

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Miscellaneous

1. Consider the following countries:

1. Bolivia
2. Brazil
3. Colombia
4. Ecuador
5. Paraguay
6. Venezuela

The Andes mountain system passes through how many of the above countries?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) Only five

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Andes mountain range extends along the western coast of South America and passes through seven countries: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina.

2. Consider the following pairs:

Region	Country
1. Mallorca	Italy
2. Normandy	Spain
3. Sardinia	France

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** Mallorca is the largest island of the Balearic Islands autonomous community, belonging to Spain.
- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** Normandy is a historical region situated in northwestern France.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** Sardinia is a large island located in the Mediterranean Sea belonging to Italy (Corsica belongs to France).

3. Consider the following water bodies:

1. Lake Tanganyika
2. Lake Tonlé Sap
3. Patos Lagoon

Through how many of them does the Equator (0° latitude) pass?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Lake Tanganyika:** Located in East Africa (between Tanzania, DRC, Zambia, and Burundi), situated entirely in the Southern Hemisphere between 3°S and 9°S latitude. (The Equator passes through Lake Victoria to its north).
- **Lake Tonlé Sap:** Located in Cambodia (Southeast Asia) in the Northern Hemisphere ($\sim 12^{\circ}\text{N}$ latitude).
- **Patos Lagoon (Lagoa dos Patos):** Located in southern Brazil (South America) at approximately 30°S latitude.

4. Consider the following information:

Waterfall	Geographic Region	River
1. Dhuandhar	Malwa Plateau	Narmada
2. Hundru	Chota Nagpur Plateau	Subarnarekha
3. Gersoppa (Jog)	Western Ghats	Netravati

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** While Dhuandhar Falls is created by the Narmada River, it is located in the Mahadeo Hills/Jabalpur region (Vindhyan margin of Madhya Pradesh).
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Hundru Falls is formed by the Subarnarekha River dropping over the edge of the Chota Nagpur Plateau near Ranchi.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** Gersoppa (Jog) Falls is located in the Western Ghats of Karnataka, but it is formed by the Sharavathi River.

5. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Finland
- 2. Germany
- 3. Norway
- 4. Russia

How many of the above countries share a coastline with the North Sea?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The North Sea is a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean bounded by Great Britain, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France.

6. Consider the following information:

Region	Mountain Range	Geomorphological Type
1. Central Asia	Vosges	Fold Mountain
2. Europe	Alps	Block Mountain
3. North America	Appalachians	Fold Mountain
4. South America	Andes	Fold Mountain

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** The Vosges range is located in Western Europe (France) and represents a Block Mountain (Rift system along the Rhine Graben).
- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** The Alps are situated in Europe, but they are Young Fold Mountains formed during the Alpine Orogeny.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** The Appalachians in North America are Old Fold Mountains formed during the Paleozoic era.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** The Andes in South America are Young Fold Mountains formed by the subduction of the Nazca Plate under the South American Plate.

7. Consider the following pairs:

Country	Context / News Reason
1. Argentina	Severe macroeconomic crisis and hyperinflation
2. Sudan	Conflict between the regular armed forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF)
3. Turkey	Formal withdrawal from NATO military alliance

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Argentina has been facing severe economic turbulence, soaring inflation rates, and currency devaluation.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Sudan has experienced intense conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) led by Gen. Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Gen. Dagalo.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Turkey has not rescinded its membership of NATO; it remains a key member state maintaining NATO's second-largest standing army.

8. Which one of the following countries falls within the geographical extent of the Congo River Basin?

- (a) Cameroon
- (b) Nigeria
- (c) South Sudan
- (d) Uganda

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Congo Basin is the second-largest river basin in the world. It spans across six central African nations: Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.
- Cameroon's southeastern portion drains directly into the Sangha River system, a major tributary of the Congo River.
- Nigeria, South Sudan, and Uganda fall under the Niger, Nile, and East African rift drainage basins respectively.

9. Consider the following countries:

1. Azerbaijan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Uzbekistan

Which of the above share a direct land border with Afghanistan?

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Afghanistan is a landlocked nation sharing international land borders with 6 countries:
 1. **Pakistan** (East and South)
 2. **Iran** (West)

3. **Turkmenistan** (Northwest)
4. **Uzbekistan** (North)
5. **Tajikistan** (Northeast)
6. **China** (East via Wakhan Corridor)

10. Consider the following pairs:

Region in News	Country
1. Anatolia	Turkey
2. Amhara	Ethiopia
3. Cabo Delgado	Spain
4. Catalonia	Italy

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Anatolia (Asia Minor) constitutes the westernmost protrusion of Asia, making up the majority of modern-day Turkey.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Amhara is a regional state in northern Ethiopia, frequently in news due to regional security conflicts.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Cabo Delgado is a northern province of Mozambique (in news due to insurgencies).
- **Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:** Catalonia is an autonomous community located in northeastern Spain.

Miscellaneous-II

1. With reference to the Indus River system, three of the following four rivers flow into one major tributary which itself joins the Indus River directly.?

- (a) Chenab
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Ravi
- (d) Sutlej

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Jhelum joins the Chenab at Trimmu.
- The Ravi joins the Chenab near Ahmadpur Sial.
- The Chenab then meets the Sutlej at Uch Sharif to form the Panjnad River.

- The Sutlej receives the combined waters of the Jhelum, Ravi, and Chenab before directly flowing into the Indus River at Mithankot (Pakistan).

2. Consider the following rivers:

1. Brahmani
2. Nagavali
3. Subarnarekha
4. Vamsadhara

Which of the above rivers originate from the Eastern Ghats?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Nagavali River (2): Originates in the Eastern Ghats (Eastern slopes of Eastern Ghats in Kalahandi district, Odisha).
- Vamsadhara River (4): Originates in the Eastern Ghats (Kalahandi district, Odisha).
- Brahmani River (1): Formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers, originating on the Chota Nagpur Plateau (not the Eastern Ghats).
- Subarnarekha River (3): Originates on the Chota Nagpur Plateau near Ranchi, Jharkhand (not the Eastern Ghats).

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Jhelum River flows through and feeds Wular Lake in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. The Krishna River directly feeds Kolleru Lake with its main channel flow.
3. The meandering of the Gandak River formed Kanwar Lake, an oxbow lake in Bihar.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Jhelum River flows into and out of Wular Lake in Jammu and Kashmir, serving as its primary freshwater source.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kolleru Lake is located between the Krishna and Godavari deltas, fed by seasonal streams like Budameru and Tammileru. Neither the main Krishna River nor the Godavari River directly feeds the lake.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Kanwar Lake (Kabartal Ramsar site) in Bihar is Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake, formed by a abandoned meander loop of the Gandak River.

4. Consider the following pairs:

Pair	Wetland / Lake	Location
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1.	Hokera Wetland	Punjab
2.	Renuka Wetland	Himachal Pradesh
3.	Rudrasagar Lake	Tripura
4.	Sasthamkotta Lake	Tamil Nadu

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Hokera Wetland is a Ramsar site located in Jammu and Kashmir (near Srinagar).
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Renuka Wetland is the smallest Ramsar site in India, located in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Rudrasagar Lake is a Ramsar site located in Melaghar, Tripura.
- **Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:** Sasthamkotta Lake (the largest freshwater lake in the state) is located in Kerala (Kollam district).

5. Consider the following pairs:

Pair	Peak	Regional Himalayan Division
1.	Namcha Barwa	Garhwal Himalaya
2.	Nanda Devi	Kumaon Himalaya
3.	Nokrek	Sikkim Himalaya

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Namcha Barwa is located in the Trans-Himalayas / Assam-Arunachal Himalaya zone in Tibet/Arunachal border region.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Nanda Devi is the highest peak situated entirely within India, located in the Kumaon/Uttarakhand Himalayas.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Nokrek is the highest peak of the Garo Hills in the Shillong Plateau (Meghalaya).

6. The Siachen Glacier is geographically situated to the:

- (a) West of Nubra Valley
- (b) East of Nubra Valley
- (c) South of Nubra Valley
- (d) North of the Nubra Valley

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Siachen Glacier lies in the East Karakoram range in the Himalayas.
- The meltwater from the Siachen Glacier feeds the Nubra River, which flows southwards into the Shyok River (a tributary of the Indus).
- Siachen Glacier is located directly North of the Nubra Valley and West of Aksai Chin.

7. Consider the following pairs:

Pair	River	Body of Water into which it Discharges
1.	Mekong	Andaman Sea
2.	Thames	Irish Sea
3.	Volga	Caspian Sea
4.	Zambezi	Indian Ocean

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** The Mekong River originates in the Tibetan Plateau and discharges into the South China Sea via the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** The River Thames flows through London and discharges into the North Sea via the Thames Estuary.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Volga River (Europe's longest river) drains into the landlocked Caspian Sea.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** The Zambezi River in southern Africa flows eastward and drains into the Indian Ocean (via Mozambique Channel).

8. Which of the following islands/archipelagos is geographically closest to Kavaratti in Lakshadweep?

- (a) Maliku (Minicoy Island)
- (b) Male (Maldives)
- (c) Coco Islands (Myanmar)
- (d) Great Nicobar

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Kavaratti is the capital city of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

- Minicoy Island (Maliku) is the southern-most atoll of the Lakshadweep archipelago, separated from Kavaratti by the 9 Degree Channel.
- Male (Maldives) lies further south across the 8 Degree Channel.
- Great Nicobar and Coco Islands are located thousands of kilometers away in the Bay of Bengal/Andaman Sea.

9. Which of the following rivers is/are tributaries of the Brahmaputra River?

1. Dibang
2. Kameng
3. Lohit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Dibang (1):** A major left-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra River flowing through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- **Kameng (2):** A major right-bank tributary originating in the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh and joining the Brahmaputra at Tezpur, Assam.
- **Lohit (3):** A key left-bank tributary originating in Tibet and entering India through Arunachal Pradesh before joining the Brahmaputra in Assam.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the extreme geographical limits of major river basins in India:

1. The Indus river basin extends furthest to the west in Indian territory.
2. The Brahmaputra river basin marks the easternmost major river basin of the country.
3. The Ganga river basin represents the absolute northernmost river basin of India.
4. The Kodayar river basin system represents the southernmost river basin in mainland India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While the Indus system touches the westernmost parts of the Indus-plains/Ladakh region, the westernmost river basin entirely or predominantly located in peninsular/mainland India's western arid boundary is the Luni or Sabarmati/Mahi river basin flowing into the Arabian Sea, not the Indus basin proper which is centered in the northwest/J&K/Ladakh region rather than the absolute western geographic extreme defined by Kutch river regimes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Brahmaputra and its eastern sub-basins (like the Lohit basin) stretch into the extreme eastern boundaries of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, constituting India's easternmost major river basin system.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Indus basin (via its northernmost tributaries like the Shyok, Gilgit, or Hunza/Zaskar) extends much further north into the trans-Himalayan and Karakoram ranges than the Ganga basin, which lies entirely south of the major Himalayan crest line.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Small coastal and southern drainage basins in the Kanyakumari district, such as the Pazhayar river basin, mark the true southernmost river basins of mainland India.

Miscellaneous-III

1. Consider the following pairs:

Row	Sea	Bordering Country
1.	Adriatic Sea	Albania
2.	Black Sea	Croatia
3.	Caspian Sea	Kazakhstan
4.	Mediterranean Sea	Morocco
5.	Red Sea	Syria

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only two pairs
- (b) Only three pairs
- (c) Only four pairs
- (d) All five pairs

Correct Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Adriatic Sea is bordered by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, and Slovenia.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Croatia borders the Adriatic Sea. The Black Sea is bordered by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Caspian Sea is bordered by Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Morocco borders both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea (along the Strait of Gibraltar).
- **Pair 5 is incorrectly matched:** Syria borders the Mediterranean Sea (west coast).

2. The Mediterranean Sea forms a coastline for which of the following West Asian countries?

- 1. Jordan
- 2. Iraq
- 3. Lebanon
- 4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

- (c) 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- **Lebanon (3)** and **Syria (4)** have direct coastlines along the eastern margin of the Mediterranean Sea (Levantine Basin).
- **Jordan (1)** is virtually landlocked, possessing only a narrow outlet to the Red Sea via the Gulf of Aqaba (at the Port of Aqaba).
- **Iraq (2)** is landlocked with respect to the Mediterranean Sea; its sole coastline lies on the Persian Gulf via the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

3. Nisyros, a prominent volcanic island designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark, is situated in which one among the following countries?

- (a) Italy
(b) Greece
(c) Spain
(d) Iceland

Correct Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- Nisyros is an active volcanic island located in the southeastern Aegean Sea (Dodecanese group), belonging to Greece.
- It features one of the best-preserved hydrothermal calderas in the Mediterranean (including the famous Stefanos crater) and was officially added to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

4. Consider the following water bodies:

1. Lake Tanganyika
2. Lake Tonle Sap
3. Patos Lagoon
4. Lake George

Through how many of the above water bodies does the Equator pass?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All four
(d) None

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Lake George (Uganda):** Located in the East African Rift System of western Uganda, Lake George is directly bisected by the 0° Equator line.
- **Lake Tanganyika:** Located south of the Equator.
- **Lake Tonle Sap:** Located in Cambodia, well north of the Equator.
- **Patos Lagoon:** Located in southern Brazil at approximately 30°S latitude.

5. Which one of the following major rivers is famous for crossing the Tropic of Capricorn twice during its course?

- (a) Congo River
- (b) Limpopo River
- (c) Mahi River
- (d) Zambezi River

Correct Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- The Limpopo River in Southern Africa flows in a large arc, crossing the Tropic of Capricorn twice (first flowing northward/eastward, then turning south towards the Indian Ocean).
- Mahi River (India) crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice.
- Congo River (Central Africa) crosses the Equator twice.
- Zambezi River flows eastwards into the Indian Ocean without traversing the Tropic of Capricorn twice.

6. With reference to the Tropic of Cancer, consider the following statements:

1. The Mahi River in India is the only river in the world that crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice.
2. Ranchi is the only state capital in India through which the Tropic of Cancer directly passes.
3. The Sun is directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer annually on March 23.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mahi River originates in Madhya Pradesh, flows north into Rajasthan, and then turns south-west into Gujarat, crossing the Tropic of Cancer twice.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Among all state capitals in India (8 states lie on the Tropic of Cancer), Ranchi is the only state capital located directly on the line of the Tropic of Cancer.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Sun is directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer on the Summer Solstice (June 21). On March 21/23 (Vernal Equinox), the Sun is directly overhead at the Equator.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the International Date Line (IDL):

1. Anadyr and Nome are separated by a narrow distance across the Bering Strait, but operate on different calendar days.
2. When it is Monday in Anadyr, it is Tuesday in Nome.

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

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Anadyr lies west of the International Date Line (Asia side, UTC+12), while Nome lies east of the IDL (North America side, UTC-9). Crossing the IDL changes the calendar date despite physical proximity.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Travelling from West to East across the IDL means going back one calendar day. Therefore, when it is Monday in Anadyr (West of IDL), it is Sunday in Nome (East of IDL).

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Sahel region:

1. It serves as a semi-arid transition belt between the Sahara Desert to the north and the Sudanian Savanna to the south.
2. It stretches continuously across the African continent from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea.
3. All member states of the G5 Sahel security framework share a coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sahel is an ecoclimatic and biogeographic realm of transition between the hyper-arid Sahara in the north and the tropical savanna to the south.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically, the Sahel spans **5,400 km** across 10 countries from the Atlantic coast (Mauritania/Senegal) eastwards to the Red Sea (Sudan/Eritrea).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The G5 Sahel countries are Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad. Out of these, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad are landlocked; only Mauritania borders the Atlantic Ocean.

