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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
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GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Mughal Empire

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

1. Defeated Ibrahim Lodi in First Battle of Panipat using the Tulguma deployment and Ottoman gunnery tactics.
2. His victory over Rana Sanga at the Battle of Khanwa broke the formidable Rajput confederacy.
3. Introduced Char-Bagh style and built mosques at Panipat and Rohilkhand.
4. Authored his autobiographical memoirs, the Tuzuk-i-Babri, originally written in Persian and later translated into Chagatai Turkish by Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan.

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, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Babur's victory over Ibrahim Lodi in 1526 relied on military innovations: the Tulguma flank encirclement strategy and Ottoman field artillery (Rumi system) commanded by Ustad Ali and Mustafa.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Battle of Khanwa (1527) against Rana Sanga of Mewar secured Babur's political foothold in North India and fractured the Rajput coalition.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Babur introduced symmetrical Persian-style Char-Bagh gardens (e.g., Aram Bagh in Agra) and constructed early Mughal congregational mosques at Panipat and Sambhal (Rohilkhand).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Babur authored his memoirs (Tuzuk-i-Babri) in his native Chagatai Turkish (not Persian). It was later translated into Persian (Babarnama) by Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan during the reign of Akbar.

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

1. Humayun lost control of his North Indian territories to Sher Shah Suri after decisive defeats at the Battle of Chausa and the Battle of Bilgram.
2. After spending fifteen years in exile at the Safavid court of Shah Tahmasp in Persia, Humayun reclaimed Delhi and Agra following the Battle of Sirhind.
3. Humayun laid the foundation of the new imperial city named Dinpanah in Delhi and built his own tomb before his sudden death in 1556.

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:** Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayun at Chausa and Kannauj/Bilgram forcing Humayun into exile and establishing the Sur Empire.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Humayun received military assistance from Safavid Shah Tahmasp I of Persia, enabling him to recapture Kabul and defeat Sikandar Shah Suri at the Battle of Sirhind to restore Mughal rule.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Humayun founded the city of Dinpanah in Delhi. However, Humayun's Tomb was not built by him; it was commissioned years after his death by his chief consort, Bega Begum (Hajji Begum), and designed by Persian architect Mirak Mirza Ghiyas.

3. Which of the following statements regarding artistic and literary developments under Humayun is/are correct?

1. Humayun laid the groundwork for the Mughal painting workshop by inviting Persian masters Mir Sayyid Ali and Abdus Samad to India.
2. Biography Humayun-nama, documenting the life and political struggles of Humayun, was authored by court historian Abul Fazl.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** While returning from exile in Persia, Humayun brought court artists Mir Sayyid Ali and Abdus Samad to India, establishing the imperial painting atelier (Nigaar Khana).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Humayun-nama was written by Humayun's sister, Gulbadan Begum, at the request of Emperor Akbar to preserve personal historical memoirs of Babur and Humayun. Abul Fazl authored the Akbarnama.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the reign and policies of Akbar are correct?

1. Bairam Khan served as regent during Akbar's early reign, securing the throne by defeating Hemu Vikramaditya at the Second Battle of Panipat.
2. Akbar expanded imperial authority by annexing Malwa, Chittorgarh, Gujarat, Bengal, Kashmir, and Sindh.
3. Akbar instituted the Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri for interfaith religious debates and issued the Infallibility Decree.
4. Akbar abolished the Pilgrimage Tax and Jizya, enforcing a non-sectarian state ethos based on Sulh-i-Kul.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bairam Khan led the young Emperor's army to victory against Hemu at the Second Battle of Panipat (1556).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Akbar pursued aggressive territorial integration, capturing Malwa (1561), Chittorgarh (1568), Gujarat (1573), Bengal (1576), Kashmir (1586), and Sindh (1591).

- **Statement 3 is correct:** He built the Ibadat Khana in 1575 for theological discussions and promulgated the Mahzar (Infallibility Decree) in 1579 positioning himself as the supreme arbiter (Imam-i-Adil) in religious legal disputes.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Akbar abolished the Pilgrimage Tax (1563) and Jizya (1564), framing state policies around Sulh-i-Kul (universal benevolence and harmony). All four statements are correct.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Akbar's administrative system are correct?

1. Empire was partitioned sequentially into territorial units: Subas, Sarkars, and Parganas.
2. Mansabdari system allocated dual ranks: Zat and Sawar.
3. Zabt system was a land revenue mechanism developed under the supervision of Finance Minister Raja Todar Mal.

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:** Akbar organized the empire into Subas (headed by a Subahdar), subdivided into Sarkars (headed by a Faujdar), Parganas (headed by a Shiqdar), and Gramas (villages).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mansabdari system used dual numerical ranks: Zat (fixed personal status, precedence, and salary) and Sawar (specified the number of armed cavalrymen the official was required to maintain).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Zabt / Dahsala system (formalized in 1580 by Raja Todar Mal) assessed land revenue in cash based on ten-year averages of crop yields and prices.

6. Which of the following statements regarding land revenue assessment methods during the Mughal era are correct?

1. Under the Dahsala system, land revenue was fixed by calculating average crop yields and market prices over the preceding ten years.
2. Ghalla-Bakhshi system involved division of actual harvested produce between the state and peasants according to fixed ratios.
3. Kankut system determined state revenue by estimating crop yields per unit area before harvest and applying official tax rates.
4. Nasaq system calculated annual revenue by taking fresh crop measurements on every individual plot every season without relying on past records.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Dahsala system averaged agricultural output and prices over the past ten years (Years 15–24 of Akbar's reign) to fix stable cash rates.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ghalla-Bakhshi (or Batai) was direct crop-sharing (by division of threshed grain, standing crops, or field heaps).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Kankut (Appraisement) involved estimating field yields (Kan) based on sample inspections before applying cash assessment rates.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Nasaq (Assessment by Estimate) calculated revenue based on previous village records and past assessment averages, skipping annual plot-by-plot field re-measurements to save time and administrative costs.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to art and architecture during Akbar's reign is/are correct?

1. Architectural construction relied heavily on red sandstone, incorporating four-centered Tudor arches, visible in the Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri.
2. Akbar established the imperial art studio, where painters produced illustrated manuscript albums like the Hamzanama and Tutinama.

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:** Akbar's architecture is noted for red sandstone construction, trabeate elements combined with four-centered Tudor arches, seen in fortresses at Agra, Lahore, Allahabad, and his capital at Fatehpur Sikri.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He expanded the imperial Tasvir Khana, overseeing major illustrated manuscript projects such as the Hamzanama (containing 1,400 large cotton-backed paintings) and the Tutinama (Tales of a Parrot).

