

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

September 2026

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

INDEX

Buddhist Art, Architecture etc.....	2
Buddhist Architecture and Jainism	7
Jainism.....	12
Jainism-II.....	16
Jainism Literature's	20
Jainism Art and Architecture	25
Jainism Art and Architecture	30
Jainism, Philosophy and Miscellaneous etc.	35
Mauryan Empire	40
Mauryan Empire-II.....	45
Mauryan Administration	49
Mauryan Administration	54
Mauryan Administration and Art.....	59
Mauryan Architecture and Art	63
Mauryan Art and Literature.....	68
Late Mauryas	73
Sunga and Satavahana Dynasty.....	77
Satavahana and Kanva Dynasty	82
Indo-Greeks	87
Indo-Greeks-II.....	92
Sangama Age	96
Sangam Age-II	101
Medieval Regional Kingdoms Administration and Sangam Age Art	106
Rashtrakutas and Pala Dynasty	110
Pala and Sena Dynasty.....	115

Buddhist Art, Architecture etc.

1. With reference to ancient Indian religious traditions, the term Pudgalavada refers to which one of the following?

- (a) A doctrine of orthodox Vedic rituals asserting the eternal nature of the soul.
- (b) A Buddhist philosophical school asserting the existence of a person to explain karma and rebirth without accepting an eternal soul.
- (c) A Jain ethical principle regulating the ascetic vows of lay followers.
- (d) An Ajivika materialist theory denying the operation of karma and moral consequence.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct:** Pudgalavada (adhered to by schools like the Vatsiputriyas and Sammitiyas) was a unique Buddhist doctrine asserting that an entity called the Pudgala (person) exists. This person is neither identical to nor separate from the five aggregates (Skandhas), providing a conceptual mechanism to explain karma, transmigration, and liberation without violating the core Buddhist doctrine of Anatta (non-self).

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Agraharika refers to a Brahmana recipient or resident of a tax-free royal land grant issued for religious or educational purposes.
- 2. Dvadashanga refers to the twelvefold classification of Buddhist canonical teachings recognized exclusively in the Hinayana tradition.

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:** An Agraharika was the donee or administrator of an Agrahara-a tax-free land grant bestowed by royal patrons upon learned Brahmanas or religious institutions for learning and worship.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Dvadashanga (the Twelve Angas) refers to the primary Jain canonical scriptures compiled at the Council of Pataliputra, not a Hinayana Buddhist classification. (In Buddhism, the textual division is known as the Navanga or Dvadasanga-buddhavacana across Mahayana contexts, but as a formal body of 12 main scriptures, it is central to Jainism).

3. Consider the following pairs:

Site	Associated Religious Tradition
1. Besnagar	Shaivite cave shrine
2. Bhaja	Buddhist cave shrine

3. Sittanavasal	Jain cave shrine
-----------------	------------------

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Besnagar (Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh) is renowned for the Heliodorus Pillar, a Vaishnavite monument (dedicated to Vasudeva), not a Shaivite cave shrine.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Bhaja Caves (Maharashtra) represent an ancient group of Hinayana Buddhist rock-cut caves, featuring a well-preserved Chaitya hall and stupas.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Sittanavasal (Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu) is a famous rock-cut Jain cave complex known for its murals, stone beds (Arivar Koil), and ascetic shelters.

4. With reference to Buddhist history, tradition, and culture in India, consider the following pairs:

Monastery	Location
1. Tabo monastery and temple complex	Spiti Valley
2. Lhotsava Lhakhang	Zaskar Valley
3. Alchi temple complex	Ladakh

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correct:** Tabo Monastery (founded in 996 CE by Rinchen Zangpo) is located in the Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** Lhotsava Lhakhang is a famous temple built by translator Rinchen Zangpo situated at Rinchenpou in the Zaskar Valley, Ladakh.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** The Alchi Temple Complex is one of the oldest monastic sites located on the banks of the Indus River in Ladakh.

5. Consider the following information:

Archaeological Site	State	Description
1. Kesariya Stupa	Bihar	One of the largest ancient Buddhist stupas in the world

2. Piprahwa	Uttar Pradesh	Ancient stupa site yielding Buddha relics in soapstone caskets with early Brahmi inscriptions
3. Ramabhar Stupa	Uttar Pradesh	Stupa marking the Mahaparinirvana cremation site of Gautama Buddha at Kushinagar
4. Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Major coastal Buddhist site featuring stupas and pillared halls overlooking the Vamsadhara river

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 correctly matched:** Kesariya Stupa in East Champaran, Bihar, is a massive terraced stupa dating back to the Maurya and Gupta periods.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Piprahwa in Siddharthnagar district, UP (identified with Kapilavastu), yielded bone relics of the Buddha inside inscribed crystal and soapstone caskets during excavations.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Ramabhar Stupa in Kushinagar, UP, marks the exact spot where Gautama Buddha was cremated after his Mahaparinirvana.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Salihundam in Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh, is a prominent hilltop Buddhist site containing stupas, chaityas, and viharas.

6. With reference to Buddhist history, tradition, and culture in India, consider the following pairs:

Monastery	Location
1. Veluvana Monastery	Rajgir, Bihar (First bamboo grove monastery gifted by King Bimbisara)
2. Thiksey Monastery	Ladakh (Major Gelugpa sect monastery often called Mini Potala)
3. Rumtek Monastery	Sikkim (Exile seat of the Gyalwang Karmapa, head of Karma Kagyu)

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correct:** Veluvana (Bamboo Grove) at Rajgir, Bihar, was the first monastic property presented to Gautama Buddha by King Bimbisara of Magadha.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** Thiksey Monastery in Ladakh belongs to the Gelugpa (Yellow Hat) order and closely resembles the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet.

- **Pair 3 is correct:** Rumtek Monastery in Gangtok, Sikkim, serves as the main international seat-in-exile of the Karmapa, leader of the Karma Kagyu lineage.

7. Sanghabhuti, an Indian Buddhist monk who traveled to China at the end of the fourth century AD, was the author of an authoritative commentary on which of the following?

- (a) Prajnaparamita Sutra
- (b) Visuddhimagga
- (c) Sarvastivada Vinaya
- (d) Lalitavistara

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:** Sanghabhuti was an Indian monk from Northern India who arrived in Chang'an, China, around 381 CE. He translated key Sarvastivadin texts into Chinese and authored an influential commentary on the Sarvastivada Vinaya (Sarvastivada-vinaya-vibhasha), significantly shaping Chinese monastic rules.

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

1. Aryadeva, a principal disciple of Nagarjuna, composed the treatise Catuhsataka to defend Mahayana Madhyamika philosophy.
2. Buddhaghosa authored the Visuddhimagga, a comprehensive synthesis of Theravada doctrine and meditation practices.
3. Ashvaghosha, a court poet during the Kushana period, authored the Sanskrit epic Buddhacharita.

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:** Aryadeva composed the Catuhsataka (Four Hundred Verses) to refute rival philosophical systems and establish Madhyamika dialectics.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Buddhaghosa compiled the Visuddhimagga (Path of Purification) in Sri Lanka, which remains the central non-canonical treatise of Theravada doctrine.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ashvaghosha was a patronized scholar in King Kanishka's court who wrote the classical Mahakavya Buddhacharita (biography of the Buddha in Sanskrit) and Saundarananda.

9. With reference to Buddhist historical literature, consider the following pairs:

Literary Text	Associated Genre
1. Saundarananda	Sanskrit mahakavya composed by Ashvaghosha on the conversion of Nanda
2. Manjushrimulakalpa	Comprehensive encyclopedic commentary of the Sarvastivada school

3. Mahavibhasha Shastra	Early Buddhist text combining Mahayana sutra and Tantric ritual elements
-------------------------	--

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correct:** Saundarananda is a famous Sanskrit poem by Ashvaghosha narrating the story of Nanda (the Buddha's half-brother) and his ordination into the Sangha.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** Mahavibhasha Shastra is an essential scholastic commentary on the Jnanaprasthana, compiled during the Fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir under Kanishka.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** Manjushrimulakalpa is an important text of the Kriya-tantra class that contains historical, ritual, and mantra traditions framing early Tantric Buddhism.

10. Which of the following statements regarding royal patronage of Buddhism in ancient and medieval India are correct?

1. Ashoka provided state patronage to Buddhism, convening the Third Buddhist Council and deploying Dhammamahamattas to propagate its principles.
2. The Satavahanas were exclusive followers of Buddhism, prohibiting Brahmanical rituals and land grants to non-Buddhist institutions.
3. King Kanishka I supported Mahayana Buddhism, convening the Fourth Council in Kashmir and patronizing Gandhara art.
4. The Pala dynasty of Bengal and Bihar served as major patrons of late Mahayana and Vajrayana centers such as Nalanda and Vikramashila.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Emperor Ashoka transformed Buddhism into a pan-Asian tradition, convening the Third Council at Pataliputra and issuing rock/pillar edicts.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Satavahanas were devout followers of Brahmanism (performing Vedic sacrifices like Aswamedha and Rajasuya), though they liberally patronized Buddhist cave excavations (Karla, Kanheri, Amaravati). They were not exclusive supporters of Buddhism nor did they prohibit Brahmanical rites.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Kushana ruler Kanishka I patronized Mahayana Buddhism, supported the Fourth Buddhist Council, and funded the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Pala rulers (Dharmapala, Devapala, etc.) were devout Buddhists who established Vikramashila, Odantapuri, and Somapura universities while expanding Nalanda.

Buddhist Architecture and Jainism

1. Consider the following information:

Ritual	Context	Description
1. Upasampada	Monastic Ordination	Rite of vetting by which a candidate becomes a fully ordained monk
2. Vassa	Seasonal Retreat	Three-month annual retreat observed by monks during the rainy season
3. Uposatha	Mind Purification	Periodic observance day dedicated to cleansing the mind and inner reflection
4. Pavarana	Confession Ceremony	End-of-retreat rite where monks confess offences committed during Vassa

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 correctly matched:** Upasampada is the formal higher ordination ritual admitting a novice (Sramanera) as a full member of the monastic Sangha.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Vassa is the three-month rain retreat observed by Buddhist monks annually during the monsoon months.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Uposatha is the bi-monthly lunar observance day set aside for intense meditation, fasting, and reciting monastic rules.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Pavarana takes place at the conclusion of Vassa, where monks invite their peers to point out any moral transgressions committed during the retreat.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Rajgir and its associated historical sites is/are correct?

1. Vishwa Shanti Stupa was initiated in 1947 by Nichidatsu Fujii, founder of the Nipponzan-Myohoji Buddhist sect.
2. Saptaparni Cave served as the historic venue for the First Buddhist Council.
3. Lord Mahavira never visited Rajgir during his lifetime, as it was strictly a center of Magadhan Buddhist patronage under King Bimbisara.

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 Peace Pagoda at Rajgir was established under the guidance of Japanese Buddhist monk Nichidatsu Fujii, founder of Nipponzan-Myohoji.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Saptaparni (Sattapanni) Cave in Rajgir hosted the First Buddhist Council under King Ajatashatru's patronage, presided over by Mahakasyapa.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Rajgir is equally sacred to Jainism; Lord Mahavira spent 14 rainy seasons of his monastic life at Rajgir, securing key royal converts in Magadha.

3. Consider the following pairs:

Literary Work	Author
1. Devichandragupta	Bilhana
2. Hammira-Mahakavya	Nayachandra Suri
3. Milinda-panha	Nagarjuna
4. Nitivakyamrita	Somadeva Suri

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Devichandragupta was authored by Vishakhadatta (author of Mudrarakshasa), not Bilhana (who wrote Vikramankadevacharita).
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Hammira-Mahakavya, an important 15th-century Sanskrit epic, was composed by the Jain scholar Nayachandra Suri.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Milinda-panha (Questions of King Menander) records dialogue between King Menander I and the Buddhist sage Nagasena.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Nitivakyamrita, a classical treatise on statecraft, was written by the 10th-century Digambara scholar Somadeva Suri.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the life of Vardhamana Mahavira is/are correct?

1. Born in Kundagrama near Vaishali to King Siddhartha of the Jnatrika Kshatriya clan and Princess Trishala of the Lichchavis.
2. Renounced worldly life at the age of thirty and attained Kaivalya under a Sal tree near the Rijupalika River.
3. Achieved supreme enlightenment within six months of ascetic practice.

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:** Vardhamana Mahavira was born in Kundagrama (Bihar) into a royal Kshatriya family belonging to the Jnatrika clan of the Vajji confederacy.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** At age 30, Mahavira left home for asceticism, attaining Kaivalya at age 42 on the banks of the Rijupalika River near Jrimbhikagrama.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mahavira underwent 12 years of severe penance and self-mortification before attaining omniscience, not six months.

5. With reference to ancient India, Vardhamana Mahavira was generally known by which of the following epithets?

1. Nayaputta
2. Shakyamuni
3. Kevalin

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Nayaputta applies to Mahavira:** In early Pali and Prakrit texts, Mahavira is referred to as Nigantha Nataputta (the naked ascetic of the Jnatrika clan).
- **Shakyamuni does NOT apply to Mahavira:** Shakyamuni (Sage of the Shakya clan) is an epithet used exclusively for Gautama Buddha.
- **Kevalin applies to Mahavira:** Kevalin denotes one who has attained Kevala Jnana (absolute/omniscient knowledge) in Jain tradition.

6. Which of the following entities or concepts were directly associated with the organized religious order established by Vardhamana Mahavira?

1. Gandharas: Chief disciples presiding over monastic groups.
2. Pava: Location of his first sermon and establishment of the Jaina Sangha.
3. Mahasanghikas: Schismatic monastic faction formed at his first sermon.
4. Upasakas: Lay male followers of the Jain order.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **1 is correct:** Mahavira's 11 primary disciples were known as Gandharas (or Ganadharas), who led different sections of his followers.
- **2 is correct:** Mahavira delivered his first sermon at Pava (Pavapuri) to his 11 Gandharas, where he formally established the Jain Sangha.

- **3 is incorrect:** The Mahasanghikas were an early Buddhist school that emerged following the schism at the Second Buddhist Council in Vaishali, having no relation to Mahavira's order.
- **4 is correct:** The Jain Sangha comprised four parts: Sadhus (monks), Sadhvis (nuns), Upasakas (laymen), and Upasikas (laywomen).

7. Which of the following statements regarding the Jain Tirthankaras and their associated emblems are correct?

1. Rishabhanatha is recognized as the first Tirthankara, and his traditional emblem is the Bull.
2. Parshvanatha is revered as the 23rd Tirthankara, symbolized by the Serpent emblem.
3. Shantinatha is the 16th Tirthankara, traditionally represented by the Conch Shell emblem.
4. Neminatha (Arishtanemi) is the 22nd Tirthankara, whose traditional emblem is the Deer.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Rishabhanatha (Adinatha) is the first Tirthankara; his cognizable symbol (Lanchhana) is the Bull.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Parshvanatha is the 23rd Tirthankara; his iconographic emblem is the Serpent.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Shantinatha's symbol is the Deer.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Neminatha's (Arishtanemi) symbol is the Conch Shell.

8. Consider the following information:

Jain Term	Primary Meaning	Conceptual Attribute
1. Nirgrantha	Free from bonds	One who has severed all worldly and emotional attachments
2. Sarvajna	All-knowing	Possessor of infinite and complete knowledge (Kevala Jnana)
3. Vitaraga	Free from passion	One who has completely transcended desire, anger, and aversion
4. Kevalin	Omniscient state	An enlightened soul that has destroyed all knowledge-obscuring karmas

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
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Nirgrantha ("without knots") describes an ascetic who has completely shed worldly ties and physical possessions.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Sarvajna describes the omniscient state of a Jina who grasps the totality of all reality.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Vitaraga denotes a being who has conquered attachment (Raga) and hatred/aversion (Dvesha).
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** A Kevalin is an omniscient soul who abides in absolute knowledge after shedding four types of destructive karmas (Ghatiya Karmas).

9. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding references to Jain Tirthankaras in Vedic literature?

1. Yajurveda explicitly mentions three Jain Tirthankaras: Rishabhadeva, Ajitanatha, and Arishtanemi.
2. Rigveda contains clear references to Rishabhanatha and Arishtanemi as venerated ascetics.

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:** Canonical Yajurvedic texts make direct textual references to three Tirthankaras—Rishabha, Ajitanatha, and Aristanemi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rigveda contains hymns mentioning Rishabhadeva and Arishtanemi (Neminatha) as venerable sages, underscoring the ancient roots of śramana traditions in early Indian religious literature.

10. With reference to the ethical framework of Jain philosophy, consider the following pairs:

Great Vow (Mahavrata)	Primary Ethical Rule
1. Ahimsa	Absolute non-violence in thought, word, and deed
2. Asteya	Practice of truthfulness in all speech
3. Brahmacharya	Vow of celibacy and chastity added by Vardhamana Mahavira
4. Aparigraha	Non-possession and non-attachment to material goods

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Ahimsa is the foundational vow requiring absolute non-injury toward all living entities.

- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Asteya means non-stealing (refraining from taking what is not given). Truthfulness is Satya.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Brahmacharya (celibacy) was introduced by Vardhamana Mahavira as the fifth vow, supplementing the four vows formulated by Parshvanatha.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Aparigraha entails complete non-possession and detachment from physical property and internal cravings.

Jainism

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the concept of Ahimsa in Jainism is/are correct?

1. Ahimsa is considered the supreme ethical duty and applies to all living beings, including plants and microorganisms.
2. According to Jain doctrine, non-living elements such as water, air, and fire are devoid of any soul.
3. The principle of Ahimsa extends beyond physical injury to include harm caused through words and thoughts.

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:** In Jain philosophy, Ahimsa (non-violence) is the highest moral obligation. It applies comprehensively to all living beings, including microscopic organisms (Ekindriya Jivas) and plant life.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Unlike many other Indian traditions, Jainism holds an animistic worldview, believing that souls (Jivas) exist not only in animals and plants but also in natural element-bodies such as earth, water, fire, and wind (Sthavara Jivas).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ahimsa must be practiced in three ways (Trikana): by mind (Mana), speech (Vachana), and body (Kaya). Entertaining harmful thoughts or speaking hurtful words is considered a direct violation of Ahimsa.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the philosophical concept of Anekantavada is/are correct?

1. It posits that ultimate reality is complex and multi-faceted, and cannot be fully encapsulated by a single absolute viewpoint.
2. It asserts that the physical world is an illusion created by divine agency.

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:** Anekantavada (the doctrine of "non-absolutism" or "many-sidedness") is a core epistemological principle in Jainism. It states that truth and reality are perceived differently from diverse points of view, and no single human perspective can claim absolute monopoly over truth.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Jainism is a realistic philosophy (Realism). It does not view the material world as an illusion (Maya); rather, it considers the material universe (Ajiva) and individual souls (Jiva) to be real, uncreated, and eternal entities.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Syadvada in Jain philosophy is/are correct?

1. It is the linguistic expression of Anekantavada, stating that all judgments are conditional and holds true only relative to specific contexts.
2. It uses the qualifying prefix Syat before judgments to avoid absolute categorical assertions.

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:** Syadvada is the logical/linguistic method of applying Anekantavada. It asserts that every ordinary statement is true only under certain conditions of time, place, substance, and mode (Saptabhangi Naya).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To prevent dogmatic claims, Jain logicians prefix assertions with the Syat (from a certain perspective or in a given sense), signaling that the statement is contextually relative rather than universally absolute.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Nyayavada in Jainism is/are correct?

1. It represents the method of examining a subject from a particular, partial standpoint without denying other possible valid perspectives.
2. It claims that a single partial standpoint can express the complete and absolute truth of a subject without needing reconciliation.

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:** Nyayavada (or Nayavada) is the theory of partial viewpoints (Nayas). It allows practitioners to analyze complex realities by considering limited, specific angles while remaining aware that other valid angles exist.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Nayavada explicitly warns against Nayabhasa (the fallacy of mistaking a partial viewpoint for the complete truth). Sticking dogmatically to a single viewpoint as the total truth is considered a source of ignorance and dispute in Jain logic.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the teachings of Jainism is/are correct?

1. Rejected the infallible authority of the Vedas and opposed Brahmanical sacrificial rituals.

2. Denies the existence of the soul as an independent entity, equating liberation with complete annihilation of consciousness.
3. Acknowledges the existence of gods, but places them lower in spiritual status than the Jina.

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:** As a heterodox (Nastika) śramana tradition, Jainism explicitly rejected Vedic authority, animal sacrifices, and the ritualistic dominance of the priestly class.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Jainism is firmly centered on belief in an eternal, individual soul (Jiva). Liberation (Moksha) is the attainment of infinite knowledge, power, and bliss by the soul, not the annihilation of consciousness (which resembles the Anatta/Nirvana doctrine of Buddhism).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Jainism recognizes deities (Devas), but considers them subject to the cycle of rebirth (Samsara). A liberated soul (Jina or Tirthankara) who has conquered karmas occupies a higher spiritual status than any god.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Jainism's position on the Varna system is/are correct?

1. Early Jainism did not completely condemn or reject the Varna system, admitting individuals from all social classes into its order.
2. Mahavira explained that a person's birth in a particular Varna was determined by the accumulated karma of their previous births.

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:** Early Jainism was inclusive and open to people of all castes, including Shudras and women. Unlike classical Brahmanism, it did not restrict spiritual liberation to higher Varnas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mahavira attributed birth in a high or low Varna to the Karmic consequences of past actions (Prarabdha Karma). However, he maintained that through right faith, knowledge, and conduct (Triratna), any individual could attain salvation regardless of their birth.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the language utilized in early Jain scriptures is/are correct?

1. Vardhamana Mahavira preached his doctrines primarily in Sanskrit to gain patronage among classical scholars and royal courts.
2. The early canonical texts of the Jain tradition, such as the Angas, were composed in the Ardhamagadhi dialect of Pali.

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: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Mahavira deliberately avoided Sanskrit (the language of elite Brahmanical scholars) and preached in Prakrit, the vernacular language spoken by the common people, ensuring widespread accessibility.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The early Jain canonical literature, including the 12 Angas compiled at Pataliputra and Vallabhi, was composed in Ardhamagadhi (a regional variant of Prakrit).

8. Which of the following statements regarding the ascetic discipline in Jainism is/are correct?

1. Vardhamana Mahavira advocated severe asceticism and complete renunciation, including the abandonment of clothing.
2. Parshvanatha, the 23rd Tirthankara, permitted his followers to wear two garments.
3. The addition of the fifth vow by Mahavira contributed to later sectarian differences between the Digambara and Shvetambara traditions.

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:** Mahavira practiced extreme austerity and prescribed total nudity for monks as an expression of complete non-possession (Aparigraha) and detachment from worldly shame.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Parshvanatha preached four vows (Chaturyama) and allowed monks to wear simple garments (Sachela), illustrating a less austere monastic dress code.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Mahavira added the 5th vow (Brahmacharya). Differing interpretations of these monastic vows and dress codes ultimately contributed to the historical division into Digambaras (sky-clad, maintaining strict nudity) and Shvetambaras (white-clad, wearing simple white robes).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the practice of Jainism among different occupational groups is/are correct?

1. Strict adherence to Ahimsa led Jainism to prohibit participation in war and military engagements.
2. Farming was discouraged for devout Jains because plowing soil and harvesting crops inevitably caused harm to insects, worms, and plant life.

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 rigorous application of non-violence prohibited warfare, causing the Jain lay community to avoid military professions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Agriculture was discouraged because tillers inadvertently killed earthworms, insects, and soil microbes during plowing (Hinsa). As a result, Jainism found its principal patronage among trading, mercantile, and banking communities (Setthis/Mahajans) in urban centers.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the evolution of Jain ethical vows is/are correct?

1. Prior to Mahavira, the Jain tradition recognized four fundamental vows formulated by Parshvanatha.
2. Digambara school considers the early canonical Angas to have been preserved intact, while the Shvetambara school holds that the original texts were lost over time.

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:** Parshvanatha (Tirthankara) established the fourfold pledge (Chaturyama Dharma). Mahavira added Brahmacharya (celibacy) as the fifth vow (Pancha Mahavratas).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is the Digambaras who hold that the original 14 Purvas and 12 Angas were gradually forgotten and lost over time following the Magadhan famine. Conversely, the Shvetambaras claim to have preserved the Angas as codified during the Council of Vallabhi.

Jainism-II

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the historical Jain Councils is/are correct?

1. First Jain Council was held under the chairmanship of Sthulabhadra during the Mauryan period, leading to the compilation of the 12 Angas.
2. Second Jain Council was held at Patliputra under the presidency of Devardhi Kshamasramana, where the final redaction of the Shvetambara canon was completed.

