

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Foreign invasions, and orthodox schools of Indian philosophy

1. Which of the following statements regarding the political expansion of Magadha are correct?

1. Bimbisara annexed Anga, established matrimonial alliances to consolidate Magadh.
2. Ajatashatru built the fortification of Rajagriha and conquered Kosala and Vajji confederacy.
3. Shishunaga dynasty was routed by the ruler of Avanti, leading to the temporary decline of Magadha.
4. Nanda dynasty maintained a vast standing army including infantry and war elephants.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bimbisara (Haryanka dynasty) initiated Magadhan expansion by conquering Anga and securing strategic alliances through marriages with princesses of Kosala, Vaishali, and Madra.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ajatashatru fortified Rajagriha against potential invasions from Avanti and successfully annexed Kosala and the Vajji confederacy using advanced siege engines (Rathamusala and Mahasilakantaka).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** King Shishunaga actually defeated Avanti and annexed it into Magadha, permanently ending the 100-year rivalry between the two states.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Mahapadma Nanda and his successors built a massive imperial standing army (infantry, cavalry, chariots, and elephants) sustained through a centralized tax administration.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to external factors influencing North-West India is/are correct?

1. Achaemenid invasions weakened the tribal polities of Gandhara and Kamboja, leaving North-West India fragmented.
2. Alexander's invading troops crossed the Vipasa and successfully overthrew the Nanda Empire in Pataliputra.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Persian incursions prevented political integration in the North-West, leaving small states like Gandhara and Kamboja vulnerable and fragmented, which allowed Magadha to expand unhindered in the East.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Alexander's army mutinied at the Beas River (Hyphasis) out of exhaustion and fear of the massive Nanda army, refusing to march further east toward Pataliputra.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Achaemenid rule in North-West India is/are correct?

1. Cyrus the Great was the first foreign invader to cross the Hindu Kush and capture parts of the Gandhara region.
2. Darius I annexed the Sindh and Punjab, making it the Satrapy of the Persian Empire as noted by Herodotus.
3. Xerxes abandoned all Indian territorial holdings to deploy his entire army in the Greco-Persian Wars.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Cyrus the Great (– BCE) initiated Persian campaigns east of the Iranian plateau, subjugating Indian border tribes around Gandhara.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Darius I (– BCE) annexed the lower Indus region around BCE. It formed the Satrapy (province) and contributed the highest gold-dust tribute to the Persian treasury.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Xerxes (– BCE) maintained Persian control over Indian territories and recruited Indian infantry and cavalry contingents to fight against the Greeks in Europe.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the impact of the Persian invasion on ancient India are correct?

1. Iranian administrative unit known as the Satrapy system influenced later Mauryan and Saka governance structures.
2. Kharosthi script, written from right to left in North-West India, evolved directly from the Persian Aramaic script.
3. Persian stone-polishing techniques and bell-shaped capitals influenced Mauryan imperial art and Ashokan pillars.
4. Persian invasion led to suppression and ultimate disappearance of maritime trade along the Arabian Sea.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The provincial administrative framework (Satrapies) was adopted by subsequent rulers, including the Mauryas, Indo-Greeks, and Sakas (Kshatrapas).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Official Persian scribes brought the Aramaic script, which adapted locally in North-West India into the Kharosthi script.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Architectural features such as polished monoliths and bell-shaped lotus capitals seen in Ashokan pillars show artistic contacts with Persepolis.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Rather than suppressing trade, the Iranian presence opened up and expanded naval and overland trade routes along the Indus and Arabian Sea.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Alexander's invasion of India (BCE) is/are correct?

1. At the Battle of the Hydaspes, Alexander defeated King Porus but restored his kingdom and expanded his territory.

- Alexander established a permanent direct imperial administration that ruled central India for over two centuries.
- Destruction of local North-Western tribes by Alexander created a political vacuum that facilitated Chandragupta Maurya's expansion.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct:** Alexander defeated Porus along the Hydaspes River, but impressed by his courage, reinstated him as a vassal king and enlarged his domain.
- Statement 2 is incorrect:** Alexander's stay in India was brief (around 19 months). He did not advance beyond the Beas River, and Greek authority in the region collapsed shortly after his death.
- Statement 3 is correct:** By crushing local warlords and autonomous tribes in Punjab and Sindh, Alexander eliminated regional resistance, making it easier for Chandragupta Maurya and Chanakya to unify the region.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to ancient Indian philosophical traditions is/are correct?

- Astika schools are defined by their acceptance of the authority of the Vedas, whereas Nastika schools reject Vedic authority.
- Ajivika, Charvaka, Jainism, and Buddhism form part of the non-Vedic Shramana tradition.
- Shad-Darsanas comprise six heterodox schools that reject the existence of the soul and liberation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct:** In classical Indian philosophy, Astika denotes systems that accept Vedic authority, while Nastika denotes systems that reject Vedic authority.
- Statement 2 is correct:** The Shramana movement included ascetic traditions like Buddhism, Jainism, Ajivika, and Charvaka, operating independently of Brahmanical orthodoxy.
- Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Shad-Darsanas (Samkhya, Yoga, Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Mimamsa, Vedanta) are the six orthodox (Astika) schools, all of which acknowledge Vedic authority and aim for spiritual liberation (Moksha).

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Samkhya school of philosophy is/are correct?

- Founded by Sage Kapila, Samkhya is a dualistic philosophy that posits two ultimate realities: Purusha and Prakriti.
- Classical Samkhya system is strictly atheistic and does not consider a supreme creator God necessary to explain the universe.

3. Samkhya rejects the authority of the Vedas and relies exclusively on empirical perception for valid knowledge.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Samkhya (attributed to Sage Kapila in the Samkhya Sutra) is a dualistic system explaining creation through the interaction of pure consciousness (Purusha) and primordial matter (Prakriti).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Early classical Samkhya does not posit a supreme creator God (Ishvara); liberation comes from intellectual realization of the distinction between Purusha and Prakriti.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** As an orthodox (Astika) school, Samkhya accepts Vedic testimony (Shabda) alongside perception (Pratyaksha) and inference (Anumana) as valid means of knowledge (Pramana).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Yoga school of philosophy is/are correct?

- 1. Formulated systematically by Sage Patanjali in the Yoga Sutras, it serves as the practical and meditative application of Samkhya theory.
- 2. Unlike classical Samkhya, the Yoga school incorporates the concept of Ishvara as a spiritual guide for concentration.
- 3. The Yoga system accepts only one valid means of knowledge, completely rejecting inference and verbal testimony.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Patanjali's Yoga system provides practical discipline (meditation, mind control, Asanas, Pranayama) to realize the theoretical truths outlined in Samkhya.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** While Samkhya is non-theistic, Yoga introduces Ishvara as a special Purusha that serves as an object of meditation to quiet the mind.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Yoga accepts three valid means of cognition (Pramanas): Perception (Pratyaksha), Inference (Anumana), and Verbal/Vedic Testimony (Shabda).

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Nyaya school of philosophy is/are correct?

- 1. Nyaya school denies the existence of God and treats the physical universe as an uncaused, accidental creation
- 2. Nyaya recognizes four distinct valid means of ultimate knowledge perception, inference, comparison and testimony.
- 3. Founded by Gautama, the Nyaya school emphasizes logical analysis and systematic reasoning as the path to liberation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Nyaya provides rational proofs for the existence of Ishvara (God), arguing that the physical world is a created effect requiring an intelligent, divine cause
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nyaya specifies four valid Pramanas: Direct Perception (Pratyaksha), Logical Inference (Anumana), Comparison/Analogy (Upamana), and Word/Testimony (Shabda).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Nyaya philosophy (rooted in Gautama's Nyaya Sutra) holds that suffering arises from ignorance, which can be dispelled through logical reasoning and critical thinking.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Vaisheshika school of philosophy is/are correct?

