100 IMPORTANT INDIAN HISTORY QUESTIONS FROM NEO IAS MODEL TESTS

1. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs:
   Term         Description
   Garbhagriha  : a tall structure built over the central shrine of temples
   Theras      : old, respected teachers in early Buddhism
   Shikhara     : A small square room in early temples
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 2 only       (b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only       (d) 1 and 3 only
Answer (b)
Explanation
‘Garbhagriha’ is the small square room in early temples. ‘Shikhara’ is a tall structure built over the central shrine of temples. ‘Theras’ are old, respected teachers in early Buddhism.

What is important here-the terms related to Indian art and architecture and their definitions

2. With reference to the developments in science, medicine and literature during Gupta Era, consider the following statements:
1. Aryabhatta’s Aryabhatiya explains the occurrence of solar and lunar eclipses scientifically.
2. The Buddhist author Amarasimha compiled a lexicon called Ashtadhayayi.
3. The Sanskrit language became prominent during the Gupta period.
4. The Susruta Samhita, a Sanskrit text on the major concepts of Ayurveda medicine.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 2 only       (b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only       (d) 1, 3 and 4 only
Answer (d)
Explanation
Aryabhatta authored Aryabhatiya in 499 A.D. It deals with mathematics and astronomy. It explains scientifically the occurrence of solar and lunar eclipses. The Buddhist author Amarasimha compiled a lexicon called Amarakosa. The Sanskrit was the court language of Guptas. They patronised Sanskrit language and literature. Thus, it became prominent during the Gupta period. The Susruta Samhita, a Sanskrit text on all of the major concepts of Ayurveda medicine.

What is important here-Developments in science, literature and medicine during ancient period.

3. In the context of the political history of ancient India, consider the following pairs:
1. Magadha        : Madhuben copper plate inscription
2. Gandhara      : Taxila
3. Ashoka         : Maski inscription
4. Harsha         : Nandas
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 4 only       (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only       (d) 1 and 3 only
Answer (c)
Explanation
Magadha was the most important among sixteen mahajanapadas. The Nandas (343-321 BC), proved to be the most powerful rulers of Magadha. The Madhuben plate inscription and the Sonpat inscription are associated with Harsha and are helpful sources to know the chronology of Harsha. Hence Madhuben copper plate inscription has no direct link with Magadha polity. Taxila was the capital of Gandhara, one of the sixteen Mahajana Padas. The name Ashoka occurs only in few minor edicts like (Maski karnataka), rest at all places, edicts mention him as “Devampriya Priyadas" (means dear to Gods).

**What is important here-The sources, rulers, dynasties of ancient India.**

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4. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Bodhisattvas were worshipped in Hinayana Buddhism as the incarnations of Gautam Buddha.
2. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one who helps old women to practice santhara.
3. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Mahayana sect of Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer (c)

**Explanation**

A bodhisattva is literally a living being (sattva) who aspires to enlightenment (Bodhi) and carries out altruistic practices. The bodhisattva ideal is central to the **Mahayana Buddhist tradition** as the individual who seeks enlightenment both for him- or herself and for others. Compassion, an empathetic sharing of the sufferings of others, is the bodhisattva’s greatest characteristic. A bodhisattva is a being who carries out the work of the Buddha’s, vowing not to personally settle into the salvation of final Buddhahood until she or he can assist all beings throughout the vast reaches of time and space to fully be free.

**What is important here-Buddhism and Jainism and their features**

5. With reference to the history of ancient India, which of the following was/were common to both Buddhism and Jainism?
1. Both were indebted to the Sankhya philosophy.
2. Both opposed middle path as a way of liberation.
3. Both advocated rigorous asceticism and self-mortification.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
(a) 1 and 2  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1 only

Answer (d)

Explanation
In respect of their basic philosophical concepts, Buddhism and Jainism were indebted to the Sankhya philosophy. The concept of the Jainas and the Buddhists that world is a misery and that man is subjected to the result of Karma was borrowed from the Upanishadas and the Sankhya philosophy. While Buddhism advocated middle path (following ashtangigamarga) Jainism advocated rigorous asceticism and self-mortification as way of liberation.

What is important here - Buddhism, Jainism -- similarities and dissimilarities

6. What is/are common to the two ancient Indian educational hubs known as Nalanda and Taxila?
1. Both possessed residential quarters for its teachers or students.
2. Both had financial autonomy and centralised system of teaching.
3. Admission was made by means of an entrance examination.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) None of the above

Answer (d)

Explanation
Both Nalanda and Taxila Universities were renowned ancient institutions of higher learning. However, while Nalanda was a formal university in the modern sense of the word, Taxila functioned under more informal conditions. Nalanda had almost all the infrastructure that associate with a good University in today’s time. Since it collected revenue from more than 100 villages, it was financially autonomous. In Nalanda, admission was made by means of an entrance examination and had a centralised system of teaching. Taxila followed no system of examinations, and did not award degrees to its students. The education system there was flexible, and was modified according to student’s capabilities. Also, the teachers of Taxila worked with complete autonomy.

What is important here - Ancient Indian centres of learning

7. With reference to cultural history of ancient India, consider the following pairs:
1. Taxila, Nalanda : port cities Vikramshila
2. Pavarna : abduction of bride
3. Barabar Caves : Ajivika sect
4. Tolkappiyam : Sangam literature

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 and 4 only  
(c) 3 and 4 only  
(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer (c)

Explanation
The ancient Buddhist residential places became the centres of learning and Taxila, Nalanda, Vikramshila became centres of Buddhist learning. Pavarna was a ceremony held in ancient Indian Buddhist monasteries. It was the confession by monks of their offences committed during their stay in the monasteries during the rainy season. Asoka and his grandson Dasaratha got several such cave – dwellings built in the Barabar Hills near Bodh Gaya, and donated them to the monks of Buddhism and the Ajivika sect. The corpus of Sangam literature includes Tolkappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinenkilkanakkuk, and the two epics — Silappathigaram and Manimegalai. Tolkappiyam authored by Tolkappiyar is the earliest of the Tamil literature. It is a work on Tamil grammar.

What is important here - Ancient India Art and Architecture and Literature
8. Which one of the following is associated with the Shaka ruler Rudradaman?
   (a) repaired the Sudarshana lake in Gujarat for irrigation purpose
   (b) surrendered his wife Rudrama Devi to Rudramasimha to rule over Ropar
   (c) built Sudarshana lake with embankments to mark his victory over kushanas
   (d) destroyed Sudarshana, the artificial reservoir to mark the end of Shakas

Answer (a)

Explanation
The Sudarshana lake was an artificial reservoir. We know about it from a rock inscription (c. second century CE) in Sanskrit, composed to record the achievements of the Shaka ruler Rudradaman. The inscription mentions that the lake, with embankments and water channels, was built by a local governor during the rule of the Mauryas. However, a terrible storm broke the embankments and water gushed out of the lake. Rudradaman, who was then ruling in the area, claimed to have got the lake repaired using his own resources, without imposing any tax on his subjects. Another inscription on the same rock (c. fifth century) mentions how one of the rulers of the Gupta dynasty got the lake repaired once again.

What is important here—Post Mauryan rulers and their contributions.

9. Consider the following pairs:
   Women Freedom Fighter                      Well known for
   1. Aruna Asaf Ali                        : Home Rule Movement
   2. Kalpana Dutta                         : Chittagong Armory Raid

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

Answer (b)

Explanation
Aruna Asaf Ali was associated with Quit India Movement and underground revolutionary activities during 1942 revolt. Annie Besant was associated with Home Rule Movement, founded in 1916 (it demanded self-rule for India).

What is important here—Women freedom fighters of India

10. Which among the following is correct about Pritilata Waddedar?
   (a) She followed moderate ideologies.
   (b) She demanded a federal structure under 1935 Act.
   (c) She opposed violent means of protest against British.
   (d) She was a member of Surya Sen’s Revolutionary party.

Answer (d)

Explanation
Pritilata Waddedar was a Bengali revolutionary nationalist. After completing her education in Chittagong and Dhaka, she attended Bethune College in Kolkata. Pritilata graduated in philosophy with distinction. After a brief stint as a school teacher, Pritilata joined a revolutionary group headed by Surya Sen. She led a team of fifteen revolutionaries in a 1932 attack on the Pahartali European Club.

What is important here—Women freedom fighters of India

11. With reference to the reign of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq, consider the following statements:
   1. He maintained diplomatic relations with far off countries like Egypt, China and Iran.
   2. He issued silver coins instead of copper coins due to shortage of copper.
   3. He set up a separate department for agriculture, ‘diwan-i-kohi’.
   4. He abolished the excessive and arbitrary tax that was imposed in the doab region by his father.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer (d)

Explanation
Muhammad Bin Tughlaq maintained diplomatic relations with far off countries like Egypt, China and Iran. He issued copper coins instead of silver coins due to shortage of silver. He set up a separate department for agriculture, ‘diwan-i-kohi’. Muhammad bin Tughlaq’s reign was from 1325 to 1351. Doab is the fertile land between the rivers Ganga and Yamuna. Ghiyas-ud-din had reduced the land revenue to one-tenth, but Mohammed tried to raise the revenue once again.

Unfortunately, that very year the rains failed and the region came under the grip of famine. The farmers therefore could not pay the taxes. Many of the farmers were caught and punished while others left their lands and ran off to the jungles to escape the tyranny of the Sultan’s officers. When Mohammed realized this, he ordered his officers to spare the farmers and sanctioned financial help to them. But it was too late as the families of many farmers had already died of starvation and lands had also become barren.

What is important here-Sultans of Delhi Sultanate and their reforms.

12. Peshkash was
(a) land revenue collected by a jagirdar  
(b) a form of tribute collected by the Mughal state  
(c) a form of bribe paid to revenue collector by peasantry  
(d) a title given to foreign ambassadors at Mughal court

Answer (b)

Explanation
A form of tribute collected by the Mughal state. A courtier never approached the emperor empty handed: he offered either a small sum of money (nazr) or a large amount (peshkash). In diplomatic relations, gifts were regarded as a sign of honour and respect. Ambassadors performed the important function of negotiating treaties and relationships between competing political powers. In such a context, gifts had an important symbolic role. Thomas Roe was disappointed when a ring he had presented to Asaf Khan was returned to him for the reason that it was worth merely 400 rupees.

What is important here-Important terms used in Medieval India.

13. In the context of the cultural history of India, consider the following pairs:
1. Rani ki Vav  
2. Khajuraho’s temples  
3. Vikramasila University  
4. Chandesvarar Sculpture

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 3 and 4 only  
(d) 1 and 4 only

Answer (d)

Explanation
Rani-ki-Vav, a stepwell built in the 11th century is the most developed, elaborate and ornate example of a unique type of Indian subterranean architectural structure, with seven storeys of ornamented panels of sculptures and relief representing the height of the Maru-Gurjara style. Khajuraho school (Nagara) Patronized by Chandela kings of Bundelkhand (10th and 11th century). Vikramasila University was founded by Dharmapala of Pala dynasty (8th-9th centuries) Chandesvarar is one of the 63 Nayanmars of the Saivite sect and was the first among them to find a place in temples. The most distinguished shrine of Chandesvara was built by Rajaraja I at the Rajarajesvaram at Thanjavur.

