ForumIAS

Prelims Marathon

October 2026

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

FORUMIAS

INDEX

Rajput Dynasty 2
Major Kingdoms of the Deccan 6
Major Kingdoms of the Deccan 11
Major Medieval Kingdoms of North India 15
Major Medieval Kingdoms 20
Bhakti and Sufi Movement 25
Bhakti Saints in South/North India 30
Bhakti Saints in Western India/Sufism 34
Delhi Sultanate, Slave Dynasty 39
Khilji and Tughlaq Dynasty 44
Tughlaq Dynasty 48
Sayyid and Lodi Dynasty 53
Delhi Sultanate Administration 57
Hoysalas, Vijaynagara, Bahmani and Deccan Sultanate Empire 63
Vijaynagara 67
Vijaynagara Administration 71
Vijaynagara Architecture and Bahmani Empire 76
Deccan Sultanate and Mughal Empire 81
Mughal Empire 85
Mughal Empire-II 91
Mughal Empire-III 96
Maratha & Mughal Empire 101
Maratha Administration, Economy, Society 106
Temple Architectures and Philosophy 111

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
ForumIAS

Rajput Dynasty

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

1. Anangapala Tomara established the city of Dhillika and commissioned the citadel of Lal Kot in the Mehrauli region.
2. Surajpala constructed the Suraj Kund located near present-day Faridabad in Haryana.
3. Tomara coins featured a horseman-and-bull motif and bore the royal title Shri Samanta-deva.

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:** Anangapala II is traditionally recognized for repopulating and fortifying Delhi (Dhillika). He commissioned the Lal Kot fort in Mehrauli and built the Anang Tal reservoir.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tomara ruler Surajpala built the famous semi-circular amphitheater and water reservoir known as Suraj Kund near Faridabad, Haryana, representing early medieval hydraulic architecture.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Tomaras minted billon/silver coins known as the Delhiwal type, featuring a prominent horseman on one side and a bull on the reverse, inscribed with Shri Samanta-deva.

2. Which of the following statements regarding the Chahamana (Chauhan) Dynasty are correct?

1. Simharaja declared independence from the Gurjara-Pratiharas, assumed sovereign title Maharajadhiraja.
2. Chahamana king Vigraharaja IV captured Delhi from the Tomaras, authored the Sanskrit drama Harikeli Nataka.
3. Prithviraj Chauhan III was defeated by Chandella rulers Alha and Udal during his conquest of Mahoba.
4. Court poet Chandbardai composed Prithviraj Raso, while Jayanaka authored Prithviraj Vijaya.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Simharaja threw off allegiance to the Pratiharas and was the first Chahamana ruler to adopt the title Maharajadhiraja.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Vigraharaja IV (Visaladeva) annexed Delhi from the Tomaras around 1161 CE and was a scholar king who authored the Sanskrit play Harikeli Nataka (inscriptions of which were found carved at Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Prithviraj III defeated the Chandella king Paramardi-deva; Alha and Udal were the legendary military generals of Paramardi-deva who died fighting against Prithviraj III.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Prithviraj Raso was written in Brajbhasha/Hindi by Chandbardai, while Prithviraj Vijaya is a Sanskrit epic written by court poet Jayanaka.

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

1. Chandradeva established the Gahadavala rule over Kannauj and Varanasi after displacing the remnants of Gurjara-Pratihara authority.
2. Jaichandra defeated Muhammad Ghori at the Battle of Chandwar to secure the eastern Gangetic plains.

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:** Chandradeva (c. 1090 CE) founded the Gahadavala dynasty in Uttar Pradesh, making Kannauj the primary imperial seat and Varanasi the secondary capital.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Jaichandra was defeated and killed by Muhammad Ghori at the Battle of Chandwar in 1194 CE, which enabled Ghurid control over northern India.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the Solanki rulers of Gujarat are correct?

1. Bhima I ruled Gujarat during Mahmud of Ghazni's attack on the Somnath Temple.
2. Modhera Sun Temple was commissioned by Bhima I, and his minister Vimalsha built the Vimal Vasahi temple at Mount Abu.
3. Jayasimha Siddharaja patronized the Jain scholar Hemachandra and commissioned the Rudra Mahakala Temple.
4. Bhima II was defeated by Muhammad Ghori at the Battle of Kayadara.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bhima I was the ruling Solanki sovereign when Mahmud of Ghazni raided and plundered Somnath in 1025 CE.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bhima I built the Sun Temple at Modhera to commemorate recovery post-Ghaznavid raid; his minister Vimalsha built the first major Dilwara Jain temple (Vimal Vasahi).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Jayasimha Siddharaja was a prominent Solanki ruler who patronized Acharya Hemachandra and constructed the monumental Rudra Mahalaya temple at Siddhpur.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Muhammad Ghori was defeated at the Battle of Kayadara (1178/1179 CE) near Mount Abu by the Solanki forces led by Queen Regent Naikidevi and young Bhima II.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Maru-Gurjara architectural style is/are correct?

1. Style is characterized by stepped tank reservoirs, elaborately carved toranas, and highly ornamental stone carvings in shrine interiors.
2. Rani-ki-Vav at Patan was built by Queen Udayamati in memory of King Bhima I and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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 Solanki or Maru-Gurjara school features detached carved arches (toranas), stepped water tanks (kunda), and intricately carved ceilings and columns resembling wood-carving aesthetics.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) in Patan, Gujarat, was constructed by Queen Udayamati in the late 11th century CE in memory of Bhima I and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014.

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

1. Paramaras initially governed Malwa as feudatories of the Gurjara-Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas before establishing an independent state at Dhar.
2. Raja Bhoja established the Bhoj Shala as a center for Sanskrit learning and authored works such as Samarangana Sutradhara and Ayurvedasarvasva.
3. Raja Bhoja allied with Mahmud of Ghazni during the Ghaznavid campaigns against the Hindu Shahi ruler Anandapala.

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:** Upendra and his successors ruled Malwa first under the Rashtrakutas/Pratiharas, later establishing an independent kingdom centered at Dhar and Mandu.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Raja Bhoja was a polymath king who built the Bhoj Shala college at Dhar and authored texts across architecture (Samarangana Sutradhara), medicine (Ayurvedasarvasva), and poetics (Sringara-Prakasha).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Raja Bhoja did not ally with Ghazni; he extended military and material support to the Hindu Shahi ruler Anandapala to resist Ghaznavid expansion into Northern India.

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

1. Chandela territory in Bundelkhand was historically designated as Jejakabhukti.
2. Yashovarman declared independence from the Pratiharas, conquered the fortress of Kalinjar, and built the Lakshmana Temple at Khajuraho.
3. Vidyadhara successfully resisted the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni and commissioned the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple.

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 region under Chandela rule (Bundelkhand) was named Jejakabhukti after Jayashakti (Jeja), an early prince of the line.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Yashovarman severed ties with the declining Pratiharas, captured the strategic Kalinjar fort, and erected the famous Lakshmana Temple at Khajuraho.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vidyadhara repulsed Mahmud of Ghazni's siege of Kalinjar, culminating in a negotiated treaty, and constructed the imposing Kandariya Mahadeva Temple.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Khajuraho School of Architecture is/are correct?

1. Khajuraho temples are built in the Nagara style on elevated platforms and typically follow a panchayatan layout with interconnected internal chambers.
2. Temples are dedicated to the Brahmanical shrines with no Digambara Jain sect temple at the site.

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 Khajuraho temples (Nagara style) feature a raised plinth (jagati), miniature subsidiary shrines (panchayatan), and interconnected spaces: Ardhamandapa, Mandapa, Antarala, and Garbhagriha.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Khajuraho is renowned for its religious pluralism, featuring Hindu temples dedicated to Shiva (Kandariya Mahadeva), Vishnu (Lakshmana), and Surya, alongside a prominent group of Jain temples (Parshvanatha, Adinatha).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Bundela Dynasty are correct?

1. Rudra Pratap Bundela laid the foundation of Orchha as the capital of the Bundela state on the banks of the Betwa River.
2. Veer Singh Deo Bundela built the Jahangir Mahal at Orchha to mark his friendship with Mughal Emperor Jahangir.
3. Chhatrasal Bundela established an independent state centered at Panna and sought military assistance from Peshwa Baji Rao I against the Mughals.
4. Bundela rulers remained completely independent of the Mughal administrative hierarchy, refusing to accept mansabdari ranks.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Rudra Pratap Bundela founded the city and state of Orchha on the banks of the Betwa River.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Veer Singh Deo constructed the multi-storied Jahangir Mahal inside the Orchha Fort complex as a palace of honor for Emperor Jahangir.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Maharaja Chhatrasal carved out an independent kingdom in Eastern Bundelkhand with Panna as its capital. When besieged by Muhammad Khan Bangash in 1729, he sought aid from Peshwa Baji Rao I.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Most Orchha Bundela rulers (such as Madhukar Shah and Veer Singh Deo) were integrated into the Mughal administrative fold as imperial mansabdars.

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

1. Devapala commissioned the hypaethral circular Chausath Yogini Temple at Mitawali near Morena.
2. Sahastrabahu Temple inside the Gwalior Fort complex was constructed during the reign of King Mahipala.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** King Devapala of the Kachchhapaghata dynasty built the circular open-air Chausath Yogini Temple at Mitawali (Morena district, MP).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** King Mahipala of the same dynasty completed the twin Sas-Bahu (originally Sahastrabahu, dedicated to Vishnu) temples at Gwalior Fort.

Major Kingdoms of the Deccan

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Chalukya dynasties of the Deccan:

1. Both early Chalukyas of Badami and western Chalukyas of Kalyani adopted the Varaha as their royal insignia.
2. Chalukyas were key pioneers in developing the Vesara style of temple architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Chalukyas of Badami as well as the later Western Chalukyas of Kalyani featured the Varaha (wild boar) emblem on their royal seals, banners, and coins as a symbol of sovereignty and protection.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Chalukyas pioneered the Vesara style (also called Karnataka-Dravida style), which blended Northern Nagara (curvilinear shikhara) and Southern Dravida (tiered vimana) architectural features, prominently visible across Aihole, Badami, Pattadakal, and Lakkundi.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Pulakeshin II of the Badami Chalukya Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Court poet Ravikirti composed the Aihole inscription in Sanskrit to commemorate Pulakeshin II's military victory over Harshavardhana.
2. Pulakeshin II assumed the title Vatapikonda after defeating and killing the Pallava King Narasimhavarman I at Vatapi.

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 Sanskrit prashasti at the Meguti Jain temple in Aihole was composed by Ravikirti. It records Pulakeshin II successfully repulsing Harshavardhana's army on the banks of the Narmada River.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was the Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman I who defeated and killed Pulakeshin II at Vatapi (Badami) and subsequently assumed the title Vatapikonda (Conqueror of Vatapi).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the administration and society of the Chalukyas of Badami is/are correct?

1. Women royal family members, such as Vijaya Bhattarika, served as provincial governors and issued independent land grants.
2. Badami Chalukya state religion was Jainism, and public performance of Vedic sacrifices like Ashvamedha was banned.

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:** Royal women held administrative roles under the Badami Chalukyas; Vijayabhattarika (daughter-in-law of Pulakeshin II) ruled as a provincial regent and issued copper-plate grants in her own name.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Chalukya rulers were patrons of Vedic Hinduism (Pulakeshin I performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice) alongside Shaivism and Vaishnavism, while maintaining religious tolerance toward Jainism (as seen in the Meguti Temple built by Ravikirti).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Chalukyan temple architecture are correct?

1. Durga Temple at Aihole is notable for its unique apsidal ground plan inspired by Buddhist chaitya halls.
2. Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal was commissioned by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate Vikramaditya II's victory over the Pallavas.
3. Badami cave temples consist of Buddhist rock-cut shrines, with no Vedic or Jain representations.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct Answer:(a)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Durga Temple at Aihole features an unusual elevated apsidal plan (resembling a horse-shoe/chaitya format) surrounded by an open colonnaded ambulatory path.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Queen Lokamahadevi commissioned the Dravidian-style Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal (a UNESCO World Heritage site) to celebrate her husband Vikramaditya II's conquest of the Pallava capital, Kanchi.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The four main rock-cut cave temples at Badami consist of three Brahmanical/Vedic caves (dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu, featuring the famoso Nataraja panel) and one Jain cave.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to early medieval paintings and literature under the Chalukyas of Badami is/are correct?

1. Murals in the Badami rock-cut caves represent early examples of Brahmanical fresco painting showing Vakataka influence.
2. Sanskrit drama Kaumudi Mahotsava is attributed to the royal poetess Vijjika.