1. Founded by Kanada, Vaisheshika is known for its atomic theory, proposing that physical reality is composed of indivisible atoms.
2. Vaisheshika aligned closely with the logical framework of the Nyaya school, forming a combined tradition known as Nyaya-Vaisheshika.
3. Vaisheshika classifies all real entities in the universe under categories such as substance, quality, and action.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sage Kanada's Vaisheshika Sutra outlines a naturalistic atomism where physical objects consist of eternal, indivisible atoms (Anu) of earth, water, fire, and air combining under cosmic laws.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Due to shared metaphysics and goals, Nyaya (focusing on epistemology/logic) and Vaisheshika (focusing on physics/ontology) merged into the unified Nyaya-Vaisheshika tradition.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vaisheshika analyzes reality by categorizing everything into six primary Padarthas: Dravya (substance), Guna (quality), Karma (action), Samanya (generality), Vishesha (particularity), and Samavaya (inherence).

Schools of Indian philosophy and Buddhism

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mimamsa school of Indian philosophy is/are correct?

1. Founded by Jaimini through Mimamsa Sutra, it focuses primarily on the earlier ritualistic portions of the Vedas.
2. Mimamsakas held that the Upanishads are the primary and supreme source of spiritual truth.

3. Prabhakara sub-school recognizes five valid means of knowledge, whereas the Bhatta sub-school recognizes six by including Anupalabdhi.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mimamsa (or Purva Mimamsa) was founded by Jaimini and relies on his foundational text, the Mimamsa Sutra. It focuses on the earlier parts of the Vedas dealing with rituals, duties, and actions (Karma-Kanda).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Mimamsa school regarded ritual actions (Karma) and Vedic injunctions (Vidhi) as primary and paramount. They considered the Upanishads and texts pertaining to self-knowledge to be subsidiary (Arthavada) to ritual performance. (It was the Vedanta school that disagreed and prioritized the Upanishads).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Epistemologically, the Prabhakara sub-school accepts five pramanas (perception, inference, comparison, verbal testimony, and postulation), while the Bhatta sub-school adds a sixth pramana—Anupalabdhi (non-perception/absence).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Vedanta school of philosophy is/are correct?

- 1. According to Shankara's Advaita Vedanta, the ultimate reality and the individual self are completely distinct entities.
- 2. Vedanta centers upon the Jnana-Kanda of the Vedas and is also termed Uttara Mimamsa
- 3. Ramanuja's Vishishtadvaita propounds qualified non-dualism, holding that ultimate unity subsumes multiplicity and that devotion is the path to salvation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Adi Shankara's Advaita (monistic) philosophy holds that Brahman alone is ultimately real, the individual self (Atman) is non-different from Brahman, and the phenomenal world is an illusory appearance (Maya). The statement describes dualism rather than Advaita.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Vedanta literally means the end of the Vedas. It deals with Jnana-Kanda (knowledge contained in the Upanishads) and is known as Uttara Mimamsa (latter inquiry).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ramanuja's Vishishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism) maintains that Brahman is supreme reality characterized by internal diversity, emphasizing loving devotion (Bhakti) as the primary means to liberation.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Madhavacharya's Dvaita school of philosophy is/are correct?

- 1. It propounds that God and individual souls exist as separate, independent realities equal in absolute agency and status.

2. It emphasizes the continuous cycle of rebirth, the law of Karma, and holds that liberation is attained through a combination of knowledge, devotion, and good deeds.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While the Dvaita (dualism) school founded by Madhavacharya asserts a strict distinction between God (Vishnu/Narayana) and individual souls (Jivas), it explicitly holds that Vishnu alone is the independent supreme reality, whereas individual souls and matter are dependent realities upon Him.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Dvaita school upholds the doctrines of Karma and rebirth, maintaining that freedom from the cycle of transmigration is achieved through spiritual knowledge, righteous action, and intense devotion (Bhakti) to Lord Vishnu.

4. With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets?

- 1. Nayaputta
- 2. Shakyamuni
- 3. Tathagata

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Nayaputta (or Nigantha Nataputta) is an epithet associated with Vardhamana Mahavira, the Tirthankara of Jainism.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gautama Buddha was called Shakyamuni ("Sage of the Shakya clan") as he belonged to the Shakya Kshatriya clan of Kapilavastu.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Tathagata ("One who has thus gone" or "One who has thus come") is a title Buddha frequently used to refer to himself in canonical Pali discourses.

5. Which of the following kingdoms were associated with the life of the Buddha?

- 1. Avanti
- 2. Gandhara
- 3. Kosala
- 4. Magadha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 3 and 4 only

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **1 and 2 are incorrect:** The Buddha never visited the western kingdom of Avanti or the north-western kingdom of Gandhara during his lifetime, though his teachings spread there later. (King Pradyota of Avanti invited the Buddha, but the Buddha sent his disciple Mahakaccayana instead).
- **3 and 4 are correct:** The Buddha spent a significant portion of his teaching life, delivered major sermons, and gained royal patronage in the kingdoms of Kosala (ruled by King Prasenajit) and Magadha (ruled by Kings Bimbisara and Ajatashatru).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the factors leading to the rise of Heterodox Sects in India is/are correct?

1. Expansion of the iron-based agricultural economy created a demand to protect cattle wealth, contrasting with large-scale Vedic ritual animal sacrifices.
2. The Vaishyas favored Heterodox Sects like Buddhism and Jainism primarily because these sects enforced rigid hereditary caste status for trading communities.
3. Kshatriyas actively extended support to new Shramana movements as a reaction against growing Brahmanical social and religious dominance.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The settled agrarian economy in the Gangetic plain relied heavily on bullocks for plowing. The non-violent (Ahimsa) doctrine of heterodox traditions protected livestock from sacrifice in elaborate Vedic rites.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Vaishyas supported Buddhism and Jainism because these sects rejected rigid caste hierarchies, offered higher social respectability, supported trade, and emphasized ethical conduct over ritual hereditary restrictions.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Rulers and nobles of the Kshatriya varna resented the religious supremacy of the Brahmins and patronized Shramana thinkers like Gautama Buddha and Mahavira (who were both Kshatriyas).

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sutta Pitaka of the Buddhist canonical literature is/are correct?

1. Written in the Pali, Sutta Pitaka primarily contains the doctrinal discourses and sermons delivered by the Buddha.
2. The content of the Sutta Pitaka was compiled and recited by Upali during the First Buddhist Council.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sutta Pitaka is the main repository of the Buddha's discourses and moral teachings written in the Pali language, subdivided into five Nikayas (Digha, Majjhima, Samyutta, Anguttara, and Khuddaka).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Sutta Pitaka was recited by Ananda (the Buddha's closest attendant) at the First Buddhist Council in Rajagriha. Upali was responsible for reciting the monastic rules contained in the Vinaya Pitaka.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to specific texts within the Khuddaka Nikaya is/are correct?

1. Therigatha is a collection of devotional and philosophical verses composed by senior nuns.
2. Jataka tales describe the historical events of the First and Second Buddhist Councils following the Buddha's Mahaparinirvana.
3. Buddhavamsa is a verse text providing biographical accounts of Gautama Buddha and the twenty-four preceding Buddhas.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Therigatha (Verses of Elder Nuns) forms the ninth book of the Khuddaka Nikaya and consists of poems composed by Buddhist nuns celebrating spiritual liberation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Jataka stories (tenth book of Khuddaka Nikaya) contain folklore and narratives detailing the previous lives of the Bodhisattva prior to his birth as Gautama Buddha.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Buddhavamsa (fourteenth book of Khuddaka Nikaya) chronicles the lives of Gautama Buddha and the 24 legendary previous Buddhas who prophesied his attainment of enlightenment.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Vinaya Pitaka and Abhidhamma Pitaka is/are correct?