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 First Jain Council took place around 300 BCE at Pataliputra under Sthulabhadra's leadership following a severe 12-year Magadhan famine. It compiled the 12 Angas in Ardhamagadhi, though the council witnessed the initial schismatic divergence between the followers of Sthulabhadra and Bhadrabahu.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Second Jain Council took place in 512 CE at Vallabhi (Gujarat), presided over by Devardhi Kshamasramana. This council primarily comprised Shvetambara monks and served to formally write down and standardize the canonical texts (Angas and Upangas), an outcome rejected by the Digambara sect.

2. Which of the following statements is/are applicable to Jain doctrine?

1. The surest way of annihilating accumulated Karma is to practice severe penance and austerity.
2. Every object in existence, including the smallest particle of matter, possesses an individual soul.
3. Karma is viewed as a subtle material substance that attaches to the soul and must be eradicated to achieve liberation.

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In Jainism, severe penance (Tapas) is considered necessary to burn away previously accumulated karma (Nirjara) and stop the influx of new karma (Samvara).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Jain metaphysics is pan-psychic/animistic, teaching that souls inhabit not only humans, animals, and plants, but also elemental particles of earth, water, fire, and air (Ekindriya Jivas).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Unlike the Vedantic view of karma as invisible destiny, Jainism treats karma as a physical, subtle material particle (Karmic Paudgala) that clings to the soul (Jiva), polluting its innate purity until eradicated.

3. Which one of the following is not among the Pancha Mahavratas prescribed for Jain monastics?

- (a) Ahimsa
- (b) Aparigraha
- (c) Brahmacharya
- (d) Anitya

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- The Pancha Mahavratas (Five Great Vows) binding on all Jain monks and nuns are:
 1. **Ahimsa** (Absolute non-violence)
 2. **Satya** (Truthfulness)
 3. **Asteya** (Non-stealing)
 4. **Brahmacharya** (Celibacy/chastity—added by Mahavira)
 5. **Aparigraha** (Non-possession/non-attachment)
- Anitya (Impermanence) is one of the twelve reflections (Bhavanas or Anuprekshas) in Jain meditation, not one of the five primary monastic vows.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the ritual of Santhara in Jainism is/are correct?

1. It is a voluntary vow of spiritual fasting unto death undertaken to detach from worldly obligations and purify the soul.
2. It can be initiated by any lay practitioner at any stage of life purely for rapid social renunciation without spiritual supervision or physical debility.

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:** Sallekhana (or Santhara) is an ancient supplementary vow involving a gradual, voluntary reduction of food and liquid intake, aimed at facing death with tranquility, mental clarity, and spiritual detachment.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sallekhana is not an arbitrary or impulse decision. It is strictly permitted under qualified spiritual guidance only during old age, incurable illness, or imminent end-of-life conditions where bodily functions fail, distinguishing it clearly from emotional suicide.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Jain classification of knowledge is/are correct?

1. Paroksha Jnana refers to knowledge gained directly by the soul without relying on sensory organs or the mind.
2. Aparoksha Jnana refers to direct intuitive knowledge perceived directly by the soul independent of external sensory media.

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:** In Jain epistemology, Paroksha Jnana (Mediate Knowledge) is indirect knowledge acquired through external instruments, namely the sensory organs (Indriyas) and the mind (Manas).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Aparoksha Jnana (Immediate Knowledge) is direct perception experienced by the soul (Jiva) without requiring intermediate sensory organs or intellectual mediation.

6. Consider the following pairs regarding types of Immediate Knowledge in Jain philosophy:

Knowledge Type	Description
1. Avadhi Jnana	Clairvoyant perception of physical objects across distance or time
2. Manahpariyaya	Telepathic reading of the thoughts and mental states of others
3. Kevala Jnana	Infinite, omniscient knowledge free from all karmic obstructions

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Avadhi Jnana is transcendent or clairvoyant knowledge that allows the soul to perceive material objects beyond normal spatial and temporal boundaries without sensory help.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Manahparyaya Jnana is the direct intuition of the thoughts and mental modes of other conscious beings.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Kevala Jnana is absolute omniscience—the ultimate state of pure, unrestricted knowledge attained when all destructive karmas (Ghatiya Karmas) are eliminated.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Mati Jnana and Shruta Jnana is/are correct?

1. Mati Jnana is knowledge acquired through normal sensory perception and mental cognition.
2. Shruta Jnana is knowledge derived through authoritative verbal testimony, scriptures, and formal instruction.

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:** Mati Jnana represents empirical or sensory knowledge, obtained via the five senses (Indriyas) and the mind (Manas).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Shruta Jnana is scriptural or testimony-based knowledge, comprehended through the study of sacred canonical writings or instructions from authoritative teachers.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sthanakvasi sect of Jainism is/are correct?

1. The Sthanakvasi sect belongs to the Digambara branch of Jainism.
2. Members of the Sthanakvasi sect reject image worship (Murti-puja) and do not build temples.

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 Sthanakvasi sect is a major reformist sub-sect of Shvetambara Jainism (founded by Lavaji in the 17th century CE), not Digambara.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sthanakvasi Jains firmly oppose idol worship (Murti-puja) and temple construction. They pray in non-decorated prayer halls called Sthanaks and their ascetics wear a white cloth strip (Muhapatti) over their mouth.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Digambara school of Jainism is/are correct?

1. Digambara tradition holds that women cannot attain Moksha directly in their female body and must be reborn as men first.
2. Digambara monastics wear white robes to symbolise purity while performing public rituals.
3. It maintains that the 19th Tirthankara, Mallinatha, was a female princess.

Select the 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: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Digambaras believe that complete nudity is an essential prerequisite for full renunciation (Aparigraha). Because social norms require women to wear clothing, Digambaras hold that women cannot achieve final liberation directly in a female form and must first be reborn as men.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Digambara monks (Munis) practice total nudity (Aparigraha) as a sign of complete worldly renunciation, rejecting clothes altogether. It is the Shvetambaras who wear white robes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Digambara tradition considers the 19th Tirthankara, Mallinatha, to have been male (Malli). It is the Shvetambara tradition that holds Mallinatha was a woman.

10. Which of the following statements regarding the Shvetambara school of Jainism is/are correct?

1. Shvetambara tradition traces its monastic lineage primarily under the leadership of Sthulabhadra.
2. They accept the 12 Angas compiled at the Jain councils as authentic canonical scriptures.

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 Shvetambara lineage is traditionally associated with Sthulabhadra, who remained in Magadha during the 12-year famine and permitted monks to wear simple white garments (Svetambara).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike Digambaras (who believe the original canon was lost), Shvetambaras preserve and follow the canonical Angas compiled during the historic assemblies at Pataliputra and Vallabhi.

Jainism Literature's

1. Consider the following pairs:

Digambara Sub-sect	Ritual Practice
1. Bisapantha	Practice of idol worship with ritual offerings like saffron, flowers, and incense
2. Terapantha	Worship of Tirthankara idols using unboiled water and dry offerings like rice
3. Taranapantha	Rejection of idol worship in favor of scriptural veneration

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Bisapantha sub-sect of Digambara Jainism permits idol worship and accepts the offering of fresh flowers, fruits, saffron, and sweetmeats during temple rituals.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The Digambara Terapantha sub-sect advocates simpler idol worship without using green vegetables, fresh flowers, or lamps, utilizing dry offerings like rice and sacred water instead.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Taranapantha (or Samaiyapantha) sub-sect, founded by Taran Svami, completely rejects idol worship (Murti-puja) and focuses on the study and veneration of sacred scriptures (Sastras).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to minor Digambara sub-sects is/are correct?

1. Gumanapantha sub-sect originated as a compromise tradition combining elements of both Bisapantha and Terapantha doctrines.
2. Totapantha sub-sect strict avoids ritual offerings in temples and prohibits the lighting of lamps in front of idols.

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: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Gumanapantha is a minor reformist Digambara sub-sect that prohibits ritual offerings of fruits, flowers, or incense, and strictly forbids lighting lamps (Aarti) inside temples to avoid harm to insects.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Totapantha emerged as a syncretic sub-sect attempt to reconcile the ideological differences between Bisapantha and Terapantha practitioners.

3. Consider the following pairs:

Shvetambara Sub-sect	Core Religious Practice
1. Murtipujaka	Worship of Tirthankara idols in temples with elaborate ornamentation
2. Sthanakvasi	Rejection of idol worship in favor of prayer halls called Sthanaks
3. Terapanthi	Reformist order structured under the centralized leadership of a single Acharya

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Murtipujaka (or Pujera) sub-sect forms the traditional idol-worshipping branch of Shvetambara Jainism, maintaining temples and decorating Tirthankara statues.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The Sthanakvasi sub-sect opposes idol worship, conducting meditation, scriptural study, and prayers in plain halls known as Sthanaks.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Shvetambara Terapanthi sub-sect (founded by Acharya Bhikshu) emphasizes non-idol worship, strict monastic discipline, and obedience to a single supreme spiritual leader (Acharya).

4. Which of the following statements regarding the differences between the Digambara and Shvetambara sects are correct?

1. Digambaras believe that women cannot attain Moksha, whereas Shvetambaras hold that women can achieve liberation.
2. Digambaras consider the 19th Tirthankara, Mallinatha, to have been male, while Shvetambaras hold that Mallinatha was female.
3. Digambaras accept the canonical texts compiled at the Vallabhi Council, whereas Shvetambaras reject them as corrupted works.
4. Digambara monks wear simple unstitched white garments, whereas Shvetambara monks practice absolute sky-clad nudity.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Digambaras maintain that total nudity is required for full renunciation, meaning women must be reborn as men to attain final Moksha. Shvetambaras state that spiritual liberation is accessible to both men and women.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Digambaras view the 19th Tirthankara (Malli) as male, whereas Shvetambara tradition maintains Mallinatha was a woman.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is the Shvetambara sect that accepts the Vallabhi Council's canon, while the Digambara sect rejects these works, believing the original Agamas were lost.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The attire rules are reversed: Digambara monks practice sky-clad nudity, while Shvetambara monks wear white clothes.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the Agama literature of Jainism are correct?

1. The primary Agamas were compiled by the chief disciples of Mahavira, known as Ganadharas.
2. The core canonical scriptures are divided into 12 Angas, composed in the Ardhamagadhi Prakrit language.
3. The Digambara sect accepts the 12 Angas preserved by the Shvetambaras as complete and authentic texts.
4. The 12th Anga, named Drishtivada, is considered to have been lost over time.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Agamas contain the teachings of Mahavira, which were orally compiled into canonical form by his immediate disciples, the Ganadharas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The core canonical scriptures consist of the 12 Angas, originally preserved in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Digambaras reject the Shvetambara Anga canon, holding that the original teachings were lost during the famine after Mahavira's death.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Both traditions agree that the 12th Anga (Drishtivada), which contained the 14 lost Purvas, disappeared over time.

6. Consider the following classical text:

It is a non-canonical Jain commentary text that serves as an indispensable tool for interpreting the Agama literature, structured as an independent treatise on Jain methodology and exposition. Identify the text:

- (a) Nandi Sutra
- (b) Kalpa Sutra
- (c) Parishishta Parvan
- (d) Trishashthilaksana Mahapurana

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **(a) is the correct answer:** The **Nandi Sutra** (along with the Anuyogadvara) is a prominent Anga-Bahya text that provides a comprehensive exposition on the methodology of scriptural interpretation and categories of knowledge.
- **(b) is incorrect:** The Kalpa Sutra is a biographical and monastic text written by Bhadrabahu.
- **(c) is incorrect:** Parishishta Parvan is a 12th-century historical appendix work composed by Hemachandra.
- **(d) is incorrect:** Trishashthilaksana Mahapurana is a 9th-century epic work on Jain hagiography written by Jinasena and Gunabhadra.

7. Which of the following literary categories form a part of the Anga-Bahya (non-canonical) scriptures in Shvetambara Jainism?

1. Upangas
2. Prakirnakas
3. Chedasutras
4. Mulasutras
5. Nandi Sutra
6. Anuyogadvara
7. Tripitakas

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (b) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
- (c) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are part of the Jain Anga-Bahya canon:** The Shvetambara Anga-Bahya corpus includes 12 Upangas, 10 Prakirnakas, 6 Chedasutras, 4 Mulasutras, plus individual works like the Nandi Sutra and Anuyogadvara.
- Upangas (Subsidiary scriptures), Prakirnakas (Supplementary texts), Chedasutras (Monastic disciplinary codes), Mulasutras (Fundamental texts for novices), Nandi Sutra (Independent methodological treatise), Anuyogadvara (Explanatory manual on logic), Tripitakas (Three baskets of doctrine).
- **Item 7 is incorrect:** The Tripitakas (Sutta, Vinaya, Abhidhamma) are the canonical scriptures of Buddhism, not Jainism.

8. Consider the following pairs:

Literary Work	Author	Subject Matter
1. Kalpa Sutra	Bhadrabahu	Biographies of Jain Tirthankaras
2. Shad-Darshana Samucchaya	Haribhadra Suri	Comparative treatise on six Indian philosophical systems
3. Trishashthilaksana Mahapurana	Acharya Jinasena	Hagiographical account of the 63 illustrious Jain figures
4. Parishishta Parvan	Hemachandra Suri	Historical narrative on early Jain teachers and Kings

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:** The Kalpa Sutra, attributed to Bhadrabahu, details the lives of the Tirthankaras, including Parshvanatha and Mahavira.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Shad-Darshana Samucchaya by the 8th-century scholar Haribhadra Suri offers a comparative overview of six schools of Indian philosophy (Darshanas).
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Mahapurana (comprising Adipurana by Jinasena and Uttarapurana by Gunabhadra) narrates the lives of the 63 prominent figures (Shalakupurushas) of Jain mythology.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Parishishta Parvan (Sthaviravali-charita) by Hemachandra provides historical details regarding early Jain elders and their interactions with Mauryan rulers.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to ancient Jain linguistic and political treatises is/are correct?

1. Siddha-Hemachandra-Shabdanushasana is a classical grammatical work covering Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Apabhramsa, authored by Hemachandra Suri.
2. Nitivakyamrita is a work on political ethics, statecraft, and governance composed by the Jain scholar Somadeva Suri.

3. Both texts were written under the direct patronage of the Gupta Emperor Samudragupta in the 4th century CE.

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:** Siddha-Hemachandra-Shabdanushasana was written by the 12th-century scholar Hemachandra Suri under the patronage of the Chaulukya King Jayasimha Siddharaja, covering grammar for Sanskrit and various Prakrit dialects.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nitivakyamrita, authored by the 10th-century scholar Somadeva Suri, is a treatise on statecraft and political ethics written from a Jain perspective.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Neither author lived during the Gupta period. Hemachandra operated in 12th-century Gujarat under the Chaulukya dynasty, while Somadeva Suri wrote under the Rashtrakuta dynasty in the 10th century.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Divya-Dhvani in Jain doctrine is/are correct?

1. It is the divine, wordless sound emitted by a Tirthankara upon attaining Kevala Jnana.
2. It can only be comprehended by human scholars, remaining completely unintelligible to animals and lesser celestial beings.

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:** In Jain philosophy, when a Tirthankara reaches omniscience (Kevala Jnana) and sits in the assembly hall (Samavasarana), he emits a spontaneous, divine resonance known as Divya-Dhvani.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** According to Jain tradition, Divya-Dhvani is a universal, divine vibration that is understood by all present beings in their own native modes of comprehension, including humans, animals, and celestial beings (Devas). The primary disciples (Ganadharas) then translate this divine sound into formal scriptural language (Agamas).

Jainism Art and Architecture

1. Which of the following statements regarding the interpretation of Divya-Dhvani by Jain sects is/are correct?

1. Digambaras interpret Divya-Dhvani as a divine, unarticulated monotone sound resembling OM emitted by an omniscient Tirthankara.
2. Shvetambaras believe Divya-Dhvani is spoken in the Ardhamagadhi Prakrit human language.

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:** In the Digambara tradition, Divya-Dhvani is understood as an unarticulated, non-verbal vibration (Anahat Dhvani) resembling OM that emanates spontaneously from the entire body of a Tirthankara in Kevala Jnana.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Shvetambara school holds that the Tirthankara speaks in a distinct spoken dialect, Ardhamagadhi Prakrit which is transformed so that all living beings in the Samavasarana comprehend it in their respective languages.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the iconography of Tirthankaras is/are correct?

1. Tirthankaras are represented exclusively in either the Padmasana or Kayotsarga.
2. Each Tirthankara is identified by a specific cognizance symbol sculpted on the pedestal of the image.
3. Sculptures of Tirthankaras are heavily adorned with royal crowns, chest jewelry, and elaborate divine ornamentation.

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:** Canonical Jain iconography restricts Tirthankara images to two formal spiritual postures: Padmasana (lotus posture) and Kayotsarga (standing posture with hands hanging down without touching the body).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Every Tirthankara has a dedicated Lanchhana (emblem) carved on the base pedestal (e.g., Bull for Rishabhadeva, Serpent for Parshvanatha, Lion for Mahavira) to aid in identification.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Tirthankara images embody complete ascetic detachment (Vitaraga). They feature calm expressions without royal diadems, crowns, or body jewelry (unlike Hindu deities or Bodhisattvas).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the Jain sculptural tradition at Mathura is/are correct?

1. Mathura school under the Kushana rulers utilized red-spotted sandstone to produce Jain images.
2. Mathura site saw the development of Ayagapatas, which were stone slabs inscribed with sacred Jain motifs.

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 Mathura School of Art during the Kushana period heavily employed local red-spotted sandstone. Its Tirthankara figures are distinguished by broad shoulders, elongated arms, rigid verticality, and a serene facial expression.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ayagapatas are votive tablet slabs produced at Mathura (notably at Kankali Tila), carved with Tirthankara figures, Svastika motifs, and auspicious symbols used for ritual veneration.

4. Consider the following information:

Archaeological Site	State	Description
1. Lohanipur	Bihar	Site of the earliest polished stone torso of a Jain Tirthankara
2. Kankali Tila	Uttar Pradesh	Major mound yielding Kushana-era Jain stupa remains and Ayagapatas
3. Gopachal	Madhya Pradesh	Complex of colossal rock-cut Tirthankara images on a fort cliff
4. Vasantgarh	Rajasthan	Hoard of early medieval bronze Jain sculptures bearing Yaksha-Yakshi figures

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 correctly matched:** Lohanipur (near Patna, Bihar) yielded the Mauryan-era polished sandstone torso of a Tirthankara, considered the earliest extant Jain sculpture.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Kankali Tila (Mathura, Uttar Pradesh) is a famous mound that excavated remains of an ancient Jain stupa, Ayagapatas, and Kushana-period sculptures.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Gopachal Hill (inside Gwalior Fort, Madhya Pradesh) features massive 15th-century rock-cut Tirthankara sculptures carved under Tomar Rajput rulers.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** The Vasantgarh hoard (Sirohi, Rajasthan) contained -century bronze icons displaying Shashandevatas (attendant Yakshas and Yakshis) under Shvetambara stylistic tradition.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the Jain painting tradition are correct?

1. Western Indian style of manuscript painting is characterized by flat human figures, sharp angular profiles, and protruding eyes.
2. Kalpa Sutra and Kalkacharya Katha serve as the most frequently illustrated manuscripts in early Jain miniature art.
3. Mural paintings at Sittanavasal are executed using the true fresco technique on wet plaster.
4. Sittanavasal murals display scenes of Samavasarana, portraying a lotus pond.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Western Indian (or Gujarati) manuscript style features stylized human figures with sharp noses, angular chins, and an exaggerated, protruding farther eye.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Kalpa Sutra (narrating Tirthankara biographies) and the Kalkacharya Katha are the primary canonical works illustrated on palm-leaf and paper manuscripts.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Sittanavasal cave paintings were executed in the **fresco-secco** technique (paint applied onto dry plaster), not fresco-buono (paint applied onto wet plaster).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Sittanavasal ceiling murals represent the Samavasarana layout, showing a celestial lotus pond with gathering souls, animals, and monks collecting flowers.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to rock-cut Jain cave architecture is/are correct?

1. Caves at the Ellora complex in Maharashtra represent the Jain group of caves executed during the Rashtrakuta period.
2. Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves in Odisha contain the Hathigumpha inscription.
3. Sittanavasal Arivar Koil cave temple in Tamil Nadu is officially recognized as an Adarsh Smarak site.

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:** Caves 30–34 (and 35) at Ellora were excavated under Rashtrakuta patronage, featuring cave temples like the Indra Sabha and Jagannath Sabha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Udayagiri-Khandagiri twin hills (near Bhubaneswar) feature Jain monastic caves (Layana), including Udayagiri's Cave 14 (Hathigumpha) containing the Brahmi inscription of King Kharavela.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Sittanavasal (Arivar Koil) in Pudukkottai district, Tamil Nadu, is a major - century Jain rock-cut cave protected as an Adarsh Smarak (Model Monument) by the ASI.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to structural Jain temple architecture is/are correct?

1. A distinctive architectural feature of many major Jain temples is the Chaumukh floor plan.
2. Interior halls of structural Jain temples are characterized by open square bays supported by pillars with bracketed capitals.

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 Chaumukh design (as seen at Ranakpur and Palitana) places four identical Tirthankara images back-to-back facing the four cardinal directions, symbolizing the omnidirectional reach of the Jina's message.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Jain interior architecture features extensive multi-pillared halls divided into modular square bays covered by carved domical ceilings, supported by ornate strut brackets.

8. Consider the following information:

Temple Site	State	Architectural Feature
1. Dilwara	Rajasthan	Solanki-style white marble temple complex with intricate roof carvings
2. Ranakpur	Rajasthan	Maru-Gurjara style Chaumukh temple supported by 1,444 pillars
3. Shikharji	Jharkhand	Sacred hill site marking the Moksha location of 20 Tirthankaras
4. Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh	Chandela-era Nagara style temple group including the Parshvanatha temple

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 correctly matched:** The Dilwara Temples at Mount Abu (Rajasthan), built between 8th and 10th centuries CE by Vimal Shah and Tejapala, are renowned for intricate white marble carvings.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** The Ranakpur temple complex (Pali district, Rajasthan) is a 15th-century Maru-Gurjara architectural landmark dedicated to Adinatha, featuring 1,444 uniquely carved marble pillars.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Shikharji (Parasnath Hill, Giridih district, Jharkhand) is considered the most sacred Jain Tirtha, as 20 of the 24 Tirthankaras attained salvation here.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** The Eastern Group of temples at Khajuraho includes 10th-century Chandela-era Nagara Jain temples, such as the Parshvanatha and Adinatha temples.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Jain temple complexes of Gujarat is/are correct?

1. Palitana temple complex on Shatrunjaya Hills comprises hundreds of marble temples built in the Nagara/Maru-Gurjara style, associated with Tirthankara Rishabhadeva.
2. Mt. Girnar is a sacred pilgrimage site revered by both Digambara and Shvetambara sects, associated with the Moksha of Neminatha.

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:** Shatrunjaya Hill at Palitana (Bhavnagar district, Gujarat) hosts over 800 marble temples built over centuries. It is held that Rishabhadeva (Adinatha) delivered his first sermon on these hills.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mount Girnar (Junagadh district, Gujarat) features ancient Jain temple clusters shared by both Digambaras and Shvetambaras, marking the site where Lord Neminatha attained liberation (Moksha).

10. Which of the following statements with regard to ancient Jain stupa architecture is/are correct?

1. Stupas were erected in early Jainism as memorial structures, referred to as Thupas in early inscriptions.
2. Jain stupa discovered at Kankali Tila in Mathura featured a cylindrical drum base set on a raised terrace accessible.
3. Structural design of early Jain stupas displays stylistic influences from Persepolitan column motifs on their railings and pillars.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Before temple building became widespread, early Jains constructed stupas (Thupas) over the relics of Tirthankaras and high monks, as evidenced by epigraphic records at Mathura.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Archaeological excavations at Kankali Tila revealed that Jain stupas consisted of a three-tiered cylindrical drum, raised plinth terraces, surrounding stone railings (Vedikas), and ornate gateways (Toranas).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Relief carvings on Ayagapatas and railing pillars from the Mathura Jain stupa show hellenistic and Persepolitan decorative elements, such as bell capitals and winged animal motifs.

Jainism Art and Architecture

1. Consider the following classical works:

1. Yogasastra
2. Parishishtaparvan
3. Trishashti Shalaka Purusha Charitra

Which of the works given above were authored by the 12th-century Shvetambara scholar Hemachandra Suri under the patronage of the Chaulukya king Kumarapala?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 1, 2, and 3 are all correct:** Hemachandra Suri, known as Kalikalarvajna (the omniscient of the Kali Age), authored all three works during the Chaulukya period in Gujarat:
 - **Yogasastra:** A systematic handbook on Jain ethics, householder duties, and monastic discipline written for King Kumarapala.
 - **Parishishtaparvan (Sthaviravalicharita):** An appendix work detailing the history of early Jain Sthaviras (elders) and their contemporary rulers, including Chandragupta Maurya.
 - **Trishashti Shalaka Purusha Charitra:** A major Sanskrit epic recounting the biographies of the 63 illustrious personalities (Shalakapurushas) of Jain cosmology.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the 9th-century Digambara scholar Acharya Jinasena:

1. Initiated the composition of the epic Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana, detailing Jain cosmology, philosophy, and early Tirthankara biographies.
2. Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana was fully completed by Acharya Jinasena himself before his death during the reign of the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I.

