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HISTORY
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Inflation and Money

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 RBI has the sole authority to issue banknotes in India.
2. One Rupee note is considered as coins as per the definition of coins given under RBI Act 1934.

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: As per Section 22 of the RBI Act 1934, RBI has the sole authority to issue banknotes in India.

- RBI Act 1934 empowers RBI to issue all the banknotes except 1 Rs. note.
- One Rupee note is considered as coins as per the definition of coins given under Coinage Act.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following factors is/are attribute to “hard currency”?

1. Economic and political stability
2. High and unstable inflation with inconsistent growth
3. Balanced trade environment

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Hard currencies are widely accepted around the world for international transactions and are expected to remain relatively stable through a short period of time, and to be highly liquid in the forex or foreign exchange (FX) market.

The factors attributed to hard currency include:

- Economic and political stability
- Low and stable inflation with consistent growth
- Balanced trade environment
- Strong fiscal, monetary policies by government and central bank
- Effective national debt management and sensible interest rate policies

Source: Ramesh Singh

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

1. It is a weighted average of the prices of a number of goods and services.
2. It shows the exact price rise or fall of a single good.

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 rate of inflation is measured on the basis of price indices which are of two kinds— Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI).

- A price index is a measure of the average level of prices, which means that it does not show the exact price rise or fall of a single good.
- A price index is a weighted average of the prices of a number of goods and services.
- In the index the total weight is taken as 100 at a particular year of the past (the base year), this when compared to the current year shows a rise or fall in the prices of current year, there is a rise or fall in the '100' in comparison to the base year—and this inflation is measured in digits.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.4) Which of the following measures is/are used to control demand – pull inflation?

1. Supply of goods as per demand.
2. Reducing taxes.
3. Increasing government expenditure.

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: A mismatch between demand and supply pulls up prices.

- Either the demand increases over the same level of supply, or the supply decreases with the same level of demand and thus the situation of demand-pull inflation arise.
- This was a Keynesian idea. The Keynesian School suggests cuts in spending as the way of tackling excess demand mainly by increasing taxes and reducing government expenditure.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.5) Which of the following measures is/are used to control cost – push inflation?

1. Control on prices
2. Moral suasions
3. Reduce the monopoly power of trade unions

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: An increase in factor input costs (i.e., wages and raw materials) pushes up prices.

- The price rise which is the result of increase in the production cost is cost-push inflation.
- The Keynesian school suggested controls on prices and incomes as direct ways of checking such an inflation and, 'moral suasions' and measures to reduce the monopoly power of trade unions as indirect measures (basically, cost-push inflations chiefly used to happen due to higher wage demanded by the trade unions during the era).

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Which of the following inflation shows price rise in all goods and services excluding “energy and food articles”?

- a) Galloping inflation
- b) Hyper inflation
- c) Stagflation
- d) Core inflation

ANS: D

Explanation: Core Inflation: This nomenclature is based on the inclusion or exclusion of the goods and services while calculating inflation.

- Popular in western economies, core inflation shows price rise in all goods and services excluding energy and food articles.
- In India, it was first time used in the financial year 2000–01 when the government expressed that it was under control—it means the prices of manufactured goods were under control.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Which of the following “graphic curve/coefficient which advocates a relationship between inflation and unemployment in an economy”?

- a) Laffer curve
- b) Arthur curve
- c) Phillips curve
- d) Gini – coefficient

ANS: C

Explanation: Phillips curve is a graphic curve which advocates a relationship between inflation and unemployment in an economy.

- As per the curve there is a ‘trade off’ between inflation and unemployment, i.e., an inverse relationship between them.
- The curve suggests that lower the inflation, higher the unemployment and higher the inflation, lower the unemployment.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.8) The famous term “NAIRU” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Unemployment and growth
- b) Unemployment and inflation
- c) Inflation and growth
- d) Inflation and development

ANS: B

Explanation: The NAIRU is the level of unemployment at which inflation is expected to increase if the unemployment rate falls below it.

- The idea is that when unemployment is higher than the NAIRU, the Federal Reserve can lower it through monetary policy.
- However, when unemployment is at or below the NAIRU, monetary stimulus could lead to dangerous inflation.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.9) Which of the following represents the “situation in an economy when inflation and unemployment both are at higher levels”?

- a) Galloping inflation
- b) Hyper inflation
- c) Stagflation
- d) Core inflation

ANS: C

Explanation: Stagflation is a situation in an economy when inflation and unemployment both are at higher levels, contrary to conventional belief.

Such a situation first arose in the 1970s in the US economy (average unemployment rate above 6 per cent and the average rate of inflation above 7 per cent) and in many Euro-American economies.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Which of the following is/are fully dollarized economies?

1. Cuba
2. Panama
3. Ecuador

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: 3 fully dollarized economies - Ecuador, Panama and El Salvador have had successful economic outcomes following dollarization.

Source: FORUMIAS

Agriculture

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. India has emerged as the net exporter of agricultural products.
2. During 2021-22, agricultural exports reached more than US\$ 50 billion.

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: Status of agriculture sector in India:

- Contribution to India's GVA -18.3% (2022-23).
- Population involved - 54.6% of the total workforce (Census 2011).
- Growth - 3% in 2021-22 compared to 3.3% in 2020-21.
- In recent years, India has also rapidly emerged as the net exporter of agricultural products.

- During 2021-22, agricultural exports reached an all-time high of US\$ 50.2 billion.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following categories is/are covered under “minimum support price”?

1. Cereals
2. Pulses
3. Sugar cane

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: MSP – It is the price at which the government is obligated to purchase the produce from farmers in the event that the market price falls below this threshold.

- The concept of MSPs was 1st proposed throughout the 1960s as a market intervention by the GOI to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- Coverage – 22 crops (Kharif, Rabi and commercial crops). It includes cereals (7), pulses (5), oilseeds (7), raw cotton, raw jute and copra.
- Government announces Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Post independence, government of India signed the “Public Law (PL) 480 agreement” with which of the following country to import agriculture produce?

- a) United Kingdom
- b) China
- c) Russia
- d) United States of America

ANS: D

Explanation: India signed a long-term Public Law (PL) 480 agreement to get food aid under Government agricultural trade development assistance, with the US in 1954.

The ships would land on our shores with grains and they would directly go to feed the people and they called it a “ship-to-mouth’ existence.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The famous semi-dwarf gene or sd1 gene “Dee-geo-woo-gen” is related to?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The success of green revolution (for rice) during 1960s was only possible when the semi-dwarf gene or sd1 gene (mutant allele of plant height) was discovered in the Chinese cultivar ‘Dee-geo-woo-gen’ (DGWG).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “rice production”:

1. India is the largest producer in the world.
2. Andhra Pradesh is the largest producing state 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: D

Explanation: Globally, the top riceproducing country is China, followed by India.

- As per Second Advance Estimates, the estimated production of Rice for 2022- 23 is 1308.37 Lakh Tonnes.
- West Bengal is the largest rice producer in India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following is/are cash crops?

1. Tea
2. Coffee
3. Sugar cane

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Cash crops are agricultural crops that are planted for the purpose of selling on the market or for export to make profit.

- It is also called as commercial farming. Examples -Cotton, Jute, Sugarcane, Tobacco, Tea, Coffee, Arecanut, Oilpalm, Rubber etc.,
- It is distinguished from subsistence crops planted for the purpose of self-supply of the farmer (like livestock feeding or food for the family).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The famous “WINDS manual” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Agricultural meteorology
- b) Indigenous seeds
- c) Cyclone information
- d) Wind energy

ANS: A

Explanation: Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) – It will serve as a one-stop online platform for all information related to agricultural meteorology.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “UPAg Portal” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Indigenous agricultural practices
- b) Agricultural Statistics
- c) Sheep farming
- d) Poultry farming

ANS: B

Explanation: The Centre launched the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg) to address the complex governance challenges India’s farm sector is facing now.

- It is a platform designed to generate crop estimates and is integrated with other systems generating agriculture statistics such as price, trade, procurement, stock.
- It is a crucial component of the Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Cotton”:

1. It is a Kharif crop in the major parts of the country and also monsoon based in southern zone.
2. India is the only country in the world where all the 4 cultivated species are grown on commercial scale.

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: Cotton is a fiber and cash crop of India. Origin - India is believed to be the home of cotton because the art of making cloth from cotton was first developed in India.

- India is the only country in the world where all the 4 cultivated species are grown on commercial scale.
- Cotton is a Kharif crop in the major parts of the country and also monsoon based in southern zone.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. India stands 1st in the world in cotton production and cotton acreage.
2. Maharashtra is the largest producer of cotton 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: India stands 1st in the world in cotton production and cotton acreage.

- Gujarat is the largest producer of cotton in India followed by Punjab and Maharashtra.
- India is the 2nd largest consumer of cotton in the world.

Source: FORUMIAS

Industry & Infrastructure

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Manufacturing sector contributes to 17% of GDP and employs 20% of the workforce in the country.
2. Southern and Eastern Indian states tend to have the highest average productivity in manufacturing sector.

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: Status of Manufacturing Sector:

- Contribution to GDP - Manufacturing sector contributes to 17% of GDP and employs 20% of the workforce in the country.
- Most of India's GDP now comes from the services sector while millions continue to languish in the agriculture sector.
- The share of manufacturing both in India's GDP or overall employment has largely stayed stagnant.
- Western and Central Indian states tend to have the highest average productivity in manufacturing, while the Southern and Eastern states have the lowest.
- This is in contrast to the GDP per capita ranking of states, in which Southern states tend to have higher incomes than their Western and Central counterparts.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding "Startups":

1. India has become the 5th largest startup environment in the world.
2. Unicorn is a term given only to startups that have a valuation of over \$100 billion.

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: India has become the 3rd largest startup environment in the world and as the 3rd highest number of unicorns in the world next to US and China.

- Unicorn - It is a term given only to startups that have a valuation of over \$1 billion.
- Decacorn - The startups that exceed the valuation of \$10 billion are grouped under the term called decacorn (a super unicorn).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Arrange the below given different types of employment (employment status) in descending order with respect to the numbers:

1. Farmers
2. Salaried class
3. Small traders

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: According to CMIE, the total employment in India in January-April 2023 stood at 412.9 million.

Employment status - In descending order

- Farmers,
- Wage laborers or small traders,
- Salaried class
- Business class or entrepreneurship

Business is the only category that has actually recovered to the pre-pandemic level.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “India Semiconductor Industry”:

1. India’s semiconductor design engineers makes up 20% of the global workforce.
2. Gujarat becomes the 1st state in India to have a large-scale semiconductor manufacturing facility.

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: India’s semiconductor design engineers makes up 20% of the global workforce.

- About 2,000 integrated circuits and chips are designed in India every year with engineers involved in varied aspects of design and verification.
- Gujarat will become the 1st state in India to have a large-scale semiconductor manufacturing facility.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following is/are reasons for “global supply chains are moving from China”?

1. Lower wages in china
2. Supply chain bottlenecks within China
3. Profitability of relocating production away from China

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The global supply chains are moving from China because of

- Rising wages in China
- Supply chain bottlenecks within China
- Investor concerns about tighter regulation of foreign firms
- China’s trade war with the US
- Profitability of relocating production away from China

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following country is not part of “Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)”?

- a) India
- b) Japan
- c) Australia
- d) South Korea

ANS: D

Explanation: India, Japan & Australia launched Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in 2021 to attain strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the Indo-pacific region.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The famous “DANTAK project” is recently seen in news related to?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Project DANTAK - a project that constructed important infrastructure in Bhutan - is commemorating its Diamond Jubilee in Bhutan.