1. Vinaya Pitaka lays down the monastic discipline, code of conduct, and operational rules governing the daily life of Buddhist monks and nuns within the Sangha.
2. Abhidhamma Pitaka contains the immediate eye-witness records of the Buddha's early travels, completely avoiding abstract philosophical or metaphysical categorizations.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Vinaya Pitaka (Basket of Discipline) sets out the rules, ordinances, and procedures regulating monastic order and institutional life in the Sangha.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Abhidhamma Pitaka (Basket of Higher Teachings) is an analytical, highly scholastic, and systematic treatment of mental processes, ethics, and metaphysics, rather than a narrative travelogue.

10. Consider the following information:

Non-Canonical Text	Associated Author	Description
1. Milindapanho	Nagasena & Menander I	Philosophical dialogue between an Indo-Greek King and a Buddhist monk
2. Buddhacharita	Ashvaghosha	Epic Sanskrit poetic narrative on the life of the Buddha
3. Nettipakarana	Vasumitra	Exegetical guide on the methodology and practical application of Buddha's teachings
4. Vibhasha Shastras	Kanishka I	Royal administrative decree detailing tax exemptions for Buddhist monasteries

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Milindapanho (Questions of Milinda) is a Pali text recording a philosophical debate on Buddhist principles between the Indo-Greek King Menander I (Milinda) and the sage Nagasena.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Buddhacharita is a famous Sanskrit mahakavya (epic poem) recounting the life of Gautama Buddha, authored by Ashvaghosha (court scholar during Kanishka's reign).
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** Nettipakarana (or Netti) is a guide on hermeneutics and interpretation of Buddhist teachings traditionally attributed to Kaccayana (or Kaccana).
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** The Vibhasha Shastras (such as the Mahavibhasha) are monumental encyclopedic philosophical commentaries on the Abhidharma compiled by scholars like Vasumitra during the Fourth Buddhist Council.

Buddhism

1. Which of the following statements with regard to ancient Buddhist texts is/are correct?

1. Vishuddhimagga, composed by Buddhaghosa, is a non-canonical Theravada manual.
2. Mulamadhyamakakarika, written by Nagarjuna, serves as the foundational treatise of the Madhyamika school.
3. Nidanakatha is recognized as the earliest Sanskrit work authored by Ashvaghosha.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Vishuddhimagga (The Path of Purification) is a classic Theravada commentary written in Pali by Buddhaghosa in Sri Lanka during the 5th century CE. It outlines the path to Nirvana through virtue, meditation, and wisdom.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mulamadhyamakakarika (Fundamental Verses on the Middle Way) was authored by Nagarjuna. It forms the foundational text of the Madhyamika school, establishing the core concept of Shunyata (emptiness/dependent origination).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Nidanakatha is a Pali text forming the introduction to the Jataka commentary. It is famous for being the first connected bio-chronological account of the life of the Buddha, not a Sanskrit text by Ashvaghosha describing the Third Buddhist Council.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to early Buddhist literary sources is/are correct?

1. Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa are Sri Lankan Pali chronicles that provide historical and legendary accounts of the spread of Buddhism and King Ashoka's missions.
2. Mahavastu is a canonical text of the Theravada tradition composed in Sanskrit.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Dipavamsa (Chronicle of the Island) and Mahavamsa (Great Chronicle) are historical chronicles composed in Sri Lanka. They detail the early history of the island, royal genealogies, and the history of Buddhism, including Ashoka's mission led by Mahendra and Sanghamitra.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Mahavastu (Great Event) is a biographical and hagiographical text of the Lokottaravada sub-school of the Mahasanghika tradition (not Theravada). It is written in Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit (a mixture of Prakrit and Sanskrit).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the life events of Gautama Buddha is/are correct?

1. Buddha renounced his worldly life accompanied by his charioteer Channa and his horse Kanthaka.
2. He immediately attained enlightenment by practicing extreme self-mortification under the guidance of Sujata.
3. The acceptance of milk-rice offered by Sujata marked Buddha's rejection of extreme asceticism in favor of the Middle Path.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** At the age of 29, deeply moved by the Four Sights (an old man, a sick man, a dead body, and an ascetic), Siddhartha Gautama left Kapilavastu at midnight with his charioteer Channa and horse Kanthaka.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** He spent six years undergoing severe ascetic practices, but realized that extreme self-mortification did not lead to liberation. He did not attain enlightenment during this period of extreme asceticism.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** After accepting a bowl of milk-rice (kheer) from Sujata at Senani village (Uruvela), he ended his severe fasting, abandoned extreme penance, and adopted the Madhyama Pratipat (Middle Path).

4. Consider the following information:

Life Event	Associated Landmark	Outcome
1. Defeat of Mara	Bodh Gaya	Bhumisparsha Mudra
2. First Sermon	Deer Park, Sarnath	Dhammachakrapavattana
3. Establishment of Sangha	Kushinagar	Admission of Mahaprajapati Gautami
4. Final Mahaparinirvana	Shravasti	Abhaya Mudra

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1 and 4 only

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** At Bodh Gaya (Uruvela), Siddhartha meditated under the Piphal tree and defeated Mara (the demon of illusion). He touched the earth to witness his spiritual merit, represented by the Bhumisparsha Mudra (Earth-touching gesture).
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** The Buddha's first sermon to his five former companions at the Deer Park (Rishipatana) in Sarnath is celebrated as Dhammachakrapavattana (Turning the Wheel of Dharma).
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** The monastic order (Sangha) was initially founded at Sarnath, and the order for nuns (Bhikkhuni Sangha) was later established at Vaishali (where Mahaprajapati Gautami was ordained), not Kushinagar.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** The Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar, not Shravasti. His symbol of Mahaparinirvana is the Stupa.

5. Consider the following information:

Title	Meaning	Context
1. Shakyamuni	Sage of the Shakya Clan	Refers to his lineage in Kapilavastu
2. Tathagata	One who has thus come/gone	Denotes knower of ultimate reality

3. Mahamuni	Great Ascetic / Sage	Common epithet in canonical texts
4. Nayaputta	Leader of the Shramana Tradition	Chief title used in Pali Pitakas for Buddha

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Shakyamuni literally means Sage (Muni) of the Shakya clan, referencing his clan origin.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Tathagata (One who has thus gone or One who has thus come) is the primary title Buddha used to refer to himself after attaining enlightenment.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Mahamuni translates to Great Sage, a frequently used epithet across Buddhist literature to emphasize his spiritual wisdom.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** Nigantha Nataputta (or Nayaputta) is the epithet used in Pali literature to refer to Vardhamana Mahavira, the Tirthankara of Jainism, not Gautama Buddha.

6. Consider the following information:

Place	Region	Significance in Buddha's Life
1. Kushinagar	Malla	Site of Mahaparinirvana
2. Shravasti	Kosala	Capital city where Buddha spent maximum rainy retreats (Vassa)
3. Rajgir	Magadha	Site of the First Buddhist Council post-Mahaparinirvana
4. Kaushambi	Avanti	Birthplace of Gautama Buddha

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Kushinagar was the capital of the Malla Mahajanapada where the Buddha passed away and attained Mahaparinirvana.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Shravasti was the capital of Kosala where the Buddha delivered a large portion of his sermons and spent 25 rainy seasons (Vassa).
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Rajgir (Rajagriha) in Magadha hosted the First Buddhist Council at the Saptaparni Cave shortly after the Buddha's death.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** Kaushambi was the capital of the Vatsa Mahajanapada (ruled by King Udayana), not Avanti. Furthermore, Buddha was born in Lumbini (in modern Nepal), not Kaushambi.