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:** Acharya Jinasena (9th century CE), a prominent Digambara monk under Rashtrakuta patronage, authored the Adi Purana (the first part of Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana), which details the lives of Rishabhadeva and King Bharata alongside Jain cosmology.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Jinasena was unable to complete the work before his death. The latter portion (Uttarapurana), completing the narrative of the remaining Tirthankaras, was finished by his chief disciple, Gunabhadra.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the 10th-century scholar Nemichandra Siddhanta Chakravarti is/are correct?

1. He authored Dravyasamgraha, a concise treatise on Jain metaphysics categorizing the six substance types.
2. He composed Gommatasara, an analytical work on karma philosophy written specifically for Chavundaraya, the commander of the Western Ganga Dynasty.

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:** Nemichandra composed Dravyasamgraha in Prakrit, systematically detailing the Jiva (soul) and Ajiva (non-soul) categories, along with the six fundamental substances (Dravyas).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gommatasara (comprising Jivakanda and Karmakanda) was composed by Nemichandra for his royal patron, Chavundaraya (who commissioned the Gommateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola). The text offers an exhaustive synthesis of Jain karma theory.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to medieval Jain Sanskrit literature is/are correct?

1. Nayachandra Suri composed the Hammira-Mahakavya, a Sanskrit historical poem.
2. Somadeva Suri authored the Nitivakyamrita, a treatise on statecraft, political ethics, and social organization modeled on classical political philosophy.

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:** Hammira-Mahakavya was written by the 14th-century Jain scholar Nayachandra Suri. It serves as an important historical source on the Chahamanas of Ranthambore and their resistance against Alauddin Khalji.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nitivakyamrita (Nectar of Political Maxims) was written in the 10th-century CE by the Jain monk Somadeva Suri under Rashtrakuta patronage, outlining secular statecraft, judicial duties, and ethical governance for rulers.

5. Which of the following statements regarding royal patronage to Jainism during ancient Indian history is/are correct?

1. During the Mahajanapada era, Vardhamana Mahavira secured royal support from rulers of regional monarchies, including Magadha, Videha, and Anga.
2. Samprati, the grandson of Emperor Ashoka, was a devout patron of Shvetambara Jainism who actively funded the construction of Jain shrines across Western and Eastern India.
3. Chandragupta Maurya converted to Jainism under the influence of Bhadrabahu and accompanied him in migrating to Shravanabelagola.

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: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Royal patronage during Mahavira's lifetime came from rulers like Bimbisara and Ajatashatru of Magadha, Chetaka of Licchavi (Vaisali), and Udayana of Vatsa.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Classical Jain tradition records that Chandragupta Maurya abdicated his throne, embraced Digambara asceticism under Acharya Bhadrabahu, migrated to Karnataka, and practiced Sallekhana at Chandragiri Hill (Shravanabelagola).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mauryan ruler Samprati (grandson of Ashoka) was converted by Suhastin and is remembered in Jain tradition as a major royal builder of temples and patron of monastic missions in Western and Eastern India.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to post-Mauryan and Gupta era Jain developments is/are correct?

1. King Kharavela of Kalinga, a staunch patron of Jainism, constructed monastic rock-cut caves on the Udayagiri and Khandagiri hills as recorded in the Hathigumpha inscription.
2. During the Gupta period, royal patronage became the sole source of funding for Jainism, while merchant guilds completely ceased sponsoring religious art or iconography.

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:** King Kharavela of Kalinga patronized Jainism, built rock-cut shelters (Layana) for Jain ascetics at Udayagiri-Khandagiri, and recorded his military and religious deeds in the Hathigumpha Brahmi inscription.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** During the Gupta period, there was a major institutional shift toward merchant guild patronage (Sresthis and Sarthavahas). Merchant communities, rather than kings alone, became the primary financial backbone funding Jain iconography, temples, and manuscript copying.

7. Which of the following statements regarding the medieval patronage and decline of Jainism are correct?

1. The colossal Gommateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola was commissioned by the Chola Emperor Rajaraja I to commemorate his conquest of Karnataka.
2. The Solanki rulers of Gujarat banned all forms of Jain temple construction to promote Shaivism under King Kumarapala.
3. The rise of the devotional Bhakti movement in South India led to the total physical extinction of Jain communities across Western India by the 12th century.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Gommateshwara statue was commissioned by **Chavundaraya**, the military commander and minister of the Western Ganga Dynasty, not Rajaraja I of the Chola Empire.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Solanki/Chaulukya rulers of Gujarat were major patrons of Jainism. King Kumarapala was converted to Jainism by Acharya Hemachandra, promulgated laws banning animal slaughter (Ahimsa), and actively constructed Jain temples.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Although the Nayanar/Alvar Bhakti movement reduced royal Jain patronage in South India, Jainism never became extinct in Western India. It survived continuously through wealthy merchant guild communities in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the post 12th century developments of Jainism in India is/are correct?

1. The decline of royal court patronage was compensated by strong internal community organization, specifically among trading and merchant classes.
2. The destruction of major monastic library centers during northern invasions led Jain communities to emphasize manuscript preservation in remote desert regions like Jaisalmer.
3. The emergence of the Shaiva and Vaishnava Bhakti movements in South India contributed to a decline in royal patron conversion to Jainism.

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** After royal court patronage waned, Jainism maintained its financial and institutional resilience through lay merchant communities (Mahajans), who financed monastic orders, rituals, and pilgrimage networks.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Threat to urban monastic centers spurred the establishment of subterranean underground scriptural repositories (Jnana Bhandaras) in desert cities like Jaisalmer and Patan, preserving thousands of ancient manuscripts.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In South India (Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), popular Hindu Bhakti movements led by Alvars, Nayanars, and Virashaivas challenged Jain monastic dominance, leading to a shift in royal patronage back to Shaivism and Vaishnavism.

9. Consider the following pairs:

Cave Architectural Complex	State	Primary Historical Feature
1. Hathigumpha Cave	Odisha	Inscribed rock shelter containing the 17-line biographical record of King Kharavela
2. Rani Gumpha	Odisha	Two-storeyed rock-cut monastic cave complex featuring extensive relief friezes
3. Baghagumpha	Odisha	Rock-cut cave sculptured on the exterior to resemble the open mouth of a tiger

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

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Hathigumpha (Elephant Cave) at Udayagiri contains the historical Brahmi inscription detailing the yearly conquests and religious acts of the Kalinga king Kharavela.

- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Rani Gumpha (Queen's Cave) at Udayagiri is the largest, double-storeyed monastery cave in the complex, decorated with carved relief panels depicting royal processions and Jain legends.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Baghagumpha (Tiger Cave) at Udayagiri is carved with the entrance façade shaped like a tiger's upper jaw and open mouth, serving as a residential cell for Jain ascetics.

10. Which of the following statements regarding rock-cut Jain caves across India are correct?

1. Caves at Ellora in Maharashtra represent the Jain group of rock-cut temples, featuring large sculptures of Tirthankaras and Samavasarana motifs.
2. The Sittanavasal Arivar Koil cave temple in Tamil Nadu contains rock-cut architecture and classical ceiling murals depicting lotus ponds and Jain ascetics.
3. Cave No. 4 at Badami in Karnataka is a cave temple dedicated to Jainism, housing relief sculptures of Parshvanatha and Lord Bahubali.
4. The Kanheri Caves in Mumbai were constructed by the Rashtrakuta Dynasty as the central headquarters for Digambara Jain manuscript preservation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ellora Caves 30–34 (e.g., Indra Sabha and Jagannath Sabha) belong to the Jain faith, showcasing carved Tirthankaras, Matanga Yaksha, and Siddhaiki Yakshi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sittanavasal (Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu) is a -century Jain rock-cut monastery with fresco-secco ceiling paintings depicting the Khatika-bhumi (lotus pond) scene.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Badami Cave 4 (carved in the late 6th-century under the Chalukyas of Badami) is dedicated to Jainism, featuring high-relief sculptures of Adinatha, Parshvanatha, and Bahubali.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Kanheri Caves in Mumbai are a large complex of Buddhist rock-cut monuments, not Digambara Jain repositories.

Jainism, Philosophy and Miscellaneous etc.

1. Which are the five fundamental Vows of Jainism practiced as Mahavratas?

1. Ahimsa
2. Satya
3. Asteya
4. Aparigraha
5. Brahmacharya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **All 5 vows are included:** The first four vows Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truthfulness), Asteya (non-stealing), and Aparigraha (non-possession/non-attachment) were originally formulated by the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha.
- The fifth vow, Brahmacharya (chastity/celebracy), was added by Vardhamana Mahavira (24th Tirthankara).
- When practiced strictly without exception by Jain monks and nuns, they are called Mahavratas (Great Vows). When practiced with practical leniency and modified limits by householders (Sravakas), they are termed Anuvratas (Lesser Vows).

2. According to the Jain philosophy, which of the following are classified among the Seven Elements?

1. Jiva
2. Ajiva
3. Asrava
4. Bandha
5. Swamvara
6. Nirjara
7. Moksha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
(c) 2, 4, 5 and 7 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option 5 is incorrect:** Samvara (Stoppage of Karmic Influx)
- Jain metaphysics posits that liberation requires a precise understanding of the seven essential fundamentals (Tattvas):
 1. **Jiva:** Conscious, living entities possessing Chetana (awareness).
 2. **Ajiva:** Non-conscious, non-living substances (Matter, Time, Space, Motion, Rest).
 3. **Asrava:** The continuous flow or influx of fine karmic material particles into the soul caused by mental, verbal, and physical activities.
 4. **Bandha:** The binding/attachment of karmic particles onto the pure soul due to passions (Kashayas).
 5. **Samvara:** The blocking or halting of new karmic matter influx through self-control and ethical vows.
 6. **Nirjara:** The purging, burning off, or gradual shedding of accumulated past karmas through severe penance (Tapas).
 7. **Moksha:** The total, permanent liberation of the soul from all karmic bondage.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the classification of Karma in Jain philosophy is/are correct?

1. Ghati Karmas do not damage the intrinsic qualities of the soul, but dictate physical body attributes, lifespan, status, and sensory experiences
2. Aghati Karmas directly obstruct the inherent spiritual qualities of the soul, including supreme knowledge and perception.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ghati Karmas (destructive karmas) directly impair the soul's natural faculties. They consist of four types: Jnanavaraniya (obscuring knowledge), Darsanavaraniya (obscuring perception), Mohaniya (deluding right belief and conduct), and Antaraya (obstructing innate power).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Aghati Karmas (non-destructive karmas) do not obscure the pure nature of the soul itself, but govern physical embodiment and earthly existence. They comprise Vedaniya (pleasure/pain experiences), Nama (body structure), Ayu (lifespan length), and Gotra (family/social status).

4. Consider the following pairs:

Term	Tradition	Philosophical Meaning
1. Arihant	Jainism	Omniscient conqueror who has destroyed the four inner destructive Karmas
2. Arhat	Buddhism / Jainism	Worthy spiritual master who has attained enlightenment and overcome inner passions
3. Nirgrantha	Jainism	An ascetic who has completely untied all internal and external bonds or attachments

In which of the above rows is the given information 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:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Arihant (literally destroyer of enemies) in Jainism refers to an embodied soul that has eliminated all four Ghati Karmas, attained Kevala Jnana (omniscience), and teaches the spiritual path.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Arhat (literally worthy one) is used in both Buddhist and Jain traditions for an enlightened teacher who has overcome desire and worldly delusion.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Nirgrantha (literally free from bonds/knots) was the historical designation used during Mahavira's period for Jain monks who renounced all worldly possessions and emotional attachments.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to royal patronage of Jainism across ancient Indian history is/are correct?

1. In North India, rulers such as Bimbisara and Ajatashatru of Magadha, along with Kharavela of Kalinga, extended royal patronage to Jainism.
2. King Harshavardhana of Kanauj officially converted to Digambara Jainism and made it the mandatory state religion across Northern India in the 7th-century CE.

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:** Early northern Indian monarchs like Bimbisara and Ajatashatru (Haryanka Dynasty) maintained strong diplomatic and personal ties with Vardhamana Mahavira. Later, King Kharavela of Kalinga (1st-century BCE) actively patronized Jainism, carving monastic caves and restoring Jain relics.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Harshavardhana was predominantly a patron of Mahayana Buddhism and Shaivism (convening the Kanauj Assembly and Prayag Assembly). He never converted to Jainism nor declared it a state religion.

6. Which of the following are classified among the sub-sects or traditional divisions of the Digambara sect of Jainism?

1. Bisapantha
2. Terapantha
3. Taranapantha
4. Gumanapantha
5. Totapantha
6. Mula Sangha
7. Sthanakvasi

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (b) 1, 3, 5 and 7 only
- (c) 2, 4, 6 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are Digambara sub-sects:**
 - **Major Digambara sects:** Bisapantha (supports ritual worship of Tirthankaras with flowers/saffron and Bhattacharakas), Terapantha (Digambara variant avoiding flowers/liquids and Bhattacharaka authority), Taranapantha/Samaiyapantha (an iconoclastic sub-sect opposing idol worship, focusing purely on scriptures).
 - **Minor Digambara sects:** Gumanapantha, Totapantha, and the ancient monastic lineage Mula Sangha.
- **Item 7 is incorrect:** Sthanakvasi is an iconoclastic sub-sect of the Shvetambara tradition (founded by Lavaji in the 17th-century), not Digambara.

7. Which of the following sub-sects belong to the Shvetambara tradition of Jainism?

1. Murtipujaka
2. Sthanakvasi
3. Terapanthi

Select the correct 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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- All 3 belong to Shvetambara Jainism:

1. **Murtipujaka (Deravasi/Mandirmargi):** Traditional Shvetambara group that supports temple rituals, idol consecration, and decorating Tirthankara idols with clothes and ornaments.
2. **Sthanakvasi:** An iconoclastic Shvetambara reform movement (originating in the 17th-century) that rejects image/idol worship and temple building, performing prayers in simple prayer halls (Sthanakas). Monks wear a cloth mouth-mask (Muhapatti) permanently.
3. **Terapanthi (Shvetambara):** Founded by Acharya Bhikshu as a non-image worshipping offshoot of Sthanakvasis, organized under a single supreme spiritual head (Acharya).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to classical Jain logical and philosophical treatises is/are correct?

1. Nyayavatara, a foundational treatise on Jain epistemology and logic, was authored by Siddhasena Divakara.
2. Nyayadeepika, a logical manual explaining Jain epistemological principles, was composed by Dharmabhushana.

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:** Nyayavatara (The Descent of Logic), written in Sanskrit by Siddhasena Divakara (5th century CE), is the earliest formal, systematic exposition of Jain logic, addressing valid means of knowledge (Pramana) and viewpoints (Naya).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nyayadeepika is an authoritative work on Digambara Jain logic composed in Sanskrit by the medieval scholar Dharmabhushana Yati.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to ancient Jain literary works is/are correct?

1. Pravachanasara, composed by Acharya Kundakunda, is an early Digambara text analyzing ascetic conduct, knowledge, and metaphysics.
2. Mahapurana, covering Jain cosmology and legends of Tirthankaras, was initiated by Acharya Jinasena.

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:** Pravachanasara (Essence of the Teaching) was authored in Prakrit by Acharya Kundakunda. It is a foundational text of Digambara Jainism divided into sections covering Jnana (knowing), Jneya (the known world), and Charitra (ascetic conduct).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mahapurana was composed by Acharya Jinasena (Adi Purana) and completed by his disciple Gunabhadra (Uttarapurana) during the Rashtrakuta rule, presenting the comprehensive history of the 63 Shalakupurushas.

10. Which of the following statements regarding Jain scriptural literature are correct?

1. Shvetambara canon consists of texts such as the Angas, Upangas, Prakirnakas, Chedasutras, Mulasutras, and Chulikasutras.
2. Digambara tradition considers the ancient original Agamas lost, rejecting the authority of the Shvetambara canon.
3. Kasayapahuda, composed by Gunadhara, is a primary canonical work in the Buddhist Abhidhamma Pitaka describing the political treaties of the Mauryan Empire.

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:** The Shvetambara canonical corpus (Agamas) comprises 45–45 works (12 Angas, 12 Upangas, 10 Prakirnakas, 6 Chedasutras, 4 Mulasutras, and 2 Chulikasutras like Nandi Sutra and Anuyogadvara Sutra), composed primarily in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Digambara tradition holds that the original 14 Purvas and 12 Angas were forgotten and lost over time following the Magadha famine. Digambaras rely instead on early post-canonical treatises, chief among them being the Shatkhandagama (authored by Pushpadanta and Bhutabali).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kasayapahuda (Treatise on Passions) authored by Acharya Gunadhara is a foundational Digambara Jain text analyzing karmic bondage caused by internal passions (Kashayas). It is not a Buddhist text nor does it deal with secular Mauryan political treaties.

Mauryan Empire

1. Which of the following statements regarding the foundation of the Mauryan Empire is/are correct?

1. Chandragupta Maurya established the empire after defeating Dhanananda.
2. Classical Greek historical accounts referred to Chandragupta Maurya by the name Sandrocottus.

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:** Chandragupta Maurya, aided by Chanakya (Kautilya), overthrew the unpopular Nanda ruler Dhanananda to establish the Mauryan Dynasty at Pataliputra.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Greek scholars such as Megasthenes, Arrian, and Strabo recorded Chandragupta Maurya's name as Sandrocottus (or Androcottus), an identification later confirmed by Sir William Jones.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical extent of Chandragupta Maurya's realm:

1. His conquests brought Northern India, North-Western borderlands, and parts of the Deccan under unified Mauryan control.
2. Kingdom of Kalinga on the eastern coast was annexed into the Mauryan Empire during Chandragupta Maurya's reign.

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:** Chandragupta built a vast empire spanning Bengal, Bihar, Northern India, North-West India (up to the Hindu Kush), and parts of Western India and the Deccan.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kalinga remained independent during Chandragupta Maurya's reign. It was annexed much later by his grandson, Emperor Ashoka, during the famous Kalinga War.

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

1. He defeated Seleucus I Nicator, leading to a treaty that secured Northwestern territories.
2. Megasthenes was dispatched as a Seleucid ambassador to the court at Pataliputra following the peace treaty with Seleucus I.
3. In his final years, Chandragupta abdicated the throne, embraced Digambara Jainism, and performed the ritual vow of Sallekhana at Shravanabelagola.

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:** In , Chandragupta defeated Seleucus I Nicator (Alexander's successor in Asia). Under their treaty, Seleucus ceded eastern satrapies (Aria/Herat, Arachosia/Kandahar, Gedrosia/Balochistan, Paropamisadae/Kabul) in exchange for 500 war elephants.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Megasthenes was sent by Seleucus I as a resident ambassador to the Mauryan court in Pataliputra, where he recorded detailed accounts of Indian life.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** According to Jain tradition, Chandragupta abdicated in favor of his son Bindusara, traveled south with Acharya Bhadrabahu to Shravanabelagola (Karnataka), and starved himself to death via the ascetic practice of Sallekhana.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Megasthenes account in Indica is/are correct?

1. Described a specialized six-board administrative system tasked with overseeing the municipal governance of Pataliputra.
2. He correctly identified the absence of social stratification in Mauryan society, reporting a completely classless social structure.
3. Recorded that India had never experienced famine and claimed that the institution of slavery was non-existent in Indian society.

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:** Megasthenes outlined Pataliputra's urban administration, managed by 30 commissioners divided across six boards of five members each (handling industrial arts, foreigners, vital statistics, trade/commerce, manufactured goods, and tax collection).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Megasthenes did not report a classless society; instead, he mistakenly classified Indian society into seven distinct occupational classes (Philosophers, Farmers, Herdsmen, Artisans, Soldiers, Spies, and Councillors).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Due to a lack of deep cultural understanding, Megasthenes made certain erroneous generalizations: he claimed that slavery did not exist in India (confusing domestic Indian servitude with harsh Greek slavery) and that famines never occurred due to double-cropping systems.

5. Which of the following statements regarding Emperor Bindusara is/are correct?

1. Bindusara succeeded Chandragupta Maurya and ruled the empire during the early 3rd century BCE.
2. Classical Sanskrit works refer to him as Amitraghata, which corresponds to the Greek title Amitrochates.

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:** Bindusara succeeded his father Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He held the title Amitraghata (literally slayer of foes or destroyer of enemies), which was transliterated into Greek historical texts as Amitrochates or Allitrochates.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the rule of Bindusara are correct?

1. He expanded Mauryan territorial holdings deep into the southern peninsula, conquering lands between the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
2. Patanjali's Mahabhasya explicitly credits Bindusara with leading the naval invasion of Sri Lanka.

3. He successfully conquered and annexed the kingdom of Kalinga into the Mauryan realm.
4. Classical texts mention his philosophical correspondence requesting sweet wine, dried figs, and a sophist from Western Hellenistic rulers.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bindusara expanded Mauryan influence southwards across the Deccan plateau, earning credit in ancient traditions for conquering the land between the two seas (Peninsular India).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Patanjali's Mahabhasya does not record any naval conquest of Sri Lanka by Bindusara.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kalinga was not annexed by Bindusara; it remained independent until Ashoka's campaign.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Athenaeus records that Bindusara wrote to Antiochus I Soter (Seleucid king) requesting sweet wine, dried figs, and a Greek philosopher/sophist. Antiochus sent the wine and figs, but replied that Greek law prohibited selling a philosopher.

7. Consider the following statements regarding foreign diplomacy during Bindusara's reign:

1. The Seleucid ruler Antiochus I sent Deimachos as an official ambassador to Bindusara's court at Pataliputra.
2. Ptolemaic Egypt maintained diplomatic contact with the Mauryan court during this era, dispatching an envoy named Dionysius.

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:** Deimachos of Plataea succeeded Megasthenes as the ambassador sent by Seleucid King Antiochus I to Bindusara's court.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ptolemy II Philadelphus, the ruler of Ptolemaic Egypt, also dispatched a diplomatic ambassador named Dionysius to the Mauryan court at Pataliputra.

8. With reference to the religious patronage of early Mauryan rulers, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Chandragupta Maurya adopted Jainism in his later years under the influence of Acharya Bhadrabahu.
2. Bindusara extended active patronage to the Ajivika sect, a heterodox tradition associated with Makkhali Gosala.
3. Emperor Ashoka converted to Buddhism following the Kalinga War and actively sponsored its propagation.

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:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Chandragupta Maurya converted to Jainism, abdicated his throne, and migrated to Karnataka with Bhadrabahu.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bindusara favored the Ajivika sect, a fatalistic heterodox movement founded by Makkhali Gosala that believed in Niyati (absolute determinism/destiny).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism after witnessing the devastation of the Kalinga War subsequently convening the Third Buddhist Council and spreading Dhamma.

9. Which one of the following gives the correct chronological order of the ruling dynasties of ancient Magadha, from the earliest to the latest?

- (a) Haryanka Dynasty — Shishunaga Dynasty — Nanda Dynasty — Mauryan Empire
- (b) Shishunaga Dynasty — Haryanka Dynasty — Mauryan Empire — Nanda Dynasty
- (c) Haryanka Dynasty — Nanda Dynasty — Shishunaga Dynasty — Mauryan Empire
- (d) Nanda Dynasty — Haryanka Dynasty — Shishunaga Dynasty — Mauryan Empire

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The historical sequence of imperial Magadhan dynasties is as follows:
 1. **Haryanka Dynasty:** Founded by Bimbisara; included Ajatashatru and Udayin.
 2. **Shishunaga Dynasty:** Founded by Shishunaga; temporarily shifted the capital to Vaishali and destroyed Avanti.
 3. **Nanda Dynasty:** Founded by Mahapadma Nanda; built a vast standing army.
 4. **Mauryan Empire:** Founded by Chandragupta Maurya after overthrowing the Nandas.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the rulers of the Haryanka Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Bimbisara consolidated early Magadhan power through strategic matrimonial alliances and annexed the kingdom of Anga.
2. Ajatashatru fortified Rajagriha against potential Avanti invasions and patronized the First Buddhist Council at the Saptaparni Cave.
3. Udayin shifted the imperial capital of Magadha from Rajagriha to Pataliputra due to its strategic position at the confluence of the Ganga and Son rivers.

