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Prelims Marathon

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Delhi Sultanate Administration

1. In the context of the political administration of the Delhi Sultanate, which one of the following statements correctly describes the nature of succession and central authority?

(a) Succession was governed by a strict hereditary law of primogeniture enforced by the Caliph of Baghdad.
(b) The Sultan was the supreme executive, military, and judicial head, whose succession was determined primarily by military strength and noble consensus in the absence of a fixed law of primogeniture.
(c) The council of ministers (Majlis-i-Khalwat) held constitutional veto power over the military decisions of the Sultan.
(d) Sovereign authority was completely decentralized, with provincial governors exercising independent hereditary succession rights.

Correct Answer: (b)
Explanation:

- **Central Authority:** The Sultan was the absolute head of the executive, military (Ariz-i-Mamalik), and judicial (Qadi-i-Mumalik) branches, formally ruling as a lieutenant of the Islamic Caliph.
- **Law of Succession:** The Delhi Sultanate had no codified law of primogeniture (the eldest son inheriting the throne). Succession depended on military capacity, royal nomination, and the political consensus or armed backing of the powerful noble factions (Amirs).

2. Consider the following pairs regarding key administrative officials of the Diwan-i-Wizarat during the Delhi Sultanate:

Title	Administrative Function
1. **Naib**	Deputized official exercising authority second only to the Sultan
2. **Mustaufi-i-Mamalik**	Auditor General responsible for checking state expenditure
3. **Mushrif-i-Mamalik**	Revenue Secretary in charge of maintaining state income records
4. **Majmuadar**	Official responsible for preserving state treasury balances

How many of the above pairs 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:** The Naib-us-Sultanat held the highest executive stature below the monarch, acting as regent or chief deputy.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The Mustaufi-i-Mamalik functioned as the Auditor General, inspecting central and provincial state expenditure records.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Mushrif-i-Mamalik was the Accountant General / Revenue Secretary managing income registers collected from Iqtas.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** The Majmuadar maintained treasury ledgers and balanced financial records within the Diwan-i-Wizarat.

3. Consider the following pairs regarding central executive departments (Diwans) of the Delhi Sultanate:

Department	Function
1. **Diwan-i-Arz**	Department of Military Affairs headed by the Ariz-i-Mamalik
2. **Diwan-i-Insha**	Department of Royal Correspondence and Imperial Decrees
3. **Diwan-i-Rasalat**	Department of Foreign Affairs, Religious Matters, and Endowments
4. **Diwan-i-Riyasat**	Department of Market Control and Commercial Regulation

How many of the above pairs 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:** Diwan-i-Arz managed army recruitment, troop rolls (Huliya), branding of horses (Dagh), and army inspection.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Diwan-i-Insha processed all official imperial correspondence, royal firmans, and state secretarial drafts (Dabir-i-Khas).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Diwan-i-Rasalat dealt with foreign envoys, petitions, religious stipends, and judicial affairs headed by the Sadr-us-Sudur / Chief Qazi.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Diwan-i-Riyasat was established by Alauddin Khalji to regulate grain and cloth markets, enforce price ceilings, and register merchants.

4. Consider the following pairs regarding specialized departments and royal officers of the Sultanate era:

Office	Area of Administrative Oversight
1. **Diwan-i-Bandagan**	Department of Slaves created by Firuz Shah Tughlaq
2. **Diwan-i-Mazalim**	Higher court dealing with public grievances and police oversight
3. **Diwan-i-Ishtiaq**	Department of State Pensions for retired servants and scholars
4. **Wakil-i-Dar**	Royal officer managing the household and palace establishments

How many of the above pairs 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:** Diwan-i-Bandagan was a dedicated department created by Firuz Shah Tughlaq to manage state-owned slaves (Bandagan).
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Diwan-i-Mazalim presided over appeals against administrative high-handedness and public grievances.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Diwan-i-Ishtiaq issued government pensions to impoverished scholars, retired officers, and widows.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** The Wakil-i-Dar supervised the entire royal household (Karkhanas), personal attendants, and palace security protocols.

5. Which of the following statements regarding field officials in the Delhi Sultanate is/are correct?

1. Amir-i-Hajib was the commander of the royal cavalry guard, while the Sar-i-Jandar was the chief master of court ceremonies
2. Barid was an intelligence officer reporting directly to the central state, while the Amil was responsible for measuring land and collecting land revenue at the district level.

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:** The Barid-i-Mamalik headed the secret intelligence network; field Barids recorded local developments. The Amil was the local land measurement and revenue officer.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The titles are reversed. The Amir-i-Hajib (or Barbak) was the Master of Ceremonies supervising access to the Sultan's court, whereas the Sar-i-Jandar was the Commander of the Royal Bodyguards who protected the Sultan's person.

6. Which of the following statements regarding city zoning and law during the Delhi Sultanate is/are correct?

1. Sultanate cities maintained a structural distinction between Lashkargah and Shahr.
2. Zawabit referred exclusively to traditional Islamic Sharia law, whereas Jahandari referred to local Hindu customary laws.

Select the wrong 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 correct:** Medieval Sultanate urban centers maintained functional zoning: Lashkargah housed cantonments and military garrisons (e.g., Siri under Alauddin Khalji), while Shahr housed trade centers, artisan quarters, and civilian markets.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Zawabit referred to secular state decrees and regulations promulgated directly by the Sultan to address practical administrative needs not explicitly covered by Sharia. Jahandari (as articulated by Barani) referred to secular statecraft and secular governance principles employed by Sultans.

7. Which of the following statements regarding land categories in the Delhi Sultanate are correct?

1. Khalisa lands were under direct central state management, with revenues collected directly for the royal treasury and army maintenance.
2. Iqta lands were assigned to military and civil officers in lieu of cash salaries for troop maintenance.
3. Inam and Waqf lands were non-hereditary military grants assigned exclusively to foreign cavalry soldiers.
4. Mawas referred to turbulent contiguous regions that frequently resisted tax payments and required military force for collection.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct: Khalisa** lands were managed directly by the central finance ministry; revenues went directly to the Sultan's treasury.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: Iqta lands were administrative assignments granted to officers (Muqtis / Iqtadars) to collect revenue, retain their personal salary, pay troops, and remit the balance (fawazil) to Delhi.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Inam (revenue-free personal grants) and Waqf (charitable endowments) were assigned to religious scholars, theologians, holy men, and educational/charitable institutions, not to cavalry soldiers.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Mawas denoted rebellious areas (often forested or mountainous tracts in the Doab) where local rajas and peasants refused routine land tax (Kharaj) until coerced by military expeditions.

