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.

Harappan Settlements

So far, more than 2000 Harappan archaeological sites have been discovered in the Indian sub-continent. Most of the sites are found located between the Indus and the Saraswati River basins. Nearly two-thirds of these settlements are in the Saraswati basin, suggesting its immense importance for the Harappan Civilisation. Among these, five major cities have been identified. These are Rakhigarhi, Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Dholavira and Ganweriwala. The remaining sites come under different categories such as Regional Centres, agricultural villages, ports and manufacturing centres.

(1) Examine the significance of the concentration of Harappan settlements in the Saraswati Basin.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The concentration of Harappan settlements in the Saraswati Basin indicates its crucial role in the civilization's development. This area likely provided fertile land for agriculture and a reliable water source, supporting a large population and urban centers. Additionally, the concentration of settlements suggests a well-organized society with efficient trade and resource management, as seen in major cities like Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

Key Points: Fertile land-agricultural development-water source-sustained population-urbanization-trade and resource management

(2) Examine the role of rivers in sustaining the Harappan settlements.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Rivers played a crucial role in sustaining the Harappan settlements by providing water for irrigation, supporting agriculture, and facilitating trade. The Indus and Saraswati rivers were particularly important, creating fertile land that allowed agricultural practices to thrive, which in turn supported the population. Additionally, these rivers served as major trade routes, connecting various Harappan cities, such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa, and aiding the exchange of goods and resources. Thus, the rivers were essential to the economic and social development of the Harappan civilization.

Key Points: Water for irrigation-agricultural support-trade routes

(3) Examine the importance of classifying Harappan sites.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Classifying Harappan sites is important as it helps researchers to understand the structure and function of different settlements. By identifying major cities like Mohenjodaro and Harappa, along with regional centers and agricultural villages, it reveals the urban planning and economic organization of the Harappan Civilization. This classification aids in studying the scale of urbanization and provides insights into the lifestyle, trade, and governance of these ancient societies.

Key Points: Understanding urban planning-Identifying major and minor sites-Economic and social organization

Question 2.

The bird leaves its nest:

This is an excerpt from the Rihla: My departure from Tangier, my birthplace, took place on Thursday... I set out alone, having neither fellow-traveller... nor caravan whose party I might join, but swayed by an overmastering impulse within me and a desire long-cherished in my bosom to visit these illustrious sanctuaries. So I braced my resolution to quit all my dear ones, female and male, and forsook my home as birds forsake their nests ... My age at that time was twenty-two years. Ibn Battuta returned home in 1354, about 30 years after he had set out.

(1) Analyse any one challenge that Ibn Battuta faced during his journey.

[1 Marks]

Answer: One challenge that Ibn Battuta faced during his journey was the loneliness and isolation of traveling alone. He set out without any fellow travelers or caravan to accompany him, which likely made his journey both daunting and perilous as he had to navigate unfamiliar territories by himself.

Key Points: Loneliness of traveling alone- Lack of companionship- Challenges of navigating unfamiliar territories

(2) Analyse the symbolism of the bird leaving its nest in the context of Ibn Battuta.

[1 Marks]

Answer: In the context of Ibn Battuta, the bird leaving its nest symbolizes freedom and the pursuit of knowledge. Just as a bird departs from its nest to explore the world, Ibn Battuta sets out from his hometown of Tangier to embark on a journey fueled by an inner impulse and a desire for adventure. This act signifies the importance of leaving behind comfort and familiarity to seek greater experiences and enlightenment, embodying themes of exploration and self-discovery.

Key Points: Symbolism of freedom - Pursuit of knowledge - Departure from comfort

(3) Analyse the significance of Ibn Battuta's journey in the context of culture.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Ibn Battuta's journey is significant in the context of culture as it exemplifies the exchange of ideas, customs, and practices among different societies during the 14th century. His travels allowed him to immerse himself in diverse cultural experiences, from visiting holy sites to engaging with local populations. The detailed observations chronicled in the Rihla provide insightful perspectives on the social and cultural dynamics of the regions he explored, thereby enriching our understanding of historical intercultural interactions. Additionally, his reflections on the various practices he encountered reveal the interconnectedness of Islamic cultures across different geographies.

Key Points: Cultural exchange through travel; Immersion in diverse experiences; Insightful observations in Rihla; Understanding intercultural interactions; Reflection on Islamic cultural practices

Question 3.