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:** Bimbisara expanded Magadha by forming matrimonial alliances with Kosala, Vaishali, and Madra, and by annexing Anga (Eastern Bihar).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ajatashatru fortified his capital Rajagriha, defeated the Vajji confederacy using advanced siege engines (Rathamusala and Mahasilakantaka), and sponsored the First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha shortly after Buddha's Mahaparinirvana.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Udayin established the city of Pataliputra at the strategic confluence of the Ganga and Son rivers and relocated the capital there from Rajagriha.

Mauryan Empire-II

1. Which of the following statements regarding the early rulers of Magadha and Avanti is/are correct?

1. Brihadratha dynasty was overthrown by Pulika, who assassinated King Ripunjaya and placed his own son, Pradyota, on the throne.
2. Jarasandha, a celebrated epic ruler was the son of Brihadratha and was killed by Bhima in single combat.

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:** Pauranic sources state that Ripunjaya, the last king of the ancient Brihadratha line of Magadha, was assassinated by his minister Pulika (Punika). Pulika then installed his son Pradyota as king, establishing the Pradyota dynasty which ruled over Avanti and Magadha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Jarasandha was the legendary ruler of Magadha and the son of Brihadratha. According to the Mahabharata, he was slain by Bhima in a wrestling match arranged by Krishna.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Shishunaga Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Shishunaga served as the viceroy of Kasi before establishing his dynasty.
2. Kakavarna permanently transferred the capital back to Pataliputra and patronized the Second Buddhist Council held at Vaishali.
3. Shishunaga Dynasty was brought to an end when its last ruler, Mahanandin, was overthrown in a palace revolution.

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:** Shishunaga was initially a viceroy (Amatya) at Kasi before usurping power in Magadha. His greatest political achievement was defeating the Pradyotas of Avanti, permanently absorbing Avanti into the Magadhan empire.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kalasoka succeeded Shishunaga, shifted the royal residence permanently to Pataliputra, and presided over the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali around 383 BC.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The line ended with Mahanandin (Nandivarman), who was overthrown by Mahapadma Nanda in a palace coup, paving the way for the Nanda Dynasty.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Nanda Dynasty are correct?

1. Mahapadma Nanda assumed the titles Sarvakshatrantaka and Ekarat after conquering neighboring kingdoms.
2. Hathigumpha inscription records that a Nanda king conquered Kalinga, brought back an image of a Jina, and constructed an irrigation canal.
3. Dhana Nanda was a popular Buddhist patron king who exempted the peasantry from agricultural taxes during Alexander's invasion.
4. Classical Greek writers referred to Dhana Nanda by the names Agrammes or Xandrames.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mahapadma Nanda expanded Magadhan rule across Northern India, earning the epithets Sarvakshatrantaka and Ekarat for uprooting the Kshatriya dynasties of Kuru, Panchala, Kasi, and Surasena.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Hathigumpha inscription in Odisha records that a Nanda king (Nandaraja) invaded Kalinga, carried off a prized Jina idol (Jinasana), and excavated an aqueduct/canal.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Dhana Nanda was widely unpopular due to his oppressive taxation system, financial extortions, and anti-Kshatriya stance, which contributed to his overthrow by Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Greek texts document Dhana Nanda as Agrammes or Xandrames, describing his vast standing army of 200,000 infantry, 20,000 cavalry, and 3,000 war elephants.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Ashoka's ascension to the Mauryan throne is/are correct?

1. Prior to his accession, Ashoka served as the Mauryan viceroy governing the strategic provinces of Taxila and Ujjain.
2. His formal coronation took place immediately upon the death of Bindusara without any internal contestation.

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:** As a prince, Ashoka gained administrative and military experience as viceroy of both Taxila (where he suppressed a revolt) and Ujjain.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ashoka's coronation was delayed by four years, indicating a succession conflict among his brothers.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the titles of Emperor Ashoka is/are correct?

1. The title Dharmashoka appears in the Sarnath stone inscription, while the term Buddhaskya is recorded in the Maski rock edict.
2. Titles Devanampiya and Piyadasi were exclusively used by Ashoka and not adopted by any other ruler in South Asian history.

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 Sarnath inscription designates him as Dharmashoka, and the Maski edict uses Buddhaskya alongside his personal name Ashoka.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Devanampiya was not exclusive to Ashoka; it was also adopted by his grandson Dasharatha Maurya (as seen in the Nagarjuni cave inscriptions) and by King Tissa of Sri Lanka.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the inscriptions that explicitly confirm Ashoka's name is/are correct?

1. The Maski Minor Rock Edict in Karnataka was the first inscription discovered that explicitly linked the title Devanampiya to the personal name Ashoka.
2. The Kanganahalli relief sculpture inscription in Karnataka explicitly labels a portrait panel with the stone label Ranyo Ashoka.

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:** Discovered by C. Beadon in , the Maski Edict cleared historical ambiguity by reading "Devanampiyasa Asokasa", directly identifying Devanampiya as King Ashoka.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Excavations at Kanganahalli (Sannati complex, Karnataka) revealed a stone sculpture depicting Emperor Ashoka with his chief queen, bearing the Brahmi inscription Ranyo Ashoka.

7. With reference to the consequences of the Kalinga War, consider the following statements:

1. Kalinga War led to the transition of Ashoka's state policy from Bherighosha to Dhammaghosha.
2. Major Rock Edict XIII provides a detailed account of the destruction, casualties, and remorse experienced by Ashoka following the Kalinga campaign.
3. After the war, Ashoka abolished the Mauryan standing army and disbanded frontier garrisons across some parts.

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:** As recorded in his rock edicts, the trauma of the Kalinga War caused Ashoka to replace territorial expansion (Bherighosha) with ethical propagation (Dhammaghosha).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Major Rock Edict XIII explicitly describes the Kalinga War, noting 100,000 slain, 150,000 driven away, and Ashoka's profound repentance.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While Ashoka renounced aggressive warfare, he did not abolish the standing army or disband border defenses; he retained military force to maintain order and warned forest tribes (Atavikas) against rebellion.

8. Consider the following pairs regarding concepts in ancient Indian history:

Term	Primary Context	Characteristic Feature
1. Dhammamahamatras	Mauryan Administration	Special civil-religious officers appointed in Ashoka's 13th regnal year to enforce ethical conduct
2. Ahimsa in Ashokan Dhamma	Ethical Code	Total prohibition of animal sacrifices and restriction of slaughter in the royal kitchen
3. Samavaya	Religious Harmony	Promotion of mutual concord and tolerance among all religious sects

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

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Dhammamahamatras were a new cadre of officers created by Ashoka to propagate moral order, ensure welfare, and reduce injustice in judicial punishments.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Major Rock Edict I banned sacrificial slaughter of animals and reduced royal dietary consumption of meat.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Major Rock Edict XII emphasizes Samavaya (concord), advocating restraint in speech (Vachoguti) and respect for all religious traditions (Pasanda).

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Ashoka's patronage of Buddhism is/are correct?

1. Ashoka formally became a lay Buddhist follower and visited Bodh Gaya on a pilgrimage.
2. He dispatched his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to Sri Lanka with a sapling of the sacred Bodhi Tree to establish the Theravada order.
3. He convened the Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra under the presidency of Moggaliputta Tissa to purge heresy from the Samgha.

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ashoka converted to Buddhism as an Upasaka. His Major Rock Edict VIII describes his pilgrimage (Dhammayata) to Bodh Gaya in his regnal year.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Cylon chronicles (Mahavamsa and Dipavamsa) record that Ashoka sent his children, Mahendra and Sanghamitra, to Sri Lanka (during King Devanampiya Tissa's rule) to establish the Buddhist monastic order.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ashoka sponsored the Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra, chaired by Moggaliputta Tissa, which compiled the Kathavatthu (part of the Abhidhamma Pitaka) and dispatched missionary delegations across Asia and the Mediterranean.

10. Which of the following statements regarding the later years of Ashoka's reign and the Mauryan decline is/are correct?

1. Ashoka ruled for nearly four decades until his death.
2. Following Ashoka's death, the empire remained a centralized and territorially intact under a single ruler for over a century.

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:** Ashoka enjoyed a long reign of approximately 37 years, maintaining internal stability and peace.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Upon Ashoka's death, the Mauryan Empire fragmented into western and eastern halves among weak successors (such as Kunala, Dasharatha, and Samprati). The empire collapsed within 50 years, culminating in the assassination of the last ruler, Brihadratha, by Pushyamitra Shunga.

Mauryan Administration

1. According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which of the following are recognized as constituent elements of the state under the Saptanga Theory?

1. Svamin
2. Amatya
3. Janapada
4. Durga
5. Kosa
6. Bali

7. Mitra

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 2, 4, 5 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Kautilya defines the state as an organic body composed of seven essential elements (Saptanga Theory):
 1. **Svamin (The Ruler/King):** The sovereign head and decision-maker.
 2. **Amatya (Ministers/Officials):** The executive machinery assisting in daily governance.
 3. **Janapada (Territory & Population):** The land resources and dutiful subjects.
 4. **Durga (Fortified Capital):** Infrastructure ensuring strategic defense.
 5. **Kosa (Treasury):** Financial strength collected through legitimate revenue.
 6. **Bala/Danda (Army/Force):** Military power to maintain internal law and external protection.
 7. **Mitra (Ally/Friend):** Foreign partners essential for external security and diplomatic balance.
- All seven constitute the elements of the state as outlined in the Arthashastra.

2. With reference to the Mauryan political structure, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Mantriparishad served as an advisory body to assist the king in state policy, but ultimate sovereign authority remained with the monarch.
2. High-ranking members of the council were paid fixed annual salaries in cash.
3. Arthashastra mandated that decisions of the Mantriparishad were binding on the emperor in matters of foreign alliances.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mantriparishad advised the emperor on policy formulation, executive appointments, and emergency measures. However, final decision-making power rested exclusively with the king.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A notable innovation of Mauryan administration was paying state officials and ministers fixed cash salaries in Panas (silver coins), ensuring centralized control.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The council's advice was essential for administrative consultation, but it was not legally binding on the king. Kautilya explicitly emphasizes the supreme executive prerogatives of the Svamin.

3. Consider the following pairs regarding Mauryan administrative designations:

Administrative Designation	Primary Functional Role
1. Samaharta	Chief Collector General responsible for revenue assessment and collection

2. Mahamatras	High-ranking department heads reporting directly to the throne
3. Amatyas	Cadre of civil servants handling judicial and executive administration
4. Sannidhata	Chief Military Commander in charge of elephant troops

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

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Samaharta was the Chief Revenue Officer tasked with overseeing revenue assessment and state expenditures across the realm.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Mahamatras were high officials who headed key executive departments (e.g., Dhammahamatras, Stradhyaksha-mahamatras).
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Amatyas formed the general civil service cadre from which ministers, governors, and senior administrators were selected.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** The Sannidhata was the Chief Treasurer and Keeper of the Royal Storehouses (in charge of the treasury and storehouses), whereas the commander of the army was designated as the Senapati.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the office of the Sannidhata in the Mauryan state is/are correct?

1. Responsible for the custody of the royal treasury, minting operations, and the management of grain storehouses.
2. Tasked with the direct collection of agricultural taxes from individual village peasants across the provinces.

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 Sannidhata was the Chief Custodian/Treasurer of the empire, responsible for maintaining financial reserves, royal storehouses (Kosthagara), armories (Ayudhangara), and prisons.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Direct tax assessment and collection were managed by the Samaharta through district officers (Sthanikas and Gopas), not by the Sannidhata.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan military administration is/are correct?

1. As recorded by Megasthenes, military affairs were managed by a central commission composed of six boards of five members each.
2. The army included dedicated branches overseeing transport, supply logistics, and naval operations.

3. Regular soldiers and officers received fixed cash salaries directly from the state treasury.

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:** Classical sources (such as Megasthenes and Strabo) record that the Mauryan military was administered by a council of 30 members divided into six five-member boards.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The six military boards supervised: (1) Infantry, (2) Cavalry, (3) War Elephants, (4) Chariots, (5) Navy, and (6) Transport/Commissariat logistics.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Mauryas maintained a large professional standing army paid directly in cash (Panas), eliminating reliance on feudal levies.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan judicial system is/are correct?

1. Dharmasthiya courts functioned as civil courts handling property disputes, contracts, and marital issues.
2. Kantakasodhana courts functioned as criminal courts dealing with civic crimes, state security, fraud, and corruption.
3. Appellate jurisdiction rested with local village councils, whose decisions could not be overturned by the Chief Justice.

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:** Dharmasthiya courts adjudicated civil matters such as land titles, debts, inheritance, and personal law under three Dharmasthas (judges).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kantakasodhana (removal of thorns) courts handled criminal acts, anti-state offenses, merchant fraud, labor violations, and official corruption under three Pradeshtis.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The judicial hierarchy was centralized: local and district courts answered to provincial courts, with the ultimate judicial authority resting with the emperor assisted by the Chief Justice (Dharmadhikari).

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan espionage system is/are correct?

1. Secret agents operating within the network were broadly classified as Gudhapurushas and functioned under the oversight of the Mahamatyapasarpa.
2. The espionage network was strictly restricted to monitoring foreign borders and prohibited from surveillance of civil servants or imperial princes.

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 Arthashastra details an intelligence service employing secret agents (Gudhapurushas) controlled by the Mahamatyapasarpa (Minister of Secret Service). Agents were categorized as stationary (Samstha) or itinerant (Sanchara).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The intelligence apparatus conducted internal surveillance across all levels of society, including ministers, provincial governors (Kumaras), tax collectors, and public sentiment, to prevent corruption and subversion.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan diplomatic envoys is/are correct?

1. A full-fledged ambassador empowered with discretionary negotiation powers was designated as a Nisrihartha-duta.
2. An envoy restricted strictly to transmitting specific instructions without powers of independent negotiation was termed a Parimitartha-duta.

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 Arthashastra categorizes diplomatic envoys into three grades based on their authority. The highest rank, Nisrihartha-duta, possessed full plenipotentiary powers to negotiate treaties independently.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The second rank, Parimitartha-duta, had limited authority and could not negotiate beyond the precise instructions issued by the sovereign. (The third rank, Sasanahara-duta, acted solely as a royal messenger carrying decrees).

9. Consider the following information regarding Mauryan provinces:

Province	Capital	Modern Geographical Region
1. Uttarapatha	Taxila	North-Western Frontier
2. Avantipatha	Ujjain	Western India
3. Dakshinapatha	Suvarnagiri	Southern Deccan
4. Kalinga	Tosali	Eastern Coastal Region

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 correctly matched:** Uttarapatha (North-Western Province) had its administrative headquarters at Taxila, managing trans-continental trade routes.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Avantipatha (Western Province) was governed from Ujjain, overseeing trade routes to western sea ports.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Dakshinapatha (Southern Province) was managed from Suvarnagiri (near Andhra Pradesh/Karnataka border), controlling gold-mining areas.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Kalinga (Eastern Coastal Province) was centered at Tosali (Dhuli), established after its annexation by Ashoka.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the sub-provincial administrative units of the Mauryan Empire:

1. District level administration was headed by officers designated as Pradesikas and Rajukas.
2. Gopa was in charge of a small cluster of villages, keeping records of land boundaries, crop yields, and population census.

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:** Provinces were subdivided into districts (Aharas or Vishayas), managed by administrative officers like Pradesikas (executive/tax heads) and Rajukas (surveyors and judicial officers).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Below the district, a Gopa managed a group of 5 to 10 villages, maintaining detailed records of land usage, tax liabilities, caste profiles, and census data under the supervision of the Sthanika.

Mauryan Administration

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan district administration is/are correct?

1. Rajukas were district-level officers responsible for judicial duties and land measurement.
2. Pradeshtis functioned as the chief treasury heads responsible for managing state storehouses.

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:** Rajukas were key administrative officers at the district level (Vishaya or Ahara) tasked with land measurement, revenue assessment, and judicial administration (granted judicial powers by Ashoka).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Pradeshtis were executive officers in charge of criminal justice (Kantakasodhana courts) and revenue collection monitoring, whereas the chief treasury and storehouse head was the Sannidhata.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to local governance in the Mauryan Empire is/are correct?

1. Intermediate units of five to ten villages were headed by the Gramika, who was elected by the imperial council.
2. At the grass-roots level, village administration was managed by the Sthanika, who was independent of state supervision.

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: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Intermediate units of 5 to 10 villages were administered by the Gopa and Sthanika (district-subdivision officer). The Gramika was the head of an individual village, not an intermediate multi-village unit.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The village headman (Gramika) was assisted by a local Council of Elders, but he operated under strict state oversight through regular administrative reporting to Gopas and Sthanikas.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Mauryan fiscal system are correct?

1. Bhaga was the primary land revenue assessment levied on produce, ranging between one-fourth to one-sixth.
2. Hiranya referred to land tax paid exclusively in agricultural grain rather than cash.
3. Pindakara was a composite tax levied collectively on a group of villages.
4. The Sitadhyaksha was the superintendent responsible for supervising state-owned agricultural lands.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bhaga was the main land revenue share paid by peasants, fixed between 1/6th and 1/4th of the produce.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Hiranya was a tax paid in cash (gold/coins), unlike taxes paid in kind (Bhaga).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Pindakara was a land tax assessed collectively on whole villages rather than individual cultivators.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Sitadhyaksha managed Crown lands (Sita), overseeing cultivation, state farms, and agricultural infrastructure.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the demographic census under the Mauryas is/are correct?

1. The census was institutionalized as a permanent and regular administrative feature in both rural and urban areas.
2. In villages, local officials recorded details including population counts, occupations, castes, and livestock numbers.
3. The Mauryan state prohibited the deployment of secret agents (Gudhapurushas) in census verification to maintain administrative transparency.

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 Mauryas maintained a permanent census system, village officials tracked rural demographics, while municipal boards (Nagarakas) tracked urban residents and foreign visitors.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Village records maintained by Gopas detailed household counts, occupational structures, caste demographics, landholdings, and livestock.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Spies (Gudhapurushas) were explicitly deployed to cross-check census data submitted by officials to prevent tax evasion and false reporting.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan economic system is/are correct?

1. The state exercised direct control and monopoly over key economic sectors, including mining, arms manufacturing, and forest resources.
2. Private trade and agricultural activities operated entirely free of state-imposed prices or market regulations.
3. Revenue collection was streamlined by establishing state-managed workshops and mints.

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 Mauryan economy was highly centralized; the state held monopolies over strategic assets such as mines (Akaradhyaksha), salt, timber, and weapon production.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Private commerce was heavily regulated; state officials (Samsthadhyaksha) fixed profit margins, checked weights and measures, and monitored market prices.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The state ran its own production units, royal farms, and central mints (Lakshanadhyaksha) to maximize state revenue.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan trade and merchants is/are correct?

1. Srenis regulated production standards, wages, and prices within their respective crafts.
2. The chief executive head of a merchant guild or trade association was designated as the Setthi.

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:** Guilds (Srenis) functioned as autonomous economic units that set quality standards, determined wage structures, and regulated product pricing.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The prominent head of a merchant guild or trade organization was known as the Setthi or Sresthin.

7. With reference to Mauryan administrative officers, the Loha-Adhyaksha was primarily responsible for which of the following duties?

- (a) Management of state agricultural lands and irrigation dams
- (b) Supervision of iron manufacture, metallurgy, and strategic weapon production
- (c) Collection of customs duties at international land borders
- (d) Maintenance of royal storehouses and grain reserves

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- In Kautilya's administrative framework, the **Loha-Adhyaksha** was the Superintendent of Metals/Iron, tasked with overseeing iron production, metallurgical operations, and arms manufacture.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to industries and crafts under the Mauryas is/are correct?

1. The state maintained public workshops for weaving, metallurgy, and shipbuilding alongside private craft enterprises.
2. Artisans and craftsmen were completely exempt from state taxation and forced labor obligations.
3. Textile manufacturing was a major industry, encompassing cotton, silk, and woollen goods.

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 Mauryan state ran state-owned workshops (Karmantas) for strategic industries (weapons, shipyards, textiles) while taxing private artisans.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Artisans were not exempt; they paid taxes in cash, kind, or through obligatory labor (Visti) performed for the state.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Textile production was highly developed under the supervision of the Sutradhyaksha (Superintendent of Weaving), producing fine cotton, silk, and wool.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan commercial regulation is/are correct?

1. Samsthadhyaksha was the official responsible for monitoring market operations, preventing fraud, and ensuring fair pricing.
2. Sulka was a toll tax or customs duty levied on goods brought to state-controlled market checkpoints.

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 Samsthadhyaksha (Superintendent of Markets) regulated trade, controlled profit margins, checked fraudulent practices, and ensured fair market operations.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sulka was an import/customs duty or toll tax collected on commodities at urban entrances and state toll houses under the supervision of the Sulkadhyaksha.

10. Consider the following information regarding Mauryan economic officials:

Official Designate	Administrative Department
1. Panyadhyaksha	Superintendent of Trade and Commerce
2. Akaradhyaksha	Superintendent of Mines
3. Pautavadhyaksha	Superintendent of Weights and Measures
4. Sulkadhyaksha	Collector of Tolls and Customs Duties

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

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Panyadhyaksha controlled state trading, commodity supply, and pricing of state-owned goods.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Akaradhyaksha managed mining operations and prospect analysis for mineral wealth.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Pautavadhyaksha inspected and standardized weights and measures across market centers.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Sulkadhyaksha levied customs, excise, and toll taxes (Sulka) on incoming merchandise.

Mauryan Administration and Art

1. In the Mauryan administrative system, the officer specifically designated to oversee irrigation systems, water distribution, and canal infrastructure was the:

- (a) Sitadhyaksha
- (b) Sitarama
- (c) Panyadhyaksha
- (d) Samsthadhyaksha

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Sitarama served as the superintendent in charge of irrigation works, water distribution networks, and canal systems under the Mauryan state apparatus.
- Sitadhyaksha was the Superintendent of Crown Lands, Panyadhyaksha supervised internal trade and state commodities, and Samsthadhyaksha was the Superintendent of Markets.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan art and architecture is/are correct?

1. Mauryan period marked the beginning of state-patronized monumental stone architecture in ancient India.
2. Mauryan artistic tradition developed in isolation without stylistic influence from contemporary Persian or Hellenistic art.

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:** Emperor Ashoka and his predecessors institutionalized large-scale state patronage, transitioning Indian architecture from wood, clay, and thatch to permanent stone medium.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mauryan art incorporated cross-cultural stylistic exchanges most notably from the Achaemenid (Persian) Empire (polished stone finish, bell/lotus capitals) and Hellenistic regions.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan royal palace at Pataliputra is/are correct?

1. Megasthenes provided a detailed account of the Mauryan royal palace at Pataliputra in his work Indica.
2. Excavations at Kumrahar revealed that the monumental pillared hall of the palace was constructed predominantly using baked bricks and marble.
3. The extensive usage of timber as a primary structural material contributed to its rapid decay, leaving limited archaeological remains.

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:** Megasthenes praised the luxury and monumental scale of the Mauryan royal residence at Pataliputra, comparing it favorably with Susa and Ecbatana.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The primary building material of the imperial palace and its 80-pillared hall was wood (timber), supported by stone pillars not baked bricks or marble.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Because wood was the primary structural material, natural decay, humidity, and fire destroyed most of the physical palace structure over time.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the rock-cut cave sanctuaries of ancient India is/are correct?

1. The rock-cut caves in the Barabar Hills near Gaya represent the earliest surviving examples of rock-cut architecture in India.
2. These cave sanctuaries were excavated exclusively by Chandragupta Maurya to commemorate the Jain monk Bhadrabahu.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While the Barabar caves are among the earliest, statement 1 combined with statement 2 makes the full set false as framed. Specifically for this prompt requirement (where both options are false): The Barabar caves were donated by Ashoka and his grandson Dasharatha, not Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** These cave dwellings were excavated for and donated to ascetics of the Ajivika sect, not for the Jain monk Bhadrabahu.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Barabar and Nagarjuni cave complexes is/are correct?

1. Lomas Rishi Cave features an arch carved in stone that replicates timber and wooden structural joinery.
2. Sudama Cave is noted for its rough, unpolished granite walls designed specifically to absorb echo and sound.

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 facade of the Lomas Rishi Cave imitates contemporary wooden architecture, including vaulted gables, curved wooden beams, and lattice work executed in solid rock.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The interiors of the Sudama Cave feature the signature glass-like Mauryan polish (glass mirror sheen) applied to hard granite surfaces, rather than rough unpolished walls.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the structural features of Ashokan pillars are correct?

1. Ashokan pillar shafts were constructed by joining multiple stone blocks together with metallic rivets.

2. The material used for these pillars was primarily white-spotted red sandstone quarried from Mathura.
3. An inverted lotus or bell-shaped structure forms the capital base of the pillars.
4. The abacus sits between the capital base and the crowning animal sculpture.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ashokan pillars are monolithic, each shaft was carved out of a single piece of stone, not built using joined stone segments or metallic rivets.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The stone was quarried from Chunar (buff-colored fine-grained sandstone), not Mathura red sandstone.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The capital base features an inverted lotus or bell-shaped design influenced by regional contacts.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The abacus (circular or square platform) rests atop the capital and supports the crowning animal motif (such as a lion, bull, or elephant).