8. Which of the following statements regarding the Sultanate economy, taxation, and technology are correct?

1. Kharaj was the agricultural land tax, Zakat was a religious tax on Muslims, and Khams represented the state share of war spoils.
2. Sultanate period witnessed key technological introductions, including paper manufacturing technology and the spinning wheel.
3. Early pre-Iltutmish coins minted in Northern India frequently retained Hindu iconographic motifs like Goddess Lakshmi or the Bull-and-Horseman, known as Dehliwal coins.

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:** Kharaj (land tax, usually 1/5th to 1/2), Zakat (2.5% tax on wealthy Muslims), and Khams (1/5th state share of booty) formed the primary fiscal categories under Hanafi jurisprudence.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 13th and 14th centuries brought technical innovations: paper manufacturing (transmitted via Central Asia) and the spinning wheel (charkha), which accelerated yarn production.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Early Ghorid and Turkish coins in Delhi (Dehliwal) maintained continuity with Rajput coinage by retaining images of Goddess Lakshmi (on Ghori's coins) or the Bull-and-Horseman before Iltutmish standardized abstract calligraphic coins (Tanka and Jital).

9. Which of the following statements regarding society and commerce during the Delhi Sultanate are correct?

1. Long-distance inland grain trade was managed by merchant groups known as Karwanis or Nayaks, while Multanis dominated credit and long-distance trade.
2. Non-Muslim subjects were classified legally as Zimmis and were required to pay the Jizya tax in exchange for protection of life and property.
3. Upper-class Muslim social organization maintained strict equality, ignoring birth status or ethnic origins in marriage alliances.
4. Hindu women of non-joint families possessed land inheritance rights over their deceased sonless husband's property.

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:** Grain transportation was handled by itinerant traders termed Karwanis or Banjaras, while finance, banking, and international trade were controlled by Multanis and Marwaris.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Non-Muslims were categorized as Zimmis; payment of the poll tax (Jizya) granted them legal protection and exemption from military service.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Muslim social hierarchy maintained distinct racial and status stratification (Kafu-parity of social status in marriage), creating divisions between foreign-origin elites (Ashraf: Turks, Persians, Afghans) and indigenous Indian converts (Ajlaf / Arzal).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Under classical Hindu legal commentaries (e.g., Jimutavahana's Dayabhaga), a widow possessed inheritance rights to her deceased sonless husband's separate property.

10. Which of the following statements regarding Sultanate and regional architectural styles are correct?

1. Khalji style introduced true arches, horseshoe arches, lotus-bud fringes, and red sandstone in monuments like the Ala'i Darwaza.
2. Tughlaq architecture introduced batter, used grey stone rubble masonry, and incorporated combined arch-and-beam entrances.
3. Lodi period pioneered enclosed garden-tomb layout and introduced the double dome.

4. Jaunpur Sharqi architectural school relied heavily on tall minarets while completely avoiding massive sloping propylon screens.

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:** Khalji architecture (e.g., Ala'i Darwaza) established the true arcuate form using red sandstone, marble inlays, horseshoe arches, and lotus-bud fringes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Tughlaq architecture used grey quartzite rubble, thick plaster, sloping walls (batter), and a combination of arch and lintel (beam-and-arch entrances).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lodi tombs (e.g., Sikandar Lodi's tomb) introduced the double dome and placed tombs within walled garden enclosures, anticipating Mughal Charbagh designs.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Jaunpur (Sharqi) School (e.g., Atala Mosque) is famous for avoiding minarets and instead featuring massive, bold propylon screens (pylon arches) over gateway entrances.

Hoysalas, Vijaynagara, Bahmani and Deccan Sultanate Empire

1. With reference to the history of ancient India, Bhavabhuti, Hastimalla, and Kshemeshvara were famous:

(a) Jain monks
(b) playwrights
(c) temple architects
(d) philosophers

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Bhavabhuti:** A prominent 8th-century Sanskrit dramatist and poet who composed classical plays such as Malatimadhava, Mahaviracharita, and Uttararamacharita.
- **Hastimalla:** A notable 13th-century Kannada and Sanskrit dramatist/poet patronized during the Hoysala era who authored Sanskrit plays including Vikrantakaurava, Maithilikalyana, and Subhadraharana.
- **Kshemeshvara:** A celebrated 10th-century Sanskrit dramatist and poet who authored the famous plays Nagananda commentary and Chandakaushika.

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

1. The Hoysalas emerged as an independent power in Karnataka after serving as feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani.
2. The Hoysala dynasty was founded by King Pulakeshin I, who established his initial capital at Badami.

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 Hoysalas ruled the region of modern Karnataka around Mysore from the 11th to the 14th century. They began as subordinate feudatories (Samantas) of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani before asserting independence during the 12th century under King Vishnuvardhana and Veera Ballala II.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The founder of the Hoysala line was Sala (also known as Nripa Kama I), not Pulakeshin I (who founded the Early Chalukyas of Badami). The Hoysala administrative centers were initially Belur and later Dwarasamudra (modern Halebidu).

3. Which of the following statements regarding the rulers and foreign relations of the Hoysala Dynasty are correct?

1. Vishnuvardhana converted from Jainism to Vaishnavism under the spiritual influence of Sri Ramanujacharya.
2. Vishnuvardhana commissioned the construction of the famous Chennakesava Temple at Belur.
3. Ballala II extended Hoysala influence into Tamil Nadu and commissioned the Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebidu.
4. Ballala III allied with Malik Kafur during the Delhi Sultanate invasion, permanently annexing the Madurai Sultanate.

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:** King Bitti Deva adopted the name Vishnuvardhana after embracing Srivaishnavism under the guidance of Sri Ramanujacharya, who had taken refuge in Karnataka.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To mark his military victory over the Cholas at the Battle of Talakad (1116), Vishnuvardhana commissioned the Chennakesava Temple at Belur.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Under Veera Ballala II (1173–1220), the Hoysala state reached its military peak, expanding deep into the Tamil region; during his era, the grand Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebidu was completed.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Veera Ballala III fought fiercely against the invasions of Malik Kafur and Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, eventually losing his life in 1342 at the Battle of Trichinopoly against the Madurai Sultanate.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the administration and currency of the Hoysala Kingdom is/are correct?