7. Consider the following information:

Epithet	Meaning	Philosophical Significance
1. Sugata	The Well-Gone	One who has attained Nirvana cleanly
2. Lokavid	Knower of the Worlds	Possesses comprehensive knowledge of cosmic existence
3. Mahakarunika	The Great Compassionate One	Represents boundless empathy towards all sentient beings
4. Jina	Conqueror of Earthly Kingdoms	Denotes temporal political sovereignty over Jambudvipa

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 (b) 2 and 4 only
 (c) 1 and 3 only
 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Sugata (Well-Gone or Well-Spoken) refers to one who has attained the peaceful state of Nirvana.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Lokavid means Knower of the Worlds, highlighting the Buddha's profound understanding of the nature of the cosmos and existence.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Mahakarunika means "The Great Compassionate One," emphasizing his altruistic vow to alleviate the suffering of all beings.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** While Jina means Conqueror, in the Shramana context it signifies one who has conquered inner desires, passions, and ignorance (samsara), not a political conqueror or ruler of earthly kingdoms (Chakravartin).

8. Consider the following information:

Ruler	Kingdom	Historical Association with Buddhism
1. Bimbisara	Magadha	Donated the Veluvana bamboo grove to the Buddha
2. Prasenjit	Kosala	Royal patron and direct contemporary of the Buddha
3. Udayana	Vatsa	Ruler of Kaushambi who embraced Buddha's teachings
4. Chanda Pradyota	Gandhara	Hosted the Buddha during his western sermon tour

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 4 only
 (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 and 4 only

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** King Bimbisara of Magadha was an early patron who donated the Veluvana (Venuvana) monastery to the Buddha and his Sangha.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** King Prasenjit (Pasenadi) of Kosala was a close contemporary and devout follower of the Buddha.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** King Udayana ruled Vatsa from Kaushambi and became a dedicated patron of Buddhism through the influence of the monk Pindola Bharadvaja.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** Chanda Pradyota was the ruler of Avanti (capitalized at Ujjain/Mahishmati), not Gandhara. Although he invited the Buddha, the Buddha did not travel there personally and sent Mahakaccayana instead.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the geographical itinerary of Gautama Buddha is/are correct?

1. Buddha traveled Middle Gangetic plain, delivering discourses in major urban centers including Vaishali, Rajgir, Shravasti, and Kaushambi.
2. Historical evidence confirms that Gautama Buddha traveled westward to Taxila in Gandhara to establish the first university monastery.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Buddha's itinerary was confined primarily to the Middle Gangetic Basin (modern Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh), covering major capitals of Mahajanapadas such as Vaishali (Vajji), Rajgir (Magadha), Shravasti (Kosala), and Kaushambi (Vatsa).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Buddha never visited Taxila or the distant northwestern region of Gandhara during his lifetime. Buddhism spread to Gandhara much later, notably under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka and the Kushana ruler Kanishka I.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mahaparinirvana of Gautama Buddha is/are correct?

1. Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana at the age of eighty at Kushinagar in approximately 483 BCE.
2. Following his passing, his mortal remains were cremated by the Mallas of Kushinagara with funeral ceremonies reserved for a Universal Monarch.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to traditional Buddhist chronology, the Buddha passed away at the age of 80 in 483 BCE (or 486 BCE by alternative traditions) at Kushinagar (modern Kushinagar district, Uttar Pradesh).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As recorded in the Mahaparinibbana Sutta of the Digha Nikaya, the Mallas of Kushinagar honored the Buddha's body with royal ceremonies, music, garlands, and cremation rituals identical to those accorded to a Chakravartin (Universal King), after which his relics were divided among eight contemporary powers.

Buddhism Philosophy and School

1. Which of the following statements with regard to early Buddhist Stupas is/are correct?

1. A total of eight stupas were originally erected over the bodily relics of the Buddha following his cremation.
2. Stupa tradition was introduced into Indian architecture for the first time by Mauryan ruler Ashoka in the century BCE.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Following the cremation of Gautama Buddha at Kushinagar, his bodily relics (Saririka) were divided into eight portions and distributed among eight republican clans and kingdoms (such as the Mallas, Licchavis, and Shakya clan), who erected eight foundational relic stupas over them.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The stupa tradition predates King Ashoka. Stupas existed during the pre-Mauryan Vedic and early Buddhist periods as earthen burial mounds. Ashoka popularized and expanded the tradition by opening the original stupas (except the Ramagrama stupa) and redistributing the relics into thousands of new stupas across his empire.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the doctrines of Gautama Buddha is/are correct?

1. Buddha's teachings were skilful means and should be treated like a raft to cross a river rather than an absolute dogmatic truth to cling to.
2. The primary teachings and discourses of the Buddha were composed in high Classical Sanskrit to maintain structural precision against Vedic texts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Buddha described his teachings using the raft parable (Kullupama Sutta), explaining that his doctrines were pragmatic tools (Upaya) meant for attaining liberation (Nirvana), not dogmas to be attached to once the goal is reached.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Gautama Buddha intentionally preached in Pali, the vernacular languages of the common people in the Middle Gangetic Plain, rejecting the exclusive use of Vedic Sanskrit to ensure universal accessibility.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Buddha's stance on religion and social structure is/are correct?

1. Buddha rejected the authority of the Vedas, animal sacrifices, and the divine origin of the Varna system.
2. He propounded the existence of an eternal, unchangeable, and supreme individual soul that governs human destiny.
3. He held that human suffering and social inequalities were social and human creations rather than divinely ordained conditions.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Buddha rejected Brahmanical orthodoxy, the divine authority of the Vedas, elaborate sacrificial rituals (Yajnas), and the hereditary Varna hierarchy.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A fundamental pillar of Buddhist philosophy is Anatta (or Anatman—the doctrine of no-soul). The Buddha denied the existence of an eternal, permanent, and unchanging individual soul (Atman).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Buddha viewed the phenomenal world and social institutions as dynamic, impermanent (Anicca), and man-made, asserting that social status is determined by one's actions (Karma) rather than divine decree.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the concept of an Arhat in Buddhism is/are correct?

1. Arhat is an individual who has eradicated all spiritual afflictions.
2. Attainment of Arhatship as the ultimate spiritual ideal is central to Mahayana Buddhism.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In early Buddhist traditions, an Arhat (Worthy One) is a person who has attained enlightenment, eradicated all mental impurities (Kleshas), destroyed ignorance, and secured freedom from future rebirths.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Arhat ideal is the central goal of Theravada / Hinayana Buddhism. In contrast, Mahayana Buddhism criticizes the Arhat path as an individual or selfish liberation, prioritizing instead the ideal of the Bodhisattva who delays personal Nirvana to liberate all sentient beings.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Buddhist Sangha is/are correct?

1. Monks and nuns were admitted into the Sangha from the inception of the order without any gender restrictions.
2. Mahaprajapati Gautami, became the first woman to be ordained into the monastic order following the intervention of Ananda.
3. The rules governing the discipline, admission, and day-to-day administration of the Sangha are codified in the Vinaya Pitaka.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Initially, the Sangha was restricted exclusively to male monks (Bhikkhus). Women were not admitted at the very beginning.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** After persistent requests and intercession by his chief attendant Ananda, the Buddha agreed to establish the order of nuns (Bhikkhuni Sangha), and Mahaprajapati Gautami became the first female monastic.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The operational rules, moral codes, monastic discipline, and procedural laws of the Sangha are detailed in the Vinaya Pitaka (specifically in the Suttavibhanga and Khandhaka).