8. Which of the following statements regarding literature and foreign accounts of Akbar's court are correct?

1. Abul Fazl authored the official court history Akbarnama and its detailed administrative survey, the Ain-i-Akbari.
2. Abdul Qadir Badauni wrote the Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh, offering a critical narrative of Akbar's religious policies, and translated the Mahabharata into Persian as the Razmnama.
3. Father Antonio Monserrate was a Portuguese Jesuit missionary who visited Akbar's court and participated in religious discussions at the Ibadat Khana.
4. Abbas Khan Sarwani authored the Tarikh-i-Shershahi, documenting the administrative measures of Sher Shah Suri under Akbar's commission.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Abul Fazl authored the three-volume official chronicle Akbarnama, with the third volume forming the administrative treatise Ain-i-Akbari.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Abdul Qadir Badauni composed the critical history Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh and led the translation of the Mahabharata into Persian (Razmnama).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Father Antonio Monserrate was part of the First Jesuit Mission (1580–1582 CE) dispatched from Goa to Fatehpur Sikri.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Abbas Khan Sarwani composed the Tarikh-i-Shershahi around 1580 under Akbar's imperial direction to compile an official history of Sher Shah Suri's statecraft. All four statements are correct.

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

1. Jahangir concluded the long-standing conflict with Mewar by signing a peace treaty with Rana Amar Singh.
2. Introduced the du-aspa sih-aspa modification into the Mansabdari system, enabling selected commanders to maintain double cavalry strength without raising their Zat rank.
3. Jahangir maintained Akbar's Sulh-i-Kul policy, but his reign saw political conflict leading to the execution of the 5th Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev.

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:** In 1615 Jahangir accepted the submission of Rana Amar Singh of Mewar, granting honorable terms (exempting the Rana from personal court attendance) and ending decades of hostilies.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Jahangir introduced the du-aspa sih-aspa system within the Mansabdari framework, allowing a Mansabdar to maintain a larger cavalry contingent (Sawar) and draw higher allowance without increasing his personal rank (Zat).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Jahangir generally maintained Sulh-i-Kul, but in 1606 he ordered the execution of Guru Arjan Dev due to political suspicions surrounding the Guru's blessings to rebellious Prince Khusrau.

10. Which of the following statements regarding art, architecture, and foreign contacts under Jahangir are correct?

1. The Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah at Agra, constructed during Jahangir's reign, represents an early structural transition to pure white marble featuring extensive Pietra Dura work.
2. Mughal painting reached its aesthetic zenith under Jahangir, shifting focus toward individual portraiture, nature studies, and album leaves.
3. Jahangir authored his Persian memoirs titled Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, in which he explicitly recorded the role of itinerant Banjaras in transporting grain for imperial armies.
4. Sir Thomas Roe visited Jahangir's court as an official ambassador from King James I of England, securing royal firman privileges for English trade at Surat.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (d)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah (built by Empress Nur Jahan between 1622–1628) was the first Mughal structure built entirely of white marble with delicate Pietra Dura (semi-precious stone inlay).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Jahangir's reign marked the peak of naturalistic Mughal painting, featuring wildlife masters like Ustad Mansur and portrait specialists like Bishan Das, collected in albums (Muraqqas).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In his autobiography Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, Jahangir noted the commercial operations of the Banjaras, who transported massive loads of grain using bullock caravans to supply urban markets and military camps.
- **Statement 4 is correct: Sir Thomas Roe** arrived at Jahangir's court in 1615 as the accredited envoy of King James I, obtaining trade rights and protection for the English East India Company's factory at Surat. All four statements are correct.

Mughal Empire-II

1. Which of the following statements regarding the reign and administrative reforms of Shah Jahan are correct?

1. Shah Jahan expelled the Portuguese from Hugli following trade disputes and unauthorized fortifications.
2. Aurangzeb secured a decisive victory over Dara Shikoh at the Battle of Samugarh during the War of Succession.
3. Shah Jahan introduced the Month-Scale system in the Mansabdari framework to align salary disbursemens with actual revenue realization.
4. Shah Jahan instituted Sijda as the mandatory court salutation, replacing the earlier Chahar Taslim.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 1632, Mughal forces under Qasim Khan attacked Hugli, defeating the Portuguese who were engaging in slave trade and building unpermitted fortifications.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Battle of Samugarh was the decisive engagement in the War of Succession, where Aurangzeb defeated his eldest brother Dara Shikoh, leading directly to Shah Jahan's confinement at Agra Fort.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Shah Jahan introduced the Month-Scale system (Mahina-Ruz) within the Mansabdari framework. When a Jagir yielded less revenue (hasil) than its estimated paper value (jama), the Mansabdar's salary and military obligations were scaled down proportionally to 10-month, 8-month, or 6-month rates.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Shah Jahan abolished Sijda (un-Islamic complete prostration, introduced by Akbar) and replaced it with Chahar Taslim and Zaminbos (kissing the ground).

2. Which of the following statements regarding the cultural and literary history of Shah Jahan's reign are correct?

1. Shah Jahan established the imperial capital city of Shahjahanabad in Delhi and commissioned the Taj Mahal at Agra.
2. Prince Dara Shikoh translated fifty Upanishads into Persian under the title Sirr-i-Akbar.
3. Padshah Namah, documenting the official reign of Shah Jahan, was authored by Inayat Khan.
4. Foreign travelers Jean-Baptiste Tavernier and Niccolao Manucci visited India during Shah Jahan's reign.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Shah Jahan moved the imperial capital from Agra to Delhi in 1648, constructing Shahjahanabad (Old Delhi), the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, and earlier the Taj Mahal in Agra.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dara Shikoh was a Sufi scholar who translated fifty Upanishads into Persian as Sirr-i-Akbar and authored Majma-ul-Bahrain.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The primary official court history Padshah Namah was authored by Abdul Hamid Lahori (and Muhammad Waris). Inayat Khan authored the Shah Jahan Nama.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (French diamond merchant), François Bernier (physician), Peter Mundy (who documented the 1630–32 Gujarat famine), and Niccolao Manucci (author of Storia do Mogor) visited India during this reign.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Aurangzeb (Alamgir) is/are correct?

1. Aurangzeb annexed the Deccan Sultanates of Bijapur and Golconda into the Mughal Empire.
2. He reimposed the Jizya tax in and appointed Muhtasibs across the empire.
3. Aurangzeb promoted court music, expanded the practice of Jharokha Darshan, and mandated the use of the Hindu solar calendar for official records.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Aurangzeb personally led the siege and annexation of Bijapur from Sikandar Adil Shah and Golconda from Abul Hasan Qutb Shah, bringing the entire Deccan under direct Mughal rule.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 1679, Aurangzeb reimposed Jizya on non-Muslims and appointed Muhtasibs (moral censors) to enforce Islamic codes, prohibit intoxicants, and regulate public conduct.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Aurangzeb banned court music (disbanding royal musicians), discontinued Jharokha Darshan (imperial balcony appearances) as un-Islamic, and replaced the solar Ilahi calendar with the Islamic Hijri calendar.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to literary and architectural works during Aurangzeb's reign is/are correct?

1. Fatwa-i-Alamgiri, a comprehensive digest of Hanafi jurisprudence, was compiled under Aurangzeb's royal patronage.
2. Bibi-ka-Maqbara at Aurangabad was constructed during this period as an architectural replica modeled on the Taj Mahal.