1. Central executive council of senior state ministers was designated as Pancha Pradhanas.
2. Elite royal bodyguards sworn by oath to protect and die with King, were known as Garudas.
3. Principal gold coin minted by the Hoysalas was the Honnu, accompanied by smaller fractional denominations such as the Pana and Haga.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct Answer: (d)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Hoysala administration was assisted by a five-member ministerial council known as the Pancha Pradhanas, comprising offices like the Sandhivigrahi (foreign minister) and Mahabhandari (chief treasurer).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Garudas were a specialized class of elite royal bodyguards who took a sacred oath of personal loyalty to the monarch, committing ritual suicide (sati-like self-sacrifice) upon their king's death.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Hoysala state minted high-purity gold coins called Honnu (or Gadyana), along with sub-denominations like the Pana and Haga.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to society and religion under the Hoysala Dynasty are correct?

1. Madhvacharya established eight Mathas at Udupi to propagate the Dvaita school of Vedanta.
2. The Sharana movement led by Basavanna promoted the concept of Kayakave Kailasa and challenged hereditary caste hierarchies.
3. Hoysala royal women were excluded from political governance and artistic patronage, being confined strictly to domestic seclusion.

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:** Saint Madhvacharya (1238–1317) propounded Dvaita philosophy and established the Ashta Mathas at Udupi during the Hoysala era.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Veerashaiva / Lingayat movement championed by Basavanna in Karnataka promoted spiritual equality, rejected caste and ritual pollution, and emphasized dedicated labor (Kayakave Kailasa).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Hoysala women held prominent public, political, and artistic roles: Queen Umadevi led military campaigns and administrative regencies, Queen Shantala Devi (wife of Vishnuvardhana) was a celebrated patron of music and dance, and Akka Mahadevi emerged as a leading saint-poetess.

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

1. Hoysala temples are constructed primarily using soft chloritic schist (soapstone), which allowed sculptors to carve fine ornamental relief work.
2. A defining plan feature of Hoysala architecture is the Stellate (star-shaped) ground plan raised upon an elevated platform called a Jagati.

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:** Hoysala architects shifted from hard sandstone to soft chloritic schist (soapstone), enabling intricate, deep-relief carving on temple walls, lintels, and ceiling vaults.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Hoysala temples are built on an elevated platform called a Jagati (which serves as an open circumambulatory path) and feature complex stellate (star-shaped) shrine ground plans.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Hoysala monuments is/are correct?

1. The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas comprising temples at Belur, Halebidu, and Somanathapura were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2023.
2. Lad Khan Temple at Aihole and the Vitthal Temple at Hampi were constructed entirely under the direct royal patronage of Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana.
3. Hoysala temple superstructures often incorporated the Bhumija style, characterized by rows of miniature spires (kutas) stacked vertically up the main tower.

Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In September 2023, the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas (Chennakesava Temple at Belur, Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebidu, and Keshava Temple at Somanathapura) were officially inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Lad Khan Temple at Aihole belongs to the Early Chalukyas of Badami (6th century), while the Vitthal Temple at Hampi belongs to the Vijayanagara Empire (15th–16th century under Devaraya II and Krishnadevaraya).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Hoysala vimanas frequently display Bhumija style influences, featuring miniature tiered projections (kutas) stacked along the angles of the spire.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Hoysala literature and sculpture is/are correct?

1. The Hoysala literary period was marked by extensive compositions in both Kannada and Sanskrit languages.
2. The scholar-poet Hastimalla lived under Hoysala patronage and authored classical Sanskrit plays such as Purvapurana, Vikrantakaurava, and Subhadraharana.

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 Hoysala era was a golden age for Kannada literature (writers like Janna, Harihara, and Raghavanka) as well as classical Sanskrit scholarship.

- **Statement 2 is correct: Hastimalla** was a renowned 13th-century Jain playwright patronized by the Hoysalas who composed major Sanskrit dramatic works including Purvapurana, Vikrantakaurava, Maithilikalyana, and Subhadraharana.

9. Who among the following rulers of medieval India granted permission to the Portuguese governor Afonso de Albuquerque to construct a fort at Bhatkal in 1510?
(a) Krishnadevaraya
(b) Narasimha Saluva
(c) Muhammad Shah III
(d) Yusuf Adil Shah

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:

- In 1510, the Portuguese under Afonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate.
- Seeking a strong strategic and commercial alliance to secure a monopoly on imported Persian and Arabian warhorses for his cavalry, the Vijayanagara Emperor Krishnadevaraya granted the Portuguese permission to construct a factory and fort at the port of Bhatkal.

10. Who among the following rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire constructed a large dam across the Tungabhadra River and a canal-cum-aqueduct several kilometers long from the river to the capital city?
(a) Devaraya I
(b) Mallikarjuna
(c) Vira Vijaya
(d) Virupaksha

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:

- **Devaraya I (1406–1422):** Recognized for his urban hydraulic engineering projects. He constructed a massive barrage/dam across the Tungabhadra River and excavated a long canal-cum-aqueduct (such as the Hariya Canal) to bring fresh water directly into the imperial core of the capital at Vijayanagara (Hampi) to resolve urban water shortages and irrigate surrounding agrarian lands.

Vijaynagara

1. Regarding the taxation system of Krishnadevaraya, the ruler of Vijayanagara, consider the following statements:
1. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality and fertility of the land.
2. Private owners of workshops paid an industrial tax.

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:** Land revenue (Sist) under the Vijayanagara Empire was not uniform. Lands were surveyed and categorized based on soil quality, availability of irrigation (wet vs. dry land), and crop yields before fixing the tax rate, which ranged from 1/6th to 1/3rd of gross produce.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Apart from agrarian revenue, non-agricultural activities were taxed. Private owners of industrial workshops, weavers, blacksmiths, and artisans paid specific professional and industrial taxes.

2. Who among the following founded a new city on the south bank of a tributary to river Krishna and undertook to rule his new kingdom as the agent of a deity to whom all the land south of the river Krishna was supposed to belong?

(a) Amoghavarsha I
(b) Ballala II
(c) Harihara I
(d) Prataparudra II

Correct Answer: (c)
Explanation:

- **Harihara I (1336–1356):** Co-founded the Vijayanagara Empire with his brother Bukka I on the banks of the Tungabhadra River (a major tributary of the Krishna River).
- **Divine Agency:** Harihara I ruled the kingdom as a representative or regent (Karyakartha) of the deity Virupaksha (a form of Shiva). All royal decrees were issued in the name of Sri Virupaksha.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the foundation of the Vijayanagara Empire is/are correct?

