

**Q.1) With reference to Vedic society, the term “vis” related to which of the following?**

- a) Common people
- b) Noble people
- c) Security guards
- d) Priests

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Kinship was the basis of the social structure of Rig Vedic society. People were identified with specific clans and the clans formed the tribe or jana.

- The term jana occurs in the Rig Veda 21 times but janapada does not occur even once.
- The term vis, which refers to the common people, occurs 170 times and they lived in gramas (villages).

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.2) With reference to Vedic economy, the terms “langla and sura” related to which of the following?**

- a) Metallurgy
- b) Pottery
- c) Agriculture
- d) External trade

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Archaeological evidence points to the development of agriculture among the Rig Vedic people.

- The ploughshare is mentioned in the Rig Vedas. The field was known as kshetra and the term krishi referred to ploughing.
- The terms langla and sura referred to plough and the term sita meant the furrow created by ploughing.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.3) The term “yavam” related to which of the following crop?**

- a) Rice
- b) Maize
- c) Wheat
- d) Barley

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Water for irrigation was probably drawn from wells by cattedriven water-lifts using pulleys.

- They had knowledge of different seasons, sowing, harvesting and thrashing.
- They cultivated barley (yavam) and wheat (godhuma).

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.4) Which of the following urban features is/are found in eastwards expansion of “Aryans”?**

1. Use of Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) pottery.
2. The towns were enclosed by a moat.
3. Houses were built with mud bricks.

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Some of the urban features revealed by excavation of the various cities are as follows:

- Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW), considered luxury-ware and “urban hallmark” have been excavated.
- The towns were enclosed by a moat and sometimes they were fortified.
- Houses were built with mud bricks and in some cases with burnt bricks.
- Facilities such as drains, ring wells and soak-pits are found, confirming the second urbanization in the Gangetic plains.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.5) Which of the following was/were reasons to the emergence of towns in the Gangetic plains?**

1. Agriculture surplus
2. Population growth
3. Lack of trade

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**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.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT



**Q.6) Which of the following was/were “gana – sangas”?**

1. Matsya
2. Avanti
3. Anga

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**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. There were also smaller kingdoms such as Kosala and Kasi.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements:**

1. The mahajanapadas on the Gangetic plains were all monarchies.
2. Vedic orthodoxy was not an established practice in these kingdoms.

**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.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding taxes in mahajanapadas:**

1. Bhaga was a tax imposed based on the area of cultivable land.
2. Bali was obtained as a share of the produce.

**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: D**

**Explanation:** The king appropriated the agricultural surplus through land revenue apart from a few other taxes.

- Bali was a tax imposed based on the area of cultivable land.



- Bhaga was obtained as a share of the produce.
- Kara and Shulka were some of the other taxes collected during this period.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.9) With reference to mahajanapadas, the term “kassakas” related to?**

- Labor class
- Richer landowners
- Priests
- Smaller landowners

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The richer landowners were called grihapatis. These landowners employed labourers called dasas or karmakaras.

- The smaller landowners were known as kassakas or krishakas.
- Cultivators and artisans were identified as the shudras.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) Which of the following mahajanapada was easternmost kingdom?**

- Avanti
- Chedi
- Magadha
- Anga

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** According to Puranic, Buddhist and Jaina traditions, there were sixteen mahajanapadas.



Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

## The Mahajanapadas of the Indo-Gangetic Plain - II

**Q.1) After the decline of “Harappan age”, centre of economic and political activity shifted to eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and raised to Mahajanapadas, which of the factors helped to rise of Mahajanapadas?**

1. Fertile land
2. Lower rainfall
3. Proximity of iron production centers

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The sixth century BCE is known as an era of ‘Second Urbanization’ in the Indian Subcontinent.

- After the decline of the Harappan towns and nearly after a gap of more than a thousand years, urban centres emerged again but not in the Indus plain.
- The centre of economic and political activity shifted from the North-West, Punjab, Haryana, and Western UP, to Eastern UP and Bihar (Ganga Basin).
- This region was not only fertile on account of better rainfall and river systems, but was also closer to the iron production centres.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.2) According to Buddhist texts, Anguttara Nikaya (the land between Himalayas and Narmada) was divided into how many mahajanapadas (independent states)?**

- a) 8
- b) 12
- c) 16
- d) 24

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Most of the Mahajanapadas were situated in the north of Vindhyas, between Bihar in the east to the north-west frontier of the subcontinent.