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:** Aurangzeb commissioned a team of Islamic scholars led by Sheikh Nizam to compile the Fatwa-i-Alamgiri, an authoritative law code based on Hanafi jurisprudence.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Bibi-ka-Maqbara in Aurangabad was built by Azam Shah (Aurangzeb's son) in memory of his mother Dilras Banu Begum; it is known as the Taj of the Deccan for echoing the Taj Mahal's design.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the Later Mughal emperors and eighteenth-century political changes are correct?

1. Jahandar Shah abolished Jizya and introduced the revenue farming system known as Ijarah.
2. Farrukhsiyar issued the Royal Farman granting duty-free trade rights in Bengal.
3. Independent regional states emerged during the reign of Muhammad Shah Rangeela Hyderabad under Nizam-ul-Mulk, Awadh under Saadat Khan, and Bengal under Murshid Quli Khan.
4. Emperor Bahadur Shah I granted full sovereign independence to Mewar and Marwar, formally dissolving the Mughal Empire.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Guided by his chief minister Zulfiqar Khan, Jahandar Shah (1712–1713) abolished Jizya and introduced Ijarah (revenue farming), where rights to collect land revenue were auctioned to the highest bidder.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Farrukhsiyar issued the Imperial Farman of 1717 to the British embassy led by John Surman, granting the East India Company duty-free trade privileges in Bengal in exchange for a fixed annual payment of ₹3,000.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** During the weak rule of Muhammad Shah Rangeela (1719–1748), powerful governors broke away to establish autonomous states: Hyderabad (1724, Nizam-ul-Mulk), Awadh (1722, Saadat Khan), and Bengal (Murshid Quli Khan).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** While Bahadur Shah I (Shah-i-Bekhabar) attempted reconciliation with Rajputs and Marathas, he did not dissolve the Mughal Empire. The empire persisted as a nominal authority until 1857.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to foreign invasions during the late Mughal era is/are correct?

1. Nadir Shah of Persia defeated the Mughal army of Muhammad Shah at the Battle of Karnal and carried away the Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-Noor diamond.
2. Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas at the Third Battle of Panipat during the reign of Emperor Shah Alam II.

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:** Nadir Shah invaded India in 1739 CE, defeated Muhammad Shah at the Battle of Karnal, plundered Delhi, and seized the Takht-i-Tair (Peacock Throne) and the Koh-i-Noor diamond.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ahmad Shah Abdali launched multiple raids between 1748 and 1767; his forces crushed the Maratha army under Sadashivrao Bhau at the Third Battle of Panipat (January 14, 1761) during the nominal reign of Shah Alam II.

7. Which of the following statements regarding the final phase of the Mughal Dynasty are correct?

1. Shah Alam II participated in the Battle of Buxar alongside Mir Qasim and Shuja-ud-Daula, resulting in the Treaty of Allahabad.
2. Akbar II conferred the title of Raja on Ram Mohan Roy and sent him as an envoy to England to advocate for an increase in the royal pension.
3. Bahadur Shah II Zafar was proclaimed leader of the Revolt of 1857, after which he was exiled to Rangoon by the British, ending the dynasty.

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:** Shah Alam II joined the coalition against the British East India Company at the Battle of Buxar (1764). Following their defeat, he signed the Treaty of Allahabad (1765), granting the Company the Diwani (revenue rights) of Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Akbar II (1806–1837), living under British protection, bestowed the title Raja on Ram Mohan Roy in 1830 CE and dispatched him to London to present his petition for an enhanced imperial pension.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Bahadur Shah II Zafar served as the symbolic head of the Revolt of 1857. After Delhi fell, he was tried, deposed, and deported to Rangoon (Burma), where he died in 1862, marking the end of the Mughal Empire.

8. With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdars and Zamindars?

1. Jagirdars were holders of land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights.
2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights of Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Jagirdars were state officers (Mansabdars) granted revenue assignments (Jagirs) in lieu of military and civil service, not judicial/police duties. Zamindars held hereditary local land rights and were obliged to maintain local law and order, assist state revenue collectors, and supply military contingents when summoned.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The assignments of Jagirdars were non-hereditary and frequently transferred (usually every 3–4 years) to prevent local power bases (Tankha Jagir). Conversely, the revenue rights (Raiyati / Milkiyat) of Zamindars were inherently hereditary.

9. Which of the following statements regarding Mughal central and provincial administration are correct?

1. Diwan-i-Ala headed the revenue and finance department, while the Mir Bakshi managed military appointments, troop inspections, and the intelligence network.
2. Mir Saman was the officer in charge of the royal household and imperial state factories.
3. The administrative unit Sarkar was managed by a Faujdar and an Amalguzar.
4. Mansabdari system, the du-aspa sih-aspa rule allowed increasing an officer's Zat rank while keeping his Sawar rank fixed.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Diwan-i-Ala oversaw state finances, land revenue collection, and treasury disbursements. The Mir Bakshi headed military administration, issued pay certificates (Sarkhat), inspected cavalry, and managed news writers (Waqai-navis).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mir Saman (or Khan-i-Saman) supervised court provisions, palace security, imperial stores, and manufacturing workshops (Karkhanas).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** At the Sarkar (district) level, the Faujdar exercised executive and military command to maintain law and order, while the Amalguzar assessed and collected land revenue.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The du-aspa sih-aspa rule (introduced by Jahangir) allowed increasing a Mansabdar's Sawar rank (cavalry contingent) without raising his Zat rank (personal status/pay scale), not the other way around.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the agrarian system and land classifications under the Mughals are correct?

1. Watan Jagirs were non-transferable, hereditary land assignments granted primarily to Rajput rulers within their ancestral homelands.
2. Under the Zabt system, land under continuous annual cultivation was classified as Polaj.
3. Parati referred to land left uncultivated temporarily to recover its natural fertility.
4. Banjar referred to uncultivated land that had remained fallow for five years or more.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Unlike standard transferable Tankha Jagirs, Watan Jagirs were non-transferable, hereditary revenue rights granted to local rulers (e.g., Rajput chieftains) over their ancestral territories upon entering imperial service.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Raja Todar Mal's classification, Polaj was top-tier land cultivated continuously every year without being left fallow.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Parati was land left out of cultivation temporarily (1–2 years) to allow soil nutrients to regenerate.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Land left fallow for 3–4 years was termed Chachar, while land uncultivated for 5 years or longer was classified as Banjar.

Mughal Empire-III

1. Which of the following statements with regard to agriculture under the Mughal Empire is/are correct?

1. New crops tobacco, maize, chillies, and tomatoes were introduced into Indian agriculture during the Mughal period via Portuguese maritime trade.
2. Ain-i-Akbari explicitly details the seasonal distinction between Rabi and Kharif crops along with their assessment rates.

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 Columbian Exchange via Portuguese maritime trade introduced several New World crops into North and South India during the 16th and 17th centuries, including tobacco (introduced at Akbar's court in 1604 CE), maize, chillies, potatoes, tomatoes, and pineapples.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Abul Fazl's Ain-i-Akbari (Volume II) provides exhaustive statistical tables detailing crop yields and revenue rates across Subas, systematically categorizing them into Rabi (spring harvest) and Kharif (autumn harvest) crops.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mughal economy is/are correct?