1. Harihara I and Bukka I founded the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336 on the southern bank of Tungabhadra River.
2. The founders were original hereditary rulers of the Chola Dynasty who migrated to Hampi following the fall of Thanjavur.

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:** Harihara I and Bukka I established Vijayanagara (City of Victory) in 1336 along the Tungabhadra River, centered around modern Hampi (UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** They were not Cholas; they served as feudatories/officers under the Kakatiyas of Warangal and later the Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra before establishing an independent empire under the spiritual guidance of Saint Vidyaranya.

4. Which one of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the ruling dynasties of the Vijayanagara Empire, starting from the earliest?

(a) Sangama Dynasty Saluva Dynasty Tuluva Dynasty Aravidu Dynasty
(b) Saluva Dynasty Sangama Dynasty Tuluva Dynasty Aravidu Dynasty
(c) Sangama Dynasty Tuluva Dynasty Saluva Dynasty Aravidu Dynasty
(d) Sangama Dynasty Saluva Dynasty Aravidu Dynasty Tuluva Dynasty

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The four ruling dynasties of the Vijayanagara Empire in strict chronological order are:

1. **Sangama Dynasty:** 1336–1485
2. **Saluva Dynasty:** 1485–1505
3. **Tuluva Dynasty:** 1505–1570
4. **Aravidu Dynasty:** 1570–1646

5. Which of the following statements regarding the early Sangama rulers are correct?

1. Harihara I introduced the Nayankara system and divided the empire into administrative units such as Sthalas, Simas, and Nadus.
2. Queen Gangadevi authored the Sanskrit epic Madura Vijayam, documenting Bukka I's successful campaign against the Madurai Sultanate.
3. Harihara II adopted the title Vedamarga Pravartaka and led a naval expedition into northern Sri Lanka.
4. Devaraya I modernised the military by recruiting Turkish archers and was visited by Italian traveller Nicolo de' Conti.

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:** Harihara I laid the administrative foundations of the empire, creating territorial divisions (Suba Sima Sthala Nadu) and initiating military assignments (Nayankara).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gangadevi (wife of Prince Kumara Kampana) wrote Madura Vijayam (Kamparaya Charitam), chronicling the conquest of the Madurai Sultanate by Bukka I's forces.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Harihara II assumed the title Vedamarga Pravartaka (Promoter of the Vedic Path) and levied tribute on northern Sri Lanka.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Devaraya I (1406–1422) recruited Turkish archers to reform cavalry tactics; Italian merchant Nicolo de' Conti visited Vijayanagara during his reign. All four statements are correct.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Devaraya II are correct?

1. Devaraya II defeated the Bahmani Sultans and annexed the Reddi kingdom of Kondavidu.
2. Persian envoy Abdur Razzaq visited the Vijayanagara court during the reign of Devaraya II and documented its grand urbanization and trade.
3. Devaraya II authored the Telugu poem Manucharitam and served as the chief court patron to Tenali Ramakrishna.

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:** Devaraya II (1424–1446) defeated the Bahmani forces, incorporated Kondavidu, and assumed the title Gajabetekara (Hunter of Elephants).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Abdur Razzaq, the diplomatic envoy from Shah Rukh of Persia, visited Vijayanagara during Devaraya II's reign (1443) and left a detailed account of the city's seven concentric defensive walls.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Manucharitam was written by Allasani Peddana (one of the Ashtadiggajas), and Tenali Ramakrishna was patronized by Krishnadevaraya during the Tuluva dynasty.

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

1. Saluva Narasimha founded the Saluva Dynasty through a bloodless usurpation to save the empire from internal anarchy.
2. Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama landed at Calicut during the reign of Immadi Narasimha.

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:** Saluva Narasimha (1485–1491) engineered the First Usurpation, removing the weak Sangama ruler Praudha Raya to restore central imperial authority.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Vasco da Gama reached Calicut on May 20, 1498, during the reign of Immadi Narasimha (Saluva dynasty), when regent Tuluva Narasa Nayaka held de facto administrative power.

8. Which of the following statements regarding the reign of Krishnadevaraya are correct?

1. Krishnadevaraya defeated the Bijapur Sultanate, annexed the fertile Raichur Doab, and defeated the Gajapati ruler Prataparudra of Odisha.
2. He authored the Telugu political classic Amuktamalyada and the Sanskrit play Jambavati Kalyanam.
3. His court was adorned by the Ashtadiggajas, eight eminent Telugu poets led by Allasani Peddana and Tenali Ramakrishna.
4. He banned all Portuguese trade in South India and demolished the fort at Bhatkal.

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:** Krishnadevaraya (1509–1529) expanded the empire by capturing the Raichur Doab (Battle of Raichur, 1520), defeating Ismail Adil Shah of Bijapur, and forcing the Gajapati King of Odisha to sign a peace treaty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Krishnadevaraya was an accomplished author; he wrote Amuktamalyada in Telugu (dealing with statecraft and the life of Andal) and Jambavati Kalyanam in Sanskrit.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** His court (Bhuvanavijayam) housed eight Telugu poets (Ashtadiggajas), including Allasani Peddana (Andhra Kavita Pitamaha), Tenali Ramakrishna, Nandi Thimmana, and Dhurjati.

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** He did not ban Portuguese trade; he maintained friendly relations with Portuguese governor Afonso de Albuquerque and granted them permission to build a fort at Bhatkal in 1510 to secure a monopoly on imported warhorses.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the late Tuluva period and the Battle of Talikota is/are correct?

1. Portuguese horse-trader Fernao Nuniz visited the capital during the reign of Achyuta Deva Raya.
2. The Battle of Talikota in 1565 saw the combined forces of the Deccan Sultanates defeat Aliya Rama Raya.
3. The Kingdom of Berar actively led the confederacy of Deccan Sultanates at the Battle of Talikota.

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:** Portuguese traveler Fernao Nuniz spent three years in Vijayanagara (1535–1537) during the reign of Achyuta Deva Raya and documented the administrative system and female court officers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** On January 23, 1565, at the Battle of Talikota (Rakshasa-Thangadi), the grand army of Vijayanagara led by regent Aliya Rama Raya was defeated by a unified coalition of four Deccan Sultanates (Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmadnagar, and Bidar).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Berar did not participate in the coalition due to internal rivalries with Ahmadnagar.