9. Which of the following pairs of countries shares the longest continuous international land border in the world?

- (a) Canada and the United States of America
- (b) Chile and Argentina
- (c) China and India
- (d) Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Canada – United States border:** Extends over **8,891 km** (including the Alaska border), making it the longest international land border between two countries globally.
- **Kazakhstan – Russia border:** **7,644 km** (2nd longest).
- **Argentina – Chile border:** **5,308 km** (3rd longest).
- **China – India border (LAC):** **~ 3,488 km**.

10. Consider the following countries/territories:

1. Cyprus
2. Lebanon
3. Jordan
4. Georgia
5. Syria

Which of the above are geographically and geopolitically classified as part of the Levant region?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Levant refers to the historical region of the Eastern Mediterranean, encompassing Lebanon (2), Syria (5), Jordan (3), Israel, Palestine, and the island nation of Cyprus (1).
- Georgia (4) is located in the South Caucasus region between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, and is not part of the Levant.

Miscellaneous-IV

1. Which of the following statements regarding Greenland are correct?

1. Greenland is an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark with Nuuk as its administrative capital.
2. Roughly 80% of Greenland's surface area is covered by ice sheets and glaciers.
3. Greenland shares maritime boundaries with Canada, Iceland, and Norway.
4. Pituffik Space Base in Greenland serves as the northernmost military installation of the French Armed Forces.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Greenland is a self-governing constituent territory under the Kingdom of Denmark; Nuuk is its capital city.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Approximately 80% of Greenland is covered by the Greenland Ice Sheet.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Greenland shares maritime borders with Canada (across Nares Strait/Baffin Bay), Iceland (across Denmark Strait), and Norway (Jan Mayen island region).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Pituffik Space Base (formerly Thule Air Base) is the northernmost installation of the United States Space Force, not the French Armed Forces.

2. Which of the following statements regarding the Durand Line are correct?

1. It forms the international border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, spanning approximately 2,640 km.
2. It was delineated in 1893 through an agreement signed between Sir Mortimer Durand and Afghan Emir Abdur Rahman Khan.
3. Torkham and Chaman serve as primary transit points along this border corridor.
4. The Durand Line was established as a permanent bilateral treaty boundary between British India and the Russian Empire to partition Central Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Durand Line stretches over **2,640 km** along the border of modern Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Established in 1893 during the Great Game era between Sir Mortimer Durand (British India) and Emir Abdur Rahman Khan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Torkham (Khyber Pass region) and Chaman (Balochistan region) are the two main commercial border crossings.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** It was signed between British India and the Emirate of Afghanistan, not the Russian Empire.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) are correct?

1. The GERD is built across the main trunk of the White Nile River in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia.
2. Upon full completion, the GERD will become the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa.
3. Egypt's opposition to the GERD relies primarily on historic water allocations guaranteed under the 1929 and 1959 Nile Waters Agreements.
4. GERD project is executed under the administrative authority of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The dam is built on the Blue Nile River in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region of Ethiopia (near the Sudan border).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** With a planned capacity of over **5,000 MW**, it will be Africa's largest hydroelectric installation.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Egypt claims historical rights based on the colonial-era 1929 Anglo-Egyptian treaty and the 1959 bilateral treaty with Sudan.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** GERD is a sovereign national project of the Government of Ethiopia (Ethiopian Electric Power).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Kingdom of Eswatini is/are correct?

1. Eswatini is a landlocked nation in Southern Africa surrounded by South Africa and Mozambique.
2. Eswatini is governed as an absolute monarchy headed by the King.
3. Eswatini is a federal republic headed by an elected President.

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:** Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) is landlocked, bordered by Mozambique to its east and South Africa on its other sides.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is Africa's last remaining absolute monarchy, where King Mswati III rules with supreme executive authority.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is an absolute monarchy.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Nord Stream subsea natural gas pipeline system is/are correct?

1. Nord Stream 2 runs across the seabed of the Baltic Sea, traversing the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany.
2. The Nord Stream pipeline network originates in the Caspian Sea basin and discharges gas into southern Italy.

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:** Nord Stream 2 crosses the Baltic Sea seabed through five national EEZs (Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It originates in Russia (Ust-Luga / Vyborg) and connects directly to Germany (Greifswald / Lubmin) across the Baltic Sea, not the Caspian Sea or Italy (the Trans Adriatic Pipeline serves Italy).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Point Nemo is/are correct?

1. Point Nemo represents the Oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility, situated in the South Pacific Ocean.
2. The surrounding ocean waters around Point Nemo lie within the South Pacific Gyre, resulting in an extremely low biological productivity zone.
3. Due to its extreme distance from land, the region around Point Nemo is utilized by space agencies as an orbital spacecraft cemetery for controlled deorbiting.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Point Nemo is the place in the ocean farthest from land).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Located inside the South Pacific Gyre, ocean currents block nutrient-rich water, rendering it an ecological "oceanic desert."

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Its isolation makes it the preferred site for safely deorbiting decommissioned satellites, space stations, and cargo craft.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the region of Kurdistan is/are correct?

1. The cultural region of Kurdistan spans contiguous parts of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria.
2. Erbil serves as the capital city of the autonomous Kurdistan Region within northern Iraq.
3. The region is drained by major river systems including the Tigris and Greater Zab, and is underlain by the Andes mountain system.

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:** Kurdistan refers to a socio-cultural region across southeastern Turkey, northern Iraq, northwestern Iran, and northern Syria.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Erbil (Hawler) is the official capital of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Iraq.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The region is dominated by the Zagros and Taurus mountain ranges.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Mount Taranaki is/are correct?

1. Mount Taranaki is an active stratovolcano located on the North Island of New Zealand along the Pacific Ring of Fire.
2. It has been granted legal personality/personhood status under New Zealand law, recognizing its cultural significance to local Māori tribes.

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:** Mount Taranaki (formerly Mount Egmont) is an Andean-type stratovolcano on New Zealand's North Island, created by subduction dynamics along the Pacific-Australian plate boundary.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under landmark New Zealand legislation, Mount Taranaki was granted legal personhood (similar to the Whanganui River), granting it rights as a living entity in line with Indigenous Māori worldview.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Darién Gap is/are correct?

1. The Darién Gap is a dense, roadless marshland and rainforest break along the border between Colombia and Panama.
2. It represents a fully paved, multi-lane highway section connecting Central America with North America under the Pan-American Highway system.

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 Darién Gap is a dangerous 106km stretch of undeveloped jungle and swampland straddling Panama and Colombia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is the only missing link in the Pan-American Highway; no road exists across it due to extreme environmental obstacles, disease risks, and border protection concerns.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Netzarim Corridor is/are correct?

1. The Netzarim Corridor is a military transit axis established across the Gaza Strip connecting the eastern border with the Mediterranean coastline.
2. The corridor divides the northern Gaza district from the central and southern sectors of the territory.

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:** The Netzarim Corridor was constructed by Israeli forces as a fortified East-West military route extending from the Israeli border straight to the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically, it cuts across the Gaza Strip south of Gaza City, effectively isolating Northern Gaza from the central and southern administrative regions.

Miscellaneous-V

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Netzarim Corridor:

1. It is a militarized strip constructed inside the Gaza Strip connecting the eastern border with Israel directly to the Mediterranean coastline.
2. The corridor geographically bisects the Gaza Strip into a northern district and a southern sector.
3. The axis falls under the direct peacekeeping administration of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Netzarim Corridor is a militarized route established across the Gaza Strip running from the Israeli border near Be'eri straight to the Mediterranean shore.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically, the corridor cuts east-west across Gaza south of Gaza City, effectively separating Northern Gaza from central and southern regions.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The corridor was created and is controlled by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) during operations, not UNTSO.

2. The Gulf of Eilat forms a coastline for how many of the following sovereign nations?

1. Egypt
2. Israel
3. Jordan
4. Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the options below:

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) All four
- (d) None

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

The Gulf of Aqaba (Gulf of Eilat) is a narrow, deep northeastern arm of the Red Sea. It is shared by **four countries**:

1. **Egypt** (Sinai Peninsula on the west)
2. **Israel** (Port city of Eilat at the northern tip)
3. **Jordan** (Port city of Aqaba at the northern tip)
4. **Saudi Arabia** (Eastern coast along the Arabian Peninsula)

3. Consider the following statements regarding White Island:

1. It is an active stratovolcano situated in the Bay of Plenty off the coast of New Zealand's North Island.
2. It forms part of the Taupo Volcanic Zone along the Pacific Ring of Fire.
3. The volcano emits high concentrations of sulfur gases and fumarolic steam vents.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Whakaari / White Island is New Zealand's most active cone volcano, located roughly **48 km** offshore in the Bay of Plenty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It marks the northern offshore limit of the active Taupō Volcanic Zone on the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is famous for intense hydrothermal activity, emitting sulfur dioxide and steam through active fumaroles. (The 2019 eruption led to major workplace safety legal cases under New Zealand authorities).

4. With reference to the Kursk Oblast Region, consider the following statements:

1. It is an administrative region of western Russia that shares a direct international border with Ukraine.

2. It contains the Kursk Magnetic Anomaly (KMA), one of the largest iron ore deposits in the world.
3. It is a major agricultural region in Russia known for wheat and sunflower seed production.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kursk Oblast lies in western Russia, sharing a direct land border with Ukraine's Sumy Oblast.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It houses the Kursk Magnetic Anomaly, containing vast reserves of rich iron ore.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Located in the fertile Black Earth (Chernozem) region, it is a primary agricultural hub for wheat, barley, and sunflower production.

5. The Strait of Otranto serves as a critical maritime chokepoint connecting which two bodies of water?

- (a) Tyrrhenian Sea and Ligurian Sea
(b) Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea
(c) Aegean Sea and Black Sea
(d) Sea of Azov and Black Sea

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- The Strait of Otranto is an **82-km** wide maritime passage lying between Apulia (southeastern Italy) and Albania.
- It directly connects the Adriatic Sea in the north with the Ionian Sea (Mediterranean) in the south, serving as a strategic NATO naval entry route into Eastern Europe.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the city of Sana'a:

1. It is the capital city of Yemen, located in the Yemeni Highlands at an elevation exceeding 2,100 metres above sea level.
2. The Old City of Sana'a is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, distinguished by its multi-storey rammed-earth and burnt-brick architecture.
3. It is located along the coastal shores of the Bab-el-Mandeb strait.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (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:** Sana'a sits in a high-altitude inland plateau within the Yemeni Highlands at approximately **2,250 metres** above sea level.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The historic inner city was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986 for its distinctive multi-storey tower houses made of rammed earth and baked brick.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Sana'a is an inland city, located over **150 km** away from the Red Sea coast and Bab-el-Mandeb.

7. Consider the following statements regarding Bamako:

1. It is the capital city of Mali, situated along the banks of the Niger River.
2. The city lies near the Manding Mountains in a semi-arid Sahelian transition zone.
3. Mali, with its capital at Bamako, is one of the leading industrial gold-producing nations in Africa.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bamako is the administrative capital and largest city of Mali, located on the upper reaches of the Niger River.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is positioned near the Manding Mountains in the southwestern, semi-arid Sahel region.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Mali is Africa's 3rd largest gold producer (after Ghana and South Africa), with gold mining forming a major portion of national export revenue.

8. Consider the following statements regarding Mount Makalu:

1. Mount Makalu is the fourth-highest mountain in the world, located in the Mahalangur Himalayas.
2. It is situated on the border between India, Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, near Mount Everest.
3. The peak was formed due to the tectonic convergence of the Indian Plate and the Eurasian Plate.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Makalu stands at **8,463 metres**, making it the world's 5th highest mountain peak, situated in the Mahalangur range.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It lies **19 km** southeast of Mount Everest along the Nepal-China (Tibet) border.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Like the rest of the Great Himalayas, it was formed by the continent-continent collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. (In India, Indo-Tibetan Border Police teams have conducted high-altitude mountaineering expeditions to Makalu).

9. With reference to foreign military installations in West Asia, Al Udeid Air Base is situated in which country?

- (a) Bahrain
- (b) Qatar
- (c) United Arab Emirates
- (d) Kuwait

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- Al Udeid Air Base is a major military base located southwest of Doha in Qatar.
- It serves as the largest US military base in the Middle East and hosts the forward headquarters of United States Central Command (US CENTCOM) and United States Air Forces Central (AFCENT).

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Kananaskis region:

1. It is a park system located in the Canadian Rockies in the province of Alberta, adjacent to Banff National Park.
2. Its current physical landscape was predominantly carved out by glacial erosion processes during the last Ice Age.
3. Kananaskis will host the 53rd G7 Summit meeting in 2027 to discuss global economic issues.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kananaskis Country is a multi-use park system situated west of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, bordering Banff National Park.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The valleys and alpine landforms (U-shaped valleys, cirques, and tarns) were formed by glacial processes during the Pleistocene epoch.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The 53rd G7 Summit will be hosted by the United States in 2027, following the conclusion of the 2026 summit in Evian-les-Bains, France.

Miscellaneous-VI

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Port of Haifa:

1. It is a deep-water artificial harbour situated along the northern Mediterranean coastline of Israel.
2. It serves as a major western terminal point for the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
3. The port terminal operation was acquired through a major joint venture led by India's Adani Group.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (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:** The Port of Haifa is Israel's largest deep-water natural harbour, located along Haifa Bay on the northern Mediterranean shore.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under the IMEC framework, goods from India reaching Arabian Gulf ports by sea and moving across the Middle East via rail are routed to terminate at the Port of Haifa for sea transport across the Mediterranean to Europe.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In 2023, India's Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), in partnership with Israel's Gadot Group, officially acquired and privatized the Port of Haifa.

2. With reference to Qom region, consider the following statements:

1. Qom is located along the western fringe of the Dasht-e-Kavir (Great Salt Desert), north of Saudi Arabia.
2. The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant, a major underground nuclear facility, is situated northeast of Qom city.
3. The city serves as one of the primary holy pilgrimage sites for Shia Muslims, housing the shrine of Fatima Masumeh.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Qom is situated south of Tehran on the edge of the arid Dasht-e-Kavir desert.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP) is a fortified underground uranium enrichment site built near a former military base northeast of Qom.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Qom is considered the religious center of Shia Islam in Iran, home to prominent seminaries (Hawza) and the holy Shrine of Fatima Masumeh.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Ghana is/are correct?

1. Ghana is located along the Gulf of Guinea coast in West Africa, with Accra as its capital.
2. It is a major economic hub in West Africa and a leading global exporter of both cocoa and gold.
3. Recently it became the member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Select the correct 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:** Ghana is situated in West Africa along the Atlantic Ocean (Gulf of Guinea), bordering Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Togo.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ghana is Africa's largest gold producer and the world's second-largest supplier of cocoa beans (after Côte d'Ivoire).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Ghana was one of the original signatories that created ECOWAS in 1975 to foster economic integration in West Africa.

4. Consider the following statements regarding As-Suwayda Governorate:

1. As-Suwayda is situated in southern Lebanon, bordering Jordan to the south.
2. The region is dominated geographically by the volcanic plateau of Jabal al-Druze.
3. The majority of the population in As-Suwayda belongs to the Druze ethnoreligious minority group.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (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:** As-Suwayda (Sweida) is a governorate located in the far south of Syria, abutting the northern border of Jordan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Its landscape is defined by the high elevated volcanic field and plateau known historically as Jabal al-Druze.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Unlike the Sunni-majority regions of Syria, As-Suwayda is home to the country's highest concentration of the Druze community.