- From c. 600 BCE, the political history of India is the history of struggles between these states for supremacy.
- According to Buddhist texts, Anguttara Nikaya (the land between Himalayas and Narmada) was divided into 16 independent states (Mahajanapadas).

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.3) The “Lumbini” which is the birthplace of Gautama Buddha is located in which mahajanapada?**

- a) Anga
- b) Magadha
- c) Kosala
- d) Kashi

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Kosala (Eastern U.P., included Ayodhya and the tribal republican territory of Shakyas of Kapilavastu).

- Sarayu river divided the state into two parts: Northern part's capital: Shravasti and Southern part's capital: Kushavati.
- The tribal republic of the Shakyas of Kapilavastu included Lumbini, which is the birthplace of Gautama Buddha.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.4) Which of the following mahajanapada was a result of "Confederacy of eight or nine clans"?**

- a) Vajji
- b) Mallas
- c) Matsya
- d) Shurasena

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Vajji (North of Ganga in the division of Tirhut) : Confederacy of eight or nine clans of which the Lichchhavis (capital: Vaishali), Videhans (capital: Mithila), Jnatrikas (based in Kundapura), and Vajjis (capital: Vaishali) were important.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.5) Which of the following mahajanapada was known for its fine cotton textiles?**

- a) Mallas
- b) Avanti
- c) Kuru
- d) Vatsa

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Vatsa: it is located on the banks of river Yamuna. Vatsa was known for its fine cotton textiles.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.6) Which of the following was/were features of "gana sangas"?**

1. The chief office was hereditary and was known as Ganaraja.
2. It has aristocratic council comprising heads of leading Kshatriya families.
3. The authority structure of ganas had greater elements of tribal organization.

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Gana-Sanghas (Chiefdoms and Oligarchies): 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 organization.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.7) The term “salaka-gahapaka” is associated with which of the following?**

- a) High priests
- b) Governing council
- c) Collector of votes
- d) Revenue collections

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The corporate aspect of government was a major attribute of Gana-Sanghas.

- They were based in smaller geographical areas and had more representative government.
- The discussion matters were placed before the assembly who met in a hall, called Santhagara.
- Gana- Puraka was responsible for ensuring quorum required for major deliberations.
- The council discussed and debated the issues and they were put to vote, if a unanimous decision could not be reached.
- Voting was done with the pieces of wood known as salakas and salaka-gahapaka (the collector of votes) ensured honesty and impartiality.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.8) The famous “Bimbisara” was related 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.9) The famous King “Kalasoka” who conducted Second Buddhist Council related to?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Kalasoka: Son and successor of Shishunaga who founded the Shishunaga dynasty. He conducted the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.10) Who among the following was known as “ugrasena” with respect to pali texts?**

- a) Shishunaga
- b) Kalasoka
- c) Mahapadma Nanda
- d) Dhanananda

**ANS: C**

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

- According to the Brahmanical texts, he belonged to a low caste or at least a non-Kshatriya caste, while according to the Puranas, he was the son of a king of the Shishunaga dynasty by a Shudra woman, and thus the Nandas were considered adharmika (those who do not follow the norms of Dharma).
- Buddhist texts describe the Nandas as belonging to annatakula (of unknown lineage).

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

## Buddhism (Origin, Doctrine, Schools) Jainism and Ajivika sect

**Q.1) Which of the following was/were reasons for Intellectual Awakening in sixth century BC?**

1. Flexibility of the Vedic religion.
2. Emergence of territorial identities.
3. Complete structural organization of Vedic religion.

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

**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 socio political 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.2) Which of the following was/were characteristics of heterodox thinkers of sixth century BC?**

1. Antinomian elements
2. Materialist elements
3. Fatalist elements

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The ascetic wanderers and teachers attracted groups of followers and established various sects.