What is important here-Art and Architecture ----Ancient and medieval India.

14. With reference to the Buddhist Councils in ancient India, consider the following statements:
1. The first council was held under the patronage of King Ajatshatru at Rajagriha.
2. The outcome of fourth council was codification of Buddha’s teachings (Sutta) and rules for disciples (Vinaya).
3. The third council was held at Vaishali under the patronage of King Kalasoka.
4. Abhidhamma Pitaka was established in the first council.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?
(a) 1 only  
(b) 1, 3 and 4  
(c) 2 and 4 only  
(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer (a)

Explanation
First Buddhist council was held soon after the Mahaparinirvana of the Buddha, around 483 BC under the patronage of King Ajatshatru with the monk Mahakasyapa presiding, at Rajagriha, in the Sattapani Cave. The idea was to preserve and codify Buddha’s teachings (Sutta) and rules for disciples (Vinaya). Ananda, one of the great disciples of Buddha recited Suttas and Upali, another disciple recited Vinaya. The second Buddhist council was held in 383 BC. This idea of this council was to settle a dispute on Vinaya Pitaka, the code of discipline. It was not settles and Buddhism sects appeared for the first time. The subgroups were Sthaviravada, Mahasanghika and Sarvastivada. It was held at Vaishali under the patronage of King Kalasoka and the presidency of Sabakami.

Third Buddhist council was held in 250 BC at Pataliputra under the patronage of King Asoka and under the presidency of Moggaliputta Tissa. The teachings of Buddha which were under two baskets were now classified in 3 baskets as Abhidhamma Pitaka was established in this council.

The fourth council The Fourth Buddhist Council was held at Kundalvana, Kashmir in 72 AD under the patronage of Kushan king Kanishka and the president of this council was Vasumitra, with Aśvaghosa as his deputy. This council distinctly divided the Buddhism into 2 sects Mahayana & Hinayana.

What is important here-The Buddhist councils

15. Which one of the following temple complexes of India does represent the typical Nagara style?
   (a) The Channa Kesava temple at Belur  
   (b) Kandariya Mahadev temple at Khajuraho  
   (c) Hoyasalesvara temple at Halebid  
   (d) Brihadeswara temple at Tanjore

Answer (b)

Explanation
Kandariya Mahadev temple at Khajuraho represents the typical nagara style whereas the Channa Kesava temple at Belur, Hoyasalesvara temple at Halebid represent vesara style and Brihadeswara temple at Tanjore represents Dravidian style.

What is important here-Temple Architecture

16. Which one of the following is the correct chronological order?
   (a) Mahmud of Ghazni — Muhammad Ghorı — Qutubuddin Aibak — Ghiyasuddin Balban  
   (b) Ghiyasuddin Balban — Qutubuddin Aibak — Mahmud of Ghazni — Muhammad Ghorı  
   (c) Muhammad Ghorı — Mahmud of Ghazni — Qutubuddin Aibak — Ghiyasuddin Balban  
   (d) Muhammad Ghorı — Qutubuddin Aibak — Mahmud of Ghazni — Ghiyasuddin Balban

Answer (a)

Explanation
Mahmud of Ghazni invaded India from 997 to his death in 1030—Muhammad Ghorı who invaded India after Mahmud Ghazni,belongs to Ghurid empire and attempted to build up an empire in India — Qutubuddin Aibak who founded slave dynasty in India continued from (1206-1210 AD)—Ghiyasuddin Balban, the fourth important ruler of slave dynasty continued from 1266-1287

What is important here-Chronological order of rulers and dynasties
17. Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri is
   (a) Biography of Jahagir by Gulbadan Begum
   (b) Persian translation of Upanishad by Jahangir
   (c) An account of trade with Morocco
   (d) The autobiography of Jahangir

   Answer (d)

   **Explanation**
   Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri is the autobiography of Jahangir

   **What is important here**
   famous works compiled during medieval India.

18. With reference to Sufism in medieval India, consider the following:
   Sufis followed
   1. Performance of prayers and pilgrimages
   2. Charity and suppression of passions
   3. Strict observance of the Sharia
   4. Self-discipline
   Which of the statements given above is / are correct?
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 2 only
   (c) 2 and 3 only
   (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

   Answer (d)

   **Explanation**
   Sufism promotes tolerance and acceptance of other religions and points of view. Sufism stressed the elements of love and devotion as effective means of the realization of God. Love of God meant love of humanity and so the Sufis believed service to humanity was equal to service to God. In Sufism, self-discipline was considered an essential condition to gain knowledge of God by sense of perception. While orthodox Muslims emphasize external conduct, the Sufis lay stress on inner purity. While the orthodox believe in blind observance of rigid rituals, the Sufis consider love and devotion as the only means of attaining salvation.
   According to them one must have the guidance of a pir or guru, without which spiritual development is impossible. Sufism also inculcated a spirit of tolerance among its followers. Other ideas emphasized by Sufism are meditation, good actions, repentance for sins, performance of prayers and pilgrimages, fasting, charity and suppression of passions.

   **What is important here**
   Bhakti and Sufi movements, their features

19. Consider the following statements:
   1. The Mimamsa strongly recommended the performance of Vedic sacrifices.
   2. The Mimamsa advocates that the attainment of salvation is depended on the performance of Vedic rituals.
   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

   Answer (c)

   **Explanation**
   Mimamsa literally means the art of reasoning and interpretation. But reasoning was used to provide justification for various vedic rituals, and the attainment of salvation was made dependent on their performance. According to the Mimamsa the vedas contain the eternal truth. The principal object of this philosophy was to acquire heaven and salvation. A person will enjoy the bliss of heaven as long as his accumulated acts of the virtue last. When his accumulated virtues are exhausted, he will come back to the earth. But if he attains salvation he will be completely free from the cycle of birth and death in the world.
   In order to attain salvation, the Mimamsa strongly recommended the performance of vedic sacrifices. Which needed the service of the priests and legitimized the social distance between various Varnas. Through the propagation of the Mimamsa the brahmanas wanted to maintain their ritual authority and preserve the social hierarchy based on Brahmanism.

   **What is important here**
   Indian schools of Philosophy
20. Consider the following statements:
1. The attempt to display spiritual strength by a circle behind the faces of the images began with the Mathura school.
2. An important characteristic of the Ghandhara school is the ‘narrative art’.
3. Earlier Mathura sculptures show strong Greek influences in the depiction of a ‘man-god’ and of wavy hair, sandals and extensive drapery.
4. The main theme of Gandhara school can be said to be the new form of Buddhism, viz. Mahayanism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only  (b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only  (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer (b)

Explanation
The attempt to display spiritual strength by a circle behind the faces of the images, in fact, began with the Mathura school. An important characteristic of the Amaravati school is the ‘narrative art’. Gandhara sculptures show strong Greek influences in the depiction of a ‘man-god’ and of wavy hair, sandals and extensive drapery. The main theme of Gandhara school can be said to be the new form of Buddhism, viz. Mahayanism.

What is important here-Ancient Indian schools of sculptures.

21. Which of the following statements about the Saguna /Nirguna traditions is/are correct?
1. The Nirguna school, radical non-conformist group worshiped the anthropomorphic manifestations of the divine being.
2. The Saguna School, headed by Kabir, Nanak and Dadu Dayal believed in mystical experiences.

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

Answer (d)

Explanation
Those belonging to Saguna School worshiped the anthropomorphic manifestations of the divine being, particularly Rama and Krishna. Both Rama and Krishna were regarded as incarnation of God on earth. The conformist saints like Ramananda and Chaitanya, espoused the doctrine of incarnation and worshipped the saguna Ram and Krishna respectively.

Those who followed Nirguna school conceived as Ishvara, the personal and purely spiritual aspect of godhead, beyond all names and forms (nama-rupa), and is to be apprehended only by inner (mystical) experience. This was radical non-conformist group, headed by Kabir, Nanak and Dadu. Kabir was the most radical of them.

What is important here-Bhakti & Sufi movements

22. Consider the following statements regarding Haldighati battle:
1. It was fought between Mughal emperor Akbar and Man Singh.
2. Akbar won a decisive victory.
3. Maharana Pratap was killed by Akbar’s force.
4. It was fought between Akbar's force led by Man Singh and the ruler of Mewar.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only  (b)1,2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only  (d) 4 only

Answer (b)

Explanation
The Battle of Haldighati was fought in Haldighati, Rajasthan on 18 or 21 June 1576 for around four hours between Rana of Mewar, Maharana Pratap and Mughal Emperor Akbar's forces led by Man Singh I. The battle of Haldighati was significant for the valour displayed by the Rajputs and the small tribe Bhils. Rana Pratap set an example of courage and bravery in the Haldighati
It was a turning point for the Mughals as well. It was a fierce battle and both the sides showed strong repulsions. The result was indecisive.

What is important here-History--current affairs topics

23. With reference to Permanent Settlement, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The government retained the right to enhance land revenue at will.
2. The zamindars were deprived of their judicial and police powers.
3. The new class of landlords became strong political allies of the British.
4. The ownership rights were vested with the peasants.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
(a) 1, 3 and 4 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer (b)

**Explanation**
The Permanent Settlement was introduced by Cornwallis in 1793 in Bengal and Bihar and a little later in Orissa with the help of Sir John Shore. Under this, the company concluded a kind of long term revenue contract with the zamindars. The Zamindars were required to pay a fixed amount in cash on a fixed date as land revenue to the treasury, irrespective of what they could collect. Slowly the Zamindars brought more areas under cultivation and made more money while they paid the same fixed amount to the company and company cannot claim any share of surplus. Under this, the zamindars were deprived of their judicial and police powers. The new class of landlords became strong political allies of the British. The worst affected people were the cultivators who were left at the mercy of the zamindars and moneylenders, they had no ownership rights over land.

What is important here-British land reforms during colonial rule.

24. Which one of the following best describes the aim of the lord Dalhousie's policy called Doctrine of Lapse?
(a) subjugate the powerful Taluqdars in the Princely States  
(b) replace subordinate isolation policy with subordinate union  
(c) Regulate the non-English foreigners from Indian trade  
(d) Extend the territorial boundaries of the English East India Company

Answer (d)

**Explanation**
It was customary for a ruler without a natural heir to ask the British Government whether he could adopt a son to succeed him. According to Dalhousie, if such permission was refused by the British, the state would “lapse” and thereby become part of the British India. Dalhousie maintained that there was a difference in principle between the right to inherit private property and the right to govern. This principle was called the Doctrine of Lapse. The Doctrine of Lapse was applied by Dalhousie to Satara and it was annexed in 1848. Jhansi and Nagpur were annexed by 1854. As a result of these annexations, a large part of the Central Provinces came under the British rule and it was basically aimed to extend the territorial boundaries of the English East India Company.