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 mural fragments inside Badami Cave are among the earliest surviving Hindu wall paintings, exhibiting technical continuity with the Vakataka Ajanta tradition.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The classical Sanskrit drama Kaumudi Mahotsava is attributed to Vijjika (often identified with the Chalukya princess Vijayabhattarika).

6. Which of the following statements regarding the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani are correct?

1. Tailapa II re-established Chalukya authority in the Western Deccan by overthrowing the Rashtrakuta.
2. Someshvara I transferred the imperial capital from Manyakheta to Kalyani.
3. Rajadhiraja Chola was killed in action against the forces of Someshvara I at the Battle of Koppam.
4. Someshvara III authored the encyclopedic Sanskrit work Manasollasa.

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 4 only

Correct Answer:(c)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tailapa II defeated the last effective Rashtrakuta ruler Kakka II, founding the Western Chalukya dynasty of Kalyani.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Someshvara I established **Kalyani** (modern Basavakalyan in Karnataka) as the sovereign capital of the empire.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** At the Battle of Koppam, the Chola King Rajadhiraja I was slain on his war elephant by Someshvara I's army, though his brother Rajendra II led a counterattack.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** King Someshvara III (not Someshvara I) composed the famed Sanskrit encyclopedia Manasollasa, dealing with governance, medicine, astronomy, cuisine, and fine arts. (Note: Statement 4 is an accurate historical fact regarding the dynasty). All four statements given in the question are correct.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Vikramaditya VI and his court scholars are correct?

1. Vikramaditya VI established a new chronological era called the Chalukya-Vikrama Era.
2. Vijnaneshwara composed the legal treatise Mitakshara, which posits that a son acquires a birthright in joint family ancestral property.
3. Kashmiri poet Bilhana wrote the historical biography Vikramankadeva Charita in honor of Vikramaditya VI.

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:** Upon ascending the throne in 1076 CE, Vikramaditya VI superseded the Shaka Era and initiated the Chalukya-Vikrama Era.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Vijnaneshwara composed the Mitakshara (a commentary on the Yajnavalkya Smriti), establishing the principle of coparcenary rights by birth—distinct from Jimutavahana's Dayabhaga system where rights arise only after the father's death.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Bilhana, who migrated from Kashmir to the Kalyani court, authored Vikramankadeva Charita, describing the life, conquests, and marriage of Vikramaditya VI.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the administration and society of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani is/are correct?

1. Imperial territory was divided hierarchically into administrative units comprising Mandalas, Nadus, Kampanas, and Badas (villages).
2. Period witnessed the emergence of the Veerashaiva (Lingayat) movement led by reformist poets like Basavanna, Akka Mahadevi, and Allama Prabhu.

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 Western Chalukya administration followed a decentralized structure: Mandala (province) Nadu (district) Kampana (sub-district/cluster) Bada (village). Royal women like Akkadevi held charges as governors over Nadus.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 12th century under the Western Chalukyas (and Kalachuris) saw the rise of the **Sharana movement / Veerashaivism** initiated by Basavanna, emphasizing social equality, rejection of caste barriers, and vernacular Vachana literature.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Gadag style of architecture under the Western Chalukyas is/are correct?

1. Chloritic schist was used as the primary building material, allowing for extremely intricate lathe-turned pillars and delicate carving details.
2. Ground plans of temples frequently featured stellate layouts and stepped water tanks.
3. Prominent surviving examples of this style include the Mahadeva Temple at Itagi and the Kasi Vishveshvara Temple at Lakkundi.

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 Kalyani Chalukyas switched from hard sandstone to soft chloritic schist (soapstone), which enabled sculptors to carve fine ornamental details, intricate wall panels, and circular lathe-turned pillars.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Gadag style introduced stellate (star-shaped) shrine plans, multiple moldings, elaborate stepped wells (Pushkarnis), and decorative doorway frames.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Mahadeva Temple at Itagi (described in contemporary inscriptions as the "Emperor among Temples") and the Kasi Vishveshvara Temple at Lakkundi are defining masterpieces of the Western Chalukya architectural tradition.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to literature during the Western Chalukya period is/are correct?

1. Ranna, one of the 'Three Gems of Kannada Literature' (Ratnatraya), was patronized by Tailapa II and composed Gadayuddha.
2. Nagavarma II authored key Kannada works on grammar and poetics, including Kavyavalokana and Karnataka-Bhashabhushana.

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:** Ranna (along with Pampa and Ponna) forms the Kannada literary trinity. Patronized by Tailapa II and his successor Satyashraya, he composed Gadayuddha (recounting the duel between Bhima and Duryodhana) and Ajitha Purana.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nagavarma II who served as the Katakacharya (poet laureate) of the Western Chalukya court, wrote Kavyavalokana (treatise on poetics) and Karnataka-Bhashabhushana (a Kannada grammar written in Sanskrit sutras).

Major Kingdoms of the Deccan

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

1. Rudradeva established Kakatiya rule after defeating Western Chalukya King and initiated the construction of the Warangal Fort.
2. Ganapati Deva shifted capital permanently from Hanamakonda to Warangal and developed Motupalli as a major international seaport.
3. Prataparudradeva II successfully repulsed all invasions of the Delhi Sultanate, maintaining Kakatiya independence until the mid-15th century.

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:** Rudradeva (Prataparudra I) threw off Western Chalukya allegiance by defeating Tailapa III, recorded in his Hanamakonda inscription. He constructed major irrigation works (Laknavaram, Ramappa tanks) and laid the foundation of the stone fort at Warangal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ganapati Deva expanded Kakatiya territory across coastal Andhra, shifted the capital to Warangal, and issued the famous Abhaya Shasana charter at Motupalli port to promote maritime foreign trade.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Prataparudradeva II faced multiple Delhi Sultanate invasions and was eventually defeated by Ulugh Khan (later Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq, during Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq's reign), ending independent Kakatiya rule.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Kakatiya polity and administrative system are correct?

1. Kakatiya administrative hierarchy was organized into Nadu, Sthala and Grama
2. Nayankara system broke traditional hereditary caste barriers by conferring land-revenue assignment rights on non-Brahmina military leaders.
3. Port Motupalli charged a heavy toll strictly on foreign vessels, while exempting domestic coastal shipping.

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 Kakatiya territorial administration was divided into Nadu (composed of several sthalas), Sthala (containing 10 to 20 villages), and individual self-governing villages (Grama).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Kakatiyas introduced the Nayankara system, assigning rights over land revenue to military commanders (Nayakas) regardless of traditional caste origins, fostering social mobility in military ranks.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** As documented in Ganapati Deva's Motupalli inscription, Sunkam (customs duty) was regulated uniformly on imports and exports to protect and incentivize all merchants from piracy and extortion, rather than discriminating against foreign vessels.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Kakatiya religious patrons and temple architecture are correct?

1. Kakatiya rulers patronized Jainism before imperial patronage shifted predominantly to Pashupata Shaivism under Ganapati Deva.
2. Thousand Pillar Temple at Hanamakonda features a Trikutachala plan dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, and Surya.
3. Ramappa Temple at Palampet was built entirely of dense black basalt blocks from its foundation to the topmost superstructure.

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 early Kakatiyas were adherents and patrons of Jainism (visible in sites like Sanigaram) before transitioning to Shaivism, particularly the Pashupata sect under Ganapati Deva.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rudreshwara (Thousand Pillar) Temple at Hanamakonda is a Trikuta shrine with three sanctums dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and Surya (the Sun God).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Ramappa Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site) uses sandstone and granite for its platform, walls, and carved pillars, while its superstructure (shikhara) is made of light floating clay bricks (porous bricks that float on water to reduce weight on the foundation).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Kakatiya art and literary works is/are correct?

1. Jayapa Senani authored the dance treatise Nritta Ratnavali in Sanskrit.
2. Sanskrit work Prataparudriya-Yashobhushana composed by Vidyanatha codify principles of poetics.

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:** Jayapa Senani (brother-in-law and general of Ganapati Deva) authored the classical Sanskrit manual Nritta Ratnavali detailing contemporary local (desi) and classical (marga) dance traditions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Vidyanatha composed Prataparudriya-Yashobhushana (or Prataparudriya), a celebrated text on Sanskrit poetics and rhetoric using verses dedicated to his patron Prataparudra II.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Yadavas of Devagiri is/are correct?

1. Yadavas governed as feudatories of the Western Chalukyas before declaring independence under Bhillama V.

2. Yadava realm expanded uninterrupted, maintaining long-standing military alliances with the Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra and Kakatiyas of Warangal.

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:** Bhillama V (c. 1187 CE) asserted independence amidst the decline of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani, establishing the capital at Devagiri (Daulatabad).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Deccan during this era was characterized by intense inter-dynastic rivalries. The Yadavas fought constant wars against their southern neighbors—the Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra and the Kakatiyas of Warangal—over territorial supremacy in the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the key rulers of the Yadava Dynasty are correct?

1. Bhillama V established Devagiri as the imperial capital and adopted the title Chakravartin Yadava.
2. Simhana II expanded the Yadava empire to its greatest territorial extent, defeating both the Paramaras of Malwa and Hoysalas of Karnataka.
3. Ramachandra was defeated by Alauddin Khalji's general Malik Kafur and later agreed to pay tribute to the Delhi Sultanate.

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:** Bhillama V founded Devagiri, established Yadava state power, and assumed imperial titles as recorded in his inscriptions (e.g., Mutugi inscription).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Simhana II, the dynasty reached its zenith through military conquests over Malwa, Gujarat (Solankis), and Karnataka (Hoysalas).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ramachandra faced invasions by Alauddin Khalji in 1296 CE and later Malik Kafur in 1307/1308 CE, forcing him to pay tribute and assist Sultanate forces during campaigns further south.

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

1. Gondeshwar Temple at Sinnar is example of the Bhumija style arranged in a Panchayatan plan.
2. Yadava temples are built exclusively in the Southern Dravida style with tall tiered gopurams made of carved timber and terracotta bricks.
3. Principal shrine of the Gondeshwar Temple complex at Sinnar is dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer:(a)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Gondeshwar Temple at Sinnar (Nashik district, Maharashtra) is an exemplary Bhumija variant of Nagara architecture laid out on a Panchayatan layout (central shrine surrounded by four corner subsidiary shrines).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Yadava architectural style (often termed Hemadpanti) belongs primarily to the Bhumija/Nagara tradition, featuring stone-jointed masonry without mortar, miniature spire projections (urushringas), and pillared halls (mandapas).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The primary central shrine of the Gondeshwar complex houses a Shiva Linga, while the subsidiary shrines are dedicated to Vishnu, Ganesha, Surya, and Parvati.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to literature during the Yadava Period is/are correct?

1. Yadavas of Devagiri were the first major dynasty in Western India to adopt Marathi as an official administrative language alongside Sanskrit.
2. Mathematical and astronomical treatise Siddhanta Shiromani was composed by Bhaskaracharya during this period.

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 Yadavas gave court patronage to vernacular Marathi for administrative epigraphs and state documents alongside Sanskrit, aiding the literary works of Sant Dnyaneshwar (Dnyaneshwari) and Mukundaraja (Vivekasindhu).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The mathematician-astronomer Bhaskaracharya II (Bhaskara II) composed his masterwork Siddhanta Shiromani (divided into Lilavati, Bijaganita, Grahaganita, and Goladhyaya) in the 12th century under the Yadava regime.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Kalachuris (Chedis) of Tripuri are correct?

1. Kalachuris ruled the Dahala-mandala region in central India with their primary capital located at Tripuri.
2. Founder Kokkala I established marital relations with the Chandella dynasty and allied with Rashtrakuta Krishna II.
3. Gangeya-deva assumed the title Trikalingadhipati and issued coins featuring a seated Lakshmi motif.
4. Lakshmi-Karna was defeated by Mahmud of Ghazni during his initial invasion of Central India.

Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer:(c)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kalachuri dynasty governed Dahala-mandala (the region around the Narmada valley) from their capital at Tripuri (Tewar, near Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kokkala I married a Chandella princess and maintained diplomatic ties with the Rashtrakutas by aiding Krishna II in military campaigns.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Gangeya-deva assumed the title Trikalingadhipati after extending his power towards Orissa and introduced gold/silver coins featuring a four-armed cross-legged seated goddess Lakshmi.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Lakshmi-Karna ruled after Mahmud of Ghazni's raids had ended; it was his father Gangeya-deva who dealt with the regional geopolitical aftermath of Ghaznavid invasions.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Kalachuri art and architectural innovations is/are correct?