- It was established in 1961 as a result of the visionary leadership of the Third King of Bhutan and then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- It is one of the oldest Projects of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- It completed the road connecting Samdrup Jongkhar to Trashigang in 1968. Also, Thimphu was connected to Phuentsholing.
- DANTAK was tasked to construct the pioneering motorable roads there.
- Other notable projects executed by DANTAK - Construction of Paro Airport, Yonphula Airfield, Thimphu-Trashigang Highway, Telecommunication & Hydro Power Infrastructure, etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Amitabh Kant committee” was constituted in 2023 related to which of the following?

- a) Food processing
- b) Real estate
- c) Green corridors
- d) Agri – marketing

ANS: B

Explanation: Amitabh Kant committee was constituted in 2023 to examine stalled real estate projects and to recommend ways to complete the stalled projects.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Kavach System” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Space sector
- b) Railways
- c) Roadways
- d) Aviation

ANS: B

Explanation: In the recent happening of Odisha train accident, the KAVACH system is not installed in the mishaped trains.

- It is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry.
- Traffic collision avoidance system (TCAS) is equipped with on board the locomotive and transmission towers at stations.
- It is connected with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, helps in two-way communication between the station master and loco-pilot to convey any emergency message.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Which of the following country is not part of “European Free Trade Association (EFTA)”?

- a) Norway
- b) Iceland
- c) Switzerland
- d) Belgium

ANS: D

Explanation: The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is a four-nation bloc founded by the Stockholm Convention in 1960. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland are the EFTA States.

Source: FORUMIAS

Agriculture, Industry & Services sector

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Kasturi Cotton”:

1. It is India’s premium Cotton in the world cotton Trade.
2. Cotton Corporation of India has been designated as the implementing agency for Traceability, Certification and Branding of "Kasturi Cotton 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: Kasturi Cotton is India’s premium Cotton in the world cotton Trade.

- It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Textiles, Cotton Corporation of India, Trade Bodies & Industry.
- The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) has been designated as the implementing agency for Traceability, Certification and Branding of "KASTURI Cotton India".

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “Cott-Ally mobile app” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Cattle farmers
- b) Indigenous Cows production
- c) Cotton farmers
- d) Cashew nut production

ANS: C

Explanation: Cott-Ally mobile app has been developed for cotton farmers to increase awareness about MSP rates, nearest procurement centers, payment tracking, best farm practices etc.

It is a free mobile-based application owned by The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “MAHARISHI initiative” is often seen in news related to which of the following?

- a) Marketing infrastructure for farmers
- b) Millets and ancient grains research
- c) Zero budget natural farming
- d) Food processing industry

ANS: B

Explanation: Millets and other Ancient Grains International Research Initiative (MAHARISHI) is an initiative proposed by India to advance research in the field of millets and other ancient grains.

The initiative's secretariat is based at the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) in Hyderabad.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The famous “FL 2027 patent case” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Cotton
- b) Rice
- c) Wheat
- d) Potato

ANS: D

Explanation: The Delhi High Court upheld an order by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Authority (PPVFRA), revoking the registration of patent for a potato variety (FL-2027) to PepsiCo India Holdings Pvt. Ltd.

FL 2027 (commercial name FC-5) is a potato variety with high dry matter and low sugar content better suited for making chips. It was developed in 1996 by a US breeder employed in PepsiCo Inc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. More than 50% of the floriculture products are produced in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh.
2. The global horticulture market of India is more than five percent.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: More than 50% of the floriculture products are produced in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh.

- Horticulture contributes 30.4% of the agriculture Gross Domestic Product (GDP) using only 13.1% of gross cropped area.
- Exports - India is ranked 14th in vegetables and 23rd in fruits. However, the global horticulture market of India is at mere 1%.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following state has the largest number of “Minor Irrigation schemes”?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Gujarat
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: C

Explanation: Uttar Pradesh had the largest number of Micro Irrigation schemes in the country (17.2%) followed by Maharashtra (15.4%), Madhya Pradesh (9.9%) and Tamil Nadu (9.1%).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The famous traditional framing practice “Akkadi Saalu” is related to which of the following state?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The recently released report by the FAO suggests that use of traditional framing practices including Akkadi Saalu could reduce the escalating human and environmental costs of producing food.

- Akkadi Saalu is an intercropping system that has been in traditional practice in Karnataka. It helps to preserve life in the soil by reducing the use of pesticides.
- It is a traditional biodiversity based ecological farming practice with zero chemical fertilizers, zero chemical pesticides and minimal use of ground water.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following steps taken to promote entrepreneurship in India?

1. Invest India scheme
2. Standup India scheme
3. ASPIRE scheme

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Steps taken by India to Promote Entrepreneurship:

- Progressive Industrial Policies- The central government declared industrial policies in 1948, 1956, 1980, 1986, and 1991 to promote economy growth and entrepreneurship in country.
- Invest India- It was launched in 2009 to promote foreign investment in the country.
- Startup India- It was launched in 2015 to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
- Standup India- It was launched in 2016 to promote entrepreneurship among women and SC/ST communities.
- Atal Innovation Mission- It was launched in 2016 to promote an innovative culture and the development of the spirit of entrepreneurship across India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) In which of the following state India’s first International “Multi Modal Logistics park” located?

- a) Assam
- b) West Bengal
- c) Gujarat
- d) Goa

ANS: A

Explanation: Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, visited the construction site of India’s first International Multi Modal Logistics park in Jogighopa, Assam.

- The park is being developed under the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Government.

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- First such MMLP, it is being made by NHIDCL in Jogighopa of Assam.
- The park will be connected to road, rail, air and waterways. This is being developed in 317-acre land along the Brahmaputra.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)”:

1. It is an autonomous society, set up under NITI Aayog.
2. It looks at harnessing and leveraging niche frontier technologies available with central scientific departments and institutions.

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: NECTAR is an autonomous society, set up under Department of Science & Technology; Government of India with its headquarters at Shillong, Meghalaya.

The Centre will look at harnessing and leveraging niche frontier technologies available with central scientific departments and institutions.

Source: FORUMIAS

Indian Financial Market

Q.1) The term “LIBOR” is often seen in news related to which of the following?

- a) Global benchmark interest rate
- b) International payment gateway
- c) Developing countries aid
- d) International development banks

ANS: A

Explanation: LIBOR or London Interbank Offered Rate is a global benchmark interest rate.

LIBOR was created in the 1970s as a way to provide a more transparent and efficient way to set interest rates.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “International Finance Corporation (IFC)”:

1. It is the largest global development institution focused on the public sector in developing countries.
2. It is not a member of the World Bank Group.

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: International Finance Corporation (IFC) was founded in 1956 with a key objective that the private sector has the potential to transform developing countries.

- IFC is a member of the World Bank Group, advances economic development and improves the lives of people by encouraging the growth of the private sector in developing countries.
- IFC is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in developing countries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Credit Rating Agency (CRA)”:

1. CRA’s are regulated by RBI act, 1934.
2. CRA’s is agencies that assess the creditworthiness of organization, individual or entity and assign ratings to 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: A credit rating agency is an agency that assesses the creditworthiness of organization, individual or entity and assign ratings to it.

- In India, CRAs are regulated by SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- The global credit rating industry is highly concentrated, with 3 agencies - Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following factors determine the “sovereign credit rating” of a country?

1. Per capita income
2. Rate of inflation
3. External debt

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The factors that determine the sovereign credit rating of a country include:

- Per capita income;
- GDP growth;
- Rate of inflation;
- External debt;
- Economic development;
- History of defaults.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Risk Asset Ratio System”:

1. It was introduced after the subprime lending crisis in India by RBI.
2. Its calculation depends on the nature of the loan and the inherent risk associated with it.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Risk Asset Ratio System – RBI introduced it in 1992 for banks including foreign banks as a capital adequacy measure in line with the Capital Adequacy Norms prescribed by Basel Committee.

Calculation – It depends on the nature of the loan and the inherent risk associated with it.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Electronic Gold Receipts”:

1. They are held in demat accounts and traded in stock exchanges like dematerialized stocks.
2. The stock exchange can source physical gold from deposits in delivery centre’s, domestic refineries and imports.

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: Electronic Gold Receipts: They are a new way of trading gold on the stock exchange without having to buy or store physical gold.

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- They are held in demat accounts and traded in stock exchanges like dematerialized stocks.
- The stock exchange can source physical gold from deposits in delivery centre's, domestic refineries and imports.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding "Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA)":

1. It is launched by SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India).
2. Its objective is to reduce risks faced by investors during technical glitches at both the primary and disaster recovery site.

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: Recently launched Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform acts as a 'safety net' for investors registered with SEBI.

- Its objective is to reduce risks faced by investors during technical glitches at both the primary and disaster recovery site.
- To provide an opportunity to square off/close their open positions and cancels pending orders.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The famous "Vahul Committee" is related to which of the following?

- a) Stock exchange reforms
- b) Money market development
- c) Foreign currency regulations
- d) Capital market development

ANS: B

Explanation: The organized form of money market in India is just close to three decades old. However, its presence has been there, but restricted to the government only.

It was the Chakravarthy Committee (1985) which, for the first time, underlined the need of an organized money market in the country and the Vahul Committee (1987) laid the blue print for its development.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are traditional indigenous bankers?

1. Chettiars
2. Bakarwals
3. Gujarati Shroffs

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Indigenous bankers receive deposits and lend money in the capacity of individual or private firms.

There are, basically, four such bankers in the country functioning as nonhomogenous groups:

(a) Gujarati Shroffs: They operate in Mumbai, Kolkata as well as in industrial, trading and port cities in the region.

(b) Multani or Shikarpuri Shroffs: They operate in Mumbai, Kolkata, Assam tea gardens and North Eastern India.

(c) Marwari Kayas: They operate mainly in Gujarat with a little bit of presence in Mumbai and Kolkata.

(d) Chettiars: They are active in Chennai and at the ports of southern India.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Which of the following variant of “Treasury Bills (TBs)” are discontinued by government?

- a) 14 – day Auctionable Bills
- b) 91 – day Treasury Bills
- c) 182 – day Treasury Bills
- d) 364 – day Treasury Bills

ANS: A

Explanation: Treasury Bills (TBs): This instrument of the money market though present since Independence got organised only in 1986.

- They are used by the Central Government to fulfill its short-term liquidity requirement up to the period of 364 days.
- There developed five types of the TBs in due course of time: (a) 14-day (Intermediate TBs) (b) 14-day (Auctionable TBs) (c) 91-day TBs (d) 182-day TBs (e) 364-day
- TBs Out of the above five variants of the TBs, at present only the 91-day TBs, 182-day TBs and the 364-day TBs are issued by the government. The other two variants were discontinued in 2001.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Certificate of Deposit (CD)”:

1. It is issued by Reserve Bank of India.
2. It is negotiable and tradable in the money market.

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: Certificate of Deposit (CD): Organized in 1989, the CD is used by banks and issued to the depositors for a specified period ranging less than one year—they are negotiable and tradable in the money market.

Since 1993 the RBI allowed the financial institutions to operate in it— IFCI, IDBI, IRBI (IIBI since 1997) and the Exim Bank—they can issue CDs for the maturity periods above one year and up to three years.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following institution does not issue the “commercial bill”?

- a) Scheduled commercial banks
- b) Merchant banks
- c) Cooperative banks
- d) NABARD

ANS: D

Explanation: Commercial Bill (CB): Organized in 1990, a CB is issued by the All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Scheduled Commercial Banks, Merchant Banks, Co-operative Banks and the Mutual Funds. It replaced the old Bill Market available since 1952 in the country.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Which of the following institutions act as both the borrowers and lenders in call money market?

1. Mutual funds
2. IDBI
3. LIC

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Call Money Market (CMM): This is basically an inter-bank money market where funds are borrowed and lent, generally, for one day—that is why this is also known as over-night borrowing market (also called money at call).

The scheduled commercial banks, co-operative banks operate in this market as both the borrowers and lenders while LIC, GIC, Mutual Funds, IDBI and NABARD are allowed to operate as only lenders in this market.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “call money market”:

1. Borrowing in this market may take place against securities or without securities.
2. Rate of interest in this market glides with the repo rate of the time.