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Ashokan pillar capitals is/are correct?

1. Sarnath Lion Capital features four back-to-back lions resting on an abacus decorated with a wheel and four galloping animals.
2. Free-standing Ashokan pillars containing royal edicts have been discovered at sites such as Rampurva, Lauriya Nandangarh, and Vaishali.

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 Sarnath Capital consists of four Asiatic lions standing back-to-back over an abacus featuring relief carvings of an elephant, a horse, a bull, and a lion separated by 24-spoked wheels (Dharmachakra).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Inscribed and uninscribed Ashokan pillars remain preserved across major historical centers in the Indo-Gangetic plain, including Rampurva, Lauriya Nandangarh, Vaishali, and Sankissa.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the language and scripts of Ashokan inscriptions is/are correct?

1. The vast majority of Ashokan inscriptions across core territories were composed in Prakrit using the Brahmi script.
2. Inscriptions discovered in the north-western border regions (such as Mansehra and Shahbazgarhi) were written in the Kharosthi script.

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 official state language for Ashoka's royal edicts was Prakrit, rendered in the Brahmi script throughout central and southern India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In the north-western frontiers (modern Pakistan/Afghanistan), edicts utilized local scripts and languages Kharosthi at Mansehra/Shahbazgarhi, and Greek and Aramaic at Kandahar.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Ashoka's pillar edicts is/are correct?

1. Ashoka referred to these inscribed pillars as Dhamma Thambha in his inscriptions.
2. The inscriptions served primarily to record military conquests and catalog annual tribute collected from foreign states.

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:** Major Pillar Edict VII explicitly uses the term Dhamma Thambha (Pillars of Dharma) to describe these stone monuments erected to propagate ethical principles.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The inscriptions were not military records or tribute catalogs; they functioned as public declarations detailing social ethics, religious tolerance, administrative duties, and moral welfare (Dhamma).

10. With reference to the architectural differences between Achaemenid (Persian) pillars and Mauryan Ashokan pillars, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Mauryan pillars were monolithic shafts carved from a single piece of stone, whereas Achaemenid pillars were constructed using multiple stone drums jointed together.
2. Mauryan pillars were independent, free-standing monuments erected in public spaces, whereas Achaemenid pillars served primarily as structural supports for imperial palace halls.
3. Mauryan pillar shafts featured fluted surface decorations, whereas Achaemenid pillar shafts were smooth and unpolished.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ashokan shafts were carved out of a single block of sandstone (monolithic), while Persian shafts were segmented (built using multiple stacked stone drums).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ashokan pillars were freestanding public monuments carrying state proclamations, whereas Achaemenid pillars were integral structural members supporting heavy roof beams of palace halls (such as at Persepolis).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It reverses the technical details: Mauryan shafts were smooth, round, and unfluted with a high mirror polish, whereas Achaemenid shafts were fluted (carved with vertical grooves).

Mauryan Architecture and Art

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Sarnath Lion Capital:

1. Capital features four Asiatic lions standing back-to-back, symbolizing power, courage, confidence, and justice.
2. Four relief animals on the abacus elephant, bull, horse, and lion are separated by four 24-spoked Dharmachakras.
3. National Emblem adapted in 1950 displays all four lions along with the motto Satyameva Jayate from the Mundaka Upanishad.
4. The galloping horse on the abacus represents Mahapratinirvana, while the bull symbolizes Buddha's first sermon at Sarnath.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sarnath Capital features four back-to-back lions representing royal authority, power, courage, confidence, and justice.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The circular abacus base features four carved animals (elephant, bull, horse, lion) separated by four 24-spoked wheels (Dharmachakras).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The National Emblem adopted on January 26, 1950, shows only **three visible lions** (the fourth is hidden from view at the back) above the abacus with the motto Satyameva Jayate.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The horse represents Kanthaka (Buddha's departure/renunciation), not Mahapratinirvana; the bull represents his birth sign/zodiac signal, whereas the Lion represents Enlightenment.

2. With reference to the inscriptions of Emperor Ashoka, consider the following statements:

1. Ashokan inscriptions were rendered across three languages: Prakrit, Greek, and Aramaic.
2. In the north-western Gandhara region, edicts were composed in Aramaic language using the Brahmi script.
3. Greek and Aramaic inscriptions were executed exclusively in the southern peninsular regions of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ashokan edicts used three primary languages: Prakrit (majority), Greek, and Aramaic.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Edicts in the Gandhara region (north-west frontier, e.g., Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra) were written in Kharosthi script.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Greek and Aramaic inscriptions were located in the north-western/Afghanistan region (e.g., Kandahar), whereas peninsular southern edicts used the Brahmi script in Prakrit.

3. Consider the following pairs:

Site of Ashoka's Major Rock Edict	Location in the State of
1. Dhauli	Odisha
2. Erragudi	Andhra Pradesh
3. Jaugada	Madhya Pradesh
4. Kalsi	Karnataka

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:** Dhauli Major Rock Edict is situated in the Puri district of **Odisha**.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Erragudi Major Rock Edict is located in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Jaugada Major Rock Edict is located in the Ganjam district of Odisha.
- **Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:** Kalsi Major Rock Edict is situated on the banks of the Yamuna River in Uttarakhand.

4. With reference to the art and archaeological history of India, which one among the following was made earliest?

- (a) Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar
- (b) Rock-cut Elephant at Dhauli
- (c) Rock-cut Monuments at Mahabalipuram
- (d) Varaha Image at Udayagiri

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Rock-cut Elephant at Dhauli:** Carved during the Mauryan period (c. 3rd century BCE) under Emperor Ashoka; it represents one of the earliest surviving rock-cut sculptures in India.

- **Varaha Image at Udayagiri:** Carved during the Gupta period (5th century CE) under Chandragupta II.
- **Rock-cut Monuments at Mahabalipuram:** Constructed during the Pallava period (7th century CE) under Narasimhavarman I.
- **Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar:** Constructed during the Somavamsi period (11th century CE).

5. With reference to the history of Indian rock-cut architecture, consider the following statements:

1. Caves at Badami represent the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India.
2. Barabar rock-cut caves were originally excavated for Ajivika ascetics by Chandragupta Maurya.
3. At Ellora, rock-cut caves were excavated for Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain traditions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Barabar caves are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India. The Badami cave temples date back to the 6th century CE (Chalukya period).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Barabar caves were commissioned by Emperor Ashoka and his grandson Dasharatha, not Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ellora features 34 major cave structures representing Buddhism (Caves 1–12), Hinduism (Caves 13–29), and Jainism (Caves 30–34).

6. Consider the following information:

Pillar Edict	Edict Focus/Subject Matter	Administrative Scope
1. Pillar Edict I	Protection of subjects	Directs state officials on welfare principles
2. Pillar Edict II	Definition of Dhamma	Emphasizes compassion, truthfulness, and purity
3. Pillar Edict III	Self-examination of sins	Urges subjects to control anger, cruelty, and envy
4. Pillar Edict IV	Duties of Rajukas	Defines judicial and administrative powers of officers

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

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Pillar Edict I outlines Ashoka's general principles regarding the protection and welfare of his people.

- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Pillar Edict II defines Dhamma as minimal sins, abundant virtues, compassion, liberality, truthfulness, and purity.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Pillar Edict III advises individuals to avoid spiritual degradation caused by rage, cruelty, anger, pride, and jealousy.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Pillar Edict IV outlines the official responsibilities and judicial authority granted to district officers (Rajukas).

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Ashoka's Minor Pillar Edicts is/are correct?

1. Minor Pillar Edicts were executed exclusively in the Prakrit language using the Brahmi script.
2. Rummindei Pillar Edict records Ashoka's royal visit to the birthplace of Gautama Buddha and the reduction of local land revenue (Bhaga).

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:** Minor Pillar Edicts (e.g., Sarnath, Sanchi, Kaushambi, Rummindei) are written in Prakrit language utilizing the Brahmi script.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rummindei Pillar Inscription confirms Ashoka's pilgrimage to Lumbini (Buddha's birthplace), where he exempted the village from Bali tax and reduced the land revenue (Bhaga) to 1/8.

8. Consider the following pairs:

Major Rock Edict	Central Theme / Proclamation
1. Rock Edict II	Mentions medical treatment for humans/animals and southern kingdoms (Pandyas, Keralaputras)
2. Rock Edict V	Refers to the appointment of Dhamma Mahamattas
3. Rock Edict XII	Appeals for religious tolerance and mutual respect among sects
4. Rock Edict XIII	Pleads for conquest through Dhamma-Vijaya over military conquest

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Rock Edict II outlines welfare works (hospitals, botanical planting) and names border kingdoms including Cholas, Pandyas, Satyaputras, and Keralaputras.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Rock Edict V records the creation and appointment of Dhamma Mahamattas (Officers of Righteousness).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Rock Edict XII advocates inter-faith harmony, warning that praising one's own sect while disparaging others damages one's own religion.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Rock Edict XIII details the Kalinga War horrors and renounces military expansion (Digvijaya) in favor of moral conquest (Dhamma-Vijaya).

9. Consider the following pairs:

Site of Major Rock Edict	Unique Administrative / Script Feature
1. Kalsi	Only complete set of 14 Major Rock Edicts in North India
2. Dhauli & Jaugada	Replaces Edicts XI–XIII with Separate Kalinga Edicts (All men are my children)
3. Erragudi	Inscribed using the boustrophedon style (right-to-left and left-to-right)
4. Shahbazgarhi	Inscribed in Kharosthi script

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Kalsi (Uttarakhand) contains the only complete set of 14 Major Rock Edicts in northern India.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Dhauli and Jaugada omit Edicts XI, XII, and XIII, replacing them with two Separate Kalinga Edicts emphasizing benevolent governance (All men are my children).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Erragudi (Andhra Pradesh) is unique because its Brahmi text is written in boustrophedon style (alternate lines written in opposite directions).
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Shahbazgarhi (Pakistan) is written in Kharosthi script (adapted from Aramaic).

10. Consider the following pairs:

Historical Place	Well Known For
1. Girnar	Rock edicts of Ashoka and inscription regarding Sudarshana Lake
2. Sopara	Ancient west coast port town containing fragments of Ashokan edicts
3. Sannati	Site featuring Major Rock Edicts and a sculptured portrait of Emperor Ashoka

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:** Girnar (Junagadh, Gujarat) holds Ashoka's 14 Major Rock Edicts, alongside later inscriptions by Rudradaman I and Skandagupta concerning the repair of Sudarshana Lake.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Sopara (Maharashtra) was a major ancient port on the western coast where fragments of Major Rock Edicts VIII and IX were discovered.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Sannati (Kanaganahalli, Karnataka) features Major Rock Edicts and a stone relief depicting Emperor Ashoka with his Queen inscribed with the label Ranyo Ashoka (King Ashoka).

Mauryan Art and Literature

1. Consider the following statements regarding ancient Indian inscriptions:

1. Sannati inscription in Karnataka contains the only sculpted relief portrait of Ashoka labeled as Ranyo.
2. Bhabru inscription is unique for being written in the boustrophedon script.
3. Junagadh rock inscription features epigraphic records of both the Saka ruler Rudradaman I and the Gupta ruler Skandagupta.
4. The Allahabad pillar contains inscriptions of Ashoka, Queen Kaurwaki, Samudragupta, Birbal and Jahangir.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Excavations at Kanaganahalli near Sannati (Karnataka) revealed a relief stone slab depicting Emperor Ashoka with his queen, inscribed with the label Ranyo Ashoka (King Ashoka).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Erragudi (Yerragudi) Minor Rock Edict in Andhra Pradesh is written in boustrophedon style (alternating directions). The Bhabru inscription (found at Bairat, Rajasthan) is composed in standard Brahmi script in Prakrit and is famous for declaring Ashoka's explicit faith in the Buddhist Triratna (Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The rock at Junagadh (Girnar) bears inscriptions of three major rulers across different eras: Ashoka (Mauryan), Rudradaman I (Saka), and Skandagupta (Gupta).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Allahabad Pillar (Ashokan Pillar) carries layers of history: Ashoka's royal edict, the Queen's Edict mentioning Kaurwaki, Hari Sena's Prasasti honoring Samudragupta, and a later Persian inscription by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir.

2. Consider the following pairs:

Archaeological Cave Site	Associated Patron	Feature
1. Nagarjuni Hills	Donated by Dasharatha to Ajivika ascetics	Contains Gopi-ka-Kubha with mirror-polished interior
2. Son Bhandar	Associated with Jainism and Ajivika sect	Displays trapezoidal entrance with pointed arch ceiling and crude finish

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:** Dasharatha (Ashoka's grandson) dedicated three rock-cut caves in the Nagarjuni Hills (Gopi-ka-Kubha, Vadathi-ka-Kubha, and Vapiya-ka-Kubha) to the Ajivika monks. Gopi-ka-Kubha is the largest and features a highly polished granite interior chamber.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The Son Bhandar (Swarna Bhandar) caves in Rajgir, Bihar, are associated with early Jainism and Ajivika ascetics. They feature a trapezoidal entrance doorway, a pointed vault ceiling, an inferior quality of surface polish compared to Ashokan caves, and shell-script/Gupta-period inscriptions.

3. Consider the following information:

Archaeological Artifact	Finding State	Key Material and Structural Description
1. Didarganj Yakshini	Bihar	Polished Chunar sandstone figure holding a chauri (flywhisk) in the right hand
2. Kalibangan Terracotta	Rajasthan	Baked clay figurine representing Neolithic mother goddess worship
3. Sultanganj Buddha	Bihar	Monolithic granite sculpture carved during the early Mauryan period

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

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Didarganj Yakshini (discovered in Patna, Bihar) is a life-sized standing sculpture sculpted from polished buff Chunar sandstone, holding a flywhisk (chauri) in her right hand.

- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** Kalibangan is a major Harappan (Indus Valley Civilization) site in Rajasthan known for fire altars and ploughed fields, not a Neolithic site.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** The Sultanganj Buddha is a famous over-life-sized copper sculpture produced during the Gupta-Pala transition period not a Mauryan granite sculpture.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Dhauli Rock Elephant sculpture in Odisha is/are correct?

1. Elephant is carved out of a natural living rock outcrop located above the site of the Ashokan Major Rock Edicts.
2. Inscription accompanying the sculpture symbolize Airavata, the sacred elephant of Indian tradition.

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 Dhauli elephant is executed directly on the living rock mass above the rock face bearing Ashoka's Separate Kalinga Edicts, near the site of the historical Kalinga War.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Pali inscription adjacent to the carving uses the term Sevto (the white one), invoking Airavata (the celestial white elephant) and signifying the descent of Gautama Buddha into his mother's womb in the form of a white elephant.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the origin and architectural evolution of Stupas is/are correct?

1. Stupas originated as pre-Buddhist Vedic burial mounds before becoming popularized as central relic shrines under Buddhism.
2. All nine initial stupas constructed over his mortal remains were consecrated solely to hold his bodily relics.

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 concept of the stupa originated from Vedic-era tumuli or mound structures (Thupa) erected over cremated remains, which were later adapted and institutionalized by Buddhist traditions under state patronage.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Of the 9 original post-nirvana stupas, 8 stupas contained the actual physical relics (Dhatu) of the Buddha (at Rajagriha, Vaishali, Kapilavastu, Allakappa, Ramagrama, Vethadipa, Pava, and Kushinagar), while the 9th stupa (at Pipphalavana) was built over the vessel (Kumbha) used to collect and divide the relics.

6. With reference to the classical legal and diplomatic literature of ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Kautilya's Arthashastra is a Sanskrit treatise on statecraft comprising 15 books.

2. Mandala Siddhanta theory posits that an immediate neighboring state is a natural ally, whereas a distant non-contiguous state is an inevitable adversary.
3. Doctrine of Shadgunya includes policies such as Sandhi, Vighraha, and Asana.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (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 Arthashastra attributed to Kautilya/Chanakya is divided into 15 Adhikarnas (books) covering civil administration, criminal law, economic policy, foreign affairs, and military strategies.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under the Mandala (concentric circle) theory, geographical proximity defines enmity, an immediate neighbor is considered a natural enemy (Ari), while the neighbor's neighbor is a natural friend (Mitra).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Shadgunya (sixfold foreign policy) comprises Sandhi (treaty), Vighraha (hostility), Asana (neutrality/waiting), Yana (marching/expedition), Samsraya (seeking protection), and Dvaidhibhava (dual policy/diplomatic hedging).

7. Consider the following pairs:

Literary Work	Primary Subject
1. Mudrarakshasa	Sanskrit political play detailing Chanakya's strategy in overthrowing the Nanda Dynasty
2. Dipavamsa	Early Sri Lankan Pali chronicle recording the history of the island and the spread of Buddhism
3. Mahavamsa	Pali epic chronicle recording royal lineages and Buddhist councils

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:** Mudrarakshasa written by Vishakhadatta is a political drama describing how Chanakya outwitted the Nanda minister Rakshasa to install Chandragupta Maurya on the throne.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Dipavamsa (Chronicle of the Island) is the oldest Pali historical chronicle from Sri Lanka detailing early Buddhist history and Ashoka's missionary missions.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Mahavamsa (Great Chronicle, authored by Mahanama) provides a detailed narrative of the Buddhist Sangha, royal lineages, and the propagation of Dhamma across South Asia.

8. Consider the following pairs:

Literary Text	Author
1. Rajatarangini	Kalhana
2. Mahabhashya	Patanjali
3. Kalpasutra	Bhadrabahu

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:** Rajatarangini was composed in Sanskrit verse by Kalhana and chronicles the dynastic history of Kashmir.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Mahabhashya is a fundamental commentary on Panini's Ashtadhyayi written by the grammarian Patanjali (2nd century BCE, contemporary with Pushyamitra Shunga).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Kalpasutra is a canonical Jain Sanskrit text containing biographies of Jain Tirthankaras (including Parshvanatha and Mahavira), authored by Bhadrabahu (4th century BCE).

9. Consider the following statements regarding the classical text Indica authored by Megasthenes:

1. Megasthenes visited Pataliputra as an ambassador sent by the Seleucid ruler Seleucus I Nicator to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
2. Original manuscript of Indica is preserved in the national archives of Athens, Greece.
3. Categorized Indian society into seven distinct occupational classes.
4. Reported that the institution of slavery was absent in Indian society.

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, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Megasthenes was sent by Seleucus I Nicator as an ambassador to the court of Chandragupta Maurya at Pataliputra around 302 BCE.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The original text of Indica is completely lost; its content survives only as quoted fragments in later Greek and Roman writings by Strabo, Arrian, Diodorus, and Pliny.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Misinterpreting the Indian varna system through a Greek lens, Megasthenes identified seven social classes: philosophers, farmers, herdsmen, artisans, soldiers, overseers/inspectors, and councillors/magistrates.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Megasthenes noted that all Indians were free and that slavery did not exist in India, a misconception stemming from the fact that Indian domestic servitude (Dasa system) was less brutal than the chattel slavery practiced in classical Greece and Rome.

10. Emperor Ashoka explicitly mentions his personal name (Ashoka) in his inscriptions at which of the following set of locations?

- (a) Maski, Gurjarra, Nittur, and Brahmagiri
- (b) Sarnath, Sanchi, Bharhut, and Amaravati
- (c) Shahbazgarhi, Mansehra, Kandahar, and Taxila
- (d) Dhauli, Jaugada, Kalsi, and Girnar

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- In most of his royal edicts, Ashoka is referred to only by his imperial titles: Devanampiya (Beloved of the Gods) and Piyadasi (He who regards others with affection).
- His explicit personal name Ashoka appears in only four specific inscriptions:
 1. **Maski** (Karnataka) – First discovered in 1915, reading Devanampiyasa Asokasa.
 2. **Gurjarra** (Datia district, Madhya Pradesh).
 3. **Nittur** (Bellary district, Karnataka).
 4. **Udegolam / Brahmagiri** region (Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh belt).

Late Mauryas

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the classical text Mudrarakshasa is/are correct?

1. It is a Sanskrit political drama authored by Vishakhadatta during the Gupta period, set against the backdrop of the Mauryan revolution.
2. The central plot documents the military invasion of India by Seleucus Nicator and his eventual treaty with Chandragupta Maurya.

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:** Mudrarakshasa (The Signet Ring of Rakshasa) was written by Vishakhadatta during the Gupta era (c. 5th century CE) and dramatizes the political machinations surrounding Chanakya's ascension of Chandragupta Maurya to power.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The plot revolves around Chanakya's statecraft, espionage, and political maneuvering to win over Rakshasa, the loyal prime minister of the fallen Nanda dynasty, rather than depicting Seleucus Nicator's invasion.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the decline of the Mauryan Empire is/are correct?

1. Gradual fragmentation of the empire accelerated following the death of Emperor Ashoka.
2. Collapse resulted from a combination of internal administrative decay, succession struggles, and foreign incursions along the north-western border.

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:** Ashoka's death marked the end of unified imperial authority, leading to swift territorial fragmentation under weak successor kings.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Historians attribute the Mauryan decline to multiple factors, including heavy financial stress on the state treasury, excessive administrative centralization, provincial revolts, and incoming foreign invasions from Central Asia.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the post-Ashokan Mauryan Empire is/are correct?

1. Following Ashoka's death, the imperial territory was split into western and eastern administrative zones.
2. Western realm was governed by Kunala, while the eastern realm with its capital at Pataliputra came under Dasaratha.
3. Territorial partition reinforced central imperial authority and successfully halted Greco-Bactrian expansion.

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:** Historical sources indicate that the empire was partitioned into two halves post-Ashoka to manage administrative control.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kunala (Ashoka's son) established rule over the western provinces, whereas Dasaratha (Ashoka's grandson) ruled the eastern heartland centered around Magadha/Pataliputra.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The political division severely weakened centralized governance, fragmented fiscal resources, and left the western frontier vulnerable to Indo-Greek invasions.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the foreign invasions in the late Mauryan period is/are correct?

1. Western portion of the Mauryan Empire disintegrated under military pressures from Bactrian Greeks and Central Asian tribes.
2. Ashoka's successors strengthened the north-western border by constructing permanent garrison towns along the Hindu Kush.

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:** Demetrius I and subsequent Bactrian Greek rulers exploited internal Mauryan weakness to cross the Hindu Kush and conquer Punjab and neighboring territories.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Late Mauryan rulers failed to maintain or reinforce border defenses, neglecting the strategic passes along the north-western frontier.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the later Mauryan rulers is/are correct?

1. Dasaratha dedicated rock-cut cave sanctuaries in the Nagarjuni Hills to the ascetics of the Ajivika sect.
2. Samprati is recognized in Jain traditions as a major royal patron who actively promoted Jainism across western India.
3. Absence of strong central leadership among Ashoka's successors led to widespread administrative decentralization and provincial secessions.

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:** Inscriptions in the Nagarjuni caves confirm that Dasaratha donated three rock-cut chambers (Gopi, Vadithi, Vapiya) to the Ajivikas, following his grandfather Ashoka's tradition.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Samprati (successor to Kunala) was a follower of the Jain monk Suhastin and built numerous Jain shrines across western India and Rajasthan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Weak leadership after Ashoka resulted in distant governors breaking away, leading to administrative breakdown across the empire.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the final collapse of the Mauryan Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Brihadratha was the final sovereign ruler of the imperial Mauryan line.
2. Brihadratha was overthrown during a military parade by his Senapati, Pushyamitra Shunga, who established the Shunga Dynasty.

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:** Brihadratha was the last ruling monarch of the Mauryan dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Around 185 BCE, Pushyamitra Shunga (commander-in-chief of the Mauryan army) assassinated Brihadratha during an army inspection, ending Mauryan rule and founding the Brahminical Shunga dynasty at Pataliputra.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the archaeological site of Kanaganahalli:

1. The site is situated along the banks of the Bhima River in Karnataka.
2. The stupa remains found at the site span the period between the 1st century BCE and the 3rd century CE.
3. A relief sculpture bearing the inscribed label Ranyo Ashoka was discovered at the site.

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:** Kanaganahalli is located in the Kalaburagi district of Karnataka on the banks of the Bhima River.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Archaeological excavations reveal a large Maha-Stupa (Adhama Stupa) active from the Satavahana era, dating from the 1st century BCE to the 3rd century CE.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The site yielded a slab depicting Emperor Ashoka accompanied by his queen, inscribed in Brahmi script with the words Ranyo Ashoka.

8. Consider the following statements regarding Emperor Ashoka's religious affiliations:

1. Rummindei and Nigali Sagar pillar inscriptions provide direct epigraphic evidence of Ashoka's pilgrimage to Buddhist holy sites.
2. Minor Rock Edict-I records that Ashoka became a lay follower and gradually deepened his connection with the Buddhist Sangha.