What is important here-British Governor Generals and their reforms.

25. The UN council released a postage stamp last year to honour Indian artist MS Subbulakshmi. She was a renowned vocalist in;
(a) Hindustani music  
(b) Carnatic music  
(c) Quwwali music  
(d) Dhrupad music

Answer (b)

**Explanation**
M.S Subbulakshmi is a name that is synonymous with the world of Carnatic music. The UN on October 2nd 2016 released a postage stamp to honour India's most celebrated Carnatic music artist, who had performed at the world body 50 years ago in 1966.
26. Which of the following statements about Theosophical Society is/are correct?
1. It was founded at Adayar near Madras in 1886.
2. Annie Besant was a co-founder of this society.
3. It promoted the study of Buddha’s teachings and doctrines.
4. It encouraged Raja Ram Mohan Roy to form Brahma Samaj.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 3 only  (b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 3 only      (d) 4 only
Answer (c)

Explanation
Theosophical Society was founded in New York (USA) in 1875 by Madam H.P. Blavatsky and H.S. Olcott with three main objects:
➢ To form a universal brotherhood of man
➢ To promote the study of ancient religions and philosophies (including Buddhism and Jainism)
➢ To make a systematic investigation into the mystic potencies of life and matter, this is called occultism.
Under their inspiration, the Theosophical Society of India came into being at Adyar in Madras in 1886. Annie Besant was not a co-founder in fact under her leadership theosophical society became popular in India.

What is important here-History ---current affair topics

27. Which one of the following statements regarding the revolt of 1857 is correct?
(a) The revolt at Lucknow was triggered by the disposal of Balaji Baji Rao II by the British.
(b) In Bihar, the Revolt was led by Kunwar Singh, a ruined zamindar of Jagdishpur.
(c) At Lucknow, Begum Hazrat Mahal revolted due to murder of her husband by the British.
(d) The Indian soldiers in Madras joined the revolt in the second phase.
Answer (b)

Explanation
At Kanpur the struggle for independence was led by Nana Sahib, the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II because his annual pension was abolished by the British. In Bihar, the Revolt was led by Kunwar Singh, a ruined zamindar of Jagdishpur. Begum Hazrat Mahal was the first wife of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. She rebelled against the British East India Company during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. After her husband had been exiled to Calcutta, she took charge of the affairs in the state of Awadh and seized control of Lucknow. She also arranged for her son, Prince Birjis Qadra, to become Wali (ruler) of Awadh; However, he was forced to abandon this role after a short reign. She finally found asylum in Nepal where she died in 1879.

What is important here-Socio-Religious Reform Movements --19th century.

28. With reference to the Government of India Act 1935, consider the following statements:
1. It proposed for the creation of all India federation.
2. It provided for abolition of central dyarchy.
3. It proposed for the abolition of Indian council.
4. It provided for the separation of Burma from India.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1, 3 and 4 only  (b) 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only  (d) 2 and 3 only
Answer (a)

Explanation
Salient Features of the Government of India Act 1935 were as follows: Abolition of provincial dyarchy and introduction of dyarchy at Centre. Abolition of Indian Council and introduction of an advisory body in its place. Provision for an All India Federation with British India territories and princely states. Elaborate safeguards and protective instruments for minorities.
Supremacy of British Parliament. Increase in size of legislatures, extension of franchise, division of subjects into three lists and retention of communal electorate. Separation of Burma from India.

What is important here-British constitutional reforms

29. Which one of the following best describes the outcome of Koregoan battle (1st January 1818) that was recently in news?
(a) Defeat of British by Peshwa’s Mahar force
(b) Peshwa with the help of Scindia, uprooted British from Pune
(c) Peshwa rule was ended in Maharashtra
(d) Sind was merged with Maharashtra

Answer (c)

Explanation
The battle of Koregaon took place on January 1st, 1818, near the banks of Bhima River in Koregaon (north-west of Pune) between small forces of ‘500 untouchables’ (Mahars) soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 1st regiment of ‘Bombay Native Light Infantry’ of the company and Peshwa soldiers. Battle ended not only with ‘victory’ over Peshwa but it become responsible for the end of ‘Peshwai’ in Maharashtra.

This battle had unusual significance for many reasons. First, British army fought this battle with a small army expecting the worst, especially after their experience of the Pune Regency. Secondly, the battle of Koregaon was one of the most important events which helped tear down the Peshwa Empire and subsequently the Peshwa had to abdicate. Thirdly and most importantly, it was an attempt by the untouchables of Maharashtra to break the shackles of the age-old caste order.

What is important here-Historical battles

30. Padmavat was
1. a 16th century poetry in Awadhi language
2. an Urdu poetry by Persian poet Amir khussru
3. a work by Sufi poet, Malik Muhammad Jayasi
4. a princess of Chittor who was abducted by Alauddin Khilji

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer (d)

Explanation
The character of Padmavati was first mentioned in a 16th century piece of poetry, “Padmavat” written in Awadhi language by the Sufi poet, Malik Muhammad Jayasi. Malik Muhammad Jayasi describes Padmavati’s story as follows: Padmavati was an exceptionally beautiful princess of the Singhal kingdom (Sri Lanka). Ratan Sen, the Rajput ruler of Chittor, heard about her beauty from a talking parrot named Hiraman. After an adventurous quest, he married her and brought her to Chittor. Alauddin Khilji, the Sultan of Delhi also heard about her beauty, and attacked Chittor to obtain her. However, the valiant Rajput Queen would rather kill herself than be taken by the Sultan of Delhi. She along with other Rajput women committed jauhar (a custom largely practised by Hindu women in north India of mass self-immolation to avoid capture by invaders).

What is important here-History --Current affair topics

31. Consider the following statements about Wood’s Despatch of 1854:
1. The Wood’s Despatch of 1854 promoted only primary education
2. It proposed for an education department to be set in every province
3. It aimed at educating the natives of India so that a class of public servants could be created.

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

Answer (c)
Wood’s despatch of 1854

Charles Wood was a British Liberal politician and Member of Parliament. Later he became the President of the Board of Control of the East India Company. In 1854 he sent the “Wood’s despatch”, a proposal for education system in India, to the Governor General Lord Dalhousie. The objectives were:

- To impart Western knowledge, information about the western culture to the Indians.
- To educate the natives of India so that a class of public servants could be created.
- To promote intellectual development and also raise the moral character of the young generation.
- To develop practical and vocational skills of the Indians people so that more and more articles could be produced and also to create a good market for consumption of those goods.

As per this despatch:

- An education department was to be set in every province.
- Universities on the model of the London University be established in big cities such as Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.
- At least one government school be opened in every district. Affiliated private schools should be given grant in aid.
- The Indian natives should be given training in their mother tongue also. It promoted mass education and also education for girls.

Wood’s Despatch is called Magnacarta of English Education in India. In accordance with Wood’s despatch, Education Departments were established in every province and universities were opened at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras in 1857 on the model of the London University. Later more universities were opened in Punjab in 1882 and at Allahabad 1887.

What is important here-Educational reforms during the colonial rule

32. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folk dance</th>
<th>state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garba</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhangra</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jhumar</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangma</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Answer (b)

Explanation

Garba is a popular folk dance of Gujarat, held at the time of Navaratri. Garba actually refers to “Garbha deep” – an earthen pot with holes, in which a lamp is lit and women dance around it in circular movements with rhythmic clapping. Bhangra is the highly energetic folk dance of Punjab. Accompanied with infectious and catchy drum beats, it is a popular form of celebration during festivities. Giddha is the female counterpart of the male Bhangra.

Jhumar is a popular harvest dance, performed by the tribal people of Jharkhand and Odisha. It has two variations – Janani Jhumar, performed by women and Mardana Jhumar, performed by men. The Rangma is the war dance of the Nagas. Dressed in colourful costumes, jewellery and colourful headgears, the dancers enact mock war formations and traditions.

What is important here-Folk dances of India.

33. The Ahom Revolt against the British was led by

(a) Rao Bharamal
(b) Gomdhar Konwar
(c) Tomma Dorasanyasi
(d) Birsa Munda

Answer (b)

Explanation

The Ahom Revolt against the British was led by Gomdhar Konwar.
The British had pledged to withdraw after the First Burma War (1824-26) from Assam. But after the war, instead of withdrawing, the British attempted to incorporate the Ahom’s territories in the company’s dominion. This sparked off a rebellion in 1828 under the leadership of Gomdhar Konwar. Finally, the Company decided to follow a conciliatory policy and handed over Upper Assam to Maharaja Purandar Singh Narendra and part of the kingdom was restored to the Assamese king.

What is important here-Anti-British Movements in 18th, 19th century.

34. Arrange the following events during British rule in India in correct sequence beginning from the earliest:
1. Vaikom Satyagraha
2. Communal Award
3. Annexation of Jhansi
4. Conquest of Sindh
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1-2-3-4  
(b) 4-3-1-2
(c) 4-3-2-1  
(d) 3-2-1-4

Answer (b)

Explanation
Sind annexation (1843) got completed during the time of the British governor-general Ellenborough. By applying the doctrine of lapse, Dalhousie annexed the States of Satara (1848.), Jaipur (1849.), Sambhalpur (1849) Bahat (1850) Udaipur (1852), Jhansi and Nagpur (1854). The Communal Award (1932) announced by the British Prime-Minister provided for separate electorates for the depressed classes. This led to the signing of the Poona Pact (1932) between Gandhiji and Ambedkar which provided for reservation of seats for the depressed classes in the general constituencies. Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25) was a satyagraha (movement) in Travancore, India (now part of Kerala) against untouchability in Hindu society. The movement was centered at the Shiva temple at Vaikom, near Kottayam. The Satyagraha aimed at securing freedom of movement for all sections of society through the public roads leading to the Sri Mahadeva Temple at Vaikom.

What is important here-Events in chronological order.

35. Which one among the following is not correct about the Subsidiary Alliance?
(a) It compelled to expel all non-English foreigners from subsidiary state
(b) The subsidiary state had to maintain British troops at its own cost
(c) In return the British paid an annual tribute to the subsidiary state
(d) A British Resident was posted in the subsidiary state

Answer (c)

Explanation
This aimed to establish British supremacy in India and remove all traces of French influence. A ruler who accepted this alliance had to Maintain British troops at his own cost or cede some territories for the purpose. Other provisions included:
➢ Expel all non-English foreigners from his state;
➢ Allow the British to supervise his relations with other Indian states; and
➢ Accept a British resident in his court.

What is important here-Governor Generals and their reforms.