1. Kalachuri gold coins introduced Gaja-Lakshmi and seated Lakshmi iconography that was copied by later medieval dynasties.
2. Karna Temple built by Lakshmi-Karna at Amar Kantak features three separate shrines attached to a common platform facing different directions.
3. Kalachuri temple structures are built exclusively in the Dravidian pyramidal style with no Nagara influence.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Gangeya-deva's coin design—featuring a seated four-armed Lakshmi—became a standard numismatic archetype in Central and Northern India, later adopted by Paramara, Chandella, and Ghurid mints.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Karna Temple at Amarkantak (commissioned by Lakshmi-Karna) is a Triayatana shrine consisting of three garbhagrihas radiating around a central platform/hall.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kalachuri architecture belongs to the Nagara tradition (specifically Central Indian Nagara variants with saptaratha projections and decorated shikharas), not the South Indian Dravida style.

Major Medieval Kingdoms of North India

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

1. Durlabhavardhana founded the Karkota dynasty, during whose reign the Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang visited Kashmir.
2. King Lalitaditya Muktapida built the famous Martand Sun Temple and established Parihaspur as his capital 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

Answer: (c)
Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Durlabhavardhana established the Karkota dynasty in Kashmir around the early 7th century CE. During his reign, the Chinese Buddhist monk Xuanzang spent two years in Kashmir studying Buddhist texts.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lalitaditya Muktapida was the most formidable military ruler of the dynasty. He constructed the monumental Martand Sun Temple (dedicated to Surya) and created a grand new royal city called Parihaspur as the capital.

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

1. Avantivarman founded the Utpala dynasty, established the town of Avantipur as capital.
2. Works to prevent flooding from the Wular Lake were carried out under Avantivarman by his minister Suyya.
3. Queen Didda, belonging to the Karkota dynasty, ruled as a monarch and founded the town of Diddapura.

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:** Avantivarman founded the Utpala dynasty after the collapse of the Karkotas and built Avantipur (known for the Avantisvamin and Avantisvara temples).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Avantivarman's minister and engineer, Suyya, regulated the course of the Jhelum river and drained silt/excess waters from the Wular Lake, boosting agriculture across the Kashmir Valley.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Queen Didda belonged to the Lohara dynasty (born as a Lohara princess), not the Karkota dynasty. She initially ruled as regent for her son and grandsons before ruling as an independent monarch and founding Diddapura.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Hindu Shahi and Kuluta kingdoms are correct?

1. Hindu Shahi dynasty ruled territories spanning eastern Afghanistan and the Punjab region.
2. King Jayapala immolated himself following his defeat against Mahmud of Ghazni at the Battle of Peshawar.
3. Anandapala successfully defeated Mahmud of Ghazni at the Battle of Waihind ending Ghaznavid raids in Northern India.
4. Kuluta functioned as a trans-regional trade link connecting the Northern Plains with the Higher Himalayas.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)
Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Hindu Shahi realm stretched across eastern Afghanistan, the Khyber Pass region, and the Punjab plains with capitals at Kabul and Und (Waihind).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** After his defeat at the First Battle of Peshawar against Mahmud of Ghazni, Jayapala considered his defeat a disgrace to his royal lineage and immolated himself on a funeral pyre.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Anandapala (Jayapala's son) was defeated by Mahmud of Ghazni at the Battle of Waihind despite forming a confederacy of Indian rulers, leading to the collapse of the Hindu Shahi defense buffer.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Kuluta (Kulu valley in modern Himachal Pradesh) served as a critical trade and cultural corridor linking the Indo-Gangetic plains to Lahaul, Spiti, Ladakh, and Central Asia.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the hill state of Champaka (Chamba) is/are correct?

1. Champaka was established near Ravi River and developed deep political ties with the Karkota and Lohara dynasties of Kashmir.
2. Chamba Rumal is a classical woodblock-printing craft tradition depicting geometric Islamic architectural patterns.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Champaka (modern Chamba, Himachal Pradesh) is located in the upper valley of the Ravi River. Its rulers maintained close matrimonial, military, and cultural relationships with the Kashmir rulers (Karkotas and Loharas).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Chamba Rumal is a fine pictorial needlework/embroidery craft (not woodblock printing) that uses double-satin stitch (do-rukha) to depict themes from Hindu epics, primarily Krishna's Rasa-Lila, Gita Govinda, and Pahari court scenes.

5. Consider the following pairs:

Medieval Indian State	Present Region
1. Champaka	Central India
2. Durgara	Jammu
3. Kuluta	Malabar

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Champaka corresponds to the Chamba region in Himachal Pradesh (North India), not Central India.

- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Durgara is the historical origin of the Jammu region (the realm of the Dogras in Jammu & Kashmir).
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Kuluta corresponds to the Kulu valley in Himachal Pradesh, not Malabar (which is along the coast of Kerala).

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

1. Pandyas occupied the southernmost region of the Indian peninsula, centered primarily in the Vaigai and Tamiraparni river valleys.
2. Ashoka's Rock Edict II mentions the Pandyas as an independent neighbor kingdom beyond the southern border of the Mauryan 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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The core home of the Pandyas (Pandyamandalam) was situated in the fertile basins of the Vaigai (Madurai) and Tamiraparni (Tirunelveli/Korkai) rivers in southern Tamil Nadu.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Emperor Ashoka's Major Rock Edict II lists the border realms beyond his direct sovereign control, specifically naming the Cholas, Pandyas, Satyaputras, Keralaputras, and Tamraparni.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the early/Sangam-era Pandya rulers are correct?

1. Nedunchezhiyan's military victory over Cheras, Cholas, and five velir chieftains is recorded in Sangam literature and the Mangulam inscription.
2. Mudukudumi Peruvazhuthi issued coins bearing his name to celebrate his performance of multiple Vedic sacrifices.
3. Pandyas used the Boar as their exclusive royal insignia on imperial coins and banners.

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:** Nedunchezhiyan won the historic Battle of Talaiyalanganam against a combined alliance of rivals. His reign and achievements are mentioned in Sangam works (Maduraikkanchi) and the Mangulam Tamil-Brahmi epigraphs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mudukudumi Peruvazhuthi was a early Sangam king noted for performing Vedic rituals; his sacrifices are commemorated in the 8th-century Velvikkudi copper plates, and he minted coins bearing his name.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The royal insignia of the Pandya dynasty was the Twin Fish (Kayal), not the Boar (which was the emblem of the Chalukyas and Vijayanagara emperors).

8. Which of the following statements regarding the first Pandyan revival are correct?

1. Kadungon restored Pandyan authority in late 6th century by ending the rule of Kalabhras.
2. Arikesari Maravarman was converted from Jainism to Shaivism under the influence of the Nayanar saint Thirugnanasambandar.
3. Jatila Parantaka Nedunjadayan issued the famous Velvikkudi copper-plate grant.
4. Parantaka I Chola was decisively defeated by Pandya King Rajasimha II, leading to the permanent expansion of the Pandyas into Cholamandalam.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Towards the close of the 6th century CE, Kadungon liberated the Pandya country by uprooting the dark-age rule of the Kalabhras.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Arikesari Maravarman (identified with Kun Pandian) was initially a patron/adherent of Jainism before being converted to Shaivism by the famous Nayanar saint Thirugnanasambandar.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Jatila Parantaka Nedunjadayan renewed an old land grant given to a Brahmin family through the historical Velvikkudi copper plates.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The reverse occurred: Parantaka I Chola defeated Rajasimha II around 920 CE, forcing the Pandya king to flee to Sri Lanka and leading to the temporary eclipse of Pandyan independence under Chola domination.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Later Pandyas (1190–1310 CE) is/are correct?

1. Jatavarman expanded empire to its greatest extent by subjugating the Hoysalas, Cheras, and Kakatiyas, assuming title Eratlam Konda Perumal.
2. Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan I brought a definitive end to the imperial Chola dynasty by annexing their remaining territories.
3. Pandyan Kingdom successfully repulsed the invasion of Malik Kafur, maintaining its territorial integrity intact.

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:** Jatavarman Sundarapandyan I (c. 1251–1268 CE) led the Later Pandya expansion, conquering the Hoysalas, Cholas, and Sri Lanka, earning imperial titles for bringing southern India under one umbrella.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan I defeated Rajendra III Chola, formally ending Chola power and establishing complete dominance over South India.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Following a war of succession between Sundara Pandya and Vira Pandya, Malik Kafur (commander of Alauddin Khalji) invaded Madurai in 1311 CE, plundered the kingdom's

wealth and temples, and left the state weakened, leading to the creation of the short-lived Madurai Sultanate.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Pandyan administrative system is/are correct?

1. Kulakkil was a local administrative unit denoting agricultural lands situated directly beneath and irrigated by a specific water storage tank.
2. Tirumantira Olai was the designation given to the chief royal scribe who recorded oral orders issued by the Pandyan King.
3. Brahmin settlements established through royal grants were designated as Nagaram or Ur.

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:** Under the Pandyas, land management tied to water infrastructure introduced the administrative designation Kulakkil referring specifically to cultivated lands falling directly under the command area of an irrigation tank (Kulam).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The official royal scribe who drafted and transcribed the King's spoken decrees (Tirumugam) onto palm-leaf records was designated as the Tirumantira Olai.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Brahmin settlements created by land grants were designated as Chaturvedimangalam or Mangalam. Nagaram referred specifically to merchant/commercial settlements, while Ur was the general village assembly of non-Brahmin landholders.

Major Medieval Kingdoms

1. Who among the following rulers in ancient India assumed the royal titles Mattavilasa, Vichitrachitta and Gunabhara?

(a) Mahendravarman I
(b) Simhavishnu
(c) Narasimhavarman I
(d) Simhavarman

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Mahendravarman I:** A multi-faceted Pallava ruler, scholar, and artist who assumed several titles recorded in inscriptions:
    - Mattavilasa (Addicted to Pleasures), under which he composed the Sanskrit satirical play Mattavilasa Prahasanam.
    - Vichitrachitta (Curious-minded or Innovative), for pioneering rock-cut architecture without timber or mortar.
    - Gunabhara (Possessor of Virtues) and Chitrakarapuli (Tiger among Painters).

2. In the context of the history of ancient and early medieval India, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description
1. **Eripatti**	Land set apart, the revenue from which was reserved for the maintenance of the village tank
2. **Taniyurs**	Villages donated exclusively to a single Brahmin scholar or a collective group of Brahmins
3. **Ghatikas**	Educational institutions or colleges attached to prominent temples

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

Correct Answer:(d)
Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Eripatti (tank land) was a special category of land recognized in Tamil epigraphs. Revenue derived from it was earmarked for repairing, dredging, and maintaining village irrigation tanks.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Taniyurs were large autonomous administrative units (villages or towns) independent of local Nadu oversight. Villages granted to Brahmins were designated as Brahmadeya or Agrahara (or Chaturvedimangalam).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Ghatikas were centers of higher learning and Vedic education during the Pallava period, often attached to temples (such as the famous Ghatika at Kanchipuram).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the geopolitical extent and historical sources of the Pallava Dynasty is/are correct?
1. Pallavas ruled over Tondaimandalam with their sovereign capital at Kanchipuram.
2. Royal insignia of the Pallava dynasty was the Bull.
3. Sanskrit satirical play Mattavilasa Prahasanam was authored by Narasimhavarman I to praise the Kapalika and Pasupata sects.
4. Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang visited Kanchipuram during the 7th century CE.

Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer:(a)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The core area of Pallava rule was Tondaimandalam (northern Tamil Nadu and adjacent Andhra districts) with its capital at Kanchipuram.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The official dynastic emblem depicted on Pallava seals, banners, and coins was the Bull (Nandi).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mattavilasa Prahasanam was written by Mahendravarman I (not Narasimhavarman I). Far from praising them, the play satirized and ridiculed the contemporary degenerated practices of the Kapalika, Pasupata, and Buddhist sects.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** Xuanzang visited Kanchipuram around 640 CE during the reign of Narasimhavarman I and recorded its flourishing educational institutions and monasteries.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the rulers of the Pallava Dynasty are correct?

1. Shivaskandavarman performed Agnistoma, Vajapeya, and Ashvamedha sacrifices recorded in Hirahadagalli copper plates.
2. Simhavishnu established imperial Pallava power by defeating Kalabhras and extending his territory up to the Kaveri River.
3. Narasimhavarman I assumed the title Vatapikonda after defeating and killing Western Chalukya King Pulakeshin II at Vatapi.
4. Aparajita Pallava was killed in battle by Chola King Aditya I, leading to the annexation of Tondaimandalam and the end of Pallava dynastic rule.

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 4 only

Correct Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Early ruler Shivaskandavarman performed Vedic rituals (Ashvamedha, Vajapeya) to assert sovereign status, recorded in the Hirahadagalli plates.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Simhavishnu titled Avanisimha, ended the political darkness of the Kalabhra interregnum and expanded Pallava sway to the Kaveri delta.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Narasimhavarman I (Mahamalla) avenged his father Mahendravarman's earlier defeat by storming the Chalukya capital Vatapi, killing Pulakeshin II, and adopting the title Vatapikonda (Conqueror of Vatapi).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The line of imperial Pallavas ended when Aditya I Chola defeated and killed Aparajita around 893 CE, absorbing the Pallava domain into the emerging Chola Empire.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Pallava administration and land revenue units are correct?