Two rebels of 1857

- Shah Mal:

Shah Mal lived in a large village in pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh. He belonged to a clan of Jat cultivators whose kinship ties extended over chaurasee des (eighty-four villages). The lands in the region were irrigated and fertile, with rich dark loam soil. Many of the villagers were prosperous and saw the British land revenue system as oppressive: the revenue demand was high and its collection inflexible. Consequently cultivators were losing land to outsiders, to traders and moneylenders who

were coming into the area. Shah Mal mobilised the headmen and cultivators of chaurasee des, moving at night from village to village, urging people to rebel against the British. As in many other places, the revolt against the British turned into a general rebellion against all signs of oppression and injustice. Cultivators left their fields and plundered the houses of moneylenders and traders. Displaced proprietors took possession of the lands they had lost. Shah Mal's men attacked government buildings, destroyed the bridge over the river, and dug up metalled roads – partly to prevent government forces from coming into the area, and partly because bridges and roads were seen as symbols of British rule. They sent supplies to the sepoys who had mutinied in Delhi and stopped all official communication between British headquarters and Meerut. Locally acknowledged as the Raja, Shah Mal took over the bungalow of an English officer, turned it into a 'hall of justice', settling disputes and dispensing judgments. He also set up an amazingly effective network of intelligence. For a period the people of the area felt that firangi raj was over, and their raj had come. Shah Mal was killed in battle in July 1857.

(1) How did the rebellion led by Shah Mal challenge the authority of the British?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The rebellion led by Shah Mal challenged the authority of the British by mobilizing the local peasant community against oppressive land revenue policies. Shah Mal organized the cultivators of chaurasee des to rebel, encouraging them to plunder houses of moneylenders and traders while attacking government buildings. He took over an English officer's bungalow, establishing a 'hall of justice' to enforce local governance, thereby undermining British authority. His actions created a temporary sense of self-rule among the villagers, disrupting British control in the region.

Key Points: Mobilization of local peasantry - Attacks on government and trading institutions - Establishment of local governance

(2) How does Shah Mal’s establishment of a 'hall of justice' reflect his vision of governance?

[2 Marks]

Answer: Shah Mal’s establishment of a 'hall of justice' reflects his vision of governance as a return to traditional authority and justice for the oppressed. By setting up this system, he aimed to create a local administration that was responsive to the needs of the villagers who were suffering under British rule. This move symbolized his attempt to restore a sense of order and justice in the community, countering the oppressive British land revenue system. It also showcased his leadership and ability to mobilize people for self-governance during the rebellion, allowing local disputes to be resolved fairly, thus uniting the villagers against their common enemy—the British.

Key Points: Establishment of local governance, Symbol of justice for oppressed villagers, Mobilization against British oppression

(3) How did Shah Mal’s leadership contribute to the spread of the rebellion?

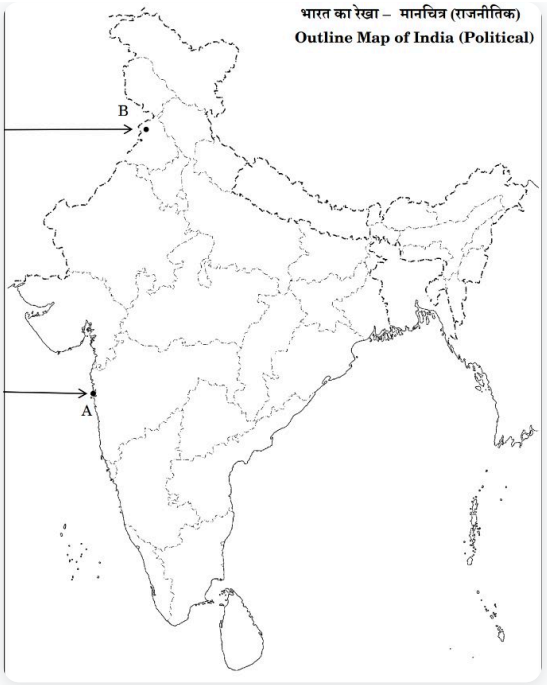
[1 Marks]

Answer: Shah Mal’s leadership was pivotal in mobilizing the villagers of pargana Barout against British oppression. He effectively united headmen and cultivators to rise against the oppressive land revenue system, leading to a coordinated rebellion where villagers plundered moneylenders and traders. His ability to communicate the message of resistance and establish a local authority, as seen in his transformation of an English officer's bungalow into a 'hall of justice', helped in consolidating efforts against the British. This unity and organized resistance significantly contributed to the greater spread of the rebellion in the region.

Key Points: Mobilization of villagers against British oppression - Unification of local leaders and headmen - Establishment of a local authority and community justice

Question 4.

On the given political outline map of India locate and label the following with appropriate symbols :



(1)

Amravati – Stupa

[1 Marks]

Answer: On the political outline map of India, mark the location of Amravati in Andhra Pradesh, and label it as 'Stupa' using a symbol of a stupa, which can be represented as a dome with a circular base and an umbrella on top.

Key Points: Amravati location- Stupa symbol-represent as dome with umbrella

(2)

Banawali – Indus Valley Site

[1 Marks]

Answer: Label the site 'Banawali' on the map, located in Haryana, using an appropriate symbol such as a triangle or dot to indicate its significance as an Indus Valley Civilization site.