6. Which of the following statements best describes the core philosophical premise of Pratityasamutpada in Buddhist thought?

- (a) It posits that the physical universe was created out of a primeval cosmic sacrifice by a supreme divine entity.
- (b) It states that all mental and physical phenomena arise in mutual interdependence according to cause and effect, where nothing exists independently.
- (c) It asserts that the material world is entirely permanent and unchanging despite superficial external transformations.
- (d) It establishes that individual destiny is strictly predetermined by fate (Niyati), rendering human effort futile.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct:** Pratityasamutpada (Dependent Origination / Interdependent Arising) is the foundational concept of Buddhist causal theory. It holds that all physical and mental phenomena come into existence dependent on specific conditions (When this exists, that comes to be). It avoids the extreme views of Eternalism (Sasvatavada) and Annihilationism (Ucchedavada).
- Option (a) reflects Vedic creationist principles (Purusha Sukta). Option (c) contradicts the core principle of Anicca (Impermanence). Option (d) describes the philosophy of the Ajivika school founded by Makkhali Gosala.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sthaviravada school of Buddhism is/are correct?

1. Sthaviravada sect emerged following the schism at the Second Buddhist Council in Vaishali, advocating strict adherence to original monastic rules.
2. It served as the doctrinal foundation from which the later Mahayana school directly originated, rejecting the ideal of individual Arhatship.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** During the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali (around 383 BCE), the Sangha split into two main factions: the conservative Sthaviravada (the Elders, who wanted to strictly preserve original monastic rules) and the more flexible Mahasanghika.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Sthaviravada school served as the direct precursor to Theravada Buddhism (not Mahayana). It maintained a realist philosophical framework and emphasized individual liberation (Arhatship). It was the Mahasanghika school that laid the intellectual groundwork for Mahayana.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mahasanghika school of Buddhism is/are correct?

1. Mahasanghikas viewed the Buddha not merely as a mortal teacher, but as a supramundane and transcendental figure.
2. Dhanyakataka in Andhra Pradesh served as a major center and stronghold for the Mahasanghika school.
3. Mahasanghika school rejected the concept of mind purity, holding that consciousness is intrinsically polluted and incapable of enlightenment.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Unlike the orthodox Sthaviravada, the Mahasanghika tradition deified the Buddha, treating him as a supramundane (Lokottara), eternal, and divine being, which served as an ideological bridge to Mahayana Buddhism.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dhanyakataka (modern Amaravati / Dharanikota in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh), under the patronage of the Satavahana rulers, emerged as the primary base for the Mahasanghika sub-schools, notably the Caityakas and Saila schools.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Mahasanghikas held that the fundamental nature of the human mind is luminously pure (Prakriti-prabhasvara-citta), but becomes temporarily obscured or corrupted by external defilements (Kleshas).

9. Consider the following information:

Sub-sect of Buddhism ::	Main School Origin ::	Key Doctrinal Feature
1. Lokottaravada	Mahasanghika	Propounded the supernatural and supramundane nature of the Buddha

2. Caitika	Mahasanghika	Centered around the veneration and worship of Stupas (Caityas)
3. Bahusrutiya	Theravada	Developed as a radical orthodox sub-branch rejecting all Mahayana doctrines
4. Purva Salla	Mahasanghika	Flourished around the eastern hill complexes of the Andhra region

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Lokottaravada was a prominent sub-sect of the Mahasanghika lineage that emphasized the supramundane (Lokottara) nature of the Buddha.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** The Caitika (or Caityaka) sub-school branched off from the Mahasanghikas in southern India, deriving its name from its focus on Caitya (stupa) veneration and decoration.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** The Bahusrutiya (or Bahusutiya) was a sub-branch of the Mahasanghika school (not Theravada). It attempted to bridge orthodox early Buddhism and emerging Mahayana concepts by emphasizing both literal texts and deeper philosophical insight.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** The Purva Salla ("Eastern Hill") and Aparasalla ("Western Hill") were Andhra-based sub-sects belonging to the Mahasanghika tradition operating near Nagarjunakonda and Amaravati.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Hinayana (Early / Orthodox) Buddhism is/are correct?

1. It focuses on individual liberation from the cycle of birth and death through self-discipline, meditation, and attainment of the Arhat state.
2. It actively promotes image worship and worship of the Buddha as an avatar of Vishnu through elaborate temple rituals.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Hinayana (often associated with Theravada) is the orthodox stream of Buddhism. Its primary goal is individual self-liberation (Nirvana) by achieving Arhatship through personal effort and strict adherence to the Eightfold Path.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Hinayana Buddhism rejects idol worship and the deification of the Buddha. In early Hinayana art and practice, the Buddha is represented exclusively through symbols (such as

the Footprints, Bodhi Tree, Wheel of Law, and Stupa) rather than human images or devotional rituals (Bhakti), which became prominent later under Mahayana.

Buddhism Philosophy and School-II

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Hinayana Buddhism is/are correct?

1. It holds the attainment of Arhatship as its primary spiritual goal
2. It represents the orthodox and conservative stream of early Buddhism.
3. It actively endorsed the deification of the Buddha.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Hinayana (Lesser Vehicle) represents the orthodox, conservative branch of early Buddhism that adheres strictly to original teachings, emphasizing individual self-effort to break free from Samsara.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The central spiritual ideal of Hinayana is becoming an Arhat (Worthy One), a person who has conquered desires, eradicated ignorance, and achieved personal Nirvana.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Hinayana strictly rejects the deification and idol worship of the Buddha. Instead of treating him as a god or performing elaborate rituals, Hinayana views Gautama Buddha as an exemplary historical teacher and relies on symbolic representations (e.g., stupa, footprint, wheel).

2. Consider the following information:

School	Canonical Base	Philosophical Concept
1. Sthaviravada	Vibhajjavada	Compiled the Pali Canon forming the basis of modern Theravada
2. Sarvastivada	Abhidharma Tradition	Sarvam Asti doctrine stating phenomena exist in latent past, present, and future forms
3. Sautrantika	Abhidharma Texts	Rejected the Vinaya rules while accepting Abhidharma treatises as absolute scripture
4. Vaibhasika	Vibhasha Commentaries	Authoritative texts include Abhidharmakosa authored by Vasubandhu

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Sthaviravada gave rise to the Vibhajjavada (School of Analysis), which compiled the Pali Canon (Tripitaka) and laid the foundation for Sri Lankan Theravada Buddhism.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Sarvastivada held the doctrine of Sarvam Asti ("all exists"), asserting that dharmas (constituents of reality) exist continuously across past, present, and future time states.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** The Sautrantika sub-school relied directly on the Sutras (Sutta Pitaka) and rejected the independent canonical authority of the Abhidharma texts (unlike the Vaibhasika school), while retaining the standard monastic code (Vinaya).
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** The Vaibhasikas relied on the Great Commentary (Mahavibhasha) on Abhidharma; Vasubandhu's classic Abhidharmakosa is a central summary work of Sarvastivadin/Vaibhasika philosophy.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to early Buddhist sub-sects is/are correct?