1. Taccavi were state-sponsored emergency agricultural loans granted to peasants during droughts for buying seeds and digging wells.
2. Khudkasht were tenant farmers who migrated between villages under contracts, Pahi-kasht peasants cultivated land in their home village.
3. Long-distance inland commercial transactions were facilitated by Hundis issued and discounted by Shroffs.

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:** Taccavi (or Sondhar) were interest-free or low-interest credit advances disbursed by the state revenue machinery (Amalguzar) to farmers during famines or crop failures to purchase seeds, bullocks, and equipment.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Khudkasht were resident peasants who owned and tilled their own ancestral land within their home village. Pahi-kasht were non-resident, itinerant tenant farmers who cultivated land in other villages on a contractual basis.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Credit networks relied on Hundis (negotiable bills of exchange), which allowed merchants to transfer money across distant cities safely without carrying physical currency bullion, discounted by Shroffs.

3. Which of the following statements regarding industries and trade during the Mughal period are correct?

1. Bengal was a major manufacturing center for fine textiles (muslin and silk), sugar, and rice export.
2. Royal state workshops called Karkhanas produced luxury textiles, arms, and royal garments under the direct oversight of Mir Saman.
3. Saltpetre and Bengal textiles were major export commodities demanded by European trading companies.
4. Itinerant grain trade across the empire was conducted exclusively by the Chettiars of Tamil Nadu.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bengal was the economic heartland of textile manufacturing (Dacca muslin, raw silk), agricultural surpluses (rice, sugar), and saltpetre production.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Royal Karkhanas (manufacturing workshops) produced fine shawls, weapons, embroidery, and luxury crafts for the imperial household, managed under the Mir Saman.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Indian saltpetre (potassium nitrate, vital for European gunpowder production) and cotton textiles were primary exports purchased by the Dutch and English East India Companies.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Long-distance grain transportation across Northern and Central India was managed by the Banjaras (itinerant bullock-caravan traders), not the Chettiars (who operated primarily in maritime trade in South India).

4. Which of the following statements regarding Mughal society and legal status are correct?

1. The imperial nobility comprised diverse ethnic groups, including Turanis, Iranis, Afghans, Shaikhzadas and Rajputs.
2. Elite Mughal women like Nur Jahan and Princess Jahanara Begum wielded political influence and held individual Jagirs and trade ships.
3. Muslim law granted women fixed property inheritance rights, whereas traditional Hindu law codes generally restricted female property rights.

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:** Akbar transformed the Mughal nobility into a heterogeneous ruling class comprising Turanis, Iranis, Afghans, Rajputs, and Shaikhzadas (Indian-born Muslims).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Imperial women held vast economic assets; Empress Nur Jahan issued royal decrees (Nishan) and struck joint coinage, while Princess Jahanara owned commercial ships trading with Surat and controlled the revenues of Surat port and Chandni Chowk.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Islamic jurisprudence granted legal property and inheritance shares (Mirath) to daughters and wives, whereas contemporary Hindu legal texts (Mitakshara) limited female land inheritance primarily to personal movable property (Stridhana).

5. Which of the following statements with regard to religious policies and Bhakti-Sufi saints during the Mughal era is/are correct?

1. Akbar established the Ibadat Khana for interfaith discussions and promulgated Sulh-i-Kul, whereas Aurangzeb appointed Muhtasibs to enforce moral codes.
2. Sufi saint Sheikh Salim Chishti was a contemporary of Akbar, while Sheikh Mian Mir was held in high esteem by Prince Dara Shikoh.

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:** Akbar pursued interfaith synthesis through the Ibadat Khana (1575 CE) and the non-sectarian principle of Sulh-i-Kul. Conversely, Aurangzeb enforced orthodox measures, appointing Muhtasibs to regulate public morality.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sheikh Salim Chishti lived at Sikri and was patronized by Akbar (who named Prince Salim after him). Mian Mir (a Qadiriyya Sufi saint of Lahore) was the spiritual preceptor of Prince Dara Shikoh and Jahanara.

6. Which of the following statements regarding Mughal architectural monuments are correct?

1. Humayun's Tomb featuring a double dome clad in white marble, red sandstone facing, and an irregular octagonal ground plan.
2. Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri was constructed by Akbar to commemorate his successful conquest of Gujarat.
3. Panch Mahal at Fatehpur Sikri was constructed as a single-storey square stone hall based strictly on Persian defensive fort architecture.

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:** Commissioned by Hajji Begum, Humayun's Tomb is the first grand garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent, featuring a high Persian double dome, red sandstone structure, and an eight-tiered octagonal floor plan (Hasht-Bihisht).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Akbar constructed the massive Buland Darwaza (154 ft high) at the southern entrance of the Jama Masjid at Fatehpur Sikri to celebrate his victory in the Gujarat Campaign (1573).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Panch Mahal is a five-storeyed pillared pavilion tapering upwards like a stepped pyramid, designed on the open layout plan of a traditional Buddhist Vihara, not a single-storey Persian defensive fort.

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

1. Jahangiri Mahal was constructed by Akbar using red sandstone influenced by Gwalior's Man Mandir Palace, while the Nagina Masjid and Sheesh Mahal were white marble additions built by Shah Jahan.
2. Taj Mahal was designed under chief architects including Ustad Ahmad Lahori and Ustad Isa, featuring a central dome designed by Ismail Khan.

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:** Akbar constructed the Jahangiri Mahal inside Agra Fort using red sandstone with indigenous brackets inspired by the Man Mandir at Gwalior. Later, Shah Jahan replaced several sandstone structures with pure white marble additions, including the Sheesh Mahal and Nagina Masjid.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Taj Mahal (built 1631–1648) was constructed under the supervision of master architects Ustad Ahmad Lahori (chief architect) and Ustad Isa, with Ottoman dome-builder Ismail Khan designing the main marble dome.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Mughal painting techniques is/are correct?

1. It was established by Humayun, who brought Safavid Persian masters Abd al-Samad and Mir Sayyid Ali to India.
2. The technique of foreshortening and naturalistic shading was introduced into Mughal miniature painting.

3. The imperial painting process involved sequential specialized stages: Tarh, Chiharanama, Rangamizi and burnishing.

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:** While returning from exile in Kabul, Humayun brought Persian artists Abd al-Samad and Mir Sayyid Ali, founding the imperial court atelier.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Akbar and Jahangir, contact with European Renaissance prints (brought by Jesuit missions) introduced foreshortening, perspective depth, and atmospheric shading into Indian miniatures.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Production in the Tasvir Khana was collaborative and staged: Tarh (master sketch) Chiharanama (facial details/portraiture) Rangamizi (pigment application) Burnishing (polishing with agate stone).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the court painting ateliers under Humayun and Akbar are correct?