5. Consider the following pairs:

Row	Protected Area	Country	Biome / Significance
1.	Gola-Tiwai Complex	Sierra Leone	Upper Guinean Tropical Rainforest
2.	Tuvalu Atolls	Tuvalu	Vulnerable Coral Atolls / Low Elevation

Which of the statements given below is/are correct regarding the Gola-Tiwai Complex?

1. It includes the Gola Rainforest National Park and Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. It was inscribed as Sierra Leone's first natural UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. It serves as a vital habitat for endangered species such as the Pygmy Hippopotamus and Western Chimpanzee.

Select the correct 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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Gola-Tiwai Complex is a serial conservation property comprising the Gola Rainforest National Park and Tiwai Island Sanctuary on the Moa River.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was officially declared as Sierra Leone's first-ever UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It forms a key part of the Upper Guinean Forest ecosystem, protecting critical populations of the Pygmy Hippo, Diana monkey, and Western Chimpanzee.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Krashennnikov Volcano:

1. It is a dual-coned active stratovolcano situated on the Kola Peninsula in eastern Russia.
2. It is formed along the subduction zone of the Pacific Ring of Fire where the Pacific Plate subducts beneath the Okhotsk/Eurasian Plate.
3. It recently erupted following centuries of dormancy after a powerful regional earthquake.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Krasheninnikov is a complex stratovolcano comprising two merging eruptive cones inside a large caldera in Eastern Kamchatka.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Kamchatka volcanic arc sits directly along the subduction boundary of the Pacific Plate, part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The volcano erupted recently for the first time in approximately **500–600 years**, triggered by a high-magnitude regional earthquake off the Kamchatka coast.

7. The Luzon Strait is a critical maritime passage that directly connects which two bodies of water?

- (a) The South China Sea and the Philippine Sea
- (b) The East China Sea and the Sea of Japan
- (c) The Java Sea and the Indian Ocean
- (d) The Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Luzon Strait is a 250 ^{km} wide strait lying between the island of Taiwan (north) and Luzon Island of the Philippines (south).
- It connects the South China Sea to the west with the open Philippine Sea / Pacific Ocean to the east, containing key island groups like Batanes and Babuyan.
- It is a vital international shipping lane and a major corridor for undersea transoceanic fiber-optic communications cables.

8. Consider the following statements regarding Scarborough Shoal:

1. It is a triangular, mostly submerged atoll/coral reef feature located in the South China Sea.
2. It lies within the 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Philippines.
3. It has been a central flashpoint of maritime territorial disputes associated with China's Nine-Dash Line claims.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Scarborough Shoal is a high-tide feature consisting of a triangular chain of reefs and rocks surrounding a central lagoon.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is located on the west coast of Luzon, placing it well within the 200-nautical-mile EEZ of the Philippines.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** China seized effective control of the shoal in 2012, making it a major legal and naval tension point under international law (UNCLOS).

9. With reference to the Darfur region of Sudan, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in western Sudan, bordering Chad, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan.
2. The Marrah Mountains (Jebel Marra), a volcanic range, form the central highland core of the region.
3. The region is predominantly characterized by a humid equatorial rainforest climate.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Darfur comprises five administrative states in westernmost Sudan, bordering Chad, Libya, CAR, and South Sudan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Jebel Marra range, an elevated volcanic plateau, dominates central Darfur and provides cooler temperatures and higher rainfall than the surrounding plains.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Darfur lies in a semi-arid Sahelian to savanna transition zone, not a tropical rainforest climate.

10. Consider the following pairs:

Row	Strategic Asset	Country	Geographic Location / Body of Water
1.	Port of Pasni	Pakistan	Makran Coast / Arabian Sea
2.	Bagram Air Base	Afghanistan	Parwan Province / Near Kabul

Which of the statements given below is/are correct regarding these assets?

1. The Port of Pasni is a coastal town and deep-water fishing harbour located east of Gwadar along the Arabian Sea.
2. Bagram Air Base served as the largest military airfield for US and NATO military forces during their presence in Afghanistan.

Select the correct 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:** Pasni is a coastal town on the Makran coast in Balochistan, Pakistan, facing the Arabian Sea near Gwadar.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bagram Air Base, located in Parwan Province north of Kabul, was the primary hub for US and NATO coalition forces in Afghanistan prior to their withdrawal.

Miscellaneous-VI

1. Consider the following statements regarding Bougainville Island:

1. It is the easternmost main island of Brunei.
2. It holds significant world reserves of copper and gold at Panguna open-cast mine.
3. It currently functions as an autonomous region.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Bougainville is the largest island in the Solomon Islands archipelago geographically, but politically forms the easternmost territory of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the Solomon Sea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The island contains the massive Panguna mine, which was once one of the world's largest open-pit copper and gold mines and a major driver of PNG's national economy prior to its closure due to civil conflict.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Bougainville currently holds autonomous status within PNG. In 2019, an official non-binding referendum was held where over 97% of voters chose full independence from Papua New Guinea.

2. With reference to the Tokara Islands, consider the following statements:

1. It constitute a chain of volcanic islands forming part of the Nansei Island arc of South Korea.
2. Located between the larger island of Kyushu to the north and the Amami Islands to the south.
3. Experiences frequent earthquake swarms driven by the active subduction of the Philippine Sea Plate beneath the Eurasian Plate.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Tokara Islands are a sub-archipelago of twelve small islands (seven inhabited) belonging to Kagoshima Prefecture in southern Japan, situated along an active volcanic arc.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically, the chain lies in the East China Sea / Pacific border zone, positioned directly between the mainland southern island of Kyushu and the Amami Islands.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The area lies on a major subduction zone where the Philippine Sea Plate plunges beneath the Eurasian (Okinawa) Plate, frequently triggering seismic swarms involving thousands of micro-to-moderate earthquakes.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the South Pars field:

1. It is the world's largest single offshore natural gas field, located in the Qatar.
2. The field is a shared transboundary geological structure split between the territorial waters of Iran and Qatar.
3. The Iranian sector accounts for more than half of Iran's total domestic natural gas production.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The South Pars / North Dome structure is universally ranked as the world's largest non-associated natural gas field, containing roughly 8% of global natural gas reserves.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The field is bisected by the maritime boundary between Iran (which operates the northern sector named South Pars) and Qatar (which operates the southern sector named North Dome).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** South Pars provides around 70% of Iran's domestic gas demand and feeds its primary petrochemical processing industries and gas injection projects.

4. With reference to global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) infrastructure and India's energy imports, consider the following statements:

1. Ras Laffan City in Qatar operates as the world's largest single export site LNG.
2. India's Petronet LNG imports a substantial volume of its long-term LNG contracts from the Ras Laffan.
3. Ras Laffan is connected to Iran via an underwater trans-Persian Gulf natural gas pipeline.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ras Laffan Industrial City, located **80 km** north of Doha, is Qatar's primary hub for liquefying and shipping natural gas extracted from the offshore North Dome field.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India relies heavily on Qatari LNG, with state-backed Petronet LNG procuring millions of tonnes annually sourced directly from Ras Laffan terminal under long-term supply contracts.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There is no cross-gulf pipeline linking Ras Laffan to Iran; Qatar and Iran process and export gas from their respective offshore zones independently due to sanctions and geopolitical divergence.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Kharg Island:

1. It is a coral island situated in the northern Persian Gulf, under the administrative jurisdiction of Iran.
2. It handles the vast majority of Iran's crude oil exports via heavy offshore loading berths and storage facilities.

3. It processes up to 90% of the country's oil exports..

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kharg Island is a continental shelf coral island located **25 km** off the Iranian coast in the Persian Gulf.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The island hosts Iran's main oil terminal (Kharg Crude Oil Terminal), processing around 90% of Iran's crude oil exports through sea pipelines from mainland oilfields.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kharg Island is a strategic Iranian coral island in the Persian Gulf famous for housing Iran's premier crude oil export terminal, which processes up to 90% of the country's oil exports. It is also geographically unique for having natural freshwater stored in its limestone.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the host of the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UNFCCC:

1. COP30 was hosted in the Amazonian port city of Belem, Brazil.
2. Belem sits along Guajara Bay near the mouth of the Amazon River system and serves as a major gateway to the rainforest.
3. The location emphasized rainforest conservation and the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Belem, the capital of Brazil's northern state of Para, was selected by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the official host venue for COP30.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Located at the confluence of the Guama River and Guajara Bay, Belém is widely known as the "Gateway to the Amazon" rainforest region.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Hosting COP30 in an Amazonian urban center was intended to center tropical forest biomes, indigenous land rights, and ecosystem restoration within climate diplomacy under the Paris Agreement.

7. With reference to international climate negotiations and UNFCCC host venues, consider the following statements:

1. The Mediterranean coastal city of Antalya in Itlay was selected to host the COP31 UN Climate Summit.
2. The presidency of COP31 involves a collaborative arrangement between Itlay and Australia following a consensus negotiated within the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG).
3. The UNFCCC Secretariat is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

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

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Antalya, a major Turkish resort and administrative hub on the Mediterranean coast, was chosen as the physical venue for the COP31 Climate Summit at the Expo Center.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Following competing bids between Türkiye and Australia under WEOG rules, an agreement was reached for Türkiye to host the conference in Antalya while Australia leads negotiations in key thematic areas.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The permanent headquarters of the UNFCCC Secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Ayni Airbase:

1. Ayni Airbase is situated in Tajikistan, in close geographic proximity to the Wakhan Corridor.
2. India played a key role in renovating the airbase infrastructure through the BRO.
3. The facility is located on the coast of the Caspian Sea to protect maritime oil pipelines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ayni Airbase lies approximately **15 km** west of Dushanbe in Tajikistan, holding strategic value near Central Asia and the Afghan border (including the Wakhan Corridor).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Between 2002 and 2010, India spent approximately **\$70 million** to upgrade the airbase runway and infrastructure using engineers from the BRO (Ministry of Defence).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Tajikistan is a double-landlocked country in Central Asia and has no coastline along the Caspian Sea.

9. Consider the following pairs:

Row	Geographic Feature	Administrative Jurisdiction / Location	Associated Security or Conservation Initiative
1.	Bitra Island	Union Territory of Lakshadweep	Indian Navy Detachment under INS Jatayu network
2.	Kariyachalli Island	Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu	TNSHOR Artificial Reef Restoration Project

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Bitra is the smallest inhabited island in Lakshadweep with the archipelago's largest lagoon. The Indian Navy established a naval detachment here to augment maritime domain awareness and extend the radar/surveillance network linked with INS Jatayu (Minicoy).
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Kariyachalli Island is an uninhabited coral island in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu. To counter severe coastal erosion and land submergence caused by sea-level rise, the Tamil Nadu State Department of Environment launched the TNSHOR (Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources) project to deploy artificial reef modules.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Nyoma Advanced Landing Ground (ALG):

1. Nyoma Airbase is situated in Eastern Ladakh at an altitude 13,000 feet, south of the Pangong Tso Lake.
2. The upgrade of Nyoma into a full-fledged operational airbase capable of handling fighter jets was undertaken by BRO.
3. Nyoma lies along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and falls under the operational command of the Northern Air Command.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nyoma is located in the Changthang region of Eastern Ladakh near the Indus River, south of Pangong Tso, at an elevation of approximately **13,700 feet**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The BRO executed the runway lengthening and asphalt surfacing work at Nyoma to convert the staging airfield into a permanent forward airbase for heavy transport and fighter aircraft.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Aerial assets and operations at Nyoma Airbase are managed by the Western Air Command (WAC) of the Indian Air Force.

Ancient India (Pre-history phase)

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Palaeolithic tool cultures in the Indian subcontinent is/are correct?

1. Robert Bruce Foote identified the first Palaeolithic stone tool in India at Pallavaram in 1863.
2. Acheulian culture characterized by bifacial quartzite handaxes is uniformly distributed across all geographic zones.
3. Soanian culture, named after the Soan River valley, is characterized primarily by choppers and chopping tools.

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:** British geologist Robert Bruce Foote discovered India's first Palaeolithic tool (a quartzite handaxe) at Pallavaram near Chennai in 1863.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Acheulian culture is widely distributed in Central, Western, and Southern India, but it is conspicuously absent in the dense tropical forests of the Western Ghats, coastal stretches, and North-East India.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Soanian tool tradition (mainly pebble-based choppers and chopping tools) developed primarily in the Soan River valley in present-day Pakistan.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Palaeolithic Age is/are correct?

1. Lower Palaeolithic period represents the longest phase of the Stone Age.
2. Middle Palaeolithic phase is characterized technologically by a shift toward refined flake-tool industries.
3. Upper Palaeolithic phase coincided with the last phase of the Ice Age and marked the appearance of *Homo sapiens*.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Palaeolithic Age lasted from roughly **2 million years ago** to **10,000 BCE**, covering almost the entire Pleistocene Ice Age.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Middle Palaeolithic (**100,000--40,000 BCE**) saw a technological shift from core tools (handaxes) to specialized flake tools like scrapers, points, and borers.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Upper Palaeolithic (**40,000--10,000 BCE**) coincided with a warming climate, the emergence of anatomically modern humans (*Homo sapiens*), parallel blade-and-burin tools, and early cave art.

3. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	Region	Description
1.	Hunsgi	Karnataka	Lower Palaeolithic factory site with quartzite tools
2.	Kurnool Caves	Andhra Pradesh	Palaeolithic cave site yielding bone tools and ash remnants
3.	Chopani-Mando	Uttar Pradesh	Continuous sequence from Upper Palaeolithic to Neolithic

4.	Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh	Rock shelters with cave art spanning Palaeolithic to Mesolithic
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In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correct:** Hunsgi Valley in Yadgir district, Karnataka, is a prominent Lower Palaeolithic site featuring limestone handaxes and tool manufacturing centers.
- **Row 2 is correct:** The Kurnool Caves (Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi) in Andhra Pradesh yielded Upper Palaeolithic bone tools and ash deposits, proving early controlled use of fire.
- **Row 3 is correct:** Chopani-Mando in the Belan River valley, UP, shows a rare multi-layer sequence transitioning from the Upper Palaeolithic to Mesolithic and early Neolithic phases.
- **Row 4 is correct:** Bhimbetka in MP is famous for rock shelters containing prehistoric paintings from the Upper Palaeolithic through the Mesolithic era.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mesolithic Age is/are correct?

1. Shift to a warmer, drier post-glacial climate led to a transition from big-game hunting to small-animal hunting.
2. The characteristic technological feature of the Mesolithic Age was the production of microliths.
3. Mesolithic burial sites show no evidence of grave goods or ceremonial rituals, indicating a complete absence of spiritual or afterlife concepts.

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 Holocene warming trend around **10,000 BCE** shifted ecosystems, encouraging small-game hunting, wild grain collecting, and early animal domestication.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Microliths (geometrics like trapezes, crescents, and triangles measuring less than **5 cm**) served as arrowheads and spear barbs.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mesolithic burials (e.g., at Mahadaha and Langhnaj) frequently contained grave goods such as microliths, animal bones, shells, and ornaments, pointing to early ritualistic beliefs and concepts of an afterlife.

5. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	State	Description
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1.	Bagor	Madhya Pradesh	Largest Mesolithic site with early animal domestication evidence
2.	Langhnaj	Gujarat	Mesolithic site showing human burials and microlithic tools
3.	Patne	Maharashtra	Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic site with ostrich eggshell beads
4.	Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh	Early evidence of animal domestication dated to around 5000 BCE

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

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrect:** Bagor on the Kothari River in Rajasthan is the largest excavated Mesolithic site in India, yielding early evidence of domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats.
- **Row 2 is correct:** Langhnaj in Gujarat revealed Mesolithic habitations, microliths, animal bones, and 14 human skeletons buried in flexed positions.
- **Row 3 is correct:** Patne in Jalgaon district, Maharashtra, revealed Upper Palaeolithic ostrich eggshell fragments and engraved beads along with Mesolithic layers.
- **Row 4 is correct:** Adamgarh near Hoshangabad, MP, provides clear zooarchaeological proof of early animal husbandry alongside stone tools.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Neolithic Age in India is/are correct?