1. Sammitiya school introduced the controversial doctrine of Pudgala soul-like personhood.
2. Dharmaguptaka school played an influential role in transmitting monastic discipline and Buddhist scriptures along the Silk Road.
3. Mahisasaka and Haimavata sub-sects merged with the Mahayana school to establish Tantric Buddhism.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Vatsiputriyas (also known as Sammitiyas) developed the unique doctrine of Pudgala, postulating a quasi-permanent "person" or entity that transmigrates from life to life, distinguishing themselves from orthodox Anatta proponents.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Dharmaguptaka school was instrumental in expanding Buddhism along northwestern trade routes into Central Asia and China. The Chinese Buddhist monastic lineage (Vinaya) is derived from the Dharmaguptaka Vinaya.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Mahisasaka and Haimavata (or Kasyapiya) remained minor early non-Mahayana schools with limited geographical footprint; they did not merge to form Tantric Buddhism (which developed much later as Vajrayana in early medieval India).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Theravada Buddhism is/are correct?

1. It represents continuation of the early Sthaviravada lineage, focusing on individual liberation through Arhatship.
2. It accepts the Tripitaka as its primary and authoritative scriptural body.
3. It expanded across East Asia, becoming the dominant state religion in Tang-era China, Korea, and Japan.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Theravada (Way of the Elders) traces its lineage directly back to the early Sthaviravada school established after the Second Buddhist Council, upholding personal Arhatship.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Theravada exclusively recognizes the Pali Canon (Tipiṭaka, comprising Vinaya, Sutta, and Abhidhamma) as its scriptural authority.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Theravada spread predominantly across South and Southeast Asia (Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos). East Asia (China, Korea, and Japan) adopted Mahayana Buddhism.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Mahayana Buddhism is/are correct?

1. Advocates Bodhisattva ideal, encouraging followers to postpone their personal liberation to work for the salvation of all sentient beings.
2. Mahayana deified the Buddha, treating him as a transcendental, divine being.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The hallmark of Mahayana (Great Vehicle) is the Bodhisattva ideal—one who seeks enlightenment out of compassion (Karuna) for all living beings, delaying final entry into Nirvana until all are saved.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mahayana deified the Buddha, treating him as a transcendental, divine being (Trikaya theory) and actively introduced image worship, elaborate rituals, devotional offerings, and temples.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Mahayana philosophical schools and centers is/are correct?

1. Madhyamika school was founded by Nagarjuna and centers on the doctrine of Shunyata.
2. Yogachara school emphasizes Vijnaptimatra, asserting that subjective experience shapes external reality.
3. Taxila in Gandhara served as the main intellectual and geographic stronghold where Nagarjuna established the first Madhyamika monastery.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Madhyamika (Middle Way) school was propounded by Nagarjuna in the century CE. It centers on Shunyata—the ultimate lack of inherent, independent existence in all phenomena.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Yogachara school (founded by Maitreyanatha, Asanga, and Vasubandhu) developed the Vijnanavada or Vijnaptimatra doctrine, holding that everything perceived is a manifestation of mind or consciousness.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Nagarjuna's activity and the primary early centers of Mahayana philosophy were located in Andhra Pradesh in Southern India—specifically around Nagarjunakonda and Dhanyakataka (Amaravati)—under the Satavahana and Ikshvaku dynasties.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Vajrayana Buddhism is/are correct?

1. It developed as an esoteric branch out of Mahayana Buddhism during the early medieval period in Eastern India.
2. It incorporates Tantric rituals, Mantras, Dharanis, complex Mandalas, and specialized meditative visualizations.
3. It rejects the veneration of female deities, prohibiting female Bodhisattvas such as Tara from its pantheon.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Vajrayana (Vehicle of the Thunderbolt) emerged around the 6th – 7th centuries CE in medieval India (notably under the Pala Empire in Bihar and Bengal) as an esoteric extension of Mahayana principles.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It utilizes Tantric methods including symbolic hand gestures (Mudras), sacred sounds (Mantras), visual diagrams (Mandalas), and subtle energy meditation to achieve rapid enlightenment.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Vajrayana features female deities and female Bodhisattvas prominently. Deities like Tara, Prajnaparamita, and various Dakinis occupy central roles in its pantheon and rituals.

8. Consider the following information:

School of Tibetan Buddhism	Founder	Focus
1. Nyingma	Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche)	Oldest tradition; emphasizes Dzogchen teachings
2. Kagyu	Milarepa / Marpa	Focuses on oral transmission and meditation practices
3. Sakya	Sakya Pandita	Renowned for systematic scholasticism and scriptural analysis
4. Gelug	Tsongkhapa	Reintroduced strict monastic discipline; led by the Dalai Lama

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Nyingma (The Ancient One) is the oldest Tibetan school, tracing its origin to Padmasambhava (8th century CE), and is known for its high-level meditative system called Dzogchen ("Great Perfection").
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Kagyu (Lineage of the Oral Word) was established through Marpa, Milarepa, and Gampopa, prioritizing intense meditation retreat and oral lineage transmission (including Karma Kagyu led by the Karmapa).
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Sakya is famous for its scholastic rigor, systematic doctrine (Lamdre or Path and Result), and detailed textual commentaries developed by the Sakya Pandita and lineage masters.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Gelug (Yellow Hat school) was founded by Je Tsongkhapa in the 14th century. It emphasizes monastic discipline, debate, and logic, and its temporal leadership was historically held by the Dalai Lama.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Navayana Buddhism is/are correct?

1. It is a modern socio-spiritual reinterpretation of Buddhism introduced by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in 1956.
2. It discards traditional concepts like Karma-based caste destiny and supernatural rituals, placing social equality, rationalism, and human rights at its core.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Navayana (New Vehicle) was formulated by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, culminating in the mass conversion movement at Nagpur in October 1956.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Navayana reinterprets classic Buddhist tenets by removing belief in rebirth controlled by past-life caste fate, rejecting Vedic rituals, priestcraft, and esoteric practices, while prioritizing socio-economic justice, morality (Sila), human equality, and rational enquiry as reflected in Ambedkar's text The Buddha and His Dhamma.

10. Consider the following information:

Dimension	Mahayana Tradition	Hinayana Tradition
1. Spiritual Goal	Bodhisattva Ideal (universal liberation)	Arhat Ideal (individual liberation)
2. Concept of Buddha	Transcendent and divine deity	Historical teacher and moral guide
3. Religious Practice	Practice of Paramitas (Perfections)	Strict monastic discipline and Eightfold Path
4. Primary Scripture	Exclusively compiled in Pali	Written in Tibetan and Chinese only

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Mahayana seeks universal liberation for all sentient beings via the Bodhisattva path, whereas Hinayana focuses on individual Nirvana via the Arhat path.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Mahayana deifies the Buddha as an eternal, supramundane manifestation, whereas Hinayana views Gautama Buddha as a human teacher who showed the way to liberation.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Mahayana highlights the Paramitas (generosity, patience, wisdom, etc.) practiced by Bodhisattvas, while Hinayana emphasizes adherence to the Noble Eightfold Path and strict monastic discipline (Vinaya).
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** It reverses the scriptural languages. Hinayana (Theravada) scripture is preserved in Pali (Pali Canon), whereas Mahayana texts were originally composed in Sanskrit (and later translated into Chinese, Tibetan, and other languages).

Bodhisattvas, Buddhist Work etc.

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the concept of Bodhisattvas in Buddhist philosophy is/are correct?

1. Bodhisattva is an enlightened being who voluntarily delays entry into final Nirvana.
2. Bodhisattva path forms the primary spiritual ideal of Theravada Buddhism while rejected by Mahayana schools.
3. The four sublime states associated with a Bodhisattva comprise Maitri, Karuna, Mudita, and Upeksha.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In Mahayana tradition, a Bodhisattva is a compassionate being who vows to generate Bodhicitta and attain Buddhahood, choosing to remain in the cycle of rebirth to guide and liberate all sentient beings.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Bodhisattva ideal is the central pillar of Mahayana Buddhism. Theravada Buddhism focuses primarily on the Arhat ideal (individual liberation), though it recognizes a limited number of past Bodhisattvas (such as Maitreya).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The four immeasurable virtues or Brahmaviharas cultivated on the Bodhisattva path are Maitri (benevolence/loving-kindness), Karuna (compassion), Mudita (altruistic joy), and Upeksha (equanimity).