1. Humayun commissioned the illustrated manuscript Princes of the House of Timur.
2. Akbar established the imperial Tasvir Khana under the direction of Abd al-Samad.
3. Prominent court painters during Akbar's reign included Daswanth, Basawan, and Kesu Das.
4. Hamzanama manuscript was executed on large sheets of prepared cloth and contained over 1,400 illustrated folios.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Humayun commissioned the large-format painting Princes of the House of Timur (on cotton cloth) to celebrate his Timurid lineage.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Akbar formalized the royal atelier into a state department—the Tasvir Khana—appointing master Abd al-Samad (Shirin Qalam) as its director.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Leading Indian artists at Akbar's court included Daswanth (who illustrated the Razmnama), Basawan, and Kesu Das.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Hamzanama (chronicling the heroic exploits of Amir Hamza) was Akbar's first major manuscript project, comprising 1,400 large-format illustrations painted on cloth backed with paper.

10. Which of the following statements regarding painting under Emperor Jahangir are correct?

1. Jahangir's reign marked a shift from collective illustrated manuscript production toward individual portraiture.

2. Painting Jahangir's Dream, depicting Emperor Jahangir embracing Shah Abbas I of Persia atop a globe, was painted by court artist Abul Hasan.
3. Jahangir strictly prohibited the use of ornate decorative margins around court paintings.

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:** Under Jahangir, artistic focus evolved from narrative manuscript illustrations to refined individual studies of flora, fauna, court scenes, and single portraits mounted in single-leaf albums (Muraqqas).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The symbolic allegory Jahangir's Dream was painted around 1618 CE by Jahangir's favored artist, Abul Hasan (Nadir-uz-Zaman), depicting Jahangir embracing Safavid Shah Abbas I while standing on a lion and a lamb atop a terrestrial globe.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Jahangir promoted the development of elaborate, highly decorated ornate margins (hashiya) containing gold foliage, animals, and human figures framing the central painting.

Maratha & Mughal Empire

1. Which of the following statements regarding the Awadh School of Architecture are correct?

1. It is distinguished by the extensive reliance on a specialized mortar mixture due to a local scarcity of sandstone and marble.
2. Central hall of the Bara Imambara was constructed using interlocking brickwork and lime mortar without support from iron girders or stone pillars.
3. Rumi Darwaza was constructed under Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula, drawing design inspiration from the Sublime Porte gateway in Istanbul.
4. Chota Imambara was built by Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula using solid red sandstone blocks imported from Rajasthan.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Nawabs of Awadh relied on small Lakhauri bricks coated with a specialized, highly durable lime mortar mixed with organic binding agents (urad daal, pulses, jaggery, tree gum, brick dust) because sandstone and marble were scarce and expensive to transport to the Gangetic plains.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula in 1784 as a famine-relief project, the Bara Imambara features one of the largest vaulted central halls in the world built without any supporting wooden/iron girders or vertical pillars.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Rumi Darwaza (built in 1784 by Asaf-ud-Daula) is a 60-foot gateway modeled after the Sublime Porte (Bab-i Ali) in Istanbul, Turkey.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Chota Imambara (Imambara Hussainabad Mubarak) was built in 1838 by Nawab Muhammad Ali Shah (not Shuja-ud-Daula), and it is constructed using Lakhauri brick masonry with white stucco plaster, not solid red sandstone blocks.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Sher Shah Suri (Farid Khan) and the Suri Dynasty are correct?

1. Sher Shah Suri established the Suri Dynasty, marking the Second Afghan Empire in Northern India after the Lodi Dynasty.
2. He secured military control over Bihar after defeating the Bengal forces at the Battle of Surajgarh.
3. His victory over Humayun at the Battle of Kannauj forced Humayun out of India and established Sur sovereignty over Delhi and Agra.
4. He expanded across North India, successfully annexing the kingdoms of Assam, Kashmir, and Gujarat under direct central administration.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sher Shah Suri founded the Sur Dynasty in 1540, establishing the Second Afghan Empire in North India after the collapse of the Lodi Dynasty in 1526.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** By defeating the Sultan of Bengal at the Battle of Surajgarh (1534), Farid Khan established dominance over Bihar.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Sher Shah defeated Humayun at Chausa (1539) and Kannauj/Bilgram (1540), driving the Mughal ruler into exile in Persia and occupying Delhi and Agra.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** While the Suri Empire stretched from Bengal to the Indus (including Punjab, Malwa, Rajasthan, and Sind), it did not annex Assam, Kashmir, Nepal, or Gujarat.

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

1. Central administration was divided into key ministries, including Diwan-i-Wizarat, Diwan-i-Ariz, Diwan-i-Rasalat and Diwan-i-Insha.
2. Empire was partitioned into administrative districts called Sarkars, managed by a Chief Shiqdar for law and order and a Chief Munsif for judicial and revenue affairs.
3. Sher Shah completely abolished local sub-district units, transferring all direct village revenue accounting to his central court at Delhi.

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:** Sher Shah organized central governance around four principal ministries: Diwan-i-Wizarat (Revenue/Finance), Diwan-i-Ariz (Military affairs), Diwan-i-Rasalat (Foreign/Religious appeals), and Diwan-i-Insha (State correspondence).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The empire was divided into 47 Sarkars (districts). Each Sarkar was headed by two senior imperial officers: the Shiqdar-i-Shiqdaran (Chief Shiqdar for executive law and order) and the Munsif-i-Munsifan (Chief Munsif for civil justice and revenue supervision).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Sher Shah did not abolish Parganas. Each Sarkar was subdivided into Parganas (sub-districts), which were staffed by a Shiqdar (executive), an Amin (revenue assessor), a Fotedar (treasurer), and Karkuns (record keepers).

4. Which of the following statements regarding the economic and infrastructural reforms of Sher Shah Suri are correct?

1. Sher Shah introduced the formal land title documents known as Patta and Qabuliyat.
2. He issued a tri-metallic currency system, introducing the standardized silver coin named the Rupayia and the copper Dam.
3. Patronized Sufi poet Malik Muhammad Jayasi, who composed the epic poem Padmavat during his reign.

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:** Sher Shah formalized state-tenant relations by issuing Patta (official documents stating land area and tax obligations) and collecting Qabuliyat (signed agreements from peasants accepting the terms).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He standardized Indian currency by introducing a high-purity tri-metallic system: the gold Mohur, the silver Rupayia (178 grains, the direct precursor to the modern Rupee), and the copper Dam.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Malik Muhammad Jayasi composed the famous Avadhi Sufi epic Padmavat under the reign and patronage of Sher Shah Suri. All three statements are correct.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the historical context and factors leading to the rise of the Maratha Empire are correct?