36. Mahadev Govind Ranade is associated with
1. Prarthana Samaj
2. Independent Labour Party
3. Scheduled Caste Federation
4. People’s Education Society
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 4 only
The Prarthana Samaj was established in Bombay by Dr. Atma Ram Pandurang (1825-1898) in 1867 with the objective of rational worship and social reform. The two great members of this Samaj were Shri R.C. Bhandarkar and Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade. Dr. B R Ambedkar founded the Independent Labour Party in 1936 for protecting the interest of the labour classes. In 1942, he founded the Scheduled Caste Federation as an all India party to promote the interests of his community. Ambedkar established the People’s Education Society in 1945.

**What is important here-Personalities--Reformers**

37. Consider the following statements with regard to the French failure in India:
   1. The French East India Company exercised limited autonomy.
   2. The French East India Company never allied with Indian rulers.
   3. It functioned without consulting its home government.

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

   **Answer (a)**

38. With reference to the Government of India Act 1919, consider the following statements:
   1. Introduced bicameral Legislature at center.
   2. Introduced provincial diarchy.
   3. Abolished separate electorate system.
   4. Central subjects divided into reserved and transferred.

   Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 and 4 only
   (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
   (d) 1 and 2 only

   **Answer (d)**

39. Consider the following statements:
   2. The provincial autonomy was introduced by the Government of India Act 1935.

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

Answer (c)

Explanation
The central diarchy was introduced under the Government of India Act 1935 where federal subjects were divided into transferred and reserved. The provincial autonomy was introduced under the Government of India Act 1935 by abolishing provincial diarchy. Indian Council Act 1919 provided for separate electorate for Anglo-Indians.

What is important here - Constitutional reforms

40. William Bentinck is known for his reforms in socio, economic cultural political spheres. Which among the following was/were not included in them?
1. Abolition of double batta.
2. Abolition of provincial courts of appeal.
4. Suppression of pindaris.

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

Answer (d)

Explanation
The advent of Lord William Bentinck ushered in a new era in the annals of India in many ways. Although his tenure of office covered only a short span of seven years, it saw a period of enduring reforms. They may be classified as financial, administrative, social and educational. They included, abolition of the system of double batta, abolition of provincial courts of appeal, promotion of English education, suppression of thugs, (lord Hastings was credited with pindari suppression) abolition of sati etc.

What is important here - Governor Generals and their reforms

41. Yakshagana is
(a) a classical dance from Orissa
(b) a form of classical folk theatre from Karnataka
(c) an amalgamation of classical dances of India
(d) a musical narration of ancient historical events

Answer (b)

Explanation
Yakshagana is a form of classical folk theatre which originated from Karnataka. Literally, Yakshagana means song or 'gana' sung by a Yaksha. Yakshas were an exotic tribe who are mentioned in ancient Indian Literature. Yakshagana, like other art forms, cannot be neatly compartmentalized as classical or folk or rural art form. Rather, it is an amalgamation of all these. Yakshagana art form is a product of Vaishava Bhakti Movement. The origins of Yakshagana can be traced as early as eleventh century A.D. There are about 30 professionals in a Yakshagana troupe. It is usually performed in the twilight hours. Yakshagana is an amazing blend of Sanskrit drama, songs that are folksy in origin and the battles and acts of heroism from the great epics of Mahabharata and Ramayana.

What is important here - Indian folk theatres

42. Which one of the following was a result of British Colonial rule and their economic policies in India?
(a) Britain became a supplier of raw materials to India.
(b) India became a manufacturing hub.
(c) British goods got discouraged in Indian market.
(d) Indian handicraft industries ruined.

Answer (d)

Explanation
With the introduction of colonial rule in India, the economic policies followed by British were more concerned about protection and promotion of the economic interests of their own country rather than development of Indian economy under British rule. Prior to British colonial rule, India was well known for its handicraft industries dealing with cotton and silk textiles, metal and precious stone works, etc. These products manufactured in India had a worldwide market due to fine quality of material used and high standards of craftsmanship employed in the exported products. The policies followed by the company rule brought about a fundamental change in the structure of the Indian economy, transforming India into a supplier of raw materials and a consumer of finished industrial products from Britain. Consequently, Indian domestic industries ruined.

**What is important here-Economic impact of British rule.**

43. Consider the following statements:
   Under the Mahalwari settlement,
   (a) The revenue is collected directly from provincial revenue agent
   (b) The tax was imposed on the village community
   (c) There was no periodic revision of tax rates
   (d) The land revenue was fixed for every five years

   Answer (b)

   **Explanation**
   Under the Mahalwari system, the settlement was made not with individual landlords, the basis of the assessment of the revenue was the produce of a mahal or estate for which the villagers as a whole, both collectively and individually, were responsible for the payment of revenue for the whole village through the medium of the village headman or lambardar. The revenue was not fixed forever but for a limited period of thirty years at some places and twenty years at other places. Individual villager had to contribute in accordance with his holding. The revenue was fixed according to the yielding capacity of the soil, the nature of crop it produced and its prices. Once the assessment was done, it continued for the full term of the settlement.

   **What is important here-British land reforms**

44. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reformer</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. R.C. Bhandarkar</td>
<td>Prarthana Samaj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Chembeti Sridharalu Naidu</td>
<td>Veda Samaj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Madam H.P. Blavatsky</td>
<td>Deccan Education Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Parsi Religious Reform Association</td>
<td>S.S. Bengalee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
   (a) 1 and 4 only
   (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 3 only
   (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

   Answer (d)

   **Explanation**
   The Prarthana Samaj was established in Bombay by Dr. Atma Ram Pandurang (1825-1898) in 1867 with the objective of rational worship and social reform. The two great members of this Samaj were Shri R.C. Bhandarkar and Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade. Veda Samaj founded in Madras in 1864 advocated discarding of caste distinctions and promotion of widow remarriage and women’s education. It condemned the superstitions and rituals of orthodox Hinduism and propagated belief in one supreme God. Chembeti Sridharalu Naidu was the most popular leader of the Veda Samaj. Mahadev Govind Ranade (1842-1901) devoted his entire life to Prarthana Samaj. He was the founder of the Widow Remarriage Association (1861) and the Deccan Education Society. He established the Poona Sarvajani Sabha as well. The Parsi Religious Reform Association was founded at Bombay by Furdunji Naoroji and S.S. Bengalee in 1851. They advocated the spread of women’s education. They also wanted to reform their marriage customs.
45. With reference to the nagara style of Indian temple architecture, amalaka refers to
(a) semi-circular dome on garbhagriha
(b) ribbed, lenticular or globoid part crowning the top of the shikhara
(c) semi-circular hall in front of the temple
(d) ornamental pot-design decorating the shikhara
Answer (b)

Explanation
Amalaka is a ribbed, lenticular or globoid part resembling the amalaka (Indian gooseberry fruit) crowning the top of the North Indian style shikhara.

What is important here- Terms related to Art and Architecture

46. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Chaitya</td>
<td>Place of congregation and worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Panchayatan</td>
<td>Main temple surrounded by four sub-shrines each corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Squinch</td>
<td>Pictorial mosaic work using semi-precious stones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Explanation
Chaitya: Place of congregation and worship. Panchayatana: Main temple surrounded by four sub-shrines in each corner. Squinch is an arch spanning the corners of a square chamber and acting as support for a dome.

What is important here- Terms related to Art and Architecture

47. The Cabinet Mission proposals did not include
(a) the formation of a Union of India
(b) setting up an Interim Government
(c) formation of the constituent assembly
(d) a strong centre with viceroy as the head
Answer (d)

Explanation
The Cabinet Mission proposals included Provisions for three groups of provinces to possess their separate constitutions. It proposed the formation of a Union of India, comprising both the British India and the Princely States. Union would remain in charge of only foreign affairs, defence and communications leaving the residuary powers to be vested in the provinces. It proposed setting up an Interim Government, which would remain in office till a new government was elected on the basis of the new Constitution framed by the Constituent Assembly. Rejection of the demand for a full-fledged Pakistan. It also provided for formation of the constituent assembly on democratic principle of population.

What is important here- Cabinet Mission proposals

48. Rihla is
49. The Jury Act 1827 was opposed by many Indians. Which among the following leader was known for his opposition to the Jury Act?
(a) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
(b) Raja Rammohan Roy
(c) Lord Sinha
(d) Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

Answer (b)

Explanation
The Jury Act of 1827 introduced religious discrimination into the structure of the judiciary. Under the provision of the Act, Hindus and Muslims could not sit on the jury when a Christian was being tried. Ram Mohan Roy protested against this because it introduced the pernicious element of “religious distinction into the judicial system of the land”. Roy initiated a petition on August 17, 1829 against the Act, which was signed by distinguished Hindus and Muslims and the same was submitted to the British Parliament. Though the petition failed, the matter was taken up by Mr. Grant, the then President of the Board of Control. Grant’s Bill was passed in 1832, making Hindus and Muslims eligible not only to sit both the petty and grant juries, but also for appointment as justices of the peace. Roy always fought for the cause of right of the people.

50. With reference to the objectives of Swarajists, consider the following statements:

They wanted
1. to end the boycott of Legislative Councils
2. to expose the basic weaknesses of Legislative Councils
3. to gain experience of the functioning of the Councils
4. to use them as an arena of political struggle to arouse popular enthusiasm

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 and 4 only

Answer (a)

Explanation
Swarajists wanted an end to the boycott of legislative councils so that the nationalists could enter them to expose the basic weaknesses of these assemblies and use these councils as an arena of political struggle to arouse popular enthusiasm. It was not to gain experience of the functioning of Legislative Council.

51. The reforms of Lord Hastings did not include
1. abolition of Censorship Act
2. abolition of Provincial Courts
3. abolition of Sati
4. suppression of thugs

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4
52. Which of the following statement/ statements about the Champaran Satyagraha is/are correct?
1. It was related to oppressive teenkathiya system.
2. It addressed the economic demands of the peasants.
3. The middle-class intelligentsia remained silent.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1, 2 and 3  (b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 2 only  (d) 3 only

Answer (c)

Explanation
The Champaran Movement of Bihar in 1917 was a result of the long colonial oppressive "teenkathiya system" where the planters forced cultivators to grow indigo (a blue dye) in 3/20th parts of their lands. It addressed the economic demands of the peasants. Champaran satyagraha also featured for the first time that bridges had been built between the peasants and the other sections, especially the middle-class intelligentsia, such as Rajendra Prasad, J.B.Kriplani etc.

