

IASbaba's Daily Prelims Test [Day 55]

TOPIC: MEDIEVAL HISTORY & CULTURE

1. Consider the following statements regarding 'Iqta'.

1. Iqtas were hereditary assignments.
2. Iqtas were personal properties of the nobles.
3. Generally Iqtas were transferable revenue assignments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. All the above

Ans: (3)

Explanation:

Iqtas' were the revenue assignment made by Delhi sultanate rulers. Grant of Iqta did not imply a right to the land nor was it hereditary; though the holders of Iqta tended to acquire hereditary right in Feroz Tughluq's reign.

Generally Iqtas were transferable revenue assignments.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Alauddin Khalji.

1. Alauddin Khalji maintained a large permanent standing army and paid them in cash from the royal treasury.
2. Regulations were issued to fix the price of all commodities, popularly called as Market Reforms.
3. He was the first Sultan of Delhi who ordered for the measurement of land.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. All the above

Ans: (4)

Explanation:

Alauddin Khalji maintained a large permanent standing army and paid them in cash from the royal treasury. The introduction of paying salaries in cash to the soldiers led to price regulations popularly called as Market Reforms. Alauddin Khalji established four separate markets in Delhi, one for grain; another for cloth, sugar, dried fruits, butter and oil; a third for horses, slaves and cattle; and a fourth for miscellaneous commodities.

Apart from market reforms, Alauddin Khalji took important steps in the land revenue administration. He was the first Sultan of Delhi who ordered for the measurement of land. Even the big landlords could not escape from paying land tax. Land revenue was collected in cash in order to enable the Sultan to pay the soldiers in cash. His land revenue reforms provided a basis for the future reforms of Sher Shah and Akbar.

3. Nayaka and Ayagar systems of local administration under Vijayanagara Empire were the back bone of Vijayanagara power. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nayaka' and 'Ayagar'.

1. Ayagars were the military chiefs.
2. Nayakas were the village functionaries who were given a portion of or plot in a village.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (4)

Explanation:

Ayagars were the village functionaries who were given a portion of or plot in a village..

Nayakas were the military chiefs, who held the title “Nayaka”.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Bhakti movement in South India from 7th to 10th century.

1. South Indian Bhakti saints were critical of Buddhist and Jain monks.
2. Poet saints resisted also authority of orthodox Brahmanas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (3)

Explanation:

South Indian Bhakti saints were critical of Buddhist and Jain monks, who enjoyed privileged status at the courts of south Indian kings at that time.

Poet saints resisted also authority of orthodox Brahmanas by making Bhakti accessible to all without any caste and sex discrimination.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the teachings of Shankarachrya.

1. Shankarachrya advocated ‘Advaita’ (allowing no second).
2. He preached Upanishad doctrine of salvation through knowledge.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (3)

6. Consider the following statements regarding 'monotheistic movement' of medieval India.

1. Most of the monotheists belonged to upper castes.
2. They got influenced in one way or the other, by varying degree, by Vaishnava concept of Bhakti, Nathapanti movement, and Sufism.
3. They criticized superstition and orthodox elements of both Hinduism and Islam.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. All the above

Ans: (3)

Explanation:

Most of the monotheists belonged to low castes.

They represents synthesis element of Vaishnava concept of Bhakti, Nathapanti movement, and Sufism. All three influenced one way or the other, by varying degree.

They criticized superstition and orthodox elements of both Hinduism and Islam.

7. Various mystical tendencies and movements in Islam are termed as 'Sufism'. Consider the following statements regarding features of Sufism.

1. Sufi path could be traversed only under the strict supervision of a spiritual director.
2. Center of activities of Sufi order is known as 'Khanqahs'.
3. Khanqahs did not accept endowment and charity.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

1. 2 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Ans: (2)

Explanation:

While accepting shariat, Sufi saints did not confine their religious practice to formal adherence and they stressed cultivation of religious experience aimed at direct perception of god.

Sufi path could be traversed only under the strict supervision of a spiritual director called 'Pir'.

Center of activities of Sufi order is known as 'Khanqahs' were supported by endowment and charity.

8. Rule of Delhi sultanates was the beginning of a new stage in the development of Indian architecture. Consider the following statements regarding architecture of Delhi sultanates.

1. Lintel and beams and corbelling were replaced by true arches and vaults.
2. Calligraphy, geometry and foliation were the main elements of decorations.
3. Gypsum was commonly used as material for plastering buildings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 2 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. All the above

Ans: (4)

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

Depiction of living beings was generally frowned upon so Calligraphy, geometry and foliation were used as main elements of decorations.

9. Consider the following statements regarding 'Caurapanchasika style of painting'.

1. Caurapanchasika is a manuscript written by Kashmiri poet Kalhana and all paintings are directly related to the text.
2. All the paintings are in oblong format with the text written on reverse.
3. Painting in a single plane with background in brilliant primary colours.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. All the above

Ans: (3)

Explanation:

Caurapanchasika is a manuscript written by Kashmiri poet Bilhana. Paintings of Caurapanchasika style only occasionally directly related to the text.

Other two statements are the important features along with the following:

- Uncompromising side view and a single very large eye.

10. Mansabdars were integral part of Mughal Bureaucracy. 'Mansab' denoted,

1. Status of its holder in the official hierarchy.
2. Fixed the pay of holder.
3. Obligation of maintaining a specified number of contingents with horses and equipment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 only
4. All the above

Ans: (4)

Explanation:

Mansab denoted three things: (i) It determined status of its holder in the official hierarchy, (ii) It fixed the pay of holder, (iii) It also laid upon the holder the obligation of maintaining a specified number of contingents with horses and equipment.

'Zat' determined personal pay and 'Sawar' determined number of horses and horsemen.