

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

1st week March, 2025

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

INDEX

Early Medieval India: The Age of regional configurations	2
Revision.....	5
Period from c. 850-1200ce: Southern India	8
Period from c. 1000 to 1200 CE: Northern India.....	10
Heterodox Schools of Indian Philosophy	13
The Delhi Sultanate	17
The Delhi Sultanate – II	20

Early Medieval India: The Age of regional configurations

Q.1) Which of the following areas were subdued under Huns in early medieval period?

1. Modern Punjab
2. Malwa
3. Uttar Pradesh

Select the correct answer from the given codes:

- a) One only
- b) Two only
- c) Three only
- d) None

ANS: B

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

1. He was the founder of Maukhari dynasty.
2. He served as a military general under the imperial Guptas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The kingdom of "Odra" related to which of the following?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Odisha
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: C

Explanation: The Odra kingdom was an ancient kingdom in northern Odisha, India. It was mentioned in the Mahabharata.

The name "Odra" is believed to be the origin of the Odia language and the state of Odisha.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following areas fall under “Gauda Empire”?

1. Kongoda
2. Odra
3. Magatha

Select the correct answer from the given codes:

- a) One only
- b) Two only
- c) Three only
- d) None

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) With reference to Harsha’s administration, the term “avanti” related to which of the following?

- a) Minister for Foreign Relations and War
- b) Commander-in- Chief
- c) Royal Messengers
- d) Secret Service Department

ANS: A

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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following was not a tax collected during Harsha’s period?

- a) Bhaga
- b) Paga
- c) Bali
- d) Hiranya

ANS: B

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) With reference to Harsha’s administration, the term “Mimamsakas” related to?

- a) Spies
- b) Bodyguards
- c) Dispense of Justice
- d) Treasurers

ANS: C

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.8) The famous “Si-Yu-Ki” written by?

- a) Hieun Tsang
- b) Faxian
- c) Xuanzang
- d) Ma Huan

ANS: A

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.9) With reference to Harsha’s administration, the term “Brihadisvaras” related to?

- a) Normal soldiers
- b) Spies
- c) Bodyguards
- d) Cavalry officers

ANS: D

Explanation: Harsha paid great attention to discipline and strength of the army. The army consisted of elephants, cavalry and infantry.

- Horses were imported. Ordinary soldiers were known as Chatas and Bhatas. Cavalry officers were called Brihadisvaras.
- Infantry officers were known as Baladhikritas and Mahabaladhikritas. Hieun Tsang mentions the four divisions (*chaturanga*) of Harsha’s army.
- He gives details about the strength of each division, its recruitment system and payment for the recruits.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) With reference to Harsha’s administration, the term “Vishayas” related to?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The empire was divided into several provinces. The actual number of such provinces is not known. Each province was divided into Bhuktis.

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Revision

Q.1) With reference to ancient India, who among the following was known “maker of fords”?

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

ANS: B

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).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The famous “Digambaras and Svetambaras” belonged to which of the following?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: About 500 years after Mahavira’s death, in about 79 or 82 CE, a schism occurred in Jainism.

- 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).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The ancient text “Kalpasutra” related to which of the following?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Jaina monks not only wrote religious treatises but also promoted secular literature. Acharrangasutra, Sutrakritanga, and Kalpasutra are the earliest Jaina texts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following events were related to Buddhism?

1. Mahabhiraskramana
2. Dharmachakra-parivartana
3. Parinirvana

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Buddha cut his hair and sent it along with his discarded garments and jewellery to his father. This is known as Mahabhiraskramana or the Great Going Forth.

- After 49 days of meditation, he attained enlightenment, at the age of 35. Thereafter, he came to be called Buddha or the Enlightened. He then delivered his first sermon in a deer park in Sarnath near Varanasi. This event is described as Dharmachakra-parivartana or 'wheel of the great law'.
- At the age of 80, he passed away in Kusinagara. This is known as Parinirvana.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. First Buddhist council was headed by Buddha himself.
2. In second council, Buddhism was divided into two sects.

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

- Over a period, 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 Buddhist Order split into two later.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following was/were the feudatories of "Harsha"?

1. Jalandhar
2. Kashmir
3. Nepal

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is NOT correctly matched with regarding to Harsha's Administration?

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

ANS: D

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

- The emperor was assisted by a council of ministers (Mantri Parishad) in his duties.
- Dirghadvajas - Royal Messengers

- Kuntala - Chief Cavalry Officer

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

1. Kadambari
2. Priyadarsika
3. Rathnavali

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Period from c. 850-1200ce: Southern India

Q.1) The political history of south India during the sixth century to ninth century CE was marked by conflicts between?