- Their philosophies encompassed antinomian (belief that divine grace takes away the necessity of obeying moral law), materialist and fatalist elements.
- They were heterodox sects that rivaled the orthodox Vedic religion and many of them came into existence during this time.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Who among the following was called as “Nigantha Nataputta”?**

- a) Gautama Buddha
- b) Mahavira
- c) Makkhali Gosala
- d) Ajita Kesakambalin

**ANS: B**

**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) With reference to the sixth century BC heterodox thinkers, which of the following was/were correctly matched?**

1. chira-pabbajito – founders of sects
2. tithakaro – leaders of their orders
3. ganachariyo – homeless wanderers

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The leaders of the various sects such as Purana Kassapa, Makkhali Gosala, Ajita Kesakambalin, Pakudha Kachchayana, Sanjaya Belatthiputta and Nigantha Nataputta (Mahavira) are described as “homeless wanderers” of longstanding (chira-pabbajito), founders of sects (tithakaro) and leaders of their orders (ganachariyo).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Who among the following is not from "Ajivika sect"?**

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

**ANS: A**

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

1. Gosala was patronized by rich women potter Halahala.
2. Ajivikas are naked ascetics.
3. The basic principle of the Ajivikas was niyati.

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**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) With reference to the sixth century BC heterodox thinkers, which of the following was/were from materialistic school of thought?**

1. Ajita Kesakambalin
2. Purana Kassapa
3. Pakudha Kacchayana

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

**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) Who among the following said “Generosity is taught by idiots. The words of those who speak of existence after death are false, empty chatter. With the breakup of the body, the wise and the foolish alike are annihilated, destroyed. They do not exist after death.”?**

- a) Carvaka
- b) Sanjaya Belatthiputta
- c) Kisa Samkicca
- d) Ajita Kesakambalin

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Ajita Kesakambalin (Ajita of the Hair Blanket) was a materialist.

- He believed that every human was made of four primary elements: fire, water, wind and sense. After death, these elements return to the earth.
- There is no life after death. He said, “Generosity is taught by idiots. The words of those who speak of existence after death are false, empty chatter. With the breakup of the body, the wise and the foolish alike are annihilated, destroyed. They do not exist after death.”

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.9) The famous text “Bhagavatisutra” related to which of the following?**

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

**ANS: C**

**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.10) The famous “sallekhana practice” is related to which of the following?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Jainism spread to Tamil Nadu from about the third century CE. Jaina rock shelters are found in large numbers around Madurai and other places.

The mention of death of Kopperuncholan by fasting in chol Purananuru is considered by some to be similar to Jaina practice of sallekhana.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

## Revision

**Q.1) Which of the following “tirthankaras” were mentioned in Yajur Veda?**

1. Risabha
2. Ajitanatha
3. Aristanemi

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** According to Jain tradition, Mahavira was not the founder of Jainism, but the last of the 24 Tirthankaras or ‘maker of fords’ (ford means a shallow place in river or stream to allow one to walk across).

- 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**

**Q.2) The Mahavira left his home at the age of 30 and wandered about as a mendicant for 12 years in search of true knowledge and during course of his wanderings, who among the following he was met?**

- a) Gautama Buddha
- b) Ajita Kesakambalin
- c) Purana Kassapa
- d) Makkhali Gosala

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** After the death of his parents, Mahavira left his home at the age of 30 and wandered about as a mendicant for 12 years in search of true knowledge.

- He practiced severe austerities and discarded his garments.
- During the course of his wanderings, he met Gosala and spent six years with him before they parted due to differences.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) In which of the following places, the great councils of Jainism was/were held?**

1. Pavapuri
2. Valabhi
3. Pataliputra

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** On the death of Bhadrabahu, Shulabhadra held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon.

It consisted of 12 angas (limbs). Another council was held in Valabhi, Gujarat, in the 5th century CE. It added 12 upangas (minor sections).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Which of the following is not a Jaina text?**

- a) Mahavibhasa
- b) Acharrangasutra
- c) Sutrakritanga
- d) Kalpasutra

**ANS: A**

**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) Who among the following avoid trampling on ants and other insects and used feathers to sweep the path before walking?**

- a) Buddhists
- b) Ajivikas
- c) Jainas
- d) Lokayakas

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** As Jainism placed great emphasis on non-violence, strict observers of the faith wear a muslin cloth around their mouth and nose so that they would not inhale small insects even by mistake.