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: Call Money Market (CMM): This is basically an inter-bank money market where funds are borrowed and lent, generally, for one day—that is why this is also known as over-night borrowing market (also called money at call).

- Fund can be borrowed/raised for a maximum period up to 14 days (called short notice).
- Borrowing in this market may take place against securities or without securities.
- Rate of interest in this market ‘glides’ with the ‘repo rate’ of the time the principle remains very simple —longer the period, higher the interest rate.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Cash Management Bill (CMB)”:

1. They are non-standard and discounted instruments issued for maturities of more than 91 days.
2. They are tradable and qualify for ready forward facility.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Government of India, in consultation with the RBI, decided to issue a new short-term instrument, known as Cash Management Bills, since August 2009 to meet the temporary cash flow mismatches of the government.

- The Cash Management Bills are non-standard and discounted instruments issued for maturities less than 91 days.
- The CMBs have the generic character of Treasury Bills (issued at discount to the face value); are tradable and qualify for ready forward facility; investment in it is considered as an eligible investment in government securities by banks for SLR.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “White Label ATMs (WLAs)”:

1. They are operated by both bank and non-bank operators.
2. They are authorized under the Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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: White Label ATMs (WLAs): Non-Banks – They are ATMs set up, owned and operated by non-banks are called WLAs.

- Non-bank ATM operators are authorized under the Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The WLAs provide banking services to the customers of banks in India, based on the cards (debit/credit/prepaid) issued by banks.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Which of the following is a regional development bank?

- a) New Development Bank (NDB)
- b) World Bank
- c) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- d) International Development Association (IDA)

ANS: A

Explanation: International Development Banks Regional Development Banks:

- World Bank
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- International Development Association (IDA)

Regional Development Banks:

- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- New Development Bank (NDB)
- Eurasian Development Bank (EDB)
- Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “UDGAM Portal” is recently seen in news related to which of the following?

- a) Inflation
- b) Unclaimed deposits
- c) Cash floating in market
- d) Last mile credit

ANS: B

Explanation: The RBI unveiled a Centralized Web Portal UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation).

- Purpose – For use by public to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place and enable them to either claim the deposit amount or make their deposit accounts operative at their respective banks.
- RBI Technology Pvt. Ltd. (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS), and participating banks have collaborated on developing the portal.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG)” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Industry
- c) Fintech companies
- d) International funding

ANS: C

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG) for fintech Lending Service Providers (LSP).

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- First loss default guarantee (FLDG) is a lending model between banks or non-banking finance companies (Regulated Entities) and lending service providers (fintech firms).
- In FLDG arrangement, the initial hit on a default is taken by a third party such as fintech firm that originated the loan.
- The fintech player (LSP) compensates lenders if the borrower defaults up to a certain threshold of the loan portfolio.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Bank of International Settlements (BIS)”:

1. It is owned by 63 central banks including RBI that account for 95% of the GDP.
2. Basel Committee on Banking Supervision of BIS provides the Basel norms.

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: Bank of International Settlements (BIS):

- BIS was established in 1930.
- BIS is owned by 63 central banks including RBI that account for 95% of the GDP.
- BIS's head office is in Basel, Switzerland and it has two representative offices in Hong Kong and Mexico City.
- The mission of BIS is to support central banks' pursuit of monetary and financial stability through international cooperation, and to act as a bank for central banks.
- Basel Committee on Banking Supervision of BIS provides the Basel norms.

Source: FORUMIAS

Banking in India

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)”:

1. It is a loan or advance for which principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 30 days.
2. There is an increase in gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of Indian banks in recent years.

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: NPA is a loan or advance for which principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.

- There is a decline in gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of Indian banks.
- In 2017-18, this ratio was as high as 11.2 % raising concerns on the stability of the banking system.
- During last three years (2019-22) alone fresh NPAs add up to ₹10.61 lakh crore

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) According to “Central Vigilance Commission”, what is the minimum amount of default to be considered as “willful default”?

- a) 25 lakhs
- b) 50 lakhs
- c) 75 lakhs
- d) 1 crore

ANS: A

Explanation: The amount of willful default must be of at least Rs. 25 lakhs as per the Central Vigilance Commission.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The rate at which the RBI issues loans to commercial banks when there is a shortage of funds is the repo rate.
2. The reverse repo rate is the variable or fixed interest rate the RBI pays to commercial banks when they store excess cash reserves with the central bank.
3. The variable rate reverse repo is a fixed or variable interest rate at which RBI lends to banks.

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The rate at which the RBI issues loans to commercial banks when there is a shortage of funds is the repo rate.

- The reverse repo rate is the variable or fixed interest rate the RBI pays to commercial banks when they store excess cash reserves with the central bank.
- The variable rate reverse repo is a fixed or variable interest rate at which banks lend to RBI.
- The VRRR auction is undertaken to reduce surplus liquidity in the system by withdrawing existing cash.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following is/are regulated entities?

1. Scheduled commercial banks
2. Primary cooperative banks
3. NABARD

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The RBI asked all regulated entities (REs) including banks and NBFCs, to give personal loan borrowers an option to switch over from a floating rate to a fixed rate regime at the time of resetting interest rates.

Regulated entities include banks, primary cooperative banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Credit Information Companies and also institutions such as EXIM Bank, NABARD, NaBFID, National Housing Bank (NHB) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Co-Lending Model of Loan”:

1. It is developed by RBI to address the flow to credit to un-served sectors of the economy.
2. NBFC is the originator in Co – lending while a bank is where the major portion of the loan rests.

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: Co-lending is an arrangement where the loan origination is by one entity usually nonbanking financial company (NBFC) but the risk is shared by two entities (NBFC and banks).

- NBFC is the originator while a bank is where the major portion of the loan rests.
- Co-lending model is developed by RBI to address the flow to credit to un-served sectors of the economy.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following services is/are offered by white label ATM's?

1. Cash Deposit
2. Purchase of Re-load Vouchers for Mobiles
3. Request for Cheque Book

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: ATMs set up, owned and operated by non-banks are called White Label ATMs.

Non-bank ATM operators are authorized under the Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

In addition to dispensing cash, ATMs / WLAs may offer many other services / facilities to customers. Some of such services include:

- Account Information
- Cash Deposit
- Regular Bill Payment
- Purchase of Re-load Vouchers for Mobiles (not permitted at WLAs)
- Mini / Short Statement Generation
- PIN Change
- Request for Cheque Book

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following is/are types of “Non-Banking Financial Companies”?

1. Asset Finance Company (AFC)
2. Investment Company (IC)
3. Loan Company (LC)

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: NBFCs have been reclassified into three categories: (i) Asset Finance Company (AFC) (ii) Investment Company (IC) and (iii) Loan Company (LC).

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India was set up in 1935 by the RBI Act, 1934 as a private bank.
2. The Reserve Bank of India was nationalized in 1955.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was set up in 1935 (by the RBI Act, 1934) as a private bank with two extra functions—regulation and control of the banks in India and being the banker of the government.

After nationalization in 1949, it emerged as the central banking body of India and it did not remain a ‘bank’ in the technical sense.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.9) Which of the following is not a function of “Reserve Bank of India”?

- a) Issuing agency of one rupee currency.
- b) Banker of the government.
- c) Bank of the banks.
- d) Keeper of the foreign currency reserves.

ANS: A

Explanation: After nationalization in 1949, it emerged as the central banking body of India and it did not remain a ‘bank’ in the technical sense.

Since then, the governments have been handing over different functions to the RBI, which stand today as given below:

- (i) It is the issuing agency of the currency and coins other than rupee one currency and coin (which are issued by Ministry of Finance itself with the signature of the Finance Secretary on the note).
- (ii) Distributing agent for currency and coins issued by the Government of India.
- (iii) Banker of the government.
- (iv) Bank of the banks/Bank of last resort.

- (v) Announces the credit and monetary policy for the economy.
- (vi) Stabilizing and targeting (CPI-C) the rate of inflation.
- (vii) Stabilizing the exchange rate of rupee.
- (viii) Keeper of the foreign currency reserves.
- (ix) Agent of the Government of India in the IMF.
- (x) Performing a variety of developmental and promotional functions under which it did set up institutions like IDBI, SIDBI, NABARD, NHB, etc.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “cash reserve ratio (CRR)”:

1. It is fixed by central government.
2. It is the ratio of the total deposits of a bank in India which is kept with the RBI in the form of gold.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The cash reserve ratio (CRR) is the ratio (fixed by the RBI) of the total deposits of a bank in India which is kept with the RBI in the form of cash.

- This was fixed to be in the range of 3 to 15 per cent.
- A recent Amendment (2007) has removed the 3 per cent floor and provided a free hand to the RBI in fixing the CRR.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Capital Market in India

Q.1) Which of the following instruments is/are used as long term capital source?

1. Call money
2. Mutual funds
3. Securities

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The segment of a financial market of an economy from long-term capital is raised via instruments such as shares, securities, bonds, debentures, mutual funds, and is known as the security market of that economy.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following is/are functions of stock exchanges?

1. It is the single most important institution in the secondary market for securities.
2. Makes available the prices of trading as an important piece of information to the investors.
3. By publishing its Index, it fulfills the purpose of projecting the moods of the stock market.

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: A physically existing institutionalized set-up where instruments of security stock market (shares, bonds, debentures, securities, etc.) are traded. It serves the following major functions:

- (i) Makes a floor available to the buyers and sellers of stocks and liquidity comes to the stocks. It is the single most important institution in the secondary market for securities.
- (ii) Makes available the prices of trading as an important piece of information to the investors.
- (iii) By following institutionalized rules and procedures, it ensures that the participants in the stock market live up to their commitments.
- (iv) Passes updated information's to the enlisted companies about their present stockholders (so that they can pass on dividends etc., to them).
- (v) By publishing its 'Index', it fulfills the purpose of projecting the moods of the stock market.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Which of the following stock exchange is known as "The Native Share and Stock Brokers Association"?

- a) Calcutta stock exchange
- b) National stock exchange
- c) India international exchange
- d) Bombay stock exchange

ANS: D

Explanation: The first stock exchange in India, the Bombay Stock Exchange known as The Native Share and Stock Brokers' Association was set up in 1870 (under a tree!).

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.4) Which of the following is world's largest stock exchange on the basis of market capitalization?

- a) New York Stock Exchange
- b) NASDAQ
- c) London Stock Exchange
- d) National Stock Exchange

ANS: A

Explanation: The global stock exchanges are an integral part of the financial system, which has a significant impact on the global economic outlook.

- There are approximately 60 major stock exchanges worldwide, with the largest ones having a combined market capitalization of \$116,397,310.17 trillion, according to the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).

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- Notably, two of the largest stock exchanges, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the Nasdaq, both located in the United States, lead and dominate the majority of the global market by a wide margin.

Top 10 largest stock exchanges in the world, according to their market capitalization in 2024:

Rank	Exchange name	Country	Domestic market cap (in trillion dollars)
1	New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)	USA	\$27,876,292.90
2	Nasdaq	USA	\$25,914,307.90
3	Japan Exchange Group	Japan	\$6,246,074.78
4	Shanghai Stock Exchange	China	\$6,350,622.64
5	National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India	India	\$5,055,163.02
6	Euronext	Europe	\$7,148,962.99
7	Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing	Hong Kong	\$4,115,775.02
8	Shenzhen Stock Exchange	China	\$3,821,844.20
9	Toronto Stock Exchange (TMX Group)	Canada	\$3,194,035.69
10	Korea Exchange	South Korea	\$1,947,717.56

Source: World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.5) Which of the following is/are works as mediators for trading in the stock exchanges?

1. Brokers
2. Jobbers
3. Market – makers

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Trading in the stock exchanges takes place via the mediators known as the brokers, the jobbers, and the market-maker.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Which of the following stock exchange has 50 share index?