Key Points: Locate in Haryana-Use suitable symbol-Indus Valley Civilization site

(3)

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

[2 Marks]

Answer: The place marked as ‘A’ is 'AICC' or All India Congress Committee, which was a significant center for the Indian National Movement. The place marked as ‘B’ is 'Lucknow,' where the Lucknow Pact was signed in 1916 between the Congress and the Muslim League, which played a crucial role in the movement for independence.

Key Points: A - AICC (All India Congress Committee) - B - Lucknow (site of the Lucknow Pact)

(4)

Vijayanagara – Capital of Vijayanagara Empire

[1 Marks]

Answer: In the outline map of India, the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, Vijayanagara, should be located in the southern part of the country, specifically in present-day Karnataka. It is marked with a distinctive symbol, such as a star, to indicate its historical significance as the capital.

Key Points: Located in present-day Karnataka - Historical center of the Vijayanagara Empire - Symbol to represent its significance

(5)

Ajmer – Territory under the control of the Mughals

[1 Marks]

Answer: Ajmer was an important city within the Mughal Empire and should be marked on the map with a symbol representing the Mughal territory, such as a crown or flag. It was known for its strategic location and cultural significance during Mughal rule.

Key Points: Ajmer location-symbol of Mughal control-crown or flag

(6)

Mention any one territory under the Mughal Empire.

[1 Marks]

Answer: One territory under the Mughal Empire is Delhi.

Key Points: Delhi- Mughal capital- significant for political power

(7)

Mention any two ancient Buddhist sites in Central India.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Two ancient Buddhist sites in Central India are Sanchi and Ajanta. Sanchi is known for its stupas and intricate carvings, while Ajanta is famous for its rock-cut caves and exquisite paintings.

Key Points: Sanchi - stupas and carvings; Ajanta - rock-cut caves and paintings

(8)

Name the capital of Vijayanagara Empire.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The capital of the Vijayanagara Empire is Vijayanagara, which means 'city of victory.'

Key Points: Vijayanagara-capital of the empire-founded in the fourteenth century-urban center

(9)

Mention any two centres of the Revolt of 1857.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Two significant centres of the Revolt of 1857 were Delhi and Kanpur. Delhi was the site of the proclamation of Bahadur Shah II as the leader of the rebellion, while Kanpur witnessed intense fighting and atrocities during the conflict.

Key Points: Delhi-Kanpur

Section B

Question 5. Which of the following is the primary method archaeologists used to study social differences within the Harappan society?

[1 Marks]

(A) Studying cropping pattern

(B) Analysing designs of seals

(C) Examining burial customs

(D) Studying religious beliefs

Explanation: The correct option is 'Examining burial customs' because the context explicitly states that archaeologists use burials as a strategy to identify social or economic differences among people in a culture. Variations in burial practices, such as the way burial pits were made and the materials used, can indicate social distinctions.

Question 6. Which of the following is a characteristic of the narrative sections of the Mahabharata?

[1 Marks]

(A) They contain economic descriptions

(B) They contain compiled stories

(C) They describe cultural rituals

(D) They are philosophical discussions

Explanation: The correct option is 'They contain compiled stories.' The narrative sections of the Mahabharata are primarily focused on storytelling, as indicated in the context which states that historians classify the text into narratives that contain stories. This implies that the essence of the narrative sections is to convey stories rather than just philosophical discussions, cultural rituals, or economic descriptions.

Question 7.

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

Read them carefully and select the correct option :

Assertion (A): James Prinsep’s work was crucial for understanding the political history of ancient India.
Reason (R): Deciphering inscriptions provided insights into political events and rulers.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A). James Prinsep's deciphering of Brahmi and Kharosthi inscriptions was essential for historians to access the political history of ancient India, as these inscriptions offered valuable insights into political events and rulers, thereby justifying the assertion.

Question 8. Which one of the following correctly associates a city with its primary route of communication during the sixth century BCE?

[1 Marks]

(A) Pataliputra – Sea route; Ujjayini – Land route; Puhar – Riverine route; Mathura – Coastal route

(B) Pataliputra – Land route; Ujjayini – Coastal route; Puhar – Riverine route; Mathura – Sea route

(C) Pataliputra – Riverine route; Ujjayini – Land route; Puhar – Coastal route; Mathura – Land route

(D) Pataliputra – Coastal route; Ujjayini – Land route; Puhar – Coastal route; Mathura – Sea route

Explanation: The correct option is 'Pataliputra – Riverine route; Ujjayini – Land route; Puhar – Coastal route; Mathura – Land route'. This is because, according to the provided context, Pataliputra was on riverine routes, Ujjayini was along land routes, Puhar was near the coast starting sea routes, and Mathura was also associated with land routes. Hence, this option correctly represents the primary routes of communication for each city.

Question 9.