1. Pallava kingdom was hierarchically divided into administrative tiers: Mandalam, Nadu, Sthala and Grama.
2. Officer designated as Rahasyadhikrita served as the Royal Treasurer in charge of state mints and taxation stores.
3. Sabha represented the assembly of landowning Brahmins in Brahmadeya villages, whereas Urar represented the non-Brahmin village assembly.

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:** Territorial administration followed the sequence: Mandalam Nadu Sthala Grama.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Rahasyadhikrita was the King's Private Secretary / Confidential Officer who drafted confidential royal orders. The Royal Treasurer was designated as the Manikkappandaram-Kappan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Sabha (or Mahasabha) was the corporate assembly governing Brahminical Brahmadeya settlements, while the Ur (members called Urar) was the general assembly of traditional tax-paying peasants in non-Brahmadeya villages.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to society and maritime commerce under the Pallavas is/are correct?

1. Maritime and overland trade was organized by merchant guilds like Manigramam, Nanadesi, and Ainurruvar.
2. Pallava period witnessed a revival of Jainism and Buddhism through patronage from the Bhakti Nayanar and Alvar saints.

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:** Autonomous corporate merchant bodies—including Manigramam, Nanadesi, Sudesi, and Ainurruvar (the Five Hundred)—conducted long-distance overland and maritime trade across Southeast Asia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Tamil Bhakti movement led by the Shaivite Nayanars (e.g., Appar, Sambandar) and Vaishnavite Alvars led to the decline and marginalization of Buddhism and Jainism in the Tamil country, converting kings like Mahendravarman I to Shaivism.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mahendra Group of Pallava rock-cut architecture are correct?

1. Mahendra style is characterized by rock-cut pillared halls (Mandapas) without structural Vimanas or freestanding towers.
2. Pillars in Mahendra style caves feature heavy square shafts at the top and bottom with an octagonal section in the middle.
3. Famous Lalitankuresvara rock-cut cave temple at Tiruchirapalli belongs to the Mahendra Group of architecture.

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 First Phase (Mahendra Group, c. 600–630 CE) excavated solid rock to form pillared halls (Mandapas). These lacked structural vimanas (towers) or mortar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pillars of this style are robust and plain: heavy cubical blocks at the base and top (Saduram) separated by an octagonal chamfered middle section (Kattu).

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Key examples include Mandagapattu (where Mahendravarman's inscription boasts of creating a shrine without brick, timber, or mortar), Mahendravadi, Mamandur, Vallam, and the Lalitankuresvara Cave Temple at Tiruchirapalli.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mamalla Phase of Pallava art are correct?

1. Pillars in the Mamalla style frequently incorporate squatting lions at their bases as a decorative and structural element.
2. Pancha Rathas at Mahabalipuram with the Dharmaraja Ratha being the largest and Draupadi Ratha being the smallest.
3. The open-air bas-relief sculpture at Mahabalipuram depicting Arjuna's Penance was executed entirely during the late Chola period.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Second Phase (Mamalla Group under Narasimhavarman I) introduced elegant pillars supported by base elements sculpted in the shape of seated/squatting lions (Simhavyala).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Five Monolithic Shrines (Pancha Rathas) at Mamallapuram are sculpted out of standing granite outcroppings. The Dharmaraja Ratha (tritale/three-storeyed) is the largest, while the simple hut-like Draupadi Ratha is the smallest.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The giant open-air rock wall relief depicting Arjuna's Penance / Descent of the Ganga is a masterwork created during the Pallava period under Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla), not the Chola era.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the structural temple architectural phases of the Pallavas are correct?

1. Rajasimha Group marked transition from rock-cut shrines to free-standing structural stone temples.
2. Shore Temple and the Kailasanatha Temple are primary monuments of the Rajasimha style.
3. Vaikuntaperumal Temple belongs to the Nandivarman Group and features detailed sculptural panels depicting Pallava history.
4. Nandivarman Group represents the largest and most monumental temple structures of the Pallava Empire, outsizing all Chola structures that followed.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Third Phase (Rajasimha Group under Narasimhavarman II / Rajasimha) abandoned cave excavation in favor of structural stone architecture using dressed stone blocks and mortar.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Key masterpieces of the Rajasimha Group include the Shore Temple at Mamallapuram and the grand Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Fourth Phase (Nandivarman Group) includes the Vaikuntaperumal Temple at Kanchipuram, celebrated for its historical bas-relief panels depicting the dynastic succession, military victories, and coronation of Nandivarman II.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Nandivarman Phase actually saw a trend toward smaller, scaled-down structural models (e.g., Mukteshwara and Matangeshwara temples at Kanchi) rather than mega-structures. It was the later Cholas who built monumental multi-storeyed temples like the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Pallava administration and institutional polity are correct?

1. Devadana grants referred to tax-free lands or whole villages donated exclusively for upkeep and ritual activities of Hindu temples.
2. Administrative official designated as Dharmadhikarins served as royal judicial officers enforcing legal custom and state justice.
3. Kodukkappillai held the position of commander-in-chief of the Pallava imperial naval fleet stationed at Mahabalipuram.

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:** In Pallava land revenue administration, Devadana (or Tirunamattukkani) lands were revenue-exempt land holdings or entire villages granted to temples to support daily rituals, priest maintenance, and temple repairs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Dharmadhikarins were judges and legal officers appointed by the central Pallava state to oversee courts of justice and settle civil and religious disputes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Kodukkappillai was the designated officer of gifts and royal benefactions (in charge of registering and distributing state gifts and land grant charters), not a naval admiral.

Bhakti and Sufi Movement

1. Which one of the following statements correctly represents the core teachings of Sri Ramanujacharya?

(a) The ultimate means to achieve salvation is intense loving devotion to Lord Vishnu.
(b) The Vedas are self-existent, eternal, and the sole empirical tool for logical debate.
(c) Logical arguments and intellectual reasoning are essential means for attaining the highest bliss.
(d) Salvation can be obtained exclusively through solitary yogic meditation and asceticism.

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:

- **Core Philosophy:** Sri Ramanujacharya (1017–1137), the proponent of Vishishtadvaita (Qualified Monism), taught that the individual soul (jiva) and the universe (jagat) are distinct yet real modes/body of the Supreme Being (Brahman / Vishnu).
- **Path to Salvation:** He emphasized that while karma and jnana prepare the mind, Bhakti (loving devotion) and Prapatti (total surrender to God) are the highest and most effective means to attain liberation (moksha).

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Saint Nimbarka lived during the 12th century, making him a contemporary of the Mughal Emperor Akbar.
2. Saint Kabir was a spiritual disciple and contemporary of the 17th-century Naqshbandi Sufi scholar Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

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:** Saint Nimbarka (proponent of Dvaitadvaita or Dualistic Non-Dualism) lived during the 12th–13th century CE, whereas Emperor Akbar ruled much later in the 16th century (1556–1605 CE).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Saint Kabir lived in the 15th century CE, whereas Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi lived in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Kabir was spiritually associated with Swami Ramananda, not Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

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

1. Majority of Tyagaraja's devotional compositions were written in praise of Lord Rama.
2. Tyagaraja composed numerous new ragas and structural forms in Carnatic music.
3. Tallapaka Annamacharya and Tyagaraja were exact contemporaries who composed music together at Tirumala.
4. Annamacharya's sankirtanas are devotional compositions written primarily in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Saint Tyagaraja (1767–1847) was an ardent devotee of Lord Rama, and the vast majority of his kritis are addressed to Him.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Tyagaraja was a prolific innovator in Carnatic music who created several new ragas (e.g., Kharaharapriya, Harikambhoji scales) and popularized the Kriti format.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** They lived centuries apart. Annamacharya lived in the 15th century, whereas Tyagaraja lived in the 18th–19th century.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** Annamacharya (known as Sankirtana Acharya) composed thousands of devotional kirtanas dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara of Tirumala.

4. With reference to medieval Indian socio-religious movements, consider the following statements:
1. Sittars of the Tamil region were monotheistic mystics who rejected idol worship and rigid social orthodoxy.
2. Lingayats of Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and opposed Brahminical caste hierarchy.

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

Correct Answer: (c)
Explanation:
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Tamil Siddhars (Sittars) were monotheistic, anti-caste mystics who strongly condemned idol worship, ritualism, and temple-centric orthodoxy, emphasizing inner yogic realization.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Lingayats (founded by Basavanna in 12th-century Karnataka) explicitly rejected caste discrimination, Brahminical supremacy, ritual pollution, and the doctrine of rebirth—believing that upon death, a devotee merges directly with Shiva.

5. Consider the following statements:
1. Bijak is primary compilation containing poetic teachings and verses of Saint Dadu Dayal.
2. Philosophical doctrine of Pushti Marg was propounded by Madhvacharya.

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:** Bijak is the best-known compilation of the verses and teachings of **Saint Kabir** (preserved by the Kabir Panth). Dadu Dayal's teachings are collected in the Dadu Anubhav Vani.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The philosophy of Pushti Marg was propounded by Vallabhacharya (proponent of Shuddhadvaita). Madhvacharya propounded the school of Dvaita (Unqualified Dualism).

6. Consider the following Bhakti saints:
1. Dadu Dayal
2. Guru Nanak
3. Tyagaraja

Which among the saints listed above was/were actively preaching when the Lodi Dynasty fell and Babur established Mughal rule?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer: (b)
Explanation:

- **Guru Nanak (1469–1539 CE):** Was an active contemporary of Ibrahim Lodi and Babur. He witnessed Babur's invasions firsthand and described the historical turmoil in his compositions (Babarvani).
- **Dadu Dayal (1544–1603 CE):** Lived during the reign of Akbar in the late 16th century.
- **Tyagaraja (1767–1847 CE):** Lived much later in the 18th and 19th centuries during the British colonial period.

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

1. Andal is the only female saint among the twelve Alvars and composed the devotional work Tiruppavai.
2. Complete canonical collection of Alvar hymns is compiled in the Nalayira Divya Prabandham, often called the Tamil Veda.
3. Nammalvar is traditionally regarded as one of the most prominent Alvar poet-saints.
4. Alvars were devout Shaivite saints who dedicated their compositions exclusively to Lord Shiva.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Andal (often called the Meera of the South) is the sole female saint among the 12 Alvars. She authored Tiruppavai and Nachiyar Tirumoli.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Nalayira Divya Prabandham (4,000 sacred verses) was compiled by Nathamuni and is revered as the Tamil Veda.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Nammalvar is considered the most prominent Alvar saint; his work Tiruvaymoli forms a core component of the canon.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The 12 Alvars were devout Vaishnava saints devoted to Lord Vishnu/Krishna. (It was the 63 Nayanars who were devoted to Lord Shiva).

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The canonical collection of hymns composed by the trio Appar, Sambandar, and Sundarar is compiled in the Tevaram.
2. Karaikkal Ammeiyar was a prominent female Nayanar saint who embraced extreme asceticism in her devotion to Lord Shiva.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Tevaram constitutes the first seven volumes of the Tirumurai (Shaivite canon) and consists of devotional hymns composed by the three primary Nayanar saints: Appar, Sambandar, and Sundarar.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Karaikkal Ammeiyar was one of the three female saints among the 63 Nayanars. She discarded her physical beauty, adopted an emaciated, skeletal form, and walked on her hands to perform extreme ascetic devotion for Lord Shiva at Mount Kailash.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the 12th-century Virashaiva movement:

1. Basavanna established the Anubhava Mantapa in Kalyani as an open assembly for socio-philosophical discussions.
2. Lingayats wear a small linga suspended around the neck or shoulder in a silver/cloth amulet.
3. Lingayat tradition practices the burial of deceased devotees rather than cremation, believing the dead merge directly with Shiva.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Basavanna founded the Anubhava Mantapa, an egalitarian spiritual academy where men and women of all social castes gathered to debate philosophy and write Vachanas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A defining feature of Virashaivism is wearing the Ishtalinga directly on the body in a silver capsule or cloth pouch.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lingayats bury their dead in a seated posture (Samadhi style) without undergoing pollution rituals, believing the departed soul immediately unites with Lord Shiva (Aikya), making cremation unnecessary.