1. Decline of Ahmadnagar Sultanate and continuous conflict between Bijapur and the Mughals created a power vacuum exploited by local Maratha Deshmukhs.
2. Rugged terrain of the Western Ghats provided ideal natural conditions for hill-fort defense and guerrilla warfare).
3. Socio-religious reform messages of Varkari Bhakti saints like Tukaram, Eknath, and Ramdas helped forge a shared regional identity.
4. Early Marathas had no prior experience in state administration or military service before Chhatrapati Shivaji established the state.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Strategic instability in the Deccan caused by Mughal expansion and the collapse of Ahmadnagar allowed indigenous Maratha landed elites (Deshmukhs and Sardars) to assert autonomy.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The geography of the Sahyadri ranges (Western Ghats) enabled the effective execution of mobile guerrilla tactics (Ganimi Kava) relying on a network of strategic hill forts (e.g., Torna, Raigad, Sinhagad).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Varkari Bhakti movement promoted by saints like Sant Tukaram, Eknath, and Samarth Ramdas broke down local caste barriers and fostered a shared linguistic and cultural ethos (Maharashtra Dharma).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Maratha military commanders had extensive prior administrative experience serving as commanders (Sardars) and revenue officials under the Ahmadnagar and Bijapur Sultanates (e.g., Shivaji's father, Shahji Bhonsle).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is/are correct?

1. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was born at Shivneri Fort and was formally crowned as Chhatrapati at Raigad Fort.
2. Shivaji defeated and killed the Bijapuri general Afzal Khan at the Battle of Pratapgarh.

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:** Shivaji Maharaj was born at Shivneri Fort (1630) and was formally crowned as the sovereign monarch (Chhatrapati) of Hindavi Swarajya at Raigad Fort in 1674.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** At the Battle of Pratapgarh (1659), Shivaji met the Bijapuri general Afzal Khan in a personal conference, killed him using steel tiger claws (Bagh Nakha), and routed the Bijapur army.

7. Which one of the following is the correct chronological sequence of events during the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, starting from the earliest?

(a) Shaista Khan Incident at Pune Sack of Surat Treaty of Purandar Escaped from Agra Battle of Salher
(b) Sack of Surat Shaista Khan Incident at Pune Escaped from Agra Treaty of Purandar Battle of Salher
(c) Treaty of Purandar Shaista Khan Incident at Pune Sack of Surat Battle of Salher Escaped from Agra
(d) Shaista Khan Incident at Pune Treaty of Purandar Sack of Surat Battle of Salher Escaped from Agra

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:
The correct chronological order of these historical events is:

1. **Shaista Khan Incident at Pune:** April 1663 (Surprise night attack on the Mughal governor at Lal Mahal).
2. **First Sack of Surat Port:** January 1664 (Wealthy Mughal port raided to replenish Maratha treasury).
3. **Treaty of Purandar:** June 1665 (Signed with Raja Jai Singh I of Amber; Shivaji surrendered 23 forts).
4. **Escape from Agra:** August 1666 (Escaped confinement at Aurangzeb's court in sweet baskets).

5. **Battle of Salher:** February 1672 (Major open-field pitched battle victory for Marathas against Mughal forces).

8. Which of the following statements regarding the administration and campaigns of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is/are correct?

1. During Southern campaign, Shivaji formed an alliance with the Qutb Shahi Sultanate of Golconda to capture Jinjee and Vellore.
2. Shivaji adopted Marathi as the official court language and commissioned the Rajavyavahara Kosa to replace Persian administrative terms with Sanskrit terminology.

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 1677, Shivaji undertook his major Southern Expedition (Karnataka campaign), allying with Abul Hasan Qutb Shah of Golconda to capture strategic fortresses like Jinjee (Gingee) and Vellore.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To promote Swarajya, Shivaji replaced Persian with Marathi as the official court language and commissioned scholar Raghunath Pandit to draft the Rajavyavahara Kosa (a lexicon replacing Persian administrative terms with Sanskrit equivalents).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Maratha rulers following the death of Shivaji Maharaj are correct?

1. Chhatrapati Sambhaji continued military resistance against Aurangzeb until he was captured and executed at Sangameshwar.
2. Chhatrapati Rajaram shifted the operational Maratha capital south to Jinjee and instituted the decentralized leadership framework.
3. Maharani Tarabai took over as regent following Rajaram's death, leading the Maratha defense against the Mughal armies.

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:** Chhatrapati Sambhaji (1681–1689) fought Mughal forces in the Deccan until he was captured in 1689 at Sangameshwar and executed by order of Aurangzeb.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Chhatrapati Rajaram (r. 1689–1700) escaped the siege of Raigad, established his base at Jinjee (Tamil Nadu), and appointed senior commanders (Hukumat Panha) to launch independent guerrilla strikes across Maharashtra.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** After Rajaram's death in 1700, his widow Maharani Tarabai assumed regency for her minor son (Shivaji II), successfully directing Maratha campaigns against Aurangzeb's forces. All three statements are correct.

10. Which of the following statements regarding the era of the Peshwas are correct?

1. Balaji Vishwanath made the office of the Peshwa hereditary and secured the rights to collect Chauth and Sardeshmukhi across the six Mughal Subas of the Deccan.
2. Baji Rao I advocated a policy of northward expansion and defeated the Nizam of Hyderabad at the Battle of Palkhed.
3. Under Balaji Baji Rao Treaty of Sangola transferred supreme executive authority of the Maratha state from the Chhatrapati to the Peshwa at Pune.

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:** Balaji Vishwanath (1st Peshwa, 1713–1720) made the Peshwa office hereditary and concluded a treaty with the Sayyid Brothers in 1719 CE, securing imperial grants for Chauth (25%) and Sardeshmukhi (10%) revenues across six Deccan provinces.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Baji Rao I (1720–1740) championed northward expansion into Malwa and Gujarat (strike at the trunk) and demonstrated military brilliance by outmaneuvering the Nizam at the Battle of Palkhed (1728).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Following the Treaty of Sangola (1750) under Balaji Baji Rao, the Peshwa stationed at Pune became the de facto executive head of the Maratha Empire, while the Chhatrapati at Satara became a symbolic monarch. All three statements are correct.

Maratha Administration, Economy, Society

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Ashtapradhan council of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is/are correct?

1. Mukhya Pradhan was responsible for general civil administration and finance, later emerging as the de facto head of state.
2. Sar-i-Naubat served as the supreme military commander of the armed forces.
3. Amatya functioned as Minister of Foreign Affairs, managing relations with foreign powers.

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 Mukhya Pradhan (Peshwa) was the prime minister responsible for general administration and financial oversight, holding the highest rank in the Ashtapradhan council.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Sar-i-Naubat (Senapati) was the military commander-in-chief responsible for army recruitment, organization, and field operations.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Amatya (Majumdar) was the Finance Minister and Accountant General in charge of state income and expenditure registers. Foreign affairs were managed by the Sumant (Dabir).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the central executive officers under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is/are correct?

1. Waqenavis managed intelligence networks, police posts, household affairs, and daily court proceedings.
2. Surnavis functioned as the General Secretary responsible for drafting official royal correspondence and imperial firmans.

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 Waqenavis oversaw internal security, intelligence collection, courier networks, and household administration, recording everyday royal court activities.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Surnavis (Sachiv) acted as the Minister of Correspondence, auditing official royal letters, land charters, and official correspondence issued by the Chhatrapati.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the officers of the Maratha Ashtapradhan council are correct?

1. Sumant functioned as the Master of Ceremonies and Minister for Foreign Affairs.
2. Nyayadish was responsible for civil and military judicial administration according to traditional legal codes.
3. Pandit Rao managed religious charities, state grants, and ecclesiastical affairs.