Match Column I with Column II regarding the Buddhist texts and choose the correct option:

[1 Marks]

	Column I (Buddhist Text)		*Column II (Description)*
a.	*Vinaya Pitaka*	i.	Rules and regulations for monastic order
b.	*Abhidhamma Pitaka*	ii.	Chronicle of the island
c.	*Dipavamsa*	iii.	Regional histories of Buddha
d.	*Mahavamsa*	iv.	Dealt with philosophical matters

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

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

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

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

Explanation: The correct answer is a-iii, b-iv, c-i, d-ii. This configuration accurately reflects the relationships between the Buddhist texts as described in the context, emphasizing the significance of the Majjhima Nikaya and its role in Buddhist dialogue and social concepts.

Question 10.

Identify the ancient Indian text:

• Sanskrit text compiled between c. 200 BCE and 200 CE

• Provided a comprehensive code of laws

• Offered guidelines on social life

[1 Marks]

(A) Vedas

(B) Ramayana

(C) Upanishads

(D) Manusmriti

Explanation: The correct answer is Manusmriti, as it is specifically noted in the context as a significant legal text compiled between c. 200 BCE and 200 CE, outlining laws and guidelines for social life in ancient India.

Question 11.

In which of the following regions are the ‘Barabar Caves’ located in India ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Rajasthan

(B) Bihar

(C) Maharashtra

(D) Odisha

Explanation:

The Barabar Caves are located in Bihar, as indicated in the relevant context which directly mentions the 'Entrance to a cave at Barabar (Bihar), c. third century BCE'. This confirms that Bihar is the correct answer.

Question 12.

Which of the following is a similarity between the works of Ibn Battuta and Al-Biruni ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Both aimed to spread their culture

(B) Both travelled to seek knowledge

(C) Both focused on political history

(D) Both criticized local customs

Explanation: Both traveled to seek knowledge. Ibn Battuta and Al-Biruni were renowned scholars and travelers who explored different regions to enhance their understanding of diverse cultures, religions, and societies, as indicated by their extensive travels and studies during their respective periods.

Question 13.

If you were to create a documentary on Amir Khusrau, which aspect would best highlight his cultural significance ?

[1 Marks]

(A) His association with the Delhi Sultanate

(B) His poetry and musical sama

(C) His contribution to the development of Urdu

(D) His proficiency in Arabic language

Explanation:

His poetry and musical sama best highlights Amir Khusrau's cultural significance because he is known as a prolific poet and a key figure in the development of Indian music. His works fused Persian and Indian themes and are considered foundational in the evolution of the Urdu language and music, reflecting the rich cultural interactions of his time.

Question 14.

Which one of the following is a famous literary work authored by Raja Krishnadeva Raya ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Amuktamalyada

(B) Ponniyin Selvan

(C) Malatimadhava

(D) Kadambari

Explanation: The correct answer is 'Amuktamalyada'. This work is known to be composed by Krishnadeva Raya in Telugu and showcases his contributions to literature, particularly in statecraft. The context provided clearly states that he authored 'Amuktamalyada'.

Question 15.

If you were researching the economic policies and revenue collection methods of Akbar’s reign, which of the following sections of the Ain-i-Akbari would provide the most relevant information ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Manzil-Abadi

(B) Mulk-Abadi

(C) Sipah-Abadi

(D) Daftar-e-Nau

Explanation:

The correct option is Mulk-Abadi. This section deals specifically with the fiscal side of the empire and provides rich quantitative information on revenue rates, making it the most relevant for researching economic policies and revenue collection during Akbar's reign.

Question 16.

Which of the following options represents the correct chronological order of Mughal rulers in India ?

I. Reign of Aurangzeb

II. Reign of Akbar

III. Reign of Shah Jahan

IV. Reign of Jahangir

[1 Marks]

(A) II, III, IV, I

(B) II, IV, III, I

(C) I, III, II, IV

(D) III, II, I, IV

Explanation:

The correct chronological order of the Mughal rulers is II (Akbar), IV (Jahangir), III (Shah Jahan), I (Aurangzeb). Akbar ruled from 1556 to 1605, followed by Jahangir from 1605 to 1627, Shah Jahan from 1628 to 1658, and finally Aurangzeb from 1658 to 1707. Hence, the option II, IV, III, I accurately reflects this sequence.

Question 17.

Bernier compared the Mughal Empire to the French monarchy, and particularly criticized the absence of private property rights in India. How does this comparison reflect Bernier’s own socio-political context ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Advocacy for feudalism in Indian governance

(B) Belief in the superiority of European legal structures

(C) Support of private property, leading to underestimating India

(D) Support for absolutism and critiquing India

Explanation:

The correct option is 'Support of private property, leading to underestimating India.' Bernier emphasized the virtues of private property and criticized the crown ownership of land in the Mughal Empire, which he believed harmed both the economy and society. His views were shaped by European ideals of landownership, causing him to underestimate the complexities of Indian social and economic structures.

Question 18.

Fill in the blank with the appropriate option from the following : While historians use the term Vijayanagara Empire, contemporaries described it as the ‘‘Karnataka _____’’.