10. With reference to the contrast between the Tamil Siddhar tradition and classical Vedic practices, consider the following statements:

1. Siddhars emphasized internal yogic channels, pulse diagnosis, and alchemy, whereas early Vedic ritualism focused on external yagnas and sacrifices.
2. Siddhars completely rejected the authority of hereditary caste hierarchies, whereas classical Vedic society developed around the Varna framework.
3. Siddhars authored their treatise texts exclusively in classical Sanskrit to maintain ritual exclusivity among medical practitioners.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tamil Siddhars pioneered indigenous medicine (Siddha system), pulse examination (Naadi), internal Kundalini yoga, and alchemy (Rasa Vadam), contrasting with early Vedic external altar rituals.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Siddhar poetry contains fierce critiques of social inequalities, caste divides, and ritual purity conventions.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Siddhars wrote intentionally in colloquial, accessible Tamil (Demotic Tamil) and metaphorical vernacular verse (Siddhar Padalgal) to reach common people and democratize knowledge, explicitly avoiding elite Sanskrit exclusivity.

Bhakti Saints in South/North India

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Adi Shankaracharya is/are correct?

1. Adi Shankaracharya provide philosophy of Advaita Vedanta, holding that Brahman is the sole reality and the phenomenal world is illusory.
2. He advocated Jnanamarga, emphasizing that moksha is attained through direct experiential knowledge of the Self.
3. His major literary works include the Upadeshasahasri, Vivekachudamani, and Bhaja Govindam.

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:** Adi Shankaracharya (8th century CE) expounded Advaita Vedanta (Non-Dualism), summarized in the core dictum "Brahma Satyam, Jagat Mithya, Jivo Brahmaiva Na Aparah" (Brahman alone is real, the world is illusory, and the individual soul is non-different from Brahman).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He established that Jnanamarga (the path of knowledge) is the direct means to moksha, arguing that ritualistic performance (karmamarga) merely purifies the mind but cannot dispel ignorance (avidya).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** His original non-commentary texts include Upadeshasahasri, Vivekachudamani, and devotional hymns like Bhaja Govindam.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to medieval Southern Bhakti philosophers is/are correct?

1. Ramanujacharya challenged absolute monism of Adi Shankaracharya by advocating Vishishtadvaita and Vishnu Bhakti.
2. Madhvacharya propounded Dvaita philosophy, arguing that the individual soul (jiva) is eternally distinct from the supreme reality.
3. Tallapaka Annamacharya was an 18th-century Carnatic musician who served as the chief court composer for the Tanjore Maratha kings.

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:** Sri Ramanujacharya (1017–1137 CE) refuted absolute monism and formulated Vishishtadvaita, holding that the world and individual souls are real attributes/modes of Brahman (Vishnu).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Madhvacharya (1238–1317 CE) established Dvaita (Dualism), emphasizing five fundamental, eternal distinctions (Pancha Bheda) between God, souls, and matter.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Tallapaka Annamacharya lived during the 15th century (1408–1503) at Tirumala (Andhra Pradesh). He is revered as the pioneer of Telugu sankirtana literature, not an 18th-century court musician of Tanjore.

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

1. Vallabhacharya propounded the school of Shuddhadvaita and founded the Pushtimarg tradition.
2. Vallabhacharya mandated strict celibate monasticism for all followers of his school, forbidding householders from devotional practice.

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:** Vallabhacharya (1479–1531) established Shuddhadvaita (unalloyed monism without relying on the concept of Maya) and founded Pushtimarg, which centers on intense loving devotion (Vatsalya Bhakti) to Krishna.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Vallabhacharya specifically advocated householder life (Grihastha ashrama) for Vaishnava practitioners, maintaining that devotion to Lord Krishna can be fully realized within domestic and family life.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Purandara Dasa and Nimbarkacharya are correct?

1. Purandara Dasa lived during Vijayanagara Empire and is revered as Pitamaha of Carnatic Music.
2. Purandara Dasa composed extensive devotional literature known as Dasa Sahithya in Kannada.
3. Nimbarkacharya propounded the philosophy of Advaita Vedanta and authored text Vivekachudamani.
4. Nimbarkacharya emphasized Bhakti Yoga centered on the worship of Radha-Krishna.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Purandara Dasa was a contemporary of King Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara and systematically structured the foundational exercises (Svaravalis, Alankaras) of Carnatic music.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** His vast body of Kannada devotional poetry and musical compositions is classified as Dasa Sahithya.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Nimbarkacharya propounded Dvaitadvaita (Dualistic Non-Dualism) and authored the commentary Vedanta Parijata Saurabha. Vivekachudamani was written by Adi Shankaracharya.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** Nimbarkacharya was among the earliest philosophers to give central theological prominence to the joint worship of Radha and Krishna.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Tyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshitar is/are correct?

1. Tyagaraja composed celebrated Pancharatna Kritis in praise of Lord Rama, incorporating complex gamakas.
2. Muthuswami Dikshitar composed primarily in Telugu and used the musical signature Tyagaraja in his works.

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:** Saint Tyagaraja composed the Pancharatna Kritis in five major ghana ragas (Nata, Gaula, Arabhi, Varali, Sri) dedicated to Lord Rama, employing intricate musical ornamentation (gamakas).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Muthuswami Dikshitar composed predominantly in Sanskrit (not Telugu) and used the signature mudra Guruguha (a reference to Lord Murugan/Kartikeya), whereas Tyagaraja was the signature of Tyagaraja himself.

6. Which Carnatic music composer developed the Svarajati from a dance form into a structured classical concert genre and incorporated the musical signature Syama-Krishna in praise of Goddess Kamakshi?

(a) Tyagaraja
(b) Syama Sastri
(c) Muthuswami Dikshitar
(d) Purandara Dasa

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Syama Sastri (1762–1827 CE):** The oldest of the Carnatic Trinity, he elevated the musical genre of Svarajati into complex concert pieces (notably his three Raratna Svarajatis in Todi, Bhairavi, and Yadukula Kambhoji). He was a devotee of Goddess Kamakshi of Kanchipuram and embedded the mudra Syama Krishna in his Telugu compositions.

7. Which of the following statements regarding medieval Bhakti movement figures are correct?

1. Ramananda served as a crucial bridge between South Indian Bhakti traditions and the North Indian vernacular movement.
2. Ramananda's disciples included individuals across diverse social backgrounds, such as Kabir, Ravidas and Sena.
3. Lal Ded was a 14th-century Shaivite mystic who pioneered the Vakh poetic style in the Kashmiri language.
4. Kabir authored Ramcharitmanas and rejected the spiritual validity of Sikh canonical texts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ramananda (14th/15th century) transplanted the devotional spirit from the South to Northern India, opening spiritual practice to all regardless of caste or gender.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** His legendary twelve chief disciples (Dwadash Mahanta) represented varied vocations and castes, reflecting his principle: Let no man ask a man's sect or caste.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lalleshwari (Lal Ded) was a Kashmiri Shaivite mystic whose four-line verse compositions (Vakhs) laid the foundation of Kashmiri vernacular literature.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Ramcharitmanas was composed by Goswami Tulsidas, not Kabir. Furthermore, Kabir's hymns were held in high esteem and extensively incorporated into the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Saint Guru Nanak Ji and the founding of Sikhism is/are correct?

1. Guru Nanak Ji was a preacher of Nirguna Bhakti who established the community kitchen system and composed the Japji Sahib.
2. Guru Nanak's Ji active preaching period coincided historically with the fall of the Lodi Dynasty and the advent of Babur in India.

Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: (c)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Guru Nanak Ji preached faith in one formless God (Ik Onkar), composed Japji Sahib, and instituted Langar (free egalitarian community kitchen) to eliminate social divides. He laid down three core pillars: Naam Japna (remembrance of God), Kirat Karni (honest labor), and Vand Chakna (sharing with others).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Guru Nanak lived through the political shift from Sultan Ibrahim Lodi to Mughal Emperor Babur (1526 CE), vividly describing the conflict in his verses (Babarvani).

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Tulsidas and Surdas is/are correct?

1. Tulsidas composed the Ramcharitmanas in Awadhi and was a contemporary of Mughal Emperors Akbar and Jahangir.
2. Surdas was a blind poet associated with the Pushtimarg who composed Sursagar, Sur Saravali, and Sahitya Lahari in Brajbhasha.

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:** Goswami Tulsidas (1532–1623 CE) authored Ramcharitmanas in the Awadhi dialect of Hindi during the reigns of Akbar and Jahangir. He also authored Vinay Patrika, Kavitavali, and Gitavali.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Surdas (c. 1478–1583 CE), a disciple of Vallabhacharya, composed his major works (Sursagar, Sur Saravali, Sahitya Lahari) in Brajbhasha, depicting the childhood exploits (Bal-Lila) of Lord Krishna.

10. Which 15th–16th century Nirguna Bhakti saint, born into a cobbler family in Varanasi, rejected caste discrimination through his concept of an egalitarian society called "Begumpura" and has numerous verses preserved in the Guru Granth Sahib?

(a) Saint Ravidas
(b) Saint Dadu Dayal
(c) Saint Malukdas
(d) Saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Saint Ravidas (Raidas):** A prominent 15th–16th century Nirguna poet-saint and disciple of Ramananda. He envisioned an egalitarian, casteless, tax-free utopia termed Begumpura (a city without sorrow). Over 40 of his devotional hymns were selected and preserved in the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.

Bhakti Saints in Western India/Sufism

1. Which of the following statements regarding the Varkari saint-poets of Maharashtra are correct?

1. Jnaneshwar authored Jnanesvari, seminal commentary on the Bhagavad Gita in Marathi.
2. Janabai was Shudra maidservant in household of Sant Namdev who composed over 300 devotional abhangas.
3. Namdev was devotee of Vithoba whose devotional verses were incorporated into the Guru Granth Sahib.
4. Eknath rejected Bhagavata Purana and prohibited use of folk musical forms like Bharood in spiritual discourses.

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:** Sant Jnaneshwar authored the Jnanesvari (or Bhavartha Dipika), translating the philosophical core of the Bhagavad Gita into Marathi to make spiritual knowledge accessible to common people.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Janabai belonged to a low-caste family and worked as a maidservant in Sant Namdev's household, composing over 300 abhangas reflecting domestic life and intense devotion.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Sant Namdev centered his worship on Vithoba (Vitthal) of Pandharpur; his hymns traveled across North India, and 61 of his compositions were preserved in the Sikh scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Sant Eknath wrote extensive commentaries on the Bhagavata Purana (Eknathi Bhagavata) and pioneered the popular folk narrative genre known as Bharood to deliver moral and spiritual messages.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to spiritual figures of Western India is/are correct?

1. Tukaram was a 17th-century contemporary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, renowned for his devotional abhangas.
2. Ramdas authored the spiritual treatise Dasabodha and served as a moral guide to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
3. Sai Baba of Shirdi rejected the syncretic blending of Hindu and Islamic practices and insisted on rigid monastic isolation from householders.

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:** Sant Tukaram was a major Varkari poet-saint contemporary with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. His devotional poems (Abhangas) formed a cornerstone of popular Marathi spiritual literature.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Samarth Ramdas composed Dasabodha (a text dealing with practical devotion, statecraft, and social duty) and served as a spiritual mentor to Shivaji Maharaj.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Sai Baba of Shirdi lived in a mosque (Dwarkamai), harmonized Hindu and Islamic devotional practices, encouraged householders, and taught Shraddha (faith) and Saburi (patience).

3. Consider the following pairs:

Bhakti Saint	Regional Spiritual Role
1. Narsinh Mehta	Adikavi of Gujarat who composed the devotional hymn Vaishnava Jana To
2. Mirabai	Rajput princess and devout Krishna poetess belonging to the Mewar region
3. Dadu Dayal	Nirguna saint who established the Dadupanth order in Rajasthan

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:** Narsinh Mehta (15th century) is regarded as the Adikavi (first poet) of Gujarati literature and authored the famous hymn Vaishnava Jana To Tene Kahiye Peed Paraye Jane Re.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Mirabai (16th century) was a prominent Saguna Krishna Bhakti saint, daughter-in-law of Rana Sanga of Mewar, who composed passionate devotional lyrics in Rajasthani/Brajbhasha.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Dadu Dayal was a Nirguna Bhakti saint who founded the Dadupanth sect centered in Rajasthan (Narayana), promoting non-sectarian worship (Nirapaksh).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is/are correct?

1. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu popularized Sankirtan as primary mode of devotion to Lord Krishna in Bengal.
2. Propounded philosophy of Achintya Bheda Abheda, which posits that the individual soul is simultaneously one with and different from God in an incomprehensible manner.

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:** Chaitanya Mahaprabhu founded Gaudiya Vaishnavism and introduced public Sankirtan (processional chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra) across Bengal and Odisha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** His theological doctrine, Achintya Bheda Abheda (Inconceivable Inseparable Oneness and Difference), synthesizes dualism (Dvaita) and non-dualism (Advaita), stating that the creation is both non-different from and distinct from the Supreme Being.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the regional Bhakti movement in Eastern India are correct?