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 Sumant (Dabir) handled diplomatic relations with foreign powers, European factories, and neighboring kingdoms, serving as the master of royal protocol.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Nyayadish was the highest judicial authority below the Chhatrapati, responsible for civil and criminal justice.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Pandit Rao (Danadhyaksha) managed religious stipends, state-sponsored charities, Vedic learning grants, and social conduct. All three statements are correct.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Maratha territorial divisions and confederacy centers are correct?

1. Provincial administration followed a descending hierarchy: Prant (province) Sarkar / Tarf Pargana Mauza.

2. Local hereditary officials were retained under central state supervision to enforce tax extraction and military recruitment.
3. Confederacy comprised five major ruling seats: the Peshwas at Baroda, the Gaikwads at Poona, the Bhonsles at Nagpur, the Holkars at Indore, and the Scindias at Gwalior.

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:** Territorial administration followed a clear structure: Prant (headed by a Subahdar) Sarkar / Tarf Pargana Mauza (village).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** While Shivaji curbed the political independence of traditional rural intermediaries (Deshmukhs and Deshpandes), they were retained as revenue collectors subject to central state inspection.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Maratha Confederacy evolved around five major regional power centers: Peshwas (Poona), Gaikwads (Baroda), Bhonsles (Nagpur), Holkars (Indore), and Scindias (Gwalior). All three statements are correct.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Maratha military apparatus are correct?

1. Regular cavalry consisted of Bargirs, who were equipped and paid directly by the state, and Silahdars, who maintained their own horses and armor.
2. Infantry units relied heavily on mobile Mavli foot soldiers recruited from the hill regions of the Western Ghats.
3. To prevent treachery, every Maratha fort was co-managed by three officers of equal rank: the Sabnis, the Karkhannis, and the Sar-i-Naubat.

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 Maratha cavalry was divided into Bargirs (state-equipped, salaried regular cavalry) and Silahdars (freelance horsemen who supplied their own equipment and mounts).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Maratha infantry relied on Mavli foot warriors, renowned for swift movement across the rugged Sahyadri terrain.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Fort security operated under a system of divided authority: three officers of equal rank—the Sar-i-Naubat (military commander of the garrison), the Sabnis (administrative/financial officer), and the Karkhannis (commissary officer in charge of grain and ammunition)—co-managed every fortress to prevent single-handed betrayal. All three statements are correct.

Question 6: Tactics of Ganimi Kava and Naval Defense

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Maratha warfare and naval defense is/are not correct?

1. Ganimi Kava relied on extreme mobility, surprise raids, cutting supply lines, and avoiding unfavorable pitched battles in open plains.
2. Kanhoji Angre served as the admiral of the Maratha navy along the Konkan coast, protecting maritime commerce and resisting Portuguese and British naval incursions.

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 correct:** Ganimi Kava was the signature Maratha guerrilla tactic using speed, knowledge of mountain terrain, ambushes, and supply disruptions to exhaust larger enemy armies.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kanhoji Angre (Naval Chief / Sarkhel) built a strong Maratha naval force along the Konkan coast, establishing coastal forts (e.g., Vijaydurg, Suvarnadurg) and repelling European naval fleets.

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

1. Land measurement for revenue assessment was conducted using a standard measuring rod called Gatta.
2. Saranjami System was a revenue grant system where military leaders were assigned land revenue rights to maintain troops for state service.

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:** Revenue reformer Annaji Datto standardized land surveys using a measuring rod called the Kathi (or Lathi), assessing field yields based on land quality (paddy, garden, or hilly terrain).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under the Saranjami System (similar to the Jagirdari or Iqta system), military commanders were granted revenue assignments (Saranjam) to fund military units and administrative expenses.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Maratha taxation and revenue officers is/are correct?

1. Chauth was an additional 10% levy claimed by the Maratha monarch on lands where he asserted hereditary chiefship
2. Sardeshmukhi was a 25% land revenue levy collected from neighboring non-Maratha territories to guarantee protection against Maratha raids
3. Kamvishdars were central revenue assessment and collection officers stationed in regional districts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

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

Correct Answer:(c)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Chauth was a 25% tax collected from territories outside Swarajya in exchange for protection against Maratha plundering expeditions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sardeshmukhi was an additional 10% surcharge claimed by the Chhatrapati as the paramount hereditary head (Sardeshmukh) of Maharashtra.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Under the Peshwas, Kamvishdars were district revenue officers responsible for assessing and collecting local land taxes. All three statements are correct.

9. Which of the following statements regarding society and culture in the Maratha Empire is/are correct?

1. The Maratha state provided social mobility for warrior-peasant groups through administrative and military service.
2. The state actively promoted the Marathi language, patronage of Bhakti institutions, and regional Deccani identity.

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 Maratha state fostered social mobility, allowing local agriculturalists (Kunbis) and lower-caste groups to rise through military service into landholding nobility.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Maratha rulers patronized Marathi literature, restored traditional temples, supported Varkari Bhakti centers, and created a regional identity (Maharashtra Dharma).

10. Which one of the following is the correct chronological sequence of events marking the Anglo-Maratha Wars and treaties, starting from the earliest?

(a) Treaty of Salbai Treaty of Bassein Battle of Assaye Third Anglo-Maratha War Abolition of the Peshwaship
(b) Treaty of Bassein Treaty of Salbai Battle of Assaye Abolition of the Peshwaship Third Anglo-Maratha War
(c) Battle of Assaye Treaty of Salbai Treaty of Bassein Third Anglo-Maratha War Abolition of the Peshwaship
(d) Treaty of Salbai Battle of Assaye Treaty of Bassein Abolition of the Peshwaship Third Anglo-Maratha War

Correct Answer:(a)
Explanation:
The correct chronological order of Anglo-Maratha conflict milestones is:

1. **Treaty of Salbai (May 1782):** Ended the First Anglo-Maratha War (1775–1782), securing a 20-year peace between the East India Company and the Marathas.
2. **Treaty of Bassein (December 1802):** Signed by Peshwa Baji Rao II, accepting a British Subsidiary Alliance.
3. **Battle of Assaye (September 1803):** Decisive British victory led by Arthur Wellesley during the Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–1805).

4. **Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817–1818):** Final British campaign against the Maratha Confederacy.
5. **Abolition of the Peshwaship (1818):** Baji Rao II was deposed and exiled to Bithur, establishing British supremacy over India.

Temple Architectures and Philosophy

1. Consider the following structural information regarding Indian temple architecture:

Architectural Style	Element	Structural Feature
1. Nagara Style	Crowning Element	Horizontal fluted stone disc (Amalaka) topped by a spherical Kalasha
2. Nagara Style	Sanctum Entrance	Sculptures of river goddesses Ganga and Yamuna standing at the Garbhagriha portal
3. Dravida Style	Entrance Gateway	Lofty, multi-tiered gateway towers designated as Gopurams
4. Dravida Style	Main Tower	Curvilinear tower (Rekha-Prasad) tapering inward toward the top

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (c)
Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** In the Nagara style, the spire (Shikhara) terminates in a flat, fluted stone disk called an Amalaka, capped by a sacred pot-shaped Kalasha.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Nagara sanctum doorways specifically feature standing carved figures of the river goddesses Ganga (on a crocodile) and Yamuna (on a tortoise) flanking the Garbhagriha frame.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Dravida temples are enclosed within high perimeter walls accessible via towering, ornate entrance gateways called Gopurams (reaching peak scale under the Nayakas).
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** The main tower (Vimana) in Dravida architecture is a stepped pyramid rising linearly, whereas the Rekha-Prasad (curvilinear spire) is a defining feature of the Nagara style.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the Solanki and Maru-Gurjara sub-schools of temple architecture are correct?