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

1. Tirumala Raya founded the Aravidu Dynasty and shifted the imperial capital from devastated Vijayanagara (Hampi) to Penukonda.
2. Raja Wodeyar established the independent Kingdom of Mysore during the reign of the late Aravidu rulers.

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:** Following the destruction of Hampi after 1565, Tirumala Raya (brother of Aliya Rama Raya) established the Fourth Dynasty (Aravidu) in 1570 and moved the administrative capital south to Penukonda (and later to Chandragiri/Vellore).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As central authority weakened under late Aravidu kings like Venkata II, regional viceroys asserted independence, notably Raja Wodeyar, who founded the sovereign Kingdom of Mysore in 1612.

Vijaynagara Administration

1. According to Portuguese writer Fernão Nuniz, the women in the Vijayanagara Empire were experts in which of the following areas?

1. Wrestling
2. Astrology
3. Accounting
4. Soothsaying

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer:(d)

Explanation:

- The Portuguese chronicler Fernao Nuniz, who spent three years (1535–1537) in Vijayanagara during the reign of Achyuta Deva Raya, left detailed accounts of court life and the public role of women.
- Nuniz noted that women held diverse positions in the royal palace: they served as wrestlers (wrestling matches were held before the king), astrologers, accountants (who tracked royal expenses and palace inventory), bodyguards, musicians, jugglers, and soothsayers/diviners.

2. In the context of the administrative organization of the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following pairs:

Administrative Unit	Associated Feature
1. **Mandalam**	Highest territorial administrative division, governed by a Mandalesvara
2. **Amara Nayaka System**	Military land grant system where Nayakas maintained contingents for royal service
3. **Pettai**	Commercial trade center or market town established within assigned territories

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer:(d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The empire was divided into descending territorial tiers: Mandalam (province) Nadu (district) Sthala (sub-district) Grama (village).
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Under the Amara Nayaka system, military commanders (Nayakas) were granted land assignments (Amaram) in exchange for maintaining specified troops (cavalry and infantry) and collecting land revenue.

- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Pettai referred to commercial market centers and suburban trade centers founded by Nayakas to foster craft production and trade.

3. Consider the following information regarding key officials of the Vijayanagara administrative machinery:

Official	Primary Administrative Role
1. **Mahapradhani**	Prime Minister and head of the central council of ministers
2. **Raysani**	Royal secretary responsible for recording the king's verbal orders
3. **Karnikam**	Chief accountant overseeing state land records and revenue registers
4. **Talara**	Village/urban watchman and police officer responsible for maintaining order

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:** The Mahapradhani served as the principal minister coordinating state policy under the monarch.
- **Row 2:** The Raysani (or Rayasam) drafted imperial charters and recorded spoken royal decrees (Tirumukham).
- **Row 3:** The Karnikam maintained village-level land registers, tax ledgers, and crop records.
- **Row 4:** The Talara served as the local watchman/police officer responsible for crime prevention and recovering stolen property in urban and rural areas. All four rows are correctly matched.

4. Consider the following pairs regarding administrative designations under the Vijayanagara Empire:

Administrative Title	Area of Authority
1. **Dalavay**	Commander-in-chief of the armed forces
2. **Adaippam**	Personal attendant managing royal protocol and requisitions
3. **Kariya-karta**	Executive agent acting on behalf of a Nayaka or minister

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer:(d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Dalavay held supreme command over army divisions during imperial military expeditions.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The Adaippam was a trusted personal officer managing the king's daily schedule, personal service, and private access.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Kariya-karta served as the executive deputy or land manager appointed by a senior Nayaka to oversee local tax collection and military supply duties.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to agrarian revenue and labor extraction in the Vijayanagara Empire are correct?

1. Land tax was assessed based on soil quality and availability of irrigation, generally fixed at one-sixth of gross produce.
2. Vetti represented a form of uncompensated forced labor extracted from lower socio-economic groups for public works.
3. Non-agricultural production groups, such as workshop owners and artisans, were completely exempt from cash taxes.

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:** Land revenue (Sist) was fixed according to soil fertility and water access (ranging from 1/6th to 1/3rd).
- **Statement 2 is correct: Vetti** was a customary demand for free or forced labor imposed on peasants and workers to build irrigation tanks, temples, and fortifications.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Non-agricultural commercial and artisan groups (Pattadaior) paid direct cash taxes grouped under Kasayavargam (cash-paid taxes on workshops, looms, and trade stalls).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to land grants and tenures in the Vijayanagara Empire is/are correct?

1. Rakta-Kodangal lands were tax-free land assignments granted to the families of soldiers killed in battle.
2. Brahmadeya and Devadana lands were subject to full commercial rate land taxes payable directly to the royal army treasury.

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:** Rakta-Kodangal (or Uthirappatti) lands were hero-grant lands assigned tax-free to the dependents or heirs of warriors who fell in military service.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Brahmadeya (lands granted to Brahmins) and Devadana (lands granted to temples) were tax-exempt or heavily discounted tax tenures (Sarvamanya or Manyam), with revenues dedicated to religious activities and scholar upkeep rather than military taxation.

7. Which of the following statements regarding trade, commodities, and ports under the Vijayanagara Empire are correct?

1. Merchant groups such as Kudirai Chettis specialized in the maritime trade and supply of Arabian warhorses.
2. The port of Bhatkal, located along the Sharavathi river delta, functioned as a major commercial center for Portuguese trade.
3. Exports consisted primarily of spices, textiles, and rice, while high-grade warhorses, China silk, and porcelain were imported.
4. Foreign trade was banned across all Malabar and Kanara ports to protect state-run monopolies.

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 Kudirai Chettis were horse merchants who dominated the supply of imported Persian and Arabian warhorses essential for the imperial cavalry.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bhatkal served as a major port along the western coast where Krishnadevaraya permitted the Portuguese to establish a trading post in 1510 CE.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vijayanagara exported textiles, pepper, cinnamon, and ginger, while importing Arabian horses, Chinese silk, and porcelain.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Foreign maritime trade was actively encouraged; major coastal ports like Mangalore, Cannanore, and Bhatkal maintained international trade links.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Vijayanagara currency and water management is/are correct?