[1 Marks]

(A) Nagara

(B) Hampl

(C) Empire

(D) Samrajyamu

Explanation:

The correct answer is 'Samrajyamu'. This term is rooted in the local language, and it is often used in historical texts to refer to an empire or kingdom, specifically relating to the Vijayanagara Empire which was significant in Karnataka during its time.

Question 19.

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

Assertion (A) : The Subsidiary Alliance system introduced by Lord Wellesley, significantly weakened the Indian Princely States.

Reason (R) : Indian rulers lost their military autonomy under the Subsidiary Alliance.

[1 Marks]

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

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

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

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

Explanation: The Subsidiary Alliance system, introduced by Lord Wellesley, required Indian rulers to disband their own armies and allow British troops within their territories. This caused the Indian princes to lose their military autonomy, weakening their power significantly. Hence, the Reason (R) correctly explains the Assertion (A).

Question 20.

Read the statements about the Deccan Riots Commission. Identify which of the following options is correct.

I. The Government of Bombay established an enquiry commission to investigate the causes of the riots.

II. The Deccan Riots Report was presented to the British Parliament in 1878.

III. The Commission’s report included only qualitative data from the eyewitnesses.

IV. The enquiry process involved recording statements from ryots and sahukars.

[1 Marks]

(A) II, III and IV

(B) I, II and III

(C) I, III and IV

(D) I, II and IV

Explanation: The correct option is I, II and IV. Statement I is correct as the Government of Bombay established the commission due to pressure from the Government of India. Statement II is also correct because the report was indeed presented to the British Parliament in 1878. Statement IV is correct as the enquiry process did involve recording statements from both ryots and sahukars. Statement III is incorrect because the Commission's report included both qualitative and quantitative data, not just qualitative data.

Question 21.

Who amongst the following was the female member from Orissa (Odisha) in the Constituent Assembly ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Malati Chowdhury

(B) Durgabai Deshmukh

(C) Hansa Mehta

(D) Renuka Ray

Explanation:

The correct answer is Malati Chowdhury. She was the notable female representative from Orissa in the Constituent Assembly, which played a significant role in framing the Constitution of India.

Question 22.

Which of the following pairs is correctly matched regarding the Constituent Assembly ?Column I (Committees of Constituent Assembly) Column II (Presidents)

[1 Marks]

(A) Provincial Constitution Committee – Vallabhbhai Patel

(B) Union Constitution Committee – Bal Krishna Sharma

(C) Union Power Committee – B.N. Rao

(D) Rules of Procedure Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru

Explanation:

The correct answer is 'Provincial Constitution Committee – Vallabhbhai Patel.' Vallabhbhai Patel played a significant role in the Constituent Assembly, especially in matters related to provincial

governance. None of the other pairs are correctly matched based on historical records.

Question 23.

Identify the leader of the Indian National Movement in 1905 with the help of the given information.

• This leader was a part of the trio known as Lal-Bal-Pal, signifying their all-India character despite being from different provinces.

• He belonged to Maharashtra.

[1 Marks]

(A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

(B) Bhagat Singh

(C) Lala Hardayal

(D) Lala Lajpat Rai

Explanation: The correct answer is Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He was part of the trio known as Lal-Bal-Pal, which consisted of leaders from different provinces advocating for active opposition to British colonial rule. Bal Gangadhar Tilak hailed from Maharashtra, matching the contextual clues provided.

Question 24.

Which one of the following policies by the British led to discontent among Indian soldiers, contributing to the Revolt of 1857 ?

[1 Marks]

(A) The introduction of western education system

(B) The policy of Subsidiary Alliance

(C) The use of Enfield Rifles with greased cartridges

(D) The Doctrine of Lapse of Dalhousie

Explanation:

The use of Enfield Rifles with greased cartridges led to significant discontent among Indian soldiers, as there were fears that the cartridges were made using the fats of cows and pigs, which offended both Hindu and Muslim soldiers. This rumor about the new cartridges heightened tensions and contributed to the unrest that culminated in the Revolt of 1857.

Question 25.

Which of the following was the consequence of not paying the revenue by sunset on the specified date under the British Sunset Law enacted in Bengal ?

[1 Marks]

(A) The payment period was extended

(B) The revenue rates were reduced

(C) The Zamindari was put on auction

(D) The case was referred to the High Court

Explanation:

The correct answer is 'The Zamindari was put on auction.' According to the provided context, the Sunset Law stipulated that failure to make revenue payments by the specified deadline would result in the zamindari being auctioned, indicating a direct and severe consequence for non-payment.

Question 26.

The sculpture of the Bodhisatta statue shown in the image below is influenced by which of the following schools of art ?

[1 Marks]



(A) Gandhara

(B) Nalanda

(C) Amravati

(D) Mathura

Explanation:

The correct option is Gandhara. The context highlights that the Bodhisatta sculptures discovered were based on Greek models and were predominantly found in the northwest, specifically referencing Gandhara as a region known for its distinct sculptures influenced by Greco-Roman artistic styles.