2. Consider the following information:

Bodhisattva	Primary Symbol	Associated Spiritual Connect
1. Avalokiteshvara	Holds a Lotus (Padmapani)	Embodiment of infinite compassion
2. Maitreya	Crowned with a Stupa	Recognized as the Future Buddha
3. Vajrapani	Wields a Thunderbolt (Vajra)	Embodies the divine power of all Buddhas
4. Manjusri	Flaming Sword of Wisdom	Symbolizes Prajna cutting through ignorance

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Avalokiteshvara (Padmapani) is depicted holding a lotus flower and represents the compassionate nature of the Buddha.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Maitreya is worshipped as the future Buddha who currently resides in the Tushita heaven, traditionally identified by a small stupa in his headdress.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Vajrapani (Thunderbolt Wielder) represents the power and protective force of the Buddhas, depicted as a muscular and fierce guardian.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Manjusri represents transcendent wisdom (Prajna), portrayed carrying a flaming sword that cuts through delusion and ignorance.

3. Consider the following information:

Bodhisattva	Characteristic Vow	Key Associated Attribute
1. Ksitigarbha	Vowed to empty all hell realms before attaining Buddhahood	Savior of beings in purgatory/underworld
2. Samantabhadra	Associated with universal practice and meditation vows	Depicted riding a six-tusked white elephant
3. Skanda	Traditional ruler of the netherworld	Known for initiating the schism at Vaishali
4. Akasagarbha	Associated with the element of space (Akasa)	Manifests infinite wisdom and spiritual space

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Ksitigarbha is famous for his great vow not to achieve Buddhahood until all hell realms are emptied of suffering souls.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Samantabhadra represents perfect action, conduct, and meditation; in iconography, he is frequently depicted riding a six-tusked white elephant.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** Skanda (known as Weituo in Chinese Buddhism) is a guardian protector of Buddhist monasteries and teachings (Dharma), not a ruler of the netherworld or a figure involved in early council schisms.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Akasagarbha is the Bodhisattva of boundless space and wisdom, possessing the ability to purify transgressions.

4. Consider the following statements regarding figures in the Buddhist pantheon:

1. Sarvanivarana-Vishkambhin is Bodhisattva who purifies and removes all spiritual and physical obstacles.
2. Tara is a prominent female Bodhisattva.
3. Vasudhara is worshipped as the Buddhist goddess of wealth, abundance, and agricultural prosperity.
4. Amitabha is revered as the Buddha of Infinite Light who presides over the Sukhavati.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sarvanivarana-Vishkambhin (He who blocks obstacles) is one of the eight principal Bodhisattvas, invoked to remove internal and external impediments to meditation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Tara (Mother of Liberation) is a female Bodhisattva representing active compassion and rapid rescue from perils.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vasudhara is a popular female deity in Vajrayana and Nepalese Buddhism associated with fortune, gold, and agricultural fertility.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Amitabha (Infinite Light) is the principal Buddha of the Pure Land school, who vows to welcome all faithful practitioners into his paradise realm of Sukhavati.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to early Buddhist figures is/are correct?

1. Sitatapatra is a protective deity who embodies the invincible white parasol to ward off supernatural harms and calamities.
2. Dipankara is recognized in canonical literature as a historical Buddha of the past who predicted the future Buddhahood of Shakyamuni.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sitatapatra (The Goddess of the White Parasol) is a protective deity in Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions, symbolizing protection against black magic, diseases, and external dangers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dipankara Buddha is the preceding Buddha of past aeons who met Sumedha (a past life of Siddhartha Gautama) and prophesied that he would become the historical Buddha Shakyamuni.

6. Which one of the following is the correct description of the term Paramitas'?

- (a) The earliest legal codes compiled in aphoristic style by Brahmanical scholars
- (b) Heterodox philosophical schools that rejected the authority of the Vedas
- (c) Spiritual perfections whose full attainment led to the realization of the Bodhisattva path
- (d) Guilds of sea-faring merchants active in southern maritime trade networks

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:** Paramitas (transcendental perfections or virtues) are moral and spiritual qualities such as Dana (generosity), Sila (virtue), Kshanti (patience), Virya (energy), Dhyana (concentration), and Prajna (wisdom) that a Bodhisattva must cultivate to achieve complete enlightenment (Sammāsambodhi).

7. Consider the following pairs:

1. Parivrajaka: Wandering ascetic or renunciant
2. Shramana: High-ranking Vedic priest performing royal sacrifices
3. Upasaka: Lay follower of the Buddhist tradition

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Parivrajaka refers to a homeless wanderer or religious renunciant who leaves householder life to seek spiritual truth.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Shramana refers to non-Vedic ascetic movement traditions (such as Buddhism, Jainism, and Ajivikism) that rejected Brahmanical sacrifices and priestly authority.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** An Upasaka (male) or Upasika (female) refers to a lay practitioner of Buddhism who takes refuge in the Three Jewels without taking monastic vows.

8. Consider the following pairs:

Council Leadership	Presiding Scholar
1. First Buddhist Council (Rajgir)	Mahakasyapa
2. Second Buddhist Council (Vaishali)	Sabbakami
3. Third Buddhist Council (Pataliputra)	Moggaliputta Tissa

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The First Council at Rajagriha (under King Ajatashatru) was presided over by Mahakasyapa, where the Ananda recited the Suttas and Upali recited the Vinaya.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The Second Council at Vaishali (under King Kalasoka) was presided over by Sabbakami to settle disputed monastic practices (Ten Points).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Third Council at Pataliputra (under King Ashoka) was presided over by Moggaliputta Tissa, who authored the Kathavatthu and finalized the Abhidhamma Pitaka.

9. Consider the following pairs:

Buddhist Scholar	Work
1. Nagarjuna	Formulated Madhyamika Shunyavada and authored Mulamadhyamakakarika
2. Aryadeva	Disciple of Nagarjuna who popularized Mahayana dialectics through Catuhsataka
3. Dharmakirti	Master of Buddhist logic and epistemology, often described as the "Kant of India"

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Nagarjuna founded the Madhyamika school of Mahayana Buddhism, propounding the doctrine of emptiness (Shunyavada) in his landmark treatise Mulamadhyamakakarika.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Aryadeva, the chief student of Nagarjuna, authored the Catuhsataka to defend Madhyamika thought against rival philosophical systems.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Dharmakirti made groundbreaking contributions to Indian epistemology and formal logic (Pramanavarttika), earning him the title of the "Kant of India" among modern historians.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to prominent Buddhist scholars is/are correct?

1. Vasumitra presided over the Fourth Buddhist Council at Kundalavana under King Kanishka I and contributed to Mahavibhasha-shastra.
2. Asanga, along with his brother Vasubandhu, systematized the Yogachara school of Mahayana Buddhism.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Vasumitra served as the President of the Fourth Council in Kashmir (with Ashvaghosha as Vice-President) under Kushana patron Kanishka I, compiling the Sarvastivadin commentary Mahavibhasha-shastra.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Asanga and Vasubandhu were brother scholars who established the Yogachara / Vijñānavāda school, articulating that all experienced phenomena are constructs of consciousness (Vijñaptimātra).