1. Adoption of agriculture and cattle pastoralism led to permanent village settlements.
2. Neolithic era included polished and ground stone axes, adzes, and the widespread development of pottery for storage.
3. Neolithic sites suggest the emergence of fertility cults and symbolic Mother Goddess worship.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Australian archaeologist V. Gordon Childe coined the term Neolithic Revolution to describe the shift from nomadic foraging to sedentary food production.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Polished stone tools with sharp cutting edges allowed clearing of forests for cultivation, while wheel-made and hand-made pottery permitted long-term grain and water storage.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Female terracotta figurines found at sites like Mehrgarh indicate symbolic concerns with soil/human fertility and early religious practices.

7. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	State / Union Territory	Description
1.	Burzahom	Jammu & Kashmir	Underground pit-dwellings and unique animal burials alongside humans
2.	Mehrgarh	Baluchistan	Earliest agricultural site in South Asia with mud-brick houses
3.	Hallur	Karnataka	South Indian Neolithic-Megalithic transition site with early millet and horse remains
4.	Gufkral	Laddakh	Cave of the Weaver featuring circular pit-dwellings and polished bone tools

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

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correct:** Burzahom near Srinagar is famous for subterranean pit-dwellings, coarse grey pottery, and unusual dog burials in human graves.
- **Row 2 is correct:** Mehrgarh on the Bolan Pass is South Asia's earliest known agricultural settlement (c. 7000 BCE), showing wheat/barley farming and rectangular mud-brick structures.
- **Row 3 is correct:** Hallur on the Tungabhadra River in Karnataka marks the transition from Neolithic pastoralism to the Iron Age (Megalithic), yielding finger millet (Ragi) and horse bones.
- **Row 4 is incorrect:** Gufkral (Cave of the Weaver) in Kashmir revealed pit-dwellings, bone needles, stone celts, and agricultural tools.

8. Consider the following pairs:

	Historical Place	Well known for
1.	Bori	Earliest documented Lower Palaeolithic tephra and stone tool site in Maharashtra
2.	Koldihwa	Early global evidence of cultivated rice along with cord-marked pottery
3.	Mahadaha	Mesolithic site yielding bone ornaments, double burials, and butchering areas

Which of the pairs given above is/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:** Bori in Pune district, Maharashtra, is known for volcanic tephra deposits associated with early Lower Palaeolithic stone tools.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Koldihwa in the Belan Valley, UP, yielded rice husk imprints embedded in clay pottery, providing some of the earliest evidence of rice cultivation in South Asia (c. 6000 BCE).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Mahadaha in Pratapgarh district, UP, is a key Mesolithic site that yielded bone arrowheads, earrings, necklaces, butchering floors, and dual burials.

9. Consider the following pairs:

Row	Historical Place	Well known for
1.	Utnur	Neolithic ash mounds created by burnt accumulated cattle dung
2.	Paiyampalli	Neolithic-Megalithic site with evidence of grain cultivation and bone tools
3.	Maski	Ash mound site and famous rock edict site of Emperor Bimbisara

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Utnur in Telangana is a key Neolithic site famous for "ash mounds"—heaps of accumulated cattle dung burned periodically in ritualistic pastoral gatherings.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Paiyampalli in Vellore district, Tamil Nadu, revealed a Neolithic habitation layer featuring polished stone axes, bone points, and charred pulses/grains.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Maski in Raichur district, Karnataka, contains both Neolithic ash mounds/habitation sites and the Minor Rock Edict where the name Ashoka directly appears alongside Devanampriya.

10. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	Territory	Description
1.	Chirand	Bihar	Neolithic site famous for polished bone tools made of deer antlers
2.	Tekkalakota	Karnataka	South Indian Neolithic settlement with gold ornaments and ash mounds

3.	Daojali Hading	Assam	North-Eastern Neolithic site yielding jadeite stone axes and cord-marked pottery
4.	Sanana	Odisha	Chalcolithic site with copper hoards and black-and-red pottery

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 correct:** Chirand in Saran district, Bihar, is unique among Indian Neolithic sites for its vast collection of specialized bone tools made primarily from antlers.
- **Row 2 is correct:** Tekkalakota in Bellary district, Karnataka, is a major South Indian Neolithic hilltop settlement yielding polished celts, copper artifacts, gold ear ornaments, and ash mounds.
- **Row 3 is correct:** Daojali Hading in the Dima Hasao district of Assam revealed polished stone celts made of jadeite (imported from Myanmar/China), corn-grinders, and cord-marked pottery typical of Eastern Asian Neolithic links.
- **Row 4 is incorrect:** Sanana is not a recognized major Chalcolithic copper-hoard site in Odisha; the major copper-hoard sites are found in West Bengal/Jharkhand (e.g., Tamajuri) and UP (e.g., Saipai).

Chalcolithic, Megalithic, Bronze, and Iron Ages

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Chalcolithic Age in India is/are correct?

1. Represents the first metal-using phase where copper was used alongside stone tools.
2. Chalcolithic communities were predominantly urban settlements characterized by baked-brick storeyed structures.
3. Black-and-Red Ware was the dominant pottery type.

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 Chalcolithic (Copper-Stone) Age marked the first use of metals, with copper being the first metal used in the Indian subcontinent alongside microlithic and ground stone tools.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Unlike the urban Harappan civilization, Chalcolithic communities were predominantly rural village cultures. They lived in wattle-and-daub or mud-brick houses (such as at Inamgaon and Gilund), and baked bricks were rarely used.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Black-and-Red Ware (BRW) pottery, fired using inverted firing techniques was the most ubiquitous ceramic style across Ahar-Banas, Malwa, and Jorwe cultures.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Chalcolithic crafts and material culture is/are correct?

1. The Khetri copper mines served as a key source of raw copper for regional tool-making communities.
2. Semi-precious stone beads made of carnelian, steatite, and quartz crystal were manufactured for trade and ornament.
3. Absence of spindle whorls across sites indicates they had no knowledge of textile spinning.

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 Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture near the Khetri copper belt in Rajasthan supplied raw copper and copper objects to neighboring regions, including the Malwa and Ahar cultures.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bead-making using semi-precious stones (carnelian, agate, jasper, steatite, and chalcedony) was a highly developed craft at sites like Navdatoli and Inamgaon.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The discovery of terracotta spindle whorls at sites in Malwa and Maharashtra (such as Navdatoli and Nevasa), along with thread impressions of cotton and silk, proves knowledge of spinning and weaving.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Chalcolithic trade and exchange systems is/are correct?

1. Regional Chalcolithic settlements engaged in inter-regional exchange using a barter system.
2. Ahar culture supplied copper implements to settlements in the Malwa and Gujarat regions.
3. Presence of gold and ivory artifacts in Jorwe sites suggests exchange links with South Indian sites like Tekkalakota.

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: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In the absence of metallic coinage, Chalcolithic communities relied on a barter network to exchange agricultural surpluses, ceramics, and specialized craft goods.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ahar (Tambavati, meaning a place rich in copper) processed local copper ores and traded finished tools to neighboring Malwa and northern Gujarat settlements.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Small gold ornaments and ivory objects recovered from Jorwe culture levels (e.g., Inamgaon and Daimabad) point to trade contacts with gold-yielding Neolithic-Chalcolithic centers in Karnataka (such as Tekkalakota and Maski).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Chalcolithic burial practices is/are correct?

1. In Jorwe culture the dead were typically buried underneath house floors in a north-to-south orientation.

2. Chalcolithic sites of South India, the prevailing orientation for extended inhumation burials was generally east-to-west.
3. Grave goods such as copper bangles and ceramic pots were uniform across all burials.

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:** In Maharashtra (Jorwe culture), adults and children were buried within the settlement, often under house floors. Adults were placed in extended pits and children in twin urns aligned north-to-south.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Southern Chalcolithic-Neolithic burials show a general preference for an east-to-west body orientation.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Grave goods varied significantly. Some child burials contained copper necklaces and multiple painted vessels, while others had only a single unpainted pot—indicating social stratification and inherited status.

5. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	State	Description
1.	Balathal	Rajasthan	Fortified Ahar-Banas culture site with mud-brick structures
2.	Ganeshwar	Gujrat	Major copper-producing center with abundant copper arrowheads and celts
3.	Kayatha	Madhya Pradesh	Type site featuring sturdy pottery and copper hoard deposits
4.	Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Large Jorwe culture settlement with granaries and fortified walls

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

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correct:** Balathal near Udaipur (Rajasthan) is a key Ahar-Banas site featuring a multi-roomed mud-brick complex and fortification wall.
- **Row 2 is incorrect:** Ganeshwar in Sikar district (Rajasthan) yielded thousands of copper items (arrowheads, spearheads, fish hooks, celts) supplying the Harappans and Ahar culture.

- **Row 3 is correct:** Kayatha near Ujjain (MP) is the type site of the Kayatha culture, famous for specialized ceramic types and copper axes/bangles in caches.
- **Row 4 is correct:** Inamgaon on the Ghod River (Maharashtra) is an extensively excavated Jorwe site showing public irrigation channels, granaries, and fortified enclosures.

6. Consider the following pairs:

	Historical Place	Well known for
1.	Navdatoli	Extensive Chalcolithic site on Narmada yielding diverse cultivated food grains
2.	Daimabad	Recovery of exquisite solid bronze sculptures including a rider-driven chariot
3.	Songaon	Jorwe culture house structures with circular pit dwellings and house-floor burials

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Navdatoli (MP) on the Narmada River revealed rich archaeobotanical evidence of diverse crops including wheat, barley, rice, lentils, black gram, green gram, and flax.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Daimabad (Maharashtra) yielded a famous cache of solid cast bronzes: a two-wheeled chariot pulled by oxen with a rider, a rhinoceros, an elephant, and a water buffalo.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Songaon (Maharashtra) contains Jorwe culture domestic structures with circular mud-wall pit houses and child urn burials beneath house floors.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Megalithic Age in India is/are correct?

1. Megaliths refer to stone structures used as burial monuments or non-sepulchral commemorative memorials.
2. Dolmenoid cists, cairn circles, and capstones represent prominent sepulchral megalithic architectural types.
3. Megalithic sites are geographically confined to the peninsular state of Tamil Nadu.

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:** Megaliths ("large stones") served as stone-built graves (sepulchral) or erect memorial stones like menhirs (non-sepulchral).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Major structural forms include box-like stone chambers (dolmenoid cists), stone boulder rings around a central pit (cairn circles), and mushroom-shaped stone slabs (capstones/hoodstones).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While peninsular South India (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra) has the highest concentration of megaliths, they are not exclusive to Tamil Nadu—megalithic sites also exist in the Vindhyan region, Kashmir (Burzahom), and North-East India.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Bronze Age in the Indian subcontinent is/are correct?

1. It corresponds primarily to the urban phase of the Indus Valley Civilization characterized by copper-tin alloying.
2. Settlements were marked by town planning, standardized burnt-brick architecture, and centralized drainage systems.
3. The Bronze Age in India completely lacked long-distance external trade routes or maritime ports.

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 Bronze Age in South Asia is represented by the Mature Harappan phase, defined by advanced metallurgy in combining copper with tin to make bronze.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Key markers include grid-pattern street planning, standardized brick ratios, covered street drains, and centralized granaries or public structures.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Maritime dockyards like Lothal and Harappan seals found in Mesopotamia (Akkadian texts referencing Meluhha) prove active long-distance international trade.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Iron Age in India is/are correct?

1. The introduction of iron axes and ploughshares facilitated large-scale forest clearance and dense agricultural settlements in the Ganga plains.
2. Painted Grey Ware pottery is closely associated with the early Iron Age settlements of Northern India.
3. Recent AMS radiocarbon dating from sites like Sivagalai and Mayiladumparai in Tamil Nadu pushes iron technology in India back into the 2nd and 3rd millennia BCE.

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: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tougher iron tools allowed clearing of heavy monsoon forests in the middle Ganga valley, leading to agricultural expansion, surplus generation, and eventual urbanization (Mahajanapadas).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Painted Grey Ware (PGW) is the distinctive ceramic culture of the early Iron Age in Northern India (e.g., Hastinapur, Ahichchhatra).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Scientific dating (Accelerator Mass Spectrometry) of charcoal associated with iron artifacts at Mayiladumparai and Sivagalai window in Tamil Nadu demonstrates that iron smelting in India originated much earlier than previously assumed.

10. Consider the following pairs:

	Historical Place	Well known for
1.	Hastinapur	Important Painted Grey Ware (PGW) and early Iron Age site in Uttar Pradesh
2.	Malhar	Iron-smelting furnaces and early slag deposits in the Karamnasa River valley
3.	Adichanallur	Urn burial Megalithic site in Tamil Nadu yielding iron weapons and gold diadems

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Hastinapur in Meerut district (UP), excavated by B.B. Lal, revealed a clear Iron Age occupancy layer characterized by Painted Grey Ware pottery, iron implements, and domestic livestock remains.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Malhar in Chandauli district (UP) yielded early evidence of iron smelting furnaces, slag, and iron artifacts dating back to the 2nd millennium BCE.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Adichanallur on the Thamirabarani River in Thoothukudi district (TN) is an iconic Megalithic-Iron Age site famous for large urn burials (*Thali*), iron swords, daggers, spears, bronze artifacts, and gold forehead bands (diadems).

Harappan Civilization

1. Consider the following information:

	Scholar	Key Contribution
1.	James Prinsep	Deciphered Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts in 1837
2.	William Jones	Founded Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784
3.	Georg Bühler	Pioneered Indian epigraphy and study of Ashokan inscriptions
4.	Max Muller	Popularized academic Aryan theory and edited Sacred Books of the East

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

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

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** James Prinsep, an officer at the Calcutta Mint, deciphered the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts in 1837, unlocking the readings of the Edicts of Ashoka.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Sir William Jones established the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784 and proposed the common origin of Indo-European languages, translating key texts like Abhijnanasakuntalam.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Georg Bühler was an eminent Indologist whose work on Indian palaeography (Indische Palaeographie) and Ashokan rock/pillar inscriptions laid the groundwork for Indian epigraphy.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Friedrich Max Müller edited the massive 50-volume series Sacred Books of the East and popularized the philological (academic) theory of Aryan linguistic migration.

2. Consider the following information:

	Scholar	Associated Institutional Role or Key Discovery
1.	Alexander Cunningham	Directed initial excavations at Harappa in 1921
2.	Daya Ram Sahni	First Director-General of ASI
3.	John Marshall	DG of ASI who formally announced the discovery of IVC
4.	Mortimer Wheeler	Introduced stratigraphic and grid excavation methods at Harappa

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 and 3 only
 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** Alexander Cunningham is known as the "Father of Indian Archaeology." He served as the first Director-General of the ASI created in 1861.
- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni led the primary archaeological excavations at Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan) in 1921 under the ASI.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Sir John Marshall was the Director-General of ASI when he formally declared the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization to the world in 1924.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Sir Robert Eric Mortimer Wheeler revolutionized Indian field archaeology by introducing scientific grid-system excavation based on stratigraphy after 1944.

3. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the urban evolution of the Indus Valley Civilization?

1. The Mature Harappan phase was characterized by baked-brick structures and organized long-distance trade.
2. The Late Harappan phase witnessed the total expansion of monumental palaces and royal stone temples.