53. With reference to the Wavell plan proposals, consider the following statements:
1. It proposed the Central Executive Council to be Indianised.
2. All portfolios including defence would be held by the Indian Members.
3. It is also known as Breakdown Plan and was not accepted by the British.
Which of the statement/ statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only  (b) 2 only  
(c) 3 only  (d) 1 and 2 only

Answer (c)

Explanation
With the exception of the Governor-General and the Commander-in-chief, all other members of the Executive Council would be nominated from amongst leaders of Indian Political life. All portfolios except the Defence would be held by the Indian Members. Wavell Plan is also known as Breakdown Plan and was not accepted by the British, for whom, leaving without a universally agreed agreement was dishonorable. It also said that in case of a disagreement, the British should withdraw to the 6 Pakistan Provinces, and leaving the Congress to deal with rest of India.

What is important here- Wavell plan

54. Who among the following Urdu poets was invited to the Second and Third Round Table Conference?
   (a) Faiz Ahmad Faiz
   (b) Josh Malihabadi
   (c) Muhammad Iqbal
   (d) Firaq Gorakhpuri

Answer (c)

Explanation
Sir Muhammad Iqbal widely known as Allama Iqbal was a poet, philosopher, and politician, as well as an academic, barrister and scholar in British India who is widely regarded as having inspired the Pakistan Movement. In 1931 and 1932, in recognition of his status as an important Muslim cultural leader, Iqbal was invited in the second and third Round Table Conferences in London. Like the first, these ended in deadlock, with the delegates unable to reach any agreement due to communal differences.

What is important here- Round Table Conferences-personalities

55. What was/were the common elements among Walchand Hirachand and Ambalal Sarabhai?
   1. They were leaders of Indian Ship Owners Association.
   2. They were Indian industrialists.
   3. They were founding members of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
   4. They supported Indian National Movement.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only  (b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only  (d) 2 only

Answer (b)

Explanation
Walchand Hirachand Doshi was an Indian industrialist and the founder of the Walchand group. He established India’s first modern shipyard, first aircraft factory and first car factory; he also established construction companies, sugar plantations, sugar factories, confectioneries, engineering companies and many other businesses.

Ambalal Sarabhai (1890–1967) was a leading industrialist of Ahmedabad and also played an important role in India’s freedom struggle. He was founder of Sarabhai group of Companies, like Sarabhai Textiles, Calico Textile Mills, Sarabhai Chemicals etc. He was the President of the Ahmedabad Mill Owner’s Association in the year 1918–1919 and also a member of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. He was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal by the British Government which he renounced.

What is important here- Personalities in Indian National Movement

56. The social ideals of Mahatma Gandhi were first put forth in
   (a) an autobiography—The Story of My Experiments with Truth
   (b) Unto this Last - A Paraphrase
   (c) the Bhagavad Gita according to Gandhi
   (d) Hind Swaraj

Answer (d)

Explanation
Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule is a book written by Mohandas K. Gandhi in 1909. In it he expresses his views on social ideals such as Swaraj, civilization, modern education, mechanization. Gandhi's Hind Swaraj takes the form of a dialogue between two characters, the Reader and the Editor. The Reader essentially serves as the typical Indian countryman whom Gandhi would have been addressing with Hind Swaraj. The Reader voices the common beliefs and arguments of the time concerning Indian Independence. Gandhi, The Editor, explains why those arguments are flawed and interjects his own arguments. As 'The Editor' Gandhi puts it, "it is my duty patiently to try to remove your prejudice."

57. Consider the following statements regarding Home Rule Movement:
1. It aimed to attain self-government within the British empire.
2. It was able to combine the moderates, extremists, and revolutionary terrorists.
3. It dropped the idea of mendicancy of the moderates but continued their concept of patriotism.
4. Tilak made the concept of Home Rule, the popular catchword through the medium of New India and The Commonweal.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only  (b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only  (d) 2 only
Answer (a)
Explanation
In September 1916, Annie Besant started the Home Rule League as an independent political organization. A few months earlier (April) Tilak had established an Indian Home Rule League with the object of attaining Home Rule or self-government. Home Rule Movement was able to combine and balance all the three trends viz. moderates, extremists, and revolutionary terrorists. Home Rule Movement continued extremist’s idea of passive resistance. Home Rule Movement dropped the idea of mendicancy of the moderates but continued their concept of patriotism. Through his writings in the Maharatta and Kesari, Tilak made the concept of Home Rule the popular catchword. Annie carried on her campaign through the medium of New India and The Commonweal.

58. Which one of the following is an important historical novel written during the latter half of the nineteenth century?
(a) Rast Goftar  (b) Durgesh Nandini
(c) Mahratha  (d) Nibandhamala
Answer (b)
Explanation
Durgeshnandini is a Bengali historical romance novel written by Indian writer Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1865. Durgeshnandini is a story of the love triangle between Jagat Singh, a Mughal General, Tilottama, the daughter of a Bengali feudal lord and Ayesha, the daughter of a rebel Pathan leader against whom Jagat Singh was fighting. The story is set in the backdrop of Pathan-Mughal conflicts that took place in south-western region of modern-day Indian state of Paschimbanga (West Bengal) during the reign of Akbar. Durgeshnandini is the first Bengali novel written by Bankim Chandra as well as the first major Bengali novel in the history of Bengali literature.

59. Which among the following statement/statements are correct about the Swadeshi movement?
1. It focused on social and economic regeneration of the villages.
2. It provided suitable opportunity for reviving weaving industry.
4. Prafulla Chandra Roy set up Bengal Chemicals Factory.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only  (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 and 4 only  (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Answer (d)
Self-help and constructive work at the village level was envisaged as a means of bringing about the social and economic regeneration of the villages and of reaching the rural masses. This meant social reform and campaigns against evils such as caste oppression, early marriage, the dowry system, consumption of alcohol, etc.

The economic boycott movement seemed to be a suitable opportunity for reviving Indian small-scale industries. The boycott of foreign goods led to the increase in demand of indigenous goods especially clothes which fell short of supply. The mill-owners of Bombay and Ahmadabad came to its rescue. The Boycott movement in Bengal supplied a momentum and driving force to the cotton mills in India and the opportunity thus presented was exploited by the mill-owners. The economic boycott movement seemed to be a suitable opportunity for reviving weaving industry. The clothes produce were accepted by the Bengalis in the true spirit of the Swadeshi Movement. Further, J N Tata founded Tata Iron and Steel. Prafulla Chandra Roy set up Bengal Chemicals Factory. Aravindo Ghosh, Syed Haidar Raza and Bipin Chandra Pal took part in Swadeshi.

What is important here- Swadeshi Movement

60. The failure of Cripps mission resulted in
(a) the launch of Quit India Movement
(b) the launch of Civil Disobedience Movement
(c) Individual satyagraha
(d) Non-cooperation movement

Answer (a)

Explanation
The failure of the Cripps Mission to solve the constitutional deadlock exposed Britain’s unchanged attitude on constitutional advance and made it clear that any more silence would enable British to decide the fate of future India by themselves.

What is important here- Cripps Mission

61. Which one of the following observations is not true about the Quit India Movement of 1942?
(a) It was not supported by Hindu Mahasabha
(b) Women played no role due to its violent nature
(c) There were no communal clashes during the movement
(d) Formation of parallel government were highlights of this movement

Answer (b)

Explanation
It was not supported by Hindu Mahasabha. The women actively took part in Quit India Movement of 1942. There were no communal clashes during the movement and formation of parallel governments were highlights of this movement.

What is important here- Quit India Movement

62. Which one of the following statement is correct about Rajaji formula?
(a) It proposed cancellation of separate electorate
(b) It proposed formation of provisional interim government
(c) It demanded partition of India after 1946 election
(d) It suggested division of princely states between India and Pakistan

Answer (b)

Explanation
The Muslim League should cooperate with the Congress in the formation of provisional interim government for the transitional period. After the war, a commission shall be appointed to demarcate the boundaries of the Muslim-dominated districts in the north-west and east of India. The people of these districts shall decide, by plebiscite, the issue of separation from India. In the event of separation, mutual agreement shall be entered into between the two governments for jointly safeguarding defence, commerce, and communication and for other essential purposes.

What is important here- Rajaji formula
63. The forerunner of Indian National Congress, founded by A.O. Hume was
(a) Indian National Association
(b) Indian Association
(c) Indian National Social Conference
(d) Indian National Union

Answer (d)

Explanation
Allan Octavian Hume (A.O. Hume), a restricted British member of Indian Civil Service who had settled at Simla, founded the Indian National Union, the forerunner of Indian National Congress in 1884. After touring Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, Hume announced that a conference of the Indian National Union would be held at Pune in December, which would be composed of educated delegates of all parts of the three presidencies. But cholera having broken out at Pune, the venue of the conference was shifted to Tejpal Sanskrit Pathshal, Bombay. The first session of the Indian National Congress was held on December 28, 1885. At the suggestion of Dadhabai Naoroji the name of the organization was changed to Indian National Congress (INC). Womesh Chandra Bannerjee, a leading lawyer of Calcutta was elected its president.

What is important here - Indian National Congress

64. Consider the following statements about Abul Kalam Azad:
1. He was the founder of Indian National Association of Calcutta in 1876.
2. He was the President of INC during Quit India Movement.
3. He published the weekly ‘Al-Hilal’.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

Answer (c)

Explanation
Indian National Association was the first declared Nationalist Organization founded in British India by Surendranath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose in 1876.

Abul Kalam Azad
- Prominent Nationalist leader
- Became youngest president of INC in 1923
- President of INC during Quit India Movement
- Published weekly ‘Al-Hilal’

What is important here - Personalities of Indian National Movement

65. With reference to Yoga philosophy, consider the following statements:
1. Release of purusha from prakriti eventually leads to salvation.
2. Practice of control over pleasure senses and bodily organs is central to this system.
3. This school of philosophy was developed by Vasumitra sage.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer (a)

Explanation
This school of philosophy was developed by Patanjali sage. According to the Yoga school, a person can attain salvation through meditation and physical activity. Practice of control over pleasure senses and bodily organs is central to this system. In order to obtain salvation, physical exercises in various postures called asana are prescribed, and the breathing exercise called pranayama is recommended. It is thought that through these methods the mind gets diverted from worldly matters and achieves concentration.

What is important here - Indian schools of Philosophy

66. Mir Saman, under Mughal administration was
(a) in charge of the intelligence department
(b) in charge of the military department
(c) in charge of the imperial department
(d) in charge of the judicial department

Answer (c)

**Explanation**
Mir Saman, under Mughal administration was the in charge of the imperial department

**What is important here: Medieval Indian administrative officials.**

67. Consider the following statements:
1. Dipavamsa is Buddhist literature in Pali language.
2. Mahavamsa is the historical work on Jainism.
Which of the above statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer (a)

**Explanation**
The meaning of Dipavamsa is “Chronicle of Island”. It is the oldest historical record of Sri Lanka. It is believed to have been compiled around 3rd or 4th century BC somewhere in Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka during the reign of King Dhatusea of Sri Lanka, the first Mauryan King of Sri Lanka. The Avukana Buddha statue was erected by King Dhatusea in Sri Lanka. Dipavamsa is one of the most important works in Pali Literature. It details the tooth relic and Bodhi Tree's arrival in Sri Lanka. It also deals with the arrival of Buddha's teaching and preachers in Sri Lanka. It mentions that Buddha visited Kelaniya and Dighavapi in Sri Lanka. Mahavamsa is the most important Pali epic poem. Mahavamsa means “Great Chronicle”. It’s a historical poem in Pali Language which deals about the Kings of Sri Lanka. The first version of Mahavamsa dates back to 3-4th century BC during the reign of King Vijaya.