1. Standard gold coin of the empire was the Varaha (also known as Pagoda), with sub-denominations including the Fanam and copper coins.
2. Hiriya Canal drew water directly from the Tungabhadra River to irrigate agricultural fields and meet the domestic water needs of the imperial city.

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 primary currency unit was the gold Varaha (bearing emblems like the Boar, Elephant, or seated deities like Venkateshwara/Vishnu), alongside smaller gold Fanams, silver Taras, and copper coins.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Hiriya Canal (built by the Sangama rulers) drew water from a dam across the Tungabhadra River, channeling water through the agricultural valley to supply the urban core.

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

1. Devadasis held high social status, owned property, and performed sacred duties during state festivals like Mahanavami.
2. Slavery was completely prohibited by royal law across both urban and rural areas of the empire.

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:** Foreign travelers (such as Domingo Paes and Abdur Razzaq) recorded that Devadasis held respected social status, were wealthy landowners, and held a central role in temple dance, rituals, and royal court celebrations.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Slavery (Besabagga) was documented in contemporary inscriptions and travelers' accounts (e.g., Duarte Barbosa). Human beings were bought, sold, and transferred alongside land property.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the religious policy of Vijayanagara rulers is/are correct?

1. Vijayanagara kings assumed the title Hinduraya Suratrana to assert political legitimacy.
2. The state followed an exclusive religious policy, completely prohibiting non-Hindu subjects from serving in the imperial military or acquiring property.

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:** Rulers adopted the title Hinduraya Suratrana (a Sanskritized adaptation using the Arabic term Sultan), asserting sovereign authority while using contemporary political terminology.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Vijayanagara followed a pragmatic, multi-religious policy: Devaraya II and Krishnadevaraya actively recruited Muslim archers and cavalry officers, permitted mosques in the capital, and patronized Jain shrines along with Hindu temples.

Vijaynagara Architecture and Bahmani Empire

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Vijayanagara temple architecture is/are correct?

1. Architecture synthesized Chola, Hoysala, Pandya, and Chalukya traditions alongside contemporary Indo-Islamic structural elements.

2. A defining innovation of this style was the addition of the Kalyana Mandapa and carved Yali pillar motifs.
3. Architects strictly eliminated gopurams on all sides, constructing a single small entrance doorway exclusively on the eastern wall.

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:** Vijayanagara architecture represented an eclectic synthesis of South Indian stone traditions (Chola, Hoysala, Chalukya, Pandya) combined with secular Indo-Islamic features (plaster arches, vaults, domes) seen in structures like the Lotus Mahal and Elephant Stables.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Signature developments include the Kalyana Mandapa (an ornate open hall built for divine marriage ceremonies), Raya Gopurams (soaring entrance gateways), and pillars sculpted with charging Yalis (mythical beasts ridden by warriors).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Vijayanagara design expanded the size and presence of entrance towers (Raya Gopurams), placing prominent, multi-tiered gateway towers on multiple sides of massive enclosure walls rather than restricting access to a single small doorway.

2. Which of the following statements regarding major monuments constructed under Vijayanagara patronage are correct?

1. Vittalaswami Temple at Hampi features a stone chariot shrine and carved musical pillars that resonate when struck.
2. Hazara Rama Temple at Hampi features carved wall relief panels depicting scenes from the Ramayana.
3. Varadharaja and Ekambaranatha temples have no architectural additions or gopurams from Vijayanagara rulers.

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:** The Vittalaswami Temple at Hampi (developed during the Tuluva period) is renowned for its monolithic Stone Chariot (Garuda shrine) and its open Maha Mandapa supported by 56 musical pillars (Saptasvara pillars).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Hazara Rama Temple served as the private shrine for the royal family inside the Royal Enclosure; its exterior wall bands display narrative bas-relief panels depicting episodes from the Ramayana.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Krishnadevaraya and his successors made extensive architectural contributions to major Tamil pilgrimage centers, constructing grand Raya Gopurams and Kalyana Mandapas at both the Varadharaja and Ekambaranatha temples in Kanchipuram.

3. The massive tiered stone platform situated at the highest elevation of the Royal Enclosure in Hampi, used by Vijayanagara monarchs for royal ceremonies, audience receptions, and monitoring the nine-day Navaratri festival, is known as:
(a) Lotus Mahal
(b) Mahanavami Dibba
(c) Queen's Bath
(d) Hazara Rama Platform

Answer: (b)
Detailed Explanation:

- **Mahanavami Dibba:** A massive, square three-tiered stone platform standing at the highest point of the Royal Enclosure in Hampi.
- Portuguese chronicler Domingo Paes referred to it as the House of Victory. It served as the raised stage where the King inspected military parades, received tribute from feudatories (Nayakas), and witnessed public rituals, dances, and wrestling matches during the Mahanavami (Navaratri) festival.

4. Consider the following information regarding foreign travelers who visited medieval Indian kingdoms:

Foreign Traveler	Home	Visit Period	Historical Record
1. **Ibn Battuta**	Morocco	Harihara I	Recorded the fortified cities and wealth of early South India
2. **Niccolo de' Conti**	Italy	Devaraya I	Described the fortification perimeter and currency system of Vijayanagara
3. **Abdur Razzaq**	Persia	Devaraya II	Documented seven concentric defensive walls around the capital city
4. **Duarte Barbosa**	Portugal	Krishnadevaraya	Documented maritime trade networks, administration, and coastal ports

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

Answer: (d)
Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1: Ibn Battuta** (Moroccan scholar) visited South India in the 1340s during the early consolidation of the Sangama dynasty under Harihara I.
- **Row 2: Niccolo de' Conti** (Venetian merchant) visited during the reign of Devaraya I (~1420) and described the city's scale, festivals, and currency.
- **Row 3: Abdur Razzaq** (Persian ambassador sent by Shah Rukh) arrived during the reign of Devaraya II (~1443) and left a famous description of the seven concentric fortification rings encircling the city and countryside.

- **Row 4: Duarte Barbosa** (Portuguese official) visited during the reign of Krishnadevaraya (~1518) and documented the extensive Indian Ocean trade networks, horse imports, and administrative freedom. All four rows are correctly matched.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Portuguese chronicles of the Vijayanagara Empire is/are correct?

1. Domingo Paes account detailing the grand performance of the Mahanavami festival and royal celebrations.
2. Fernao Nuniz documented the political decline of the empire and recorded the prevalence of Sati among noble families.