- a) Chalukayas and Pallavas
- b) Pallavas and Cholas
- c) Cholas and Chalukayas
- d) Rashtrakutas and Cholas

ANS: A

Explanation: The political history of south India during the sixth century to ninth century CE was marked by conflicts between the Chalukyas of Badami (also known as Western Chalukyas), and the Pallavas of Kanchi.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) In which of the following languages inscriptions were issued by "Chalukyas"?

- 1. Pali
- 2. Prakrit
- 3. Sanskrit

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

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.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Who among the following wrote "Vikramarjuna-vijayam"?

- a) Nannaya
- b) Pampa
- c) Ravikirti
- d) Pulikesin II

ANS: B

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

Kavirajamarga, a work on poetics in Kannada, *Vikramarjuna-vijayam*, also called *Pampa-bharata*, by Pampa in Kannada, which were all a later period, and Nannaya's *Mahabharatam* in Telugu also provide useful historical data.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) The famous “Nalayira Divya Prabhandam” compilation related to?

- a) Azhwars
- b) Nayanmars
- c) Lingayats
- d) Ghors

ANS: A

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

- The poems of the Vaishnavite Azhwars were later compiled as the *Nalayira Divya Prabhandam*.
- The Saiva literature was canonized as the *Panniru Tirumurai*.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The famous Buddhist sources such as Deepavamsa and Mahavamsa, written in?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Buddhist sources such as *Deepavamsa* and *Mahavamsa*, written in Pali, the accounts of Chinese travellers Hiuen Tsang and Itsing give us details about the socio-religious and cultural conditions of the Pallava times.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following was not an Arab traveller/geographer between ninth and tenth century visited India?

- a) Sulaiman
- b) Al-Masudi
- c) Ibn Hauka
- d) Abdur Razzak

ANS: D

Explanation: The ninth and tenth century writings of Arab travellers and geographers such as Sulaiman, Al-Masudi, and Ibn Hauka also tell us about the socio-political and economic conditions of India of this period.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Who among the following was defeated the Harshavardhana’s army on the banks of the Narmada?

- a) Pulikesin I
- b) Kirtivarman
- c) Pulikesin II
- d) Mangalesha

ANS: C

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

- He declared independence from the Kadambas. It is said that he conducted *yagnas* and performed the *asvamedha* sacrifice. The capital Badami was founded by Kirtivarman (566-597).
- Pulikesin I’s grandson Pulikesin II (609-(642), after defeating Mangalesha, proclaimed himself as king, an event that is described in the Aihole inscription.
- One of the most outstanding victories of Pulikesin II was the defeat of Harshavardhana’s army on the banks of the Narmada.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) With reference to Chalukyan administration, the term “Amatya” related to which of the following?

- a) Head minister
- b) Foreign minister
- c) Revenue minister
- d) Minister of exchequer

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) With reference to Chalukyan administration, the term “mahatras” related to which of the following?

- a) Feudal lords
- b) Village officials
- c) Village prominent man
- d) Spies

ANS: C

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. *Gramapohis* and *gramkudas* were village officials. *Mahatras* were the prominent village men.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) With reference to Chalukyan administration, the term “nalakavundas” related to which of the following?

- a) Village guards
- b) Village priests
- c) Village prominent man
- d) Village revenue officials

ANS: D

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

The central figure in village administration was kamunda or pokigan who were appointed by the kings.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Period from c. 1000 to 1200 CE: Northern India

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The geographical location of Arabia facilitated trade contact between India and Arabia.

As sea-faring traders the pre-Islamic Arabs had maritime contacts with the western and eastern coasts of India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The term “Mappillais” related to which of the following?

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

ANS: A

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Historically, which of the following were invaded Afghanistan?

- a) Alexander the Great
- b) Khurasan Shah
- c) Chengiz Khan

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Arab military expedition in 712 and subsequent Ghaznavid and the Ghori military raids, intended to loot and use the resources seized to strengthen their power in Central Asia, created a relationship of the conqueror and the conquered.

Following the invasion of Afghanistan by Khurasan (Eastern Iran) Shah and later by Chengiz Khan severed the ties of North India Sultanate with Afghanistan.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following were merchant cities of Central Asia?

- 1. Bukhara
- 2. Samarkhand
- 3. Baghdad

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Though it is customary to describe this period as the Muslim period, the rulers of medieval India came from different regions and ethnicities: Arabs, Turks, Persians, and Central Asians were involved militarily and administratively.