Section C

Question 27. Describe the processes adopted by V.S. Sukthankar and his team in preparing the critical edition of the Mahabharata.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The preparation of the critical edition of the Mahabharata, initiated by V.S. Sukthankar in 1919, involved meticulous processes by a team of scholars. Initially, they gathered numerous Sanskrit manuscripts from various regions, each written in different scripts. This diverse collection formed the basis for their work. The team devised a systematic approach to compare the verses across the manuscripts, identifying commonalities. Ultimately, the verses that appeared consistently across the majority were selected, leading to the publication of several volumes that encompass more than 13,000 pages. This critical effort not only preserved the text's integrity but also highlighted its historical significance.

Key Points: Collection of Sanskrit manuscripts from various regions-Development of a systematic method for comparison-Selection of common verses across manuscripts-Publication of the critical edition in multiple volumes

Question 28. Describe different patterns of marriages that influenced familial relations during the Mahabharata period.

[3 Marks]

Answer: During the Mahabharata period, various patterns of marriage significantly influenced familial relations. One prominent example is Draupadi’s polyandrous marriage to the five Pandavas, which challenged conventional norms by promoting unity among brothers and strengthening familial ties. Additionally, marriages among kin, such as cousins, fostered close-knit communities, while also highlighting the complexity of social structures. Despite the promotion of the varna system, inter-varna marriages were not uncommon, allowing for alliances that were often politically motivated. This diversity in marital practices reflects the fluid nature of kinship and power dynamics within the epic’s narrative.

Key Points: Draupadi's polyandry; marriages among kin; close-knit communities; inter-

varna alliances; fluid kinship and power dynamics

Question 29. Historians have used a variety of sources to reconstruct the history of the Mauryan Empire. Explain the statement with examples.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Historians have utilized numerous sources to piece together the history of the Mauryan Empire, which flourished in ancient India. A primary source is the archaeological evidence, particularly stone sculptures and inscriptions that have been uncovered. The Sanchi Stupa stands out as one of the well-preserved structures from this period, showcasing the artistic excellence of the Mauryan era. Additionally, the accounts of Megasthenes, a Greek ambassador to Chandragupta Maurya's court, provide invaluable insights into the political structure and cultural practices of the time. Megasthenes' observations, despite existing only in fragments, offer a glimpse into the empire's governance and society. Furthermore, religious texts from Buddhism, Jainism, and Brahmanism enrich our understanding, as they reflect the beliefs and ideas prevalent during the Mauryan period. Such a multi-faceted approach, combining archaeological finds and literary sources, allows historians to reconstruct a comprehensive view of the Mauryan Empire's legacy.

Key Points: Archaeological evidence; Megasthenes' accounts; Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical texts; Sanchi Stupa; Insights into governance and culture

Question 30. Imagine yourself as a historian reconstructing the events that took place on the Mahanavami Dibba. How would the architecture of the platform help you to understand the royal ceremonies? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Answer: As a historian examining the Mahanavami Dibba, the architecture offers crucial insights into royal ceremonies. This massive platform, rising 40 feet and covering 11,000 sq. ft., was likely the center of grandeur during rituals, especially the Mahanavami festival. The elevated structure would have allowed viewing from a distance, symbolizing the king's power. The relief carvings on its base depict important cultural narratives and historical events, enriching our understanding of the ceremonies' significance. Furthermore, the evidence of a wooden structure on top indicates the possibility of elaborate decoration and gatherings, allowing for a deeper appreciation of the rituals that occurred at this important site.

Key Points: Massive platform size and height; role in Mahanavami festival; relief carvings depicting cultural narratives; possibility of elaborate wooden structure;

Question 31. Imagine exploring the roles of the Rayas and the Nayakas in the Vijayanagara Empire. How did their administrative roles influence the empire's stability? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Rayas and Nayakas played crucial roles in the administrative framework of the Vijayanagara Empire, significantly impacting its stability. The Rayas, as the sovereign rulers, established central authority and defined policies that maintained order and prosperity. They were strategic in forming alliances, even with the Sultans, to enhance political leverage. On the other hand, Nayakas served as military chiefs responsible for regional governance and security. Their local knowledge and military leadership were vital for quelling revolts and defending territories. However, after Krishnadeva Raya's death, the rise of rebellious Nayakas indicated a growing decentralization of power that eventually strained the imperial structure, leading to instability. The interplay between the Rayas' central authority and the Nayakas' regional influence was essential for the empire's initial cohesion, although it also foreshadowed challenges as power dynamics evolved.

> **Key Points: 1. Rayas established central authority and governance policies. 2. Nayakas provided military leadership and maintained regional security. 3. Alliances with Sultans were strategic for stability. 4. Post-Krishnadeva Raya's death, Nayaka rebellions indicated decentralization and emerging instability.**

Question 32. How did the Mughal rulers classify agricultural land for revenue? Explain with examples.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Mughal rulers implemented a systematic approach to classify agricultural lands for revenue collection. Under Emperor Akbar, lands were categorized primarily into three classifications: Polaj, which was annually cultivated without fallow periods; Parauti, which lay fallow for one year before cultivation; and Chachar, which was only cultivated occasionally. This classification helped in determining the revenue rates appropriate for each type. For instance, Polaj land, being fertile, attracted a higher tax, while Chachar, being less productive, was taxed at a lower rate. Such detailed assessments were essential for the state's revenue, ensuring efficient collection and maintaining agrarian relations across the empire.

