Q.1) Which of the following Puranas refers to a detailed procedure related to the art of painting?

a) Vishnu Purana
b) Vishnu Dharmottara Purana
c) Markandeya Purana
d) Vayu Purana

Q.1) Solution (b)

Explanation:

- Vayu puran mentions about geography of Indian culture and about prominent Indian dynasties like Nanda, Maurya, Sunga, Satvahana and Gupta.
- Vayu and Vishnu Puran mention India's geography.
- Vishnu dharmottara puran depicts about wall paintings and iconometry.
- The Markandeya text is probably one of the oldest Puranas in Hinduism. It deals with socio-cultural information and symbolism for Vedic ideas and metaphysical thought.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Buland Darwaja was constructed by Akbar to commemorate his conquest of Malwa.
2. The Upanishads were rendered into Persian by Dara Shikoh under the title of Sirr-i-Akbar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.2) Solution (b)

Explanation:

Buland Darwaza or the "Gate of Magnificence", was built in 1601 A.D. by Akbar to commemorate his victory over Gujarat. It is the main entrance to the palace at Fatehpur Sikri.

Dara translated fifty Upaniṣads—under the title Sirr-i Akbar (The greatest veil)—from the original Sanskrit into Persian.

Q.3) Consider the following matches:

Philosophy	Founder

1. Sankhya   –   Gautama
2. Yoga   –   Patanjali
3. Vaisheshikha –   Kanad (Kannada)
4. Nyaya   –   Kapila

Which of the statements given above is/are correctly matched?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 2 only

Q.3) Solution (c)

Explanation:

Indian Philosophy or Hindu Philosophy is generally classified into 6 orthodox schools (āstika) and 3 heterodox (nāstika) schools. The basic difference between the two branches of Hindu Philosophy schools is said to be based on the recognition of Vedas.

*   Sankhya Philosophy – kapila
*   Yoga – Patanjali
*   Nyaya – Gautam
*   Vaisheshik – Kannada

Purva mimansa and Uttara Mimansa are two other schools.

Q.4) Which of the following were brought by the Portuguese to India?

1. Cotton and Banana
2. Tobacco and Red chillies
3. Assessment of land revenue on the basis of nature of the soil
4. Pineapples and Cashewnuts

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

a) 1, 2 and 4 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 2 and 4 only

Q.4) Solution (d)

Explanation:

The Portuguese introduced into India the following agricultural products: cashew nut, tobacco, the custard apple, guava, the pineapple, and the papaya, and an improved variety of coconut seeds.

Todarmal introduced a system of land reforms, the essence of which was an assessment of the land revenue according to the extent of cultivation, the nature of the soil and the quality of crops.

Q.5) Consider the following:

1. Ibn Battuta	i. Tabaqat I Nasri
2. Al beruni	ii. Kitab ul Hind
3. Amir Khusro	iii. Kitab ul Rehla
4. Minhas us Siraj	iv. Tughlaqnama

Match the above writers and their works

a) 1-ii 2-iii 3-i 4-iv
b) 1-iii 2-ii 3-i 4-iv
c) 1-iii 2-ii 3-iv 4-i
d) 1-ii 2-iii 3-iv 4-i

Q.5) Solution (d)

Explanation:

Al Beruni – Kitab ul hind

Ibn Batutta – Kitab ul Rehla

Amir Khusro – Tughlaqnama (History of Ghayas ud din Tughlaq)

Minhaj us Siraj – Tabaqat I Nasiri (history of Nasir ud din Mahmod)

Q.6) Consider the following statements

1. The iqta system acted as a tool for centralization under the sultanate
2. The holders of iqta were known as Muqti or Wali
3. Iltutmish was the first to regularize the Iqta system
4. Firuz Shah Tughlaq made iqtas hereditary

Which of above statements are true?

a) 2,3 and 4

b) 1 and 3
c) 1, 3, and 4
d) 1,2,3 and 4

Q.6) Solution (a)

Explanation:

The institution of the Iqta had been in force in early Islamic world as a form of reward for services to the state. In the caliphate administration it was used to pay civil and military officers. After the establishment of the Sultanate iqta system was introduced by the Sultans. To begin with the army commanders and nobles were given territories to administer and collect the revenue.