- a) Bombay stock exchange
- b) National stock exchange
- c) Over the Counter Exchange of India Ltd (OTCEI)
- d) Interconnected Stock Exchange of India

ANS: B

Explanation: The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE) was set up in 1992 and became operationalised in 1994.

- The sponsors of the exchange are financial institutions, including IDBI, LIC and GIC with IDBI as its promoter.
- It has a 50 share index and a 500 share index known as S&P CNX-50 (Nifty Fifty) and S&P CNX-500, respectively.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Over the Counter Exchange of India Ltd (OTCEI)”:

1. It is India’s first fully computerized stock exchange.
2. Trading in this exchange takes place via brokers and commission is market based and not fixed.

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: Though the Over the Counter Exchange of India Ltd (OTCEI) was set up in 1989, it could commence trading only in 1992.

- India’s first fully computerized stock exchange was promoted by the UTI, ICICI, SBI Cap among others, in order to overcome problems such as lack of transparency and delays in settlements prevalent in the older stock exchanges.
- Another important goal of the exchange was to allow stock market exposure to comparatively smaller companies (companies with paid-up capital from Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 25 crore are enlisted here).
- Trading in this exchange takes place via market-makers and commission is fixed.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.8) Which of the following is not part of Bombay stock exchange?

- a) Sensex
- b) BSE – 50
- c) BSE – 200
- d) National Index

ANS: B

Explanation: There are at present four indices connected with the BSE:

- (i) Sensex: The sensitive index (i.e., Sensex) is a 30 stocks index of the BSE which was enlarged to include 50 stocks in 2000 but soon was cut down to the original level. This index represents the Indian stock market.

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- (ii) BSE-200: This is a 200 stock share index of the BSE (including the 30 stocks of the Sensex) which has its Dollar version too—the Dollex.
- (iii) BSE-500: In mid-1999, the BSE came up with a 500-stock index representing major industries and many sub-sectors of the economy with information technology getting a significant weightage.
- (iv) National Index: An index of 100 stocks being quoted nationwide (Bombay, Delhi, Kolkata, etc.) was developed to give broader/wider representation of the stock market since the Sensex consists of only 30 stocks. The 30 stocks of the sensex are included in the National Index.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.9) The term “BSE Indo Next” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Major companies stocks
- b) Small companies stocks
- c) Foreign companies stocks
- d) Offshore companies stocks

ANS: B

Explanation: A new stock exchange to promote liquidity to the stocks of the small enterprises (SMEs) was launched in 2005 jointly and medium the BSE and the FISE (Federation of Indian Stock Exchanges, representing 18 regional stock exchanges).

- It is better known as the BSE Indo Next. It was also an effort to rejuvenate the RSEs which were facing falling volumes of trading on their floors.
- Due to absence of trading at the RSEs, the stocks of the SME, has become illiquid.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.10) The term “Taravaniwallah” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Broker
- b) Jobber
- c) Market maker
- d) Both A & B

ANS: B

Explanation: A jobber is a broker’s broker or one who specializes in specific securities catering to the need of other brokers—in India also known as ‘Taravaniwallah’ (in the BSE).

A jobber is located at a particular trading post on the floor of the stock exchange and does buying and selling for small price differences, called the spread. He has no contact with the investing public.

Source: Ramesh Singh

External Sector of India

Q.1) Which of the following state is top most attractor of foreign direct investment from 2019 to 2023?

- a) Telangana
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Maharashtra

ANS: D

Explanation: Top attractors of FDI between Oct 2019 and September 2023 - Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following sectors is/are permitted 100 percent foreign direct investment under automatic route?

1. Agriculture
2. Telecom
3. E - commerce

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: FDI up to 100%, under the automatic route is permitted for agriculture, manufacturing, airports, e-commerce, pharmaceuticals, and railway infrastructure.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following country is the largest source of inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)?

- a) USA
- b) Mauritius
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Japan

ANS: A

Explanation: In terms of market value, the FDI amounted to Rs 50 lakh crore in FY23.

The USA was the largest source of inward FDI followed by Mauritius, the UK and Singapore which collectively accounted for 60% of the inward FDI in the country.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) In which of the following instruments the foreign portfolio investors can invest?

1. Currency
2. Exchange traded funds
3. Gold

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) involves holding financial assets from a country outside of the investor's own.

FPI holdings can include stocks, ADRs, GDRs, bonds, mutual funds, and exchange traded funds.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “foreign portfolio investors”:

1. FPI's have control over ventures of property or a stake in a company.
2. An investment of NRIs comes under FPI.

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: FPI involves holding financial assets from a country outside of the investor's own.

- Foreign Portfolio Investors have only passive ownership and investors have no control over ventures or direct ownership of property or a stake in a company.
- Investments of NRIs don't come under FPI.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following country signed the world's first and largest debt swap to conserve oceans?

- a) Peru
- b) Argentina
- c) Ecuador
- d) Gabon

ANS: C

Explanation: In May 2023, the world's first and largest debt swap to conserve oceans was signed by Ecuador, which had exchanged \$1.6 billion denominated bonds for a new \$656 million loan.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following country government world's largest sovereign wealth fund (SWF)?

- a) Thailand
- b) Sweden
- c) Norway
- d) Singapore

ANS: D

Explanation: SWF is a state-owned investment fund comprised of money generated by the government, often derived from a country's surplus reserves.

The Singapore government was the largest SWF followed by Norway's Norges and Kuwait Investment Authority.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding "Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS)":

1. It was launched after the subprime lending crisis.
2. It aims to simplify and streamline the process of remitting funds outside 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: B

Explanation: LRS is a foreign exchange policy initiative introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2004. Its aim is to simplify and streamline the process of remitting funds outside India.

- Under LRS, resident individuals can freely remit funds up to a certain limit for various permissible transactions involving a current or capital account.
- Prior to LRS, the remittance is controlled by FEMA 1999.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The term "reverse flipping" is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Transferring of ownership
- b) Angel investors
- c) Forex reserves
- d) Foreign investment

ANS: A

Explanation: Flipping- The process of transferring the entire ownership of an Indian company to an overseas entity, accompanied by a transfer of intellectual property rights and data owned by the Indian company.

Reverse flipping - It is the trend of overseas start-ups shifting their domicile to India and listing on Indian stock exchanges.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) is located in which of the following city?

- a) Chennai
- b) Mumbai
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Gandhinagar

ANS: D

Explanation: A unified authority for development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India. Its headquarters is located at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

Source: FORUMIAS

Tax Structure in India

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The event of tax imposition is known as the impact of tax.
2. The after effect of tax imposition is known as the incidence of tax.

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 point where tax looks as being imposed is known as the incidence of tax —the event of tax imposition.

The point where tax makes its effect felt is known as the impact of tax—the after effect of tax imposition.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following “method has increasing rates of tax for increasing value or volume on which the tax is being imposed”?

- a) Progressive taxation
- b) Regressive taxation
- c) Proportional taxation
- d) Partial taxation

ANS: A

Explanation: Progressive taxation method has increasing rates of tax for increasing value or volume on which the tax is being imposed.

- Indian income tax is a typical example of it. The idea here is less tax on the people who earn less and higher tax on the people who earn more—classifying income earners into different slabs.
- This method is believed to discourage more earnings by the individual to support low growth and development unintentionally.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Which of the following is/are principles of a good tax system?

1. Fairness
2. Efficiency
3. Flexibility

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: There is a broad consensus on five principles of a good tax system, among economists and the policymakers:

- Fairness
- Efficiency
- Administrative simplicity
- Flexibility
- Transparency

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “value added tax (VAT)”:

1. It is collected at every stage of value addition, either by production or distribution.
2. It has a cascading effect on the prices of goods and in turn increases the inflation.

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 value added tax (VAT) is a method of tax collection as well as name of a state level tax (at present) in India.

- A tax collected at every stage of value addition, i.e., either by production or distribution is known as value added tax.
- The name itself suggests that this tax is collected on the value addition (i.e., production).
- VAT method of tax collection is different from the non-VAT method in the sense that it is imposed and collected at different points of value addition chain, i.e., multi-point tax collection.
- That is why there is no chance of imposing tax upon tax which takes place in the nonVAT method—single point tax collection.
- This is why VAT does not have a ‘cascading effect’ on the prices of goods it does not increase inflation—and is therefore highly suitable for an economy like India where due to high level of poverty large number of people lack the market level purchasing capacity.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.5) Which of the following committees was/were related to tax reforms?

1. Narsimhan committee
2. Kelkar committee
3. Chelliah committee

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The tax reforms committees are headed by Chelliah and Kelkar in different periods.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Arrange the following taxes introduced in India in chronological order:

1. State VAT
2. CENVAT
3. GST

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: In the year 1996, the central government started collecting its excise duty on the VAT method and the tax was given a new name—the CENVAT.

- A total number of 20 states/UTs switched over to VAT (from their existing sales tax) in April 2005. Rest of the states went for it by 2008-09.
- The Constitution (101st Amendment) Bill, 2016 was cleared by the Parliament by early August 2016 —paving the way for its implementation. By late September 2016, the GST Council (GSTC) was created by the Government.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.7) The service tax was introduced in which of the following year in India?

- a) 1989 - 90
- b) 1994 - 95
- c) 1999 - 2000
- d) 2005 - 06

ANS: B

Explanation: The share of the services sector in the GDP of India has been going upward for the last decade.

- The introduction of service tax in 1994-95 by the Government of India has started paying the government on its tax revenue front.
- Introduced to redress the asymmetric and distortionary treatment of goods and services in the tax regime, the service tax has seen gradual expansion in the country.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.8) Which of the following commodities is/are taxed under “commodities transaction tax”?

1. Cotton
2. Rubber
3. Gold

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Commodity transaction tax (CTT) is imposed on the purchase & sale of commodity contracts in Indian commodity exchanges in the same way that security transaction tax (STT) is set on the purchase & sale of securities in Indian secondary markets.

- Commodities derivative contracts were the first to be subject to the commodity transaction tax in July 2013. The CTT, or commodity transaction tax, is taxed at 0.01% of the trade price on non-agricultural commodity derivative contracts.
- All transactions involving the trade of commodities are subject to CTT. The tax is applicable to the buyer & the seller. The actual contract size determines the tax.
- Trading in agricultural commodities is not subject to the CTT. Natural gas, silver, Brent oil, crude oil, & gold are examples of commodities that are taxed.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Securities Transaction Tax”:

1. It is an indirect tax.
2. It is a type of financial transaction tax levied in India on transactions done on the domestic stock exchanges.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Securities Transaction Tax (STT) is a type of ‘financial transaction tax’ levied in India on transactions done on the domestic stock exchanges.

- The rates of STT are prescribed by the central government through its budget from time to time.
- In tax parlance, this is categorized as a direct tax. The tax came into effect from 1 October, 2004.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.10) The term “Harmonized System (HS)” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Circular economy
- b) Traded products
- c) Second hand products
- d) Tax incentivization

ANS: B

Explanation: The Harmonized System (HS) is a globally standardized system for classifying and identifying traded products using numbers and names.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) administers the HS, which is used by over 200 countries and economies.

Source: FORUMIAS

Public Finance in India

Q.1) Which of the following component has the largest portion of external debt?

- a) Loans
- b) Currency & deposits
- c) Debt securities
- d) Trade credit & advances

ANS: A

Explanation: India's External debt stands at 18% of GDP as per RBI for the FY 2023.

Loans remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 32.5%, followed by currency and deposits (22.6%), trade credit and advances (19.9%) and debt securities (16.7%).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following issues is/are associated with India's debt?