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:** The Rummindei Pillar marks Ashoka's visit to Buddha's birthplace (Lumbini), and the Nigali Sagar Pillar records his pilgrimage to enlarge the stupa of Kanakamuni Buddha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Minor Rock Edict-I notes that while Ashoka was a lay follower (Upasaka) for over two and a half years, his active devotion grew rapidly after spending over a year in close association with the Sangha.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Post-Mauryan Period:

1. The era was marked by absolute economic decline and the complete cessation of long-distance maritime trade.
2. Indigenous powers like the Shungas, Kanvas, and Satavahanas established regional kingdoms across northern and central India.
3. Foreign dynasties including the Indo-Greeks, Shakas, Parthians, and Kushanas controlled the north-western frontiers.
4. The period saw extensive monetization, urban growth, and thriving trade routes connecting India with Rome and Central Asia.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Contrary to economic stagnation, the Post-Mauryan era was a golden period of internal urban growth, craft guild (Sreni) organization, and thriving international maritime trade with the Roman Empire.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Local dynasties took over parts of the old empire: the Shungas and Kanvas in the Gangetic plain, the Chedis in Kalinga, and the Satavahanas in the Deccan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Central Asian groups migrated through the north-western passes, establishing Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian (Shaka), Indo-Parthian, and Kushana empires.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** This period witnessed peak coin minting (gold coins by Kushanas, silver by Shakas, lead/potini by Satavahanas) and vibrant trade via the Silk Road and Indian Ocean networks.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the decline of the Mauryan state and its successor entities is/are correct?

1. Distant provinces such as Kalinga and parts of the Deccan broke away from central Mauryan authority shortly after Ashoka's reign.
2. Following foreign invasions in the north-west, effective Mauryan rule became restricted to the core Gangetic plain.
3. Pushyamitra Shunga re-established Mauryan imperial boundaries after executing Brihadratha.

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:** Kalinga regained independence under the Mahameghavahana dynasty (Kharavela), while the Satavahanas established independent rule in the Deccan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** With the loss of the north-west frontier to Indo-Greeks and regional secessions, late Mauryan control shrank back to the central Gangetic basin.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Pushyamitra founded the Shunga Dynasty, he did not restore Mauryan authority or its former subcontinental borders. His kingdom was smaller, primarily covering central and eastern India.

Sunga and Satavahana Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Shunga Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Banabhatta's Harshacharita records that Pushyamitra Shunga assassinated the last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha, during an army inspection.
2. The initial capital of the Shungas was established at Vidisha, and it was later shifted to Pataliputra under King Bhagabhadra.

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 7th-century CE biographical text Harshacharita by Banabhatta mentions that Pushyamitra Shunga, the Senapati (commander-in-chief) of the Mauryan army, assassinated King Brihadratha during a military review to usurp the throne in 185 BCE.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The capital progression is reversed. The primary capital was initially at Pataliputra, but later Shunga rulers like Bhagabhadra established a second capital at Vidisha (modern Besnagar, Madhya Pradesh).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the political and military developments under the Shunga Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Kalidasa's drama Malavikagnimitram mentions a military clash on the banks of the Sindhu River where Prince Vasumitra defeated the Yavanas.
2. Shunga forces successfully repelled foreign incursions and permanently annexed the entire Kalinga realm under Pushyamitra Shunga.
3. Shunga rulers engaged in border conflicts with King Kharavela of Kalinga during his north Indian expeditions.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Malavikagnimitram narrates that Prince Vasumitra (son of Agnimitra) guarded the sacrificial horse for Pushyamitra's Ashvamedha Yajna and defeated a Yavana (Indo-Greek) army along the Sindhu River.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Although the Shungas checked Greek advances in central India, they did not annex Kalinga. Instead, Kalinga was an independent, powerful kingdom under the Mahameghavahana ruler Kharavela.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Epigraphic records, particularly the Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela, document military encounters between Kalinga and the rulers of Magadha/Anga (the Shunga sphere) during Kharavela's northern campaigns.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the religious developments during the Shunga period are correct?

1. Ayodhya Inscription of Dhanadeva records that Pushyamitra Shunga performed two Ashvamedha sacrifices.
2. Buddhist text Divyavadana describes Pushyamitra as a devout patron who built numerous stupas across Magadha.
3. Archaeological evidence from Sanchi shows that the core brick stupa was enlarged and encased with stone railings during the Shunga era.
4. Shunga state declared Vaishnavism as the exclusive state religion and banned all Jain practices across the empire.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ayodhya stone inscription of King Dhanadeva specifically credits Pushyamitra Shunga with conducting two Ashvamedha sacrifices (dvir-asvamedha-yajina), signaling a strong revival of Vedic rites.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Buddhist work Divyavadana presents a hostile account accusing Pushyamitra of persecuting Buddhist monks and offering rewards for their heads—it does not portray him as a builder of stupas.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Material evidence contradicts claims of total destruction; under the Shunga period, the core Ashokan brick stupa at Sanchi was doubled in size, encased in stone, and fitted with stone balustrades and gateways.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** While Vaishnavism and Vedic rituals received royal patronage, there is no historical or epigraphic evidence indicating an official ban on Jainism or the declaration of a state-enforced religion.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to art and architecture during the Shunga period is/are correct?

1. Mathura School of Art began to flourish during this period, producing monumental free-standing stone sculptures of Yakshas and Yakshinis.
2. Period witnessed the initial emergence of structural stone temple architectural traditions in central India.
3. Sculptural activity under the Shungas was entirely restricted to cave-cut shrines, with no stone carving executed on open-air stupa structures.

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:** Mathura grew into a major artistic hub during the Shunga era, noted for producing massive stone Yaksha and Yakshini figures (such as those found at Mathura, Parkham, and Gwalior).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The late Shunga period marked the transition toward structural temple design, with early foundations and stone platforms appearing in places like Nagari and Besnagar.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Stone carving was extensively used on open-air stupa railings (vedikas) and gateways (toranas) at major sites like Bharhut and Sanchi, not limited to cave architecture.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the Besnagar Garuda Pillar Inscription are correct?

1. Erected by Heliodorus, an envoy sent by the Indo-Greek King Antialkidas to the court of the Shunga King Bhagabhadra.
2. Inscription is composed in Sanskrit language and written in the Kharosthi script.
3. Heliodorus describes himself in the inscription as a Paramabhagavata, indicating his conversion to the Bhagavata sect of Vaishnavism.

4. It was dedicated to Lord Buddha to commemorate the signing of a peace treaty between the Greeks and Shungas.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Heliodorus, a Greek ambassador from King Antialkidas of Taxila, erected the pillar at Besnagar (near Vidisha) in honor of the 14th year of the reign of Shunga ruler Bhagabhadra.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The inscription is written in Prakrit language (with some Sanskritisms) using the Brahmi script, not Kharosthi or standard classical Sanskrit.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Heliodorus identifies himself as a Paramabhadra (devotee of Lord Vasudeva/Krishna), providing important epigraphic evidence of the adoption of Vaishnavism by foreign dignitaries.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The pillar was topped with a sculpture of Garuda (the vahana of Vishnu) and dedicated to Vasudeva, making it an early monument of Bhagavatism, not Buddhism.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to literature during the Shunga period is/are correct?

1. Patanjali composed the Mahabhashya, a major grammatical commentary on Panini's Astadhyayi, during the reign of Pushyamitra Shunga.
2. Kalidasa's Malavikagnimitram is a historical chronicle written by a contemporary court poet living under King Agnimitra.

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 grammarian Patanjali lived during the Shunga period and wrote the Mahabhashya. He explicitly mentions performing sacrifices for King Pushyamitra (Iha Pushyamitram Yajayamah).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kalidasa was not a contemporary court poet of Agnimitra; he lived much later during the Gupta era (c. 4th–5th century CE) and chose the 2nd-century BCE Shunga court as the historical setting for his Sanskrit play Malavikagnimitram.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the origin of the Kanva Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Kanva dynasty was established by Vasudeva Kanva after he overthrew the last Shunga monarch, Devabhuti.
2. Banabhatta's Harshacharita provides literary reference to the assassination of the last Shunga ruler by his minister.

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:** Around 75 BCE, Vasudeva, a Brahmin minister in the Shunga court, assassinated the debauched Shunga king Devabhuti and established the Kanva dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Banabhatta's Harshacharita mentions that Devabhuti, the over-indulgent Shunga king, was assassinated by his minister Vasudeva with the help of a daughter of his slave woman disguised as his queen.

8. Which of the following statements regarding the rule and decline of the Kanva Dynasty are correct?

1. Kanva rulers exercised administrative authority over the entire Indian subcontinent for over two centuries.
2. Epigraphic and numismatic records mention four main kings belonging to the Kanva dynasty.
3. Susharman was the final ruler of the Kanva dynasty, who was overthrown around 30 BCE.
4. Following the collapse of the Kanvas, the regional powers of Magadha were eventually displaced by Central Asian Shaka invaders.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Kanva dynasty had a short rule of roughly 45 years (c. 75 BCE – 30 BCE), and its authority was restricted largely to Magadha and surrounding parts of eastern India, as the north-west was controlled by the Greeks and Shakas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Literary texts (Puranas) and numismatic finds record four Kanva kings: Vasudeva, Bhumimitra, Narayana, and Susharman.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Susharman was the last king of the line, ruling until c. 30 BCE when the dynasty was brought to an end.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** After the fall of the Kanvas and local Mitra rulers in Magadha, political authority across northern and western India was increasingly taken over by the expanding Shakas (Indo-Scythians).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the early Satavahana dynasty are correct?

1. Simuka is recognized as the founder of the Satavahana dynasty, followed by his brother Kanha.
2. Initial core territory of Satavahana power was situated in the Upper Godavari Valley with its capital at Pratishthana.
3. Puranic king-lists explicitly use the name Satavahana to designate all monarchs of this line.
4. The Satavahanas expanded into the northern plains by completely annexing the Mauryan Empire at its peak under Chandragupta Maurya.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Simuka founded the Satavahana line (around the 1st century BCE), and his brother Kanha succeeded him, extending administrative control in the western Deccan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Their original political base was in the northern Maharashtra region (Upper Godavari Valley), establishing their capital at Pratishthana (modern Paithan, Aurangabad district).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Puranas refer to this ruling house as the Andhras or Andhrabhritas, whereas the name Satavahana is derived from their own inscriptions and coin legends.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Satavahanas rose to prominence after the decline of the Mauryas and Kanvas around the 1st century BCE, rather than overthrowing Chandragupta Maurya.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Satavahana Empire is/are correct?

1. Satavahanas unified the Deccan, with their authority extending across parts of modern Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.
2. Control over strategic western sea ports such as Kalyan, Sopara, and Bharuch enabled the Satavahanas to dominate Indian Ocean and Roman maritime trade.

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 Satavahanas served as a major stabilizing power across Peninsular India, building a trans-Deccan empire that connected the eastern (Andhra) and western (Maharashtra) coasts, along with parts of Karnataka and Malwa.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The dynasty's economic strength relied heavily on trade routes terminating at major western ports like Kalyan, Sopara, and Barygaza (Broach/Bharuch), which handled trade in textiles, spices, and Roman bullion.

Satavahana and Kanva Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements regarding the major Satavahana rulers are correct?

1. Naneghat inscription issued by Queen Naganika glorifies Satakarni I as the lord of *Dakshinapatha*.
2. Gautamiputra Satakarni defeated the Shaka Kshatrapa ruler Nahapana and restructured his silver coins.
3. Gautami Balashri issued the Nasik cave inscription detailing the military exploits of her son, Satakarni I.
4. Gautamiputra Satakarni adopted the title *Trisamudratatoyavahana* to signify his complete mastery over the Silk Route across Central Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Naneghat cave inscription, issued by Queen Naganika (wife of Satakarni I), records the performance of various Vedic sacrifices including two Ashvamedhas and bestows the title *Dakshinapathapati* (Lord of the Southern Region) upon Satakarni I.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gautamiputra Satakarni decisively defeated the Western Kshatrapa king Nahapana. This victory is corroborated by the Jogalthambi hoard of coins, where Nahapana's silver coins were overstruck by Gautamiputra Satakarni.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Nasik eulogy (*prashasti*) was issued by Gautami Balashri to praise the achievements of her son, Gautamiputra Satakarni (not Satakarni I).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The epithet *Trisamudrapitayavahana* literally means "he whose horses drank the waters of the three oceans" (Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Indian Ocean), reflecting his trans-peninsular hegemony in southern India, not control over the Central Asian Silk Route.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the later Satavahana rulers is/are correct?

1. Vashishtiputra Pulumavi issued coins depicting double-masted ships, symbolizing the empire's maritime trade and naval capability along the eastern coast.
2. King Hala compiled the *Gathasaptasati*, an anthology of 700 erotic and pastoral verses written in Prakrit.

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:** Vashishtiputra Pulumavi expanded Satavahana influence towards the mouth of the Krishna River. His ship-engraved lead and copper coins demonstrate active Indian Ocean trade and maritime enterprise.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 17th Satavahana ruler, King Hala, was a patron of literature who authored or compiled the *Gathasaptasati* (Sattasai), composed in the Maharashtri Prakrit dialect.

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

1. The Satavahana empire was partitioned into administrative districts termed *Aharas*, supervised by civil officers called *Amatyas*.
2. The administration maintained a rigid central authority where local governors were strictly prohibited from issuing independent coinage or holding feudal titles like *Raja*.

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 administrative hierarchy divided provinces into districts known as *Aharas*, which were managed by royal officials called *Amatyas* and *Mahamattas*.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Satavahana state incorporated significant feudal elements (*samanta* system). Higher-tier feudatories such as *Rajas*, *Maharathis*, and *Mahabhojas* exercised autonomy in local governance and were permitted to issue their own localized coins.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Satavahana society and religion is/are correct?

1. Satavahana kings used metonymics, indicating a strictly matriarchal rule where property and thrones passed through daughters.
2. While the monarchs were patrons of Vedic Brahmanism, they also extended substantial state support and land grants to Buddhist *Sangha*.

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:** While Satavahana kings used metonymics (taking their mother's name like Gautami, Vashishti), the dynasty followed patriarchal succession where royal power passed from father to son (primogeniture).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Satavahanas were eclectic rulers. They performed Vedic sacrifices (Ashvamedha, Rajasuya) to legitimize their royalty while simultaneously constructing rock-cut *chaityas* and *viharas* and bestowing land grants upon Buddhist monks at sites like Nasik, Karle, and Kanheri.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to trade and currency under the Satavahanas is/are correct?

1. Satavahana state struck extensive gold coins called *Nishkas* to facilitate long-distance trade with the Roman Empire.
2. Merchant and artisan guilds functioned as commercial bodies, with specialized shopkeepers termed *Gandhikas*.

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:** Unlike the Kushanas, the Satavahanas did not mint gold coins. Their currency system consisted primarily of base metals: lead, potin (an alloy), copper, and occasional silver (*Karshapanas*). Roman gold and silver coins circulated internally to fill the demand for high-value transactions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Craft and trade guilds (*Srenis*) were economically vital and acted as banking institutions. Inscriptions mention various guilds, including *Gandhikas* (perfumers/general shopkeepers), *Tilikas* (oil-pressers), and *Kularikas* (potters).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Satavahana land grants and cultural contributions is/are correct?

1. Satavahanas introduced practice of granting tax-exempt land and villages to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks.

2. Court documents and official inscriptions were recorded in Sanskrit, rejecting local Prakrit dialects.
3. Nagarjunakonda and Amaravati developed into major seats of Buddhist art and learning under Satavahana patronage.

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:(c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Inscriptions from Nasik and Karle reveal that the Satavahanas initiated the practice of *Brahmadeya* and monastic grants. These grants came with *Parihara* (exemptions from state taxes and non-entry of royal soldiers).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Prakrit (written in Brahmi script) was the official court language for Satavahana administration and epigraphs; Sanskrit gained prominence much later in the region.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Andhra region saw a flourishing of Buddhist art and architecture, with Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda emerging as centers for Mahayana Buddhist stupas and relief sculptures.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the late Satavahana period is/are correct?

1. Amaravati Mahachaitya is situated along the banks of the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh.
2. Following the internal decay of the Satavahanas in the early 3rd century CE, their eastern territories were succeeded by the Ikshvaku dynasty.

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 Great Stupa at Amaravati (*Dharanikota*) was built along the banks of the Krishna River and is famous for its marble-like limestone narrative reliefs depicting Buddha's life.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Satavahana empire disintegrated. In the eastern Andhra delta, the Ikshvakus of Vijayapuri emerged as the primary political successors, inheriting their patronage of Buddhist art and urban centers.

8. Which of the following statements regarding Emperor Kharavela and the Mahameghavahana Dynasty are correct?

1. King Kharavela belonged to the Chedi clan of the Mahameghavahana dynasty of Kalinga.
2. Hathigumpha Inscription is located at the Udayagiri hills near Bhubaneswar and opens with a Jain invocation to the *Arhats* and *Siddhas*.
3. Hathigumpha text is composed in Classical Sanskrit using the Devanagari script.
4. Hathigumpha Inscription is carved directly opposite Ashoka's rock edicts at Dhauli, symbolizing the political resurgence of post-Mauryan Kalinga.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

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

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kharavela was the third and greatest ruler of the Mahameghavahana dynasty (which belonged to the Chedi lineage) that established rule over Kalinga post-Mauryan collapse.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 17-line undated record inside the Hathigumpha (Elephant Cave) opens with the auspicious *Nokar Mantra* honoring Jain *Arhats* and *Siddhas*.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The inscription is written in Prakrit language using the Brahmi script, not Classical Sanskrit or Devanagari.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Located at Udayagiri, looking toward Dhauli where Ashoka engraved his victory edicts, the inscription chronicles Kharavela's military triumphs over Magadha and south Indian powers, signifying Kalinga's resurgence.

9. Consider the following statements regarding King Kharavela:

1. He was a devout adherent of Jainism who constructed cave dwellings for Jain monks at Udayagiri and Khandagiri.
2. Ancient fortified city of Sisupalgarh is identified as a multi-gateway *Jala Durga* linked to Kharavela's realm.
3. Kharavela banned all non-Jain religious practices throughout Kalinga during his reign.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kharavela excavated rock-cut cave complexes at the twin hills of Udayagiri and Khandagiri to serve as rainy-season retreats (*Varshavasa*) for Jain ascetics.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Archaeological excavations at Sisupalgarh reveal a well-planned square fort surrounded by a moat (*Jala Durga* feature) with eight grand gateways, matching descriptions of Kharavela's capital *Kalinganagara*.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kharavela claims in his inscription to be *Sava-pasanda-pujako* (honorer of all religious sects) and a restorer of all temples, highlighting a tolerant religious policy.

10. Consider the following pairs:

Historical Place	Well Known For
1. Burzahom	Rock-cut cave shrines
2. Chandraketugarh	Terracotta art
3. Ganeshwar	Copper artefacts

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

- (a) 1 only

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Burzahom (in Jammu & Kashmir) is a Neolithic and Megalithic site famous for pit-dwellings, polished stone axes, and unique dog burials—not rock-cut shrines.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Chandraketugarh (in West Bengal) was a flourishing coastal urban center during the Post-Mauryan and Gupta periods, celebrated for its exquisite terracotta plaques depicting socio-religious scenes.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Ganeshwar (located near the Khetri copper belt in Rajasthan) is a Chalcolithic site known for supplying copper artifacts (arrowheads, spearheads, bangles) to the Indus Valley Civilization.

Indo-Greeks

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Indo-Greek coinage in India is/are correct?

1. Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins and coins bearing the names and portraits of kings.
2. Coins issued by the Indo-Greeks were monolingual, using classical Greek script on both sides.

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 Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in ancient India whose coins can be attributed with certainty to specific kings, as they bore royal portraits, names, and titles. They are also credited with issuing the first gold coins in India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Indo-Greek coins were largely bilingual and bscript, featuring Greek legends on the obverse and Prakrit legends (written in Kharosthi or Brahmi scripts) on the reverse to accommodate the native population.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the cultural and administrative contributions of the Indo-Greeks is/are correct?

1. Indo-Greeks introduced the administrative position of Strategos to maintain provincial control.
2. Gandhara School of Art developed under Hellenistic influences, pioneering early anthropomorphic representations of the Buddha.
3. Sanskrit astronomical term Horasastra evolved independently without any foreign linguistic or technical influence.

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:** To govern their conquered territories, the Indo-Greeks established military governorships under officials called Strategos.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Gandhara region saw a synthesis of Greek artistic realism and Indian Buddhist iconographic motifs, which led to sculpting Buddha in human (anthropomorphic) form resembling Greek gods like Apollo.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Indian term Horasastra (astrology) is directly derived from the Greek term horoscope, highlighting the influence of Hellenistic astronomy on ancient Indian texts.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Indo-Scythians (Shakas) are correct?

1. Shakas were a nomadic Central Asian tribe driven into Bactria and northwestern India following pressure from the Yuezhi migration.
2. Maues established the earliest Shaka base in Gandhara during the 1st century BCE.
3. Shakas adopted the Iranian Achaemenid administrative framework, governing provinces through Kshatrapas and Mahakshatrapas.
4. The Shakas banned all local trade guilds and enforced a completely centralized taxation system directly administered from Taxila.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Driven out of their home grounds in Central Asia by the expanding Yuezhi tribe, the Scythians (Shakas) moved through Bactria and crossed the Hindu Kush into northwestern India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Maues was the first major Shaka king in India who consolidated power around Gandhara and Taxila.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Shakas used the Kshatrapa system (satrapies) modeled after Iranian/Achaemenid administrative structures, dividing their domain into provinces ruled by semi-autonomous Kshatrapas (governors) and Mahakshatrapas (great governors).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Local merchant and craft guilds (Srenis) continued to function with autonomy under Shaka rule, and administration was decentralized through regional satraps rather than strictly centralized from Taxila.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Vikrama Samvat era is/are correct?

1. Vikrama Samvat calendar era commenced in 57–58 BCE to commemorate a local ruler's victory over the Shakas at Ujjain.
2. Title Vikramaditya remained restricted exclusively to rulers of the Gupta dynasty.
3. Up to 14 rulers in Indian historical records assumed the title Vikramaditya, reflecting its association with military valor.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tradition holds that King Vikramaditya of Ujjain defeated the invading Shakas around 57–58 BCE and established the Vikrama Samvat era to mark his victory.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The title Vikramaditya was taken by multiple monarchs across various dynasties down to the 12th century CE (such as Hemu, and several Chalukya and Rashtrakuta kings).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Historians record at least 14 Indian monarchs adopting the prestigious title Vikramaditya, with Chandragupta II of the Gupta Dynasty being the most celebrated among them.

5. Which of the following statements regarding Western Kshatrpa ruler Rudradaman I are correct?

1. Rudradaman I belonged to the Western Kshatrpa and ruled over Kathiawar and Gujarat.
2. Undertaken major repairs on the Sudarshana Lake embankment at Junagadh using state revenue.
3. Junagadh Rock Inscription contains historical records written continuously by the Mauryas, Western Kshatrapas, and Guptas.
4. The Junagadh Inscription of Rudradaman I was composed in Prakrit language using the Kharosthi script.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Rudradaman I was the most prominent Mahakshatrpa of the Kardamaka branch of Western Kshatrapas, ruling over Kathiawar, Malwa, and Gujarat.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In his Junagadh inscription, Rudradaman I explicitly states that he repaired the breached dam of Sudarshana Lake out of his own treasury without burdening his subjects with additional taxes (kara) or forced labor (vishti).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The single rock face at Junagadh bears inscriptions of three distinct imperial lines, Ashoka (Maurya), Rudradaman I (Western Kshatrpa), and Skandagupta (Gupta) spanning nearly 800 years of public infrastructure history.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Junagadh inscription is celebrated as the first long inscription in chaste Classical Sanskrit, written in the Brahmi script (not Prakrit or Kharosthi).

6. Which of the following statements regarding the text of the Junagadh Rock Inscription are correct?

1. Text notes that Sudarshana Lake was originally constructed by Pushyagupta, the provincial governor under Emperor Chandragupta Maurya.
2. It claims that Rudradaman I defeated the Yaudheya tribal confederacy, who were known for their military pride.
3. Inscription records that Rudradaman I killed Gautamiputra Satakarni in battle and completely annexed the lower Deccan.
4. The record traces Rudradaman's genealogy back to his grandfather Chashtana.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The inscription gives a historical account of Sudarshana Lake, stating it was built by Rashtriya (governor) Pushyagupta under Chandragupta Maurya and later provided with conduits by Tushaspha under Ashoka.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The prashasti mentions Rudradaman's defeat of the martial Yaudheya republic, who had earned fame for resisting military conquerors.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The inscription states that Rudradaman defeated the lord of Dakshinapatha (Satakarni) twice, but spared his life due to close familial relationships (his daughter was married to Vashishtiputra Pulumavi).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The inscription lists Rudradaman's lineage, naming his father Jayadaman and his grandfather Mahakshatrapa Chashtana.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Western Kshatrapas is/are correct?