3. The Early Harappan phase represented a proto-urban stage with mud structures and elementary craft specialization.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 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 Mature Harappan Phase (2600--1900 BCE) represents full urbanization with standardized fired bricks, grid town planning, and extensive inter-regional trade.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Late Harappan Phase (1900--1400 BCE) was a period of de-urbanization and decline, marked by abandonment of cities, disappearance of writing/weights, and transition to rural agricultural settlements. Furthermore, IVC lacked both palaces and royal temples.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Early Harappan Phase (3500--2600 BCE) was a regional, proto-urban formative phase (found at sites like Kot Diji, Amri, and Kalibangan) with mud-brick homes and emerging craft specialization.

4. Consider the following information:

	Boundary Marker	Region / Location	Associated Archaeological Site
1.	Northernmost outpost	Afghanistan	Shortugai
2.	Southernmost settlement	Maharashtra	Daimabad
3.	Westernmost settlement	Baluchistan (Pakistan)	Sutkagendor
4.	Easternmost settlement	Uttar Pradesh	Alamgirpur

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 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Shortugai in northern Afghanistan (near the Oxus River) was a specialized trading colony established by the Harappans to control lapis lazuli trade.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Daimabad on the Pravara River in Maharashtra marks the southernmost spatial extent of mature/late Harappan cultural influence.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Sutkagendor on the Dasht River in Baluchistan (near the Iran border) served as a fortified coastal trading station and western border.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Alamgirpur on the Hindon River in Meerut district (UP) represents the easternmost boundary in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

5. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	State	Feature
1.	Dholavira	Gujarat	Rock-cut water reservoirs and complex water harvesting system
2.	Mohenjo-daro	Balochistan	Monumental public bath structure lined with bitumen
3.	Lothal	Gujarat	Artificial brick basin functioning as a tidal dockyard
4.	Kalibangan	Rajasthan	Fortified lower town featuring pre-Harappan ploughed field marks

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

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Dholavira in Khadir Bet (Gujarat) is world-famous for its sophisticated series of stone-cut water reservoirs and storm-water drains.
- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro in Sindh is an iconic public brick structure sealed with a layer of natural bitumen (asphalt) to make it watertight.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Lothal features a burnt-brick trapezoidal basin identified as a tidal dockyard linked to the ancient bed of the Bhogavo River.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Kalibangan (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan) yielded a fortified lower town along with unique evidence of a grid-pattern ploughed field from its early phase.

6. Consider the following information:

	Feature	Archaeological Site	Specific Socio-Cultural Evidence
1.	Bronze Metallurgy	Mohenjo-daro	Discovery of lost-wax cast dancing girl figurine
2.	Cosmetic Artifacts	Chanhudaro	Evidence of cinnabar use and lipstick/facepaint containers
3.	Primary Burial	Harappa	Pit burials with grave pottery, mirror, and bead ornaments
4.	Fire Rituals	Kalibangan	Raised brick platforms containing series of fire altars

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 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The world-famous bronze statuette of the "Dancing Girl" made using the lost-wax (cire perdue) casting method was recovered from Mohenjo-daro.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Chanhudaro (an exclusive craft manufacturing centre) yielded cosmetic items including vanity cases, kohl sticks, and terracotta lipstick molds.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Cemetery R-37 at Harappa revealed extended primary pit burials containing grave goods like pots, shell bangles, and steatite beads.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Kalibangan revealed a series of rectangular clay-lined "fire altars" containing animal bones and ash on Citadel mounds, indicating fire rituals.

7. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the religious beliefs and practices of the Indus Valley Civilization?

1. They constructed large congregational temples dedicated to a supreme priestly monarch.
2. They practiced symbolic worship of trees, animals, and terracotta female figurines.
3. They employed horse-drawn chariots in sacred ceremonial processions.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** No monumental temples, shrines, or royal religious buildings have ever been identified at any Harappan site. Harappan religion was predominantly decentralized and non-monumental.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Seals and terracotta artifacts demonstrate worship of nature—including sacred trees (peepal), mythical animals (unicorn), real animals (humped bull, elephant), and female Mother Goddess figurines alongside a proto-Shiva figure.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Horse-drawn chariots were completely absent in the Indus Valley Civilization. Spokes-wheel technology and horse warfare were introduced much later during the Vedic period.

8. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the agrarian economy of the Indus Valley Civilization?

1. Cultivation of crops such as wheat, barley, sesame, and mustard.
2. Complete reliance on wild game with no evidence of domesticated cattle or sheep.
3. Absence of any evidence of rice husk or grain cultivation anywhere in the subcontinent.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Harappans grew a diverse array of crops including multi-row barley, wheat, cotton, sesame, mustard, and pulses.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Harappans extensively domesticated animals including humped zebu cattle, water buffaloes, sheep, goats, and pigs for agriculture, milk, and meat.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Rice remains and impressions on pottery have been excavated from Harappan sites in Gujarat, specifically at Lothal and Rangpur.

9. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the trade infrastructure and metrology of the Indus Valley Civilization?

1. Use of highly standardized cubical stone weights following a combined binary and decimal system.
2. Development of coastal port stations such as Sutkagendor, Sotkakoh, and Balakot along the Arabian Sea region.
3. Complete ignorance of woven textiles, spinning technology, or decorated cloth.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Harappan weights made of chert were remarkably standardized across thousands of miles, using a binary system for lower denominations (1,2,4,8,16,32,64) and a decimal system for higher units.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Harappans maintained a network of coastal trading outposts including Sutkagendor (Dasht river), Sotkakoh (Shadikor river), and Balakot (Vidar river) to facilitate maritime trade with West Asia.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Harappans mastered textile production. Excavations at Mohenjo-daro yielded preserved woven cotton cloth fragments dyed with madder, and spindle whorls are common across sites.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the external trade networks of the Indus Valley Civilization is/are correct?

1. Cuneiform records from Mesopotamia mention active trade with a region termed Meluhha, generally identified as the Indus region.
2. Harappan communities imported key industrial raw materials such as lapis lazuli from Afghanistan and turquoise from Khorasan.

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:** Mesopotamian cuneiform texts dating from Sargon of Akkad (c. 2300 BCE) refer to maritime trade with Meluhha (Indus region), Dilmun (Bahrain), and Magan (Oman coast), listing imports like carnelian, timber, and copper.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lapis lazuli was imported directly from Badakhshan/Shortugai in Afghanistan, while turquoise was procured through long-distance trade routes passing through Khorasan (Northeast Iran).

Harappan Civilization-II

1. With reference to the trade and exchange systems of the Indus Valley Civilization, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Harappans maintained internal trade networks to procure copper from Rajasthan and gold from South India.
2. Cuneiform texts from Mesopotamia mention maritime trade with Meluha via Dilmun and Magan.
3. The Harappan civilization relied on standardized metallic coinage for conducting long-distance trade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Harappans procured copper from the Khetri mines of Rajasthan and gold from Karnataka (Tekkalakota/Kolar region).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mesopotamian texts refer to *Meluha* (Indus region) trading via *Dilmun* (Bahrain) and *Magan* (Oman/Makran coast).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Harappans operated purely on a **barter system**. No evidence of minted or metallic coins has been found at any Harappan site.

2. With reference to the culture and technology of the Indus Valley people compared to the Rigvedic Aryans, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Indus Valley people knew gold, silver, copper, and bronze, but were unaware of iron.
2. Steatite, agate, carnelian, and terracotta were widely used for bead and seal manufacturing in the Indus Valley Civilization.
3. Seals of the Indus Valley Civilization depict various animals, humped bull, tiger, elephant, rhinoceros and horses.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Indus Valley Civilization was a Bronze Age culture (2600--1900 BCE). Iron was discovered later around 1000 BCE during the Vedic period.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bead-making using semi-precious stones (carnelian, agate, steatite) was a major craft, especially at Chanhudaro and Lothal.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Harappan seals depict animals like the unicorn, humped bull, tiger, elephant, and rhinoceros, but there is no depiction of the horse on any Harappan seal.

3. Consider the following information:

	Object	Primary Material / Technique	Key Excavation Site
1.	Dancing Girl	Bronze (Lost-wax casting)	Mohenjo-daro
2.	Bearded Priest	Steatite stone bust	Mohenjo-daro
3.	Copper Dog	Cast Copper	Lothal
4.	Terracotta Horse Figurines	Fired Clay	Surkotada

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, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The lost-wax cast bronze statuette of the "Dancing Girl" was excavated at Mohenjo-daro.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** The steatite stone bust depicting a bearded man wearing a trefoil-patterned shawl was recovered from Mohenjo-daro.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** A small copper figurine of a dog was found at Lothal (Gujarat).
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** Terracotta horse figurines are primarily reported from Lothal and Rangpur, whereas Surkotada is known for horse bone remains, not terracotta figurines.

4. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the religious motifs found on the seals of the Indus Valley Civilization?

1. Depiction of a three-headed male deity seated in a yogic posture surrounded by animals.
2. Inscription of royal patron names on all religious seals.
3. Presence of a horned deity wearing a trishula-like headpiece identified as Pashupati.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 1 and 3 are correct:** The famous Pashupati seal from Mohenjo-daro depicts a seated three-faced horned deity surrounded by four animals (elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, buffalo) with two ibexes/deer at his feet.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Harappan script remains undeciphered, and seals do not contain names of royal patrons, as there is no evidence of an absolute monarchy.

5. With reference to the social stratification and administrative organization of the Indus Valley Civilization, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Royal tombs containing massive gold treasures confirm the presence of a centralization and hereditary rule.
2. Settlements like Dholavira and Kalibangan show division into distinct spatial units, indicating social differentiation.
3. Variation in dwelling sizes ranging from single-room units to multi-room structures reflects non-rigid social hierarchy.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 2 and 3 are correct:** Urban layouts with multiple divisions (Citadel, Middle Town, Lower Town at Dholavira) and varying house sizes (1 to 12 rooms) demonstrate class stratification among priests, merchants, and laborers.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Unlike ancient Egypt or Mesopotamia, Harappan sites completely lack royal tombs, massive treasures, or physical evidence of a hereditary monarchy.

6. With reference to the religious beliefs and burial traditions of the Indus Valley Civilization, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Terracotta female figurines with plant sprouts emerging from the womb suggest fertility goddess worship.
2. Discovery of fire altars at Kalibangan and Lothal indicates prevalence of ritualistic fire practices.
3. Grave goods burials indicating belief in life after death.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A famous terracotta seal from Harappa depicts a woman with a plant growing from her embryo, representing an Earth/Fertility Goddess.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Rectangular clay-lined fire altars containing ash and charcoal were excavated at Kalibangan and Lothal.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Harappan burials (extended, coffin, urn) routinely included grave goods such as pottery, copper mirrors, and beads, indicating belief in life after death.

7. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the writing system of the Indus Valley Civilization?

1. The script is largely pictographic, featuring between 250 and 400 distinct signs.
2. The longest multi-sign inscription was discovered on a wooden signboard at Dholavira.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The script contains **250--400** pictographic signs. A major sign/inscription board with 10 large white gypsum signs was found at Dholavira.

8. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the system of weights and measures in the Indus Valley Civilization?

1. Weights were predominantly standardized cubical stones following a binary system in lower values.
2. Shell and ivory measuring scales have been recovered from Mohenjo-daro and Lothal.
3. Standardized weights varied completely from city to regions.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Harappans used uniform cubical chert weights. Lower denominations followed a binary ratio (**1,2,4,8,16,32,64**), while higher ones followed a decimal system.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Linear measurement scales made of shell were found at Mohenjo-daro and ivory scales at Lothal.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The weights and measures showed remarkable accuracy and strict uniformity across the entire Harappan geographical region.

9. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the site of Harappa in Western Punjab?

1. It was the first site of the Indus Valley Civilization to be discovered and excavated.
2. It has yielded evidence of wooden coffin burials.
3. It contains a monumental dockyard basin connected to the Arabian Sea.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Harappa was the first site excavated (in 1921 by Daya Ram Sahni), giving the civilization its name "Harappan."
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Harappa is the only site where evidence of a wooden coffin burial was discovered.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The artificial tidal dockyard was excavated at Lothal in Gujarat, not at Harappa.

10. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the site of Mohenjo-daro?

1. Presence of a monumental Great Bath and a large granary complex on the Citadel.
2. Discovery of woven cotton textile fragments, needles, and spindle whorls.
3. Uninterrupted occupation without any evidence of natural flooding throughout its history.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** Mohenjo-daro contained both the Great Bath and the Great Granary. It also yielded actual woven cotton cloth fragments preserved on a silver vase, alongside spindle whorls.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mohenjo-daro was severely affected by periodic, massive flooding from the Indus River and was rebuilt at least seven times, raising its ground elevation by over 30 feet over time.

IVC Sites and Vedic Age

1. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the archaeological site of Kalibangan?

1. Evidence of a pre-Harappan ploughed field.
2. Presence of seven fire altars indicating ritualistic practices.
3. Discovery of camel bones.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kalibangan (Rajasthan) yielded clear evidence of a grid-pattern ploughed field from its Pre-Harappan levels.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A series of seven clay-lined fire altars on a raised mud-brick platform was excavated on the Citadel mound.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Remains of camel bones were specifically recovered from Kalibangan.

2. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the Harappan port town of Lothal?

1. Presence of an artificial brick basin functioning as a tidal dockyard.
2. Discovery of terracotta figurines of a horse and a seal depicting a ship.
3. Division of the city into three distinct fortified complexes.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** Lothal features a burnt-brick dockyard, a seal depicting a sailing ship, and a questionable terracotta horse figurine alongside rice husk remains.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Lothal did not have a strict division into a Citadel and Lower Town separated by inner walls; the entire settlement was enclosed within a single peripheral wall.

3. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the Harappan settlements of Surkotada and Chanhudaro?

1. Surkotada provides archaeological evidence of actual horse bones.
2. Chanhudaro is a Harappan settlement that lacks a fortified Citadel.
3. Chanhudaro functioned as an industrial center for bead-making and seal manufacturing.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Surkotada (Gujarat) is notable for yielding bones identified as domestic horse remains (*Equus caballus*).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Chanhudaro (Sindh, Pakistan) is unique among major Harappan sites as it was completely unfortified and lacked a Citadel.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Chanhudaro was exclusively an industrial township dedicated to craft production, including bead-making workshops, shell-cutting, and seal-making.

4. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the archaeological site of Sutkagen-Dor?

1. Total absence of stone fortification walls around the site
2. Location near the Makran coast near the Pakistan-Iran border.
3. Functioned as a fortified coastal trading outpost for West Asian trade.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statements 2 and 3 are correct:** Sutkagen-Dor on the Dasht River served as the westernmost coastal frontier and port of the Harappan civilization, engaging in trade with the Persian Gulf.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Sutkagen-Dor possessed a massive defense wall built of natural rubble and dressed stone.

5. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	Location	Description
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1.	Ropar	Punjab	Oval pit burials with human buried alongside a dog
2.	Banawali	Haryana	Radial street pattern yielding large quantities of charred barley
3.	Rakhigarhi	Haryana	One of the largest Harappan sites showing DNA continuity
4.	Chanhudaro	Sindh	Industrial settlement with evidence of an inkpot and cart models

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, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correct:** Ropar (Sutlej River, Punjab) yielded a burial showing a human buried together with a pet dog.
- **Row 2 is correct:** Banawali (Fatehabad, Haryana) revealed radial town planning and high quantities of cultivated barley.
- **Row 3 is correct:** Rakhigarhi is an extensive site where skeletal DNA analysis has provided insights into Harappan ancestry.
- **Row 4 is correct:** Chanhudaro yielded evidence of craft tools, terracotta toy carts, and a small clay pot interpreted as an inkpot.

6. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	State	Description
1.	Amri	Sindh	Yielded faunal remains of the Indian Rhinoceros
2.	Mehrgarh	Balochistan	Early aceramic Neolithic site showing early cotton cultivation
3.	Bhirrana	Haryana	Early Ghaggar-Hakra site showing continuous cultural sequence
4.	Ganweriwala	Cholistan	Major unexcavated Harappan city along the Hakra riverbed

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

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correct:** Amri provided evidence of wild animal remains including the rhinoceros.
- **Row 2 is correct:** Mehrgarh on the Bolan Pass showed continuous occupation from the Neolithic age and early evidence of cotton (*Gossypium*).
- **Row 3 is correct:** Bhirrana (Haryana) revealed Pre-Harappan to Mature Harappan occupational phases along the dried Ghaggar channel.
- **Row 4 is correct:** Ganweriwala is an extensive Harappan city site situated in the Cholistan desert along the Hakra course.

7. With reference to the main differences between the Indus Valley Civilization and the Early Vedic Culture, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Indus Valley Civilization was urban and trade-oriented, whereas the Early Vedic society was pastoral and rural.
2. Indus Valley people used copper, bronze, gold, and iron, whereas Early Vedic people knew only gold and copper.
3. Rigvedic Aryans utilized horse-drawn chariots, whereas the Indus Valley civilization left no clear evidence of horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Harappan culture was urbanized with planned cities, whereas Rigvedic society was rural and pastoral, centered around cattle rearing.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Indus Valley people did not know iron (it was a Bronze Age culture). Iron (Krishna Ayas) appeared later during the 1st millennium BCE.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Horse-drawn spoked-wheel chariots (ratha) were central to Rigvedic society, whereas Harappans used solid-wheeled bullock carts and lacked horse-drawn chariots.

8. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the Rigveda Samhita?

1. It is a collection of 1,028 hymns divided into 10 Mandalas.
2. Mandalas 2 to 7 are considered the oldest core family books.
3. The 10th Mandala contains the Purusha Sukta, mentioning the four Varnas for the first time.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Rigveda contains 1,028 hymns (Suktas) organized into 10 books (Mandalas).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mandalas 2 through 7 (Family Books) represent the earliest stratum of compositions attributed to specific seer families (e.g., Vasishtha, Vishvamitra).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Purusha Sukta in the 10th Mandala explicitly mentions the four-fold Varna system (Brahmana, Rajanya/Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra).

9. With reference to the Vedic Samhitas, consider the following statements:

1. The Samaveda consists of verses largely taken from the Rigveda, set to musical melodies for chanting during sacrifices.
2. The Yajurveda was composed entirely by non-Aryan populations and contains no ritual instructions for priests.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Samaveda is a liturgical text whose verses are overwhelmingly derived from the Rigveda and arranged rhythmically for the Udgatri priests to chant.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Yajurveda is a core ritualistic text containing prose formulas (yajus) and procedural directions for the Adhvaryu priests during Vedic sacrifices.

10. Which one of the following ancient Vedic texts is well-known for containing magic spells, charms to ward off evil spirits and diseases, and medical remedies reflecting popular everyday practices?

- (a) Rigveda
- (b) Samaveda
- (c) Yajurveda
- (d) Atharvaveda

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (d) is correct:** The Atharvaveda (associated with the seers Atharvan and Angiras) contains hymns, spells, incantations, and charms for healing diseases, securing prosperity, and warding off evil forces, reflecting popular beliefs and everyday practices.

Vedic Texts

1. With reference to the structural division of Vedic literature, consider the following statements:

1. The Samhitas consist primarily of collections of hymns, mantras, and prayers.
2. The Brahmanas explain the social and ritualistic application of Vedic sacrifices.
3. The Upanishads focus on ritualistic doctrines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Samhitas are the primary core texts of each Veda, containing collections of mantras, prayers, and hymns.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Brahmanas are prose commentaries attached to the Samhitas that explain the ritualistic formulas, performance details, and symbolic meanings of sacrifices (Yajnas).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Upanishads represent the Jnana-Khanda (knowledge section) of the Vedas, shifting the focus away from ritualistic mechanics to philosophical discourse on the ultimate reality (Brahman), individual self (Atman), and liberation (Moksha).

2. Consider the following information:

	Brahmana Text	Associated Veda	Significance
1.	Aitareya Brahmana	Rigveda	Details royal coronation ceremonies
2.	Shatapatha Brahmana	Yajurveda	Elaborates on sacrificial altar construction and agriculture
3.	Panchavimsha Brahmana	Samaveda	Details rituals associated with Soma sacrifices
4.	Taittiriya Brahmana	Atharvaveda	Contains philosophical discourses on astronomical sacrifices

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, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (b)

Correct Answer:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Aitareya Brahmana belongs to the Rigveda and describes solemn rituals, including the Mahabhisheka (royal coronation).
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** The Shatapatha Brahmana belongs to the Sukla Yajurveda and is a comprehensive text detailing altar geometry, agriculture, and rituals like the Ashvamedha.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** The Panchavimsha Brahmana (Tandya Mahabrahmana) is attached to the Samaveda and deals with musical chants for Soma sacrifices.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** The Taittiriya Brahmana belongs to the Krishna Yajurveda. The principal Brahmana of the Atharvaveda is the Gopatha Brahmana.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Upanishadic literature is/are correct?

1. They mark a transition from ritualistic action to spiritual knowledge.
2. The phrase Satyameva Jayate is taken from the Chandogya Upanishad.

Select the correct 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)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Upanishads critique blind ritual performance and emphasize knowledge of the self (Atman) and cosmic consciousness (Brahman).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The national motto Satyameva Jayate (Truth Alone Triumphs) is inscribed on the National Emblem of India and is extracted from the Mundaka Upanishad.

4. Consider the following pairs of Upavedas and their traditional subjects:

	Upaveda	Traditional Subject	Associated Veda
1.	Ayurveda	Medicinal Science and Health	Rigveda
2.	Dhanurveda	Archery and Warfare	Yajurveda
3.	Gandharvaveda	Music, Dance, and Performing Arts	Samaveda
4.	Shilpaveda	Architecture and Sculptural Arts	Atharvaveda

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 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (d)

Correct Answer:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Ayurveda (science of life/medicine) is traditionally classified as an Upaveda of the Rigveda (or alternatively Atharvaveda).
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Dhanurveda deals with military science, archery, and martial strategies and is affiliated with the Yajurveda.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Gandharvaveda covers vocal and instrumental music along with dance and aesthetics, derived from the musical Samaveda.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Shilpaveda deals with architecture, engineering, and craftsmanship, affiliated with the Atharvaveda.

5. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the Vedangas?

1. Shiksha deals with phonetics and proper pronunciation of Vedic mantras.
2. Nirukta focuses on etymology and the origin of Vedic words.
3. Kalpa deals with grammar and linguistic rules of Vedic Sanskrit.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes 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)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Shiksha is the Vedanga dedicated to phonetics, accentuation, and proper vocalization of Vedic texts.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nirukta (composed by Yaska) is the science of etymology, explaining difficult and obscure words found in the Vedas.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kalpa deals with ritual procedures, duties, and sacrificial rules. Grammar (Vyakarana) is the Vedanga that deals with linguistic structure and grammar rules (exemplified by Panini's Astadhyayi).

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Kalpa Sutra texts:

1. The Shulva Sutras contain rules for geometric construction of sacrificial altars.
2. The Grihya Sutras outline domestic rites of passage such as birth, marriage, and funeral ceremonies.
3. The Dharma Sutras deal primarily with social duties, ethical conduct, and legal responsibilities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Shulva Sutras are early mathematical and geometrical treatises specifying precise measurements and shapes for constructing Vedic fire altars (Vedi).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Grihya Sutras detail household rituals, domestic sacrifices (Panchamahayajna), and rites of passage (Samskaras).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Dharma Sutras outline social laws, duties of various Varnas and Ashramas, judicial practices, and royal responsibilities, serving as precursors to the Dharmashastras.

7. With reference to ancient Indian legal texts and epics, consider the following statements:

1. Dharmashastras such as Manusmriti and Yajnavalkya Smriti are classified as Shruti literature.
2. The Bhagavad Gita forms a section of the Bhishma Parva of the Mahabharata.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Smritis (law codes like Manusmriti and Yajnavalkya Smriti) are classified as Smriti (that which is remembered) literature, which are human compositions. Shruti ("that which is heard") refers strictly to the core canonical texts: Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Bhagavad Gita is an 18-chapter philosophical text embedded within the Bhishma Parva (Book 6) of the epic Mahabharata.

8. Consider the following information:

	Cultural Source	Key Feature	Historical Link
1.	Puranas	Describes royal genealogies and cosmic creation	Ancient Indian historical traditions
2.	Painted Grey Ware (PGW)	Fine grey pottery with black painted designs	Associated with Later Vedic sites
3.	Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP)	Reddish-ochre slipped pottery	Linked with early Bronze Age & Gangetic Copper Hoards

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

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Correct Answer:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Puranas (18 major Mahapuranas) outline five main subjects (Pancha Lakshana), including primary creation (Sarga), secondary creation (Pratisarga), cosmic cycles (Manvantara), and genealogies of kings (Vamshanucharita).
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Painted Grey Ware (PGW) culture () in Haryana, Punjab, and the upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab is archaeologically correlated with Later Vedic settlements.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) culture () in the Gangetic plains is closely linked to Copper Hoard artifacts and early metalworking.

9. Which of the following archaeological findings provide material evidence for the cultural practices of the Vedic period?

1. Gangetic Copper Hoards indicating early metal tool production.
2. Clay-lined fire altars (Havan Kunds) found at sites like Kalibangan and Lothal.
3. Iron implements excavated in the Gangetic basin used for forest clearing and agriculture.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Copper Hoards (harpoons, swords, anthropomorphic figures) discovered across the Ganga Doab reflect regional metalworking technology overlapping with early Vedic horizons.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The discovery of rectangular fire altars containing ash and pottery at Harappan sites like Kalibangan and Lothal suggests early ritualistic fire practices resembling later Vedic Homa/Yajna rituals.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Iron objects found at sites like Atranjikhhera and Hastinapur (onwards) confirm the adoption of iron metallurgy (Krishna Ayas) for agricultural tools and weapons during the Later Vedic age.

10. Which one of the following ancient texts constitutes the primary literary source for the Early Vedic Period, distinct from those that define the Later Vedic Period?

- (a) Rigveda Samhita
- (b) Samaveda Samhita
- (c) Shatapatha Brahmana
- (d) Chandogya Upanishad

Correct Answer: (a)

Correct Answer:

- **Option (a) is correct:** The Rigveda Samhita (specifically Mandalas 2 to 7) is the only literary source representing the Early Vedic Period, capturing a semi-nomadic, pastoral society focused on the Sapta-Sindhu region.
- **Options (b), (c), and (d) are incorrect:** The Samaveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda, along with their respective Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads, were compiled during the Later Vedic Period, reflecting a settled agricultural lifestyle, iron technology, and expansion into the Gangetic Doab.

Vedic Systems

1. With reference to the geographical knowledge of the Early Vedic Aryans, consider the following statements:

1. Sapta-Sindhu region included the rivers Vitasta, Askani, Purushni, Vipasa, Satudri, Sindh, and Saraswati.
2. Rigvedic hymns explicitly mention peaks of the Himalayas, such as Mjavant and Silament.
3. Samudra in the Rigveda referred exclusively to the open salty oceans on the eastern and western coasts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Early Aryans settled in the Sapta-Sindhu (land of seven rivers), comprising the Indus (Sindh), Saraswati, and the five tributaries of Punjab: Vitasta (Jhelum), Askani (Chenab), Purushni (Ravi), Vipasa (Beas), and Satudri (Sutlej).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rigveda contains references to Himalayan peaks such as Mjavant (source of Soma) and Silament (Suleman range).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In the Rigveda, the word Samudra primarily denoted a large collection of water, a confluence of rivers, or a broad expanse of water, rather than the open ocean in the modern geographic sense.

2. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the economic life of the Early Vedic Period?

1. Cattle rearing was the primary occupation, and wealth was measured in terms of cows.
2. Terms like Gomat and Duhitri derived their linguistic origins from the word for cow.

3. Landed property formed the chief source of private wealth and was frequently gifted to priests.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The Early Vedic economy was predominantly pastoral. Cows (Go) were the primary measure of wealth. Vocabulary reflected this: a wealthy man was Gomat, a daughter was Duhitri ("one who milks the cow"), and tribal conflicts were termed Gavishti (search for cows).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There was no private ownership of land during the Rigvedic phase. Priests received cows, horses, and gold ornaments as ritual fees (dakshina), but never land gifts.

3. With reference to trade and economic practices in the Early Vedic phase, consider the following statements:

- 1. Yava was the primary cultivated food grain mentioned in the Rigveda.
- 2. Cows served as a primary unit of value and medium of exchange in the barter system.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Agriculture was a secondary occupation used to supplement pastoralism, and Yava (barley) was the principal cultivated grain.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Early Vedic economy operated on a barter system where cows, alongside gold ornaments like Niska, functioned as recognized units of value and exchange.

4. Which of the following characterizes the settlement pattern and rural administration in the Early Vedic Age?

- 1. Rigvedic society was predominantly rural, with an absence of planned urban cities.
- 2. The Gramani acted as the village headman, exercising both civil and military duties.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes 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:** Unlike the preceding Indus Valley Civilization, the Early Vedic people lived in fortified villages or pastoral settlements (Grama) and lacked planned urban centers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Gramani was the head of the village unit (Grama), leading the village militia in times of war and managing civil administrative functions.

5. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the political structure of the Early Vedic Aryans?

1. The Jana was the highest social and political unit headed by the Rajan.
2. Popular tribal assemblies like the Sabha, Samiti, and Vidatha limited the authority of the chief.
3. The Rajan maintained an absolute monarchy supported by a standing army.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The chief political unit was the Jana (tribe), protected by the Rajan (tribal chief). His power was not absolute and was checked by tribal councils like the Sabha (elderly council), Samiti (general assembly), and Vidatha (tribal gathering).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Rajan was not an absolute monarch and did not possess a standing army or a formal state apparatus.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the office of the Rajan in the Rigvedic Period:

1. The office of the chief was largely elective, and strict primogeniture was not the established rule.
2. Certain Vedic tribes were ruled directly by tribal councils without a hereditary king.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** While kingship often stayed within prominent families, the post of Rajan was elected or approved by the tribal assembly (Samiti), and primogeniture (the eldest son automatically inheriting the throne) was not the norm.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Oligarchic or non-monarchical tribal structures existed where power rested directly with the clan council rather than a single hereditary chief.

7. Consider the following information regarding Early Vedic administration:

	Administrative Element	Characteristic
1.	Sena	Non-standing army; mobilized from able-bodied tribesmen during war
2.	Takshan & Rathakara	Craftsmen responsible for manufacturing war chariots
3.	Bali	Mandatory offering paid by people to the chief, not a compulsory tax

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

- (a) 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correct:** There was no permanent standing army. During warfare, military units (Vrata, Gana, Grama) were formed by mobilizing able-bodied male members of the tribe.
- **Row 2 is correct:** Carpenters (Takshan) and chariot-makers (Rathakara) enjoyed high social status due to the importance of spoked-wheel chariots in warfare.
- **Row 3 is incorrect:** Bali was a voluntary tribute or offering made by the clansmen to the Rajan for protection; no regular or compulsory revenue collection mechanism existed.

8. With reference to the social organization of the Early Vedic society, consider the following statements:

1. The Kula was the basic unit of society and was patriarchal in structure.
2. Monogamy was the general norm, though polygamy was practiced among chiefs and nobles.
3. Women were married only after attaining maturity and possessed freedom in selecting their spouses.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Society was organized along patriarchal lines with the eldest male (Kulapa or Grihapati) heading the joint family (Kula).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Monogamy was the standard practice among the common people, though polygamy existed among royalty and the chieftain class.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Child marriage was absent in the Early Vedic phase; girls married after reaching maturity and had a say in choosing their husbands (such as through Swayamvara).