1. Sun Temple at Modhera features a dedicated step-tank called the Suryakund adorned with miniature shrines.
2. Modhera Sun Temple was designed such that during equinoxes, the rising sun's rays fell directly into the inner sanctum.

3. Dilwara Temples at Mount Abu belong to the Maru-Gurjara style, featuring intricate ceiling carvings executed in soft white marble.
4. Solanki school strictly required all interior mandapa walls to be heavily decorated with erotic sculptures, completely banning open step-wells.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sun Temple at Modhera (built under Solanki King Bhima I) features a grand rectangular step-tank (Suryakund) containing 108 miniature shrines along its stepped terraces.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The temple axis was engineered so that during the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, the first rays of the rising sun shone directly through the carved Torana gateway into the Garbhagriha.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Dilwara Temples at Mount Abu (e.g., Vimal Vasahi and Luna Vasahi) exemplify the Maru-Gurjara Jain style, renowned for lacelike marble ceiling carvings, pendants, and carved Torana arches.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Solanki temple walls are generally plain on the exterior compared to Khajuraho; they did not enforce erotic wall carvings, and step-wells (Vavs, such as Rani ki Vav) were actively integrated into regional architectural practice.

5. The presence of extremely long, covered, and sculpted pillared corridors (Prakaras), multi-tiered painted Raja Gopurams, and the Kalyana Mandapa hall is the defining feature of which South Indian architectural school?

(a) Badami Chalukya Style
(b) Nayaka Madurai Style
(c) Early Chola Style
(d) Kakatiya Style

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Nayaka Style (or Madurai School, flourishing 16th–17th centuries CE) represents the late evolution of Dravida architecture under the Nayaka rulers of Madurai and Thanjavur.
- Key features include massive multi-storeyed entrance towers (Raja Gopurams, as at the Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai), extensive pillared corridors (Prakaras), elaborate Kalyana Mandapas, and carved Yali pillars.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Vesara style of temple architecture is/are correct?

1. Represents a hybrid architectural tradition synthesizing elements of both the Northern Nagara and Southern Dravida styles.
2. Adopted the curvilinear Shikhara and square plan from Nagara traditions alongside the intricate terraced Vimana layouts from Dravida traditions.

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 Vesara style (promoted under the Western Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, and Hoysalas in Karnataka) is a syncretic hybrid style blending Northern (Nagara) and Southern (Dravida) idioms.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It incorporated the square ground plan and modified curvilinear spire from Nagara design, while adapting the terraced Vimana tiering, open ambulatory paths, and detailed wall reliefs from Dravida design (as seen at Badami, Aihole, Pattadakal, and Dambal).

7. Which of the following statements regarding the architectural traditions of Kashmir are correct?

1. Early Hindu temples incorporated trefoil arches, triangular pediments, and cellular layouts showing Gandharan and Hellenistic influences.
2. Islamic architecture in medieval Kashmir replaced domes and cloisters with multi-tiered sloping wooden roofs, tall wooden spires, and brick-and-stone masonry.
3. Jamia Masjid at Srinagar features over 300 central wooden pillars, presenting a structural profile that echoes Buddhist pagoda layouts.

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:** Classical Kashmiri Hindu architecture (Karkota/Utpala dynasties, e.g., Martand Sun Temple built by Lalitaditya Muktapida and Awantipora) features trefoil arches, triangular pediments, fluted columns, and stone courtyard layouts reflecting Gandharan/Hellenistic contact.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Due to local climate and timber availability, medieval Kashmiri Islamic architecture moved away from stone domes, adopting multi-tiered sloping wooden roofs, projecting eaves, and tall wooden spires (Ziarats and mosques).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Constructed under Sultan Sikandar and enlarged by Zain-ul-Abidin, the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar contains 370 deodar wooden pillars arranged around an inner courtyard, with a pagoda-like roof structure. All three statements are correct.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Sikh architectural style are correct?

1. Sikh architecture is an eclectic blend that combines Mughal and Rajput structural features with indigenous motifs.
2. Signature features include fluted onion domes capped with metal kalasas, numerous foliage-adorned arches, and shallow cornices.
3. Structures are anchored by open multi-doored pavilions called Baradaris and a sacred water tank.

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:** Sikh architecture developed in the late 18th century as an expressive synthesis incorporating Mughal arcuate elements (foliated arches, domes) and Rajput features (chhatris, jharokhas, bracketed cornices).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Key elements include gilded fluted onion domes, corner chhatris (kiosks), cusped arches, and oriel windows.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Monuments (such as Sri Harmandir Sahib and Gurdwara Bangla Sahib) are laid out around a central holy water tank (Sarovar) and incorporate open multi-doored pavilions (Baradaris) representing openness to all four cardinal directions and social groups. All three statements are correct.

9. Which one of the following pairs does not form part of the six orthodox systems (Shat-Darshana) of Indian Philosophy?
(a) Mimamsa and Vedanta
(b) Nyaya and Vaisheshika
(c) Lokayata and Kapalika
(d) Sankhya and Yoga

Correct Answer: (c)
Explanation:

- The Shat-Darshana (Six Orthodox / Astika Systems) accept the authority of the Vedas:
    1. Sankhya (Kapila) & Yoga (Patanjali)
    2. Nyaya (Gautama) & Vaisheshika (Kanada)
    3. Mimamsa / Purva Mimamsa (Jaimini) & Vedanta / Uttara Mimamsa (Badarayana)
- Lokayata (Charvaka—materialist philosophy) and Kapalika (a Tantric Shaiva ascetic order) are heterodox (Nastika) or non-Vedic traditions and do not form part of the Shat-Darshana.

10. With reference to the history of philosophical thought in India, consider the following statements regarding the Sankhya school:
1. Sankhya does not accept the theory of rebirth or transmigration of the soul.
2. Sankhya holds that it is self-knowledge that leads to liberation, and not any exterior influence or agent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: (b)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Sankhya school accepts the doctrines of Karma, rebirth, and transmigration (Samsara). It posits that the subtle body (Linga Sharira) transmigrates from one physical birth to another until ultimate liberation (Kaivalya) is achieved.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sankhya posits a dualistic metaphysics of Purusha (pure consciousness) and Prakriti (matter). Liberation (Kaivalya) is obtained strictly through discriminative self-knowledge

(Viveka-jnana)—realizing the absolute distinction between Purusha and Prakriti—without reliance on any external divine grace or external agent.

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