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:** Domingo Paes (1520) provided a vivid eyewitness description of the nine-day Mahanavami festival, detailing animal sacrifices, military reviews, wrestling matches, and royal court etiquette.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Fernao Nuniz (1535–1537) documented court intrigues, military obligations of the Nayakas, and social practices such as Sati (widow self-immolation) among upper-caste and noble families.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Bahmani Sultanate is/are correct?

1. Bahmani Kingdom was established by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah following a revolt by the Amiran-i-Sada against Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
2. Ahmad Shah I shifted the imperial capital of the Bahmani Kingdom from Gulbarga to Bidar in the 15th 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: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 1347, Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah (Hasan Gangu) led the revolt of the Amiran-i-Sada (nobles of forty) against the Delhi Sultanate under Muhammad bin Tughlaq, creating the independent Bahmani Kingdom in the Deccan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Initially established with its capital at Gulbarga (Ahsanabad), Bahmani Sultan Ahmad Shah I Wali shifted the capital northwards to Bidar around 1424–1425 due to its healthier climate and defensive position.

7. Which of the following statements regarding the rulers of the Bahmani Sultanate are correct?

1. Muhammad Shah I captured the fortress of Golconda and acquired the famous gem-studded Turquoise Throne.

2. Taj-ud-din Firoz Shah constructed an astronomical observatory near Daulatabad and employed Hindu officers in state administration.
3. Ahmad Shah I annexed the kingdom of Warangal and expanded Bahmani territorial control into the eastern Deccan.
4. Under Muhammad Shah III, the kingdom reached its territorial zenith under the administrative leadership of Prime Minister Mahmud Gawan.

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) 1 and 2 only

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Muhammad Shah I defeated the Kapaya Nayaks of Warangal, extracting the fortress of Golconda and the legendary Turquoise Throne as war reparations.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Taj-ud-din Firoz Shah was a learned scholar who constructed an observatory at Daulatabad and appointed Brahmins to civil revenue posts.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ahmad Shah I Wali launched a aggressive campaign against Warangal, killing its ruler and permanently annexing the kingdom into the Bahmani realm.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** During the reign of Muhammad Shah III, the empire reached its maximum territorial extent under the leadership of Prime Minister Mahmud Gawan, who reorganized finances and imported gunpowder technology from Persia.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Mahmud Gawan is/are correct?

1. Mahmud Gawan served as Prime Minister (Khwaja-i-Jahan) under the Bahmani Sultanate, expanding state borders from the Arabian Sea to the Bay of Bengal and capturing the ports of Dabhol and Goa.
2. To curb the political power of provincial governors, he divided the four large provinces (Tarafs) into eight smaller administrative units and ordered regular land surveys.

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:** Mahmud Gawan (an Iranian merchant who rose to chief minister) secured the ports of Dabhol and Goa on the western coast, boosting maritime trade with Persia and Iraq.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He introduced centralizing reforms: he subdivided the four original administrative provinces (Gulbarga, Daulatabad, Berar, Bidar) into eight smaller Tarafs, limited the revenue collection of provincial governors (Tarafdars), and placed key strategic forts directly under imperial command.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the administration and court politics of the Bahmani Kingdom are correct?

1. The chief central administrative offices included the Wazir-i-Kul (Prime Minister), Amir-i-Jumla (Finance Minister), and Sadr-i-Jahan (Head of Judiciary and Charities).

2. Court politics were marked by factional conflict between the Deccanis (indigenous noble families) and the Afaqis / Pardesis (foreign Persian, Turkish, and Central Asian immigrants).
3. The disintegration of the Bahmani Empire led directly to the creation of five independent Deccan Sultanates: Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Berar, Golconda, and Bidar.

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:** The central administration was structured around specialized ministers: Wazir-i-Kul (Prime Minister), Amir-i-Jumla (Finance Head), Wazir Ashraf (Foreign Affairs/Court Protocol), and Sadr-i-Jahan (Judiciary and Endowments).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Internal political instability stemmed from factional rivalry between local Sunni nobles (Deccanis) and foreign Shia immigrant elites (Afaqis or Pardesis), which culminated in the execution of Mahmud Gawan in 1481.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** By the early 16th century, the central empire collapsed into five successor states: Bijapur (Adil Shahi), Ahmadnagar (Nizam Shahi), Berar (Imad Shahi), Golconda (Qutb Shahi), and Bidar (Barid Shahi).

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Bahmani and Deccani architecture are correct?

1. Mahmud Gawan Madrasa at Bidar reflects Persian architectural influences, featuring a three-storeyed building with tile work and a central courtyard.
2. Bidar Fort incorporates an underground hydraulic water channel network known as the Karez system.
3. Jama Masjid inside the Gulbarga Fort is unique among Indian congregational mosques because its courtyard is entirely covered by domes rather than left open to the sky.

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:** Built in 1472 by Mahmud Gawan, the Madrasa at Bidar is a three-storeyed Islamic college featuring Persian-style colored glazed tile decoration (kashi-kari), tall minarets, and lecture halls.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Bidar Fort contains an Persian-engineered Karez system an underground aqueduct network designed to draw subterranean water from surrounding hills into the fortress.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Constructed by Persian architect Rafi in 1367, the Jama Masjid inside Gulbarga Fort is architectural experiment where the entire court area is roofed over with 63 small domes and a large central dome, leaving no open-air courtyard.

Deccan Sultanate and Mughal Empire

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Deccan Sultanates is/are correct?

1. Five Deccan Sultanates emerged as successor states following the political fragmentation of the Bahmani Empire in the early 16th century.
2. Upon gaining independence, the Deccan Sultanates completely dismantled the old administrative structure and eliminated all Persian administrative 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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** By the early 16th century (1490–1526), internal factionalism between Deccani and Afaqi nobles broke the Bahmani Empire into five successor states: Bijapur (Adil Shahi), Ahmadnagar (Nizam Shahi), Berar (Imad Shahi), Golconda (Qutb Shahi), and Bidar (Barid Shahi).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The successor sultanates retained the core administrative structure of the Bahmani state, including Persian administrative designations (such as Tarafdar, Amir-i-Jumla, and Wazir-i-Kul), court protocols, and revenue units.

2. Which one of the following Deccan Sultanates was explicitly excluded from the grand anti-Vijayanagara alliance at the Battle of Talikota?