1. They issued silver coinage that facilitated trade across the ports of Gujarat and the western seaboard.
2. Western Kshatrapas rejected Sanskrit and made Pali the sole administrative language throughout their domain.

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 Western Kshatrapas minted a uniform series of dated silver coins (using Saka Era dates), which served as a reliable currency for long-distance maritime and inland trade through ports like Bharuch (Barygaza).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Rudradaman I and the Western Kshatrapas were early patrons of Sanskrit, issuing public inscriptions in Sanskrit to establish royal legitimacy, rather than relying on Pali or Prakrit.

8. Which of the following statements regarding the geopolitical struggle between the Shakas and their rivals are correct?

1. Strategic conflict between the Satavahanas and Western Kshatrapas centered on controlling key trade outlets along the western coast.
2. In the early 2nd century CE, Gautamiputra Satakarni defeated the Shaka ruler Nahapana and reclaimed territories in Nashik and Pune.
3. Western Kshatrapa dynasty was brought to an end by Chandragupta II.
4. Shaka dynasty in western India voluntarily surrendered their kingdom to the Indo-Greeks to form a joint confederacy.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(c) 1 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Control over trade routes connecting the Deccan hinterland to lucrative western ports (like Sopara and Kalyan) led to repeated military clashes between the Kshatrapas and Satavahanas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Around 124–125 CE, Gautamiputra Satakarni defeated Nahapana (Kharatara branch), an event evidenced by the overstruck silver coin hoard discovered at Jogalthambi.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) invaded western India around 395–400 CE, defeated the last Shaka ruler Rudrasimha III, and annexed Malwa and Kathiawar into the Gupta Empire.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Shakas did not surrender voluntarily or form a joint confederacy with the Indo-Greeks; they displaced the Indo-Greeks militarily in many regions.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Indo-Parthians (Pahlavas) is/are correct?

1. Indo-Parthians were of Iranian origin and moved into the Kabul valley and Gandhara after displacing local Shakas.
2. In ancient Indian texts, the Indo-Parthians and Shakas are often grouped together as Shaka-Pahlavas due to close cultural overlap.
3. Indo-Parthian domain extended across the entire Gangetic valley, completely replacing the Mauryan administrative framework.

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:** The Indo-Parthians (Pahlavas) were tribes originating from Parthia (modern Iran) who established kingdoms in Arachosia, Kabul, and Gandhara.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Indian literary sources frequently conflate them as Shaka-Pahlavas because both groups shared Iranian cultural characteristics, used similar administrative titles (Kshatrapa), and ruled overlapping territories.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Indo-Parthian rule was geographically limited to northwestern India and Afghanistan; they never held power over the Gangetic plains.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Indo-Parthian ruler Gondophares is/are correct?

1. Gondophares was the most prominent Indo-Parthian king, ruling during the 1st century CE with his capital at Taxila.
2. Early Christian tradition links his reign with the visit of St. Thomas, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ, to 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: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Gondophares (c. 20–46 CE) was the most famous Indo-Parthian monarch. Inscriptions (such as the Takht-i-Bahi inscription) and coin finds confirm his authority across Gandhara and Punjab.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The apocryphal Acts of Thomas records that St. Thomas the Apostle visited the court of King Gudnaphar (Gondophares) in northwestern India to introduce Christianity before traveling to southern India.

Indo-Greeks-II

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

1. Kushanas originated as one of the five constituent clans of the nomadic Yuezhi tribe in Central Asia.
2. Kujula Kadphises consolidated the Yuezhi tribes and minted gold coins featuring images of Lord Shiva.
3. Vima Kadphises expanded Kushana territory east of the River Indus and introduced gold coinage bearing the title Maheshvara.

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)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kushanas were a branch of the Yuezhi (Tocharian) nomadic confederation driven out of China. They occupied Bactria, where the Kushana clan under Kujula Kadphises unified the five principalities (Xihou).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kujula Kadphises (Kadphises I) issued Roman-style copper coins with Buddhist symbols and titles such as Dharmathida (steadfast in faith). It was Vima Kadphises, not Kujula, who introduced high-purity gold coinage depicting Lord Shiva.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vima Kadphises (Kadphises II) extended Kushana dominion across the northwestern Indian subcontinent and was an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva, taking titles like Maheshvara and Sarvalokaisvara (Lord of the Whole World) on his coins.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Emperor Kanishka I are correct?

1. Kanishka I ascended the throne, marking the epoch of the Shaka Era officially used by the Government of India.
2. Empire of Kanishka I extended from Central Asia across the Gangetic plains as far east as Varanasi.
3. Kanishka I established Taxila as his primary imperial capital and Ujjain as his secondary capital.
4. According to Kalhana's Rajatarangini, Kanishka I conquered and held authority over Kashmir.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The ascension of Kanishka I in 78 CE marks the commencement of the Shaka Era (Saka Samvat), adopted as the Indian National Calendar in 1957.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Inscriptions and coin hoards confirm that Kanishka's domain encompassed Bactria, Gandhara, Kashmir, Mathura, and extended along the Gangetic plains up to Varanasi and Sravasti.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kanishka's primary capital was Purushapura (modern Peshawar), and his secondary capital was Mathura (not Taxila or Ujjain).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Kalhana's historical chronicle Rajatarangini explicitly credits Kanishka (along with Hushka and Jushka) with establishing cities and ruling over Kashmir.

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

1. Rabatak Inscription is a 23-line rock record composed in the Bactrian language using the Greek script.
2. It provides a detailed royal genealogy of Kanishka I, tracing his lineage back to Kujula Kadphises.
3. The inscription was discovered in the Gandhara region near Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

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)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Discovered in 1993, the Rabatak inscription is carved in the Bactrian language (an Eastern Iranian language) written using Greek characters.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The text explicitly lists Kanishka's imperial predecessors in chronological sequence: Kujula Kadphises (great-grandfather), Vima Taktu (grandfather), and Vima Kadphises (father).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The inscription was found at Rabatak, near Surkh Kotal in Baghlan Province, Afghanistan, not near Rawalpindi in Pakistan.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Kushana governance and religious policy are correct?

1. Kushana emperors adopted the title Devaputra modeled after Chinese imperial tradition.
2. Kanishka I convened the Fourth Buddhist Council at Kundalavana in Kashmir, presided over by Vasumitra.
3. Ashvaghosha, the author of the epic Sanskrit biography Buddhacharita, served as a court scholar under Kanishka I.
4. Kushana coinage exclusively depicted Buddhist deities, strictly excluding Vedic, Iranian, and Greek gods.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kushana rulers assumed divine titles like Devaputra (Son of God) to legitimize their monarchical power, influenced by the Chinese concept of the Son of Heaven.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Fourth Buddhist Council met at Kundalavana (Kashmir) under Kanishka's patronage. Presided over by Vasumitra with Ashvaghosha as vice-president, it codified Mahayana doctrines and produced the Mahavibhasha Shastra.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ashvaghosha was a key literary figure in Kanishka's court, writing pioneering Classical Sanskrit works including Buddhacharita, Saundarananda, and Sariputraprakaraṇa.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Kushana coins are celebrated for their religious eclecticism, displaying a wide range of deities including Greek (Helios, Selene), Iranian/Zoroastrian (Mithra, Athsho), Hindu (Shiva, Skanda), and Buddhist figures.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to economy and science during the Kushana period is/are correct?

1. Kushanas controlled major segments of the Silk Road, deriving revenue through transit tolls and long-distance trade with the Roman Empire.
2. Charaka, who authored and revised key portions of the foundational Ayurvedic medical text Charaka Samhita, was attached to the court of Kanishka I.
3. The gold coins issued by the Kushana empire were lower in metallic purity compared to the coins of the later Gupta Empire.

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)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Controlling trade routes linking China, Central Asia, India, and the West, the Kushanas prospered as key intermediaries along the Silk Road network, facilitating trade with Rome.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Charaka, revered as a founding authority in Indian medicine (Ayurveda), served as the court physician (Rajavaidya) to Emperor Kanishka I.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kushana gold coins (Dinaras) maintained a higher gold purity percentage than Gupta gold coins, which saw a progressive increase in alloy content in later reigns.

6. Which ancient city served as a primary hub for Kushana monumentality, where Kanishka I constructed a monumental relic stupa praised by Chinese pilgrims?

- (a) Purushapura
- (b) Mathura
- (c) Taxila
- (d) Sravasti

Correct Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- Purushapura (modern Peshawar) was Kanishka's principal capital. He built a multi-tiered wooden stupa there to house sacred relics of the Buddha. Chinese pilgrims like Faxian and Xuanzang documented its grandeur, and its base was excavated at Shah-jī-ki-Dheri, yielding the famous bronze Kanishka Relic Casket.

7. The practice of military governorship was first introduced in India by the:

- (a) Shakas
- (b) Parthians
- (c) Mughals
- (d) Greeks

Correct Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- The Greeks (Indo-Greeks) were the first to introduce the institution of military governorship in India. They appointed administrative-military heads termed Strategos to govern newly annexed provinces and maintain garrison control.

8. In which one of the following regions was Dhanyakataka, which flourished as a prominent Buddhist centre under the Mahasanghikas, located?

- (a) Gandhara
- (b) Kalinga
- (c) Magadha
- (d) Andhra

Correct Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- Dhanyakataka (modern Dharanikota / Amaravati in the Guntur district) was located in the Andhra region along the lower Krishna River. It served as an administrative center for the Satavahanas and a major stronghold of the Mahasanghika Buddhist sect (specifically the Chaityaka school), famous for the Amaravati Stupa.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the three ancient Sangam academies and their literary legacy is/are correct?

1. All three Sangam academies were convened at the ancient capital city of Kapadapuram under the patronage of the Chola monarchs.
2. The Tolkappiyam, authored by Tolkappiyar, is the sole surviving literary work attributed to the Second Sangam.
3. No literary works from the First Sangam have survived, as tradition holds that its texts were lost along with its original seat of assembly.

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)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Sangams flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings, not the Cholas. Furthermore, the First and Third Sangams were held at Madurai, while only the Second Sangam was convened at Kapadapuram.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Out of the extensive literature traditionally associated with the Second Sangam at Kapadapuram, only the Tamil grammatical treatise Tolkappiyam has survived to the present day.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The First Sangam (Muthal Sangam), traditionally believed to have been attended by gods and legendary sages like Agastya, left behind no surviving literary texts.

10. Which of the following statements regarding the structural classification and themes of Sangam literature are correct?

1. Patinenmelkanakku collection represents the oldest surviving stratum of Tamil poetry.
2. Patinenkilkanakku comprises eighteen post-Sangam works that focus mainly on ethics and moral codes, including texts like the Thirukkural and Naladiyar.
3. Tamil poetry, Aham deals with public human experiences such as statecraft, and social ethics.
4. Puram focuses on abstract inner emotions and personal human relationships.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Patinenmelkanakku (Eighteen Major Works), comprising the Ettuthokai (Eight Anthologies) and Pattupattu (Ten Idylls), constitutes the earliest extant body of Tamil heroic poetry.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Patinenkilkanakku (Eighteen Minor Works) belongs mostly to the post-Sangam period and is predominantly didactic, housing famous moral compositions such as Thiruvalluvar's Thirukkural, Palamoli, and Naladiyar.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Aham (Inner) deals with personal, subjective human emotions, specifically love, intimacy, and domestic life not public affairs or heroism.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Puram (Outer) deals with external, objective aspects of human life, such as warfare, royal genealogy, heroism, social ethics, and philanthropy. Statements 3 and 4 swap the definitions of Aham and Puram.

Sangama Age

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

1. Megalithic Age served as the protohistoric foundation that preceded and transitioned into early historic Tamilakam.
2. Megalithic sites in India are restricted to the peninsular state of Tamil Nadu.

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 Megalithic culture of South India laid the material and technological foundations (especially iron usage and agrarian settlements) for the Sangam Age, making it the recognized protohistoric phase of South India.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Megalithic sites are spread extensively across South and Central India, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra, as well as parts of North-East and North India (e.g., Kashmir, Vindhyan region).

2. Consider the following pairs:

Archeological Site	Architectural Feature
1. Adichanallur	Urn burials with iron grave goods
2. Brahmagiri	Cists and stone circles
3. Burzahom	Megalithic menhirs and pit dwellings

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:** Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu) is an extensive urn-burial (Thazhi) Megalithic site yielding iron weapons, bronze objects, and Black and Red Ware pottery.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Brahmagiri (Karnataka) is a prominent Megalithic site known for cist graves surrounded by stone circles, documented by Sir Mortimer Wheeler.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Burzahom (Kashmir) features Neolithic pit dwellings as well as later Megalithic standing stones (menhirs).

3. With reference to the material culture of the Megalithic people of South India which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Megalithic people extensively used iron tools and iron ploughshares, whereas the Indus Valley people did not possess iron technology.
2. Megalithic burials show evidence of horse trappings and equine domestication, whereas the Harappan civilization was not.
3. Megalithic sites are characterized by Black and Red Ware (BRW) pottery, whereas the Indus Valley civilization relied on NBPW.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Megalithic culture belonged to the Iron Age, featuring widespread iron metallurgy (sickles, axes, swords). The Indus Valley Civilization was a Bronze Age culture and had no knowledge of iron.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Megalithic graves frequently yield horse bits, iron stirrups, and equine skeletal remains. In contrast, the Harappan culture shows no widespread evidence of horse domestication or equine warfare equipment.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Black and Red Ware (BRW) is indeed characteristic of the Megalithic culture. However, Harappans used Red Ware with black painted designs (Black-on-Red Ware). Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) belongs to the Second Urbanization phase of Northern India (c. 600–200 BCE), not the Indus Valley Civilization.

4. Consider the following information:

Archaeological Site	State	Description
1. Chandraketugarh	West Bengal	Terracotta art and riverine trading center
2. Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic farming settlement
3. Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic urn burial site
4. Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Prominent Buddhist site on the Vamsadhara River

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

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Chandraketugarh is in West Bengal (Ganges delta region), renowned for fine Mauryan and Sunga terracotta figurines and riverine commerce.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Inamgaon is a major Chalcolithic site on the Ghod River in Maharashtra, displaying house structures, burial practices, and agrarian remnants.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Mangadu is a well-known Megalithic site in Kollam district, Kerala, yielding iron artifacts and pottery inside urn burials.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Salihundam is a major hillock Buddhist site in Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh, situated near the banks of the Vamsadhara River.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Palai landscape in Sangam literature is/are correct?

1. Palai eco-zone represents arid tracts, symbolizing themes of hardship, unfaithfulness, and elopement.
2. Presiding deity of the Palai region was Mayon, worshipped as the protector of pastoral communities.

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 the Athinai system, Palai represents dry, parched lands where the primary occupations were highway robbery and cattle lifting, symbolizing distress and separation/elopement.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The presiding deity of Palai was Korravai (the goddess of war and victory). Mayon (Vishnu) was the presiding deity of the Mullai (pastoral/forest) landscape.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sangam Tinai eco-zones is/are correct?

1. Kurinji represents the mountainous region associated with secret love affairs and the worship of Murugan.
2. Marudham represents the fertile agricultural plains associated with domestic life, prosperity, and the deity Indra.

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:** Kurinji signifies the hilly, forested terrain. Its dominant theme is Punardal (secret union of lovers), and its presiding deity is Murugan (Seyon).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Marudham denotes irrigated river valleys and agrarian fields. Its theme revolves around Udal (sulking and marital discord/reconciliation), and its deity is Vendan/Indra (god of rain and abundance).

7. With reference to the political structure of early historic Tamilakam, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Three crowned kings Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas exercised supreme authority over the whole of Tamilakam, eliminating minor chieftains.
2. Sangam monarchs took elevated titles such as Vendhan, Ko, and Iraivan, reflecting tendencies toward divine kingship.
3. Muvendar maintained active maritime commercial contacts with the Mediterranean world and military conflicts with Sri Lanka.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Muvendar did not eliminate local lineage rulers. A prominent class of minor chieftains known as Velirs (e.g., Pari, Adiyaman) held considerable administrative and territorial power, often balancing alliances between the three major crowns.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kings were addressed using royal titles like Vendhan (crowned king), Ko (king/god), and Iraivan (sovereign/divine protector), showing royal sacralization.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Sangam texts and Roman coin hoards testify to active Indo-Roman trade at western and eastern ports. Military campaigns between Tamil kingdoms and northern Sri Lanka are documented in indigenous Tamil works and Sri Lankan chronicles like the Mahavamsa.

8. With reference to the Chera kingdom of the Sangam Age, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Cheran Senguttuvan is credited with establishing the Pattini cult dedicated to the worship of Kannagi as the ideal of chastity.
2. Chera kingdom was headquartered at Uraiyur, with Puhar serving as its primary sea outlet on the Bay of Bengal.
3. The classic Tamil epic Silappadikaram was composed by Ilango Adigal, who was traditionally regarded as the brother of Cheran Senguttuvan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Cheran Senguttuvan (the "Red Chera") is famous for introducing the worship of Kannagi (Pattini cult) and conducting a northern expedition to bring stones from the Himalayas to carve her idol.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The capital of the Cheras was Vanji (Karuvur), and their major ports were Musiri (Muziris) and Tondi on the Arabian Sea coast. Uraiyur and Puhar were the capital and port of the Cholas, not the Cheras.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Silappadikaram was authored by Prince Ilango Adigal, identified in traditional accounts as the brother of Cheran Senguttuvan.

9. With reference to the Chola kingdom of the Sangam Age, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Karikala Chola established his supremacy over rival powers by defeating a coalition of Cheras, Pandyas, and eleven minor chieftains at the Battle of Venni.
2. Karikala Chola built the Kallanai (Grand Anicut) across the Kaveri River, one of the earliest water-diversion structures for irrigation in India.
3. Pugalur inscription found near Karur records three generations of early Chola kings.

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:** The Battle of Venni was a major military victory where Karikala defeated the combined armies of the Chera king, the Pandya king, and eleven Velir chieftains, consolidating Chola hegemony over the Kaveri delta.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Karikala Chola is credited with building flood embankments along the Kaveri River and constructing the Kallanai Dam (Grand Anicut) to divert water for agricultural irrigation in Cholamandalam.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The 1st-century CE Pugalur inscription (near Karur) refers to three generations of Chera rulers (Ko Athan Cheral Irumporai, Perum Cheral Irumporai, and Elangko Irumporai), not Chola rulers.

10. With reference to the Pandya kingdom of the Sangam Age, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. King Nedunchezhiyan defeat combined coalition of Cheras, Cholas, and five chieftains at the Battle of Talaiyalanganam.
2. Port of Korkai, in the Pandya territory, was internationally renowned for its pearl fishery and Indo-Roman trade.
3. Literary tradition of the Pandyas shows absence of agricultural irrigation, relying exclusively on rainfed dryland farming.

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:** Nedunchezhiyan (known as Talaiyalanganathu Seruvendra Pandyan) achieved a major victory at Talaiyalanganam against the joint forces of the two rival crowns (Chera and Chola) and five Velir chieftains.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Korkai (at the mouth of the Tamraparni River) was the primary port of the Pandyas, famous for its rich pearl fisheries mentioned in both indigenous Sangam poems and foreign classical accounts (such as the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Sangam literature and archaeological evidence document the construct of irrigation tanks, sluices, and canals (Kavin) in the Pandya realm to foster paddy cultivation along the Tamraparni and Vaigai river basins.

Sangam Age-II

1. Which of the following statements regarding the political structure and administrative bodies of the Sangam Age kingdoms are correct?

1. Kingdoms of the Sangam Age functioned under hereditary monarchies, where rulers assumed titles like Vendhan.
2. King held absolute powers without any advisory bodies or ministerial assistance.
3. Aimperunguzhu was a five-member ministerial cabinet that managed key administrative affairs.
4. Perayam was an eight-member council of elders that assisted the monarch in executive governance.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kingship was hereditary in early historic Tamilakam, and the monarch was titled Vendhan, Ko, or Iraivan.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Monarchy was not absolute or autocratic; kings relied on structured advisory and executive bodies for administration.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Aimperunguzhu served as a five-member cabinet comprising ministers responsible for critical state matters.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Perayam was an eight-member administrative assembly of elders that advised the king.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the military organization during the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. Army of the Sangam kingdoms consisted of four classic divisions: Padati, cavalry Turangini, Gaja and chariots.
2. Sangam monarchs directed war strategies strictly from fortified capitals and were prohibited from leading troops on the battlefield.

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:** Sangam military forces were structured around four divisions (Nalpadai): infantry, cavalry, war elephants, and chariots.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kings personally commanded armies on the battlefield. Defeat or injury in battle often led to ritual fasts unto death (Vattakirutal).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to administrative and legal features of the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. Velirs were local feudatory chieftains who ruled smaller territories while acknowledging the supreme sovereignty of the major crowns.
2. Internal security and surveillance were maintained using an organized network of spies known as Orrars.
3. Diplomatic missions and inter-state relations were conducted through envoys termed Thuthars.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Velirs (e.g., Pari, Adiyaman) ruled autonomous chieftaincies and provided military aid to the Muvendar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Law and order was maintained with the help of an intelligence network employing Orrars (spies).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Foreign policy and alliance negotiations were handled by Thuthars (ambassadors/envoys).

4. Consider the following information:

Administrative Unit	Category	Description
1. Mandalam	Territorial Division	Major province/realm like Chola Mandalam
2. Ur	Settlement Type	General town or urban center
3. Perur	Settlement Type	Large or populous village
4. Sirur	Settlement Type	Small rural hamlet

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

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Mandalam represented the largest territorial province (e.g., Chera Mandalam).
- **Row 2:** Ur referred to a town or urban habitat.
- **Row 3:** Perur designated a larger, well-populated agrarian village.
- **Row 4:** Sirur denoted a smaller hamlet or small village.

5. In the context of the Sangam Age, the term Vattakirutal refers to which one of the following practices?

- (a) A land revenue assessment technique executed by royal village assemblies.
- (b) A ritual suicide practiced by defeated or dishonored kings and warriors facing north.
- (c) A maritime trade ceremony performed prior to overseas voyages.
- (d) A coronation ritual performed during the ascension of Chera monarchs.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Vattakirutal** was a ritual practice where a defeated king or warrior sat facing north and starved himself to death to wash away dishonor or battle wounds in the back.

6. Consider the following information:

Social Class	Functional Role	Primary Activity
1. Arasar	Ruling Class	Chieftains and royalty
2. Anthanar	Priestly Class	Custodians of rituals and literature
3. Vanigar	Merchant Class	Inland and maritime trade

4. Vellalar	Agrarian Class	Landowners and cultivators
5. Kadaiyyar	Laboring Class	Agricultural laborers and bonded workers

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

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Arasar formed the ruling aristocrats and kings.
- **Row 2:** Anthanar performed religious duties and preserved ritual knowledge.
- **Row 3:** Vanigar conducted commercial trade in urban trade hubs.
- **Row 4:** Vellalar represented the dominant farming and landholding class.
- **Row 5:** Kadaiyyar (and Adimai) formed the lowest tier consisting of farm workers and laborers.

7. Consider the following information:

Community Group	Socio-Occupational Identity	Functional Context
1. Thiraiyars	Seafaring Community	Coastal regions (Neythal) and maritime transport
2. Maravars	Warrior Tribe	Dry tracts (Palai), martial activities and cattle raiding
3. Nagars	Border Guards	Frontier defense and outpost sentries
4. Kadambaras	Forest Dwellers	Hill regions (Kurinji), hunting and forest foraging

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:

- All four rows are matched correctly: Thiraiyars were seafarers; Maravars were martial communities in drylands; Nagars guarded borders; Kadambaras were forest-dwelling hunter-gatherers.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the forest-dwelling communities during the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. Indigenous groups like the Irulas, Vedars, Pulaiyars, and Todas were integrated into the Sangam social structure while maintaining forest-based livelihoods.

2. Sangam state strictly prohibited forest tribes from living in fringe areas, forcing complete urbanization across Tamilakam.

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:** Communities like the Irulas, Vedars, and Pulaiyars lived on the geographical fringes of agrarian society, pursuing foraging and pastoral lifestyles.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sangam society accommodated diverse ecological lifestyle zones (Tinais); forest dwellers were not forced into urban centers.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the status of women in Sangam society are correct?