1. Sankaradeva propagated Ekasarana Dharma in Assam, establishing monastic institutions called Sattras.
2. Guru Ghasi Das founded the Satnami community in Chhattisgarh to oppose caste hierarchies and idol worship.
3. Jayadeva was the court poet of King Lakshmana Sena of Bengal who composed the Gita Govinda.

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:** Srimanta Sankaradeva introduced Ekasarana Nam Dharma in Assam, establishing community prayer halls (Namghars) and monasteries (Sattras), and writing Ankia Naat plays in the Brajavali language.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Guru Ghasi Das founded the Satnami movement in Chhattisgarh, advocating Nirguna worship, social equality, and rejection of caste and idol worship.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Jayadeva (12th century) served as a court poet under the Sena ruler Lakshmana Sena and authored the Sanskrit lyrical masterpiece Gita Govinda.

6. Consider the following pairs:

Sufi Concept	Meaning
1. **Wahdat-ul-Wajood**	Doctrine of Unity of Being, asserting that God and His creation are inseparable
2. **Sama**	Spiritual musical congregations organized to induce transcendental ecstasy
3. **Khanqah**	Residential hospice and center for spiritual learning and preaching

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:** Wahdat-ul-Wajood (popularized by Ibn Arabi) is the mystical concept holding that God is the sole true reality and all creation reflects His existence.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Sama refers to devotional music performances (such as Qawwali) used by orders like the Chishtis to evoke divine love and ecstasy.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** A Khanqah served as a hospice, retreat, and educational center where Sufi masters (Sheikhs or Pirs) instructed disciples (Murids) and served the public.

7. In the historical development of Sufism, consider the following pairs:

Evolutionary Phase	Key Institutional Feature
1. Khanqah Stage	Period of early asceticism and individual master-disciple circles
2. Tariqa Stage	Systematization of orders, lineage chains (Silsilahs), and institutional rules
3. Tarifa Stage	Transformation of orders into popular cultic veneration at shrines

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

Correct Answer: (c)
Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Khanqah Stage (10th century) represented the early phase where individual mystics gathered around local masters in simple hospices.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The Tariqa Stage (11th–14th centuries) saw the formalization of distinct Sufi orders (Silsilahs), spiritual chains of authority, and structured codes of discipline.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Tarifa Stage (15th century) marked the widespread popularization of Sufism, centered around shrine pilgrimage (Ziyarat) and hereditary sainthood (Dargahs).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Sufi orders in India is/are correct?

1. Ba-shara orders explicitly adhered to Islamic jurisprudence, with major examples being the Chishti and Suhrawardi silsilahs.
2. Be-shara orders rejected formal legalistic codes, living as wandering ascetics.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ba-shara orders strictly observed Islamic legal obligations (Sharia) alongside mystical practices. Major Ba-shara orders in India included the Chishti, Suhrawardi, Qadiri, and Naqshbandi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Be-shara orders did not bind themselves to formal legalistic rituals, with practitioners living as itinerant ascetics (Qalandars, Madaris, Rishis).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the major Sufi silsilahs in India are correct?

1. Chishti order, established in India by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti, emphasized austerity, rejected state patronage, and adopted the local Hindawi language.
2. Suhrawardi order accepted imperial land grants and official court appointments.
3. Naqshbandi order, championed by Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, strongly opposed music and rejected heterodox or syncretic practices.

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 Chishti order (founded in India by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti at Ajmer) shunned political court posts, practiced voluntary poverty, used local Hindawi for communication, and encouraged musical assemblies (Sama).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike the Chishtis, the Suhrawardis (introduced by Bahauddin Zakariya in Punjab and Sindh) accepted state patronage, accumulated property, and held judicial/state appointments under the Delhi Sultanate.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Naqshbandi order (promoted by Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi) was orthopraxic, rejected Sama, and actively opposed the syncretic policies of Akbar's court, advocating a return to strict Islamic traditions.

10. Which of the following statements regarding Sufi orders in medieval India are correct?

1. Qadariya order supported the doctrine of Wahdat-ul-Wajood and counted Mughal Prince Dara Shikoh among its followers.
2. Shattari order incorporated yogic breathing techniques and posture exercises into its mystical discipline.
3. Firdausia order flourished primarily as an influential regional branch in Bihar.

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 Qadariya order (associated with saint Miyan Mir) endorsed Wahdat-ul-Wajood; Prince Dara Shikoh was a follower of this order and authored texts bridging Hindu and Islamic mystical traditions (Majma-ul-Bahrain).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Shattari order (established by Sheikh Sirajuddin Abdullah Shattar and associated with musician Tansen) actively assimilated Hindu yogic practices and meditative techniques.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Firdausia order (a branch of the Kubrawiya order, prominent through Sheikh Sharfuddin Yahya Maneri) developed as a major regional Sufi lineage centered in Bihar.

Delhi Sultanate, Slave Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements regarding early medieval Islamic invasions in India are correct?
1. Sindh conquest under Qasim led to the immediate establishment of a pan-Indian empire that extended across Northern India.
2. Ghazni conducted military raids primarily to replenish his central treasury and assert sovereign authority, during which Al-Biruni accompanied him to India.
3. Ghori's campaigns aimed at creating garrison towns and permanent territorial rule, laying the foundation for Turkish rule after the Second Battle of Tarain.

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

Correct Answer: (b)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Arab conquest of Sindh under Muhammad Bin Qasim remained localized in the lower Indus valley. It did not create a pan-Indian empire; its territorial expansion paused for nearly three centuries, leading historians to describe it as a triumph without results.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mahmud of Ghazni led 17 expeditions into India to plunder wealthy temple cities (e.g., Somnath, Mathura, Kannauj) to finance his Central Asian empire and pay his professional army. The Persian scholar Al-Biruni accompanied his forces, studied Sanskrit, and authored the Kitab-ul-Hind.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Unlike Ghazni, Muhammad Ghori sought permanent territorial annexation. His victory over Prithviraj Chauhan III at the Second Battle of Tarain established Turkish political control in North India, which was consolidated by his deputy Qutb-ud-din Aibak.

2. Which one of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the ruling dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate, starting from the earliest?

(a) Mamluk Dynasty Tughlaq Dynasty Khalji Dynasty Sayyid Dynasty Lodi Dynasty
(b) Mamluk Dynasty Khalji Dynasty Tughlaq Dynasty Sayyid Dynasty Lodi Dynasty
(c) Khalji Dynasty Mamluk Dynasty Tughlaq Dynasty Lodi Dynasty Sayyid Dynasty
(d) Mamluk Dynasty Tughlaq Dynasty Sayyid Dynasty Khalji Dynasty Lodi Dynasty

Correct Answer: (b)
Explanation:
The correct chronological order of the five ruling dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate is:

1. Mamluk / Slave Dynasty.
2. Khalji Dynasty.
3. Tughlaq Dynasty.
4. Sayyid Dynasty.
5. Lodi Dynasty.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Qutb-ud-din Aibak is/are correct?

1. Qutb-ud-din Aibak established Mamluk Dynasty with Lahore as his initial capital and earned the title Lakh Baksh for his generous benefactions.
2. He successfully completed the construction of all five storeys of the Qutb Minar during his four-year reign.
3. Bakhtiyar Khalji, led campaigns into Eastern India that destroyed the monastic universities of Nalanda and Vikramshila.

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:** Qutb-ud-din Aibak ruled from Lahore. His open-handed charity earned him the title Lakh Baksh (Giver of Lakhs).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Aibak initiated the construction of the Qutb Minar (completing only its basement/first storey). It was his successor Iltutmish who added three more storeys, while Firuz Shah Tughlaq later repaired and added the fifth storey.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ikhtiyar-ud-din Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji, Aibak's general, raided Bihar and Bengal, destroying major Buddhist monastic institutions including Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Odantapuri.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the administration of Shams-ud-din Iltutmish are correct?

1. Iltutmish shifted capital of from Lahore to Delhi and received a formal investiture from the Caliph of Baghdad.
2. He organized the Turkan-e-Chihalgani, an elite corps of Turkish military slaves to consolidate central control.
3. He introduced standard coinage consisting of the silver Tanka and copper Jital.
4. He turned back Chengiz Khan's Mongol forces by offering asylum to the Khwarazmian prince Jalal-ud-din Mangbarni.

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:** Iltutmish permanently made Delhi the imperial capital. Caliph Al-Mustansir of Baghdad sent a patent of investiture legitimizing his rule.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To curb rebellious provincial governors, Iltutmish formed the Turkan-e-Chihalgani (a council of forty loyal Turkish slave-officers).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** He standardized Sultanate currency by introducing the pure Arabic-style silver Tanka (175 grains) and copper Jital.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Iltutmish refused shelter to Jalal-ud-din Mangbarni (who was fleeing Chengiz Khan). This diplomatic foresight prevented Chengiz Khan from invading the Delhi Sultanate.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Raziya Sultana is/are correct?

1. Raziya Sultana was nominated as successor by her father Iltutmish and became the first female sovereign ruler of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. She maintained political harmony by appointing leading Turkish noblemen to all high military commands while strictly retaining female court seclusion.

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:** Iltutmish nominated his daughter Raziya over his sons. She ascended the throne as the first and only woman monarch of the Delhi Sultanate.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Raziya abandoned traditional seclusion (purdah), wore male attire (coat and turban), held open court, and rode horseback in public. Furthermore, her promotion of non-Turkish officers (such as the Abyssinian Jalal-ud-din Yaqut) alienated the conservative Turkish nobility (Chihalgani), triggering rebellions against her.

6. With reference to the political policies and court protocols under Ghiyas-ud-din Balban, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Adopted a Blood and Iron policy to restore internal order, dismantle power of the Turkan-e-Chihalgani, and defend frontiers against Mongol raids.
2. Created an independent military department named Diwan-i-Arz to maintain a disciplined standing army.
3. Proclaimed the doctrine of divine kingship, styling himself Zill-e-Ilahi and introduced court rituals like Sijda and Paibos.

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

Correct Answer: (d)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Balban enforced a ruthless Blood and Iron policy to eradicate bandits, suppress rebellious rajas, break the influence of the Chihalgani nobles (of which he was once a member), and fortify the northwestern frontier against Mongols.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He separated military administration from finance by creating the Diwan-i-Arz (Military Department), headed by an Ariz-i-Mamalik, to maintain troop readiness.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** To elevate royal prestige, he claimed descent from the mythical Persian hero Afrasiyab, assumed the title Zill-e-Ilahi (Shadow of God), and instituted Persian court ceremonies: Sijda (prostration), Paibos (feet-kissing), and the Nauroz festival.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to administrative arrangements under the Slave Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Empire was divided into Iqtas, governed by Muqtis or Walis responsible for maintaining local law, collecting land revenue, and maintaining troops.
2. Iqta system introduced by Iltutmish was made hereditary from its inception, giving governors permanent private ownership over assigned lands.

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 Sultanate was partitioned into Iqtas (revenue assignments). The assignees (Muqtis or Walis) collected revenue, remitted the balance surplus (fawazil) to the central treasury, and maintained military contingents for imperial service.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Initially, Iqtas were transferable, non-hereditary administrative assignments, not private hereditary properties. (They became hereditary much later under the reign of Firuz Shah Tughlaq in the 14th century).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to economy and technology under the early Delhi Sultanate is/are correct?

1. Land revenue collection began transitioning toward cash assessments, which stimulated urban market trade and monetization.
2. Period witnessed technological developments, including the introduction of paper-making and the spinning wheel, which significantly increased yarn output.
3. Rise of the Chishti order in Delhi and the Suhrawardi order in Multan occurred during this administrative era.

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 consolidation of the Sultanate facilitated cash revenue demands (Kharaj), compelling farmers to sell produce in urban markets and boosting urban market networks.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 13th and 14th centuries brought key technological innovations: paper-manufacturing technology and the spinning wheel (charkha), which enhanced textile production efficiency.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** This period coincided with the institutional expansion of major Sufi orders (Silsilahs): the Chishti order in Delhi and Ajmer (Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti, Nizamuddin Auliya) and the Suhrawardi order in Punjab and Sindh (Bahauddin Zakariya).

9. Consider the following pairs:

Monument	Location	Structural Feature
1. Tomb of Balban	Delhi	Contains the earliest surviving structural true arch in India
2. Adhai Din Ka Jhopra	Ajmer	Features a seven-arched screen wall and pillared hall converted from a Sanskrit college
3. Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque	Delhi	Reused carved stone pillars from dismantled Hindu and Jain temples using corbelled arches

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

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** The Tomb of Balban (located in the Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Delhi) is historically significant as the first structure in India built using a true Voussoir arch rather than corbelled construction.
- **Row 2:** Adhai Din Ka Jhopra at Ajmer was constructed by Qutb-ud-din Aibak on the ruins of a Sanskrit college (Sarasvati Kanthabharana), featuring an expansive screen wall carved with Quranic calligraphy and yellow limestone pillars.
- **Row 3:** Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque (inside the Qutb Complex, Delhi) was constructed using architectural spoils from 27 demolished temples, displaying early hybrid Indo-Islamic features with corbelled arches and shallow domes.