9. Consider the following hierarchy of social and political units in the Early Vedic Period:

1. Kula
2. Grama
3. Vis
4. Jana

Which of the following represents the correct ascending order of these organizational units?

- (a) 1 — 2 — 3 — 4
- (b) 2 — 1 — 3 — 4
- (c) 1 — 3 — 2 — 4
- (d) 3 — 1 — 2 — 4

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** The basic social unit was the family or Kula (headed by Kulapa). A group of related families formed a village or Grama (headed by Gramani). A cluster of villages formed a clan or

Vis (headed by Vispati). Multiple clans aggregated into the largest political unit, the tribe or Jana (headed by Rajan). Membership across these units was strictly based on birth and kinship ties rather than territorial residence.

10. With reference to social differentiation in the Early Vedic phase, consider the following statements:

1. Term Varna was originally used in the Rigveda to denote color, distinguishing the Aryas from the indigenous Dasas/Dasyus.
2. Early Vedic society was rigidly divided into hereditary occupational castes with strict prohibitions on inter-dining.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Initially, Varna referred to color or complexion, used primarily to differentiate the incoming Arya Varna from the indigenous Dasa Varna.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Early Vedic society was flexible and not rigidly stratified into hereditary castes. Occupation was not birth-based, and there were no rigid taboos on inter-dining or inter-marriage during the Early Vedic Period (hereditary Varna division crystallized later).

Vedic Social Hierarchy, Religious Practices, Terminology

1. Which of the following statements regarding the features of Early Vedic social hierarchy are correct?

1. Early Vedic society was divided into four rigid, birth-based Varnas from the very beginning of the Rigvedic period.
2. Term Shudra appears for the first time in the 10th Mandala (Purusha Sukta) of the Rigveda.
3. Women enjoyed social rights, including participation in tribal assemblies such as Samiti and Vidatha.
4. Unequal distribution of war booty contributed to emerging social inequalities towards the close of the period.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Early Vedic society was largely flexible and divided into three broad functional groups (Kshatriya, Brahmana, Vis). It was not rigidly birth-based.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The term Shudra appears only once in the Rigveda, in the Purusha Sukta of the 10th Mandala, which is considered a late addition.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Women in the Early Vedic Age enjoyed a respectable status; child marriage was absent, and women participated in popular assemblies like the Samiti and Vidatha.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** Inequality grew towards the later phase because tribal chiefs (Rajan) and priests (Purohita) retained a disproportionate share of war booty (Bali and Samgrahana).

2. Which of the following statements regarding the features of Early Vedic religion are correct?

1. Rigvedic gods were largely personifications of natural forces like rain, storm, fire, and thunder.
2. Goddesses like Ushas, Sarasvati, and Prithvi occupied the primary and dominant positions in the Rigvedic pantheon.
3. Indra was the most prominent deity, with the highest number of hymns (about 250) dedicated to him.
4. Varuna was revered as the guardian of Rita (the cosmic and moral order).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Early Vedic religion was naturalistic polytheism, where natural forces were anthropomorphized into deities.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Female deities like Ushas, Aditi, Prithvi, and Sarasvati existed, but they held secondary or subordinate positions in a male-dominated pantheon.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Indra (Puran-dara/Rain and War god) is invoked in roughly 250 hymns, making him the chief deity of the Rigveda.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Varuna maintained the physical and cosmic law termed Rita.

3. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the religious worship and rituals of the Early Vedic Period?

1. Worship was centered on Yajnas accompanied by the recitation of hymns to gain material prosperity, cattle, and sons.
2. Sacrificial rituals were performed inside monumental stone temples containing sculpted idols of deities.
3. Prayers and sacrifices were directed toward personal spiritual salvation rather than worldly gains.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The primary purpose of Early Vedic worship was utilitarian and material (Prajā, Pashu, Dhana, Annakam).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Early Vedic religion was aniconic and non-temple based. Sacrifices were conducted in open altars (Vedi).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Spiritual liberation (Moksha) was not a central theme of the Early Vedic phase; it became prominent later in the Upanishadic age.

4. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the practice of animal sacrifice in the pastoral economy of the Early Vedic phase?

1. Animal sacrifice in pastoral settings provided a means to cull non-productive animals that posed an economic burden.
2. The economic rationale for large-scale animal sacrifice diminished as society shifted from pastoralism to settled iron-plough agriculture.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes 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:** In a pastoral nomadic setup without agricultural surplus, maintaining non-productive cattle was costly, making ritual sacrifice of select animals economically feasible.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** When the economy transitioned to settled agriculture, cattle became critical draught animals for ploughing, leading to opposition against indiscriminate cattle slaughter (a core driver of later heterodox movements like Jainism and Buddhism).

5. Consider the following information regarding Early Vedic terminology:

	Term	Description
1.	Gavishti	Search or war for cattle
2.	Gojit	Winner of cows; honorific for a hero
3.	Govikartana	Official keeper of forests and hunts
4.	Sthapati	Master builder or chief architect

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 3 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Conflicts between tribes over cattle were termed Gavishti ("desire/search for cows").
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Gojit ("conqueror of cows") was a title of praise for brave warriors.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Govikartana was the forest/huntsman chief involved in royal affairs.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Sthapati denotes a chief builder or administrator of border territories.

6. Consider the following information regarding Vedic socio-economic terms:

	Term	Description
1.	Godhuli	Measurement of distance based on cattle movement

2.	Duhitri	Daughter; literally "one who milks the cow"
3.	Sabhavati	Woman who attends and participates in the Sabha
4.	Sangrihitri	Official responsible for collecting mandatory state taxes in Early Vedic Age

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

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** Godhuli referred to the measurement of time (dusk/evening when cattle returned), whereas Gavyuti was the measurement of distance.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Duhitri stems directly from pastoral life, meaning daughter or milker of cows.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Women participating in tribal assemblies were referred to as Sabhavati.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** Sangrihitri (treasurer/tax collector) emerged in the Later Vedic Period, not the Early Vedic Age (where tax collection was absent and offerings were voluntary Bali).

7. Consider the following information regarding ancient administrative functionaries:

	Functionary	Assigned Role
1.	Takshan	Carpenter skilled in woodcraft and chariot making
2.	Bhagadugha	Official collector of taxes and royal shares
3.	Jivagribha	Police official tasked with apprehending criminals
4.	Palagala	Court messenger or courier

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

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Takshan was the village carpenter, vital for crafting agricultural tools and chariots.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Bhagadugha was the tax collector who gathered the king's share (Bhaga) during the Later Vedic state setup.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Jivagribha (along with Ugra) performed law enforcement/police duties.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Palagala served as the king's messenger or courier.

8. Consider the following information regarding administrative and court officials:

	Functionary	Assigned Role
1.	Madhyamasi	Mediator appointed to settle civil disputes
2.	Kshata	Spy tasked with gathering intelligence
3.	Akshavapa	Accountant and superintendent of gambling/dice games
4.	Spasa	Gatekeeper or keeper of the royal household

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

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Madhyamasi acted as an arbitrator or mediator in local disputes.
- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** Kshata managed palace security and royal household affairs.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Akshavapa maintained administrative accounts and oversaw gambling games.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** Spasa served as covert intelligence agents or spies for the Rajan.

9. Consider the following information regarding Vedic rituals and social customs:

	Ritual	Characteristic
1.	Suta	Sacrifice to establish territorial sovereignty via a free-roaming horse
2.	Goghna	Honored guest for whom a cow was slaughtered/served
3.	Ashvamedha Yajna	Royal charioteer and court bard
4.	Vajapeya Yajna	Drink of strength ritual featuring a chariot race to boost royal prestige

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

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** The Suta was the charioteer and bard who recorded royal genealogies.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Goghna ("one for whom a cow is slain") was an epithet used for an esteemed guest.

- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** The Ashvamedha (horse sacrifice) asserted imperial sovereignty over territories traversed by the sacrificial horse.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** The Vajapeya (chariot race sacrifice) was performed to rejuvenate the king's vitality and demonstrate supremacy over clan members.

10. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the royal rituals and social customs of the Vedic Period?

1. The Rajasuya Yajna was a consecration ceremony designed to confer divine legitimacy and supreme authority upon the ruler.
2. The custom of Niyoga permitted a childless widow to cohabit with her deceased husband's brother to produce an heir.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes 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:** The Rajasuya was the royal consecration sacrifice that legitimized the monarch's supreme authority through ritual rebirth.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Niyoga was an accepted socio-legal practice where a widow without offspring was allowed to unite with her brother-in-law (Devar) strictly for lineage continuation.

Later Vedic Age

1. Which of the following statements regarding the features of the Later Vedic economy and urbanization are correct?

1. Agricultural expansion led to a population surge and the growth of proto-urban settlements like Hastinapur and Kaushambi.
2. Standardized metallic currency system was fully established and regulated by a central authority.
3. Incipient metallic units like Krishnala, Satamana, and Nishka made their appearance during this period.
4. Nishka replaced cows as a recognized unit of value in economic transactions.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Agricultural expansion generated surpluses that sustained larger, permanent settlements like Hastinapur and Kaushambi, which began acquiring rudimentary urban characteristics.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There was no regular or standardized system of official coinage regulated by a central authority during the Later Vedic Period; barter remained widespread.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Weighted metallic units or bullion pieces such as Krishnala, Satamana, and Nishka appeared as transitional forms toward currency.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** In economic transactions, Nishka increasingly replaced cows as a standard unit of value.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to political changes in the Later Vedic Age is/are correct?

1. Territorial identity replaced clan-based tribal identity.
2. Popular tribal assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti gained absolute authority over the king.
3. Brahmanical rituals and grand sacrifices were utilized to legitimize the concept of divine kingship.

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:** Settled agriculture tied clans to specific regions, leading to the shift from mobile tribal units (Jana) to fixed territorial entities (Janapadas).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The power of popular assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti declined significantly, while the authority of the monarch grew stronger and more autocratic.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Kingship became increasingly hereditary, and royal authority was sacralized through grand sacrifices (Yajnas) performed by Brahmana priests.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to monarchical governance and revenue in the Later Vedic Age is/are correct?

1. A permanent standing army maintained directly by state treasury funds established.
2. The king and his administrative staff subsisted on regular taxes such as Bhaga and Shulka.

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:** The king did not possess a professional standing army maintained year-round; the royal militia was still mobilized from local tribal units during times of war.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Taxation became structured and compulsory. Revenue included Bhaga (agricultural tax, usually of produce), Shulka (trade duties), and Bali (which converted from a voluntary gift into a mandatory tribute).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to royal rituals in the Later Vedic Period is/are correct?

1. Ashvamedha Yajna involved releasing a consecrated horse to roam freely, asserting uncontested territorial sovereignty.
2. In the Rajasuya Yajna, the king was anointed by a priest, a Kshatriya, and a Vaishya to legitimize his rule across social orders.

3. Vajapeya Yajna featured a ritualistic chariot race in which the king was destined to win to restore his vitality and prestige.

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: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ashvamedha (horse sacrifice) symbolized imperial expansion; any chief who stopped the horse had to fight the king's army.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rajasuya (consecration ritual) involved multi-caste anointing (Abhisheka) to signify broad socio-religious sanction for the king's authority.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Vajapeya (drink of strength) included a staged chariot race where the king's chariot won, affirming his supreme physical prowess and authority.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to social structure in the Later Vedic Age is/are correct?

- 1. The Gotra system emerged during this period, strictly enforcing the rule of exogamy.
- 2. Women maintained political representation and continued to attend popular assemblies.
- 3. Polygamy became increasingly common among the ruling Kshatriya and royal elite.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The institution of Gotra (lineage traced to a common ancestor) appeared for the first time, establishing the practice of Gotra exogamy.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The social status of women degraded in the Later Vedic phase; their access to public political assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti was curtailed.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** While monogamy was standard among commoners, polygamy became widespread among kings, nobles, and wealthy elites.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the features of the Later Vedic Varna system are correct?

- 1. Society was organized into four distinct Varnas, with Upanayana restricted to the Dwijas.
 - 2. Women of all four Varnas were universally granted the right to undergo the Upanayana ceremony.
 - 3. Artisans like the Rathakaras held high status and were granted the right to wear the sacred thread.
 - 4. The custom of Niyoga (widow remarriage to a brother-in-law) gained absolute theological supremacy and universal adoption.
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The top three Varnas (Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya) were designated as Dwijas ("twice-born") and possessed the exclusive privilege of undergoing the Upanayana ceremony.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Women were increasingly excluded from the Upanayana ceremony and Vedic studies during this phase.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Rathakaras (chariot makers) maintained a respected social standing due to their vital role in military crafts and were entitled to the Upanayana ceremony.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Unlike in the Early Vedic phase where Niyoga was widely accepted, the practice faced growing disapproval and restrictions in Later Vedic social codes.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Later Vedic society is/are correct?

1. Child marriage and Sati were codified and enforced across all sections of society.
2. Female scholars like Gargi and Maitreyi actively participated in advanced philosophical debates.
3. Groups like the Chandala, Nishada, and Shabara emerged on the margins of society, marking the early stages of untouchability.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While isolated textual references to child marriage and widow immolation appear, they were not dominant or universally enforced social practices in the Later Vedic era.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Elite women continued to achieve intellectual distinction; notably, Gargi Vachaknavi challenged the sage Yajnavalkya in a famous debate recorded in the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Occupational specialization and rigid Varna boundaries led to the marginalization of indigenous groups such as the Chandalas, Nishadas, and Shabaras.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Ashrama system in ancient India is/are correct?

1. The four-stage Ashrama scheme (Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, and Sannyasa) was fully established in its complete four-fold form in the Later Vedic Period.
2. Brahmacharya was associated with education and Dharma, while Grihastha focused on the pursuits of Artha and Kama.

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:** Only the first three stages (Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha) were clearly defined in Later Vedic texts (e.g., Chandogya Upanishad). The fourth stage, Sannyasa (complete renunciation), was fully integrated later (as seen in the Jabala Upanishad).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Each Ashrama corresponded to specific life goals (Purusharthas): Brahmacharya focused on learning and Dharma, Grihastha catered to Artha and Kama, while Vanaprastha and Sannyasa targeted Moksha.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to transformations in Vedic religion is/are correct?

1. Deities like Indra and Agni lost their primary and Prajapati emerged as the supreme god.
2. Mode of worship shifted from direct prayer recitations toward elaborate, priest-conducted sacrificial rituals.
3. Later Vedic Period witnessed the establishment of grand stone-built temples and idol worship.

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 divine hierarchy shifted: Indra and Agni ceded prominence to Prajapati (the Creator), Rudra (associated with fauna/healing), and Vishnu (the Preserver).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Rituals became increasingly complex, domestic, and public, requiring professional Brahmana priests who received substantial gifts (Dana) and fees (Dakshina).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Structural temples and idol worship did not exist in the Vedic Period; divine symbols were worshipped through open sacrificial altars.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the agrarian economy of the Later Vedic Period is/are correct?

1. Spread of iron facilitated forest clearing and the cultivation of hard Gangetic soils.
2. Shatapatha Brahmana contains textual references to agricultural ploughing 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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The discovery of iron (Krishna Ayas or Shyama Ayas) around enabled the creation of iron axes and ploughshares, driving agricultural expansion in the fertile Ganga-Yamuna Doab.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Agriculture became the dominant livelihood, as reflected in the Shatapatha Brahmana, which describes detailed rituals surrounding ploughing (Sirakarma), sowing, harvesting, and threshing of crops like Vrihi (rice) and Godhuma (wheat).