(a) Ahmadnagar
(b) Berar
(c) Bijapur
(d) Golconda

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Battle of Talikota (Rakshasa-Thangadi, 1565) was fought by a coalition of four Deccan Sultanates: Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Golconda, and Bidar.
- Berar was excluded from this military alliance due to its long-standing territorial feud and hostile relations with neighboring Ahmadnagar.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the geopolitical conflicts and cultural developments of the Deccan Sultanates is/are correct?

1. Raichur Doab remained a major flashpoint between Vijayanagara and the Deccan Sultanates due to its agrarian fertility and diamond mines.
2. Dakhini evolved as a literary language synthesized exclusively from classical Persian and Arabic, strictly rejecting indigenous Kannada, Telugu, and Marathi influences.

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 fertile Raichur Doab (along with the Krishna-Godavari basin and Konkan ports) was the central geopolitical flashpoint in South India due to its rich agricultural yields, strategic forts, and nearby diamond mines (Kurnool/Guntur).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Dakhini (the precursor to modern Urdu) was a syncretic linguistic blend that synthesized Northern Hindavi/Dahlavi brought by Sultanate armies with indigenous Dravidian languages (Kannada, Telugu) and Marathi, written in the Perso-Arabic script.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the economy of the Deccan Sultanates are correct?

1. Expansion of land revenue collection in cash accelerated urban market growth in cities like Daulatabad and Golconda.
2. Golconda emerged as a major global center for diamond mining and diamond cutting.
3. Port of Masulipatnam served as a vital maritime trade hub along the Coromandel Coast for trade with Persia and Southeast Asia.
4. Deccan Sultanates banned the import of Arabian horses to promote indigenous breeds.

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:** Cash-based land tax monetization fueled market demand in urban capitals like Daulatabad, Gulbarga, Bidar, and Bijapur.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Qutb Shahi Sultanate of Golconda was internationally renowned as the primary global trade center for diamonds (from mines like Kollur).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Masulipatnam on the east coast (under Golconda) and Dabhol on the west coast (under Bijapur) were major maritime trade ports connecting the Deccan with the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, and Southeast Asia.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Deccan Sultanates relied heavily on the import of Arabian and Persian warhorses through western ports to maintain their elite cavalry, offering gold coins (Huns) in exchange.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Deccani School of Painting is/are correct?

1. Style represents a pure, unmixed continuation of Central Asian Safavid art that completely excluded regional Indian clothing, flora, and motifs
2. Deccani miniature painting is recognized for its rich sensual color palette, extensive use of gold skies, and high horizon lines.

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:** Deccani art was a syncretic Indo-Persian fusion. It incorporated regional Indian elements such as Deccani foliage, local costumes (like the jama and scarves influenced by Lepakshi murals), and composite animals alongside Ottoman, Persian, and European influences.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Deccani miniature painting (flourishing at Bijapur, Golconda, and Ahmadnagar) is famous for its sensual color palette, intense blues and greens, gold skies, high horizons, and poetic compositions (Ragamala series).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Deccani architecture are correct?

1. Deccani architecture is characterized by bulbous domes with narrow necks and three-arched facades.
2. Rangin Mahal inside Bidar Fort is famous for its intricate tile mosaics and Persian calligraphic inscriptions.
3. Deccani military fortifications strictly avoided the use of mortar, relying exclusively on dry-interlocking mud bricks.

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:** Deccani Indo-Islamic architecture is distinguished by bulbous domes with narrow petal-ringed bases, triple-arched entrances, and tall minarets.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rangin Mahal (Colored Palace) in Bidar Fort, built under the Barid Shahi dynasty, features vibrant mother-of-pearl inlay work, glazed tile mosaics, and Persian poetic calligraphy.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Deccani forts (e.g., Golconda, Bidar, Daulatabad) were built using massive granite blocks set in high-grade lime mortar, incorporating advanced acoustic engineering and artillery bastions developed with Turkish and Portuguese technical expertise.

7. Which of the following statements regarding major Deccani monuments are correct?

1. Gol Gumbaz constructed as the mausoleum of Muhammad Adil Shah, contains one of the largest unsupported domes in the world.
2. Charminar was built by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah on the banks of the Musi River to commemorate the eradication of a deadly plague.
3. Fateh Darwaza at Golconda Fort is famous for its acoustic engineering, where a handclap at the entrance gate can be heard at the hilltop citadel.

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:** Gol Gumbaz in Vijayapura (Bijapur) was built by Muhammad Adil Shah (1656). Its massive hemispherical dome (~44 m diameter) stands without central pillar support and houses a Whispering Gallery where acoustic echoes repeat multiple times.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Charminar was constructed in 1591 by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah at the center of his new capital, Hyderabad (on the Musi River), to mark the end of an epidemic.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Fateh Darwaza (Victory Gate) at Golconda Fort features acoustic design where a clap at the outer entry dome reverberates clearly up to the highest point (Bala Hissar), serving as a military warning system. All three statements are correct.

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

1. Mughal Empire was founded by Babur following his victory at the First Battle of Panipat in 1526.
2. Empire represented a cultural synthesis where Persian, Central Asian Turkic, and indigenous Indian traditions merged into an Indo-Islamic civilization.

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:** Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi at the First Battle of Panipat on April 21, 1526, laying the foundation of the Mughal Empire in North India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mughal State synthesized Central Asian Chagatai Turkic heritage, Persian court administrative culture and language, and native Indian socio-political systems, creating a rich Indo-Islamic civilization.

9. The Sanskrit philosophical treatise Yogavasistha was translated into Persian under the title Jug-Basisht by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of:

(a) Akbar
(b) Humayun
(c) Shah Jahan
(d) Aurangzeb

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- During the reign of Akbar (1556–1605), a dedicated translation bureau (Maktab Khana) was established at Fatehpur Sikri to translate major Sanskrit classics into Persian.
- The Yogavasistha (a Vedantic discourse between Sage Vasistha and Lord Rama) was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati with the assistance of court scholars under Akbar's direct patronage.

10. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

1. White marble was exclusively used in the complete construction of the Buland Darwaza and the Khanqah at Fatehpur Sikri.
2. Red sandstone and marble were the primary building materials used in constructing the Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza at Lucknow.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri is constructed primarily of red and buff sandstone, trimmed and carved with white and black marble inlays. It is not built exclusively of white marble. (White marble was reserved for the nearby Tomb of Sheikh Salim Chishti).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Awadh architectural monuments in Lucknow such as the Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza (built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula in the 18th century) were constructed using lakhauri bricks faced with stucco/plaster, not red sandstone or marble.

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