1. Low interest payments
2. High sovereign ratings
3. Tax burden

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Issues associated with India's debt:

- Financial repression- When the interest rate on government debt is lower than the growth of GDP, the debt may decline but the financial market gets distorted.
- Electoral budget cycle- With elections to a number of States scheduled in 2023 and the general election for 2024, this could push the debt ratio further.
- Large interest payments- It constitutes over 5% of GDP and 25% of the revenue receipts which is more than the government expenditure on education and health care put together.
- Low sovereign ratings- Rating agencies keep low sovereign ratings if deficit and debts are high, this will drive the cost of borrowings of the manufacturing sector.
- Tax burden- As today's borrowing is taxing tomorrow' and the burden of large deficits and debt will have to be borne by the next generation, this will increase the tax burden of the people.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are effects of reduced welfare expenditure?

1. Lower economic growth
2. Lower rate of people coming out of poverty
3. Reduced economic activities

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Major effects of reduced welfare expenditure include:

- Lower economic growth
- Lower rate of people coming out of poverty
- Low human development index - India's Human Development Index rank is at 132.
- Reduced economic activities

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) "Household sector's savings in financial assets has shown a sharp decline to 5.1% of GDP in 2022-23" – which of the following is/are possible reasons for subdued savings?

1. Declining income of households
2. Declining income of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
3. Low inflation

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The primary reasons behind the subdued savings and increased borrowing seem to be stagnant or declining incomes for households and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), occurring in the midst of high inflation

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following factors influence the Household Savings?

1. Income levels
2. Interest rates
3. Wealth assets

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Factors influencing Household Savings:

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- Income- High-income households usually allocate more income to savings than consumption. Because they cannot fulfill the most desirable items, low-income households consume more than they save.
- Interest rate- High real interest rates make savings more attractive. The high nominal interest rate will be useless if inflation is also high. When it is lower than the inflation rate, the actual returns cannot offset the decline in the purchasing power of money. Hence, households are reluctant to save.
- Future income expectation- Households increase consumption rather than saving when they are optimistic about their future income. It commonly occurs during economic expansion.
- Wealth-Increased asset value encourages households to consume more. As the assets value rise, households find reaching their wealth accumulation target without saving more.
- Tax-Higher personal taxes reduce disposable income thus decreasing money allocation for consumption & saving.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following institution releases the “Financial Stability Report (FSR)”?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Department of economic affairs
- c) Reserve Bank of India
- d) World economic forum

ANS: C

Explanation: The Financial Stability Report (FSR) report is released by the RBI.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following categories is/are comes under ambit of the prevention of money laundering law?

1. Chartered accountants
2. Real estate agents
3. Drivers

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Finance Ministry brought chartered accountants, company secretaries, and cost and works accountants under the ambit of the money laundering law.

Section 2(1) (sa) of PMLA, 2002 - This section includes Gaming activity, Registration Authority, Real Estate Agents, Dealer in precious metals and stones.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following provisions used in transactions of Aadhar enabled Payment System?

1. Bank name
2. Mobile OTP
3. Aadhar number

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: AEPS is a bank led model which allows online interoperable financial transaction.

- These transactions are done at PoS (Point of Sale / Micro ATM) through the Business Correspondent (BC) of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication.
- AePS removes the need for OTPs, bank account details, and other financial details.

Requirement for transaction - It allows fund transfers using only the

- Bank name
- Aadhaar number
- Fingerprint captured during Aadhaar enrolment

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are features of “Goods & Services Tax (GST)”?

1. Unified taxpayer base governed by a uniform set of laws and procedures
2. Common management of business records and filing returns
3. An uninterrupted input tax credit chain through Integrated Goods and Services tax (IGST)

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Features of GST:

- Unified taxpayer base governed by a uniform set of laws and procedures
- Common management of business records and filing returns
- An uninterrupted input tax credit chain through Integrated Goods and Services tax (IGST)
- Completely automated and faceless administration with all processes being online

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Which of the following ministry launched “e-jagrti Portal”?

- a) Ministry of external affairs
- b) Ministry of environment
- c) Ministry of home
- d) Ministry of consumer affairs

ANS: D

Explanation: “e-jagrti Portal” is a portal for consumer commissions launched by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Source: FORUMIAS

International Economic Organizations

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. India is a signatory to Information Technology Agreement (ITA) of World Trade Organization.
2. India raised its global market share of information technology products from 2% to 14% between 2000-2011.

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: India is a signatory to the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (now also known as ITA-1), a plurilateral agreement of WTO.

- As on date, there are altogether 75 member signatories, including 27 EU member countries, accounting for about 97 percent of the world trade in Information Technology (IT) products.
- India joined the ITA on 25th March 1997. India's experience with the ITA has been most discouraging, which almost wiped out the IT industry from India.
- The real gainer from that agreement has been China which raised its global market share from 2% to 14% between 2000 -2011.

Source: <https://www.commerce.gov.in/international-trade/india-and-world-trade-organization-wto/information-technology-agreement>.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding "European Free Trade Association (EFTA)":

1. India and EFTA started negotiating a broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement in 2008.
2. The four EFTA countries are part of the European Union (EU).

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is a four-nation bloc founded by the Stockholm Convention in 1960. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland are the EFTA States.

- The inter-governmental organization is for the promotion and intensification of free trade to benefit the member countries.
- It was founded as an alternative for states that did not wish to join the European Community. The four EFTA countries are not part of the European Union (EU).
- India and EFTA started negotiating a broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement in 2008.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

1. It substitutes a sensitive identifier with a non-sensitive equivalent.
2. It has extrinsic or exploitable meaning or value.

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: Tokenization substitutes a sensitive identifier (e.g., a unique ID number or other PII) with a non-sensitive equivalent (i.e., a “token”) that has no extrinsic or exploitable meaning or value.

- These tokens are used in place of identifiers or PII to represent the user in a database or during transactions such as authentication.
- The mapping from the original data to a token uses methods—e.g., randomization or a hashing algorithm—that render tokens infeasible to reverse without access to the tokenization system.

Source: <https://id4d.worldbank.org/guide/tokenization>

Q.4) Which of the following areas is/are covered under world economic outlook of International Monetary Fund?

1. Inflation
2. Environment conservation
3. Fiscal balances

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is an International Monetary Fund (IMF) report providing output, inflation, employment, fiscal balances, and debt statistics for member countries.

The report forecasts the global growth, summarizes the state of global economy and highlights the most important developments.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) India is in negotiations with which of the following country to resolve a long-standing dispute about sugar subsidy at the World Trade Organization (WTO)?

- A. Argentina
- B. Cuba
- C. Brazil
- D. Malaysia

ANS: C

Explanation: India is in negotiations with Brazil to resolve a long-standing dispute about sugar subsidy at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The “Maximum Admissible Export Quality (MAEQ)” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Cotton
- b) Fisheries
- c) Rice
- d) Sugar

ANS: D

Explanation: The Government of India has notified a Scheme on 12th September, 2019 for evacuation of surplus stock of sugar from the country.

- Under this scheme, Maximum Admissible Export Quantity (MAEQ) of 60 LMT has been fixed among sugar mills for export during the current sugar season 2019-20.
- The Government has approved a Scheme for export of sugar by providing a lumpsum export subsidy at the rate of Rs.10,448/- per MT towards expenses on marketing costs including handling, upgrading and other processing costs and costs of international and internal transport and freight charges on export of sugar.
- The total expenditure in this regard would be about Rs.6268crores.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1592271>

Q.7) Consider the following statements related to “Bima Vahak”:

1. It is a dedicated distribution channel by the IRDAI to reach out to every Gram Panchayat.
2. It intends to form a women-centric insurance distribution channel.

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: IRDAI has set up a 24-member committee to synergize Bima Vahak, Bima Vistaar and the digital platform - Bima Sugam.

- Bima Vahak - It is a dedicated distribution channel by the IRDAI to reach out to every Gram Panchayat.
- Each Gram Panchayat would have a 'Bima Vahak' who would be tasked to sell and service simple parametric bundled insurance products.
- Bima Vahak intends to form a women-centric insurance distribution channel.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following institutions is/are part of Bretton woods twins?

1. World Bank
2. World Trade Organization
3. World Maritime Organization

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: As the powerful nations of the world were hopeful of a new and more stable world order with the emergence of the UNO, on the contrary, they were also anxious for a more homogenous world financial order, after the Second World War.

- The representatives of the USA, the UK and 42 other (total 44 countries) nations met at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA in July 1944 to decide a new international monetary system.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (with its first group-institution IBRD) were set up together—popularly called as the Bretton Woods' twins—both having their headquarters in Washington DC, USA.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “International Development Agency (IDA)”:

1. It is known as the soft window of the World Bank.
2. It was established in 1948 along with World Bank.

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 International Development Agency (IDA) which is also known as the soft window of the WB was set up in 1960 with the basic aim of developing infrastructural support among the member nations, long-term lending for the development of economic services.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Which of the following organization lends money to private sector companies of its member nations?

- a) IMF
- b) World Bank
- c) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- d) AIIB

ANS: C

Explanation: The International Finance Corporation (IFC) was set up in 1956 which is also known as the private arm of the WB.

- It lends money to private sector companies of its member nations.

- The interest rate charged is commercial but comparatively low.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Revision

Q.1) The terms “benzoate and quinalphos” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Fungicides
- b) Pesticides
- c) Herbicides
- d) Weedicides

ANS: B

Explanation: Food Safety Standards Authority of India notifies residue cap for five pesticides in tea plantation

- The five pesticides are emamectin, benzoate, fenpyroximate, hexaconazole, propiconazole, and quinalphos.
- In 2018, the FSSAI came out with a notification which lowered the MRL for certain compounds which affected the industry.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following institution has signed the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR) Integration Framework Agreement (IFA) to work towards a One CGIAR approach?

- a) ICRISAT
- b) Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU)
- c) Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)
- d) National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research

ANS: A

Explanation: The ICRISAT has signed the CGIAR Integration Framework Agreement (IFA) to work towards a One CGIAR approach.

One CGIAR approach – It is an initiative of Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following schemes promote the growth of “Farmer Producer Organization (FPO)”?

1. Honey FPO Programme
2. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund
3. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Steps taken by the Government to promote FPOs:

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- Formation & promotion of new 10,000 FPOs - It is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2020 to provided financial assistance up to Rs 18 lakh per FPO for a period of 3 years
- Honey FPO Programme- Agriculture Ministry launched 5 FPOs for producing honey that would be set up with the help of National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund- It will provide interest subvention of 3% for credit extended to develop post-harvest infrastructure to FPOs.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)- It promotes FPOs by mobilizing farmers, building market linkages through a value chain development approach for farm based livelihood is an important strategy being pursued.
- Venture Capital Assistance program- Launched by Small Farmer's Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), it works for the betterment of farmer-entrepreneur to evolve their agri-based business.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The term "Greedflation" is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Inflation in Greece
- b) Inflation in Gabon
- c) Inflation in Great Britain
- d) Inflation driven by corporate greed

ANS: D

Explanation: Greedflation is the exploitation of inflation by corporate to create excessive profits. It simply means (corporate) greed fuelled inflation.

In normal inflation situation, corporate go for the wage-price spiral, whereas in Greedflation corporate choose the profit-price spiral.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The "Ways and Means Advances" comes under which of the following act?

- a) RBI act, 1934
- b) Banking regulation act, 1948
- c) State bank of India act, 1955
- d) Nationalization of banks act, 1969

ANS: A

Explanation: Ways and means advances are temporary advances given by the RBI to the Centre and state governments to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.

It was introduced in 1997 and comes under Section 17(5) of the RBI Act of 1934, to end the four-decade old system of ad-hoc treasury bills to finance the central government deficit.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Loan write-off”:

1. It is a tool used by banks to clean up their balance-sheets.
2. If a loan turns bad on the account of the repayment defaults for at least three consecutive quarters, the loan can be written off.

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: Loan write-off – It is a tool used by banks to clean up their balance-sheets. It is applied in the cases of bad loans or non-performing assets (NPA).