> **Key Points: Mughal land classification; Akbar's system; Polaj, Parauti, Chachar; Revenue determination; Agricultural production control**

Question 33. Analyse the main objectives of the British government in implementing the Permanent Settlement in Bengal.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The British government's main objectives in implementing the Permanent Settlement in Bengal were to secure a stable revenue system, promote agricultural productivity, and establish control over land revenue. By fixing the revenue demand permanently, they aimed to ensure a steady income for the colonial administration. The British believed that designating zamindars, often local rajas and taluqdars, as land revenue collectors would incentivize them to improve agricultural practices. Additionally, this policy aimed to mitigate unrest stemming from land disputes and declining rural economies due to recurrent famines. Thus, the Permanent Settlement was integral for British consolidation of power in Bengal and created a predictable revenue framework.

Key Points: Stable revenue system-Designate zamindars as revenue collectors-Promote agricultural productivity-Ensure steady income-Mitigate unrest due to land disputes-Address rural economic decline

Question 34. How did the 'Objectives Resolution' of the Constituent Assembly reflect the vision of India as an 'Independent Sovereign Republic'. Explain.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The 'Objectives Resolution', introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru on December 13, 1946, fundamentally depicted the aspirations of a newly independent India. By declaring India as an 'Independent Sovereign Republic', it emphasized self-governance free from colonial rule. The resolution articulated core ideals, including justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity among all citizens, which are pivotal for a democratic society. Furthermore, it ensured that safeguards for minorities and marginalized groups would uphold social justice, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity. Overall, the resolution set the foundation for the Constitution, embodying the vision of a diverse yet united nation committed to the rule of law and democratic values.

Key Points: Declaration of India as an Independent Sovereign Republic-Emphasis on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity-Safeguards for minorities and marginalized groups-Foundation for the Constitution-Commitment to democratic values and rule of law

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Section D

Question 35. Examine how the sculptural elements are integrated within the architectural framework of the Sanchi Stupa.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The integration of sculptural elements within the architectural framework of the Sanchi Stupa exemplifies a harmonious blend of art and structure that serves both aesthetic and spiritual functions. The Great Stupa's design includes intricately carved gateways, particularly the eastern gateway, through which worshippers enter. These gateways are adorned with vibrant sculptures depicting scenes from the life of Buddha and Jataka tales, which convey key philosophical messages. Additionally, the sculptural reliefs reflect the narrative of Buddhist teachings and stories, enhancing the stupa's role as a pilgrimage site. The railings that surround the stupa are designed to resemble a bamboo fence, establishing a connection between the sacred and the natural world. The overall architectural layout encourages a clockwise circumambulation, allowing devotees to engage both physically and spiritually with the structure. In this way, the sculptures are not mere decoration; they provide visual guidance and a meditative focus for worshippers, effectively intertwining sacred art with architecture. The stupas at Sanchi, thus, act as a comprehensive educational tool, aiding in the

dissemination of Buddhist ideology through sculptural artistry, while emphasizing the importance of community engagement in spiritual practices.

Key Points: Integration of sculptures in gateways- Vibrant depictions of Buddhist narratives- Architectural design encouraging circumambulation- Sculptures enhance spiritual experience- Connection between sacred art and architecture

Question 36. Examine the relationship between Puranic Hinduism and devotional practices.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Puranic Hinduism is intrinsically linked to the devotional practices that emerged gradually over centuries. As the Vedic rituals focused on sacrificial offerings to a pantheon of deities like Agni and Indra, Puranic traditions shifted towards personal devotion, emphasizing the worship of Vishnu and Shiva as supreme deities. This transition reflected a growing inclination among devotees to cultivate a personal relationship with their chosen deity through bhakti. Unlike the more regulated Vedic practices, devotion in Puranic Hinduism often included singing, chanting, and ecstatic worship, which allowed for more accessible expressions of faith. The development of Vaishnavism and Shaivism further highlighted this relationship, as they offered distinct paths of devotion that acknowledged and sometimes transcended Vedic orthodoxy. Despite tensions with other religious traditions like Buddhism and Jainism, the inclusive nature of Puranic Hinduism enabled a diverse range of beliefs and practices. Thus, the evolution towards devotional practices within Puranic Hinduism marked a significant transformation in Hindu worship, emphasizing personal devotion over ritualistic formality and leading to a broader understanding of divinity that encompassed various practices and traditions as part of a larger Hindu identity.