Iltutmish was an Olperli Turk and many of his military slaves were of different Turkish and Mongol ancestries brought to Delhi by merchants from Bukhara, Samarkand and Baghdad.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The famous “Tarikh-Al-Hind” – Indian Philosophy and Religion written in?

- a) Persian
- b) Arabic
- c) Mongolian
- d) Turkish

ANS: B

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Who among the following called “Yamini-ud-Daulah”?

- a) Sabuktigin
- b) Jayapal
- c) Mahmud
- d) Ismail

ANS: C

Explanation: Sabuktigin initiated the process of southward expansion into the Indian subcontinent.

- He defeated the Shahi ruler of Afghanistan, Jayapal, and conferred the governorship of the province on Mahmud, his eldest son.
- When Sabuktigin died in 997, Mahmud was in Khurasan. Ismail, the younger son of Sabuktigin had been named his successor.
- But defeating Ismail in a battle, Mahmud, aged twenty-seven, ascended the throne and the Caliph acknowledged his accession by sending him a robe of investiture and by conferring on him the title Yamini-ud-Daulah (‘Right-hand of the Empire’).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Turkish army:

1. They relied on a permanent, professional army.
2. Soldiers were paid in kind.

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 Turks relied on a permanent, professional army. It was built around an elite corps of mounted archers who were all slaves, bought, trained, equipped, and paid in cash from the war booty taken alike from Hindu kingdoms in India and Muslim kingdoms in Iran.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Al-Beruni, mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, and historian, came to India along with?

- a) Ghazini Mahmud
- b) Khurav Shah
- c) Muhammad Ghori
- d) Sabuktigin

ANS: A

Explanation: Al-Beruni, mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, and historian, came to India along with Mahmud of Ghazni.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Who among the following wrote “Kitab Ul Hind”?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Al-Beruni, mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, and historian, came to India along with Mahmud of Ghazni.

- He learned Sanskrit, studied religious and philosophical texts before composing his work *Kitab Ul Hind*. He also translated the Greek work of Euclid into Sanskrit.
- He transmitted Aryabhata's magnum opus Aryabattiyam (the thesis that earth's rotation around its axis creates day and night) to the West.
- He was the inter-civilizational connect between India and the rest of the world.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Who among following is not a Rajput clan?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The four Agnikula Rajput clans were:

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Heterodox Schools of Indian Philosophy

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The saints of Saivism and Vaishnavism simplified the use of Tamil language with the application of music.
2. The saints of Saivism and Vaishnavism brought the local and regional ethos into the mainstream.

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 saints of Saivism and Vaishnavism simplified the use of Tamil language with the application of music. They brought the local and regional ethos into the mainstream.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The “Basava and Channabasava” was related to which of the following?

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

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following were traits of Lingayats?

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

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

- 1. It was founded by Panduranga.
- 2. It is a kind of martial art for self-defence and medical treatment simultaneously.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The “Nath Panthis” were related to which of the following?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: In the period that the Bhakti movement was gaining popularity in south India, Tantra was gaining traction in northern India.

- They too denounced the caste system and the privileges claimed by the Brahmanas. Tantra, like Bhakti, was open to all.
- The most famous Hindu Yogi who adopted these practices was Goraknath and his followers came to be called Nath Panthis.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The heterodox schools recognize the authority of the Vedas.
2. The Vedanta school of philosophy has no place for God in it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: 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: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is/are part of shatdarshan?

1. Samkhya
2. Yoga
3. Nyaya

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Samkhya is the oldest philosophy school.
2. It emphasizes more on self-knowledge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Samkhya: Literally means 'count'. It is the oldest school of philosophy, founded by Kapila.

- Samkhya is strongly dualist as its philosophy regards the universe as consisting of two realities, Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (matter), which is further composed of three basic gunas (elements), namely, Tamas, Rajas, and Sattva.
- Emphasises that it is self-knowledge that leads to liberation and not any exterior influence or agent.
- Self-knowledge can be attained by the means of concentration and meditation.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding "Yoga philosophy":

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

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Yoga school founded by Patanjali, which presents a practical path for the realization of the self-based on the method of physical and mental discipline by releasing Purusha from Prakriti.

Practice of control over pleasure, senses and bodily organs is central theme of this school.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following philosophy also called as "School of Analysis"?

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Purva Mimansa

ANS: C

Explanation: Nyaya: Also known as School of Analysis, which developed as a system of logic by Gautama. Its principles are mentioned in Nyaya Sutras.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Delhi Sultanate

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The geographical location of Arabia restricted trade contact between India and Arabia.
2. The pre-Islamic Arabs had maritime contacts with only western coast of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

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

ANS: B

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

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

ANS: B

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

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

ANS: A

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS:D

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "Mahmud's Military Raids":

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Who among the following wrote the famous text "Mifta Ul Futuh"?