**What is important here: Buddhist literature**

69. Which one among the following was not a part of Delhi Pact of 1931?
(a) Return of all lands not yet sold to third parties.
(b) Remission of all fines not yet collected.
(c) Right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing.
(d) Commutation of Bhagat Singh's death sentence

Answer (d)

**Explanation**
Gandhiji was authorised to negotiate with the Viceroy Lord Irwin in relation to deciding congress participation in second round table conference. As a result of their discussions, a pact was signed between the viceroy, representing the British Indian Government, and Gandhi, representing the Indian people, in Delhi in March, 1931. This Delhi Pact, also known as the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, placed the Congress on an equal footing with the Government.

**IRWIN ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AGREED ON**
1. Immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted of violence;
2. Remission of all fines not yet collected;
3. Return of all lands not yet sold to third parties;
4. Lenient treatment to those government servants who had resigned;
5. Right to make salt in coastal villages for personal consumption (not for sale);
6. Right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing; and
7. Withdrawal of emergency ordinances.

**TWO DEMANDS OF GANDHI IGNORED**
1. Public inquiry into police excesses, and
2. Commutation of Bhagat Singh and his comrades’ death sentence to life sentence.

**What is important here: Gandhi-Irwin Pact**

70. With reference to INA trial agitation, consider the following statements:
1. All India Muslim League supported it.
2. Communist Party of India sided with British.
3. It demanded release of Bhagat Singh and Nehru.
4. It lacked mass support at any stage.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 4 only  
(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer (a)

Explanation
The campaign had a wide geographical reach and witnessed the participation of diverse social groups and political parties. Those who supported the INA cause in varying degrees, apart from the Congress, included the Muslim League, Communist Party, Unionists, Akalis, Justice Party, Ahrars in Rawalpindi, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Hindu Mahasabha and the Sikh League. It demanded release of all INA soldiers, officers who face the trial by the British.

What is important here-INA trial

71. Which of the following statement/statements is/are correct about the Paika Rebellion of 1817?
1. It was an armed rebellion against British colonialism.
2. Paikas were the traditional land-owning militia of Odisha.
3. They revolted against the British as the British banned their rituals.
4. Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar, the military chief of the King of Khurda, led the army of Paikas.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
(a) 1 and 3 only  
(b) 1 and 4 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer (c)

Explanation
Paika Rebellion of 1817 is an armed rebellion against British colonialism. The oppressive agrarian cum land reforms of British forced the paikas of Odisha rose in rebellion. Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar, the military chief of the King of Khurda, led the army of Paikas and forced the British to retreat. This came to be known as Paika Bidroh (Paika rebellion). The Paikas were the traditional land-owning militia of Odisha and served as warriors. The main cause of the revolution was the takeover of the rent-free land that had been given to the Paiks for their military service to the Kingdom of Khurda.

What is important here-Anti-British movements--19th century

72. Which of the following statements aptly explains the significance of battle of Plassey – 1757?
(a) It made the Mughal ruler a dependent of the East India Company
(b) It exposed the superiority of the English in military skills and arms
(c) It allowed then East India Company to introduce the subsidiary alliance in northern India
(d) It paved the way for the British mastery of Bengal and eventually the whole of India

Answer (d)

Explanation
It was not Plassey but Buxar battle made the Mughal ruler a dependent of the East India Company. The battle of Plassey was not important from the military view point. It was a mere conflict. No military superiority was shown by the English army. The battle of Plassey followed the subsequent plunder of Bengal as Bengal was placed at the disposal of the English vast resources. The vast resources of Bengal helped the British to conquer the Deccan and extend their influence over North India. It allowed the East India Company to introduce their authority in Bengal not the subsidiary alliance in northern India. Infact, it paved the way for the British mastery of Bengal and later the whole of India.

What is important here-Historical battles

73. With reference to the revolutionary phase of Indian national movement, which one of the following was not a method of revolutionaries?
(a) Organization of secret societies
(b) Organization of communal conspiracies
(c) Assassination of oppressive and unpopular officials
(d) Organization of raids on banks and police stations

Answer (d)
METHODS OF REVOLUTIONARIES INCLUDED:

➢ Propagation of revolutionary ideas through the organization of secret societies in India and abroad, and through the publication of newspapers, journals, books and pamphlets.
➢ Assassination of oppressive and unpopular officials and also traitors in order to strike horror in the hearts of the British officials.
➢ Organisation of military conspiracies with the help of Indian soldiers and, if possible, also foreign nations.
➢ Organisation of raids on banks, police stations and government armouries in order to raise funds and arms and ammunition.

What is important here- Revolutionary phase of Indian National Movement

74. With reference to Non-cooperation movement, consider the following statements:
1. Non-cooperation ignited the promotion of khadi.
2. The Indian Capitalist class had supported the Non-Cooperation Movement.
3. The Khudai Khidmatgars attacked police stations during the Non-Co-Operation Movement.

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

Answer (a)

Explanation
An important program of the Non-Cooperation Movement was the promotion of khadi. Under the guidance of Gandhi, charkha and Indian handloom products gained back their glory. Many weavers were employed. The Indian National Movement, for the first time in the history, acquired a real mass base with the participation of different sections of Indian society such as peasants, workers, students, and teachers, women, merchants, etc. However, the big industrialists, capitalists, ‘zamindars’, etc. still remained hostile. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan had organised a volunteer brigade ‘Khudai Khidmatgars’, popularly known as the ‘Red-Shirts’, who were pledged to the freedom struggle and non-violence during Civil Disobedience Movement.

What is important here- Non-Cooperation Movement

75. Harcourt Butler Committee was appointed in 1927 in order to examine
(a) the relations between the native states and the Indian National Congress
(b) the relations between the native states and all India Muslim League
(c) the relations between the native states and the Revolutionary Parties
(d) the relations between the native states and the Paramount Power

Answer (d)

Explanation
A three-member committee headed by Harcourt Butler, was appointed on December 16, 1927 to examine the relations between the native states and the paramount power, it clearly stated that “paramountcy must remain paramount”. The committee fully endorsed that the viceroy, should remain the Crown agent in dealing with the native states.

What is important here- Important Committees and Commissions

76. Which of the following statement/ statements is/are correct about Buddhist Sangha?
1. Rules made for the Buddhist sangha were written down in a book called the Sutta Pitaka.
2. Those who joined the sangha included brahmins, kshatriyas, merchants, labourers, barbers, courtesans and slaves.
3. Persons who were in the service of the King or an individual, or who were in debt have no bar to become a member of Sangha.

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

Answer (b)
The rules made for the Buddhist sangha were written down in a book called the **Vinaya Pitaka**. Those who worked for the king, like soldiers, had to take his permission and debtors that of creditors. Otherwise they will not be permitted to become members of sangha. Women had to take their husbands’ permission. Children had to take the permission of their parents and slaves that of their masters. **Men and women** who joined the sangha led simple lives. They meditated for most of the time, and went to cities and villages to beg for food during fixed hours. That is why they were known as bhikkhus (the Prakrit word for beggar) and bhikkhunis. Those who joined the sangha included brahmins, kshatriyas, merchants, labourers, barbers, courtesans and slaves.

**What is important here- Buddhism**

77. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Sufi saints?

1. Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti was the founder of Chishti Order of Sufism in the India.
2. Qutub Minar is named after Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki who was the disciple of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer (c)

**Explanation**

*Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti* was a 12th century sufi saint. He is also known as Gharib Nawaz (*Benefactor of the Poor*), was an Islamic scholar and philosopher from South Asia. Chishti introduced and established the **Chishti Order of Sufism** in the Indian subcontinent. The initial spiritual chain or silsila of the Chishti order in India, comprising Chishti, **Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki**, Fariduddin and **Nizamuddin Auliya**—each successive person being the disciple of the previous—includes the great Sufi saints of Indian history. Qutub Minar is named after Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki who was the disciple of *Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti*.

**What is important here- Bhakti- Sufi movements**

78. Consider the following statements about ‘Kabir’, the Bhakti saint:

1. Sakhi Granth, Anurag Sagar are compositions of Kabir.
2. Kabir justified formal worships such as Namaz, or bathing in rivers.
3. He was the most radical disciple of Ramananda.
4. He advocated perfect equality of shudras and brahmins.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer (a)

**Explanation**

He was the most radical disciple of Ramananda. He is seen as one who balanced the life of a householder, a mystic and a tradesman. Bijak, Sakhi Granth, Kabir Granthawali and Anurag Sagar are compositions of Kabir. The hallmark of Kabir's works consists of his two line couplets (Doha), which reflect his deep philosophical thinking. He criticized the existing social order and called for Hindu-Muslim unity. Kabir, lived in family of a Muslim weaver, strongly denounced idol worship, taking part in formal worship such as Namaz, pilgrimages or bathing in rivers. He wanted to preach a religion which was acceptable to all and that would unite all religions.

**What is important here- Bhakti Saints**

79. Consider the following statements about Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab:

1. He belongs to Sikh misl-confederacy called Sukerchaika.
2. He set up modern foundries to manufacture cannon at Lahore.
3. He recruited only Sikhas in his army and formed it on western lines.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Explanation
Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the founder of the Sikh Empire based in the Punjab region. He came to power in the early half of the 19th century, and his empire existed from 1799 to 1849. Born as the son of Maha Singh, the Commander of the Sukerchakia Misl—one of 12 Sikh Misls in Punjab during the 18th century—Ranjit Singh followed in his courageous father's footsteps to become an even greater leader. He built up a powerful, disciplined and well-equipped army along European line with the help of European structures. He also recruited Gurkhas, Biharis, Oriyas, Pathans, Dogras and Punjabi Muslims. He set up modern foundries to manufacture cannon at Lahore. He possessed the second-best army in Asia, the first being the army of the English East India Company. He was tolerant and liberal in religious matters. He appointed many Hindus and Muslims as officers. The most trusted of his ministers was Fakir Azizuddin (foreign affairs), while his finance minister was Dewan Dina Nath.

What is important here - Maharaja Ranjit Singh

80. With reference to the “Pabna Movement”, consider the following statements:
   1. It was a violent protest in which the peasants made armed attacks on the Zamindars.
   2. Zamindars enhanced rents beyond legal limits through a variety of cesses.
   3. The peasants of Pabna region had launched no-revenue campaigns.
   4. They got support from Intellectuals like Bankim Chandra Chettarji, RC Dutt, Surendranath Banerjee.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
(a) 1 and 4 only  (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only  (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer (c)

Explanation
During the 1870s and 1880s, large parts of Eastern Bengal witnessed agrarian unrest caused by oppressive practices of the Zamindars. The Zamindars resorted to enhanced rents beyond legal limits and prevented the tenants from acquiring occupancy rights under Act X of 1859. Having had enough of the oppressive regime, the peasants of Yusufshahi Pargana in Patna district formed an agrarian league or combination to resist the demands of the Zamindars. The league organised a rent strike—the ryots refused to pay the enhanced rents, challenging the Zamindars in the courts. Funds were raised by ryots to fight the court cases. The struggles spread throughout Patna and to other districts of East Bengal. The main form of struggle was that of legal resistance; there was very little violence. A number of young Indian intellectuals supported the peasants’ cause. These included Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, R.C. Dutt and the Indian Association under Surendranath Banerjea.

What is important here - Peasants Movements

81. Consider the following pairs:
   1. Dickie bird plan : Lord Wavell
   2. Cripps Mission : Maulana Azad
   3. C R Formula : Madan Mohan Malaviya
   4. August Offer : Lord Linlithgow

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
(a) 1, 2, 3 and 4  (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only  (d) 2 and 4 only

Answer (d)

Explanation
Dickie bird plan was the brain child of Lord Mount Batten which was also called Balkan plan which proposed balkanization. Nehru and Maulana Azad were the official negotiators for the Congress with Cripps. C R Formula or Rajaji Formula was proposed by C. Rajagopalachari which constituted the basis for Gandhi-Jhinna talks in 1944. August Offer was offered by the then viceroy Lord Linlithgow.

What is important here - Mount Batten plan
81. Which one of the following civilizations is known for rectangular, circular or cylindrical shaped soapstone seals?
(a) Mesopotamian (b) Roman
(c) Egyptian (d) Harappan

Answer (d)

**Explanation**

**Harappan Seal**

The most interesting part of the discovery relates to the seals - more than 2000 in number, made of *soapstone, terracotta and copper*. The seals give us useful information about the civilization of Indus valley. Some seals have human or animal figures on them. But the *cow* was not represented on the seals and *terracotta art of the Harappan culture*. Most of the seals have the *figures of real animals* while a few bear the *figure of mythical animals*. The seals are rectangular, circular or even cylindrical in shape. The seals even have an *inscription* of a sort of pictorial writing. Most of the seals have a knob at the back through which runs a hole. It is said that these seals were used by different associations or merchants for *stamping purposes*. They were also worn round the neck or the arm. The *seals* show the *culture and civilization* of the *Indus Valley people*. In particular, they indicate:

- Dresses, ornaments, hair-styles of people.
- Skill of artists and sculptors.
- Trade contacts and commercial relations.
- Religious beliefs.
- Script.

**What is important here- Indus Civilization**

82. Which of the following statements with regards to the Civil Disobedience movement is/are correct?

1. The movement received no response from business groups and peasantry.
2. The movement coincided with Ramosi uprisings in Maharashtra.
3. The movement was marked by the mass participation of women and students.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer (c)

**Explanation**

The movement received massive response from business groups and peasantry since they realized British government policies never protect or support the interests of Indian business class or peasantry. The movement was marked by the mass participation of women (perhaps, the largest scale women participation) and students. The movement did not coincide with Ramosi uprisings. *The Ramosis*, the *hill tribes of the Western Ghats*, had not reconciled to British rule and the British pattern of administration. They rose under Chittur Singh in 1822 and plundered the country around Satara. Again, there were eruptions in 1825-26 and the disturbances continued till 1829. The disturbance occurred again in 1839 over deposition and banishment of Raja Pratap Singh of Satara, and disturbances erupted in 1840-41 also. Finally, a superior British force restored order in the area.

**What is important here- Civil Disobedience Movement**

83. Gandhiji’s Harijan campaign did **not** include

(a) giving up the eating of carrion and beef
(b) promotion of education
(c) giving up liquor
(d) mass demonstrations

Answer (d)

**Explanation**

Gandhiji’s Harijan campaign included a programme of internal reform by Harijans: *promotion of education, cleanliness and hygiene, giving up the eating of carrion and beef, giving up liquor and the abolition of untouchability* among themselves. But it did not include a militant struggle by the Harijans themselves through *Satyagraha, breaking of caste taboos,*
mass demonstrations, picketing, and other forms of protests. At the same time, he was aware that his Harijan movement ‘must cause daily increasing awakening among the Harijans’ and that in time ‘whether the savarna Hindus like it or not, the Harijans would make good their position.’

What is important here—Gandhi’s Harijan Movements

84. Which among the following statements is/are correct about ‘Varna Parichay’?
1. It was a mid-19th century Bengali primer
2. It was written by Raja Rammohan Roy

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

Answer (a)

Explanation
Vidyasagar contributed enormously to the growth of the Bengali language and contributed to the evolution of the modern prose style in Bengali. He wrote a Bengali primer, ‘Varna Parichay’, which is used even today. Babuvivah was one of the important books authored by him and Shome prakash was the newspaper started by him. Through his writings, Vidyasagar made the people aware of the social problems and thus helped the growth of nationalism in India.

What is important here—Famous works and Authors

85. Which one of the following is the famous novel written in 1869 by Nazir Ahmad?
(a) The annihilation of caste
(b) Mirat-ul-urus
(c) Bahishti Zewar
(d) Al-Hilal

Answer (b)

Explanation
Mirat-ul-Uroos is an Urdu language novel written by Nazir Ahmad Dehlvi (1830–1912) and published in 1869. The novel contains themes promoting the cause of female education among Muslims in the society, and is credited for giving birth to an entire genre of fictional works promoting female literacy, in Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Kashmiri and other languages of the Indian subcontinent. The Al-Hilal was a weekly Urdu language newspaper established by the Indian leader Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and used as a medium for criticism of the British Raj in India. Bahishti Zewar is a volume of Islamic beliefs and practices written by Mawlanā Asrāf Ali Thanvi. The book is comprehensive handbook of fiqh, Islamic rituals and morals, it is especially aimed at the education of girls and women.

What is important here—Famous works and Authors

86. With reference to the Gupta taxation in Ancient India, consider the following:
1. Bhaga refers to the tax in kind of gifts, flowers, woods, fruits.
2. Halivakara was a plough tax, paid by every cultivator owning a plough.
3. Hiranya is the king’s customary share of the produce(1/6th).
4. Klipta refers to Purchase and sales tax.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 4 only

Answer (d)

Explanation
➢ Bhaga — It was king’s customary share of the produce normally amounting to 1/6th of the produce, paid by all cultivators.
➢ Bali — An additional compulsory cum oppressive tax. Originally it was a voluntary offering by the people to the king, but during the Gupta period, it seems to be compulsory and oppressive tax.
➢ Bhoga — Periodic supply of flowers, fire wood, fruits, etc. which the villages had to furnish to the king.
➢ Kara — A periodic tax levied on the villagers. It does not appear to be a part of the regular annual land tax.
➢ Klipta — Purchase and sales tax.
➢ Sulka — It was a royal share of merchandise brought into a town or harbor by merchants. It can be equated with the customs and tolls.
➢ Uparikara — There is no unanimity about its meaning and nature, but it was also an extra tax levied on all subjects.
➢ Udianga — A social security kind of tax. It was either a sort of police tax for the maintenance of police stations or a water tax. It was an extra tax levied upon the people.
➢ Upaklipta — More or less equated to klipta which was purchase and sales tax.
➢ Halivakara — It was a plough tax, paid by every cultivator owning a plough.
➢ Hiranya — Literally it means a tax payable in gold coins but in practice it was probably the king's share of certain crops paid in cash.

What is important here- Gupta Administrative reforms

87. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bhakti saint</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tukram</td>
<td>1. Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Surdas</td>
<td>2. Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Qutbuddin Bhaktiyar kaki</td>
<td>3. Delhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer (d)

Explanation

Tukram was a Bhakti saint from Maharashtra and contemporary of Sivaji and a great devotee of Vithal of Pandharpur(Maharashtra). Also, he was responsible for creating a background for Maratha nationalism.

Surdas (1483-1563) born in UP. He was the disciple of Vallabhacharya of south India. He popularized the Krishna cult by singing songs glorifying Krishna's childhood. He was the author of the Sur Sagar, Sur Sarawali etc. Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki was a Muslim Sufi mystic, saint and scholar of the Chishti Order from Delhi, in what is now India. He was the disciple and the spiritual successor of Moinuddin Chishti as head of the Chishti order, and the person to whom the Qutb Minar, Delhi is dedicated. Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, was a Sufi, preacher, ascetic, religious scholar, and philosopher from Sistan (Afghanistan), who eventually ended up settling in the Rajasthan and Ajmer was his main centre of work and he established the famous Chishti Order of Sufism.

What is important here- Bhakti- Sufi saints

88. Consider the following statements about Mahajanapadas:

1. Anguttara nikaya is the text which lists the sixteen Mahajan Padas.
2. Bimbisara was the first important ruler of Magadha Mahajanpada.
3. Bimbisara was succeeded by his son Bindusara.
4. The Sisunagas were succeeded by the Nandas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer (c)

Explanation

Buddhist and other texts make incidental references to 16 great nations which were in existence before the time of Buddha, but do not give any connected history except in the case of Magadha. In several passages, the ancient Buddhist text Anguttara Nikaya, gives a list of 16 great nations:

The Haryankas: Bimbisara (544-492 BC)

Magadha came into prominence under the leadership of Bimbisara (544-492 BC), who belonged to the Haryanka dynasty. He strengthened his position by marriage alliances.
Bimbisara was succeeded by his son Ajatasatru (492-460 BC). The Nandas (343-321 BC) ---
The Sisunagas were succeeded by the Nandas, who proved to be the most powerful rulers of Magadha. The Nandas were ruling over a vast area during the time of Alexander’s invasion.

What is important here- Mahajanapadas

89. Which one of the following Mahayanist Buddhist writers is regarded as the “Kant of India”?  
(a) Dharmakirti  
(b) Dinnaga  
(c) Vasubhandhu  
(d) Buddhaghosa

Answer (a)  
Explanation  
Dharmakirti lived in 7th century AD and was primary theorist of Buddhist Sankya. He was a teacher at the Nalanda University and a poet. He has written Seven Treatises on Valid Cognition. He has been called “Kant of India”.  
Asanga & Vasubandhu  
Both were half-brothers and proponents of Yogachara and Abhidhamma. Most important work of Vasubandhu was Abhidharmamoksha. He wrote several Sastras (“treatises”) holding that all seemingly external objects are only mental representations, and his work the Abhidharmakosa, is a systematization of Sarvastivada doctrine written before his conversion.  
Buddhaghosa  
Buddhaghosa lived the 5th century AD and is known to be one of the greatest Pali scholar. His name means “Voice of Buddha”. Considered to be most important commentator of the Theravada. His best-known work is the Visuddhimagga "Path of Purification", a comprehensive summary and analysis of the Theravada understanding of the Buddha’s path to liberation.  
Dinnaga ----He is considered to be the founder of Buddhist logic

What is important here- Buddhist scholars

90. Allahabad Pillar inscription  
1. Listed the achievements of Samudragupta.  
2. was issued in the language of Prakrit.  
3. was composed by Harisena, the court poet of Samudragupta.  
4. contained the inscriptions of Jahangir, the Mughal emperor.  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 3 and 4 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer (d)  
Explanation  
Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayag Prasasti) This was issued by Samudragupta and was composed by Harisena. It is written in very simple and refined Sanskrit in Champu kavya style. It lists achievements of Samudragupta. This Inscription is a eulogy of Samudragupta and mentions about the conquests of Samudragupta and boundaries of the Gupta Empire. It also mentions that more than five states in the frontier states surrendered and accepted his suzerainty. He had close contact with the kingdom of Ceylon and South East Asian colonies. The eulogy of Harisena describes him as hero of 100 battles. Also engraved on the stone are inscriptions by the Mughal emperor, Jahangir, from the 17th century and Asoka of Mauryan Empire.

What is important here- major pillar inscriptions

91. The Gujarat Sabha played a leading role in the agitation of Kheda Satyagraha. Its president was  
(a) Vallabhai Patel  
(b) Indulal Yagnik  
(c) Mahatma Gandhi  
(d) Rajagopalachari
Answer (c)  
**Explanation**  
The Gujarat Sabha played a leading role in the agitation of Kheda Satyagraha. Its president was Mahatma Gandhi.

**What is important here- Kheda Satyagraha**

92. The August Offer proposed by the then Viceroy of India, Lord Linlithgow, provided for  
(a) The establishment of an advisory war council  
(b) Transfer of power on universally agreed grounds  
(c) Approval for the Nehru constitution  
(d) Creation of Indian provincial government

Answer (a)  
**Explanation**  
**AUGUST OFFER, 8 AUGUST 1940**  
The fall of France temporarily softened the attitude of congress in India. Britain was in immediate danger of Nazi occupation. As the war was taking a menacing turn from the allied point of view congress offered to cooperate in the war if transfer of authority in India is done to an interim government. The government’s response was a statement of the viceroy known as the August Offer.

On 8 August 1940, early in the Battle of Britain, the Viceroy of India, Lord Linlithgow, made the so-called August Offer. The following proposals were put in:  
1. The establishment of an **advisory war council**  
2. After the war, a representative Indian body would be set up to frame a constitution for India.  
3. Viceroy’s **Executive Council** would be expanded without delay.  
4. The minorities were assured that the government would not transfer power “to any system of government whose authority is directly denied by large and powerful elements in Indian national life.”

**What is important here- August offer**

93. Which one of the following is a feature of the Nehru Report of 1928?  
(a) Federal form of government with residuary powers vested in the provinces  
(b) Federal form of government with residuary powers vested in the centre  
(c) Rejection of joint electorates  
(d) Rejection of dominion status

Answer (b)  
**Explanation**  
**IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS OF NEHRU REPORT**  
The Nehru report stated that the next immediate step for India must be ‘dominion status’, the Nehru report was approved by the congress at Calcutta in December 1928. Other important recommendations included rejection of separate electorates which had been the basis of constitutional reforms so far; instead, a demand for joint electorates with reservation of seats for Muslims at the centre and in provinces where they were in minority.

There should be **federal form of government** with residuary powers vested in the centre. It included a description of the machinery of government including a proposal for the creation of a Supreme Court and a suggestion that the **provinces should be linguistically determined**. It recommended for approval of nineteen fundamental rights including equal rights for women, right to form unions, and universal adult suffrage. Another proposal was full protection to cultural and religious interests of Muslims.

**What is important here- Nehru report**

94. The Diwani-i-kohi refers to  
(a) Department of slaves  
(b) Department of arrears  
(c) Department of agriculture  
(d) Department of correspondence
Important Central Departments during Delhi Sultanate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Function</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diwan-i-Risalat</td>
<td>Department foreign affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diwan-i-Ariz</td>
<td>Military department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diwan-i-Bandagan</td>
<td>Department of slaves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diwan-i-Mustakhraj</td>
<td>Department of arrears</td>
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<td>Department of agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diwan-i-Insha</td>
<td>Department of correspondence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is important here - Medieval Indian terms

95. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the final phase of RIN mutiny?
   1. Karachi became a major center of the mutiny.
   2. Sympathetic token strikes took place in military establishments in Madras.
   3. Delhi, Cochin, and Jamnagar shore establishments were not affected by the mutiny.
   4. Students didn't respond unlike other national movements.
   Select the correct answer using the code given below.
   (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4       (b) 1 and 2 only
   (c) 2 and 3 only        (d) 3 and 4 only

   Answer (b)

   Explanation
   The third phase was characterized by a display of solidarity by people in other parts of the county. **Students boycotted classes, hartals and processions** were organized to express sympathy with the students and ratings and to condemn official repression. In the RIN revolt, Karachi was a major centre, second only to Bombay. The news reached Karachi on 19 February, upon which the HMIS Hindustan along with one more ship and three shore establishments, went on a lightning strike. **Sympathetic token strikes** took place in military establishments in Madras. Vishakhapatnam, Calcutta, Delhi, Cochin, Jamnagar, the Andamans, Bahrain and Aden Seventy-eight ships and 20 shore establishments, involving 20,000 ratings, were affected.

What is important here - RIN Mutiny

96. With reference to Quit India Movement, which of the following is not a correct statement?
   1. It became popular by the name October Revolution.
   2. Peasants of all strata were the heart of the movement.
   3. The Cripps mission arrived in India during the Quit India movement.
   4. There were several communal clashes during the Quit India Movement.
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
   (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4       (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 1, 3 and 4 only     (d) 1 and 2 only

   Answer (c)

   Explanation
   ‘Quit India,’ ‘Bharat Choro’. This simple but powerful slogan launched “the legendary struggle which also became famous by the name of the ‘August Revolution.’ the failure of the Cripps Mission in April 1942 was one of the main reasons for the outbreak of Quit India movement. While it is true that Muslim mass participation in the Quit India movement was not high, yet it is also true that even Muslim League supporters not act as informers. Also, there was a total absence of any communal clashes, a sure sign that though the movement may not have aroused much support from among the majority of the Muslim masses, it did not arouse their hostility either. **Peasants of all strata, well-to-do as well as poor, were the heart of the movement.** Peasants, especially in East U.P. and Bihar, Midnapur in Bengal, Satara
in Maharashtra, also in other parts including Andhra, Gujarat and Kerala participated. Many small zamindars also participated especially in U.P. and Bihar.

**What is important here- Quit India Movement**

97. Which of the following statements aptly describes the meaning of swaraj according to Gandhiji?

1. Swaraj is the abandonment of the fear of death.
2. It is sovereignty of the people based on pure moral authority.
3. It is fruit of patience, perseverance, ceaseless toil, courage and intelligent appreciation of the environment.
4. With determination and courage, Swaraj could be obtained easily and quickly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**What is important here- Gandhiji’s ideals**

98. Consider the following statements about the Santhal uprisings of 1855-56:

1. The santhal uprising was fueled by the introduction of Mahalwari system in Bihar.
2. The Santhals were helped by a large number of non-tribal and poor dikus.
3. The Santhal rebels were treated very leniently by British officials.
4. The demand for creation of a separate district consisting of the Santhal Pargana was rejected by British.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer (b)

**Explanation**

The santhal uprising was triggered by the **disruption of their traditional agrarian system** and relation with their land. The **Permanent settlement** was introduced in Bengal Bihar and Orissa not Mahalwari. The permanent settlement disrupted the traditional agrarian system of the Santhals. The Santhal insurrection was helped by a large number of non-tribal and poor dikus. Gwalas (milkmen) and others helped the rebels with provisions and services; lohars (blacksmiths) accompanied the rebel bands, keeping their weapons in good shape. The British took **repressive measures**, arrested the **Santhal leaders** and quelled the rebellion. The Rebellion was pacified with the creation of a **separate district** consisting of the **Santhal Pargana**.

**What is important here- Tribal rebellions**

99. With reference to the Lucknow session of Indian National Congress – 1916, which of the statements given below is/are correct?

1. It strengthened the ideological alienation of Extremists.
2. The alliance between Congress and Muslim League was made in this session.
3. The Resolution condemning the Arms Act and Press Act were passed in this session.
4. Congress rejected the separate electorate proposal of Muslim League.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer (d)

**Explanation**

**LUCKNOW SESSION OF 1916 AND LUCKNOW PACT**

The 31st Session of the Congress was held at Lucknow in 1916. It was presided over by the **Ambica Charan Majumdar** who was a prominent lawyer and was actively associated with the Congress since its birth. After a lapse of about 10 years both the **Moderates** and **Extremists** were united again which was a good sign for the national movement. In this session the Congress and the Muslim League came closer to each other and they signed the historic Lucknow Pact. A **joint Reform Scheme** was sent to the Viceroy.

They decided to make a **united demand** for self-government. They were to join their hands in asking the Government that a majority of the members of the Legislative Councils to be elected.
They were to ask the Government that the Legislative Councils be invested with wider powers than before. They would make a **common demand** that at least **half the seats** in the **Viceroy's Executive Council** be filled with Indians. Thus, this session of 1916 cemented the **friendship between** the Congress and the Muslim League and promoted goodwill between the Hindus and the Muslims. Resolution condemning the **Arms Act** and **Press Act** were passed which had virtually reduced the people and the press to a condition of absolute helplessness.

**What is important here- Important Congress sessions**

100. Consider the following statements about the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909:

1. A provision for appointment of an Indian to Viceroy’s executive council was made for the first time.
2. Surendra Nath Banerjee became the first Indian appointed to the viceroy’s executive council and he was given law portfolio.
3. They contained provisions that ensured that British officials retained their majority in the Imperial Legislative Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer (c)**

**Explanation**

**THE INDIAN COUNCILS ACT OF 1909**

The Act provided for the expansion of the Legislative Councils at both the levels, central as well as provincial. It maintained the majority of official members in the Central Legislative Council. There were four categories of members i.e. ex-officio members, nominated officials, nominated non-officials and elected members. It provided for non-official majority in the Provincial Legislatures but then, the combined strength of official and nominated non-official members out-numbered the elected members. **INDIAN TO VICEROY’S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

A provision for appointment of an Indian to Viceroy’s executive council was made for the first time. **Satyendra Prakash Sinha** became the first Indian appointed to the **viceroy's executive council** and he was given **law portfolio**.

**What is important here- The Constitutional reforms during the colonial rule**
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