Key Points: Transition from Vedic rituals to Puranic traditions - Emphasis on personal devotion through bhakti - Worship of Vishnu and Shiva as supreme deities - Ecstatic practices: singing and chanting - Inclusion and diversity in Hindu worship - Relations with Buddhism and Jainism - Evolution of devotional practices marking transformation in Hindu worship

Question 37. How has the legacy of Guru Nanak Dev’s teachings influenced the principles of Sikhism? Explain with examples.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism, laid down the foundational teachings that significantly influenced the principles of this faith. Central to his message was the concept of Nirguna Bhakti, emphasizing devotion to a formless God rather than ritualistic practices seen in existing religions. He opposed caste distinctions, advocating equality among all individuals, irrespective of their background. For instance, during his travels, he engaged with diverse communities, promoting harmony and understanding. His hymns, compiled in the Guru Granth Sahib, emphasize core values such as sincerity, humility, and service to humanity. Guru Nanak’s teachings also inspired subsequent Sikh Gurus, like Guru Gobind Singh, who further established the Khalsa Panth, a community united

under shared values and symbols, including the importance of uncut hair and the dagger. The legacy of Guru Nanak thus instilled principles of equality, community service, and devotion within Sikhism, making it a uniquely progressive religious movement.

Key Points: Nirguna Bhakti-Equality-rejection of rituals-Hymns in Guru Granth Sahib-Khalsa Panth

Question 38. How do Kabir Das's poems serve as a medium for fostering a sense of unity and spirituality among the diverse communities? Explain with examples.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Kabir Das's poems serve as a profound medium for promoting unity and spirituality across diverse communities by dismantling dogmas and emphasizing a shared pursuit of the Divine. His verses resonate with the idea that God transcends religious labels and societal boundaries. For instance, in the famous couplets from the Kabir Bijak, he often uses the 'bani' of God that emphasizes the oneness of the soul, irrespective of one's caste or religion. The language he employed - often a blend of Hindi and dialects - made his messages accessible to a wider audience. Moreover, the way Kabir used 'ulatbansi' or upside-down sayings forces readers to challenge conventional wisdom, thus fostering critical thinking and self-awareness. His teachings, which have been included in the Adi Granth Sahib, exemplify how his insights transcend communal divides, advocating for love, equality, and the intimate relationship between the seeker and the Divine. Through this, Kabir nurtures a sense of collective identity among individuals from different backgrounds, urging them towards spiritual reflection and unity.

Key Points: Kabir's rejection of religious dogmas; use of universal themes of love and spiritual equality; accessible language for diverse audiences; compelling use of ulatbansi to provoke thought; inclusion in the Adi Granth Sahib demonstrating broad influence.

Question 39. ''Gandhiji used the 'Salt Law' to mobilise a wider discontent against British rule.'' Support the statement with suitable arguments.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Gandhiji's Salt March in 1930 was a revolutionary act of civil disobedience that symbolized resistance to British imperialism. The Salt Law imposed a tax on salt, a substance vital for every Indian household, thus directly affecting the daily lives of millions. By choosing to break this specific law, Gandhiji tapped into a widespread sentiment against colonial oppression. His march from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi galvanized support, and mobilized thousands, illustrating the power of nonviolent protest. The Salt March led to significant arrests, including Gandhiji's, showcasing the resolve of the Indian populace against unjust laws. This widely publicized defiance drew international attention, highlighting the inequities of British rule. Ultimately, the Salt Satyagraha was a turning point in India's independence movement, uniting people across various social and economic strata in the fight against colonial rule.

Key Points: Salt tax as a universal issue; Gandhiji’s strategic choice of salt; impact on Indian households; mobilization of mass support; international attention on British injustices; arrests highlighting resistance.

Question 40. “Gandhiji’s leadership was instrumental in shaping the Non-Cooperation Movement.” Justify the statement.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Gandhiji’s leadership was pivotal to the Non-Cooperation Movement, marking a crucial phase in India's struggle for independence. His philosophy of non-violence and civil disobedience inspired millions. After the Rowlatt Satyagraha, which established him as a national leader, he called for the Non-Cooperation Movement, encouraging Indians to withdraw from British institutions, schools, and courts, thus asserting their rejection of colonial rule. This movement was not merely a call for protest but a training ground for self-rule, emphasizing denial, self-discipline, and unity among diverse groups. Gandhiji’s inclusive approach united various sections of Indian society, making the movement a mass uprising. Despite its challenges, he instilled hope and collective identity among Indians, shaking the foundations of the British Raj. His leadership exemplified moral authority, urging the populace to engage in peaceful resistance, thus changing the trajectory of India's independence struggle.

Key Points: Gandhiji’s philosophy of non-violence\; The role of the Rowlatt Satyagraha in his emergence as a leader\; The call for non-cooperation and its impact on various sections of society\; Emphasis on self-rule, denial, and self-discipline\; Unifying diverse groups against colonial rule\; The moral authority of Gandhiji’s leadership and its effect on the British Raj