To avoid trampling on ants and other insects, Jain monks used feathers to sweep the path before walking.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following was/were reasons for decline of Jainism?**

1. Support of royal patronage
2. Lack of missionary zeal
3. Severity of practices

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Decline of Jainism in India: Absence of royal patronage, split amongst Jains as Digambaras and Svetambaras, lack of missionary zeal, factionalism and the severity of practices, and spread of Buddhism as a rival faith led to the decline of Jainism in India.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Who among the following sought guidance from a hermit Uddaka Ramaputta?**

- a) Mahavira
- b) Gautama Buddha
- c) Boojya Padha
- d) Carvaka

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Siddhartha wandered about and joined Alara Kalama as a disciple for a brief period. He also sought guidance from a hermit Uddaka Ramaputta.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.8) Who among the following is not a disciple of Buddha?**

- a) Ananda
- b) Mahakaccayana
- c) Sariputta
- d) Sudharman

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The prominent disciples of Buddha were Sariputta, Mahamoggallana, Mahakaccayana and Ananda.

Buddha had a huge following among both the royalty and lay persons.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.9) Which of the following statements was/were correct about "Buddhist councils"?**

1. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgriha before Buddha's death.
2. The Second Buddhist Council met at Vaishali, immediately after Buddha's death.
3. The Third Buddhist Council was held at Pataliputra.

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**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.
- In this council, Upali recited the Vinaya Pitaka. Ananda recited Sutta Pitaka.
- The Second Buddhist Council met at Vaishali a century after Buddha's death.
- The Third Buddhist Council was held at Pataliputra.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) The Fourth Buddhist Council was held during the reign of?**

- a) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- b) Kanishka
- c) Gautamiputra Satakarni
- d) Samudra Gupta

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Fourth Buddhist Council was held at Kashmir during the reign of Kanishka.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

## The Mauryan Empire

**Q.1) The Mahavamsa the comprehensive historical chronicle in Pali is from?**

- a) Myanmar
- b) Nepal
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Afghanistan

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** There are hardly any comprehensive contemporary accounts or literary works which refer to the Mauryan emperors though they are mentioned in various Buddhist and Jain texts as well as in some Hindu works like the brahmanas.

The Mahavamsa, the comprehensive historical chronicle in Pali from Sri Lanka, is an important additional source.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding "Mauryan Period":**

1. The archaeological finds in the Gangetic regions gave solid proof about the nature of the urban centres.
2. Epigraphical evidence is ample for the period.
3. The Brahmi script at Sanchi was deciphered by James Prinsep.

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Archaeology and epigraphy are the tools that provide rich information for the historian to understand earlier periods of history.

- The archaeological finds in the Gangetic regions give us solid proof about the nature of the urban centres established in the region in course of time.
- Epigraphical evidence is scanty for the period. The most widely known are the edicts of Ashoka, which have been discovered in many parts of the country.
- 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.3) The rock inscription of Junagadh near Girnar in Gujarat was carved during the reign of?**

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Kanishka
- c) Kalasoka
- d) Rudradaman

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The rock inscription of Junagadh near Girnar in Gujarat was carved during the reign of Rudradaman, the local ruler and dates back to 130–150 CE.

It refers to Pushyagupta, the provincial governor (rashtriya) of Emperor Chandragupta.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Which of the following “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”?**

- a) Kumarasambhava
- b) Mrichchhakatika
- c) Mudrarakshasa
- d) Karpuraprakara

**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.
- This play is often cited as a corroborative source since it supports the information gathered from other contemporary sources about Chandragupta.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements:**

1. Magadha was the dominant mahajanapada and established the first Indian empire.
2. The first known ruler of Magadha was Bimbisara of the Haryanka dynasty.

**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:** Among the 16 mahajanapadas, Kasi was initially powerful. However, Kosala became dominant later.

- A power struggle broke out between Magadha, Kosala, Vrijji and Avanti.
- Eventually Magadha emerged as the dominant mahajanapada and established the first Indian empire.
- The first known ruler of Magadha was Bimbisara of the Haryanka dynasty.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**



**Q.6) The Hathigumpha (elephant cave) from Udayagiri near Bhubaneswar, Odisha, records the aqueduct built by?**

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Ajatashatru
- c) Prasenajit
- d) Nanda

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** An inscription known as the Hathigumpha (elephant cave) from Udayagiri near Bhubaneswar, Odisha, records the aqueduct built by King Nanda three hundred years earlier. This is also indicative of the geographical extent of the Nanda Empire.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following was considered “one of the greatest intellectual achievements of any ancient civilization”?**

- a) Avanti
- b) Amaravati
- c) Nalanda
- d) Taxila

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Taxila is considered “one of the greatest intellectual achievements of any ancient civilization”. Panini seems to have compiled his wellknown work, Ashtadhyayi, here.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) The term “Sandrakottus” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Kalasoka
- b) Mahapadma Nanda
- c) Chandragupta Maurya
- d) Ashoka

**ANS: C**

**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.9) The Greek ambassador “Megasthenes” visited India during the reign of?**

- a) Mahapadma Nanda
- b) Chandragupta Maurya
- c) Bindusara
- d) Ashoka

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** After the death of Alexander, Seleucus had established his kingdom extending up to Punjab.

