

General Studies

History

1. Ans: a

Both Buddhism and Jainism share the following commonalities:

1. Avoidance of extreme practices, promoting a middle path.
2. Rejection of the authority of the Vedas.
3. Denial of the effectiveness of rituals in achieving spiritual liberation.
4. Emphasis on non-violence (Ahimsa) and compassion towards all living beings.

2. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Ramanuja (1017–1137 CE) was a prominent philosopher and theologian who contributed significantly to the Bhakti movement through his teachings on Vishishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism), emphasizing devotion to Lord Vishnu.

Statement 2 is correct: The Bhakti movement aimed to establish a universal religion focused on devotion to a single deity and sought to transcend caste distinctions, advocating for equality and personal connection with the divine. Statement 3 is incorrect: Tulsidas (1532–1623 CE) is best known for his devotional works dedicated to Lord Rama, not Krishna. His most famous work is the "Ramcharitmanas," which extols the life and virtues of Lord Rama.

3. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Indus Valley Civilization is renowned for its advanced urban planning, including the construction of well-planned cities such as Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, which featured sophisticated drainage systems, standardized brick sizes, and organized layouts.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The script of the Indus Valley Civilization, known as the Indus script, has not been fully deciphered. While many inscriptions have been found, the exact nature of the script and the information it conveys remain largely undeciphered, leaving gaps in our understanding of their language and administrative practices. Statement 3 is correct: Trade and commerce were indeed significant in the Indus Valley Civilization. There is evidence of extensive trade networks connecting the Indus Valley with Mesopotamia, evidenced by artifacts and trade goods found in both regions, indicating a well-established trade relationship. Statement 4 is incorrect: The primary religion of the Indus Valley Civilization is not fully understood, and there is no clear evidence

of a pantheon of gods similar to later Hindu deities like Shiva. The religious practices are inferred from artifacts and seals, but the specific details of their religious beliefs and deities remain unclear.

4. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Sixteen Mahajanapadas were prominent political entities described in Buddhist and Jain texts, particularly during the 6th century BCE. They are considered important in the historical development of ancient India.

Statement 2 is correct: Magadha, Kosala, and Vatsa were indeed among the Sixteen Mahajanapadas known for their political and economic influence. These regions played significant roles in the political landscape of ancient India, with Magadha, in particular, becoming a major power.

Statement 3 is correct: The interactions among the Sixteen Mahajanapadas facilitated the development of trade routes and urbanization. The increased trade and economic activity contributed to the growth of cities and trade networks across ancient India.

5. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Vedic texts, including the Samhitas (e.g., Rigveda, Samaveda), Brahmanas, and Aranyakas, provide detailed descriptions of Vedic rituals, ceremonies, and societal norms. These texts are crucial for understanding the religious and social practices of the Vedic period.

Statement 2 is correct: The Upanishads, part of the later Vedic literature, primarily focus on philosophical and metaphysical concepts, such as Brahman (the ultimate reality) and Atman (the individual soul). They shift from the ritualistic focus of earlier Vedic texts to exploring the nature of reality and the self.

Statement 3 is correct: Archaeological evidence, such as pottery, inscriptions, and artifacts, plays a significant role in reconstructing Vedic society and culture. It helps in understanding daily life, trade practices, and religious practices, providing a complementary perspective to the textual sources.

Statement 4 is incorrect: While the Rigveda is one of the oldest Vedic texts, it primarily contains hymns and prayers rather than detailed accounts of socio-political structures like kingship and governance. Information about the socio-political structure is more fully developed in later texts and sources.

6. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Harappan burial system included a variety of grave goods, such as pottery, beads, and tools. These items reflect the economic prosperity of the Harappan Civilization and their extensive trade networks, indicating that the society had access to and engaged in the exchange of goods both locally and regionally.

Statement 2 is correct: Standardized weights and measures have been found in Harappan archaeological sites, which suggest a well-developed system of trade and economic regulation. These standardized measures indicate sophisticated economic practices and trade management. Statement 3 is incorrect: There is limited evidence to suggest that Harappan burials were commonly accompanied by luxury items indicative of high social stratification. Most burials contained practical items and goods that suggest a more uniform distribution of wealth rather than significant social stratification.

7. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Jainism is indeed divided into two major sects: the Digambaras and the Svetambaras. The key difference is that Digambaras advocate complete renunciation of worldly possessions, including clothing, while Svetambaras permit their ascetics to wear white robes. Statement 2 is incorrect: While Jainism does have a unique perspective on karma, it does not describe karma as a physical substance. Instead, karma is understood as a form of subtle matter that influences the soul's cycle of birth and rebirth. The removal of karma involves rigorous ascetic practices, but it is not described as a physical substance that attaches to the soul in the literal sense. Statement 3 is correct: Rishabhanatha (also known as Rishabha), the first Tirthankara, is traditionally credited with establishing many foundational aspects of Jainism, including the principles of non-violence, truth, and asceticism. He is considered a pivotal figure in the formation of Jain doctrine. Statement 4 is correct: Jain scriptures include the Agamas, which are considered to be based on the teachings of Mahavira. The Tattvartha Sutra, authored by Umaswati, is a later text that provides a systematic presentation of Jain philosophy and practice, integrating various teachings and concepts into a coherent framework.

8. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Pativedakas: These were special officials or envoys who acted as informers or special messengers. They reported back to the king about the public sentiment and other important developments within the empire. Pulisani: These were also special officials responsible for gathering and conveying information about various

events and public opinion from different regions of the empire.

9. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Ajivikas were indeed known for their doctrine of "Niyati" or determinism, which posited that all events are predestined and that human actions have no ultimate impact on the course of events. This concept set them apart from other Shramana sects like Buddhism and Jainism, which emphasized karma and personal effort.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Ajivikas did not reject the concepts of karma and rebirth; rather, their deterministic view implied that the cycle of birth and rebirth was predetermined and inescapable. They focused on ascetic practices, but their understanding of karma was different from that of Jainism and Buddhism.

Statement 3 is correct: Makkhali Gosala, the founder of the Ajivika sect, was a contemporary of both Mahavira and Gautama Buddha. His teachings on determinism influenced the broader philosophical discourse of the time, impacting early Buddhist and Jain thought.

10. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Ashoka's Dhamma is indeed reflected in the edicts carved on pillars and rocks across his empire. These edicts promote principles such as non-violence (ahimsa), tolerance, and ethical conduct, which are in line with Buddhist teachings, although Ashoka's Dhamma also incorporates broader ethical guidelines not limited to Buddhism.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Ashoka's Dhamma did not enforce strict religious orthodoxy or require subjects to adhere to Buddhism. Instead, it promoted a broad ethical framework based on moral conduct and tolerance for different religious practices. Ashoka encouraged respect for all religions and aimed to foster harmony rather than impose a singular religious practice.

Statement 3 is correct: Ashoka's Dhamma included initiatives for animal welfare and the establishment of medical facilities. He is known for his efforts to reduce animal sacrifices and for setting up hospitals and rest houses for the benefit of both humans and animals, reflecting his commitment to compassion and public well-being.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The Dhamma was not a purely secular doctrine. Although it included aspects of administrative efficiency, it was deeply connected to religious and ethical teachings, particularly influenced by Buddhism. Ashoka's Dhamma aimed to promote ethical governance and social harmony based on moral and spiritual principles.

11. Ans: d

Option d is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Buddha's first sermon, the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, was delivered at Sarnath and marks the beginning of the Buddha's public teaching of the Dharma. This event is significant in Buddhist history as the formal beginning of the Buddhist monastic community.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The concept of "Anatta" (or "Anatman") in Buddhism actually refers to the doctrine of non-self or the absence of a permanent, unchanging self or soul. It is contrary to the belief in a permanent self or soul, which is a key teaching in Buddhism.

Statement 3 is correct: Mahayana Buddhism emphasizes the path of the Bodhisattva, a being who seeks enlightenment not only for themselves but also for the benefit of all sentient beings. This branch includes various schools such as Zen and Pure Land, each with its unique practices and teachings.

12. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer 1-D, 2-A, 3-C, 4-B

Kabir is associated with Uttar Pradesh (D).

Vallabhacharya was in Gujarat (A). Mirabai hailed from Rajasthan (C). Sri Chaitanya was in Bengal (B).

13. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Origin of the universe : Rig Veda

The Rig Veda contains hymns and verses that discuss various aspects of the origin of the universe, including the famous Hymn of Creation (Nasadiya Sukta).

Statement 2 is incorrect: Four ashrams (Brahmacarya, Grahasthya, Vanaprastha, Sannyasa) : Jabala Upanishad

The concept of the four ashrams is indeed an important aspect of Vedic literature, but it is more directly associated with the Manusmriti and other texts, rather than the Jabala Upanishad.

Statement 3 is correct: Mention of eastern and western seas : Atreya Brahmana

The Atreya Brahmana, a Vedic text, mentions the eastern and western seas, reflecting the geographical knowledge of the time.

14. Ans: d

Option d is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The plough or hoe was not found at any site from this period.

Evidence for the use of the plough or hoe in the Chalcolithic Age is not well-documented. Tools from this period suggest early agricultural practices, but the specific use of ploughs or hoes is not definitively confirmed.

Statement 2 is incorrect: People from this age were familiar with horses.

Evidence for the use of horses during the Chalcolithic

Age is not well-established. Horses became more prominent in later periods, such as the Iron Age.

Statement 3 is correct: Infant mortality rates were very high during this time.

High infant mortality rates are a common characteristic of pre-modern societies due to limited medical knowledge and health care.

Statement 4 is correct: Their subsistence was based on agriculture and cattle rearing.

The Chalcolithic Age is characterized by the development of agriculture and cattle rearing, indicating a shift from purely hunting and gathering to more settled agricultural practices.

15. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer Statement 1 is correct: Kalpa Sutra – Bhadrabahu

The Kalpa Sutra is traditionally attributed to Bhadrabahu. Bhadrabahu is known for his contributions to Jain literature, but the Kalpa Sutra was not solely authored by him.

Statement 2 is correct: Samayasara – Kundakunda

The Samayasara is a well-known work of Jain philosophy authored by Kundakunda. It is a significant text in Jain literature, focusing on the nature of the soul and the practice of Jainism.

Statement 3 is correct: Tattvartha Sutra – Umasvati

The Tattvartha Sutra is a major Jain text authored by Umasvati (also known as Umasvami). It provides a comprehensive summary of Jain philosophy and is a key text in Jainism.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Shatkhandagama – Jinasena

The Shatkhandagama is a significant Jain text but is attributed to a different author, namely, Pushpadanta. Jinasena is known for his work on the "Jinaprabha" and "Mahapurana," not the Shatkhandagama.

16. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Aihole inscription details the defeat of Pulakeshin II by Harshavardhana of the Chalukya dynasty.

The Aihole inscription, also known as the Aihole Prasasti, was composed by the Chalukyan king Pulakeshin II's court poet, Ravikirti. It primarily records the achievements and victories of Pulakeshin II, not his defeat. The defeat of Pulakeshin II by Harshavardhana is not mentioned in the Aihole inscription; instead, it is recorded in the accounts of other inscriptions, such as those by Harshavardhana's own inscriptions.

Statement 2 is correct: The Mandsaur inscriptions record Yashodharman's victory over the Huna ruler Mihirakula.

The Mandsaur inscriptions, particularly those from

the reign of Yashodharman, commemorate his victory over the Hun ruler Mihirakula. These inscriptions highlight Yashodharman's significant military achievement and his status as a victorious ruler.

Statement 3 is correct: The Besnagar inscription mentions the Greek ambassador Heliodorus, who erected a pillar in honor of the Hindu god Vishnu.

The Besnagar inscription, attributed to the Greek ambassador Heliodorus, commemorates the erection of a pillar in honor of the Hindu god Vishnu. Heliodorus, a Greek envoy during the reign of the Indian king Bhagabhadra, converted to Hinduism and made this significant gesture to honor Vishnu.

17. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

The ancient "Cyclopean wall" is located in Rajgir, Bihar. This wall, constructed with massive, undressed stones fitted together, is noted for its resemblance to ancient Greek walls. Rajgir, the capital city of King Bimbisara and his son Ajatshatru, who were contemporaries of the Buddha, was surrounded by this fortified wall. The wall, which had a width of about 14 feet, was named the Cyclopean wall due to its similarity to Greek structures. Bastions were constructed at intervals to reinforce the wall. Pali texts describe 32 large gates and 64 smaller ones for entry into the fortified city. A significant portion of this ancient wall, originally 40 km long, still exists along the Ratnagiri hill, starting from the base and extending up the hillside. It remains one of the few significant pre-Mauryan stone structures discovered, with traces still visible, particularly near the exit of Rajgir towards Gaya.

18. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: Although "Bali" originally had religious connotations as a voluntary offering, during the Mauryan period, it became a type of tax levied on agricultural produce. It was not strictly a religious tribute but rather a form of taxation.

Statement 2 is correct: Bhaga referred to the royal share of the produce.

Correct. "Bhaga" referred to the portion of agricultural produce that was collected as tax by the state. It was the king's share, usually a fixed percentage of the harvest.

19. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

In the Vedic period, the term "Vrihi" referred to rice. It is one of the oldest terms in Sanskrit used for rice cultivation, indicating that rice was known and grown during that time, particularly in later Vedic texts.

20. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Harsha's justice system is known to have been relatively humane, and the death

penalty was rarely imposed. Instead, alternative forms of punishment were often preferred.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Harsha's reign is generally seen as more lenient compared to the earlier Gupta period, with less emphasis on harsh punishments.

Statement 3 is correct: Life imprisonment was indeed a punishment for serious crimes like conspiracy or plotting against the king, rather than execution.

Statement 4 is correct: While the death penalty was avoided, corporal punishment, such as physical penalties, was used for serious offenses, including theft and assault.

21. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Abdur Razzak, a Persian traveler and ambassador from Herat, visited the Vijayanagar Empire in the mid-15th century. He provided valuable descriptions of the city of Vijayanagar, its people, and its governance.

Statement 2 is correct: Nicolo de Conti, an Italian traveler, visited the Vijayanagar Empire in the early 15th century. His accounts offer insights into the economy and architecture of the empire.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Ibn Battuta, a Moroccan traveler, visited India in the 14th century, but his travels did not include the Vijayanagar Empire. His journey was during the Delhi Sultanate period, prior to the rise of Vijayanagar.

22. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Agrahara grants - These were land grants typically given to Brahmins. They were perpetual in nature, hereditary, and exempt from taxation.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Devagrahara grants - These referred to land grants made either to Brahmins or as gifts to merchants. They were often intended for the repair and maintenance of temples, as well as for religious activities.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Secular grants - These grants were provided to the feudatories under the Gupta Empire, often in recognition of their service or allegiance to the empire, and were not connected to religious purposes.

23. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Bhakti movement in South India during early medieval times was primarily driven by popular saints known as the Nayanars and Alvars. The Nayanars were devoted to Shiva, while the Alvars were devoted to Vishnu.

Statement 2 is correct: These saints viewed religion as a deeply personal and emotional connection based on love between the devotee and God, rather than mere

formal or ritualistic worship.

Statement 3 is correct: The Bhakti saints rejected strict austerities and, for the most part, disregarded caste-based inequalities, although they did not actively seek to dismantle the caste system.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The Nayanars and Alvars spread their message of devotion and love by traveling and composing their works in the Tamil language. Among the Alvars was a woman saint, Andal. Later, a series of scholars, led by Nathamuni, compiled and systematized the teachings of the Alvars, elevating their status to be on par with the Vedas.

24. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Satavahana rulers were patrons of Vedic traditions and performed sacrifices like the Ashvamedha and Vajapeya to assert their power and legitimacy.

Statement 2 is correct: The Satavahanas were also associated with the worship of various Vaishnava deities, including Krishna and Vasudeva, indicating their syncretic religious practices.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Mahayana Buddhism gained significant popularity during the Satavahana period, particularly among the artisan and trading classes, who contributed to the construction of stupas and other Buddhist monuments.

25. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Gupta Empire is known for introducing gold coins called Dinars, which were modeled after Roman coins, indicating extensive trade relations.

Statement 2 is correct. Gupta rulers, like Samudragupta, often depicted themselves performing Vedic sacrifices, such as Ashvamedha, on their coins to project their power and religious legitimacy.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Although the Gupta kings had significant power, their administration was more decentralized, with considerable autonomy given to local governors and feudatories.

Statement 4 is correct: The Gupta silver coins, known as Rupakas, were indeed used for trade, reflecting the economic prosperity of the empire and its interaction with foreign markets.

26. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: Overseas trade was highly significant during the Sangam period, especially with regions like Rome, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. Tamil kingdoms, particularly the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas, were known for their flourishing maritime trade routes, exporting goods such as spices, pearls, and textiles.

Statement 2 is correct: The Sangam period saw thriving maritime trade, with South Indian goods like pepper, spices, pearls, and textiles being exported to Rome and Southeast Asia. The port towns of these kingdoms were important hubs for international trade.

Statement 3 is correct: Agriculture formed the backbone of the Sangam economy, with rice being the staple crop. Sugarcane and other grains were also cultivated, and irrigation practices helped in boosting agricultural output.

27. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Pallavas were known for their contributions to rock-cut architecture, particularly the construction of the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram. The Pallavas are famous for their contributions to early South Indian temple architecture, and the Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram is a UNESCO World Heritage site, showcasing their mastery of rock-cut temples.

Statement 2 is correct: The Chalukyas of Badami are known for developing the Vesara style, which is a blend of Nagara and Dravidian styles of temple architecture, evident in structures like the Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Rashtrakutas' capital, Kanchipuram, became a prominent center of learning and culture during their rule. While the Rashtrakutas were patrons of learning and culture, Kanchipuram was historically significant under the Pallavas.

28. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Bengal Sultanate under the rule of the Ilyas Shahi dynasty was known for promoting the development of Bengali literature, particularly in the form of court poetry.

Statement 2 is correct: The kingdom of Kashmir, under the rule of the Karkota dynasty, made significant advancements in the field of Sanskrit scholarship, including the works of Kalhana especially under rulers like Lalitaditya, was a prominent center of Sanskrit learning. Kalhana's Rajatarangini, a historical chronicle, is a famous work from Kashmir.

Statement 3 is correct: The Jaunpur Sultanate, also referred to as the "Shiraz of the East," became a center of Persian art, architecture, and education during the reign of Ibrahim Shah Sharqi.

29. Ans: d

Option d is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Only male members above the age of 35 who owned land and paid taxes were eligible to be part of the village assemblies (Sabhas). Other criteria included land ownership, tax payment, and a minimum age requirement.

Statement 2 is correct: The candidate must have

knowledge of the Vedas and a clean record, not just of the candidate but also of their family over three generations, were essential qualifications for eligibility in the Chola local self-government.

Statement 3 is correct: There were rules preventing individuals who had served in a local administrative post from being immediately re-elected, ensuring a rotation of responsibility and preventing power consolidation.

30. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Gupta Empire, often referred to as the "Golden Age of India," flourished during the 4th to 6th centuries CE. The Gupta Empire, known for its advancements in science, arts, literature, and mathematics.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The Rashtrakutas rose to power in the Deccan region around the mid-8th century CE and continued to dominate until the 10th century CE.

Statement 3 is correct: The Vijayanagara Empire, founded by Harihara and Bukka, rose to prominence in the early 14th century CE and lasted until the mid-17th century CE. The Vijayanagara Empire lasted until the Battle of Talikota in 1565, after which it went into decline, though it lingered in diminished form for some time.

Thus, the correct answer is (b) 1 and 3 only.

31. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

a. Chola Empire – Rajaraja I: Rajaraja I was a prominent Chola ruler who expanded the empire and built the famous Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur.

b. Gupta Empire – Chandragupta I: Chandragupta I was the founder of the Gupta Empire and is credited with laying the foundation for the empire's expansion.

c. Vijayanagara – Krishnadevaraya: Krishnadevaraya was the most celebrated ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire, known for his military conquests and contributions to art and literature.

d. Maurya Empire – Ashoka: Ashoka, the famous Mauryan ruler, is remembered for his role in spreading Buddhism and his policies of non-violence after the Kalinga War.

32. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The position of the Peshwa in the Maratha Empire evolved into that of a Prime Minister. Initially, the role of Peshwa was appointed by the Chhatrapati (the Maratha king), but over time, it became hereditary, particularly under the Bhat family (starting with Balaji Vishwanath Peshwa) and later under the Bhat family members, such as Bajji Rao I, Balaji Bajji Rao II, and Madhav Rao I & II. The Peshwa's role was crucial in the administration and

governance of the Maratha Empire.

Statement 2 is correct: The Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were indeed types of taxes imposed by the Marathas. The Chauth was a tax of 25% levied on the revenue of territories outside Maratha control, which was meant as a protection money for not attacking these regions. The Sardeshmukhi was an additional 10% tax levied in regions where the Marathas claimed some level of authority or suzerainty. Both these taxes were a significant part of the Maratha administration and revenue system.

33. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Eripatti: This term refers to land whose revenue was specifically set aside for the maintenance of village tanks. These tanks were essential for irrigation and water supply in ancient India. (Correctly Matched)

Taniyurs: These were villages that were donated to Brahmins, either individually or in groups. This practice was part of land grants made for various purposes, including religious and educational benefits. (Correctly Matched) Ghatikas: Ghatikas were indeed educational institutions, but they were typically associated with temples and were often used for teaching religious and scholarly subjects. (Correctly Matched)

34. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Ryotwari system involved direct settlement between the state and the individual cultivator, with land revenue being assessed on the basis of the land's productivity and the cultivator's capacity to pay.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Mahalwari system was characterized by the collection of land revenue through a middleman known as the zamindar, who was responsible for the revenue assessment and collection from a group of villages.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Zamindari system, introduced in Bengal, involved revenue collection through intermediaries called mahaldars, who had extensive control over the land and were responsible for revenue collection from the entire estate

35. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: Stupa is a pre-Buddhist tumuli in which śrama'as were buried in a seated position called chaitya. The term "stupa" comes from the Sanskrit word "stūpa," which means "heap" or "pile." Originally, stupas were simple mounds of earth or stones that served as commemorative markers for important events or burial sites.

Statement 2 is correct: One of the primary functions of a stupa is to serve as a repository of relics. Relics are objects associated with the Buddha, such as his physical remains, personal belongings, or items used

by him. They are considered sacred and hold great spiritual significance in Buddhism.

Statement 3 is correct: Stupas are also associated with votive and commemorative purposes. Stupas are often built as acts of devotion and as offerings to the Buddha or other enlightened beings. Stupas are also constructed to commemorate significant events, individuals, or historical sites. For example, stupas might be built to mark the birthplace, enlightenment site, or the site of the Buddha's parinirvana (passing away).

36. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: Manigramam - A unit of land during the Chola period

The term Manigramam refers to a prominent merchant guild or trading association during the Chola period, not a unit of land.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Ur - A Brahmin village during the Chola period

The term Ur refers to a village or a settlement in general during the Chola period, and it was not specifically a Brahmin village.

Statement 3 is correct: Vativaykkal - A traditional irrigation practice using canals during the Chola period

Vativaykkal refers to a traditional irrigation practice using wells rather than canals. It was used for water management and irrigation.

Statement 4 is correct: Eriyam - A tax for the maintenance of irrigation during the Chola period.

Eriyam was indeed a tax levied for the maintenance of irrigation systems, including tanks and reservoirs, during the Chola period.

37. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: Akbar promoted the policy of Sulh-i-Kul (universal tolerance), which aimed to foster peaceful coexistence among different religious communities in his empire.

Statement 2 is correct: He established a new syncretic religion called Din-i Ilahi, which combined elements of various religious traditions, including Hinduism, Islam, and Zoroastrianism.

Statement 3 is correct: Akbar's religious views included abolishing the Jizya tax on non-Muslims, as part of his broader policy of religious tolerance and inclusivity.

38. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Buddhism - While Buddhism has its own significant texts and sutras, such as the Tripitaka and Mahayana sutras, the mentioned works are not from Buddhist tradition.

Jainism - The Kalakacharyakatha is a Jain text that

deals with the life of the Tirthankara Kalakacharya. The Sangrahi Sutra and Uttarahyana Sutra are also Jain texts focusing on Jain teachings and ethics. Therefore, all three works are prominent in Jainism.

Bhakti - Bhakti literature is associated with devotional Hindu traditions, and while it includes many devotional texts, it does not include the works mentioned.

Vedic - The Vedic tradition includes texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, and Brahmanas, which are distinct from the Jain texts listed.

39. Ans: d

Statement 1 The art of paper-making was actually introduced in India by Buddhist monks from China during the 7th century CE, long before the Sultanate period. This statement is incorrect.

Statement 2 The Bahmani Sultanate did indeed introduce gunpowder technology in India in the 14th century CE. This statement is correct.

Statement 3 The Persian Wheel was introduced in India during the Sultanate period, specifically during the Delhi Sultanate (13th-14th century CE), not during the Mughal era. This statement is incorrect.

40. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

The term Shalabhanjika refers to a figure believed to be a woman whose touch caused trees to bloom and bear fruit. This motif was likely considered auspicious and was incorporated into the decoration of stupas. The presence of the Shalabhanjika motif suggests that Buddhism was enriched by various pre-existing beliefs and practices. Many elements of Buddhist art, such as those found in Sanchi, were influenced by these earlier traditions.

41. Ans: d

Option d is the correct answer

The term Ziyarat refers to the pilgrimage to the tombs of Sufi saints. This practice is widespread across the Muslim world and is undertaken as an occasion to seek the spiritual blessings (barakat) of the Sufi saints.

42. Ans: d

Option d is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: He imposed an octroi duty on grains.

Sikandar Lodhi imposed an octroi duty on grains, which was a tax collected on goods entering a city or town.

Statement 2 is correct: He introduced a new standard unit for land measurement.

Sikandar Lodhi introduced a standardized unit of land measurement called the Guz, which facilitated more consistent land administration and revenue collection.

Statement 3 is incorrect: He had several rare Sanskrit works on music translated into Persian.

Sikandar Lodhi is not known for translating Sanskrit

works on music into Persian. This activity was more characteristic of the Mughal period, particularly under Akbar.

Statement 4 is correct: He initiated reforms in the revenue collection system to improve efficiency.

Sikandar Lodhi implemented the "Dastur-ul-Amal" (Regulations of Revenue), which aimed to streamline and standardize the revenue collection process, enhancing its efficiency and reducing corruption.

43. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

The terms masattuvan in Tamil, and setthis and sathavahas in Prakrit, refer to successful merchants. These merchants were often extremely wealthy due to their profitable trade in goods such as spices, textiles, and medicinal plants. These items were transported across the Arabian Sea to the Mediterranean, highlighting the merchants' significant role in trade.

44. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Razm Nama is a Persian translation of the Sanskrit epic, which refers to the Mahabharata.

Ramayana - This is a major Sanskrit epic attributed to Valmiki, detailing the life and adventures of Rama. The Razm Nama does not refer to the Ramayana.

Upanishads - These are ancient Indian texts that form the philosophical basis of Hinduism, focusing on meditation and the nature of ultimate reality. The Razm Nama is not related to the Upanishads.

Mahabharata - This is an ancient Indian epic that details the story of the Kurukshetra War and the fates of the Kaurava and Pandava princes. Razm Nama is indeed a Persian translation of the Mahabharata.

Manu Smriti - This is an ancient legal text outlining the laws and regulations for the Hindu society. The Razm Nama does not pertain to the Manu Smriti.

45. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Banskhera inscription is associated with the Mauryan Empire.

The Banskhera inscription, discovered in the Banskhera village in Uttar Pradesh, is associated with the post-Mauryan period, specifically the Shunga dynasty, not the Mauryan Empire.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The earliest inscriptions were composed in the Pali language.

The earliest inscriptions, such as those by Ashoka, were written in Brahmi script and used languages like Prakrit, not Pali. Pali was primarily used in later Buddhist texts.

Statement 3 is correct: These inscriptions were used to address administrative and religious issues.

Early inscriptions, particularly those from the Mauryan period, were used to communicate both administrative

orders and religious edicts.

46. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The caste system was closely linked to craft production, with members of a common craft forming collective groups.

In Vijayanagara society, the caste system was indeed intertwined with craft production. Artisans and craftsmen often belonged to specific castes and formed guilds or collective groups related to their trades.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Domingo Paes noted a growing involvement of Brahmins in the military.

Domingo Paes, a Portuguese traveler who visited Vijayanagara in the 16th century, did not specifically note an increasing presence of Brahmins in the military. Brahmins were primarily involved in religious and scholarly activities rather than military roles.

Statement 3 is correct: Physical exercises were popular among men, and wrestling was a significant sport and form of entertainment.

Physical exercises, including wrestling, were indeed popular among men in Vijayanagara. Wrestling was an important sport and a popular form of entertainment during that period.

47. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

In the Rashtrakuta administration, Vishayapatis were officials responsible for overseeing large administrative divisions or districts (Vishayas), while Bhogapatis managed smaller subdivisions within these districts.

48. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The early temple architecture in India was heavily influenced by Buddhist monastic structures, with an emphasis on rock-cut caves and monolithic shrines.

Early Indian temple architecture was indeed influenced by Buddhist rock-cut caves, which were among the earliest examples of monumental stone architecture in India. These rock-cut structures, like those found at Ajanta and Ellora, served as precedents for later temple designs.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Dravidian style of temple architecture, characterized by towering gopurams and intricate sculptures, was primarily developed during the Chola dynasty.

While the Chola dynasty made significant contributions to Dravidian architecture, including the development of towering gopurams (gateway towers) and elaborate sculptures, the Dravidian style itself had earlier origins, including contributions from the Pallavas and Chalukyas before the Chola period.

Statement 3 is correct: The Nagara style of temple architecture, known for its curvilinear spires and intricate carvings, reached its peak during the Gupta Empire.

The Nagara style, characterized by its curvilinear shikhara (spire) and detailed carvings, flourished during the Gupta Empire, which is often considered a golden age of Indian art and architecture.

49. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: Firuz Shah Bahmani promoted the study of astronomy and established an observatory near Daulatabad.

Although Firuz Shah Bahmani was known for his interest in various fields including science, the observatory he established was not near Daulatabad. He was more known for his contributions in architecture and other administrative reforms.

Statement 2 is incorrect: He continued the expansion of the Bahmani Sultanate by defeating Deva Raya I of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Firuz Shah Bahmani did not achieve significant military victories over Deva Raya I. The expansion of the Bahmani Sultanate did not notably involve defeating Deva Raya I.

Statement 3 is correct: He moved the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar to strengthen his rule.

Firuz Shah Bahmani shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar to enhance administrative efficiency and consolidate his control over the Sultanate.

50. Ans: d

Option d is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Delhi Sultanate's administrative structure was organized into Iqtas, with each Iqta being governed by a military officer known as an Iqtadar.

The Delhi Sultanate implemented the Iqta system, where the empire was divided into administrative units called Iqtas. Each Iqta was managed by an officer known as an Iqtadar, who was responsible for its administration and revenue collection.

Statement 2 is correct: The Delhi Sultanate introduced the concept of Jizya tax specifically for non-Muslims, as part of its revenue system.

The Jizya tax was levied on non-Muslims as a part of the Delhi Sultanate's revenue system. It was a common practice in Islamic states during this period to impose a tax on non-Muslims.

Statement 3 is correct: The economic system under the Delhi Sultanate included the establishment of market regulations and a standardized currency to facilitate trade.

The Delhi Sultanate did indeed establish market regulations and introduced a standardized currency to enhance trade and economic stability. This included the issuance of coins that facilitated commerce.

51. Ans: d

Option d is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: it acknowledges that the establishment of the bhikkhuni sangha was a significant advancement for women in Buddhism, allowing them to seek spiritual enlightenment despite the gender biases of the time.

Statement 2 is correct: the Vinaya Pitaka did include additional rules for nuns, indicating a more stringent regulatory environment for female monastics.

Statement 3 is correct: garudhammas as rules that, while allowing for the inclusion of women in monastic life, also maintained their subordinate status relative to monks.

52. Ans: A

- Special handicrafts are found in almost every region of India. As such Andhra Pradesh is famous for its Bidri work and Pochampally's silk sarees not Tamil Nadu. Hence 1 statement is incorrect. Tamil Nadu is known for copper sculptures and Kanjeevaram sarees. Rajasthan is famous for its shining blue pot and Meenakari work, hence statement 2 is incorrect. Mysore is famous for silk, sandalwood items. Chanderi in Madhya Pradesh, Kosa Silk Saree, Assam's cane furniture, Kashmir is famous for embroidered shawls, galleries and walnut wood furniture.

53. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Chola Empire was known for its highly decentralized local self-government system, with village assemblies (sabhas) playing a key role in administration. Village assemblies were responsible for local issues like tax collection, irrigation, and dispute resolution.

Statement 2 is correct: The Rashtrakutas maintained a centralized administrative setup compared to the Cholas, with royal officials directly overseeing local governance and revenue collection.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Pratiharas did not have a comparable system of local self-governance as the Cholas. Their administration was more centralized, and local governance was primarily handled by officials appointed by the king.

54. Ans. B

- The Bhakti movement was developed in Karnataka between the seventh and twelfth centuries. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect. The Bhakti movement is reflected in the emotional poems of Nayanar (Shiva devotee) and Alwar (Vishnu devotee). Hence, statement 2 is correct. These saints saw religion not merely as ceremonial worship but as a loving bond that rests on the love between the god and the worshiper. One effective method for spreading devotional ideology was the use of local languages. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

55. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: Dholavira does feature unique city planning and use of stone, but the use of stone was not as extensive as implied here, and other IVC sites also employed stone for specific purposes. Most IVC sites primarily used mud bricks.

Statement 2 is correct: Lothal's dockyard is among the earliest examples of maritime infrastructure, underscoring its significance in maritime trade and commerce.

Statement 3 is correct: Harappa, like Mohenjo-Daro, is known for its sophisticated drainage systems. The drainage systems at both sites were advanced, with Harappa's system being well-planned for residential areas.

56. Ans: D

- Gond art originated in the Santhal region of India i.e. modern Jharkhand. It is an advanced type of painting that reflects very beautiful and abstract art. Gond caste of Godavari belt is a variety of this tribe. It is as ancient as Santhal. It engraves beautiful figures in amazing colors, mainly pictures related to nature. Hence both statements 1 and 2 are incorrect.

57. Ans: b

Option b is the correct answer

In medieval India, cowries were primarily used as currency. They are a type of small shell. Cowries were a popular form of money in trade and economic transactions due to their widespread acceptance and ease of use. They served as a medium of exchange and were an integral part of the economic system during that period.

58. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct. The Marathas used the Ryotwari system, where taxes were directly assessed on individual cultivators (ryots). In contrast, the Vijayanagara Empire relied on intermediaries like Nayakas who collected taxes on behalf of the central administration.

Statement 2 is correct. Both the Maratha and Vijayanagara Empires assessed land revenue as a share of the agricultural produce. This system allowed the empires to benefit from the productivity of the land, adjusting the tax according to the yield.

Statement 3 is Incorrect. The Chauth and Sardeshmukhi taxes were specific to the Maratha revenue system. The Vijayanagara Empire did not use these taxes; instead, it relied on the Kudimai system and other forms of land revenue assessment.

59. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Western Chalukyas, or Chalukyas of Kalyani, established their empire in the Deccan region of India around the 10th century CE. They were a powerful dynasty known for their

influence in southern India.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The famous temples at Badami were constructed by the earlier Chalukyas of Badami (also known as the Chalukyas of Vatapi), not the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani. The Western Chalukyan ruler Somesvara I was known for his contributions to architecture but not specifically for the temples at Badami.

Statement 3 is correct: The Western Chalukyas were indeed involved in significant military conflicts with both the Cholas and the Rashtrakutas, which influenced the political dynamics of the Deccan region during their reign

60. Ans: c

Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The Marathas are renowned for their effective use of guerrilla warfare tactics, which involved hit-and-run strategies, surprise attacks, and mobility. These tactics allowed them to successfully challenge and inflict significant defeats on larger and better-equipped Mughal armies. The innovative approach of Shivaji Maharaj and his successors was crucial in expanding and sustaining Maratha power despite facing formidable adversaries.

Statement 2 is correct: The Marathas, under Shivaji Maharaj, established a significant naval force to safeguard their coastal territories along the western coast of India. This naval force was instrumental in controlling trade routes and protecting against foreign invasions and piracy. The development of a strong navy was a strategic move to enhance the Marathas' control over the western coastal regions and bolster their overall military strength.

61. Ans: a

Option a is the correct answer

Kalibangan is known for a significant number of seals and seal impressions with inscriptions. These seals often feature various symbols and are thought to be related to administrative and trade functions. The inscriptions found on these seals are a critical source of information about the IVC's administrative practices.

Harappa is distinguished by its numerous and large granaries. These granaries are indicative of the site's role in agricultural storage and trade. Their presence suggests that Harappa had a well-organized system for managing agricultural surplus, which was crucial for the city's economy.

Lothal is famous for its dockyard, which is one of the earliest known examples of maritime infrastructure in the IVC. This dockyard suggests that Lothal played a significant role in trade and commerce, particularly in maritime activities. The warehouses found at Lothal were used to store goods that were traded through its port.

The Great Bath at Mohenjo-Daro is one of the most famous and well-preserved structures from the Indus