- If a loan turns bad on the account of the repayment defaults for at least three consecutive quarters, the loan can be written off.
- By writing-off a loan, the banks set free the money parked for the provisioning and utilize the amount for business (it will no longer be counted as an asset).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) With reference to Reserve Bank of India, the term “bunker” is associated with which if the following?

- a) Payment systems
- b) Ways and means
- c) Loan write offs
- d) Fiscal consolidation

ANS: A

Explanation: RBI is planning to use the lightweight payment system for emergencies and as an alternative to UPI, NEFT, and RTGS.

- The RBI has conceptualized a lightweight payment and settlements system, which it is calling a bunker.
- The bunker is an equivalent of digital payments, which can be operated from anywhere by a bare minimum staff in exigencies such as natural calamities or war.
- The lightweight and portable payment system is expected to operate on minimalistic hardware and software, and would be made active only on a need basis.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “T+0 Settlement Cycle” is recently seen in news is related to?

- a) PFRDA
- b) IRDAI
- c) SEBI
- d) RBI

ANS: C

Explanation: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed the introduction of a T+0 facilities for clearing and settlement of funds and securities.

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- T+0 settlement cycle facilitates for clearing and settlement of funds and securities on T+0 (same day) and instant settlement cycle on an optional basis.
- The facility will be in addition to the existing T+1 (trade plus one day) settlement cycle in the secondary markets for the equity cash segment.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are advantages of “Sovereign Gold Bond”?

1. Protected investment
2. Cost effective
3. Minimum risk

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Advantages of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB):

- Protected investment- The quantity of gold the investor pays for is protected, since he receives the ongoing market price at the time of redemption/premature redemption.
- Cost effective- These bonds offer a superior alternative to physical gold as the risks and costs of storage are eliminated.
- Passive income- Investors are assured of the market value at the time of maturity, and periodical interest.
- Flexibility- These bonds are free from issues like jewellery making charges, purity, risk of loss of scrip, etc.,
- Collateral- It is as liquid as physical gold and could be exchanged for money at the time of financial needs.
- Tax benefits- There is a provision of tax exemption from the interest and capital gains of the bond.
- Minimal risk- Gold bonds have a negligible risk factor, making them an ideal investment choice.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Cyprus Confidential” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Tax avoidance
- b) Banking reforms
- c) Debt swaps
- d) Currency wars

ANS: A

Explanation: An investigation titled ‘Cyprus Confidential’ has shed light on the intricate web of tax avoidance and wealth concealment.

- It is a global offshore investigation of 3.6 million documents that reveal how the rich and powerful from around the world use Cyprus as a tax haven and a secrecy jurisdiction.
- Partnership- International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and 68 media partners.

Source: FORUMIAS

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:

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- 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.

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- 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).

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- 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 Kaccchayana

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.

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- 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 satraps 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 satraps 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

Early Historical Period of South India: from Megalithic to state polities of Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas

Q.1) The famous “Gatha Saptasati” text composed by the Satavahana king Hala in?

- Pali
- Prakrit
- Sanskrit
- Ardha – Magadhi

ANS: B

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- Pliny the Elder’s : Natural History
- Vienna Papyrus G 40822 : Roman Map
- Peutingerian Table : Greek document

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

ANS: A

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

- The Periplus of Erythrean Sea, an ancient Greek text of the first century CE.
- Pliny the Elder’s Natural History, first century CE
- Ptolemy’s Geography, second century CE
- Vienna Papyrus G 40822, a Greek document datable to the second century CE.
- A Roman Map called Peutingerian Table

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) With reference to Ashokan edict II, which of the following was/were Tamil ruling houses?

- Cholas
- Pandayas
- Satiyaputra

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

ANS: C

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

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- Rock Edict II lists the Tamil ruling houses Cholas, Pandyas, Keralaputras and Satiyaputra as neighbour rulers, lying beyond his domain, where he is said to have made provision for two types of medical treatment: medical treatment for both humans and animals.
- But the Satiyaputra (same as Athiyaman) found in the Asokan inscription along with the above three houses is a Velir chief in the Sangam poems.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Thirukkural and Naladiyar texts deal with the cultural and religious history.
2. The Silappathikaram and Manimekalai texts deal with the ethics and moral codes.

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: Patinen Kilkanakku texts, which are post-Sangam works, include eighteen texts, which mostly deal with ethics and moral codes. The most important of them are Thirukkural, and Naladiyar. Silappathikaram and Manimekalai are the two important epics useful for insights into cultural and religious history.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following statements were correct about "Satavahanas"?

1. Vasishthiputra Pulumavi defeated the Shaka ruler Nahapana.
2. Yagnashri Satakarni issued coins with a ship motif, indicating the importance of the overseas trade during his reign.
3. Offering land grants was an important development of the Satavahana times.

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Gautamiputra Satakarni was the greatest of the Satavahana kings. He defeated the Shaka ruler Nahapana and reissued the coins of Nahapana with his own royal insignia.

- Vasishthiputra Pulumavi, the successor of Gautamiputra Satakarni, expanded the frontiers of the Satavahana Empire.
- The coins issued by him are found scattered in many parts of south India.
- Yagnashri Satakarni was another famous ruler who issued coins with a ship motif, indicating the importance of the overseas trade during his reign.
- Offering land grants was an important development of the Satavahana times.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding cholas:

1. Their capital was Uraiyur.
2. Fish was their emblem.

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 Cholas controlled the central and northern parts of Tamil Nadu. Their core area of rule was the Kaveri delta, later known as Cholamandalam.

- Their capital was Uraiyur (near Thiruchirapalli town) and Puhar or Kaviripattinam was an alternative royal residence and chief port town. Tiger was their emblem.
- Kaviripattinam attracted merchants from various regions of the Indian Ocean.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is not a port city?

- a) Karur
- b) Musiri
- c) Tondi
- d) Puhar

ANS: A

Explanation: Cholas capital was Uraiyur (near Thiruchirapalli town) and Puhar or Kaviripattinam was an alternative royal residence and chief port town.

- Kaviripattinam attracted merchants from various regions of the Indian Ocean.
- The Cheras controlled the central and northern parts of Kerala and the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu.
- Vanji was their capital and the ports of the west coast, Musiri and Tondi, were under their control.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following mostly ruled from Madurai?

- a) Cholas
- b) Cheras
- c) Pandyas
- d) Velirs

ANS: C

Explanation: The Pandyas ruled from Madurai. According to tradition, they patronized the Tamil Sangams and facilitated the compilation of the Sangam poems.

The Sangam poems mention the names of several kings, but their succession and regnal years are not clear.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Pandyas”:

1. Korkai was the port city of pandyans.
2. Bow and Arrow was the emblem of the Pandyas.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Pandyas ruled from Madurai. Korkai was their main port, located near the confluence of Thampraparani with the Bay of Bengal.

- It was famous for pearl fishery and chank diving. Korkai is referred to in the Periplus as Kolkoii.
- Fish was the emblem of the Pandyas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Who were the heads of the villages or a small territory, later known as nadu?

- a) Kizhar
- b) Velir
- c) Vendar
- d) Kurinji

ANS: A

Explanation: In a way this thinai classification is said to reflect the uneven socio-economic developments of the different localities. That is seen in the political forms too.

- Three levels of rulers are found: 1) Kizhar, 2) Velir, 3) Vendar.
- Kizhar were the heads of the villages or a small territory, later known as nadu. They were the chiefs of tribal communities living in specific areas.
- The Vendar were kings controlling larger, fertile territories.
- The Velir, who were many in number, controlled the territories of varied geographical nature, mainly hilly and forest areas, that were in between the muvendar's fertile territories.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Guptas

Q.1) Which of the following features was/were associated with “Guptas”?

1. Anti - Feudalism
2. Effective guild system
3. Decentralized government

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: After the Mauryan Empire, many small kingdoms rose and fell. In the period from c. 300 to 700 CE, a classical pattern of an imperial rule evolved, paving the way for state formation in many regions.

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- During this period, the Gupta kingdom emerged as a great power and achieved the political unification of a large part of the Indian subcontinent.
- It featured a strong central government, bringing many kingdoms under its hegemony.
- Feudalism as an institution began to take root during this period.
- With an effective guild system and overseas trade, the Gupta economy boomed.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following works is/are related to “Vishakadutta”?

1. Devichandraguptam
2. Mudrarakshasam
3. Nitisara

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Devichandraguptam and Mudrarakshasam by Vishakadutta provide details about the rise of the Guptas.

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) According to puranas, which of the following was/were dominions of Guptas?

1. Allahabad
2. Magadha
3. Oudh

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: According to Allahabad pillar inscription Samudragupta, the illustrious son of Chandragupta I, had conquered the whole fertile plains west of Prayag to Mathura and launched a spectacular raid through Kalinga into the south as far as Kanchipuram, the Pallava capital.

The Puranas mention Magadha, Allahabad and Oudh as the Gupta dominions.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Arrange the following rulers of Guptas in chronological order:

1. Sri Gupta
2. Ghatotkacha
3. Chandra Gupta I

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The first ruler of the Gupta Empire was Sri Gupta (240–280 CE) who was succeeded by his son Ghatotkacha (280–319 CE). Both Sri Gupta and Ghatotkacha are mentioned as Maharajas in inscriptions.

- Chandragupta I, the son of Ghatotkacha, ruled from 319 to 335 CE and is considered to be the first great king of the Gupta Empire.
- Chandragupta held the title of maharaja-adhiraja (great king over other kings).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Under whose rule, Lanka ruler Meghavarman sent presents and requested permission to build a Buddhist monastery at Gaya?

- a) Sri Gupta
- b) Ghatotkacha
- c) Chandra Gupta I
- d) Samudragupta

ANS: D

Explanation: With regard to Lanka, its ruler Meghavarman sent presents and requested permission from Samudragupta to build a Buddhist monastery at Gaya.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Who among the following was given the title of “Kaviraja”?

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

ANS: D

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Named after his grandfather, Chandragupta II was a capable ruler, who ruled for 40 years from c. 375 to 415 CE. He came to power after a succession struggle with his brother Rama Gupta.

He is also known as Vikramaditya.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Fahien, the Buddhist scholar from China, visited India during who’s reign?

- a) Samudragupta
- b) Chandra Gupta II
- c) Chandra Gupta I
- d) Rama Gupta

ANS: B

Explanation: Fahien, the Buddhist scholar from China, visited India during Chandra Gupta II Reign.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Samudragupta was the first Gupta ruler to issue silver coins.
2. Chandra Gupta II court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science.

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: Chandra Gupta II was a great conqueror and an able administrator as well.

- His other names (as mentioned in coins) include Vikrama, Devagupta, Devaraja, Simhavikrama, Vikramaditya and Sakari.
- His court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science.
- Chandragupta II was the first Gupta ruler to issue silver coins. His rule thus formed the peak period of Gupta’s territorial expansion.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Who among the following founded the “Nalanda University”?

- a) Kumara Gupta I
- b) Samudragupta
- c) Chandra Gupta II
- d) Sri Gupta

ANS: A

Explanation: Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumara Gupta I, who founded the Nalanda University.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Buddhism and their contributions

Q.1) The great philosophical teacher “Parmenides” related to which of the following?

- a) Greece
- b) Persia
- c) China
- d) Mongolia

ANS: A

Explanation: Sixth century BCE was a period of great religious upheaval. Great teachers like Confucius in China, Zoroaster in Iran, and Parmenides in Greece questioned the established socio-religious norms and focused more on ethical and moral values.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Which of the following is/are comes under “non - canonical texts”?

1. Quotes
2. Grammars
3. Definitions

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

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

Non-canonical texts or semi canonical texts are texts that are not the sayings of the Buddha, but commentaries and observations on canonical texts, treatise on the Dharma/Dhammapada, historical information, quotes, definitions, grammars, and other writings in Pali, Tibetan, Chinese, and other East Asian languages.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following is the book of guidance, which gives a connected account of the Buddha's teachings?

