

Q.1) The script of Indus Valley civilization is considered to be the oldest script of the Indian Sub continent. Which of the following statements are correct about this script?

1. Despite the efforts of linguists and symbologists, it is yet undeciphered.
2. The script is written in Boustrophedon fashion.
3. Square stamp seals are the dominant form of Indus writing media.

Select the code from the following:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.1) Solution (d)

Boustrophedon is the writing style in which script is written from left to right in one line and right to left in other.

Q.2) Which of the following statements are correct about the town planning of Indus Valley Civilisation?

1. The towns had well laid covered drains and houses had toilets.
2. Bricks were used for the first time in the history by habitants of Indus Valley civilization.
3. All houses were single storied and with standard size showing equal economic status of everyone.
4. Proper granaries were built to store surplus grains.

Select the code from the following:

- a) 1,2 and 4
- b) 1 and 4
- c) 1,3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.2) Solution (b)

'Burnt' bricks were used for the first time.

Houses were both single storied and multi-storied showing different economic status of people.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Yoga:

1. It is amongst the six ideologies of Hinduism.
2. We have received the knowledge of Yoga from ancient written accounts of Patanjali.
3. Yoga is covered under AYUSH program as an indigenous therapy.

Which of the above statements are correct regarding Yoga?

- a) 1 and 3
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.3) Solution (d)

Self explanatory.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Early Vedic Period:

1. Aryans referred to Indus people as Dasyus.
2. Early Aryans made large wooden castles to protect themselves from foreign attacks.
3. Instead of land, the tribes owned cattle as private property.
4. Aryans used Chariots instead of riding a horse.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1,2 and 3
- b) 2,3 and 4
- c) 1,3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.4) Solution (c)

Early Aryans were nomads and did not make permanent settlements.

Wealth was owned in terms of cattle and not land.

Horse riding was introduced in India by Kushans. Before them only chariots were used.

Q.5) Out of Six 'Astikas' of Hindu philosophy, which of the following is the oldest?

- a) Mimansa
- b) Sankhya
- c) Vedanta
- d) Nyaya

Q.5) Solution (b)

Many Hindu intellectual traditions were classified during the medieval period of Brahmanic-Sanskritic scholasticism into a standard list of six orthodox (astika) schools (darshanas), the "Six Philosophies" (*ṣaḍ-darśana*), all of which accept the testimony of the Vedas.

- Samkhya, the enumeration school
- Yoga, the school of Patanjali (which provisionally asserts the metaphysics of Samkhya)
- Nyaya, the school of logic
- Vaisheshika, the atomist school
- Purva Mimamsa (or simply Mimamsa), the tradition of Vedic exegesis, with emphasis on Vedic ritual, and
- Vedanta (also called Uttara Mimamsa), the Upanishadic tradition, with emphasis on Vedic philosophy.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Prayag Prashasti':

1. It contains inscriptions praising the political and military achievement of Chandra Gupta II.
2. The inscription were written by Harisena, the court poet and minister in Gupta Court.
3. The inscriptions are written in Pali language under Ashokan edict.
4. The edict contains the inscriptions of Ashoka, the Guptas and Jehangir.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

- a) 1 and 3
- b) 2 and 4
- c) 1,3 and 4
- d) None of the above

Q.6) Solution (a)

Prayag Prashasti is attributed to the 4th century CE Gupta emperor, Samudragupta, follows immediately below the edicts of Ashoka. It is considered "the most important historical document of the classical Gupta age". It is in excellent Sanskrit, written in the more refined Gupta script (a later version of Brahmi) by the poet and minister, Harishena. The inscription is a panegyric praising Samudragupta and lists the political and military achievements of his reign including his expeditions to the south. It provides a unique snapshot of the Gupta empire and its neighbours and is the source of much of what is known of the geopolitical landscape of that era.

Q.7) Current the Hindu calendar that is being used is modified 'Shaka Samvat'- Saka calendar. Consider the following statements:

1. Saka era was started by Kanishka in AD 78.
2. Kanishka was the founder of Saka dynasty in India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.7) Solution (a)

Kanishka was a Kushan ruler.

Q.8) Which of the following Tamil Sangam literary piece of art are correctly matched with their content:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Thirukullar | Tamil grammar treatise |
| 2. Tolakappiam | Philosophical work |
| 3. Ettutukai | Anthology |
| 4. Silappadikkaram | Epic |

Select the code from following:

- a) All of the above
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 3 and 4
- d) 2,3 and 4

Q.8) Solution (c)

Thirukullar is a philosophical work(couplets) written by Thiruvalluvar.

Tolakappiam is a tamil grammar treatise written by Tolakappiyar.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Jainism predates Buddhism, while Buddha was older than Mahavira.
- 2. Right faith, Right knowledge and Right Conduct are the 'Triratnas' (three gems) of Jainism.
- 3. To remove all sufferings Mahavira gave an eight fold path to be followed.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.9) Solution (b)

Although Buddha was older than Mahavir, Jainism is believed to be started by Rishabh dev, the first Tirthankar of Jainism. Mahavir is considered to be 24th and the last Tirthankar.

The three principles of Jainism, also known as Triratnas (threegems), are:

- right faith
- right knowledge
- right conduct.

The Four Noble Truths of Buddha are:

- The world is full of suffering.
- The cause of suffering is desire.
- If desires are get rid off, suffering can be removed.
- This can be done by following the Eightfold Path.

The Eightfold Path consists of right view, right resolve, rightspeech, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding 'Mudrarakshasa':

1. It is a historical play written by Kalidasa that narrates the ascent of king Chandragupta Maurya to power in India.
2. Chanakya Neeti of Saam, Daam, Dand, Bhed is mentioned in Mudrarakshasa.
3. Mudrarakshasa is written in Sanskrit.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) All of the above
- d) None of the above

Q.10) Solution (a)

Mudrarakshasa was written by Vishakhadatta.

Q.11) Many new creeds and faiths emerged in the 6th century BC against the contemporary Brahmanical society. One of the most staunch amongst them was the Ajivika Sect. Which of the following statements are correct about the Ajivikas?

1. Ajivika was one of the 'Nastika' school of Indian philosophy.
2. It was founded by Makkhali Gosala.

3. Ajivikas do not believe in Karma philosophy and believe that whatever happens is preordained by the cosmic order.
4. Bindusara was a follower of Ajivika Sect.

Select the code from the following:

- a) 1 and 4
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1,3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.11) Solution (d)

Ajivika is one of the *nāstika* or "heterodox" schools of Indian philosophy. Purportedly founded in the 5th century BCE by Makkhali Gosala, it was a śramaṇa movement and a major rival of early Buddhism and Jainism. Ājīvikas were organised renunciates who formed discrete communities.

The Ājīvika school is known for its *Niyati* doctrine of absolute determinism, the premise that there is no free will, that everything that has happened, is happening and will happen is entirely preordained and a function of cosmic principles. Ājīvika considered the karma doctrine as a fallacy. Ajivika metaphysics included a theory of atoms similar to the Vaisheshika school, where everything was composed of atoms, qualities emerged from aggregates of atoms, but the aggregation and nature of these atoms was predetermined by cosmic forces. Ājīvikas were atheists and rejected the authority of the Vedas, but they believed that in every living being is an *ātman* – a central premise of Hinduism and Jainism.

Q.12) Milind or Menander-I was one of the most famous Indo-Bactrian King. The most important source of information about him is Milind Panho written by Nagasena.

Which of the following statements about Milind Panho are correct?

1. It contains religious dialogues of Milind with a Buddhist monk.
2. It is written in Sanskrit.

Select the code from the following:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.12) Solution (a)

Milind panho is written in Pali.

Q.13) Which of the following statements are correct about 'PanchaSiddhanta'?

- 1. It was written by Aryabhata.
- 2. It is a detailed account of Greek and Roman Astrology.

Select the correct code from the following:

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

Q.13) Solution (d)

Panchasiddhanta was written by Vrahmihira. It is a treatise on mathematical astronomy.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the society in Chola kingdom:

- 1. Cholas were Shaivites and they patronized only Shiva temples.
- 2. The Devadasi system emerged during this period.
- 3. Practice of Sati was absent in the society.
- 4. The inscriptions during Chola rule, mentions about 6 broad caste divisions.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

- a) 1,2 and 3
- b) 1,3 and 4
- c) 2,3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.14) Solution (b)

Caste system was widely prevalent during the Chola period. Brahmins and Kshatriyas enjoyed special privileges. The inscriptions of the later period of the Chola rule mention about two major

divisions among the castes – *Valangai* and *Idangai* castes. However, there was cooperation among various castes and sub-castes in social and religious life. The position of women did not improve. The practice of 'sati' was prevalent among the royal families. The *devadasi* system or dancing girls attached to temples emerged during this period.

Both Saivism and Vaishnavism continued to flourish during the Chola period. A number of temples were built with the patronage of Chola kings and queens.

Q.15) Which of the following inscription provide detailed information about the formation and functioning of village assemblies during Chola period?

- a) Tanjore Inscription
- b) Mammalapuram inscription
- c) Uttiramerur Inscription
- d) Gangaikondacholapuram inscription

Q.15) Solution (c)

The system of village autonomy with *sabhas* and their committees developed through the ages and reached its culmination during the Chola rule. Two inscriptions belonging to the period of Parantaka I found at Uttiramerur provide details of the formation and functions of village councils. That village was divided into thirty wards and each was to nominate its members to the village council.

The qualifications to become a ward member were:

- a. Ownership of at least one fourth *veli* of land.
- b. Own residence.
- c. Above thirty years and below seventy years of age.
- d. Knowledge of Vedas.

However, certain norms of disqualification were also mentioned in the inscriptions. They were:

- a. Those who had been members of the committees for the past three years.
- b. Those who had failed to submit accounts as committee members.
- c. Those who had committed sins.
- d. Those who had stolen the property of others.

From the persons duly nominated, one was to be chosen for each ward by *kudavolai* system for a year. The names of eligible persons were written on palm-leaves and put into a pot. A young boy or girl would take out thirty names each for one ward. They were divided into six *variya*s such as *samvatsaravariyam*, *erivariyam*, *thotta variyam*, *pancha variyam*, *pon variyam* and *puravuvuri variyam* to take up six different functions of the village administration. The committee members were called *variya*pperumakkal. They usually met in the temple or under a tree and passed resolutions. The number of committees and ward members varied from village to village.

Q.16) 'Palmyra', the ancient city was recently in news. In which of the following countries is it located?

- a) Syria
- b) Iraq
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Israel

Q.16) Solution (a)

Factual question.

A question is expected. Do read about it.

Q.17) "International Intellectual Property Index" is compiled by which of the following organizations?

- a) IMF
- b) WTO
- c) World Bank
- d) US Chamber of Commerce

Q.17) Solution (d)

- “International Intellectual Property Index” is compiled by US Chamber of Commerce.
- Click [here](#)

Q.18) Consider the following statements with respect to “Nai Manzil”

1. The scheme is launched by Skill Development Ministry
2. The scheme focuses on education and skill development of BPL and APL families

Select the correct option

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Q.18) Solution (d)

- The scheme is launched by Ministry of Minorities and it focuses on skill development of minorities’ communities.
- Click [here](#)

Q.19) Shishu, Kishore, Tarun are terms associated with which of the following government of India scheme

- a) Loans issued under Start Up India
- b) Development stages of Smart City Mission
- c) Loans issued under MUDRA Scheme
- d) Age based vaccines under Mission Indradhanush

Q.19) Solution (c)

- The above stages are under MUDRA Scheme
- Click [here](#)

Q.20) “Global financial literacy survey” is a report released by which of the following organization?

- a) WTO
- b) IMF
- c) ADB
- d) S&P rating services

Q.20) Solution (d)

- It is released by S&P rating services
- Click [here](#)

Q.21) "Gender Development Index" is a report released by which of the following organizations?

- a) UNDP
- b) UNICEF
- c) IMF
- d) ILO

Q.21) Solution (a)

- It is released by UNDP
- Click [here](#)

Q.22) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bilateral Totalization Agreement (BTA)'

1. It ensures that the tax charged for the exclusive purpose of social security in one country is excluded from taxation
2. India has a BTA with USA but not Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)
3. USA has a BTA with only two Asian countries – Japan and South Korea

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 1 and 3
- d) Only 3

Q.22) Solution (c)

A Totalisation agreement is a bilateral treaty between two countries that integrates the social security laws of two countries. The purpose of the totalisation agreements is to eliminate double social security taxation on citizen/residents of India who are posted to foreign countries like US and second, to allow workers who divide their careers between India and a foreign country to continue to be covered under India's social security system.

India has a DTAA with USA but not BTA.

The US currently has Totalisation Agreements with 24 countries, the only two Asian countries being South Korea and Japan.

India has signed social security agreements with Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in the recent past.

Q.23) Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists:

List I

- A. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- B. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
- C. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- D. Dr. B R Ambedkar

List II

- 1. Good Governance Day
- 2. Antyodaya Diwas
- 3. National Unity Day

A-B-C-D

- a) 1-()-3-2
- b) 3-2-1-()
- c) ()-3-2-1
- d) 2-3-()-1

Q.23) Solution (b)

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel → National Unity Day

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya → Antyodaya Diwas

Atal Bihari Vajpayee → Good Governance Day

Q.24) Consider the following statements with respect to Rat Hole Mining.

1. It is mainly used for iron ore and coal mining in India
2. It is more prevalent in the state of Jharkhand
3. National Green Tribunal has issued a blanket ban on Rat Hole Mining

Which of the statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 2
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.24) Solution (b)

Rat Hole Mining is concerned with only Coal Mining in the state of Meghalaya. NGT has issued a blanket ban on the same.

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Q.25) Which of the following statements is not true about Mural Painting?

- 1) Murals are large works executed on the walls of solid structure
- 2) Murals are mainly found in natural caves and rock-cut chambers
- 3) Themes of Murals - Buddhist, Jain and Hindu religions

Select the correct code

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) None of the above

Q.25) Solution (d)

Explanation:

- Recently, INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art, Culture and Heritage) found 400yr old murals belonging to Nayaka period in a mantapa called Chitra Sabhai (painted using plant pigments and natural dyes)
- Nayaka Paintings (extension of Vijayanagara style) depicts episodes of Mahabharata and Ramayana and also Krishna-leela (some stories also include Shiva and Vishnu)
- Excerpt from The Hindu article
- Above all the given statements are correct

Q.26) The Fourth Buddhist Council was held in Kashmir under the leadership of

- a) Bindusara
- b) Ashoka
- c) Kunal
- d) Kanishka

Q.26) Solution (d)

Explanation:

	Patronage	Presidency	Important Remarks
1 st council – Rajgriha, 400 BC	Ajatshatru	Mahakashyapa	The Buddhist Canon as it exist today was settled at this Council and preserved as an oral tradition.
2 nd council – Vaishali, 383 BC	Kalasoka	Sabakami	First schism occurs in which the Mahasanghika school parts ways with the Sthaviravadins and the Theravadins.
3 rd council – Patliputra, 250 BC	Ashoka	Moggaliputta Tissa	Abhidhamma Pitaka was established
4 th council – Kashmir, 72 AD	Kanishka	Vasumitra	Buddhism got divided into Mahayana & Hinayana

Q.27) Which of the following statement is/are correct about archaeological survey of India?

- 1) ASI is responsible for the maintenance, restoration and discovery of ancient monument, archeological site, horticulture site and museums.
- 2) Archeological and historical pursuits in India started with the effort of Charles Wilkins.
- 3) ASI is also responsible for epigraphical and numismatic study.
- 4) It is also responsible for archeological expedition outside India.

Select the appropriate code:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Q.27) Solution (c)

Explanation:

- Archaeological and historical pursuits in India started with the efforts of Sir William Jones, who put together a group of antiquarians to form the Asiatic Society on 15th January 1784 in Calcutta.
- Rest all statements are correct with regard to ASI's functions.

Q.28) Consider the following statements with regard to Sarnath:

- 1) Sarnath, an important seat of Buddhist pilgrimage is located just a few kilometers from Varanasi near the confluence of the Ganga and the Gomti rivers.
- 2) World Bank to fund for Sarnath redevelopment
- 3) Lord Buddha gave his 1st sermon here
- 4) Shreyamshanath (11th Thirthankara) of Jainism was born here

Which of the above statement is/are not correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) None
- d) All of the above

Q.28) Solution (c)

Explanation:

- Factual question – self explanatory
- Excerpt from The Hindu article

Q.29) The famous phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' belongs to which Upanishad?

- Mundaka Upanishad
- Maho Upanishad
- Brihadaranyako Upanishad
- Kena Upanishad

Q.29) Solution (b)

Explanation:

- Factual question

Q.30) Consider the following pairs:

(Foreign Travellers) (Visited during)

- 1) Marco polo : Pandya Kingdom
- 2) Bernier : : Shah Jahan
- 3) Ralph Fisch : : Akbar

Which of the pairs given above are matched correctly?

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1 and 2 only

Q.30) Solution (a)

Explanation:

- All the given pairs are matched correctly
- Excerpt from The Hindu article
- To read more: <http://www.geocities.ws/rezuj/ati.html>

Q.31) Match the incorrect pairs:

Renowned works : : Artists

- 1) Landscape : : Ram Kumar
- 2) Tandava : : Swaminathan
- 3) Peace : : K.K. Hebbar
- 4) Monkey God : : M.F.Husain
- 5) Indian traditional Girl : : I.Jayachandran

Choose the answer from the code below

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None of the above

Q.31) Solution (d)

Explanation:

- All the given works and artists are correctly matched and self-explanatory
- Excerpt from The Hindu Article