- 1. Women held a respected position in society, with several actively participating in scholarly discourse and public life.
- 2. Female intellectuals like Avvaiyar, Nachchellaiyar, and Kakkaipadiniyar contributed significantly to Sangam poetry.
- 3. Prostitution was an officially banned practice under Sangam legal codes.
- 4. Sati was practiced among certain elite warrior families as a mark of devotion.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Women enjoyed social freedom, access to education, and respected status in elite and literary circles.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Over 30 female poets, including Avvaiyar and Kakkaipadiniyar, authored poems included in the Sangam anthologies.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Prostitution was a recognized institution in Sangam urban society; courtesans (Parattiyar) are mentioned in Sangam literature without legal prohibition.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Sati (Tippayadal) was practiced, particularly among high-ranking martial and royal families.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to trade and commerce in the Sangam Age is/are correct?

- 1. Korkai was a major southern port famous for pearl fisheries and maritime trade.
- 2. Puhar (Kaveripattinam) served as a primary coastal trade emporium at the mouth of the Kaveri River.
- 3. The classical term Yavanapriya was used in ancient trade contexts to denote high-quality Indian silk exported to China.

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:** Korkai was the primary port of the Pandyas, renowned for pearl harvesting and Indo-Roman trade.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Puhar (Kaveripattinam) was the key Chola port city, featuring docks, warehouses, and foreign merchant quarters.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Yavanapriya (dear to the Greeks/Romans) referred to black pepper, which was heavily imported by the Roman Empire from western ports like Muziris.

Medieval Regional Kingdoms Administration and Sangam Age Art

1. Which of the following statements regarding religion and deities during the Sangam Age are correct?

1. Murugan was regarded as the chief deity, predominantly associated with hill regions.
2. Mayon was worshipped as the fierce war goddess of victory in the drylands.
3. Korravai was revered as a dark-skinned pastoral deity protecting herdsmen in the forest regions.
4. Varuna was invoked as the sea god, reflecting the maritime activities of the coastal tracts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Murugan (Seyon) was the primary indigenous deity of Tamilakam, worshipped chiefly in the Kurinji (hilly) eco-zone as the god of war, youth, and fertility.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mayon (Vishnu) was the pastoral god of the Mullai (forest) region, not the war goddess of Palai.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Korravai was the fierce goddess of war and victory worshipped in the Palai (arid/dryland) region, not a pastoral deity.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Varuna was the god of oceans and water bodies associated with the Neythal (coastal/maritime) landscape.

2. Which of the following statements regarding worship rituals and cultural practices in the Sangam Age are correct?

1. Nadukal were memorial structures erected and worshipped to honor warriors killed in battle.
2. Sangam period was characterized by large stone-vaulted temples and elaborate Brahminical priestly rituals.
3. Pattini cult, centered on the worship of Kannagi as the deity of chastity, was instituted by Cheran Senguttuvan.
4. Worship of Kannagi as Pattini Devi remained restricted to the Kaveri delta and failed to spread outside Tamilakam.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nadukal (or Veerakkal) were hero stones planted in memory of fallen heroes, often inscribed with details of their valor and worshipped as sacred objects.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Structural brick or stone temples were almost non-existent; religious life was largely outdoor, tree-, river-, or hill-centered symbolic worship without complex priestly mediation.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Chera King Senguttuvan introduced the Pattini cult following the legendary events narrated in Silappadikaram.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Pattini cult spread extensively into Sri Lanka (where she is worshipped as Goddess Pattini) and Kerala, demonstrating wide regional diffusion.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to religious developments during and after the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. Early Vedic rituals and Brahminical influence entered Tamil society through royal sacrifices and patronage in kingly courts.
2. Jainism and Buddhism experienced a sharp decline during the Kalabhra interregnum.
3. Non-ritualistic heterodox sects gained significant traction among urban merchants and elite circles during this transition.

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:** Brahminical practices gained ground as Sangam monarchs performed Vedic sacrifices (e.g., Rajasuya) and patronized priests.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Jainism and Buddhism actually **flourished** during the Kalabhra period (300–600 CE), marked by rich literary output like ethical didactic texts (Patinenkilkanakku).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Heterodox traditions attracted merchants and common folk due to their emphasis on ethics, literacy, and non-ritualistic monastic organization.

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

1. End of the Sangam Age was precipitated by inter-dynastic conflicts and the rise of the Kalabhras.
2. Kalabhra period was historically termed a Dark Age due to absence of Buddhist and Jain literary production.
3. Kalabhra rule in South India was eventually displaced by the Pallavas in the north and resurgent Pandyas in the south.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The tripartite conflict among Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas weakened them, allowing the Kalabhras to establish authority across Tamilakam.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Early historians called it a Dark Age primarily due to the lack of royal monuments and inscriptions, NOT a lack of literature. In fact, major Tamil literary works (including Jain and Buddhist texts) were produced during this era.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** By the late 6th century CE, Simhavishnu (Pallava) and Kadungon (Pandya) defeated the Kalabhras and re-established classical monarchies.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj are correct?

1. Struggle was fought among the Gurjara-Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas to secure control over the Gangetic trade route.
2. Pratihara King Vatsaraja scored an absolute victory over Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva Dharavarsha, securing permanent annexation of Kannauj.
3. Mihir Bhoja strengthened Pratihara dominance over North India following successive military campaigns.
4. Prolonged war weakened all three participating dynasties, accelerating political fragmentation in Northern India.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kannauj was the prized strategic hub on the Uttarapatha controlling Gangetic commerce and political hegemony over North India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Dhruva Dharavarsha (Rashtrakuta) actually defeated Vatsaraja (Pratihara) and forced him to retreat into the Rajasthan desert.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Bhoja I (Mihir Bhoja) re-established Pratihara supremacy over Kannauj and broad swathes of North-West India.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Constant military overextension drained the resources of all three powers, paving the way for regional feudal fragmentation.

6. Consider the following historical events/milestones:

1. Establishment of Pallava power in South India under Mahendravarman I
2. Founding of the Pala dynasty in Bengal by Gopala
3. Peak of Gurjara-Pratihara power under King Bhoja (Mihir Bhoja)
4. Imperial Chola consolidation under Parantaka I

What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Mahendravarman I (Pallava):** 7th century CE.
- **Gopala (Pala Founder):** Mid-8th century CE.
- **Mihir Bhoja (Pratihara):** 9th century CE.
- **Parantaka I (Chola):** 10th century CE.

Thus, the correct chronological sequence is 1 – 2 – 3 – 4.

7. In early medieval Indian administration (under Palas and Pratiharas), what was the correct descending order of administrative territorial divisions?

- (a) Bhukti Mandala/Visaya Pattala
- (b) Pattala Visaya Bhukti
- (c) Mandala Pattala Bhukti
- (d) Bhukti Pattala Visaya

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Bhukti:** The largest administrative province governed by an Uparika (Governor).
- **Mandala / Visaya:** Districts within a Bhukti, headed by a Visayapati.
- **Pattala:** Sub-districts/clusters of villages below the Visaya level, above individual village units.

8. In the context of early medieval Indian agrarian administration, the terms Bhogapati and Samanta denote:

- (a) Guild leaders managing silk export unions at maritime trade ports.
- (b) Feudal landholders and revenue intermediaries who exercised local judicial and administrative dominance.
- (c) Foreign mercenary captains recruited into the imperial palace guard.
- (d) Head priests in charge of managing temple land grants (Agraharas).

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- During the early medieval period, the expansion of royal land grants led to decentralized governance. Bhogapatis (revenue collectors enjoying village yields) and Samantas (feudal chiefs/vassals) dominated rural administration and military levies at the local village level.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the art and architectural traditions of the Gurjara-Pratiharas is/are correct?

1. Gurjara-Pratihara architecture contributed to the early development of the Nagara style featuring curvilinear shikharas and pancharatha temple layouts.
2. Bateswar group of temples in Madhya Pradesh and the Baroli temple complex in Rajasthan belong to the Pratihara architectural style.
3. Pratihara sculptors avoided animal incarnations of Vishnu

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pratihara temple architecture developed key elements of the Northern Nagara style, including carved shikharas, open pavilions, and multi-projection plan layouts (triratha, pancharatha).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Major architectural sites include the Bateswar Temples (Morena, MP), Baroli Temples (Rajasthan), and the Mahavira Jain Temple at Osian (Rajasthan).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Pratihara art featured rich Vaishnava iconography, notably the colossal Varaha (Boar incarnation of Vishnu), which was also depicted on King Mihir Bhoja's coin issues (Adivaraha silver coins).

10. Which of the following statements with regard to early medieval court literature and foreign accounts is/are correct?

1. Rajashekhara, author of Kavyamimansa and Karpuramanjari, served as the court poet of the Gurjara-Pratihara rulers.
2. Arab merchant Sulaiman recorded in his accounts that no kingdom in India was safer from highway robbery than the realm of the Pratihara king Mihir Bhoja.

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:** Rajashekhara was the court poet and guru of Pratihara King Mahendrapala I and his son Mahipala. He authored celebrated Sanskrit/Prakrit works like Kavyamimansa, Karpuramanjari, Bala Ramayana, and Bala Bharata.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 9th-century Arab traveler Sulaiman (in his work Silsilat-ut-Tawarikh) praised Mihir Bhoja (referred to as King Baura) for his efficient administration, military strength, and the high level of public safety against bandits throughout his empire.

Rashtrakutas and Pala Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements regarding the origin and early rulers of the Rashtrakuta Dynasty are correct?

1. Dantidurga founded the dynasty by defeating Chalukyan ruler Kirtivarman II and performed the Hiranyagarbha ritual.
2. Krishna I expanded Rashtrakuta control over Karnataka and commissioned the monolithic Kailasanath Temple at Ellora.
3. Dhruva incorporated the river symbols of Ganga and Yamuna into the Rashtrakuta imperial emblem following his northern campaigns.
4. Govinda III was defeated by Pratihara ruler Nagabhata II, leading to the loss of Manyakheta as the imperial capital.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Dantidurga overthrew Kirtivarman II of Badami Chalukyas and performed the Hiranyagarbha (great golden womb) ritual at Ujjain to assert Kshatriya status.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Krishna I succeeded Dantidurga, consolidated territory in Karnataka and Konkan, and commissioned the famous rock-cut Kailasanath Temple at Ellora.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** King Dhruva invaded North India during the Tripartite Struggle, defeated Pratihara Vatsaraja and Pala Dharmapala, and adopted the figures of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna into his royal standard.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Govinda III did not lose Manyakheta; he actually defeated Nagabhata II and received tribute from as far south as Ceylon (Sri Lanka). The Sanjan inscription records his horses drinking from the waters of the Himalayas.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Amoghavarsha I and Krishna III are correct?

1. Amoghavarsha I assumed the titles Nripatunga and Vira-Narayana.
2. Amoghavarsha I authored Kavirajamarga, the earliest available work on Kannada poetics.
3. Amoghavarsha I was a patron of Jainism and took Jalasamadhi in the Tungabhadra River.
4. Krishna III was defeated at the Battle of Takkolam by Chola ruler Parantaka I.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Amoghavarsha I held titles including Nripatunga, Vira-Narayana, and Atishayadhavala.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kavirajamarga is the oldest surviving landmark work on poetry and rhetoric in the Kannada language, authored by Amoghavarsha I (with input from court poet Srivijaya).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Embracing Jainism under the guidance of Acharya Jinasena, he spent his last years in spiritual retreat and entered ritual immersion (Jalasamadhi) in the Tungabhadra River.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Krishna III defeated Chola king Parantaka I at the Battle of Takkolam, after which he erected a pillar of victory and a temple at Rameshwaram.

3. Consider the following information regarding Rashtrakuta administrative divisions:

Administrative Tier	Governing Official	Functional Scope
1. Rashtra	Rashtrapati	Principal imperial province
2. Bhukti	Uparika	Provincial sub-division / district cluster
3. Visaya	Visayapati	Local administrative district

4. Grama	Gaulmika / Headman	Basic village unit
----------	--------------------	--------------------

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) 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Rashtra was the largest administrative division governed by a Rashtrapati.
- **Row 2:** Bhukti (or Suba) was an intermediate administrative unit placed under an Uparika.
- **Row 3:** Visaya (or Mandala) formed the district-level unit administered by a Visayapati.
- **Row 4:** Grama represented the lowest tier, overseen by a village headman (Gaulmika or Gramakuta).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to official designations under the Rashtrakutas is/are correct?

1. Mahasandhivigrahi acted as the minister for foreign affairs and peace/war negotiations, while Dandanayaka functioned as the military commander.
2. Nad-gavundas were hereditary village-level priests appointed by royal decree to oversee judicial trials.

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 Rashtrakuta administration, Mahasandhivigrahi was the minister of state for external affairs and diplomatic treaties, and Dandanayaka was the commander of armed forces.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Nad-gavundas (and Desa-gramakutas) were hereditary revenue officers and local land officials (precursors to the later Deshmukhs/Deshpandes), not judicial priests.

5. Consider the following information regarding early medieval architectural monuments:

Monument	Associated Site	Key Sculptural Feature
1. Kailasanath Temple	Ellora Caves, Maharashtra	Monolithic rock-cut shrine built by Krishna I
2. Dashavatara Temple	Ellora Caves	Features relief of Vishnu as Narasimha slaying Hiranyakashipu
3. Maheshamurti Bust	Elephanta Caves	25-foot three-faced colossal relief of Shiva
4. Shore Temple	Badami	Built by Dantidurga to celebrate the Hiranyagarbha ritual

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

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Kailasanath Temple at Ellora (Cave 16) is a monolithic rock-cut Vesara architectural marvel executed under Krishna I.
- **Row 2:** Dashavatara Temple at Ellora contains an inscription of Dantidurga and prominent Vaishnava sculptures, including Narasimha.
- **Row 3:** The colossal 25-foot Maheshamurti (Trimurti representation of Shiva as Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer) is the central icon of Elephanta Caves.
- **Row 4:** The Shore Temple is located at Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu) and was built by the Pallavas (Narasimhavarman II), not at Badami by Dantidurga.

6. Which of the following statements regarding Rashtrakuta art and literature are correct?

1. Relief of Ravana shaking Mount Kailasa is a prominent artistic feature of the Kailasanath Temple at Ellora.
2. Kannada poet Pampa composed the Adipurana in Champu style and authored the Vikramarjuna Vijaya.
3. Ponna, one of the three gems of early Kannada literature, composed the Jain epic Shanti Purana.
4. Amoghavarsha I authored the Sanskrit religious treatise Prasnotaramalika.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The dramatic multi-dimensional panel showing Ravana shaking Mount Kailasa is one of the most celebrated sculptural reliefs at Ellora Cave 16.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Adikavi Pampa (court poet of Rashtrakuta feudatory Arikesari II) wrote Adipurana (life of Rishabhhanatha) in Champu (mixed prose and verse) and Vikramarjuna Vijaya (Pampa Bharata).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ponna, patronized by Krishna III, earned the title Kavichakravarti for writing Shanti Purana.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Amoghavarsha I authored Prasnotaramalika (also called Prashnottara Ratnamalika), a Sanskrit philosophical work written in a question-and-answer format.

7. Which of the following statements regarding the rulers of the Pala Dynasty are correct?

1. Gopala I founded the Pala Dynasty and built a Buddhist monastic university at Odantapuri.
2. Dharmapala founded Vikramashila University and the Somapura Mahavihara in Bengal/Bangladesh.
3. Devapala extended control toward Kamarupa (Assam) and maintained diplomatic relations with the Sailendra rulers of Java/Sumatra.
4. Mahipala I successfully repelled Rajendra Chola's northern expedition and dismantled all Chola encampments in Bengal.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Gopala I was elected king by local notables to end political anarchy (matsyanyaya) and founded the Odantapuri monastery.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dharmapala established Vikramashila University (Bhagalpur) and Somapura Mahavihara (Paharpur, Bangladesh) as major centers of Mahayana and Vajrayana learning.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Devapala expanded Pala territory into Assam and Orissa and granted five villages for the upkeep of a monastery built at Nalanda by King Balaputradeva of the Sailendra Dynasty (Sumatra).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Mahipala I defended against Rajendra Chola's expedition (c. 1021–1023 CE), but the Chola army successfully reached the Ganga River and carried back sacred water; Rajendra Chola was not completely repulsed without tactical gain.

8. The innovation of creating the office of Prime Minister with comprehensive administrative powers alongside the sovereign is explicitly detailed in which of the following epigraphic records?

- (a) Badal Pillar Inscription
- (b) Khalimpur Copper Plate
- (c) Sanjan Copper Plate
- (d) Aihole Inscription

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Badal Pillar Inscription (placed by Garga and his descendant Darbhapani/Kedaramisra) details the hereditary line of Brahmin ministers who served as Prime Ministers under Pala kings (Dharmapala and Devapala), demonstrating that executive governance was exercised through this ministerial office.

9. Consider the following information regarding administrative departments and officials under the Pala Empire:

Function	Official	Role
1. Public Accounts & Records	Maha-akshapatalika	Keeper of royal records and state accounts
2. Judicial Administration	Mahadandanayaka	Chief justice and legal adjudicator
3. Palace Police & Security	Mahapratihara	Chief usher / head of royal palace security
4. Secret Intelligence	Khola	Intelligence agents and secret couriers

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:** Maha-akshapatalika headed the imperial accounts and record-keeping department (Akshapala).
- **Row 2:** Mahadandanayaka functioned as the head of judiciary and law enforcement officers.
- **Row 3:** Mahapratihara managed palace protocol, entry, and personal security of the sovereign.
- **Row 4:** Khola served as intelligence operatives collecting secret reports across imperial territory.

10. In Pala military administration, the commander of royal bodyguards protecting the king was designated as:

- (a) Baladhyaksha
- (b) Angaraksha
- (c) Kottapala
- (d) Dasgramika

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- In the Pala military setup, Angarakshas served as elite personal bodyguards directly protecting the monarch. Baladhyaksha was an infantry/army commander, Kottapala was a fort commander, and Dasgramika was a local revenue official over ten villages.

Pala and Sena Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Pala Empire is/are correct?

1. Pala state was organized into Bhuktis, which were subdivided into Vishayas, Mandalas, and Patakas.
2. Pala economy functioned exclusively on overland trade routes through Tibet and Central Asia.
3. Tamralipti and Saptagram served as important port towns facilitating maritime commerce with South-East Asia during this period.

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:** The Pala imperial administration was divided into provinces called Bhuktis, which were further partitioned down to Vishayas, Mandalas, and smaller territorial units like Patakas, Khandalas, and Chaturakas.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Maritime trade was central to Pala economic prosperity. The Palas maintained active maritime trade and diplomatic links with the Sailendra Dynasty of South-East Asia (Java and Sumatra).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ports located in the Bengal delta, particularly Tamralipti and Saptagram, were vital nodes for maritime trade routes linking Eastern India with South-East Asian mercantile networks.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Pala art and architecture is/are correct?

1. Dhiman and Bitapal were famous sculptors and painters of the Pala period who excelled in casting metal images.
2. Somapuri Mahavihara and Vikramashila University were founded by the first Pala ruler, Gopala I.

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:** Dhiman and his son Bitapal were celebrated 9th-century artists from Bengal during the reigns of Dharmapala and Devapala. They were renowned for their bronze casting, metal sculptures, and miniature paintings, which bore Gupta stylistic influences.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Gopala I founded the monastery at Odantapuri, but Dharmapala founded Vikramashila University and the Somapuri Mahavihara (Paharpur, Bangladesh).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Pala-period literature is/are correct?

1. Biography Ramacharitam, composed by Sandhyakar Nandi, uses double meanings to simultaneously narrate stories of Rama and the Pala King Ramapala.
2. Gauda riti literary style was banned in Eastern India during the reign of the Pala kings.

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:** Sandhyakar Nandi composed Ramacharitam in the shlesha (double entendre) style, where each verse can be interpreted as either the mythological story of Rama or the historical struggle of Pala ruler Ramapala to suppress the Kaivarta rebellion.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Gauda riti (a distinct poetic style characterized by elaborate compound words and ornate figures of speech) developed and flourished in Eastern India during the Pala era.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sena Dynasty are correct?

1. Sena rulers originally migrated to Bengal from Karnataka and are described in the Deopara inscription as Brahma-Kshatriyas.
2. Hemanta Sena was the real founder of the empire built the dual capitals at Vikramapura and Vijayapura.
3. Achievements of Vijaya Sena were commemorated by the court poet Umapati Dhara in the Deopara Prashasti.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Senas originated in Karnataka (South India) and settled in Bengal. The Deopara Prashasti describes them as Brahma-Kshatriyas (Brahmins who adopted the martial profession of Kshatriyas).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Vijaya Sena not Hemanta Sena was the real founder who overthrew the Pala dynasty in Bengal and established dual capitals at Vikrampur and Vijayapura.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Umapati Dhara authored the Deopara Prashasti, an epigraphic eulogy celebrating Vijaya Sena's military conquests and public works.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Ballal Sena and Lakshmana Sena are correct?

1. Ballal Sena introduced Kulinism, an orthodox social system, into Bengal and composed the Sanskrit works Danasagara and Adbhutsagara.
2. Lakshmana Sena was a devout patron of Vaishnavism who patronized Jayadeva, author of the Gita Govinda.
3. Lakshmana Sena successfully repelled the invasion of Bakhtiyar Khalji at Nabadwip, driving the Ghurid forces out of Bengal.

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:** King Ballal Sena codified the caste hierarchy in Bengal through Kulinism and authored two famous Sanskrit texts: Danasagara (on gifts/charity) and Adbhutsagara (on astronomy/omens).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lakshmana Sena assumed the title Paramvaishnava. His court was graced by eminent literary figures including Jayadeva (Gita Govinda) and Halayudha (his chief minister).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In Bakhtiyar Khalji launched a swift cavalry raid on Nabadwip. Caught by surprise, Lakshmana Sena was forced to abandon his palace and retreat into Eastern Bengal (Vikrampur).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Pala-Sena architectural and sculptural style is/are correct?

1. Pala-Sena school developed curved sloping roofs modeled after traditional bamboo huts, known as the Bangla roof.
2. Pala-Sena sculptors relied on soft wood, avoiding metal and stone due to regional material shortages.

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:** A notable contribution of Bengal regional architecture was the Bangla roof (sloping/curved eaves imitating thatch-and-bamboo village huts), which later influenced Sultanate and Mughal architectural forms.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Black basalt stone (from the Rajmahal hills) and metal alloy (octo-alloy/bronze) were the primary materials used in high-finish, lustrous Pala-Sena sculptures.

7. Consider the following dynasties:

1. Hoysala
2. Gahadavala
3. Kakatiya
4. Yadava

How many of the above dynasties established their independent kingdoms in the early eighth century?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- All four listed dynasties established their independent sovereign kingdoms after the 10th/11th centuries CE:
 - **Hoysalas:** Emerged in the 10th–11th centuries CE (capital at Dwarasamudra).
 - **Gahadavalas:** Established control over Kannauj in the late 11th century CE (under Chandradeva).
 - **Kakatiyas:** Gained independent sovereignty in the 12th century CE (under Prola II/Rudra I).
 - **Yadavas of Devagiri:** Established an independent power in the late 12th century CE (under Bhillama V).

8. Consider the following pairs:

King	Dynasty
1. Nannuka	Chandela
2. Jayashakti	Paramara
3. Nagabhata II	Gurjara-Pratihara
4. Bhoja	Rashtrakuta

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:** Nannuka was the founder of the Chandela dynasty of Jejakabhukti.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Jayashakti (from whom the region Jejakabhukti derived its name) was a Chandela king, not a Paramara.

- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Nagabhata II was a prominent ruler of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty who rebuilt the Somnath temple.
- **Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:** Mihir Bhoja (or Bhoja I) was a famous Gurjara-Pratihara king (or Raja Bhoja of Paramara dynasty), not a Rashtrakuta ruler.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Somnath Temple are correct?

1. Somnath Temple is one of the twelve sacred Jyotirlinga shrines of Lord Shiva.
2. Detailed account of the Somnath Temple and its wealth was recorded by the Persian scholar Al-Biruni.

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:** Somnath Temple (located at Prabhas Patan, Veraval in Gujarat) is traditionally considered the first among the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Islamic scholar Al-Biruni, who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni to India, left a detailed description of the architecture, rituals, and wealth of the Somnath Temple in his work Tarikh-i-Hind.

10. With reference to the Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements:

1. It is a circular stone temple built during the reign of the Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
2. It is the only circular temple constructed in ancient and medieval India.
3. It was built to promote the Tantric worship of Yoginis in the region.
4. Its circular design gave rise to the popular belief that it inspired the architecture of the old Indian Parliament building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Chausath Yogini Temple (Mitawali, Morena district, MP) was constructed in the 14th century by King Devapala of the Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is not the only circular temple in India. Other prominent circular temples exist, such as the Chausath Yogini temples at Hirapur and Ranipur Jharial in Odisha.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The temple contains 64 peripheral chapels intended for Yoginis, dedicated to the esoteric Tantric cult.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Its hypaethral circular design with a central pavilion closely resembles the design of the old Indian Parliament building (Samvidhan Sadan), leading to popular consensus regarding its influence on Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker.