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 most ancient system yet discovered

About the drains, Mackay noted: "It is certainly the most complete ancient system as yet discovered." Every house was connected to the street drains. The main channels were made of bricks set in mortar and were covered with loose bricks that could be removed for cleaning. In some cases, limestone was used for the covers. House drains first emptied into a sump or cesspit into which solid matter settled while waste water flowed out into the street drains. Very long drainage channels were provided at intervals with sumps for cleaning. It is a wonder of archaeology that "little heaps of material, mostly

sand, have frequently been found lying alongside drainage channels, which shows... that the debris was not always carted away when the drain was cleared". From Ernest Mackay, Early Indus Civilisation, 1948. Drainage systems were not unique to the larger cities, but were found in smaller settlements as well. At Lothal for example, while houses were built of mud bricks, drains were made of burnt bricks.

(1) Assess the impact of Harappan drainage system.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The Harappan drainage system had a significant impact on the urban planning and sanitation of Indus Valley cities. It was notable for its complexity and comprehensiveness, as every house was connected to the street drains, facilitating efficient waste management. The construction of drains using bricks set in mortar, sometimes covered with limestone, demonstrates advanced engineering skills. This systematic disposal of waste not only helped maintain hygiene but also prevented the spread of waterborne diseases. Furthermore, the presence of sumps for cleaning indicates a commitment to regular maintenance and sanitation. The drainage system's planning, which involved laying out streets before constructing houses, showcases the remarkable urban organization of the Harappan civilization, influencing subsequent urban planning concepts. Overall, the drainage system's effectiveness contributed to the overall prosperity and sustainability of Harappan cities.

Key Points: comprehensive drainage system; efficient waste management; advanced engineering; maintained hygiene; prevented waterborne diseases; commitment to maintenance; organized urban planning; influence on future urban concepts

(2) Analyse the possible reason behind the uniformity in the drainage systems across the Harappan cities.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The uniformity in the drainage systems across the Harappan cities can be attributed to several factors that reflect the advanced urban planning and engineering of the time. Firstly, the grid pattern in the layout of the cities facilitated the systematic integration of drainage systems, where every house was connected to the street drains, ensuring a cohesive and efficient waste management approach. The use of standardized materials such as burnt bricks for drains indicates a uniform construction methodology, emphasizing the cultural and technological coherence within the Harappan civilization. Furthermore, the presence of sump pits and removable covers for cleaning across the cities demonstrates a shared understanding of sanitation and the need for maintenance, reflecting the values placed on public health. Overall, the uniformity suggests centralized planning and regulation that contributed to the effectiveness of the drainage systems in managing waste water and promoting hygiene in diverse settlements.

Key Points: Grid pattern city planning-standardization of drainage materials-facilitation of public health and maintenance

(3) Analyse the implications of finding little heaps of material, mostly sand, alongside drainage channels.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The discovery of little heaps of material, mostly sand, alongside the drainage channels in ancient Indus Valley cities like Mohenjo-daro has significant implications regarding the society's sanitation practices and urban planning. Firstly, it indicates that while there was an advanced and systematic approach to drainage, the maintenance of these systems was not always thorough. The presence of debris such as sand suggests that the clearing processes were not entirely effective, which could have led to blockages and inefficiencies in the drainage system over time. Secondly, it highlights the level of prioritization given to cleanliness and waste management; although there were designated cleaning procedures, those may not have been conducted consistently, revealing a potential gap in urban management. Furthermore, the heaps of sand may reflect on the inhabitants' understanding of waste disposal, indicating that they may have viewed the debris as less significant. This indicates that while there was a level of sophistication in engineering, there were also practical challenges in maintaining hygiene in such a complex urban environment. Overall, these findings provide insight into the daily life, health considerations, and the technological capabilities of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Key Points: Evidence of systematic drainage systems - Indicates gaps in maintenance - Reflects priorities in urban management - Suggests understanding of waste disposal - Insight into daily life and health

Question 2.

A warning for Europe

Bernier warned that if European kings followed the Mughal model: Their kingdoms would be very far from being well-cultivated and peopled, so well built, so rich, so polite and flourishing as we see them. Our kings are otherwise rich and powerful; and we must avow that they are much better and more royally served. They would soon be kings of deserts and solitudes, of beggars and barbarians, such as those are whom I have been representing. (the Mughals) ... We should find the great Cities and the great Burroughs (boroughs) rendered uninhabitable because of ill air, and to fall to ruine (ruin) without anybodies (anybody) taking care of repairing them; the hillocks abandon'd, and the fields overspread with bushes, or fill'd with pestilential marishes (marshes), as hath been already intimated.

(1) Mention any one prominent contribution of Bernier.

[1 Marks]

Answer: One prominent contribution of Bernier was his critical analysis of the Mughal land ownership system. He highlighted how the emperor's ownership of all land led to economic decline and societal issues within the empire. Bernier argued that this arrangement resulted in cities becoming 'camp towns' that lacked viable social and economic foundations, ultimately leading to their decay when the imperial court moved away. His observations shed light on the detrimental effects of crown land ownership and provided a unique perspective on Mughal governance, which resonated with other travelers' accounts of that era.

Key Points: Critical analysis of Mughal land ownership system-Highlighted economic decline and societal issues-Coined the term 'camp towns' for Mughal cities

(2) How did Bernier describe the difference between European kingdom and the Mughal territories?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Bernier highlighted significant differences between European kingdoms and Mughal territories. He claimed that European kingdoms, unlike the Mughal Empire, were 'well-cultivated and peopled, so well built, so rich, so polite and flourishing.' He criticized the Mughal Empire, describing it as a realm where kings would end up ruling over 'deserts and solitudes' filled with 'beggars and barbarians.' He pointed out the neglected and deteriorated states of Mughal cities, characterized by 'ill air' and pestilential marshes. He attributed these conditions to the Mughal system of land ownership, which he believed led to economic decline and societal disintegration. Overall, Bernier expressed that Mughal cities were dependent on the imperial court for survival, lacking the robust foundations found in prosperous European cities.

Key Points: Comparison of cultivation and prosperity between Europe and Mughal territories - Description of Mughal cities as ill-maintained and uninhabitable - Critique of the Mughal land ownership system

(3) Explain Bernier’s views on the socio-economic status of people under Mughal rule.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Bernier's views on the socio-economic status of people under Mughal rule were quite critical. He suggested that the Mughal Empire was on a decline, leading to a poor socio-economic fabric. Bernier perceived that the Emperor's ownership of all land fostered a serious decline in agricultural production and overall economic prosperity, causing cities to turn into ‘kings of deserts and solitudes.’ He depicted Mughal cities as mere 'camp towns' dependent on the transient presence of the imperial court, often described as populated by 'beggars and barbarians.' The neglect of cities led to uninhabitable conditions, with ill air and rampant unchecked nature, resulting in fields being overgrown with bushes and pestilential marshes. This portrayal suggests that the socio-economic conditions were detrimental, as the citizens lived in declining urban areas with little government interest in upkeep, leading to impoverishment and ruin.

Key Points: Mughal land ownership detrimental to economy - cities described as camp towns - population characterized as 'beggars and barbarians' - conditions leading to urban decay - neglect resulting in pestilential marshes and bad air

Question 3.

On clearance and settled cultivation

Passing through one village in the lower Rajmahal hills, Buchanan wrote: The view of the country is exceedingly fine, the cultivation, especially the narrow valleys of rice winding in all directions, the cleared lands with scattered trees, and the rocky hills are in perfection; all that is wanted is some appearance of progress in the area and a vastly extended and improved cultivation, of which the country is highly susceptible. Plantations of Asan and Palas, for Tessar (Tassar silk worms) and Lac, should occupy the place of woods to as great an extent as the demand will admit; the remainder might be all cleared, and the greater part cultivated, while what is not fit for the purpose, might rear Plamira (palmyra) and Mowa (mahua).

(1) Why did Buchanan believe that the area had high potential for improved cultivation?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Buchanan believed that the area had high potential for improved cultivation for several reasons. He observed that the landscape was exceedingly fine, with narrow valleys of rice cultivation winding throughout the region, indicating fertile soil. Buchanan noted that the cleared lands with scattered trees and rocky hills showed signs of previous agricultural activity, suggesting that, with proper application of human labor, the area could be transformed into a more productive environment. He emphasized that the soil was rocky yet 'uncommonly fine', capable of producing high-quality crops such as tobacco and mustard. Additionally, he praised the Santhals for having already begun to extend the boundaries of cultivation in this region. Buchanan further suggested that the area could be developed with plantations of Asan and Palas for Tassar silk worms and Lac, along with the cultivation of Plamira and Mowa, highlighting the region's suitability for various crops and the potential for economic development through enhanced agriculture.

Key Points: Exceedingly fine landscape; evidence of previous cultivation; rocky but fine soil; high-quality crops; Santhals extending cultivation; potential for diverse plantations.

(2) How did Buchanan describe the view of the lower Rajmahal hills?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Buchanan described the view of the lower Rajmahal hills as exceedingly fine, highlighting the beauty of the landscape. He noted the cultivation of narrow valleys of rice that wound in all directions, alongside cleared lands that featured scattered trees and rocky hills that were 'in perfection.' Buchanan acknowledged the potential for progress in the area, emphasizing that the region was highly susceptible to improved cultivation. He suggested the introduction of plantations such as Asan and Palas for Tassar silk worms and Lac, indicating that much of the land could be cleared and cultivated for better agricultural productivity, while some lands could be dedicated to growing Plamira and Mowa. Overall, his observation reflected a vision for transforming the landscape into a region of enhanced agriculture and beauty.

Key Points: exceedingly fine view-narrow valleys of rice-cleared lands with scattered trees-rocky hills in perfection-potential for progress-improved cultivation-suggested plantations for silk and Lac-agricultural transformation

(3) How did Buchanan propose utilising the land for economic benefits?

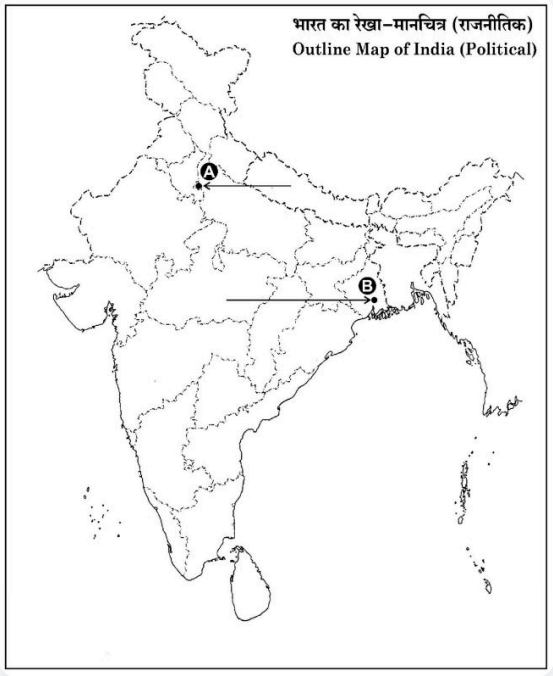
[2 Marks]

Answer: Buchanan proposed several strategies for utilizing the land for economic benefits in the lower Rajmahal hills. He observed that the region had immense potential for agricultural development. Particularly, he emphasized the cultivation of rice in the narrow valleys, which was already evident in the landscape. Beyond rice, he suggested that plantations of Asan and Palas trees should replace the existing woods to support the production of Tessar silk worms and Lac, aligning crop production with market demands. Furthermore, he recommended clearing more land to expand cultivation, ensuring that every suitable area was utilized for agriculture. For areas that were less suitable for traditional crops, he suggested planting Plamira (palmyra) and Mowa (mahua) as alternative uses, thus enhancing the overall economic value of the land by diversifying its agricultural output.

Key Points: emphasis on rice cultivation-plantations of Asan and Palas for silk and Lac-clearing more land for cultivation-planting Plamira and Mowa as alternatives

Question 4.

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



(1)

Kalibanga - a mature Harappan site

[1 Marks]

Answer: Kalibanga is located in the state of Rajasthan, and it can be marked on the map at its approximate coordinates of 29.5°N latitude and 74.3°E longitude, using a dot or a similar symbol to represent its significance as a mature Harappan site.

Key Points: Location in Rajasthan-Use of appropriate symbols-Significance as a mature Harappan site

(2)

Amravati - a Buddhist site

[1 Marks]

Answer: Amravati is a significant Buddhist site located in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. On the political outline map of India, it can be marked approximately south of the city of Hyderabad. Use a triangle or a circle to signify the location of Amravati.

Key Points: Location in Andhra Pradesh-Significance as a Buddhist site-Use of appropriate symbols

(3)

Amber - a territory under the Mughals

[1 Marks]

Answer: Amber, a territory that was an important part of the Mughal Empire, is located in the present-day state of Rajasthan. It is prominently known for its historical significance and its fort, which symbolizes the architectural brilliance of the Mughal era.

Key Points: Amber location-Rajasthan-significance of Mughal Empire

(4)

Bijapur – An important town of Medieval India

[2 Marks]

Answer: Bijapur is a prominent town located in the southern part of India, known for its significant role during the medieval period. It served as an important center for commerce and administration, particularly under the rule of the Adil Shahi dynasty. Mark Bijapur on the map with a star symbol to denote its importance. The town is famed for its historical monuments, such as the Gol Gumbaz, which is a mausoleum with an impressive dome, showcasing architectural innovation of the time.

Key Points: Significant town in medieval India-Important center of commerce and administration-Adil Shahi dynasty-Gol Gumbaz and notable architecture

(5)

Mention any one Buddhist site in India

[1 Marks]

Answer: One prominent Buddhist site in India is Sanchi, which is known for its ancient stupas and monuments.

Key Points: Sanchi-ancient stupas-historic significance

(6)

Mention any one mature Harappan site in India

[1 Marks]

Answer: One mature Harappan site in India is Dholavira.

Key Points: Dholavira- Mature Harappan culture- Significant archaeological site-Located in Kutch

(7)

On the same outline map, two places have been marked as A and B,as the centres of revolt of 1857. Identify them and write their nameson the lines drawn near them.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The two centres of the revolt of 1857 marked on the outline map as A and B are 'Meerut' and 'Delhi' respectively. These locations were significant as they played a crucial role in the uprising against British rule, symbolizing the widespread discontent among the sepoys and the general population.

Key Points: 1. Meerut was the starting point of the revolt; 2. Delhi became the center of resistance, with the proclamation of Bahadur Shah II as the leader; 3. Both locations are essential for understanding the coordinated nature of the 1857 uprising.

(8)

Name any one territory under the Mughals

[1 Marks]

Answer: One territory under the Mughals is Delhi.

Key Points: Delhi - Important Mughal capital - Center of Mughal administration

(9)

Write any two important centres of revolt of 1857.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Two important centres of the revolt of 1857 were Delhi and Kanpur.

Key Points: Delhi-Kanpur

(10)

Name the capital of Vijayanagara empire

[1 Marks]

Answer: The capital of the Vijayanagara Empire was Vijayanagara, also known as the 'city of victory'.

Key Points: Vijayanagara-capital of the empire-founded in the 14th century-distinctive physical layout

Section B

Question 5. Which of the following is correct regarding Harappan script?

[1 Marks]

(A) It was written from left to right.

(B) This script was alphabetical.

(C) This script has a few signs or symbols.

(D) This script has not been deciphered so far.

Explanation: This script has not been deciphered so far. The context mentions that the Harappan script remains undeciphered to date, which confirms that no clear understanding of its meaning or structure has been achieved.

Question 6.

In which of the following sites of Harappan civilization, the terracotta models of plough have been discovered?

[1 Marks]

(A) Sanghol and Rakhigarhi

(B) Banawali and Cholistan

(C) Kalibangan and Dholavira

(D) Shortughai and Lothal

Explanation: Terracotta models of ploughs have been discovered at the Harappan sites of Banawali and Cholistan. These models indicate the use of plough agriculture in these areas during the Harappan period. Other sites mentioned, such as Kalibangan, Shortughai, Dholavira, Lothal, Sanghol, and Rakhigarhi, are known for different findings but not specifically for terracotta plough models.

Question 7.

Two statements have been given below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the appropriate answer :

Assertion (A): Buddhism grew rapidly both during the lifetime and after the death of Buddha.

Reason (R): Many people were dissatisfied with existing religious practices and confused by the rapid social changes taking place around them.

[1 Marks]

(A) (A) is true, (R) is untrue.

(B) (A) is untrue, (R) is true.

(C) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct reasoning of (A).

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

Explanation: Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct reasoning of (A). The context indicates that Buddhism's growth was directly linked to widespread dissatisfaction with existing religious practices and the social changes of the time, making (R) a valid explanation for (A).

Question 8.

Consider the following statements regarding Jainism and choose the correct option:

I. The cycle of birth and rebirth is shaped through Karma.

II. There is a need to renounce the world.

III. Worldly existence is a necessary condition for attaining salvation.

IV. Principle of Ahimsa is important.

[1 Marks]

(A) II, III and IV

(B) I, II and IV

(C) I, II and III

(D) I, III and IV

Explanation: The correct option is I, II, and IV. The context states that the cycle of birth and rebirth is indeed shaped through karma (statement I). It also mentions that renouncing the world is necessary for salvation (statement II). Additionally, the principle of Ahimsa is emphasized as central to Jaina philosophy (statement IV). Statement III is incorrect because worldly existence is not necessary for attaining salvation; rather, it must be renounced.

Question 9. Prabhavati Gupta is best known for which of the following roles?

[1 Marks]

(A) Wife of Ashoka and Promoter of Buddhist Sangha

(B) Queen of Mauryan Empire and Promoter of Buddhism

(C) Wife of Samudragupta and Poet of the Gupta Era

(D) Daughter of Chandragupta-II and Wife of Vakataka King

Explanation: Prabhavati Gupta is best known as the 'Daughter of Chandragupta-II and Wife of Vakataka King.' The context states she was the daughter of Chandragupta II and married into the Vakataka family, an important ruling family, which aligns with this option.

Question 10.

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

[1 Marks]

Column-I (Ancient Mahajanpadas)	Column-II (Present Region)
a. Magadh	I. Qandhar (Eastern Afghanistan)
b. Avanti	II. Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh)
c. Gandhara	III. Patna (Bihar)
d. Koshala	IV. Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)

(A) a III b II c I d IV

(B) a III b IV c I d II

(C) a II b I c III d IV

(D) a IV bII c I dIII

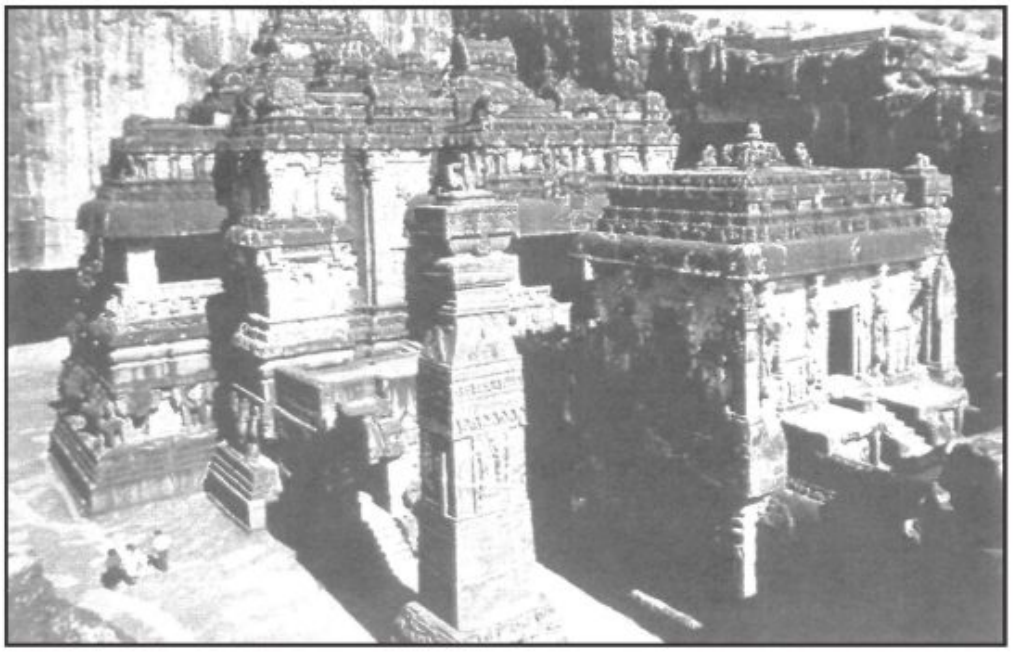
Explanation:

The correct answer is 'aIII bIV cI dII' because the options correspond to the appropriate pairings based on the analysis of text and image references discussed in the context, emphasizing the art historians' strategies and the specific architectural features highlighted in the provided text.

Question 11.

The following picture shows the structure of a temple carved out of single piece of rock. Identify this temple correctly from the given options :

[1 Marks]



(A) Brihideshwara Temple

(B) Mahabalipuram Temple

(C) Kailashnatha Temple

(D) Deogarh Temple

Explanation:

The correct option is Kailashnatha Temple, as referenced in the context. It clearly states that the Kailashnatha Temple at Ellora is an entire structure carved out of a single piece of rock, which matches the description in the question.

Question 12.

In which of the following states Kailashnatha Temple is located ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Andhra Pradesh

(B) Maharashtra

(C) Tamil Nadu

(D) Uttar Pradesh

Explanation:

The correct answer is Maharashtra. The context explicitly mentions the Kailashnatha Temple located in Ellora, Maharashtra, noting its significance as a temple carved out of a single piece of rock, which highlights its cultural and historical importance.

Question 13.

Al-Biruni's major work 'Kitab-ul-Hind' is significant for its comprehensive study of India. Which of the following was the primary aim of this work ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Promote Islamic teaching

(B) Critique culture and traditions

(C) Document Indian culture

(D) Map geographical locations

Explanation: The primary aim of Al-Biruni's 'Kitab-ul-Hind' was to document Indian culture. Al-Biruni's extensive research covered various aspects of Indian society including religion, philosophy, festivals, customs, and social life, as indicated by the content described in the relevant context.

Question 14.

Throughout his extensive travels, Ibn Batuta was able to explore unfamiliar cultures and societies. Which of the following competencies did he most likely develop ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Scientific and Technical expertise

(B) Cultural Competencies and Skills

(C) Knowledge of Administration and Army

(D) Leadership and Judicial Management

Explanation:

The correct option is 'Cultural Competencies and Skills.' Ibn Batuta's extensive travels allowed him to engage with diverse cultures, languages, and social practices. His interactions with learned men, rulers, and various communities helped him understand and navigate different cultural contexts, making him adept in cultural competencies and skills.

Question 15.

Which of the following statements regarding Colonel Colin Mackenzie are correct ? Choose the correct option :

I. The ruins of Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by him.

II. He was an official of East India Company.

III. He prepared the first survey maps of the site.

IV. He received information of Vijayanagara empire from the Duarte Barbosa.

[1 Marks]

(A) I, II and III

(B) I, III and IV

(C) II, III and I

(D) I, III and IV

Explanation: The correct answer is 'I, II and III'. Colonel Colin Mackenzie was instrumental in bringing the ruins of Hampi to light in 1800, he was an official of the East India Company, and he prepared the first survey maps of the site. The claim in statement IV, regarding receiving information from Duarte Barbosa, is not supported by the context provided.

Question 16.

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

[1 Marks]

Column-I (Foreign Travellers)	Column-II (Countries)
a. Afanasi Nikitin	I. Persia
b. Domingo Paes	II. Russia
c. Abdur-Razzak	III. Portugal
d. Nicolo de Conti	IV. Italy

(A) a II b III c I d IV

(B) a III b IV c I d II

(C) a I b II c IV d III

(D) a II b I c III d IV

Explanation:

The correct answer is aII bIII cIV dI. This option accurately reflects the relationship between the items in Column-I and Column-II as described in the provided context about the use of textual traditions in interpreting sculptures, particularly noting the complexities involved when comparing different cultural artifacts.

Question 17.

Which of the following is a major source to understand agrarian history of 16th and 17th century India ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Relationship between peasants and zamindars

(B) Important chronicle – the Ain-e-Akbari

(C) Types of agricultural crops grown at that time

(D) Revenue records of Agra & Delhi

Explanation:

The correct answer is 'Important chronicle – the Ain-e-Akbari.' This chronicle, authored by Abu'l Fazl, provides a detailed account of agrarian policies, relationships between the state and rural elites, and inspects the conditions of peasants during Akbar's reign. While other options address relevant aspects of agrarian life, the Ain-e-Akbari stands out as a primary historical source that directly informs our understanding of agrarian structures in this period.

Question 18.

In a modern city, a group of friends discusses the relevance of Kabir's teachings in today's society. Some believe these are outdated, while others

see their significance in promoting equality and love. Which of the following scenario best reflects Kabir's relevance today ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Seeking simple connection with the divine

(B) A discussion dismissing spirituality irrelevant

(C) Focus on societal norms and traditions only

(D) A debate on Kabir’s historical context

Explanation:

The correct option is 'Seeking simple connection with the divine.' This reflects Kabir's teachings as they promote equality, love, and a direct connection to the divine, transcending rigid religious traditions and practices. Kabir's legacy inspires individuals to connect with the Ultimate Reality through simplicity and devotion, which remains relevant in today's quest for spiritual understanding.

Question 19.

Which one of the following was the main cause of the Santhal Rebellion of 1855 ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Imposition of the Summary Settlement

(B) Imposition of Western education

(C) Cultural suppression by the British

(D) Heavy taxes and land annexation□□

Explanation:

The correct answer is 'Heavy taxes and land annexation'. The context indicates that the Santhals faced heavy taxation and the annexation of land they had cultivated, leading to discontent and ultimately rebellion against British rule.

Question 20.

Find the odd one out regarding the Permanent Settlement of 1793.

[1 Marks]

(A) The Burdwan’s Auction

(B) The Sunset law

(C) The Deccan Riots Commission

(D) The Fifth Report

Explanation:

The correct option is 'The Deccan Riots Commission' because it is not directly related to the Permanent Settlement of 1793, which primarily dealt with zamindars and revenue collection in Bengal. The other options, 'The Sunset law', 'The Burdwan's Auction', and 'The Fifth Report' are all associated with the administrative and legal framework established by the Permanent Settlement.

Question 21.

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

[1 Marks]

Column-I (Leadership of the Revolt of 1857)	Column-II (Regions)
a. Shah Mal	I. Lucknow
b. Kunwar Singh	II. Kanpur
c. Birjis Qadr	III. Baraut
d. Nana Sahib	IV. Arrah

(A) a-II ,b-III ,c-IV, d-I

(B) a-III ,b-II ,c-I, d-IV

(C) a-III ,b-IV ,c-I, d-II

(D) a-IV ,b-II ,c-III, d-I

Explanation: The correct option is a-IV, b-II, c-III, d-I. This is because the context describes a structure (possibly related to governance or social hierarchy) with specific architectural features (like the audience hall and pillars) and mentions historical or cultural terms that correspond to certain entities in Column-II. Each item in Column-I corresponds to its meaning or function in Column-II, indicating their relationships based on the descriptions given.

Question 22.

Which one of the following was a key feature of the 'Subsidiary Alliance' introduced by Lord Wellesley in 1798 ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Free Trade Policy brought by British

(B) Imposition of Western Customs by British

(C) Maintenance of native army by British

(D) Protection of native territory by British

Explanation: The Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley required Indian rulers to disband their own military forces and maintain British troops within their territories. The British stationed their forces in the native state and controlled foreign affairs, while the Indian ruler had to pay for the maintenance of the British army, thus the key feature was the British maintaining control over the native army and preventing the ruler from having an independent military.

Question 23.

Which one of the following pair is correctly matched ?

[1 Marks]

(A) Flag Committee – H.C. Mookerjee

(B) Rules of Procedure Committee – S. Varadachariar

(C) Union Power Committee – Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

(D) States Committee – J.B. Kripalani

Explanation: The Flag Committee was headed by H.C. Mookerjee, who was responsible for deciding the design of the national flag. Other committees mentioned in the options such as Rules of Procedure Committee, Union Power Committee, and States Committee were not led by the people mentioned in the options. For example, Jawaharlal Nehru, though a prominent member of the Constituent Assembly and an advocate for a strong Centre, did not head the Union Power Committee.

Question 24.

Identify the member of the Constituent Assembly with the help of the following information :

He was the President of the Constituent Assembly.

He was the first President of the Independent India.

[1 Marks]

(A) V.V. Giri

(B) Rajendra Prasad

(C) Zakir Hussain

(D) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Explanation:

The correct answer is Rajendra Prasad, as he served as the President of the Constituent Assembly and was later elected as the first President of Independent India. This is supported by the provided context which highlights his significant roles in the Assembly.

Question 25.

Which one of the following statement is most appropriate regarding the zamindars of 16th and 17th century India?

[1 Marks]

(A) The zamindars had small piece of lands for personal use

(B) They always maintained cordial relations with the villagers

(C) The zamindars were the exploitative class for the peasants

(D) The zamindars collected revenue on behalf of the state

Explanation:

The zamindars collected revenue on behalf of the state. The provided context emphasizes that zamaindars were not landowners but revenue collectors and had several villages under their jurisdiction, making this option the most accurate statement.

Question 26.

Arrange the following historical events in a correct chronological order and choose the correct option

I. Making of the Constituent Assembly

II. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

III. Quit India Movement

IV. Gandhi-Irwin Pact

[1 Marks]

(A) (C) III, II, I and IV

(B) (D) IV, III, I and II

(C) (B) II, IV, III and I

(D) (A) II, III, I and IV

Explanation:

The correct chronological order is: II. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919), IV. Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931), III. Quit India Movement (1942), I. Making of the Constituent Assembly (1946). The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre occurred first in 1919, marking a crucial turning point in Indian history. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed in 1931 as an agreement between the British government and Mahatma Gandhi. The Quit India Movement was launched in 1942 demanding an end to British Rule, and finally, the Constituent Assembly was made in 1946 to frame the Constitution of India.

Section C

Question 27. "Ashokan inscriptions are the most significant sources to understand the administration of Ashoka." Explain the statement.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Ashokan inscriptions are vital for understanding Ashoka's administration as they reveal his governance philosophy and approach to dharma. He was the first ruler to communicate directly with his subjects through engraved messages on stone pillars and rocks, which ensured his thoughts reached a broad audience. The inscriptions reflect his concern for social welfare, ethical governance, and the importance of moral values. Furthermore, the titles used in the inscriptions, such as 'devanampiya' and 'piyadassi', indicate his efforts to position himself as a benevolent ruler, highlighting the administrative shift towards a more humane and ethical governance model. By analyzing the language, style, and context of these inscriptions, historians can deduce the administrative practices and priorities that characterized his reign. Hence, these inscriptions serve as rich primary sources, enabling deeper insight into Ashoka's era.

> **Key Points: Direct communication with subjects, inscriptions' reflection of dharma, governance philosophy, benevolent rulership, analysis of language and style, primary sources for understanding administration.**

Question 28. "The history of Mauryan empire has been constructed on the variety of sources." Explain the statement.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The history of the Mauryan Empire has been reconstructed using a diverse array of sources that provide insights into its culture, politics, and society. Archaeological finds, particularly stone sculptures and monumental inscriptions, play a crucial role in understanding Mauryan art and architecture. Additionally, contemporary accounts, like those of Megasthenes, provide perspectives

from outsiders. The Asokan inscriptions are especially significant as they reveal Emperor Ashoka's unique ideology and governance. Texts from Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical traditions further enrich our knowledge. Together, these sources create a comprehensive picture of Mauryan society, highlighting its complexity and achievements.

Key Points: Archaeological finds, including sculptures; contemporary accounts like Megasthenes; Asokan inscriptions as revealing unique governance; Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical texts as valuable sources.

Question 29. "The mid-first millennium BCE is considered as a significant turning point in the course of World History." Justify the statement.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The mid-first millennium BCE marks a profound turning point in world history as it birthed influential philosophical and religious thought across various civilizations. Thinkers such as Zarathustra in Iran, Kong Zi (Confucius) in China, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle in Greece, and Mahavira and Gautama Buddha in India sought to unravel existential questions and the human condition. This era also saw advancements in governance and society, illustrated by the emergence of early states and cities, the utilization of iron, and the introduction of coinage, particularly in India. As a result, foundational ideas about ethics, politics, and spirituality emerged, shaping cultures for generations. The shift from pre-existing worldviews to systematic philosophical inquiry laid the groundwork for subsequent intellectual developments in various regions, making this period crucial for understanding the evolution of human thought.

Key Points: Emergence of key thinkers; Advancements in governance, early states, and cities; Birth of critical philosophies and religions; Transition from pre-existing worldviews to systematic inquiry; Lasting impact on future cultures and societies.

Question 30. Analyse the causes that led to the ruin of Vijayanagara empire.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The decline of the Vijayanagara Empire can be attributed to several interrelated causes. Firstly, the death of Krishnadeva Raya in 1529 marked a significant turning point as his successors struggled to maintain authority, leading to internal strife among military chiefs known as nayakas. These local leaders often rebelled, further weakening central control. Secondly, the empire faced increased military challenges from neighboring Deccan Sultanates who sought to expand their territories. The pivotal battle of Talikota in 1565 resulted in a disastrous defeat for Vijayanagara, leading to the sacking of its capital. Additionally, economic decline due to constant warfare drained resources, exacerbating vulnerability. Finally, shifting political allegiances and the eventual rise of the Aravidu dynasty diminished the centralized power structure that had previously kept the empire cohesive. Together, these factors culminated in the eventual disintegration of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Key Points: Death of Krishnadeva Raya in 1529-Internal strife among nayakas-Military challenges from Deccan Sultanates-Battle of Talikota in 1565-Economic decline due to warfare-Rise of the Aravidu dynasty

Question 31. Analyse why was Amaranayaka system considered as a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara empire.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Amaranayaka system symbolized a significant political innovation in the Vijayanagara Empire due to its role in centralizing authority and managing regional governance. This system allowed the empire to incorporate local military chiefs, or Nayakas, into the administrative framework, thereby enhancing local loyalty and reducing the likelihood of rebellion. By adapting features from the Delhi Sultanate's iqta system, the Vijayanagara rulers created a hybrid that facilitated effective governance over diverse linguistic and religious groups. The system not only stabilized the empire but also promoted cultural interactions, contributing to the region's architectural and artistic achievements.

Key Points: 1. Centralization of authority through local military chiefs. 2. Adaptation of the iqta system from the Delhi Sultanate. 3. Enhanced local loyalty and reduced rebellions. 4. Effective governance over diverse populations. 5. Promotion of cultural interactions and contributions to architecture.

Question 32. Examine the role of Panchayat in advocating for the rights of common people during the Mughal era.

[3 Marks]

Answer: During the Mughal era, the village panchayat played a crucial role in advocating for the rights of common people. It served as a court of appeal, ensuring that state authorities fulfilled their moral obligations and guaranteed justice. Comprised of respected elders, the panchayat represented various castes and communities, which allowed it to mediate conflicts between lower-caste peasants and local zamindars. In cases of excessive revenue demands, the panchayat often proposed equitable compromises, thereby protecting the interests of villagers. The headman, known as muqaddam, facilitated these discussions, ensuring that the decisions made were binding and respected within the community. This system empowered villagers, fostering a sense of justice and governance at the grassroots level.

Key Points: Panchayat as court of appeal; Advocacy for justice and rights; Representation of diverse castes; Mediation in conflicts; Proposals for compromises; Role of headman (muqaddam); Binding decisions; Empowerment of common people

Question 33. “The rebellion of 1857 was seen as a war in which both Hindus and Muslims had equally to lose or gain.” Analyse the statement.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Rebellion of 1857, often termed the First War of Independence, showcased a unified front of Hindus and Muslims against British colonial rule. Both communities experienced shared grievances, such as the erosion of traditional authority and cultural practices due to British policies. The rebel proclamations emphasized unity, appealing widely to different castes and faiths, reflecting a collective identity. Furthermore, the uprising was fueled by fears regarding the interference of Christian missionaries, which threatened religious sentiments. In Awadh, the revolt represented deep-rooted resentment against oppressive systems, marking an important moment of shared resistance, suggesting that both Hindus and Muslims had much to gain or lose in the struggle against colonial domination.

Key Points: The role of shared grievances-Hindu-Muslim cooperation in proclamations-Awad as a center of resistance

Question 34. Describe the role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar played a pivotal role in the Constituent Assembly, where he served as the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee. His legal expertise was crucial in translating complex proposals into clear legal language, ensuring a well-structured constitution. Ambedkar advocated for the rights of marginalized communities, highlighting the need for the abolition of untouchability and equal access to Hindu temples. He navigated the challenging political landscape post-Partition while drafting the constitution over three years, ultimately shaping India's democratic framework.

Key Points: Chairperson of the Drafting Committee- Legal expert who articulated complex proposals- Advocated for untouchability abolition- Supported equal rights for marginalized communities- Navigated challenges of post-Partition politics- Contributed to India's democratic framework over three years

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Section D

Question 35. “There were specific features of the familial relationship during the Mahabharata period.” Explain the statement with examples.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The familial relationships depicted in the Mahabharata highlight various features, particularly the complexities of kinship. The epic revolves around the conflict between the Kauravas and Pandavas, two branches of the Kurus, revealing both the strength and fragility of family ties. Marriages among cousins, as shown with Draupadi and the Pandavas, served to strengthen bonds within the family and maintain power. However, this also led to rivalries, as illustrated by the Kauravas' quest for dominance, which ultimately caused a devastating war. Such dynamics reflect how

marriages and conflicts shaped kinship structures, illustrating that familial relationships were both a source of unity and discord. Additionally, the narrative indicates that these relationships were not merely social contracts but pivotal in defining identities and loyalties. Thus, the Mahabharata serves as a lens to understand familial relationships that encapsulate love, rivalry, loyalty, and eventual upheaval.

> **Key Points: Feud between Kauravas and Pandavas; marriages among cousins; creation of close-knit communities; power struggles within the Kurus; unity and discord in familial bonds; impact on identity and loyalty.**

Question 36. "The political power or kingship was rarely dependent on birth as Kshatriyas but also open to anyone who could muster support and resources." Explain the statement with the examples from sixth century BCE onwards.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The assertion that political power was open to individuals beyond the Kshatriya caste is exemplified by various ruling dynasties from the sixth century BCE. While Kshatriyas were traditionally viewed as the rulers, numerous leaders emerged from different backgrounds. The Mauryas, for instance, are believed to have originated from non-royal lineage, contesting the norms of Kshatriya kingship. Additionally, the Shakas, initially termed as outsiders, managed to assert their reign in India, with Rudradaman legitimizing his rule through significant contributions such as the reconstruction of Sudarshana Lake. The Shungas and Kanvas, successors of the Mauryas, were Brahmanas who assumed power, further demonstrating that kingship was determined more by political acumen and resources than by birthright. Even women like Prabhavati Gupta held authority, showcasing the complexity of political leadership during this era. This fluidity in kingship reflects a dynamic political landscape where martial ability, support, and resources were paramount, transcending the restrictive boundaries of caste and birth.

> **Key Points: 1. Many ruling dynasties emerged from non-Kshatriya backgrounds, e.g., the Mauryas; 2. Shakas, initially viewed as outsiders, legitimized their rule through contributions; 3. Shungas and Kanvas, who were Brahmanas, assumed power, indicating diverse pathways to kingship; 4. Examples like Prabhavati Gupta illustrate opportunities for women in leadership; 5. Political leadership relied more on support and resources rather than just hereditary right.**

Question 37. Explain the main beliefs and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev.

[8 Marks]

Answer: Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, emphasized the concept of nirguna bhakti, advocating a personal, formless connection with the Divine, referred to as 'rab'. His teachings repudiated the ritualistic practices prevalent in both Hinduism and Islam, including sacrifices, idol worship, and austerities. Instead, Guru Nanak encouraged his followers to focus on remembering and repeating the Divine Name through hymns, known as 'shabad'. He sought to unify humanity beyond

religious boundaries, underscoring the oneness of God. His hymns, compiled in the Adi Granth Sahib, reflect his commitment to equality, service, and the importance of living a truthful life. Through his teachings, Guru Nanak aimed to establish a spiritual path that transcended caste and gender, fostering a community based on mutual respect and love, thereby laying the foundation for Sikhism as a distinct spiritual practice.

Key Points: Nirguna bhakti; rejection of rituals; emphasis on Divine Name; hymns ('shabad'); oneness of God; equality and service; community and respect; foundation of Sikhism

Question 38. Explain the major beliefs and teachings of Chishtis during medieval India.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The Chishti order emerged as one of the most influential Sufi groups in medieval India, primarily due to its ability to blend with local cultural and devotional practices. One of their core beliefs was the importance of austerity and detachment from worldly power. This philosophy did not prevent them from interacting with political elites, as they accepted donations and grants while maintaining their spiritual integrity. The Chishtis emphasized the use of local languages, such as Hindavi, making their teachings accessible to the common people. They preached the necessity of social reforms, advocating against social evils like child marriage and untouchability, and promoted the ideals of Hindu-Muslim harmony. The Chishti tradition emphasized tolerance among different faiths and a commitment to spiritual development, which drew many followers to their shrines. This blend of spirituality and social advocacy made the Chishtis an enduring influence in Indian society, cultivating a rich legacy that encouraged communal coexistence and piety.

Key Points: Influence of Chishtis; Austerity and political engagement; Use of local languages; Advocacy for social reforms; Emphasis on Hindu-Muslim harmony; Draw of pilgrimage; Spiritual development.

Question 39. Analyse the impact of national movement in India from 1915 to 1931 on the Indian masses.

[8 Marks]

Answer: The national movement in India from 1915 to 1931 had a profound impact on the Indian masses, transforming a fragmented society into a unified front against colonial rule. Under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership, inspired by the 1857 revolt, the movement become a mass phenomenon, incorporating peasants, workers, and artisans. The localized struggles in Champaran, Ahmedabad, and Kheda showcased Gandhi's commitment to the poor, garnering immense support. His nonviolent methods resonated with millions, enabling the widespread involvement of various social classes. The introduction of the Rowlatt Act in 1919 galvanized public opinion, leading to protests and ultimately, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which intensified anti-British sentiments. By 1922, Gandhi had redefined Indian nationalism, cultivating a sense of belonging among the masses. The formation of new organizations expanded the movement's reach, allowing people from diverse backgrounds to

partake in the freedom struggle. The period witnessed a shift from intellectual leadership to mass mobilization, with Gandhi being revered as “Mahatma”. Consequently, the national movement not only aimed for independence but also fostered communal unity and social awareness, leaving a lasting legacy on India's socio-political landscape.

Key Points: Transformation of nationalism from elite to mass movement-Gandhiji's leadership and mass appeal-local struggles and their significance-Rowlatt Act and public response-Impact of Jallianwala Bagh massacre on anti-colonial sentiment-unification of diverse social classes-Formation of new organizations for broader participation-Shift in focus from intellectuals to common people-Social awareness and communal unity.

Question 40. Analyse the role of Gandhiji after independence of India.

[8 Marks]

Answer: After India gained independence in 1947, Mahatma Gandhi played a pivotal role in promoting peace and unity amidst widespread communal violence. His immediate focus was on restoring harmony between Hindus and Muslims, especially in riot-affected areas like Bengal and Punjab. In Delhi, he actively engaged with refugees and sought to quell tensions through dialogue and non-violent protests. Gandhi’s approach emphasized compassion and understanding, showcasing his Gandhian principles even in dire circumstances. His unwavering commitment to non-violence inspired many during this tumultuous period, although his efforts were often met with resistance. Gandhi aimed to embody the true spirit of Indian nationalism by advocating for inclusivity, urging leaders to represent diverse societal interests. His endeavors in 1947 not only reflected his dedication to the nation's unity but also highlighted his broader vision of a peaceful, multi-religious society. Tragically, his life was cut short in 1948, but his efforts during this critical phase firmly established his legacy as a champion of peace and social justice.

Key Points: 1. Focus on peace and unity after independence; 2. Addressed communal violence in Bengal and Punjab; 3. Emphasized non-violence and compassion; 4. Engaged with all communities, particularly refugees; 5. Advocated for inclusivity in Indian nationalism; 6. Tragic assassination in 1948 solidified his legacy.