- a) Visuddhimagga
- b) Nettipakarana
- c) Nidanakatha
- d) Milindapanho

ANS: B

Explanation: Nettipakarana: The Book of Guidance, which gives a connected account of the Buddha's teachings.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following contains the Buddha's discourses on various doctrinal issues in dialogue form?

- a) Vinaya Pitaka
- b) Sutta Pitaka
- c) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- d) Mahavastu

ANS: B

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

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

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Which of the following Buddhist texts is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Jatakas : stories of the previous births of the Buddha
- 2. Niddesa : verses dealing with ethical sayings
- 3. Dhammapada : expositions

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Khuddaka Nikaya is further subdivided into fifteen books, the prominent among them being the Jatakas (stories of the previous births of the Buddha), Dhammapada (verses dealing with ethical sayings), Niddesa (expositions), Buddhavamsa (the history of Buddha), Patisambhida (analytical knowledge), the Theragatha and Therigatha (songs of Buddhist monks and nuns).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Which of the following is not a representation form of Buddha?

- a) Bull
- b) Horse
- c) Footsteps
- d) Lion

ANS: D

Explanation: Buddha is represented in five forms:

1. Lotus and Bull – Birth
2. Horse – Renunciation
3. Bodhi Tree – Mahabodhi
4. Dharmachakra Pravartana – First Sermon
5. Footprints – Nirvana

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Who among the following is not a disciple of Buddha?

- a) Kissanji
- b) Kondanna
- c) Bhaddiya
- d) Assaji

ANS: A

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

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Which of the following rulers supported the Buddhists?

1. Pushyamitra Shunga
2. Mihirakula
3. Shashank of Gauda

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Some Brahmana rulers, such as Pushyamitra Shunga, the Huna King Mihirakula (worshipper of Shiva), and Shaivite Shashank of Gauda, persecuted the Buddhists on a large scale.

- The liberal donations to the monasteries gradually declined.
- Also, some rich monasteries were specially targeted by the Turkish and other invaders.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Who among the following had known as the founder of the Buddhist logic?

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

ANS: D

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

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) Which Buddhist sect used the "Twilight Language"?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Most of the terms originated in the Sanskrit language of tantric Indian Buddhism, but since it deals with inner experiences, the Vajrayana texts use a highly symbolic language 'samdhya-bhasa' or 'Twilight Language', that aims at helping the followers of its disciplines to evoke within themselves experiences considered to be the most valuable available to human beings.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

Q.1) With reference to early medieval India, Maithriyas had organized a powerful state in?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Gujarat
- d) Bengal

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Despite political rivalry and conflict among different states, Thaneswar, lying north of Delhi between Sutlej and Yamuna, was formed into an independent state by?

- a) Pushyabhtis
- b) Vakatakas
- c) Maukharis
- d) Maithriyas

ANS: A

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The founder of the Vardhana dynasty was Harsha Vardhana.
2. Harsha Vardhan shifted his capital from Thanesar to Kanauj.

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: 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.
- As Thanesar was too close to the threats from the northwest, Harsha shifted his capital from Thanesar to Kanauj.
- Kanauj was located in the rich agricultural region of the western Ganges Plain.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) The famous “Kongoda state” related to which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Gujarat
- d) Odisha

ANS: D

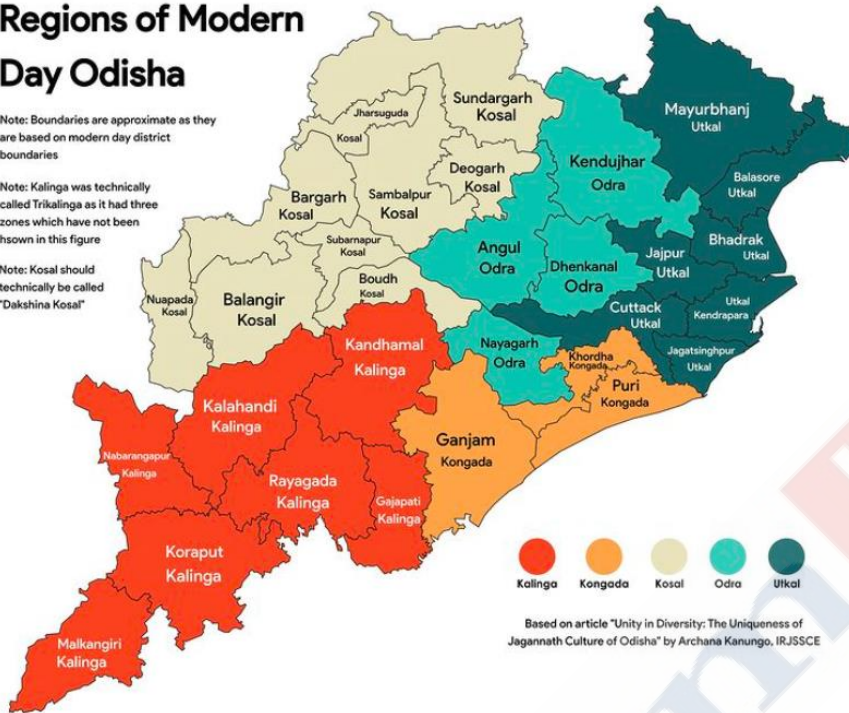
Explanation: Kongoda (another geographical unit in ancient Odisha).

Names of Historical Regions of Modern Day Odisha

Note: Boundaries are approximate as they are based on modern day district boundaries

Note: Kalinga was technically called Trikalanga as it had three zones which have not been shown in this figure

Note: Kosal should technically be called "Dakshina Kosal"



Based on article "Unity in Diversity: The Uniqueness of Jagannath Culture of Odisha" by Archana Kanungo, IRJSSCE

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct about Harsha Vardhana rule?

1. Harsha had a friendly and mutual relation between Sasanka of Gauda.
2. Harsha had a hostile relationship with king of Kamarupa (Pragiyatisha).
3. Harsha had cordial relations with China.

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

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

- Sasanka of Bengal remained hostile to him.
- Harsha entered into an alliance with the king of Kamarupa (Pragiyatisha), which is today the modern Assam.
- Harsha had cordial relations with China. The contemporary T'ang emperor, Tai Tsung, sent an embassy to his court in 643 and again in 647 CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Avanti : Minister for Foreign Relations and War
2. Kuntala : Chief Cavalry Officer
3. Banu : Keeper of Records

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

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.
- The council played an important role in the selection of the king as well as framing the foreign policy of the empire.

The prime minister was of the most important position in the council of ministers.

- Avanti - Minister for Foreign Relations and War
- Simhananda - Commander-in Chief
- Kuntala - Chief Cavalry Officer
- Banu - Keeper of Records

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The terms “Bhaga, Hiranya and Bali” were related to which of the following?

- a) Taxes
- b) Bonded labors
- c) Priests
- d) Token lands

ANS: A

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. The crown land was divided into four parts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “administration of justice” during Harsha period:

1. Criminal law was less severe than that of the Gupta age.
2. The punishments of banishment and the cutting of limbs of the body were banned.

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: 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. Trial by ordeal was in practice.
- Life imprisonment was the punishment for the violations of the laws and for plotting against the king.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Hieun Tsang”:

1. He was known as the prince of pilgrims.
2. His Si-Yu-Ki provides detailed information about the social, economic, religious and cultural conditions during the reign of Harsha.

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, 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.
- His Si-Yu-Ki provides detailed information about the social, economic, religious and cultural conditions during the reign of Harsha.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following is not written by “Harsha”?

- a) Priyadarsika
- b) Rathnavali
- c) Nagananda
- d) Kadambari

ANS: D

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: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following languages was/were used in pala kingdom?

1. Sanskrit
2. Pali
3. Prakrit

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Palas ruled eastern India from Pataliputra between the ninth and the early twelfth centuries. Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali were the languages in use in their kingdom. Palas followed Mahayana Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Who among the following established the “Vikramasila monastery”?

- a) Dharmapala
- b) Gopala I
- c) Devapala
- d) Balaputradeva

ANS: A

Explanation: Dharmapala proved to be a great patron of Buddhism. He founded the Vikramasila monastery in Bhagalpur district in Bihar, which developed into a great centre of Buddhist learning and culture.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Agama Shastra : Sridhar Bhatta
2. Nyaya Kundali : Gaudapada
3. Ramacharitam : Sandhyakar Nandi

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

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

- The notable Pala texts on philosophy include Agama Shastra by Gaudapada, and Nyaya Kundali by Sridhar Bhatta.
- Sandhyakar Nandi’s epic Ramacharitam, a biography of a later Pala ruler Ramapala, describes how forest chiefs were brought into their alliance through lavish gifts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Rashtrakutas were feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Vatapi.
2. The greatest ruler of the dynasty was Vikramaditya II.

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 Rashtrakutas were originally known to be the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Vatapi.

- Though Rashtrakutas were early rulers, the greatest ruler of the dynasty was Dandidurga.
- Ruling from a smaller part of Berar, Dandidurga built his career of territorial conquest after the death of Vikramaditya II (733–746 CE), the Chalukya ruler.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The geographical area “Vengi” related to which of the following?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Vengi or Venginadu is an Indian region in modern-day Andhra Pradesh spread over the Godavari and Krishna river deltas.

- The capital city of Vengi is located at Pedavegi near Eluru.
- Vengi was the most prominent city in Ancient Andhra for nearly seven centuries.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The rock cut shrines at Ellora and Elephanta located in present-day Maharashtra belong to Rashtrakuta period.
2. The famous Monolithic Kailasanath Temple was hewn out of a single rock.

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 Rashtrakutas made splendid contributions to Indian art. The rock cut shrines at Ellora and Elephanta located in present-day Maharashtra belong to their period.

- The Ellora cave complex contains the features of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments and art work.
- Amoghavarsha I espoused Jainism and there are five Jain cave temples at Ellora ascribed to his period.
- The most striking structure at Ellora is the creation of the Monolithic Kailasanath Temple. The temple was hewn out of a single rock during the time of Krishna I in the 8th century.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The temple complexes of "Pattadakal" are located at?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Lokesvara temple at Pattadakal, in Karnataka, built by Chalukya king Vikramaditya II to commemorate his victory over the Pallavas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following authored the famous "Brihat Samhita"?

- a) Varahamihira
- b) Aryabhatta
- c) Brahmagupta
- d) Budhagupta

ANS: A

Explanation: Varahamihira's Brihat Samhita (sixth century CE) is an encyclopaedia of astronomy, physical geography, botany and natural history. His other works are Panch Siddhantika and Brihat Jataka.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Who among the following was patronized by a rich potter woman called Halahala?

- a) Mahavira
- b) Buddha
- c) Makkhali Gosala
- d) Nanda Vaccha

ANS: C

Explanation: Gosala, who was the third and the greatest of the Ajivikas.

- 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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) In which of the following place/s Jainism followers found?

- 1. Madhya Pradesh
- 2. Odisha
- 3. Rajasthan

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

- They remained without garments and were known as Digambaras (space-clad or naked).
- Others stayed back under the leadership of Sthulabhadra and adopted a white garment and were known as Svetambaras (white-clad).
- The schism weakened Jainism in Magadha, but it found ardent followers in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Karnataka.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Period from c. 850-1200ce: Southern India

Q.1) Which of the following languages were used by Chalukyas on inscriptions?

1. Telugu
2. Tamil
3. Sanskrit

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Inscriptions on copperplates, on temple walls and pillars form a major source of historical information for this period.

Inscriptions issued by Chalukyas in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Sanskrit languages, and Pallavas in Tamil and Sanskrit, recording land grants to Brahmins, as well as the royal and the non-royal gifts made to religious establishment are equally important sources.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The Aihole inscription of Pulikesin II composed by who among the following?

- a) Ravikirti
- b) Pampa
- c) Nannaya
- d) Tikkanna

ANS: A

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following was/were correctly matched with respect to Chalukya Administration?

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 1. Vishayapatis | : | exercises the power at the behest of the kings |
| 2. Grampohis | : | prominent village men |
| 3. Mahatras | : | village officials |

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Chalukyas divided the state into political divisions for the sake of administration: 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: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) With reference to Chalukyan administration, the term “nala kavundas” related to?

- a) village accountant
- b) revenue officials
- c) town officials
- d) officials of law & order

ANS: B

Explanation: The traditional revenue officials of the villages were called the nala kavundas.

- The central figure in village administration was kamunda or pokigan who were appointed by the kings. The village accountant was karana and he was otherwise called gramani.
- Law and order of the village was in the hands of a group of people called mahajanam.
- There was a special officer called mahapurush, in charge of maintaining order and peace of the village.
- Nagarapatis or Purapatis were the officials of the towns.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Pallava Administration”:

- 1. Land ownership was with the king, who could make revenue grants to his officers and land-grants to Brahmins.
- 2. The brahmadeya villages were donated to a single Brahman or a group of Brahmins.

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: Land ownership was with the king, who could make revenue grants to his officers and land-grants to Brahmins, or else continue to have land cultivated by smallscale cultivators and landlords.

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- The latter was the most common practice. Crown lands were leased out to tenants-at-will.
- The status of the village varied according to the tenures prevailing.
- The village with an inter-caste population paid land revenue.
- The brahmadeya villages were donated to a single Brahman or a group of Brahmans.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) With respect to pallava administration at village, which of the follow matters is/are settled at village level?

1. Census
2. Endowments
3. Irrigation

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: In the village, the basic assembly was the sabha, which was concerned with all matters relating to the village, including endowments, land, irrigation, cultivated, punishment of crime, the keeping of a census and other necessary records.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) With respect to pallava administration, the term “eripatti” related to which of the following?

- a) Tank lands
- b) Uncultivable lands
- c) Tax free lands
- d) Gift lands

ANS: A

Explanation: A special category of land, eripatti or tank land, was known only in south India. This land was donated by individuals, the revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) With respect to pallava administration, the term “manigramam” related to?

- a) Temple administration
- b) Temple complexes
- c) Merchant organizations
- d) Women soldiers

ANS: C

Explanation: Kanchipuram was an important trading centre in the Pallava period. The merchants had to obtain license to market their goods.

- Barter system generally prevailed but later the Pallavas issued gold and silver coins.
- Merchants had their own organizations such as Manigramam.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) With respect to pallava administration, the terms “sudesi, nanadesi, ainurruvar” were related to?

- a) Priests
- b) Advisors to kings
- c) Spies
- d) Trade guilds

ANS: D

Explanation: Traders founded guilds and called themselves as sudesi, nanadesi, ainurruvar and others. Their main guild functioned at Aihole.

- Foreign merchants were known as Nanadesi.
- It had a separate flag with the figure of bull at the centre, and they enjoyed the right of issuing virasanas.
- The jurisdiction of this guild stretched over entire south-east Asia.
- The chief of this guild is registered in the inscriptions as pattanswamy, pattnakilar, and dandanayaka. Its members were known as ayyavole-parameswariyar.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following are correctly matched with respect to South East Asia kingdoms?

- 1. Kambuja : Cambodia
- 2. Champa : Sumatra
- 3. Srivijaya : Annam

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Pallavas had maritime trade with south-east Asia, where by now there were three major kingdoms: Kambuja (Cambodia), Champa (Annam), and Srivijaya (the southern Malaya peninsula and Sumatra).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Period from c. 1000 to 1200 CE: Northern India

Q.1) The term “Mappillais” were associated with which of the following?

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

ANS: B

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. Arabs too settled in Malabar and the Coromandel Coast.

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The “Paramars” related to which of the following region?

- a) Bundelkhand
- b) Ajmer
- c) Malwa
- d) Oudh

ANS: C

Explanation: In northern India, the disintegration of the Pratihara empire brought to the forefront various Rajput states under the control of different Rajput dynasties, such as the Chahamanas (Chauhans), Chandellas, the Paramaras of Malwa, and so on.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Gahadavalas : Delhi
2. Tomars : Kannauj
3. Chalukyas : Gujarat

Select the correct option from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

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: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) The term “Sapadalaksa country” was associated with which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh

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 the most prominent ruling family of the Chahamanas clan.

The Chahamanas originally had their capital at Shakambhari, which is identical to modern Sambhar near Jaipur in the Sapadalaksa country (part of present-day Rajasthan).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following was called as “Rai Pithora”?

- a) Simharaja
- b) Vighararaja II
- c) Ajayaraja II
- d) Prithviraja Chauhan

ANS: D

Explanation: The most famous of all Chauhans, is popularly known as Prithviraj Chauhan or Rai Pithora in the folk legends. He scored victories over all his neighbours, including the Chandella king Paramardi, Chalukya Bhima II and Gahadvala Jayachandra.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

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

ANS: C

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.

- 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.
- Moved the capital from Shakambhari (Sambhar) to Ajmer. Also came in conflict with the Paramars of Malwa, which was probably ruled by their famous ruler Bhoja.
- Patronised literature and authored a famous play, Harikeli Nataka.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Which of the following temple/s was/were constructed by Chandella rulers?

- 1. The Lakshmana temple
- 2. The Vishvanatha temple
- 3. The Kandriya Mahadev temple

Select the correct option from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

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: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Who among the following founded the “Chandella Dynasty”?

- a) Nannuka
- b) Yashovarman
- c) Dhanga
- d) Vidyadhara

ANS: A

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

Source: Pooanm Dahiya

Q.9) The famous ruler “Bhoja” related to which of the following?

- a) Solankis
- b) Chalukyas
- c) Paramars
- d) Tomars

ANS: C

Explanation: Sindhuraja’s son and Munja’s nephew Bhoja, who is the most celebrated ruler of the Paramara dynasty, and under whom the dynasty reached its zenith. Under his reign, the Paramaras extended their kingdom from Chittor in the north to upper Konkan in the south, and from the Sabarmati River in the west to Vidisha in the east.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The famous chronicle “Rajatarangini” was written by?

- a) Kalidasa
- b) Kabirdas
- c) Kalhana
- d) Kumaradasa

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Heterodox Schools of Indian Philosophy

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Heterodox schools of Indian philosophy accept the authority of the Vedas.
2. The founder of Charvaka school insists on joyful living and is opposed to the quest for spiritual salvation.

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: Heterodox schools or unorthodox (nastika) schools of Indian philosophy do not accept the authority of the Vedas.

- Lokayata refers to ideas derived from common people and it underlines the importance of intimate contact with the world (loka), while showing a lack of belief in the other world.
- It accepts direct perception as the surest method to prove the truth of anything. It thus recognises earth, water, fire, and air, but not ether, as it cannot be known by perception.
- Charvaka insists on joyful living and is opposed to the quest for spiritual salvation.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The famous “Dilwara temple complex” is located in which of the following state?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Jainism continued to be popular, especially among the trading communities.

The Chalukyan rulers of Gujarat patronised Jainism and it was during this time that the famous and magnificent Dilwara temples of Mount Abu were built.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) The “Lingayat or Vir Shaiva movement” is related to which of the following?

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

ANS: B

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

- Its founder was Basava and his nephew Channabasava, who lived at the court of the Kalachuri kings of Karnataka.
- The Lingayats were worshippers of Shiva and established their faith after bitter disputes with the Jainas.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) The Siddhas or Sittars who held contrasting views with the Bhakti tradition related to?

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

ANS: A

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

Their attitude against idol worship and their stress on yoga and right conduct distinguished them from the Bhakti cults.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) With respect to ancient India, the term “varmam” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Warfare
- c) Martial arts
- d) External trade

ANS: C

Explanation: The 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: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Which of the following philosophic school has a place for God in it?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Many schools of philosophy came into existence in this period. Moksha (salvation) became the main subject of the darshana schools.

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

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Which of the following was the oldest school of thought?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Samkhya: Literally means count. Oldest school of philosophy, founded by Kapila. Samkhya is strongly dualist as its philosophy regards the universe as consisting of two realities, Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (matter), which is further composed of three basic gunas (elements), namely, Tamas, Rajas, and Sattva.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “yoga school of thought”:

1. Hatha Yoga is about creating a body which is not a hurdle in one’s life.
2. Astanga yoga is a form of meditation which enriches the mind, wherein it is trained to stay focused at one point.

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: Yoga: The Yoga school founded by Patanjali, which presents a practical path for the realisation of the self-based on the method of physical and mental discipline by releasing Purusha from Prakriti.

- Hatha Yoga: Hatha Yoga is about creating a body which is not a hurdle in one’s life. The body becomes a stepping stone—not a hurdle, not a roadblock—in one’s progress.
- Raja Yoga: Classical yoga and Astanga yoga are a form of meditation which enriches the mind, wherein it is trained to stay focused at one point.
- It aims at the calming of the mind using a succession of steps, ultimately culminating in samadhi.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Who among the following founded the “Nyaya school of thought”?

- a) Kapila
- b) Gautama
- c) Patanjali
- d) Kannada

ANS: B

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

Source: Poonam Dahiya

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

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Vaisheshika
- d) Uttara mimansa

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Poonam Dahiya

The Delhi Sultanate

Q.1) Which of the following details about “Indian Philosophy and Religion”?

- a) Tarikh-Al-Hind
- b) Tabaqat-i-Nasiri
- c) Tarikh-i-Firoz
- d) Mifta Ul Futuh

ANS: A

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Who among the following is not part of slave dynasty?

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

ANS: D

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: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following dynasty known as “Mamluk dynasty”?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Slave dynasty is also known as the Mamluk dynasty. Mamluk means property. It is also the term for the Arabic designation of a slave.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Qutb-ud-din Aibak”:

1. Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji, a Turkish general from Afghanistan assisted him in conquering Bihar and Bengal.
2. He died in 1210 in Lahore in an accident while playing chaugan.

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: 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: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Who among the following is charged with destroying the glorious Buddhist University of Nalanda in Bihar, who is said to have mistaken it for a military camp?

- a) Mahmud Ghori
- b) Mahmud Ghazini
- c) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
- d) 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: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) 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) Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji
- c) Aram Shah
- d) Shams-ud-din Iltutmish

ANS: D

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: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The term “Lakhnauti” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Oudh
- c) Allahabad
- d) Bengal

ANS: D

Explanation: The slave governors located in the eastern province of Lakhnauti (modern Bengal) and the Punjab and Sind provinces in the west were the first to break free from Delhi.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) With reference to Delhi Sultanate, the term “mafruzi” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Nobles
- b) Spies
- c) Rent free lands
- d) Granaries

ANS: C

Explanation: Assertion of authority by Balban led to constant military campaigns against defiant governors and against their local allies.

- Barani mentions Balban’s campaigns in the regions surrounding Delhi and in the *doab*.
- During these campaigns forests were cleared, new roads and forts constructed, the newly deforested lands given to freshly recruited Afghans and others as rent-free lands (*mafruzi*) and brought under cultivation.
- New forts were constructed to protect trade routes and village markets.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) With reference to Delhi Sultanate, the term “Meos” were associated with which of the following?

- a) Bengal
- b) Gujarat
- c) North Western India
- d) Bihar

ANS: C

Explanation: When Balban took over the reins of power the law-and-order situation in the Ganga, Jamuna Doab regions had deteriorated badly.

- The Rajput zamindars had set up forts and defied the orders of the Sultan.
- Meos, a Muslim community from north-western region, living in the heavily forested region around Mewat were plundering the area with impunity.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The “Tughril Khan”, favourite slave of Balban related to which of the following region?

- a) Bengal
- b) Gujarat
- c) North Western India
- d) Bihar

ANS: A

Explanation: Balban was ruthless in dealing with rebellions. He appointed one of his favourite slaves, Tughril Khan, as the Governor of Bengal. But Tughril Khan soon became rebellious.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT