CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2025

HISTORY

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 94

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper contains **40 questions.** All questions are **compulsory.**

ii. This question paper is divided into **4 sections.**

iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 4** are case based questions

iv. **Section B** – questions number **5 to 26** are multiple choice questions

v. **Section C** – questions number **27 to 34** are short answer

vi. **Section D** – questions number **35 to 40** are long answer

vii. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.

viii. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1. The History of Pataliputra Each city had a history of its own. Pataliputra, for instance, began as a village known as Pataligrama. Then, in the fifth century BCE, the Magadhan rulers decided to shift their capital from Rajagaha to this settlement and renamed it. By the fourth century BCE, it was the capital of the Mauryan Empire and one of the largest cities in Asia. Subsequently, its importance apparently declined. When the Chinese pilgrim Xuan Zang visited the city in the seventh century CE, he found it in ruins, and with a very small population.

(1) Examine the main impact of the shift from Rajagaha to Pataliputra on the Magadhan empire.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The shift of the capital from Rajagaha to Pataliputra had significant impacts on the Magadhan Empire. Firstly, the strategic location of Pataliputra along major riverine routes facilitated better communication and trade, enhancing the economic strength of the empire. This accessibility allowed for the growth of a bustling urban center, effectively positioning Pataliputra as a thriving hub of commercial, cultural, and political activities. Secondly, with the capital being relocated, the political influence of the capital was amplified, as Pataliputra quickly became the heart of governance for the Mauryan Empire, thereby unifying and strengthening the empire. However, it is worth noting that despite its rise in importance, Pataliputra would later experience a decline, as noted by the travel accounts of Chinese pilgrims like Xuan Zang in the seventh century CE, which highlighted its reduced population and ruination. Thus, the shift to Pataliputra marked a crucial turning point in the administrative and economic landscape of the Magadhan Empire, establishing it as a powerful center during its zenith and leading to its eventual decline in prominence.

Key Points: Strategic location of Pataliputra; Enhanced trade and economic strength; Unification and strengthening of the empire; Growth of urban center; Decline noted by Xuan Zang

(2) What message did Xuan Zang wish to convey about Pataliputra?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Xuan Zang's observations regarding Pataliputra emphasized the city's dramatic decline and historical significance. He conveyed that when he visited in the seventh century CE, Pataliputra had fallen into ruins, indicative of the loss of its former glory as the capital of the Mauryan Empire. The small population he noted suggests a significant reduction in activity and importance, contrasting sharply with its earlier status as one of Asia's largest cities. Thus, his message was a poignant reminder of the transient nature of cities and their fortunes, illustrating how even great capitals can fade into obscurity over time.

Key Points: Decline of Pataliputra-Observation of ruins-Small population compared to previous significance-Transience of urban centers

(3) What role did Pataliputra play in the history of the Magadhan empire?

[2 Marks]

Answer: Pataliputra played a crucial role in the history of the Magadhan Empire, particularly as the capital city during the fourth century BCE when it became synonymous with the Mauryan Empire. Originally known as Pataligrama, it was strategically located at the confluence of important trade routes along the Ganga River, enhancing its status as a political and economic hub. The shift of the capital from Rajagaha to Pataliputra signified a pivotal development in the centralization of power, allowing the rulers to exert control over a larger territory. Furthermore, Pataliputra was not only a political centre but also hosted various cultural, commercial, and administrative activities, establishing it as a thriving metropolis of its time. This prominence continued until its eventual decline, as noted by the Chinese pilgrim Xuan Zang, who discovered the city in ruins centuries later. Thus, Pataliputra was instrumental in shaping the administrative and cultural landscape of the Magadhan Empire.

Key Points: Capital of Magadhan Empire-shift from Rajagaha to Pataliputra-strategic location along Ganga-enabler of trade and communication-cultural and political hub-decline noted by Xuan Zang

Question 2. The imperial karkhanas Bernier is perhaps the only historian who provides a detailed account of the working of the imperial karkhanas or workshops: Large halls are seen at many places, called karkhanas or workshops for the artisans. In one hall, embroiderers are busily employed, superintended by a master. In another, you see the goldsmiths; in a third, painters; in a fourth, varnishers in lacquer-work; in a fifth, joiners, turners, tailors and shoe-makers; in a sixth, manufacturers of silk, brocade and fine muslins ... The artisans come every morning to their karkhanas where they remain employed the whole day; and in the evening return to their homes. In this quiet regular manner, their time glides away; no one aspiring for any improvement in the condition of life wherein he happens to be born.

(1) How did Bernier’s description reflect the economic significance of the karkhanas in the Mughal empire?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Bernier's description highlights the economic significance of karkhanas in the Mughal Empire by illustrating their role as hubs of craftsmanship and production. The presence of various artisans, including embroiderers, goldsmiths, painters, and manufacturers of fine textiles, reveals that these workshops contributed significantly to the economy by producing high-quality goods. The structured work environment, where artisans worked under supervision, not only ensured the production of intricate items but also reflected the employment of skilled labor, essential for sustaining economic activities. Additionally, Bernier’s indication of artisans returning home each evening suggests a stable workforce, further emphasizing the karkhanas' importance in providing livelihoods and maintaining socio-economic stability within the empire. However, he also points out a limitation: the lack of incentive for artisans to improve quality due to state appropriation of profits, indicating a nuanced economic reality where state control affected motivation and innovation. Overall, Bernier's account underscores the karkhanas' role in both employment and production, integral to the Mughal economy.

Key Points: Presence of diverse artisans in karkhanas - Contribution to high-quality goods production - Structured work environment indicates skilled labor employment - Stable workforce suggests economic stability - State appropriation of profits impacts artisans' motivation

(2) Analyse the relationship between the Mughal empire and its artisans.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The relationship between the Mughal Empire and its artisans was multifaceted, as depicted in Bernier's observations of the imperial karkhanas. These workshops represented a systematic state-run initiative where artisans such as embroiderers, goldsmiths, painters, and others were engaged in their crafts under the supervision of masters. This structure not only provided employment to these artisans but also ensured that their skills were utilized in service of the empire, thus highlighting the Mughal state's reliance on skilled labor for producing luxury goods. However, the artisans appeared to lack motivation to improve their craftsmanship, as their profits were often appropriated by the state. Moreover, Bernier's commentary suggests that artisans felt trapped within their socio-economic conditions, with little hope for personal advancement. This oversight indicates a complex reality where, despite being employed, artisans were bound by rigid hierarchies and economic dependency on the empire, revealing both the opportunities and limitations imposed upon them by the Mughal state. Therefore, while the Mughal Empire provided a structure for artisans to earn a living, it simultaneously stifled their potential for personal growth and innovation.

Key Points: Employment in imperial karkhanas-State supervision over artisans-Lack of incentive for quality improvement-Economic dependency on Mughal state-Complex social reality of opportunity vs limitation

(3) How did the crafts in the karkhanas reflect the cultural diversity of the Mughal empire?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The crafts in the karkhanas during the Mughal Empire exemplified the rich cultural diversity that characterized this period. The presence of a variety of artisans—such as embroiderers, goldsmiths, painters, and manufacturers of silk and brocade—indicates the confluence of multiple artistic traditions and skills. Each craft represented not just a functional aspect of life but also the artistic expressions influenced by different cultures within the empire. For instance, the intricate designs of Indian textiles often incorporated Persian motifs, showcasing a blend of artistic influences. This diversity was also a reflection of the Mughal policy of inclusivity, where artisans from various backgrounds contributed to the imperial workshops. Furthermore, the daily routines of these artisans, as they engaged in their crafts, fostered a social environment where different cultural practices interacted, thus promoting a harmonious coexistence. In summary, the diverse crafts of the karkhanas illustrate how the Mughal Empire was a melting pot of cultures, with each artisan group enriching the empire's artistic heritage with their unique contributions.

Key Points: Variety of artisans in karkhanas; Blend of artistic traditions; Influence of different cultures on crafts

Question 3.

We say that it is our firm and solemn resolve to have an independent sovereign republic. India is bound to be sovereign, it is bound to be independent and it is bound to be a republic ... Now, some friends have raised the question: 'Why have you not put in the word 'democratic' here?' Well, I told them that it is conceivable, of course, that a republic may not be democratic but the whole of our past is witness to this fact that we stand for democratic institutions. Obviously we are aiming at democracy and nothing less than a democracy. What form of democracy, what shape it might take is another matter. The democracies of the present day, many of them in Europe and elsewhere, have played a great part in the world's progress. Yet it may be doubtful if those democracies may not have to change their shape somewhat before long if they have to remain completely democratic. We are not going just to copy, I hope, a certain democratic procedure or an institution of a so-called democratic country. We may improve upon it. In any event whatever system of government we may establish here must fit in with the temper of our people and be acceptable to them. We stand for democracy. It will be for this House to determine what shape to give to that democracy, the fullest democracy, I hope. The House will notice that in this Resolution, although we have not used the word "democratic" because we thought it is obvious that the word "republic" contains that word and we did not want to use unnecessary words and redundant words, but we have done something much more than using the word. We have given the content of democracy in this Resolution and not only the content of democracy but the content, if I may say so, of economic democracy in this Resolution. Others might

take objection to this Resolution on the ground that we have not said that it should be a Socialist State. Well, I stand for Socialism and, I hope, India will stand for Socialism and that India will go towards the constitution of a Socialist State and I do believe that the whole world will have to go that way.

(1) How did defining India as a ‘republic’ enhance democratic governance?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Defining India as a 'republic' was a significant step toward enhancing democratic governance. A republic is fundamentally characterized by the absence of monarchy and by the presence of elected representatives, which ensures that the power lies in the hands of the people. This definition established a government that is accountable to its citizens, thereby promoting the principles of democracy. By declaring India as an independent sovereign republic, it laid the foundation for a system where the voice of the people could be heard and respected. Moreover, this classification presupposed the establishment of democratic institutions meant to ensure justice, equality, and freedom for all citizens. This was not just a theoretical framework but a commitment to embody these democratic values in practice, as mentioned in the context that the government must fit the temper of the people. Furthermore, the distinction between a republic and mere democracy underscored the importance of constitutional safeguards for minorities and marginalized groups, making democracy not just a form of governance but a way to achieve true equality and economic democracy for all.

Key Points: Definition of republic; Accountability to citizens; Establishment of democratic institutions; Commitment to justice, equality, and freedom; Safeguards for minorities; Reflection of people's temper; Economic democracy

(2) How does economic democracy promote social equality within a republican framework?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Economic democracy promotes social equality within a republican framework by ensuring that all citizens have equal access to economic opportunities and resources. It emphasizes the need for equitable distribution of wealth, which helps to reduce economic disparities among social groups. In a republic, where the government is accountable to the people, policies aimed at economic justice create an environment where everyone, regardless of their social background, can participate in the economic life of the nation. This aligns with the principles of justice and equality as enshrined in the constitution, fostering a society where all individuals are empowered and able to contribute to the common good. Furthermore, by incorporating safeguards for minorities and disadvantaged communities, economic democracy works towards a more inclusive and fair society, ultimately bridging the gap between different social classes.

Key Points: equal access to economic opportunities- equitable distribution of wealth- reducing economic disparities- accountability of government to the people- empowering individuals- safeguards for minorities and disadvantaged communities

(3) How did Jawaharlal Nehru view the role of the Constituent Assembly in shaping democracy in India?

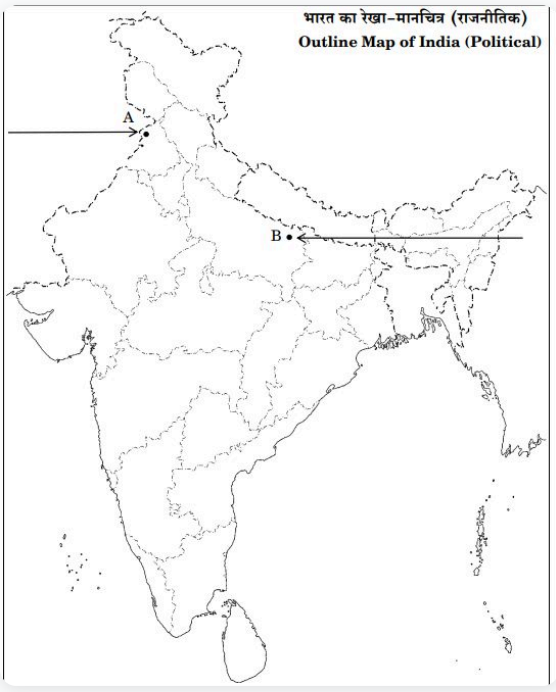
[2 Marks]

Answer: Jawaharlal Nehru emphasized the crucial role of the Constituent Assembly in shaping a democratic India. He believed that while a republic could exist without being democratic, India's rich history and the aspirations of its people called for a robust democratic framework. Nehru pointed to the necessity of aligning the governance system with the culture and values of the Indian populace. He asserted that the Constituent Assembly was responsible for determining the form that democracy would take in India while also ensuring that economic democracy was included in its foundations. By framing India as an 'Independent Sovereign Republic,' Nehru articulated the essential principles of justice, equality, and freedom, coupled with adequate safeguards for minorities and the disadvantaged. This approach indicated his commitment to developing a democratic society that resonated with the temper of the people and their needs. Thus, the Constituent Assembly was seen not merely as a legislative body but as a visionary architect of India's democratic ethos.

Key Points: Emphasis on a democratic system-Alignment with Indian values-Importance of economic democracy-Commitment to justice and equality-Safeguards for minorities and disadvantaged

Question 4.

On the given political outline map of India (on page 27), locate and label the following with appropriate symbols :



(1)

Bodh Gaya − An ancient Buddhist site

[1 Marks]

Answer: Bodh Gaya is a prominent ancient Buddhist site located in the state of Bihar, India. To accurately mark Bodh Gaya on the political outline map of India, find Bihar on the map and place an appropriate symbol, such as a stupa icon, to denote its significance as a major center of Buddhism. Bodh Gaya is best known as the site where Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree, making it a pilgrimage site for Buddhists worldwide. It is also home to the Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which further emphasizes its historical and cultural importance.

Key Points: Bodh Gaya is in Bihar - significance as a major Buddhist site - symbol to represent it is a stupa - home to Mahabodhi Temple - UNESCO World Heritage Site

(2)

Goa − Territory under Mughal Empire

[1 Marks]

Answer: To label Goa as a territory under the Mughal Empire on the political outline map of India, one must first clearly identify its location on the map, situated on the western coast of India. Using an appropriate symbol, such as a star or circle, I would mark the state of Goa. Additionally, I would annotate it with the label 'Goa - Mughal Empire' to indicate its historical context during the Mughal rule in the region. The Mughal Empire, known for its extensive control over diverse territories, included Goa as part of its influence during the 16th and 17th centuries. This placement on the map will help illustrate the expansive reach of Mughal dominance in South India during that time period.

Key Points: Locate Goa on the map-Give it a proper label-Use a symbol for identification-Context of Mughal Empire influence

(3)

Lothal − A mature Harappan site

[1 Marks]

Answer: Lothal, located in the western state of Gujarat, is one of the most significant mature Harappan sites known for its well-planned dockyard which signifies the advanced maritime and trade capabilities of the Harappan civilization. It served as a major trading hub and was integral to the coastal trade routes during the Harappan period. On the political outline map of India, Lothal can be marked using a dot symbol with the label 'Lothal'.

Key Points: Location in Gujarat-Importance as a trading hub-Notable features like the dockyard

(4)

Name any one territory under the Mughal empire in Northern India.

[1 Marks]

Answer: One notable territory under the Mughal Empire in Northern India was the region of Delhi. Known for its significant political and cultural importance, Delhi served as one of the principal capitals of the Mughal Empire, reflecting the grandeur of Mughal architecture and administration.

Key Points: Delhi-the capital of Mughal Empire-importance-cultural significance

(5)

Vijayanagara − Capital of Vijayanagara empire

[1 Marks]

Answer: To locate and label Vijayanagara, the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, first find the southern region of India on the political outline map. Vijayanagara is situated in the present-day state of Karnataka, near the banks of the Tungabhadra River. Use a dot to mark the location and label it clearly as 'Vijayanagara'. This city was pivotal in the empire founded in 1336 by the brothers Harihara and Bukka, and it was known for its distinctive architecture and extensive layout during its peak in the 15th century. Ensure the label is legible and placed appropriately near the marked dot.

Key Points: Locate in Karnataka; use a dot symbol; label it as 'Vijayanagara'; founded in 1336; known for distinctive architecture.

(6)

Mention any two pillar inscriptions of Ashoka.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Two well-known pillar inscriptions of Ashoka are the 'Sarnath Pillar Inscription' and the 'Lumbini Pillar Inscription'. The Sarnath Pillar Inscription, located at Sarnath, commemorates the site where the Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. The Lumbini Pillar Inscription marks the birthplace of the Buddha and highlights the importance of this location in Buddhist history. Both inscriptions are notable for their messages promoting dhamma and the compassionate principles of governance advocated by Ashoka.

Key Points: Sarnath Pillar Inscription-Lumbini Pillar Inscription-Importance of dhamma in governance

(7)

On the same outline map of India, two places have been marked as A and B, the centres of the Indian National Movement. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The two places marked A and B on the outline map of India are as follows: A represents 'Gandhi Ashram in Sabarmati', which played a crucial role in the Indian National Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. B represents 'Calcutta (Kolkata)', which was a significant center for various political activities and protests against British rule. It was here that the Quit India Movement was launched in 1942, making it pivotal in the struggle for independence.

Key Points: Gandhi Ashram, Sabarmati - centre for non-violent resistance; Calcutta - site of the Quit India Movement, significant political protests

(8)

Name any one neighbouring state of the Vijayanagara empire.

Answer: One neighbouring state of the Vijayanagara Empire was the state of Tamil Nadu. The Vijayanagara Empire extended into parts of southern India, and Tamil Nadu was located to the south of its capital, Vijayanagara.

Key Points: Vijayanagara Empire's location-Tamil Nadu as a neighbouring state-Interaction with surrounding states

(9)

Name any one neighbouring state of the Vijayanagara empire.

[2 Marks]

Answer: One neighbouring state of the Vijayanagara Empire was the Kingdom of Mysore. This state bordered the empire to the south and played a significant role in the region's politics and culture during the time of the Vijayanagara rulers.

Key Points: Vijayanagara Empire; Neighbouring state; Mysore; Historical significance; Territorial boundaries

Section B

Question 5. The presence of granaries at Harappan sites most likely implies which of the following about their agricultural practices?

[1 Marks]

(A) Surplus Production

(B) Shifting Cultivation

(C) Nomadic Lifestyle

(D) Plantation Farming

Explanation: The presence of granaries indicates Surplus Production, as granaries are used to store excess grain produced beyond immediate consumption needs. This suggests that the Harappans practiced agriculture that resulted in surplus, allowing for long-term storage and management of resources, which aligns with the context that Indian agriculture was very productive due to fertile soil and seasonal crop cycles.

Question 6. Which of the following statement is correct about the Shungas and Kanvas?

[1 Marks]

(A) The Shungas and the Kanvas were the immediate successors of the Mauryas.

(B) The Shungas and the Kanvas ruled after the Gupta rulers.

(C) The Shungas supported Buddhism and the Kanvas supported Hinduism.

(D) The Shungas succeeded the Mauryas and the Kanvas succeeded the Gupta rulers.

Explanation: The correct answer is 'The Shungas and the Kanvas were the immediate successors of the Mauryas.' This is confirmed in the context, which clearly states that the Shungas and Kanvas succeeded the Mauryas and were indeed their immediate successors.

Question 7.

Two statements labelled as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are given below.

Read them carefully and select the correct option :

Assertion (A): Shahjehan Begum was a patron of art and architecture in the 19th century, known for her contribution for Sanchi's preservation. Reason (R): Sanchi Stupa is a classical example of early Buddhist architecture.

[1 Marks]

(A) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.

(D) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Explanation: Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A). Shahjehan Begum did indeed play a significant role in the preservation of Sanchi, making her a noted patron of art and architecture. However, while the Sanchi Stupa is an important example of early Buddhist architecture, this fact does not directly explain her contributions or role as a patron.

Question 8.

Which of the following was the role of the Dhamma Mahamattas during Ashoka's reign ?

[1 Marks]

(A) To administer justice to people

(B) To oversee military operations

(C) To manage trade and commerce

(D) To promote the principles of Dhamma

Explanation:

The correct option is 'To promote the principles of Dhamma.' The context states that special officers, known as Dhamma Mahamattas, were appointed by Ashoka to spread the message of Dhamma, which was fundamental to his reign and aimed at ensuring the well-being of the people.

Question 9.

Which of the following statements accurately describes the coinage of ancient India ?

I. Ancient Parthian gold coins showed extensive trade in north India.

II. Ancient Roman coins in South India indicated trade beyond borders.

III. Ancient Yaudheyas issued copper coins that highlighted their economic activity.

IV. Ancient Gupta rulers issued silver coins that facilitated trade.

[1 Marks]

(A) I, II and III are correct.

(B) I, II and IV are correct

(C) II, III and IV are correct.

(D) I, III and IV are correct

Explanation:

The correct option is 'I, II and IV are correct.' Ancient Parthian gold coins discovered in north India suggest extensive trade networks. Hoards of Roman coins found in South India indicate that trade extended beyond political boundaries. Ancient Gupta rulers are known for issuing silver coins that facilitated long-distance trade, thus confirming all three statements are accurate.

Question 10.

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the given options. In Jaina philosophy, the cycle of birth and rebirth is influenced by _____.

[1 Marks]

(A) Moksha

(B) Ahimsa

(C) Dharma

(D) Karma

Explanation: The correct option is 'Karma'. In Jaina philosophy, it is stated that the cycle of birth and rebirth is shaped through karma, meaning that an individual's actions directly influence their future births. The process of asceticism and penance is required to free oneself from the cycle of karma.

Question 11.

Identify the ancient ruler of India with the help of following information and choose the correct option :

Was the best known ruler of the Satavahana dynasty.

• Claimed to be a unique Brahmana.

• Was the son of Rishi Vashistha

[1 Marks]

(A) Bhaskaravarman

(B) Vikramaditya II

(C) Gotami-puta Siri-Satakani

(D) Rudradaman

Explanation:

The correct answer is Gotami-puta Siri-Satakani. According to the context provided, he is identified as the best-known ruler of the Satavahana dynasty and is noted to claim to be a Brahmana, suggesting his affiliation with the Brahmanical tradition. Additionally, the suffix 'puta' indicates he is the son of Gotami, aligning with the information given in the question.

Question 12.

Match the following Column I with Column II and choose the correct option :

[1 Marks]

	Column I (*Traveller*)		*Column II* (*Country*)
a.	Afanasii Nikitin	i.	Spain
b.	Duarte Barbosa	ii.	Turkey
c.	Antonio Monserrate	iii.	Portugal
d.	Seydi Ali Reis	iv.	Russia

(A) a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i

(B) a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii

(C) a-i, b-iii, c-ii, d-iv

(D) a-ii, b-iii, c-i, d-iv

Explanation:

The correct option is a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii. This is derived from the context provided, which describes the different functions and responsibilities assigned to the Union and State governments. Each item in Column I aligns with its appropriate designation or function in Column II, indicating the hierarchical relationship of subjects between the two levels of government.

Question 13.

Which of the following pairs is correctly matched ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki – Delhi

(B) Shaikh Nasiruddin Chiragh-i-Dehli – Jaipur

(C) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya – Ajmer

(D) Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi – Agra

Explanation:

The correct option is 'Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki – Delhi'. He is famously associated with Delhi as he was one of the prominent Sufi saints of the city. The other pairs are incorrectly matched: Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi is related to Ajmer, Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya is associated with Delhi but not Ajmer, and Shaikh Nasiruddin Chiragh-i-Dehli is associated with Delhi, not Jaipur.

Question 14.

Which of the following temple’s priest provided memories that were crucial for the initial survey of Hampi ?

[1 Marks]

(A) The Virupaksha Temple

(B) The Vitthala Temple

(C) The Brihadiswara Temple

(D) The Hazara Rama Temple

Explanation: The correct option is 'The Virupaksha Temple' because the context states that much of the initial information for the survey of Hampi was based on the memories of priests of the Virupaksha temple, alongside the shrine of Pampadevi.

Question 15.

Which of the following features of ‘Mulk Abadi’ of Ain-i-Akbari helps historians to understand the administrative structure of the Mughal Empire ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Fiscal records

(B) Poetic descriptions

(C) Architectural designs

(D) Traveller’s accounts

Explanation:

The correct option is 'Fiscal records' because the Ain-i-Akbari meticulously recorded arrangements made by the state for cultivation, revenue collection, and the administration of the provinces, providing intricate quantitative information that reflects the administrative structure of the Mughal Empire.

Question 16.

Fill in the blank : Karl Marx’s concept of ‘Asiatic mode of production’ depicted rural society as _____.

[1 Marks]

(A) Independent from Imperial Court

(B) Constantly evolving

(C) Egalitarian

(D) Socio-economic disparities

Explanation:

The correct option is 'Socio-economic disparities'. This is because Marx described how surplus was appropriated by the state and led to a society of subjugation and poverty, highlighting the socio-economic disparities among the people, particularly between the aristocracy and the rural communities, despite the initial portrayal of rural society being made up of egalitarian village communities.

Question 17.

Why are Chola temples at places like Thanjavur significant in ancient history ?

[1 Marks]

(A) They are known as the very first temples in India.

(B) They served as forts during festivals.

(C) They were constructed with the help of the Pandya rulers

(D) They mark the peak of Chola patronage in architecture.

Explanation:

They mark the peak of Chola patronage in architecture. The context highlights that the construction of magnificent Shiva temples, including those at Thanjavur under the Chola rulers, represented a significant architectural advancement and a means for rulers to assert their divine legitimacy and power, making it a pivotal period in ancient Indian history.

Question 18.

Which of the following pairs is correctly matched regarding the Vijayanagara empire ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Decline of Vijayanagara – Increased military control of Mackenzie

(B) Battle of Talikota – Expansion of Hampi over Orissa

(C) Defeat of Sultan of Bijapur – Start of Aravidu dynasty

(D) Founding of Nagalapuram – Township named after King’s mother

Explanation:

The correct match is 'Founding of Nagalapuram – Township named after King’s mother.' This is confirmed in the context, which states that a suburban township near Vijayanagara was founded by a king and named Nagalapuram after his mother.

Question 19.

Why did the British prefer the ‘Ryotwari system’ in Bombay over the ‘Permanent Settlement’ ?

[1 Marks]

(A) For simplifying revenue collection

(B) For bringing decentralized control

(C) For maximising their revenue

(D) For empowering the zamindars

Explanation: The British preferred the Ryotwari system for simplifying revenue collection, as this system involved settling revenue directly with the individual ryots rather than through intermediaries like zamindars. This direct interaction allowed for better assessment of the ryot's capacity to pay and also made revenue collection more efficient, as evidenced by the complications that arose with the Permanent Settlement in Bengal.

Question 20.

Which of the following options shows the correct chronological order of events related to Indian National Movement ?

I. Second Round Table Conference

II. Peasant Movement in Bardoli

III. Champaran Satyagraha

IV. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

[1 Marks]

(A) III, II, IV, I

(B) III, I, II, IV

(C) III, IV, II, I

(D) III, IV, I, II

Explanation: The correct chronological order is: III (Champaran Satyagraha - 1917), IV (Jallianwala Bagh Massacre - 1919), II (Peasant Movement in Bardoli - 1928), I (Second Round Table Conference - 1931). This sequence correctly represents the timeline of these significant events in the Indian National Movement.

Question 21.

Why was Awadh referred to as the ‘Nursery of the Bengal Army’ during the 1850s ? Choose the correct option from the following.

[1 Marks]

(A) Major recruiting ground for the Bengal Army

(B) Base for British military leaders

(C) Known for strong resistance to British rule

(D) Centre for British military training

Explanation:

The correct option is 'Major recruiting ground for the Bengal Army.' Awadh was a significant area where many sepoys were recruited into the Bengal Army. The social structure of Awadh, with many individuals from upper castes, contributed to a strong soldier population that formed the backbone of the military forces during this period, thus leading to its designation as the 'Nursery of the Bengal Army.'

Question 22.

Which of the following pairs of Committees and their Presidents is correct regarding the Constituent Assembly ?

(Committees of Constituent Assembly) (Presidents)

[1 Marks]

(A) Flag Committee – Bhimrao Ambedkar

(B) States Committee – J.B. Kripalani

(C) Steering Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru

(D) Advisory Committee – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Explanation:

The correct answer is 'Steering Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru'. Jawaharlal Nehru was an important figure in the Constituent Assembly and was involved in significant resolutions, including the 'Objectives Resolution'. The other pairs do not accurately match the presidents with their respective committees based on historical records.

Question 23.

On whose advice did Gandhiji spend a year travelling around British India upon his return in 1915 ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Bipin Chandra Pal

(B) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

(C) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

(D) Lala Lajpat Rai

Explanation:

The correct answer is Gopal Krishna Gokhale. He was Gandhiji's acknowledged political mentor, and it was on his advice that Gandhiji spent time traveling around British India to better understand the land and its people.

Question 24.

Choose the correct option from the following to fill in the blank regarding the leaders of the Revolt of 1857. Arrah (Bihar) : Kunwar Singh; _____ : Birjis Qadr

[1 Marks]

(A) Awadh

(B) kanpur

(C) Gwalior

(D) Lucknow

Explanation: The correct option is 'Awadh' because in the context provided, it mentions that Birjis Qadr was hailed as the leader by the people in Lucknow, which is part of Awadh, following the displacement of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. This aligns with the description of leadership in that region during the Revolt of 1857.

Question 25.

Two statements labelled as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are given below. Read them carefully and select the correct option :

Assertion (A) : The American Civil War created a panic in the cotton circles in Britain.

Reason (R) : American cotton supplies had dropped drastically which increased the demand for Indian cotton.

[1 Marks]

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

(B) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false

(C) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true

Explanation: Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A). The American Civil War indeed disrupted cotton supplies from the U.S., leading to a panic in Britain, as they heavily relied on American cotton. This situation resulted in a surge in demand for Indian cotton, corroborating Reason (R).

Question 26.

Look at the image given below and identify the historical artefact :

[1 Marks]



(A) Ashoka’s Lion Capital

(B) Cholas’ Lion Capital

(C) Guptas’ Lion Capital

(D) Shungas’ Lion Capital

Explanation: The correct answer is 'Ashoka’s Lion Capital' because the lion capital is a well-known symbol associated with Emperor Ashoka, who ruled in the 3rd century BCE. The context provided references 'Fig. 2.3: The lion capital,' indicating that this is likely the specific artefact being referred to in the question.

Section C

Question 27.

How did different types of marriages reflect the social systems of ancient India during the Mahabharata Period ? Explain with examples.

[3 Marks]

Answer: During the Mahabharata Period, marriage was not merely a personal union but a reflection of the complex social systems of ancient India. The Dharmasutras recognized eight forms of marriage, with the first four deemed 'good.' For instance, Kshatriya kings often practiced polyandry, exemplified by Draupadi's marriage to the five Pandavas. This arrangement supported political alliances and maintained power within the royal family. However, the remaining four forms, viewed as 'bad,' like swayamvara, often breached Brahmanical norms. This diversity in marriage practices highlights societal stratification, where marriage alliances were employed to navigate the rigid varna system, preserving community ties.

Key Points: Eight forms of marriage recognized in Dharmasutras - Good vs. Bad marriages - Draupadi's marriage as polyandry - Political alliances in marriage - Critique of Brahmanical norms - Endogamy vs. exogamy - Social stratification reflected in marriage practices

Question 28.

How did familial relations impact the social systems of India during the Mahabharata Period ? Explain with examples.

[3 Marks]

Answer: During the Mahabharata Period, familial relations were crucial in shaping the social systems of India. The epic narrates the intense conflict between the Kauravas and Pandavas, who were cousins belonging to the same royal family of the Kurus. This rivalry exemplifies how kinship ties influenced power dynamics, often leading to tension within ruling lineages. The Mahabharata depicts the importance of family loyalty, as seen when Bhishma, the Kuru elder, supported the Kauravas in their pursuit of power. Furthermore, familial alliances through marriages among kinfolk strengthened social cohesion, yet also established hierarchies. The emphasis on birth status reinforced social stratification, which became evident as characters like Karna faced discrimination despite his valor. These intertwined familial relationships laid the foundation for both governance and social challenges, ultimately reflecting the complex nature of Indian society during this time.

Key Points: Kauravas vs Pandavas feud; importance of family loyalty; marriages among kin and social cohesion; birth status reinforcing social stratification; examples from the Mahabharata; impact on governance and social challenges.

Question 29.

How has Puranic Hinduism contributed to the development of Vaishnavism and Shaivism ? Explain with examples.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Puranic Hinduism significantly influenced the evolution of both Vaishnavism and Shaivism by emphasizing the worship of personal deities. In Vaishnavism, Vishnu's numerous avatars, particularly Krishna and Rama, became central to the devotional practices, fostering a deep emotional bond of love and bhakti between devotees and the deity. Similarly, Shaivism elevated Shiva as a principal figure, encouraging a personal and devotional approach to worship. Moreover, Puranic texts promoted inclusivity by diminishing caste distinctions in religious practices, enhancing the appeal of these traditions across diverse societal strata, thus facilitating their widespread acceptance and integration into the broader Hindu framework.

Key Points: Emphasis on personal deities; Development of bhakti as a way of worship; Elevation of Vishnu and Shiva within Puranic texts; Inclusive practices diminishing caste distinctions; Integration into broader Hinduism.

Question 30.

“Panchayats played a crucial role in the Mughal rural society.” Justify the statement with suitable arguments.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Panchayats were fundamental to the functioning of rural society during the Mughal era, acting as important local governance bodies. They facilitated decision-making, ensuring justice and mediation in conflicts between peasants and the state or zamindars. Acting as courts of appeal, panchayats helped maintain social order and fairness. Their involvement in revenue disputes often led to compromises that protected the interests of lower-caste peasants against oppressive demands. Overall, panchayats played a vital role in sustaining agrarian relationships and rural stability.

Key Points: Panchayats as local governance-Conflict resolution between peasants and zamindars-Mediation in revenue disputes-Facilitating social order and justice-Protection of peasant interests

Question 31.

“Many forest-dwelling communities maintained a significant level of political independence.” Examine the statement in the context of Mughal empire.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Forest-dwelling communities in the Mughal Empire exhibited substantial political independence due to their marginalization from direct state control. The Mughal state sought elephants from these forests to bolster its military, introducing a form of economic dependence on forest products. However, as seen by Babur's accounts, the forests served as refuges for dissenters, highlighting a relationship of avoidance rather than direct governance. Bernier's depiction of Mughal rule reinforces this, portraying the forests as subversive spaces representing both resilience against taxation and a unique autonomy among tribal communities. Consequently, while these communities interacted with the Mughals, they often prioritized their traditional practices and autonomy over direct state imposition.

Key Points: Political independence of forest communities-Dependence on Mughal state for resources-Elephant supply and economic relations-Description of forests as refuges for rebels-Babur's views on forest defense-Bernier's portrayal of Mughal cities and their relationship to the forest

Question 32.

Analyse the role of Jotedars in the Permanent Settlement system.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The jotedars played a crucial role in the Permanent Settlement system established by the British in Bengal. Unlike zamindars, who primarily lived in urban settings, jotedars were local agrarian elites directly involved in village life. They managed agricultural production through sharecroppers and collected revenue from them. Their intimate understanding of local conditions allowed them to exert significant control and influence over poor cultivators. Additionally, during instances of zamindar revenue defaults, jotedars often acquired land, thus enhancing their power and status within the village structure. Their authority emerged as essential for maintaining agricultural productivity and revenue generation under the British colonial system, particularly in North Bengal, where they became pivotal economic and social leaders.

Key Points: jotedars as village elites - comparison with zamindars - role in agricultural production - control over sharecroppers - acquisition of land during zamindar defaults - significance in revenue collection - influence in North Bengal - local power dynamics

Question 33.

How has Indian imagery preserved Rani Laxmibai's contribution during the Revolt of 1857 ? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Indian imagery has played a significant role in preserving Rani Laxmibai's contribution during the Revolt of 1857. Popular prints often depict her adorned in battle armor, wielding a sword, and riding a horse, symbolizing her fierce resistance against colonial rule. This visual representation

has transformed her into a legendary warrior, emphasizing her masculinity and courage. Poems and stories celebrate her valor, with lines like 'Khoob lari mardani woh to Jhansi wali rani thi' illustrating her heroic status. Such imagery and narratives ensure that her legacy as a symbol of resistance and empowerment continues to inspire generations.

Key Points: Depicted in battle armor; Symbol of resistance; Represented as a masculine warrior; Celebrated in poems; Legacy of empowerment; Inspiring future generations

Question 34.

Imagine you are creating a project on Mirabai's life. How would you explain the emotions of devotion in her poetry ?

[3 Marks]

Answer: Mirabai's poetry is a profound reflection of devotion, characterized by intense feelings of love and surrender to God. Her verses often express a longing for divine union, portraying God not just as a deity but as a beloved. In her compositions, we find the theme of personal sacrifice, where she speaks of relinquishing worldly ties for spiritual fulfillment. Mirabai's defiance against societal norms, especially regarding caste, emphasizes her unwavering faith. Her use of Islamic concepts connects to a universal theme of love and devotion, bridging religious boundaries. Overall, her poetry serves as a powerful testament to her deep emotional connection with the divine.

Key Points: Intense feelings of love and surrender to God- Longing for divine union as a beloved- Personal sacrifice and relinquishing worldly ties- Defiance against societal norms and caste- Connection to Islamic concepts of love- Universal theme of devotion.

Section D

Question 35. How do the archaeological discoveries at Harappa explain urban planning of the Indus Valley Civilization? Explain with examples.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The archaeological findings at Harappa and Mohenjodaro provide significant insights into the urban planning of the Indus Valley Civilization, emphasizing their advanced societal structure. Central to this urban planning was the grid layout of the cities, characterized by well-planned streets intersecting at right angles, indicative of a high level of organization. For instance, Mohenjodaro featured a sophisticated drainage system, with covered drains along the major streets, showcasing an emphasis on hygiene and public health. Furthermore, the uniformity in brick size across different sites points to standardized construction techniques. The presence of large public baths, such as the Great Bath of Mohenjodaro, suggests communal activities and rituals, further reflecting the urban lifestyle.

These archaeological discoveries highlight a civilization that prioritized order, functionality, and social cohesion through its meticulously planned urban centers.

Key Points: Grid layout of cities, Well-planned streets, Advanced drainage system, Standardized construction techniques, Presence of public baths, Focus on hygiene and public health, Indicators of societal organization and communal activities

Question 36. How have the roles and methodologies of archaeologists contributed to the understanding of Harappan Civilization over time? Explain with examples.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The roles and methodologies of archaeologists have significantly enhanced our understanding of the Harappan Civilization through systematic excavation, analysis of artifacts, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Archaeologists have meticulously uncovered material remains such as houses, pottery, seals, and tools, which provide insights into the daily lives and social structures of Harappan people. For instance, the discovery of the Harappan seals allowed for understanding trade relations and cultural exchanges with neighboring civilizations like Mesopotamia. Moreover, since the 1980s, a collaborative approach involving local and international archaeologists at sites like Harappa and Mohenjodaro has led to more comprehensive interpretations of the civilization's development, cosmology, and eventual decline. These investigations have spurred hypotheses about environmental factors and societal changes responsible for the civilization’s collapse, showcasing a dynamic methodological evolution in archaeology.

Key Points: Systematic excavation and analysis of artifacts; Example of Harappan seals and trade relations; Interdisciplinary collaboration since the 1980s; Insights into daily lives and social structures; Investigations of environmental factors influencing civilizational decline.

Question 37. The Virupaksha Temple is a historic temple located in Hampi. What features make it a key architectural and cultural landmark of the Vijayanagara Empire? Explain.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The Virupaksha Temple stands as a remarkable architectural and cultural landmark of the Vijayanagara Empire due to its historical significance and intricate design. Built over centuries, its origins date back to the 9th-10th centuries, with substantial expansions occurring during the Vijayanagara period. The temple showcases a fusion of various architectural styles and features grand halls, pavilions, and several shrines. Notably, the unique chariot-shaped shrine within the complex exemplifies the ingenuity of temple architecture. Furthermore, this sacred site was integral to the kings who ruled in the name of the god Virupaksha, reinforcing their divine legitimacy. The temple complex not only reflects religious devotion but also serves as a testament to the artistic and cultural achievements of the empire. It played a pivotal role in shaping the imperial identity of Vijayanagara, merging local traditions with broader influences. Additionally, its strategic location, linked to the

mythological significance of the Virupaksha and Pampadevi, underscores its cultural importance, attracting both pilgrims and scholars alike, thus solidifying its status as a vital part of India's heritage.

> **Key Points: Historical significance; Architectural features (halls, chariot shrine); Cultural importance (kings ruled on behalf of Virupaksha); Fusion of styles; Strategic location and religious devotion**

Question 38. The Royal Centre in Vijayanagara was significant. Which architectural features make it an important cultural landmark? Explain.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The Royal Centre in Vijayanagara is notable for its unique architectural features that reflect a blend of various cultural influences, making it a vital cultural landmark. One significant feature is the gopuram, or monumental entrance tower, which is emblematic of South Indian temple architecture, showcasing intricate carvings and grandeur. The fortified walls and gateways illustrate the strategic military architecture of the time. Additionally, the use of aqueducts highlights advanced engineering techniques for water supply. Structures such as the iconic Vittala Temple, designed to resemble a chariot, showcase the artistic prowess of the Vijayanagara architects. These elements combined demonstrate the cultural dynamism and imperial ambitions of the Vijayanagara rulers, making the Royal Centre a prominent representation of the period's architectural heritage.

> **Key Points: Gopuram as a cultural symbol; Fortified walls and strategic architecture; Aqueducts indicating advanced engineering; Vittala Temple's chariot design; Blend of various cultural influences**

Question 39. "Various sources are essential for a complete understanding of Gandhiji’s contributions in the Indian National Movement." Justify the statement.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Understanding Gandhiji's contributions to the Indian National Movement requires a diverse range of sources. Primary among these are his own writings, which provide insight into his philosophy, strategies, and vision for India. Contemporary newspapers, both in English and various Indian languages, serve as invaluable resources, documenting public sentiment and reactions to Gandhi's initiatives. Academic analyses further contextualize his influence within the broader nationalist movement, including the roles of other leaders, social changes, and the reactions of colonial authorities. Oral histories, too, capture the lives of ordinary Indians and their interactions with Gandhi, adding depth to our understanding. It is essential to critically assess all sources for bias, as contemporary accounts could reflect the interests of specific groups. Hence, a holistic study of Gandhi necessitates synthesizing these varied sources, offering a comprehensive picture of his lasting impact on Indian society and the freedom struggle.

Key Points: Gandhi's writings; contemporary newspapers' accounts; academic perspectives; oral histories; critical assessment of sources; overall synthesis for comprehensive understanding

Question 40. "Gandhiji's leadership in the 'Salt March' of 1930 became a symbol of resistance against British colonial rule." Justify the statement.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Gandhiji's leadership in the Salt March of 1930 marked a pivotal moment in the struggle against British colonial rule in India. By challenging the salt monopoly, he addressed a universally relevant issue, highlighting how colonial laws directly affected the daily lives of ordinary citizens. The march directly engaged over 60,000 people, fostering a sense of unity and collective action against oppression. Moreover, this act of civil disobedience demonstrated Gandhiji's innovative tactics, as he transformed a modest household item into a powerful symbol of resistance. The subsequent arrest of many protestors, including Gandhi himself, drew international attention to India's plight under British rule, emphasizing the courage and resilience of Indian society. This event laid the groundwork for future movements and became a significant moment of national pride, reflecting the capacity of peaceful protest to challenge unjust authority.

Key Points: Gandhi challenged British salt monopoly; targeted widely relatable issue; mobilized masses for collective action; symbolized resistance through civil disobedience; drew international attention to Indian struggle; showcased innovative non-violent tactics; united diverse sections of society against colonial rule.