Battle of Ten Kings, Mahajanpadas

1. Which of the following statements regarding the Battle of Ten Kings are correct?

1. Battle was fought on the banks of the River Parushni.

2. Bharatas were led by King Sudas, while the confederation of ten tribes included the Purus.
3. Opposing tribes successfully flooded the Bharata camp, leading to the total defeat of King Sudas.
4. Following the war, the Bharatas and Purus merged to form the Kuru tribe.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The historical conflict took place along the banks of the Parushni River (identified with the modern Ravi River in Punjab).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** King Sudas led the ruling Bharata tribe against a combined alliance of five Vedic (Panchajana) and five non-Vedic tribes, with the Purus playing a leading role in the coalition.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Although the opposing tribes attempted to breach the embankments of the Parushni to flood the Bharatas, King Sudas routed the coalition and emerged victorious; Purukutsa, chief of the Purus, was slain.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** In the aftermath of the war, the victorious Bharatas and the defeated Purus reconciled and merged to form the Kuru tribe, which dominated the Ganga-Yamuna Doab in the Later Vedic phase.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the origin of Janapadas and Mahajanapadas is/are correct?

1. Janapada literally signifies the foothold of a tribe, marking the transition from clan-based identity to territorial statehood.
2. All Mahajanapadas operated under strict hereditary monarchical rule.

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:** Janapada derives from Jana (people/tribe) and Pada (foot/settlement), denoting the permanent territory where a clan settled down to practice agriculture.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Not all Mahajanapadas were monarchies. Several prominent Mahajanapadas, such as the Vajji confederacy (Lichchhavis) and Malla, functioned as oligarchic republics (Gana-Sanghas).

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

1. Geographical context of the Pali Canon corresponds primarily to the middle Ganga valley.
2. Anguttara Nikaya provides a major textual listing of the sixteen Mahajanapadas.
3. Jataka tales primarily depict the socio-economic and political conditions of the Vedic Age prior to the emergence of iron technology.

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 events and locations recorded in the Pali Canon (composed between the 5th and 4th centuries BCE) are situated in the middle Ganga basin.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Anguttara Nikaya (a division of the Sutta Pitaka) contains the list of sixteen great states (Shodasha Mahajanapadas) existing around the time of the Buddha.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Jatakas (stories of the Buddha's previous births) reflect the socio-economic realities of the 6th century BCE and later periods, detailing flourishing trade, urban centers, and monetized transactions—not the pre-iron pastoral Vedic Age.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to ancient Jaina and Brahmanical texts is/are correct?

1. Jaina canonical text Bhagavati Sutra provides a list of sixteen Mahajanapadas that parallels the list in Buddhist texts.
2. Puranas contain genealogical lists of ruling dynasties that assist in reconstructing the political history of the post-Vedic period.
3. Dharmasutras and Grihyasutras belong to the early ritualistic and legal tradition outlining civil laws and social duties.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Jaina text Bhagavati Sutra provides a list of sixteen Mahajanapadas, differing slightly in regional names from the Anguttara Nikaya list but confirming the same territorial structure.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Puranas preserve dynastic lists (Vamshanucharita) of rulers from major Mahajanapada lineages such as the Haryankas, Shishunagas, and Nandas.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Dharmasutras (normative legal texts) and Grihyasutras (domestic ritual manuals) form part of the early legal tradition detailing Varna obligations and personal conduct.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to secular sources of ancient Indian history is/are correct?

1. Ashtadhyayi, provides incidental geographical and economic data on contemporary Janapadas.
2. Greek and Latin accounts written during and after Alexander's invasion offer contemporary eye-witness records.

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:** While primarily a grammatical work, Panini's Ashtadhyayi serves as a key historical source, mentioning political entities (Janapadas), trade goods, coins, and administrative terms.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Most surviving classical accounts (such as those by Arrian, Strabo, and Plutarch) were compiled centuries after the actual invasion, relying on lost memoirs of Alexander's companions (like Nearchus and Onesicritus). They were not contemporaneous eye-witness documents, though they provided valuable external perspectives that helped fix Indian dates (e.g., identifying Chandragupta Maurya with Sandrokottos).

6. Which of the following statements regarding archaeological sources of the 6th to 3rd century BCE are correct?

1. Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) is a fine deluxe pottery style associated with the rise of urban centers and trade in northern India.
2. Punch-marked coins represent the earliest documented metallic currency system.
3. NBPW pottery was produced using pure iron oxide pigments on unbaked clay.
4. Punch-marked coins were issued by a centralized royal mint under the command of the imperial Mauryan state from their inception.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) culture (– BCE) marks the Second Urbanization phase in the Ganga plain, characterized by walled towns, iron tools, and luxury tablewares.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Silver and copper punch-marked coins (Karshapana or Pana) appeared around the 6th century BCE, marking the beginning of coinage and commercialization.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The name NBPW is misleading; the surface finish was achieved through specialized reduction firing technique in kilns, and specimens are occasionally red, golden, or brown rather than strictly black.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Early punch-marked coins were issued by merchant guilds (Shrenis) and local Janapadas before centralized imperial state minting was organized under the Mauryas.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the eastward shift of the political center from the Kuru-Panchala region to the Middle Ganga Valley is/are correct?

1. Higher annual rainfall in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar facilitated intensive wet-rice cultivation and generated agricultural surpluses.
2. Easy access to rich iron ore deposits in Chota Nagpur region enabled the production of durable agricultural implements and war weaponry.
3. Navigable river systems like the Ganga, Son, and Gandak served as natural communication highways for trade and troop movement.

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:** The middle Ganga valley received heavier rainfall than the semi-arid western region, allowing paddy transplantation (Ropa) that significantly increased crop yields.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Proximity to rich iron ore reserves in the Chota Nagpur plateau provided Magadha with a strategic advantage in manufacturing effective tools and weapons.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Rivers like the Ganga, Son, Gandak, and Ghaghara provided low-cost transport routes for commercial trade and rapid military deployment.

8. With reference to ancient India 6th century consider the following pairs:

	Territorial Entity	Associated River
I.	Asmaka	Godavari
II.	Kamboja	Vipas
III.	Avanti	Mahanadi
IV.	Kosala	Sarayu

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
(b) Only two pairs
(c) Only three pairs
(d) All four pairs

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair I is correctly matched:** Asmaka (or Assaka) was located on the banks of the Godavari River in modern Maharashtra/Telangana; it was the southernmost Mahajanapada.
- **Pair II is incorrectly matched:** Kamboja was situated in the trans-Hindukush region (NWFP/Afghanistan around Rajouri/Hazara), not near the Vipas (Beas River in Punjab).
- **Pair III is incorrectly matched:** Avanti (centered around Ujjain/Mahishmati) was situated along the Vetravati (Betwa) and Shipra rivers in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh, not the Mahanadi (Odisha).
- **Pair IV is correctly matched:** Kosala (with its capital Shravasti/Ayodhya) was divided into northern and southern halves by the Sarayu River.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the geo-strategic features of the Magadha Empire is/are correct?

1. Udayin shifted capital from Rajagriha to Pataliputra to command the strategic river confluence of the Ganga and Son.
2. Magadha was the first major state to deploy wild elephants on a large scale.

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:** Udayin (Haryanka dynasty) transferred the capital from the hill-fortress of Rajagriha to Pataliputra (Jaldurga), which occupied a strategic position at the junction of the Ganga and Son rivers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike the western states that relied primarily on cavalry and chariots, Magadha leveraged its dense eastern forest reserves to capture and train war elephants, giving it a tactical advantage against rival fortifications.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Kingdom of Kosala is/are correct?

1. Prasenajit ruled Kosala as a contemporary of Gautama Buddha.
2. Territory of Kosala incorporated the ancient republic of Kashi as well as Lumbini.

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:** King Prasenajit (Pasenadi) was a prominent ruler of Kosala and a contemporary of Gautama Buddha; several dialogues in the Pali Suttas document their interactions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kosala annexed the prosperous kingdom of Kashi (Varanasi) and held suzerainty over tribal territories along the Nepalese border, including the Shakya clan's territory of Kapilavastu/Lumbini.

Battle of Ten Kings, Mahajanpadas

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Kasi and Vajji Mahajanapadas is/are correct?

1. Kasi on the banks of the Ganga, was renowned for textile production before being absorbed by Kosala.
2. Vajji functioned as an oligarchic monarchy with its capital at Vaishali.
3. Lord Mahavira, belonging to the Jnatrika clan, was born at Kundagrama near Vaishali, which also hosted the Second Buddhist Council.

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:** Kasi was an early dominant power in the Ganga valley famous for cotton textiles and silk. It was later annexed by Kosala.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Vajji was a confederacy of eight clans (including the Lichchhavis and Jnatrikas) governed as a Gana-Sangha (Republic) from Vaishali.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vardhamana Mahavira was born at Kundagrama near Vaishali to the Jnatrika clan chief. Vaishali was also the venue of the Second Buddhist Council convened under King Kalasoka (Shishunaga dynasty) around 383 BCE.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Vatsa Mahajanapada is/are correct?

1. Its capital, Kaushambi, on Yamuna River, served as a major commercial transit hub connecting northern and southern trade routes.
2. Svapnavasavadattam authored by Harsha and Priyadarshika authored by Bhasa based on life of King Udayana of Vatsa.

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:** Kaushambi (near modern Prayagraj) was situated on the Yamuna and served as a flourishing commercial hub along the Uttarapatha trade route.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Bhasa authored Svapnavasavadattam (along with Charudatta and Pratijnayaugandharayana), whereas Emperor Harsha authored Priyadarshika and Ratnavali. Both plays are based on the romantic legends and life of King Udayana of Vatsa

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Anga Mahajanapada is/are correct?

1. Its capital Champa functioned as an international riverine port facilitating maritime trade with Suvarnabhumi.
2. Anga successfully conquered Magadha during the reign of Bimbisara and retained permanent control over the Middle Ganga plain.

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:** Champa (near modern Bhagalpur, Bihar) was a major river port that engaged in long-distance maritime trade across the Bay of Bengal to Suvarnabhumi.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Anga was annexed by Magadha under the expansionist campaign of King Bimbisara (Haryanka dynasty), who placed his son Ajatashatru as governor of Champa.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Malla and Kuru Mahajanapadas are correct?

1. Malla was an oligarchic Gana-Sangha divided into two administrative units centered at Kusinara and Pava.
2. Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana at Kusinara, situated along the Rapti River basin.

3. Kuru was a major monarchical state situated in the lower delta region of the Mahanadi River.
4. Indraprastha and Hastinapura served as primary urban centers and political seats of the Kuru kingdom.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Malla operated as a republican confederacy (Gana-Sangha) with two primary capitals: Kusinara and Pava.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gautama Buddha passed away (Mahaparinirvana) at Kusinara in the Malla territory.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kuru was located in northern India (covering modern Delhi, Haryana, and Western UP) along the Ganga and Yamuna rivers.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Indraprastha (modern Delhi region) and Hastinapura (near Meerut) were the historic capitals of the Kuru state.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Panchala and Surasena:

1. Panchala was divided by the Ganga River into Northern and Southern Panchala, encompassing Kannauj.
2. Surasena, centered at Mathura along the Yamuna River, was historically associated with the Yadava clan and visited by Gautama Buddha.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Panchala occupied central Uttar Pradesh and was split into Northern Panchala (Ahichchhatra, modern Bareilly district) and Southern Panchala (Kampilya, modern Farrukhabad district), containing Kanyakubja (Kannauj).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Surasena was centered at Mathura along the Yamuna, closely tied to the Shoorsena/Yadava lineages, and was frequented by early Buddhist teachers and the Buddha himself.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Gandhara and Avanti is/are correct?

1. Taxila, the capital of Gandhara developed into an international center for higher learning and trade along the Uttarapatha.
2. Avanti was divided into Northern Avanti and Southern Avanti, ruled by King Pradyota who engaged in conflict with Magadha.

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:** Taxila was a world-renowned seat of education (where scholars like Chanakya and Panini taught) and a crucial trading node linking North-West India to Central Asia.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Avanti (in Malwa, MP) had twin capitals at Ujjain and Mahishmati. King Chanda Pradyota was a powerful contemporary of Bimbisara and Buddha, making Avanti a major political rival to Magadha.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Asmaka and Chedi is/are correct?

1. Asmaka, capital at Potana, was situated along the Krishna River basin and was the only Mahajanapada located south of the Vindhya mountains.
2. Chedi kingdom, centered at Shuktimati, was ruled by King Shishupala in epic tradition and lay along the route connecting the Ganga valley to Central India.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ashmaka was located in modern Maharashtra, Telangana along the Godavari and was uniquely the southernmost among the 16 Mahajanapadas (Dakshinapatha region).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Chedi occupied the Eastern Bundelkhand region along the Ken River with its capital at Shuktimati (Sotthivati).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Matsya and Kamboja is/are correct?

1. Matsya was situated in the Jaipur-Alwar-Bharatpur region with its capital at Viratanagara, bordered by the Chambal basin.
2. Kamboja, located in the Pamir-Hindukush region was famous in ancient texts for its superior breed of horses and warrior guilds.

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:** Matsya covered modern eastern Rajasthan around Jaipur and Alwar, centered at Viratanagara (modern Bairat).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kamboja lay in the far north-west (Tajikistan, Badakhshan, Rajouri). It was celebrated in Sanskrit literature for fine horses and operated as an autonomous polity where clans combined agriculture, trade, and military arts (Varta-Sastropajivi Sangha).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the geographical and strategic advantages of Magadha are correct?

1. Rajgir was protected as a natural land fortress by five surrounding hills.

2. Pataliputra functioned as a true water-fortress, guarded by the confluence of the Ganga, Son, Gandak, and Ghaghara rivers.
3. Magadha lacked direct access to major riverine trade routes, forcing its economy to rely on overland pastoral transport.
4. Presence of dense eastern forests provided Magadha with an abundant supply of wild elephants for heavy military deployment.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The old capital Rajagriha (Rajgir) was surrounded by five hills (Giri-vraja), making it naturally fortified against physical invasions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pataliputra was surrounded on multiple sides by rivers (Ganga, Son, Gandak, Ghaghara), earning it the classification of a Jaldurga (water-fortress).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Magadha controlled the main trade highways (Uttarapatha) and river routes along the Ganga, enabling trade control between Eastern and Western India.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Eastern forests supplied Magadha with wild war-elephants, giving its army a unique offensive capability against enemy fortifications.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the political systems of the 6th Century BCE is/are correct?

1. In Gana-Sanghas like Vajji and Malla, sovereign power was exercised by a collective assembly comprising clan heads rather than an absolute monarch.
2. Decision-making in republican assemblies was driven by voting through voting sticks collected by a designated official when consensus failed.
3. All Mahajanapadas operated under centralized, hereditary monarchical dynasties where popular assemblies held absolute veto power.

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:** Gana-Sanghas were non-monarchical oligarchies governed by collective assemblies of clan leaders who held the title Raja.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Buddhist texts (such as the Vinaya Pitaka) document democratic procedural mechanisms within assemblies, including voting using colored wooden sticks (Salakas) supervised by a Salaka-Gahapaka.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The 16 Mahajanapadas consisted of both monarchies (e.g., Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, Avanti) and non-monarchical Gana-Sanghas (e.g., Vajji, Malla). In monarchies, popular assemblies had lost their veto power to hereditary rulers.

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 Jambudvīpa

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 Saila	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 Saila ("Eastern Hill") and Aparasaila ("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, Vibhajjavadins, 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. Bhūmispārsha 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:** Bhūmispārsha 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.