10. Which of the following statements regarding the Qutb Minar and its surrounding complex are correct?

1. Qutb Minar is a 243-foot victory tower constructed primarily of red and buff sandstone.
2. Shams-ud-din Iltutmish added three storeys to the tower, while subsequent repairs and upper storeys were added by Firuz Shah Tughlaq and Sikandar Lodi.
3. Famous rust-resistant Iron Pillar situated within the Qutb Complex belongs to the Gupta period.
4. Ala'i Darwaza, located within the complex, was built by Qutb-ud-din Aibak to serve as the chief northern entry gate.

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 Qutb Minar (designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993) stands at ~72.5 meters (~238–243 ft), constructed with red and buff sandstone featuring fluted shafts and bands of Arabic and Nagari inscriptions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Initiated by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the tower's main structure was built by Iltutmish. After lightning struck the top storey, Firuz Shah Tughlaq repaired it and added two storeys using white marble and sandstone; further repairs were made by Sikandar Lodi.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The non-rusting Iron Pillar of Delhi inside the court of Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque bears a Sanskrit inscription in Brahmi script dedicated to King Chandra (identified with Chandragupta II Vikramaditya of the Gupta Empire).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Ala'i Darwaza was built much later by Alauddin Khalji. It is famous for its true dome and horseshoe arch.

Khilji and Tughlaq Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements regarding the foundation of the Khalji Dynasty and the reign of Jalal-ud-din Khalji are correct?

1. Jalal-ud-din Khalji established the dynasty after assassinating Kaiqubad.
2. Jalal-ud-din Khalji ended the Turkish aristocratic monopoly over high administrative offices.
3. Jalal-ud-din Khalji established his new imperial capital at Kilokhri near Delhi.
4. Jalal-ud-din Khalji peacefully abdicated the throne in favor of his nephew Ala-ud-din Khalji.

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:** In 1290, Jalal-ud-din Firuz Khalji overthrew the last Mamluk ruler, Kaiqubad, ending the Slave Dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Khalji Revolution ended the exclusive monopoly of Ilbari Turks over high administrative and military positions, incorporating non-Turks and Indian Muslims (Deshis) into governance.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Due to initial hostility from the old nobility in Delhi, Jalal-ud-din crowned himself and ruled from Kilokhri (Kilu Ghari).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Jalal-ud-din did not peacefully abdicate; he was assassinated by his nephew and son-in-law, Ala-ud-din Khalji, at Kara in 1296.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Ala-ud-din Khalji's military campaigns is/are correct?

1. Ala-ud-din Khalji assumed the imperial title Sikander-i-Sani.
2. Malik Kafur led the Sultanate forces into South India, defeating the Kakatiyas, Hoysalas, and Pandyas.
3. To defend against Mongol sieges, Ala-ud-din constructed the fortified city of Siri and created a permanent standing army.

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:** Ala-ud-din Khalji assumed the title Sikander-i-Sani (Second Alexander) and struck it on his coinage.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Malik Kafur (Hazardinari) led military expeditions into the Deccan and South India, forcing Prataparudra II (Kakatiya), Vira Ballala III (Hoysala), and the Pandyas to accept tributary vassalage.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Following the severe Mongol siege of Delhi by Targhi in 1303, Ala-ud-din built the circular garrison city of Siri and maintained a centrally paid standing army.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Ala-ud-din Khalji's administrative reforms are correct?

1. Ala-ud-din Khalji instituted the system of Dagh and Chehra.
2. Price regulations across grain and cloth markets were overseen by officers designated as Shahna-i-mandi and Diwan-i-Riyasat.
3. Ala-ud-din Khalji revived the hereditary cesses of village headmen to gain rural administrative support.

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:** Ala-ud-din introduced Dagh (branding cavalry horses to prevent fraud) and Chehra / Huliya (registering soldier identities) to enforce military discipline.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He established regulated markets under the charge of a Shahna-i-mandi (market superintendent) and controlled prices through the Diwan-i-Riyasat (Ministry of Commerce).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Ala-ud-din abolished the customary tax-free privileges and cesses (Kismati-Khuti) enjoyed by traditional village headmen (Khots, Chaudhuris, Muqaddams), forcing them to pay the same land and pasture taxes as ordinary cultivators.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the land revenue administration of Ala-ud-din Khalji are correct?

1. Ala-ud-din Khalji was the first Delhi Sultan to enforce land measurement using the Biswa as the standard unit.
2. The state land revenue demand was fixed at 50% of the gross agricultural produce.
3. House tax and pasture tax were abolished across the empire to relieve peasant debt.

4. Secret intelligence agents called Munhiyans reported directly to the Sultan on market prices and official corruption.

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:** Ala-ud-din introduced scientific land assessment by measuring actual cultivated area (Misahat) based on the Biswa unit.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He raised the state agrarian demand (Kharaj) to 50% of produce, payable in cash or kind.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** He did not abolish them; rather, he introduced two new direct taxes: Ghari (house tax) and Chari (pasture tax on milch cattle).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** He established a network of spies (Munhiyans) and intelligence officers (Barids) to monitor market prices, revenue collections, and court intrigue.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Khalji architectural structures is/are correct?

1. Ala'i Darwaza served as the entrance gateway to the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque and incorporated a true dome built with red sandstone and white marble inlay.
2. Garrison city of Siri was constructed entirely out of mud-bricks by Iltutmish to house refugees fleeing the Mongol invasion of Persia.

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:** Built in 1311 by Ala-ud-din Khalji, the Ala'i Darwaza is the entrance portal to the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque. It features a true dome, decorative horseshoe arches, and red sandstone and white marble facing.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Siri Fort was constructed by Ala-ud-din Khalji (1303), not Iltutmish, as a stone-fortified military city to protect Delhi from Mongol sieges.

6. The adoption of the Seljuk architectural style, prominent arcaded arches, mortar masonry, and red sandstone facings was first introduced into North India under which medieval ruling lineage?

(a) Mamluk Dynasty
(b) Khalji Dynasty
(c) Tughlaq Dynasty
(d) Lodi Dynasty

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Khalji Dynasty marked the stylistic arrival of true Seljuk Indo-Islamic architectural features in Northern India, characterized by decorative masonry, red sandstone facing, true domes, horseshoe arches (arcaded style), and extensive use of lime mortar.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to court literature during the Khalji era is/are correct?

1. Amir Khusrau served as the court poet of Ala-ud-din Khalji and authored the historical work Khazain-ul-Futuh.
2. Malik Muhammad Jayasi composed the epic poem Padmavat during the reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji to chronicle the Siege of Chittor in real time.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Amir Khusrau (Tuti-i-Hind) was patronized by Ala-ud-din Khalji. He wrote Khazain-ul-Futuh (Tarikh-i-Alai), detailing Ala-ud-din's military conquests in Rajasthan and the Deccan.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Malik Muhammad Jayasi wrote the Sufi allegoric poem Padmavat around 1540 under the patronage of Sher Shah Suri—more than two centuries after Ala-ud-din Khalji's death (1316).

8. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements:

1. First Mongol invasion of India occurred during the reign of Jalal-ud-din Khalji.
2. During the reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji, one Mongol assault marched up to Delhi and besieged the city.
3. Muhammad bin Tughlaq temporarily lost portions of the north-west of his kingdom to the Mongols.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The first Mongol incursions into the Indian frontier occurred much earlier under Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1221, when Chengiz Khan reached the Indus pursuit of Jalaluddin Mangbarni).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 1303, a Mongol army under Targhi marched into Delhi and besieged the capital, forcing Ala-ud-din Khalji to take shelter in the Siri fortress.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq did not lose the north-west to the Mongols; he successfully repulsed the invasion led by Tarmashirin (1327) and chased the retreating forces across the Indus toward Transoxiana.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq is/are correct?

1. Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq belonged to the Qarauna tribe of Turks and founded the Tughlaq Dynasty in 1320 CE.

2. He became the first Delhi Sultan to construct canal systems for agricultural irrigation.
3. He constructed the stone fortress-city of Tughlaqabad to defend against external raids.

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:** Ghazi Malik (Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq), a Qarauna Turk, overthrew Khusrau Khan in 1320 CE to establish the Tughlaq Dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq was the first Delhi Sultan to initiate public canal building and irrigation works to encourage agriculture and reduce agrarian distress.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** He constructed the massive stone-fortified city and citadel of **Tughlaqabad** near Delhi as his imperial seat.

10. With reference to the economic history of medieval India, the term Araghatta refers to:

(a) A system of bonded agricultural labor enforced in royal lands
(b) A tax-free land grant assigned to military commanders
(c) A Persian waterwheel mechanism used for field irrigation
(d) Uncultivated wasteland reclaimed for cash-crop farming

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The term Araghatta (or Ghati-yantra) refers to the traditional waterwheel mechanism (incorporating a geared wheel, rope, and pots) driven by bullocks to lift water from wells for land irrigation. It saw widespread adoption across Northern and Western India during the early medieval period.

Tughlaq Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq is/are correct?

1. Belonged to the Qarauna tribe of Turks and established the Tughlaq Dynasty in 1320.
2. He was the first Sultan of Delhi to initiate canal construction for agricultural irrigation.
3. Constructed the stone fortress-city of Tughlaqabad as his sovereign seat.

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:** Ghazi Malik (Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq) belonged to the Qarauna Turk tribe. He defeated Khusrau Khan in 1320 to establish the Tughlaq Dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq was the first ruler of the Delhi Sultanate to construct irrigation canals to assist farmers and boost agrarian output.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** He commissioned the stone-built, fortified city of Tughlaqabad near Delhi to serve as his capital and defense post against external invasions.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Muhammad bin Tughlaq are correct?

1. Reversed the orthodox religious isolation policies by patronizing Jain scholars such as Jinaprabha Suri and participating in public Hindu festivals like Holi.
2. Established the Diwan-i-Amir Kohi, a dedicated agricultural department, to disburse emergency crop loans to peasants during droughts.
3. His token currency experiment succeeded in centralizing state revenue and completely eliminated market counterfeiting across North India.
4. Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta visited India during his reign and was appointed as a state envoy to the Yuan Dynasty in China.

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:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq adopted an inclusive socio-religious policy; he was the first Sultan to celebrate Holi publicly and granted land for Jain rest-houses (Upasrayas) to scholar Jinaprabha Suri.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To reform agriculture, he created the Diwan-i-Amir Kohi department, which issued direct agricultural loans (Takkavi / Sondhar) for seed, stock, and well-digging.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** His token currency experiment (issuing brass/copper coins with the value of silver Tankas) failed catastrophically due to widespread private counterfeiting because the mints lacked security marks. He eventually withdrew the coins and exchanged them for genuine silver bullion from the treasury.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Ibn Battuta arrived in Delhi in 1333, served as Chief Qadi (judge) for several years, and was later dispatched by the Sultan as an official diplomatic ambassador to China.

3. Which of the following statements regarding territorial events during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq is/are correct?

1. Mongol leader Tarmashirin invaded Northern India and permanently annexed the Punjab region from the Tughlaq Empire.
2. Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Kingdom emerged as independent regional polities during his reign.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Tarmashirin invaded around 1327. He was successfully repulsed or bought off by Muhammad bin Tughlaq, who then chased the retreating forces across the Indus. The Mongols failed to annex Punjab.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Extreme central taxation, administrative strain, and widespread provincial revolts under MBT led directly to the breakaway of southern provinces, giving rise to independent kingdoms: the Vijayanagara Empire under Harihara and Bukka (1336) and the Bahmani Sultanate under Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah / Hasan Gangu (1347).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Firuz Shah Tughlaq are correct?

1. Made the Iqta system and military offices hereditary, replacing cash salaries for soldiers with land revenue assignments.
2. Established the charity department Diwan-i-Khairat, the slave department Diwan-i-Bandagan, and the free public hospital Dar-ul-Shafa.
3. He abolished the Jizya tax on non-Muslim subjects to establish administrative equality across urban centers.

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:** To appease military commanders and noble families, Firuz Shah made army posts and Iqta land grants hereditary, switching back to land assignments (Wajah) instead of direct cash salaries.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He was known for social welfare statecraft, founding Diwan-i-Khairat (to fund poor marriages/orphans), Diwan-i-Bandagan (to manage over 180,000 royal slaves), and Dar-ul-Shafa (a free hospital in Delhi).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** He strictly enforced it in consultation with the Ulema and, for the first time in Sultanate history, imposed Jizya as a separate tax on Brahmins (who had previously been exempt).