The territories thus assigned were called iqta and their holders as iqtadar or muqti. In essence this was a system of payment to the officers and maintenance of army by them. Gradually rules and regulations were laid down to organize the whole system.

Through the years it became the main instrument of administrating the Sultanate. Further the sultans could get a large share of the surplus production from different parts of the vast territories through this system. From the 14th century we hear of Walis or muqtis who are commanders of military and administrative tracts called Iqta. Their exact powers varied according to circumstances.

In due course the muqti was given complete charge of the administration of the iqta which included the task of maintaining an army. The muqti was to help the sultan with his army in case of need. He was expected to maintain the army and meet his own expenses with the revenue collected. From the time of Balban the muqti was expected to send the balance (fawazil) of the income to the centre after meeting his and the army's expenses. This means that the central revenue department had made an assessment of the expected income of the Iqta, the cost of the maintenance of the army and the muqti's own expenses. This process became even more strict during the time of Alauddhin Khalji. As the central control grew, the

control over muqti's administration also increased. The Khwaja (probably same as Sahib-i-Diwan) was appointed to keep a record of the income of the Iqtas. It was on the basis of this record that the Sultan used to make his revenue demands. A barid or intelligence officer was also appointed to keep the Sultan informed. During the reign of Muhmmad-bin-Thughlaq a number of governors were appointed on revenue sharing terms where they were to give a fixed sum to the state. During the time of Feroze Shah Tughlaq the control of state over iqtas was diluted when iqtas became hereditary.

Q.7) Consider the following statements

1. Pietra Dura is the technique of inlaying mosaic with precious stones

2. This technique was first used by Mughals in Taj Mahal at Agra

Which of the above statements is true?

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

Q.7) Solution (a)

Explanation:

Pietra dura called parchin kari or parchinkari in South Asia, is a term for the inlay technique of using cut and fitted, highly polished colored stones to create images. It is considered a decorative art.

Itimad-ud-daula's Tomb is the first of the Mughal buildings to be sheathed in polished white marble (as opposed to being built in red sandstone). The "most gorgeously ornamented monument of the Mughals," every inch of its surface is decorated: inlay of precious stones (the technique called pietra dura, used extensively here for the first time in Mughal architecture), carving, marble screens, and in the interior painted panels and painted stucco muqarnas (stalactites)

Q.8) Which of the following statements is not true?

a) Dagh and Chehra system were introduced by Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
b) The zabati system was introduced by Akbar
c) Kabuliyat and Patta as instruments of settlement were introduced by Sher Shah Suri
d) Balban constituted the military department or Diwan-I-Arz for first time

Q.8) Solution (a)

Explanation:

Dagh (Brandishing of horse) and Chehra (Writing physical details of soldiers to check impostors) was introduced by Alauddin Khilji.

Same technique was reintroduced by Akbar to check corruption in Mughal Army.

Diwan I Arz – It was a Military department for inspection of Army, salaries and appointments. It was introduced by Balban for the first time as a separate department.

Akbar introduced the Dahasala or Zabati system of land revenue collection in 1580-82 to alleviate the problems arising due to fixing prices every year and doing settlements of revenues of previous years. In this system, average produce of ten years was derived. One

third of this average produce was fixed in Rupees per Bigha and fixed as share of the state (Mal). Rest two third share was left to the cultivators (Kharaj). The state demand in kind was given in maunds; but for the conversion of the state demand from kind to cash, a separate schedule of cash revenue rates for various crops was fixed, which were called as Dastur-i-amal. Each revenue circle had a separate schedule of dastur-i-amal for various crops. Thus the peasant was required to pay on the basis of local produce as well as local prices. Dahsala System or Zabti System was introduced by Raja Todarmal, the able finance minister of Akbar, who had honed his skills under his first master Shershah Suri. This system prevailed from Lahore to Allahabad and in the provinces of Malwa and Gujarat. This remained a standard system of revenue assessment during the greater part of the Mughal empire.

Q.9) Consider the following:

1. Nicolo de Conti
2. Ibn Batuta
3. Al Beruni
4. Marco Polo

Place these travelers according to the order they visited India starting from the earliest.

a) 2, 3, 4, 1
b) 4, 3, 2, 1
c) 3, 4, 1, 2
d) 3, 4, 2, 1

Q.9) Solution (d)

Explanation:

Al Beruni was the First Muslim Scholar to study *India* and its Brahmanical tradition. He visited India in 1030 AD.

Marco Polo was a Venetian merchant traveller. He reached India in 1288 AD.

Abu Abdullah Muhammad *Ibn Battuta*, was a Moroccan Muslim scholar and traveler. He is known for his traveling and going on excursions called the Rihla. He visited India in 1334 AD in the court of Mohammad bin Tughlaq.

Nicolo di Conti was an Italian Merchant who visited the Vijayanagar Empire in 1420 AD.

Q.10) In which of the following monuments was the first true arch in India built?

a) Tomb of Iltutmish

b) Allai darwaza

c) Tomb of Balban

d) Quwwat ul islam mosque

Q.10) Solution (b)

Mamluk dynasty did not employ true Islamic architecture styles and used false domes and false arches. The first example of the true arch and true dome is in Alai Darwaja located in Qutub Complex. It was built by Ala-ud-din Khilji in 1311 AD.

Q.11) Which of the following Sikh Gurus are correctly matched with the events associated with them?

1. Guru Angad   Pioneer of Gurumukhi script
2. Guru Arjan   Compiled the Holy book Adi Granth
3. Guru Hargobind   Built Harmandir Sahib
4. Guru Gobind Singh   Started Khalsa (Sikh Militias)

Select the code from below:

a) 1 and 2

b) 3 and 4

c) 1,2 and 4

d) All of the above

Q.11) Solution (c)

Guru Angad was the second Guru after Guru Nanak and he was the pioneer of Gurumukhi Script.

Guru Arjan was the 5th Guru and the first hereditary Guru. He compiled the Sikh holy book 'Adi Granth' in 1604. Guru Arjan built Harmandir Sahib on the land donated by Akbar to Guru Ramdas (Guru Arjan's father).

Guru Hargobind (6th Guru) was the first Guru who started using weapons.

Guru Gobind Singh the 10th Guru established Khalsa panth in 1699. Khalsa is a term derived from 'Khalis – Pure'. It comprised of dedicated Sikh militia.

Q.12) 'Urs' is celebrated at the Mazars of Sufi Saints every year. It denotes

a) Birth anniversary of Sufi Saint

b) Death Anniversary of Sufi Saint

c) Commemorate the date of Sainthood

d) It is celebrated on a predetermined arbitrary day

Q.12) Solution (b)

Urs is the death anniversary of a Sufi saint in South Asia, usually held at the saint's dargah (shrine or tomb). In most Sufi orders such as Naqshbandiyyah, Suhrawardiyya, Chishtiyya, Qadiriyya, etc. the concept of Urs exists and is celebrated with enthusiasm. The devotees refer to their saints as lovers of God, the beloved.

Urs rituals are generally performed by the custodians of the shrine or the existing Shaikh of the silsila. The celebration of Urs ranges from Hamd to Naat and in many cases includes the singing of religious music such as qawwali. The celebration also features food samples, bazaar, and various kinds of shops.

The Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti at Dargah Sharif in Ajmer attracts more than 400,000 devotees each year and is regarded as one of the most famous urs festivals around the world.

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

1. It is a book on politics written by Krishna Deva Raya on Politics.
2. Amukta Malyada is written in Tamil.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.13) Solution (a)

Last year a very specific question was asked on the literary contribution of Krishnadeva Raya. A question can be asked in prelims this year.

Amukta Malyada is a book on politics written in Telugu. It was written by Vijanagara Ruler, Krishnadeva Raya.

He also wrote a Sanskrit drama – Jambavati Kalyanam.

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. He was declared as Crown Prince by Shah Jehan.
2. He translated 50 Upanishads from Sanskrit to Persian.

3. Because of his inclinations and fame amongst people, he was popularly known as 'Akbar e Sani' (Second Akbar).

The above statements refer to which of the following personalities?

a) Aurangzeb
b) Murad
c) Dara Shikoh
d) Jahangir

Q.14) Solution (c)

Dara Shikoh was the eldest son and the heir-apparent of the fifth Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.

Dara Shukoh is widely renowned as an enlightened paragon of the harmonious coexistence of heterodox traditions on the Indian subcontinent. He was an erudite champion of mystical religious speculation and a poetic diviner of syncretic cultural interaction among people of all faiths. This made him a heretic in the eyes of his orthodox younger brother and a suspect eccentric in the view of many of the worldly power brokers swarming around the Mughal throne. Dara Shikoh was a follower of the Persian "perennialist" mystic Sarmad Kashani, as well as Lahore's famous Qadiri Sufi saint Hazrat Mian Mir, whom he was introduced to by Mulla Shah Badakhshi (Mian Mir's spiritual disciple and successor). Mian Mir was so widely respected among all communities that he was invited to lay the foundation stone of the Golden Temple in Amritsar by the Sikhs.

Dara Shikoh subsequently developed a friendship with the seventh Sikh Guru, Guru Har Rai. Dara Shikoh devoted much effort towards finding a common mystical language between Islam and Hinduism. Towards this goal he completed the translation of fifty Upanishads from their original Sanskrit into Persian in 1657 so that they could be studied by Muslim scholars. His translation is often called *Sirr-e-Akbar* ("The Greatest Mystery"), where he states boldly, in the introduction, his speculative hypothesis that the work referred to in the Qur'an as the "*Kitab al-maknun*" or the *hidden book*, is none other than the Upanishads.[His most famous work, Majma-ul-Bahrain ("The Confluence of the Two Seas"), was also devoted to a revelation of the mystical and pluralistic affinities between Sufic and Vedantic speculation. The book was authored as a short treatise in Persian in 1654-55.

The library established by Dara Shukoh still exists on the grounds of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi, and is now run as a museum by Archaeological Survey of India after being renovated.

Q.15) Which of the following statements are correct regarding Tomb of Itimad ud Daulah?

1. It was built by Shah Jehan.
2. It is the first complete marble building in India.
3. This is the first Mughal structure to use Pietra Dura(Stone inlay) technique.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.15) Solution (b)

Tomb of Itimad ud Daulah was built by Jehangir. Itimad ud Daulah was Wazir and Father in Law if Jehangir.

It is the first complete marble structure in India. It is famous for Pietra Dura (Stone inlay work). This is the first Mughal building to use this technique. It is also famous for its fine screen work.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding Rabindranath Tagore

1. He was born in Chittagong now in Bangladesh
2. He denounced Knighthood award in protest of Partition of Bengal
3. Visva-Bharti University was founded by him

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Q.16) Solution (d)

He was born on 7th May 1861 in Calcutta, British India (2017 is 156th Birth Anniversary)

In November 1913, Tagore learned he had won that year's Nobel Prize in Literature (First non-European): the Swedish Academy appreciated the idealistic—and for Westerners—accessible nature of a small body of his translated material focussed on the 1912 Gitanjali: Song Offerings. He was awarded a knighthood by King George V in the 1915 Birthday Honours, **but renounced it after the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre**

Visva-Bharati is a public central government funded university located in Santiniketan, West Bengal. It was founded by Rabindranath Tagore who called it Visva Bharati, which means the communion of the world with India.

http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/art-and-culture/rabindranath-tagore-quotes-by-the-kaviguru-that-prove-the-bard-is-evergreen-4644584/

Q.17) World Metrology Day is celebrated on

a) 15th May
b) 18th May
c) 20th May
d) 22nd May

Q.17) Solution (c)

The theme for World Metrology Day 2017 is Measurements for transport. Indeed more widely metrology, the science of measurement, plays a central role in scientific discovery

and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, in improving the quality of life and in protecting the global environment.

World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on **20 May** 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations.

Q.18) Consider the following about Dhola-Sadiya Bridge

1. It is also called Bhupen Hazarika Bridge
2. It connects Dhola in Assam to Sadiya in Arunanchal Pradesh
3. It is built across Dibang River, one of the tributaries of Brahmaputra

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

a) Only 3
b) 2 and 3
c) 1 and 3
d) None

Q.18) Solution (b)

The bridge was inaugurated on 26 May 2017 by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The bridge is named after Bhupen Hazarika, a famous musician, poet, filmmaker and lyricist from Assam

The bridge spans the Lohit River, a major tributary of the Brahmaputra River, from the village of Dhola in the south to Sadiya to the north.

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/dhola-sadiya-bridge-10-things-to-know/article18582536.ece

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding UN-Habitat

1. It is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development
2. It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development
3. It is headquartered at Athens, Greece

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2
b) 1 and 3
c) 2 and 3
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.19) Solution (a)

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN–Habitat) is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development. It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976. UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.

It is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group. The mandate of UN-Habitat derives from the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996. The twin goals of the Habitat Agenda are adequate shelter for all and the development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world.

Recently India has been unanimously elected as the President of the UN-Habitat. This is the third time that India has been elected as the President of UN-Habitat after 2007 and 1988.

UN-Habitat reports to the United Nations General Assembly. On behalf of India, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Minister M Venkaiah Naidu will preside over the deliberations of the 58-member **Governing Council (GC) of the UN-Habitat for the next two years.**

The Governing Council of UN-Habitat is the intergovernmental decision-making body for the Programme.

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-elected-president-of-un-habitat/article18413884.ece

Q.20) Which of the following are the potential areas where 'Telemetry' finds application?

1. Railways
2. Formula One Racing
3. Agriculture
4. Water Management

Select the correct code

a) 1, 2 and 3
b) 1 and 2
c) 2, 3 and 4
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.20) Solution (d)

Telemetry is an automated communications process by which measurements and other data are collected at remote or inaccessible points and transmitted to receiving equipment for monitoring.

A telemeter is a device used to remotely measure any quantity. It consists of a sensor, a transmission path, and a display, recording, or control device. Telemeters are the physical devices used in telemetry. Electronic devices are widely used in telemetry and can be wireless or hard-wired, analog or digital

Telemetry has been used by weather balloons for transmitting meteorological data since 1920.

Oil and gas industry: Telemetry is used to transmit drilling mechanics and formation evaluation information uphole, in real time, as a well is drilled.

Motor racing: Telemetry is a key factor in modern motor racing, allowing race engineers to interpret data collected during a test or race and use it to properly tune the car for optimum performance. Systems used in series such as Formula One have become advanced to the point where the potential lap time of the car can be calculated, and this time is what the driver is expected to meet.

Transportation: In the transportation industry, telemetry provides meaningful information about a vehicle or driver's performance by collecting data from sensors within the vehicle. This is undertaken for various reasons ranging from staff compliance monitoring, insurance rating to predictive maintenance.

Recently, Indian Railways announced to acquire EoTT: The End of Train Telemetry (EoTT) equipment is used to establish communication between the locomotive driver and the last wagon of the train to ensure that the train is running with all coaches/wagons as a complete unit.

Agriculture: Most activities related to healthy crops and good yields depend on timely availability of weather and soil data. Therefore, wireless weather stations play a major role in disease prevention and precision irrigation.

Water management: Telemetry is important in water management, including water quality and stream gauging functions. Major applications include AMR (automatic meter reading), groundwater monitoring, leak detection in distribution pipelines and equipment surveillance.

Defense, space and resource exploration: Telemetry is used in complex systems such as missiles, RPVs, spacecraft, oil rigs, and chemical plants since it allows the automatic monitoring, alerting, and record-keeping necessary for efficient and safe operation.

Space science: Telemetry is used by manned or unmanned spacecraft for data transmission.

For other applications- Click Here

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/railways-to-acquire-eott-system-to-run-trains-without-guards/article18418658.ece