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

ANS: C

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

1. Bengal
2. Awadh
3. Haryana

Select the correct answer from the given codes:

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

ANS: A

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

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

Source: NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. In 1175 Muhammad Ghori seized the city of Multan from Hindu ruler.
2. The Kakatiyas of Warangal inflicted a crushing defeat on Muhammad Ghori at Mt. Abu (1179).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

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

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Delhi Sultanate – II

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding administration of sultanate:

1. Sultans were commander-in-chief of the armed forces.
2. There were well-defined and accepted rules of royal succession during sultanate period.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Sultanate was formally considered to be an Islamic State. Most of the Sultans preferred to call themselves the lieutenant of the Caliph.

- However, the Sultans were the supreme political heads. As military head, they wielded the authority of commander-in-chief of the armed forces.
- There were no well-defined and accepted rules of royal succession and therefore contested succession became the norm during the Sultanate.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding administration of sultanate:

1. The areas of *iqta's* were under direct control of sultans.
2. The areas of *khalisa* were to maintain troops for royal service.

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 Sultans required the holders of *iqta's* (called *muqtis* or *walis*) to maintain troops for royal service out of the taxes collected by them.

Certain areas were retained by the Sultans under their direct control (*khalisa*).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) With reference to sultanate administration, the term “hashm-i qalb” related to?

- a) State army
- b) Sultan own troops
- c) Spies
- d) Buffer cadre

ANS: B

Explanation: The Sultans required the holders of *iqta's* (called *muqtis* or *walis*) to maintain troops for royal service out of the taxes collected by them.

- Certain areas were retained by the Sultans under their direct control (*khalisa*).
- It was out of the revenue collected from such areas that they paid the officers and soldiers of the sultan's own troops (*hashm-i qalb*).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Who among the following was/were believed in monotheism?

1. Siddhars
2. Lingayats
3. Jains

Select the correct answer from the given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Though a monotheistic trend in Hinduism had long existed, as, for example in the Bhagavad Gita, as noted by Al-Beruni, its proximity to Islam did help to move monotheism from periphery to the centre.

- In the thirteenth century, the Virashaiva or Lingayat sect of Karnataka founded by Basava believed in one God (Parashiva).
- A parallel, but less significant, movement in Tamil Nadu was in the compositions of the Siddhars, who sang in Tamil of one God, and criticised caste, Brahmins and the doctrine of transmigration of souls.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The famous bhakti saint "Namdev" related to which of the following region?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Bengal

ANS: C

Explanation: Two little known figures who played a part in transmitting the southern Bhakti and monotheism to Northern India were Namdev of Maharashtra, a rigorous monotheist who opposed image worship and caste distinctions and Ramanand, a follower of Ramanuja.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The Sultanate was driven by an urban economy encompassing many important towns and cities.
2. The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate revived internal trade, stimulated by the insatiable demand for luxury goods by the sultans and nobles.

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 establishment of the Delhi Sultanate revived internal trade, stimulated by the insatiable demand for luxury goods by the sultans and nobles.

- Gold coins, rarely issued in India after the collapse of the Gupta Empire, began to appear once again, indicating the revival of Indian economy.
- However, there is no evidence of the existence of trade guilds, which had played a crucial role in the economy in the classical age.
- The Sultanate was driven by an urban economy encompassing many important towns and cities.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Paper-making technology was introduced in India during the rule of the Delhi Sultans.
2. The spinning wheel invented by the Chinese came to India through Iran in the fourteenth century.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Paper-making technology evolved by the Chinese and learnt by the Arabs was introduced in India during the rule of the Delhi Sultans.

The spinning wheel invented by the Chinese came to India through Iran in the fourteenth century and enabled the spinner to increase her output some sixfold and enlarged yarn production greatly.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following is not correctly matched?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: By the beginning of the tenth century two powerful Rajput Kingdoms Gurjar Pratihara and Rashtrakutas had lost their power.

Tomaras (Delhi), Chauhans (Rajasthan), Solankis (Gujarat), Paramaras (Malwa), Gahadavalas (Kanauij) and Chandelas (Bundelkhand) had become important ruling dynasties of Northern India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding military skills of Turks and Rajputs:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

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

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following was/were related to slave dynasty?

1. Qutb-ud-din Aibak
2. Iltutmish
3. Alauddin Khalji

Select the correct answer from the given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: After the death of Ghoris 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