Buddhist Work and Art

1. Consider the following pairs:

Buddhist Scholar	Major Work
1. Buddhaghosa	Authored the Visuddhimagga and the commentary Samantapasadika
2. Dignaga	Recognized as the founder of Buddhist formal logic (Pramana)
3. Nagarjuna	Propounded Shunyavada; referred to as the "Einstein of India"

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Buddhaghosa was a Theravada scholar who composed the treatise Visuddhimagga (Path of Purification) and the Samantapasadika (a commentary on the Vinaya Pitaka detailing Ashoka's historical role).
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Dignaga revolutionized Indian philosophy as the founder of Buddhist epistemology and formal logic (Pramana-samuccaya).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Nagarjuna propounded the doctrine of Emptiness (Shunyavada) and relativity of phenomena, leading modern historians to designate him as the Einstein of India.

2. Consider the following information:

Cave Site	Location	Architectural Feature
1. Bagh Caves	Madhya Pradesh	Features rock-cut mural paintings stylistically akin to Ajanta
2. Guntapalle	Andhra Pradesh	Features circular rock-cut chaitya halls and monastic stupas

3. Pitalkhora	Maharashtra	Early rock-cut caves with significant inscriptions and sculptures
4. Bhaja Caves	Odisha	Famous for medieval Jain tirthankara reliefs and ratha shrines

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Bagh Caves in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, contain famous ancient tempera mural paintings similar in style to Ajanta.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** The Guntapalle Caves in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, constitute an important early Buddhist rock-cut monastic site.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** The Pitalkhora Caves in Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, represent one of the earliest Hinayana rock-cut cave groups.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** The Bhaja Caves are an ancient group of Hinayana Buddhist rock-cut caves in Pune district, Maharashtra.

3. Consider the following information:

Cave Site	State	Description
1. Karla Caves	Maharashtra	Houses the largest rock-cut Chaitya hall in India
2. Kanheri Caves	Maharashtra	Extensive monastic complex with numerous inscriptions inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park
3. Bedse Caves	Maharashtra	Early Buddhist rock-cut caves known for pilasters with animal capitals
4. Junnar Caves	Gujarat	Largest concentration of early Buddhist rock-cut caves including Ganeshleni

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Karla Caves (near Lonavala, Maharashtra) feature the largest, best-preserved rock-cut Chaitya-griha (prayer hall) in India, excavated during the Satavahana era.

- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** The Kanheri Caves in Mumbai, Maharashtra, comprise over 100 rock-cut monastic cells and halls.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** The Bedse Caves in Maval, Maharashtra, belong to the early Satavahana period, distinguished by clean, simple architecture and pillar capitals carved with animals.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** The Junnar Cave complex (including Ganeshleni) represents one of the largest single clusters of Buddhist caves in India, located in Maharashtra (Pune district).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sthaviravada school of Buddhism is/are correct?

1. It adhered to the original monastic rules compiled in the Vinaya Pitaka and rejected procedural relaxations.
2. Viewed Gautama Buddha as a transcendent and supramundane divine entity.
3. Sammitiyas, Vibhajjavadin, and Vatsiputriyas developed as major sub-sects within this tradition.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sthaviravada (Way of the Elders) faction preserved strict, traditional monastic discipline as codified in the Vinaya Pitaka.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Sthaviravadins regarded Gautama Buddha as a human being who attained supreme enlightenment (Nibbana) through personal spiritual effort, rather than a divine or supramundane figure. Deification was characteristic of the rival Mahasanghika school.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Key branches that evolved out of the broader Sthaviravada group include the Vibhajjavada (basis of Theravada), Sammitiya, and Vatsiputriya schools.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mahasanghika school of Buddhism is/are correct?

1. Advocated the deification of the Buddha viewing him as a supramundane entity.
2. Prohibited the entry of lay followers into monastic complexes and restricted religious discourse to Sanskrit texts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mahasanghikas introduced relaxed rules and doctrinal innovations, deifying the Buddha as a transcendental figure and promoting the Bodhisattva path over the individual Arhat goal, influencing the emergence of Mahayana Buddhism.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Mahasanghika school was inclusive and liberal (Greater Community). It welcomed lay patronage and did not restrict discourse to Sanskrit texts.

6. Consider the following pairs:

Symbolic Gesture	Associated Meaning
1. Dhyana Mudra	Gesture of intense meditation and spiritual perfection
2. Bhumisparsha Mudra	Earth-touching gesture calling the Earth goddess to witness Buddha's enlightenment
3. Uttarabodhi Mudra	Gesture representing supreme enlightenment and divine charge

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Dhyana Mudra (hands folded in lap, right over left) signifies deep meditation and concentration.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Bhumisparsha Mudra depicts the Buddha touching the ground with his right fingertips to invoke Mara's defeat and call the Earth goddess as witness to his attainment of Buddhahood.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Uttarabodhi Mudra (interlocked fingers with index fingers raised touching) signifies supreme enlightenment and spiritual unity.

7. Consider the following pairs:

Symbolic Gesture (Mudra)	Associated Meaning
1. Dharmachakra Mudra	Gesture of setting the Wheel of Law in motion, associated with the First Sermon at Sarnath
2. Vitarka Mudra	Gesture of intellectual discussion, teaching, and explanation of doctrines
3. Vajra Mudra	Gesture of knowledge and ultimate truth, characteristic of esoteric rituals

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Dharmachakra Mudra represents the turning of the wheel of Dharma, symbolizing the historical First Sermon delivered by Gautama Buddha in the Deer Park at Sarnath.

- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Vitarka Mudra (thumb touching index finger forming a circle) represents debate, discussion, and doctrinal instruction.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Vajra Mudra (index finger of one hand enclosed by the fist of the other) symbolizes transcendental wisdom and spiritual unity in Vajrayana iconographic traditions.

8. Consider the following information:

Symbolic Gesture (Mudra)	Primary Signification	Action
1. Abhaya Mudra	Fearlessness and reassurance	Right hand raised outward to ward off fear
2. Varada Mudra	Charity, boon-granting, and compassion	Left hand held downward with open palm facing outward
3. Anjali Mudra	Devotion, greeting, and respect	Palms pressed together at chest level
4. Karana Mudra	Warding off evil energy and demonic forces	Hand extended with index and little finger raised

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Abhaya Mudra signifies protection, peace, and dispelling of fear.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Varada Mudra symbolizes mercy, charity, and conferring blessings.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Anjali Mudra represents reverence, devotional greeting, and salutation.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Karana Mudra (the gesture of warding off evil) is used to expel negative thoughts and demonic influences.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Buddhist monastic rituals and ceremonies is/are correct?

- Upasampada is the higher ordination ceremony by which a novice monk becomes a full member of the monastic order.
- Pavarana is a holy ceremony conducted at the end of the Vassa, where monks request the Sangha to point out any transgression committed by them.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Upasampada marks the formal rites of passage where an initiate (after reaching age 20) receives full monastic ordination and assumes full adherence to the Patimokkha rules.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pavarana takes place on the full moon day ending the three-month retreat (Vassa). Monks ask forgiveness from fellow members for any improper conduct in thought, word, or deed observed during the retreat.

10. With reference to ancient Indian religious history, the term Parivrajaka refers to which one of the following?

- (a) Hereditary landholders responsible for collecting royal revenue in the Mauryan period
- (b) Wandering ascetics or renunciants who gave up household life to seek spiritual truth
- (c) Chief patrons who financed the construction of monolithic Ashokan pillars
- (d) Guild commanders supervising inland trade routes in early medieval South India

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct:** Parivrajaka (in Sanskrit) or Paribbajaka (in Pali) refers to homeless wanderers and ascetics who severed domestic ties to pursue spiritual liberation, intellectual enquiry, and philosophical debate outside orthodox Brahmanical householder life.