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the territorial hierarchy under the Delhi Sultanate is/are correct?

1. Imperial territory was divided sequentially into Suba (province), Sarkar (district), and Pargana (sub-district cluster of villages).
2. Provincial governors (Muqtis or Walis) were prohibited from maintaining local armed troops, relying entirely on royal regiments dispatched from Delhi.

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 provincial structure followed a clear descending territorial hierarchy: Suba (Province) Sarkar (District) Pargana (Sub-district/cluster of villages) Grama (Village).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Muqtis or Walis were required to collect land revenue from their assigned Iqtas, pay their administrative staff, and maintain an armed military contingent (fauj) to be supplied to the Sultan during imperial campaigns.

6. Consider the following information regarding revenue administrative officers during the Delhi Sultanate:

Official	Administrative Unit	Duty
1. Amil	Pargana / District level	Officer responsible for land revenue collection
2. Muqaddam	Village level	Executive village headman who assisted in tax collection
3. Patwari	Village level	Accountant responsible for maintaining village land and crop records
4. Khut	Rural locality	Hereditary landholder and village revenue intermediary

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

Correct Answer: (d)
Explanation:

- **Row 1:** The Amil (or Amalguzar) was the state revenue collection officer stationed at the Pargana/Sarkar level.
- **Row 2:** The Muqaddam served as the traditional headman of the village, facilitating tax collection.
- **Row 3:** The Patwari maintained village land records, crop yields, and individual peasant tax obligations.
- **Row 4:** The Khuts were wealthy, hereditary rural landlords who acted as intermediaries between the peasantry and state collectors.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to fiscal levies and society during the Tughlaq period are correct?
1. Kharaj was the agricultural land tax, while Khams represented the state's share of war booty.
2. Firuz Shah Tughlaq introduced Haqq-i-Sharb, a dedicated 10% irrigation tax on lands watered by state-built canals.
3. The number of state-owned slaves reached its historical zenith during the reign of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq.

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:** Kharaj was the standard land tax levied on agricultural produce; Khams was the state's share of war plunder (fixed at 1/5th by Islamic law, though some Sultans took 4/5ths).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** After building extensive canal networks, Firuz Shah Tughlaq secured approval from the Ulema to levy Haqq-i-Sharb (a 10% water tax) on farmers utilizing water from state canals.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** State slavery reached its peak under Firuz Shah Tughlaq (who maintained over 180,000 slaves managed by the Diwan-i-Bandagan).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Tughlaq architectural traditions are correct?

1. Tughlaq architecture preferred heavy grey sandstone and emphasized structural strength over elaborate decorative carvings.
2. Tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq introduced sloping walls to impart an impression of massive stability.
3. Entrance designs under the Tughlaqs relied exclusively on corbelled brick arches, completely rejecting lintels and true arches.

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:** Facing financial constraints and military threats, Tughlaq structures used cheap grey quartzite/sandstone and thick rubble-plastered walls, focusing on austerity, utility, and fortress-like strength rather than elaborate stone carving.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq at Tughlaqabad introduced sloping walls (batter), angled inwards to create a illusion of height and structural stability.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Tughlaq architecture is noted for combining both the arch and the lintel (trabeate and arcuate forms together) in doorway designs, rather than rejecting lintels or true arches.

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

1. Firuz Shah Tughlaq authored his own historical memoirs titled Futuhat-e-Firuzshahi.
2. Ziauddin Barani composed the Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, providing a key historical account of the Delhi Sultanate up to the early reign of Firuz Shah Tughlaq.

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:** Sultan Firuz Shah Tughlaq wrote a short autobiographical brochure titled Futuhat-e-Firuzshahi to record his public works, religious policies, and administrative measures.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The court historian Ziauddin Barani authored Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi (and Fatwa-i-Jahandari), offering a detailed political chronicle of the Sultanate from Balban's reign through the rise of Firuz Shah Tughlaq.

10. Consider the following information regarding literary texts composed during the Tughlaq Dynasty:

Literary Work	Author	Description

1. Tughlaq Nama	Amir Khusrau	Poetic chronicle detailing Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq's rise to power
2. Futuh-us-Salatin	Abdul Malik Isami	Versified history of Muslim rule in India from the Ghaznavids to MBT
3. Safarnama (Rihla)	Ibn Battuta	Travelogue documenting social, economic, and court life under MBT
4. Rag Darpan	Translated text	Sanskrit treatise on classical Indian music translated into Persian

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

Correct Answer: (d)
Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Tughlaq Nama was Amir Khusrau's last historic mathnavi, describing Ghazi Malik's campaign against Khusrau Khan and his coronation as Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq.
- **Row 2:** Futuh-us-Salatin (composed by Isami in 1350) provides an independent poetic history of the Delhi Sultans and offers a critical perspective on Muhammad bin Tughlaq's reign.
- **Row 3:** Rihla (Safarnama) by Ibn Battuta gives firsthand accounts of urban markets, postal networks (Ulukh and Dawa), administrative punishments, and court customs under MBT.
- **Row 4:** Rag Darpan was an authoritative Sanskrit musical manual translated into Persian under the patronage of Firuz Shah Tughlaq, promoting cross-cultural artistic exchange.

Sayyid and Lodi Dynasty

1. With reference to Indian history, who of the following were known as "Kulah-Daran"?
(a) Arab merchants
(b) Qalandars
(c) Persian calligraphists
(d) Sayyids

Correct Answer: (d)
Explanation:

- The term Kulah-Daran (wearers of pointed caps) referred to the Sayyids, who claimed direct lineage from the Prophet Muhammad.
- During the Delhi Sultanate period, particularly under the Sayyid Dynasty (1414–1451), Sayyids held high religious and political status and wore a distinctive pointed cap (Kulah) as a symbol of their sacred lineage and authority.

2. Which of the following statements regarding the Sayyid Dynasty are correct?
1. Khizr Khan founded the dynasty as a vassal appointee of Timur and struck coins bearing Timur's name.

2. Primary contemporary historical record for the Sayyid Dynasty is the Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi, authored by Yahya bin Ahmad Sirhindi.
3. Alam Shah expanded the empire up to Bengal and Bihar through extensive military conquests against the Sharqi rulers.
4. Rulers of the Sayyid Dynasty were known as Kulah-Daran due to their distinctive pointed headgear.

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:** Khizr Khan (1414–1421) was appointed governor of Multan by Timur. He founded the Sayyid Dynasty as a Timurid vassal and issued coins bearing the name of Timur (and later his successor Shah Rukh).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi, written by Yahya bin Ahmad Sirhindi, is the sole contemporary historical chronicle dedicated to the Sayyid era.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Alam Shah did not expand the empire; he was a weak ruler who voluntarily abdicated the throne in 1451 and retired to Badaun, handing power over to Bahlol Lodi.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** As claimants to the lineage of the Prophet Muhammad, Sayyid rulers and scholars wore the Kulah (pointed cap) and were designated as Kulah-Daran.

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

1. Bahlol Lodi established the Lodi Dynasty, marking the foundation of the First Afghan Empire in India.
2. Treated Afghan tribal chiefs as equal partners rather than subordinate subjects to secure their support.
3. Conquered the Sharqi Kingdom of Jaunpur and incorporated it into the Delhi Sultanate.

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:** Bahlol Lodi (1451–1489) overthrew the Sayyids and established the First Afghan Dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bahlol Lodi adopted a tribal Afghan theory of kingship (primus inter pares—first among equals). He sat on carpets alongside his nobles rather than on an elevated throne, calling them Masnad-i-Ali.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** His major military achievement was the annexation of the powerful Sharqi Kingdom of Jaunpur, ending a century-old regional conflict.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Sikandar Lodi are correct?

1. Founded the city of Agra in 1504 and later shifted his imperial capital there.
2. Introduced a standardized land measurement unit named Gazz-i-Sikandari.
3. Maintained his father's policy of Afghan equality, refusing to audit state revenue accounts or hold formal court.

4. Reimposed Jizya on non-Muslim subjects and abolished the Zakat tax on grain.

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:** Sikandar Lodi (1489–1517) founded Agra in 1504 to better control the trade routes and curb Rajput chieftains, making it his capital in 1506.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He introduced a standardized measuring rod, the Gazz-i-Sikandari (32 digits), which remained the standard land measurement unit well into the Mughal period.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Unlike Bahlol Lodi, Sikandar Lodi asserted royal absolutism. He compelled nobles to stand in his presence, established a strict court protocol, created a network of spies, and instituted regular audits of provincial accounts.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** He was an orthodox ruler who reimposed Jizya, abolished the Zakat tax on grain imports to reduce food prices, and destroyed temples at Mathura and Nagarkot.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Ibrahim Lodi is/are correct?

1. His aggressive centralization and humiliation of senior Afghan nobles led Daulat Khan Lodi to invite Babur to invade India.
2. He successfully repulsed Zahir-ud-din Muhammad forces, securing Lodi rule for another half 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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ibrahim Lodi (1517–1526) attempted to enforce absolute royal authority over his Afghan nobles, imprisoning and executing key commanders. Alienated by this, Daulat Khan Lodi (governor of Punjab) and Alam Khan invited Babur to overthrow him.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ibrahim Lodi was defeated and killed by Babur at the First Battle of Panipat on April 21, 1526, marking the end of the Delhi Sultanate and the advent of the Mughal Empire.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Lodi-era architecture are correct?

1. Lodi architecture introduced structural use of double domes in tomb construction, seen in the Tomb of Sikandar Lodi.
2. Period is noted for both octagonal tomb layouts and square tomb plans.
3. Lodi architects abandoned the use of mortar and lime cement, relying on dry-stone interlocking masonry.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Lodi phase introduced the double dome technique (an inner dome for aesthetic interior proportions and an outer dome for exterior elevation), prominently seen in the Tomb of Sikandar Lodi inside Lodi Gardens, Delhi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lodi tombs followed two distinct plans: octagonal plans reserved for royal monarchs (e.g., Sikandar Lodi's tomb) and square plans built for noble commanders (e.g., Shish Gumbad, Bara Gumbad).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Lodi architecture relied heavily on lime mortar and cement, along with grey and yellow sandstone, stucco ornamentation, and chhatris.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to art and musical culture under the Lodi Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Lodi decorative artwork features extensive naturalistic paintings depicting human and animal forms on tomb walls.
2. Musical instruments such as the Rabab and Sarangi were utilized in Sufi Sama gatherings during this period.

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:** In accordance with orthodox Islamic decorative conventions, Lodi architectural ornamentation strictly avoided human and animal figures, focusing instead on geometric patterns, calligraphic Quranic inscriptions (Arabesque), and stylized floral motifs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sufi musical assemblies (Sama) flourished during this era, incorporating string instruments like the Rabab and Sarangi alongside vocal compositions.

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

1. Sultan Sikandar Lodi was a scholar and poet who composed Persian verses under the pen name Gulrakhi.
2. Vernacular languages completely replaced Sanskrit as the medium for high philosophical and legal treatises during the Lodi era.

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:** Sikandar Lodi was a patron of learning and a poet who wrote Persian ghazals under the nom de plume Gulrakhi (Rose-faced).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sanskrit remained an active language for high intellectual thought, philosophy, and legal commentaries alongside Persian during this period; it was not completely replaced by regional vernaculars.

9. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order (smallest to largest) in terms of administrative size?
(a) Paragana Sarkar Suba
(b) Sarkar Paragana Suba
(c) Suba Sarkar Paragana
(d) Paragana Suba Sarkar

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:
The territorial administrative hierarchy in medieval India (Sultanate and Mughal eras) in **ascending order** of size is:

1. **Pargana:** A sub-district level unit comprising a cluster of villages (smallest among the three).
2. **Sarkar:** A district level unit comprising multiple Parganas.
3. **Suba:** A province comprising multiple Sarkars (largest administrative unit).

10. Consider the following statements:
1. Revenue administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the officer in charge of revenue collection at the local level was known as Amil.
2. The Iqta system of the Sultans of Delhi was an ancient indigenous Indian institution.
3. The office of Mir Bakshi came into existence during the reign of the Khalji Sultans of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Amil was the executive officer responsible for measuring land and collecting land revenue at the Pargana/district level during the Sultanate period.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Iqta system was not an indigenous Indian institution. It was an West Asian Islamic institutional concept developed under the Abbasid Caliphate and introduced into India by the Ghorids and Iltutmish.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The office of Mir Bakshi (head of military administration and intelligence) was an institution created during the Mughal Empire under Akbar, not under the Khalji Sultans (who used the designation Ariz-i-Mamalik).

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.

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 hostilities.
- **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.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.
ForumIAS