- Chandragupta defeated him in a battle some time before 301 BCE and drove him out of the Punjab region.



- The final agreement between the two was probably not too acrimonious, since Chandragupta gave Seleucus 500 war elephants, and Seleucus sent an ambassador to Chandragupta's court.
- This ambassador was Megasthenes, and we owe much of the information that we have about Chandragupta to Indica, the account written by Megasthenes.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.10) Who among the following was known as "Vishnugupta"?**

- a) Bindusara
- b) Ashoka
- c) Chanakya
- d) Mahinda

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Chandragupta was ably advised and aided by Chanakya, known for political manoeuvring, in governing his empire.

- But popular oral tradition ascribes the greatness of Chandragupta and his reign to the wisdom and genius of Chanakya.
- Chanakya, also known as Kautilya and Vishnugupta, was a Brahmin and a sworn adversary of the Nandas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

## Political and Cultural developments 200 BCE to 300 CE (Political history of North India)

**Q.1) The term "yavana" associated with which of the following?**

- a) Greeks
- b) Chinese
- c) Sri Lankans
- d) East Asians

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Asoka continued the tradition of friendly relations with the Greek kingdoms.

- His Rock Edict (13) mentions five yona kings, identified as Antiochus II Theos of Syria, Ptolemy II Philadelphus of Egypt, Antigonus Gonatas of Macedonia, Magas of Cyrene and Alexander of Corinth.
- This also indicates that the relations of Asoka with the Greeks extended beyond West Asia well into the heartland of Greece.
- We now come across 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.2) The “aromatic substances like spikenard or nard” was exported to Greeks from which of the following region?**

- a) Girnar region
- b) Gangetic region
- c) Kalinga region
- d) Kashmir region

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Trade was carried on by the overland route via north-west Afghanistan (Bactria) and also partly by the coastal route along the Persian Gulf and Red Sea.

A variety of luxury goods, including ivory, tortoise shell, pearls, indigo and other dyes, aromatic substances like spikenard or nard (a fragrant oil from the Gangetic region) and malabathrum (leaf of cinnamon, used as an aromatic) and rare woods were exported from India.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) 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?**

- a) Vikramasena
- b) Halahala
- c) Visaka
- d) Nagasena

**ANS: D**

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

1. Sakas – Pahlavis
2. Parthians – Scythians
3. Kushanas - Yueh-chi

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

**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.5) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Sakas appointed kshatrapas or satrapas as provincial governors to administer their territories.
2. One of the most famous of the Saka kshatrapas was Rudradaman.

**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 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.6) The term “Kadphises” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Sakas
- b) Parthians
- c) Greeks
- d) Kushanas

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The first Kushana king who conquered Afghanistan was Khujula Kadphises, followed by Wima Kadphises.

The two kings extended Kushana territory to Gandhara, Punjab and as far to the east as the Ganga-Jumna doab till Mathura.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “King Kanishka”:**

1. He hosted the fourth Buddhist mahasangha or council.
2. He didn't support the missions sent to China to preach 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.8) Who among the following was/were patronized by “Kanishka”?**

1. Parsva
2. Vasumitra
3. Ashvagosha

**Select the correct answer from below given codes:**

- 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.9) The famous “Buddhacharita” was related to whom among the following?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Asvaghosha is known for his Buddhacharita which is an epic on the life of Buddha.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Gandhara art”:**

1. It was influenced by Greek and Roman culture.
2. It is famous for the portrayal of Buddha in a spiritual state, eyes half-closed in meditation.

**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:** Situated in the cross-roads of cultural influences, Gandhara region was influenced by Greek and Roman culture.

- Gandhara School of art developed in the first century Common Era. During the time of Kushana Empire, in view of its contact with Rome, the techniques of Roman art were assimilated and applied in north-western India.
- The Gandhara art is famous for the portrayal of Buddha in a spiritual state, eyes half-closed in meditation.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT