



ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

May, 2021

HISTORY

ECONOMICS

POLITY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT



Early Janpaths

Q.1) Consider the following pair of cities of second urbanization:

City	Important centre of
1. Rajgriha	Political and administrative centre
2. Ujjain	Holy Centre
3. Taxila	Centre of trade and commerce

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Agricultural surplus, the growth of crafts and trade, and the growing population led to the emergence of towns in the Gangetic plains. This is called the second urbanisation in Indian history after the first urbanisation evident in the Harappan Civilization. Different types of towns came into being:

- (i) Political and administrative centres such as Rajgriha, Shravasti, Kaushambi and Champa
- (ii) Centres of trade and commerce such as Ujjain and Taxila
- (iii) Holy centres such as Vaishali.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.2) Which one of the following state is best known gana-sangha or oligarchies?

- a) Vajji
- b) Magadha
- c) Assaka
- d) Kuru

ANS: A

Explanation: The proto-states of the Gangetic region were known as janapadas and comprised chiefdoms, republics and small kingdoms. Sixteen mahajanapadas find mention in the early texts.

- There were also ganasanghas or oligarchies, which were centred on clans. The Vrijjis were one of the best known of the gana-sanghas, and Vaishali was their capital in the Mithila region.
- These kingdoms did not come under the single decision-making authority of a king but decisions were taken on a collective basis by the heads of the different clans together.
- There were also smaller kingdoms such as Kosala and Kasi. It is interesting to note that the names of the clans, such as Ikshvaku and Vrishni, as well as these early kingdoms, are all mentioned in the two epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.3) Bhaga, Kara and Shulka are the terms used for which of the following?

- a) Types of land
- b) Types of taxes
- c) Literary texts

d) Kings of the Mahajanapadas

ANS: B

Explanation: The mahajanapadas on the Gangetic plains were all monarchies. Vedic orthodoxy was an established practice in these kingdoms. The kingship was hereditary and the succession was in most cases based on the law of primogeniture.

- The king was assisted by councils called parishad and sabha. The councils were advisory in nature. The king appropriated the agricultural surplus through land revenue apart from a few other taxes.
- Bali was a tax imposed based on the area of cultivable land. Bhaga was obtained as a share of the produce. Kara and Shulka were some of the other taxes collected during this period.
- Thus the king raised revenue through taxes to maintain an elaborate administrative structure and an army.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Agriculturally productive region.
2. Presence of iron mines
3. Presence of Elephants in the region
4. Ambitious kings

Which of the above given statements are the reasons for growth of Magadhan power?

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Between the sixth and the fourth centuries BCE, Magadha (in present-day Bihar) became the most powerful mahajanapada.

Modern historians explain this development in a variety of ways:

- Magadha was a region where agriculture was especially productive.
- Besides, iron mines (in present-day Jharkhand) were accessible and provided resources for tools and weapons.
- Elephants, an important component of the army, were found in forests in the region.
- Also, the Ganga and its tributaries provided a means of cheap and convenient communication.
- However, early Buddhist and Jaina writers who wrote about Magadha attributed its power to the policies of individuals: ruthlessly ambitious kings of whom Bimbisara, Ajatasattu and Mahapadma Nanda are the best known, and their ministers, who helped implement their policies.

Source: Themes in Indian History Part.

Q.5) Who among the following king was contemporary to Buddha?

- a) Ashoka
- b) Ajatashatru
- c) Bimbisara
- d) Bindusara

ANS: C

Explanation: Bimbisara, who was a contemporary of Buddha, started the process of empire building. It was strengthened by his son Ajatashatru and then by the Nandas.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

Q.6) Which among the following chronological order of empires is correct?

- a) Shishunaga, Nanda, Mauryas, Haryanka
- b) Haryanka, Shishunaga, Nanda, Mauryas
- c) Haryanka, Nanda, Shishunaga, Mauryas
- d) Shishunaga, Nanda, Haryanka, Mauryas

ANS: B

Explanation: Among the 16 mahajanapadas, Kasi was initially powerful. However, Kosala became dominant later.

- A power struggle broke out between Magadha, Kosala, Vriji and Avanti. Eventually Magadha emerged as the dominant mahajanapada and established the first Indian empire.
- The first known ruler of Magadha was Bimbisara of the Haryanka dynasty. The Haryanka dynasty was succeeded by the Shishunaga dynasty.
- The Shishunagas ruled for fifty years before the throne was usurped by Mahapadma Nanda.
- Chandragupta Maurya Founded the Mauryan Empire after winning over Nanda Dynasty.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

Q.7) The term 'Hindu' appears for the first in which of the following inscription?

- a) Darius I, Iran
- b) Ancient Greek inscription
- c) Ashokan Rock Edict
- d) Rock inscription of Junagarh

ANS: A

Explanation: The word "Hindu" appears for the first time in an inscription of Darius I at Persepolis, Iran.

- Darius lists "Hindu" as part of his empire. The word "Sindhu", denoting a river in general and Indus in particular, became "Hindu" in Persian.
- The Greeks dropped the S and called it Indu, which eventually came to be called Hindu and later India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

Q.8) Which among the following event is called as 'Mahabhiraskramana'?

- a) White elephant entering the womb of Buddha's mother Mahamaya.
- b) Buddha getting enlightenment.
- c) Buddha leaving the palace.
- d) Buddha's passing away.

ANS: C

Explanation: When Siddhartha was riding on his chariot with his charioteer one day outside the palace, he saw an old man, a sick man, a corpse and finally a religious mendicant.

Overcome by remorse at the misery of people, he left his palace in the dead of night in search of eternal truth.

He rode in his chariot pulled by his favourite horse Kanthaka and driven by his charioteer Channa far away from the city.

He cut his hair and sent it along with his discarded garments and jewellery to his father. This is known as Mahabhiraskramana or the Great Going Forth.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11, page 51.

Q.9) Which of the following text mentions about agricultural activities during later vedic period?

- a) Satapatha Brahamana
- b) Panchvimsa Brahamana
- c) Aiteraya Brahmana
- d) Jaiminiya Brahmana

ANS: A

Explanation: Agricultural activities increased during the Late Vedic period. The Satapatha Brahmana mentions rituals related to ploughing undertaken by the kings.

- This suggests the importance given to cultivation by the rulers, and the shift to agriculture to support the increasing population.
- The god Balarama is depicted with a plough, which suggests the importance of cultivation. The Vedic people cultivated barley and rice, and wheat.
- Wheat was the staple food of Punjab region. The Vedic people began to use rice in the Ganga-Yamuna doab. The use of rice, rather than wheat, is noticed in the Vedic rituals.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

Q.10) Who among the following translated Upanishads into Persian?

- a) Abu Fasal
- b) Gulbadan Begam
- c) Badauni
- d) Dara Shikoh

ANS: D

Explanation: Dara Shukoh, the Mughal prince, translated the Upanishads into Persian in 1657, much before the colonial scholars developed any interest in ancient Indian literature.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

The Mauryan Empire

Q.1) Which of the following text narrates Chandragupta's accession to the throne of Magadha?

- a) Mudrarakshasa
- b) Patanjali
- c) Arthashastra
- d) Buddhavacana

ANS: A

Explanation: The play Mudrarakshasa by Visakhadatta was written during the Gupta period, sometime after the 4th century CE.

- It narrates Chandragupta's accession to the throne of the Magadha Empire and the exploits of his chief advisor Chanakya or Kautilya by listing the strategies he used to counter an invasion against Chandragupta.
- This play is often cited as a corroborative source since it supports the information gathered from other contemporary sources about Chandragupta.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.2) Greek historians have recorded the name 'Sandrakottus' or 'Sandrakoptus' for who among the following?

- a) Aryabhatta
- b) Maha Pala
- c) Chandragupta Maurya
- d) Ashoka

ANS: C

Explanation: Contemporary accounts by Greek historians show that Chandragupta was a youth living in Taxila when Alexander invaded India.

- Greek historians have recorded his name as "Sandrakottus" or "Sandrakoptus", which are evidently modified forms of Chandragupta.
- Inspired by Alexander, Chandragupta led a revolt against the Nandas years later and overthrew them.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.3) Hathigumpha Inscriptions, which tells about the Kalinga Ruler in detail, is located at?

- a) Udaygiri Caves
- b) Adichallanur
- c) Kausambi
- d) Ujjain

ANS: A

Explanation: The defining event of Ashoka's rule was his campaign against Kalinga (present-day Odisha) in the eighth year of his reign.

- This is the only recorded military expedition of the Mauryas. The number of those killed in battle, those who died subsequently, and those deported ran into tens of thousands.

- The campaign had probably been more ferocious and brutal than usual because this was a punitive war against Kalinga, which had broken away from the Magadha Empire (the Hathigumpha inscription speaks of Kalinga as a part of the Nanda Empire).
- Hathigumpha inscription at Udayagiri caves is the main source of information about Kalinga ruler Kharavela. This inscription, consisting of seventeen lines has been incised in deep cut Brahmi script.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.4) The third Buddhist Council convened at the time of Ashoka was held at which of the following places?

- a) Gandhara
- b) Ujjain
- c) Amaravati
- d) Patliputra

ANS: D

Explanation: One of the major events of Ashoka's reign was the convening of the Third Buddhist sangha (council) in 250 BCE in the capital Pataliputra.

- Ashoka's deepening commitment to Buddhism meant that royal patronage was extended to the Buddhist establishment.
- An important outcome of this sangha was the decision to expand the reach of Buddhism to other parts of the region and to send missions to convert people to the religion.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.5) Consider the following pairs of terms of Mauryan Empire:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 1. Purohita | Priest |
| 2. Samaharta | Judicial Administrator |
| 3. Sthanika | District Commander |

Which of the above given pair is/are NOT correctly matched?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: At the head of the administration was the king. He was assisted by a council of ministers and a purohita or priest, who was a person of great importance, and secretaries known as mahamatriyas. The capital region of Pataliputra was directly administered.

- Revenue collection was the responsibility of a collector-general (samaharta) who was also in charge of exchequer that he was, in effect, like a minister of finance.
- At the next level of administration came the districts, villages and towns. The district was under the command of a sthanika, while officials known as gopas were in charge of five to ten villages.
- Urban administration was handled by a nagarika. Villages were semi-autonomous and were under the authority of a gramani, appointed by the central government, and a council of village elders.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.6) Arrange the following provinces of Ashokan Empire from north to south:

1. Tosali
2. Taxila
3. Suvarnagiri

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The capital region of Pataliputra was directly administered. The rest of the empire was divided into four provinces based at Suvarnagiri (near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh), Ujjain (Avanti, Malwa), Taxila in the northwest, and Tosali in Odisha in the southeast. The provinces were administered by governors who were usually royal princes.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

Q.7) “Providing medical care should be one of the functions of the state, the emperor ordered hospitals to be set up to treat human beings and animals.” The above mentioned instruction of King Ashoka has been found on which of the Edicts of Ashoka?

- a) Kalinga Pillar Edict I
- b) Major Rock Edict 2
- c) Rock Inscription at Junagarh
- d) Major Rock Edict 3

ANS: B

Explanation: Ashoka's rule gives us an alternative model of a righteous king and a just state.

- He instructed his officials, the yuktas (subordinate officials), rajjukas (rural administrators) and pradesikas (heads of the districts) to go on tours every five years to instruct people in dhamma (Major Rock Edict 3).
- Ashoka realised that an effective ruler needed to be fully informed about what was happening in his kingdom and insisted that he should be advised and informed promptly wherever he might be (Major Rock Edict 6).
- He insisted that all religions should co-exist and the ascetics of all religions were honoured (Major Rock Edicts 7 and 12).
- Providing medical care should be one of the functions of the state, the emperor ordered hospitals to be set up to treat human beings and animals (Major Rock Edict 2).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.8) Mauryan Empire was succeeded by which of the following Empire?

- a) Nandas
- b) Sunga
- c) Gurjara
- d) Palas

ANS: B

Explanation: The highly centralized administration became unmanageable when Ashoka's successors were weak and inefficient.

The last ruler Brihadratha was killed by his commander-in-chief Pushyamitra Sunga who founded the Sunga Dynasty that ruled India for over hundred years.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Q.9) Barabar caves carved out on the orders of King Ashoka were for the use of which of the following sect?

- a) Buddhist
- b) Jains
- c) Ajivika
- d) Hindu

ANS: C

Explanation: Around 40 km from Bodh Gaya lies a cluster of four caves, namely Karan Chaupar, Lomas Rishi, Sudama and Visvakarma, known as the Barabar Caves.

- Carved out from a monolithic granite rock, these are supposed to have been constructed by emperor Ashoka for the use of Ajivaka ascetics.
- The most unique cave is Lomas Rishi, whose façade is an exact replica of the wood and thatch huts of monks. The interior of the cave has a remarkable glass-like polish.

Source: Old NCERT page 133.

Q.10) Which among the following historical chronicle in Pali from Sri Lanka serves as an important source of information about Mauryan Period?

- a) Mahavamsa
- b) Brahmanas
- c) Indica
- d) Deepavamsa

ANS: A

Explanation: The names of Chandragupta and his two successors in the Mauryan period are well known now. But reconstructing their lives and careers was a laborious and difficult process for the earlier historians.

- There are hardly any comprehensive contemporary accounts or literary works which refer to the Mauryan emperors though they are mentioned in various Buddhist and Jain texts as well as in some Hindu works like the brahmanas.
- The Mahavamsa, the comprehensive historical chronicle in Pali from Sri Lanka, is an important additional source.
- The scattered information from these sources has been corroborated by accounts of Greek historians who left their accounts about India following Alexander's campaign in north-western part of the country.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

Post Mauryan kingdoms and the Early Kingdoms in Southern India

Q.1) The three crowned kings, the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas are known by which of the following term in Sangam text?

- a) Muvendar
- b) Athiyaman
- c) Kizhar
- d) Velir

ANS: A

Explanation: Though the three Tamil ruling families were known to Asoka in the third century BCE itself, some individual names are known only from the Sangam poems of the first century and later.

- Known as muvendar, 'the three crowned kings', the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas controlled major agrarian territories, trade routes and towns.
- But the Satiyaputra (same as Athiyaman) found in the Asokan inscription along with the above three houses is a Velir chief in the Sangam poems.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) "Kanaganahalli"- ancient Buddhist site is located in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) None

ANS: D

Explanation: Early Buddhist art in India expanded exponentially when, in 1994, archaeologists unearthed a spectacular ancient stupa outside the hamlet of Kanaganahalli in modern Karnataka State, in India's southwest.

As if by magic, a lost Buddhist monastic center from the early first millennium emerged from a shapeless mound.

By virtue of its remarkable stone sculpture and hundreds of ancient stone inscriptions, Kanaganahalli instantly took its place among the most celebrated early Buddhist sites in India.

One location mentioned in the inscriptions even turns up in Ptolemy's Geographia of the 2nd century CE, a reminder of how small the world was becoming even at the beginning of the first millennium.

Source: Ncert History

Q.3) Which one of the following term is used for the riverine tract type of landscape in Tamilangam?

- a) Kurinji
- b) Mullai
- c) Neythal
- d) Marutham

ANS: D

Explanation: Sangam poems help us understand the social formation of the time. According to the thinai concept, Tamilagam was divided into five landscapes or eco-regions namely Kurinji, Marutam, Mullai, Neytal and Palai.

Each region had distinct characteristics – a presiding deity, people and cultural life according to the environmental conditions, as follows:

- Kurinji: hilly region: hunting and gathering
- Marutham: riverine tract: agriculture using plough and irrigation.
- Mullai: forested region: pastoralism combined with shifting cultivation
- Neythal: coastal land: fishing and salt making.
- Palai: parched land. Unsuitable for cultivation and hence people took to cattle lifting and robbery.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following statements about the Society and economy of Sangam Age:

1. Southern India had both day and night markets selling several craft goods.
2. Manimegalai referred to mobile merchants.
3. Umanars were the salt merchants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: There is evidence of craft production such as bronze vessels, beads and gold works, textiles, shell bangles and ornaments, glass, iron smithy, pottery making.

- Craft production was common in the major urban centres such as Arikamedu, Uraiyur, Kanchipuram, Kaveripattinam, Madurai, Korkai, and Pattanam in Kerala. Maduraikanchi speaks about day markets as well as and night markets selling several craft goods.
- The names of persons mentioned in inscriptions on pottery reveal the presence of non-Tamil speakers, mostly traders, in certain craft centres and towns. Traders from faraway regions were present in the Tamil country.
- Manimegalai refers to Magadha artisans, Maratha mechanics, Malva smiths and Yavana carpenters working in cooperation with Tamil craftsmen.
- Traderelated terms such as vanikan, chattan and nigama appear in the Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions. Salt merchants called umanar, travelled in bullock carts along with their families for trade activities. Chattu referred to the itinerary or mobile merchants.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Which Indo-Greek King is known as eponymous hero of the Buddhist text Milinda-Pinha?

- a) Demetrius
- b) Menander
- c) Antialcidas
- d) Euthydemus

ANS: B

Explanation: Menander is mainly remembered as the eponymous hero of the Buddhist text, Milinda-pinha (questions of Milinda), in which he is engaged in a question-and-answer discussion on Buddhism with the teacher Nagasena.

He is believed to have become a Buddhist and promoted Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. Kushans are known as yueh-chi tribe.
2. Scythians is the term used for Prathians.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Indo-Greek kingdoms in north-western India were ousted by various nomadic tribes from Central Asia, known as the Sakas (Scythians), Parthians (Pahlavis) and Kushanas (yueh-chi or yuezhi tribes in Chinese).

In spite of the fact that they followed the Greek practice of issuing vast amounts of coinage with their names and titles (mostly "king of kings"), this is a very confusing period in our history.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Which of the following kingdom introduced turban, tunic, trousers and heavy long boots and coats?

- a) Kushans
- b) Cheras
- c) Mughals
- d) Mauryan

ANS: A

Explanation: Shakas – Kushanas introduced better cavalry & use of riding horses on large scale along with use of turban, tunic, trousers & longcoats.

- Kushanas were the 1st ruler in India to issue gold coins on wide scale & controlled major part of silk trade.
- Kushanas adopted pompous titles as King of Kings & were called Sons of god like Asoka was called Dear to gods.

Source: Old NCERT.

Q.8) 'Buddhacharita' is written by which of the following?

- a) Kanishka
- b) Ashoka
- c) Ashvaghosha
- d) Vasumitra

ANS: C

Explanation: Kanishka was the patron of Buddhist philosophers such as Asvaghosha, Parsva and Vasumitra, as well as the great Buddhist teacher Nagarjuna.

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- Asvaghosha is known for his Buddhacharita and is celebrated as the author of the first Sanskrit play, Sariputraprakarana, in nine acts.
- The great dramatist Bhasa, whose plays were re-discovered only about a hundred years ago in South India, most probably belonged to this period.
- Among the Hindu treatises, we find the Manusmriti, Vatsyayana's Kamasutra and Kautilya's Arthashastra taking final shape by the second century CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) Consider the following pairs:

Book	Author
1. Gaha Sattasai	King Hala
2. Sariputraprakarana	Asvaghosha
3. Kamasutra	Bhasa

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: King Hala is credited with the writing of Gatha Sattasai, a collection of 700 love poems. Written in Maharshtri Prakrit dialect, it has themes similar to those found in the Tamil Sangam poetry.

- Asvaghosha is known for his Buddhacharita and is celebrated as the author of the first Sanskrit play, Sariputraprakarana, in nine acts.
- Among the Hindu treatises, we find the Manusmriti, Vatsyayana's Kamasutra and Kautilya's Arthashastra taking final shape by the second century CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Musiri and Tondi, ancient ports were under the control of which of the following empire?

- a) Cheras
- b) Cholas
- c) Pandyas
- d) Satavahanas

ANS: A

Explanation:

The Cheras controlled the central and northern parts of Kerala and the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu.

- Vanji was their capital and the ports of the west coast, Musiri and Tondi, were under their control.
- Vanji is identified with Karur, while some scholars identify it with Tiruvanchaikalam in Kerala.
- Now it is accepted by most scholars that there were two main branches of the Chera family and the Poraiya branch ruled from Karur of present-day Tamil Nadu.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

The Gupta Empire and their Successors

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Chandragupta I was the founder of Gupta Dynasty.
2. According to Allahabad pillar inscription, Samudragupta had conquered plains west of Prayag till Mathura and in the south till Kanchipuram.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Evidence on the origin and antecedents of the Gupta dynasty is limited. The Gupta kings seem to have risen from modest origins.

- Chandragupta I, who was the third ruler of the Gupta dynasty, married Kumaradevi, a Lichchavi prince.
- The marriage is mentioned in the records of his successors with pride indicating that that royal connection would have contributed to the rise of Guptas. Lichchavi was an old, established gana-sangha and its territory lay between the Ganges and the Nepal Terai.
- According to Allahabad pillar inscription Samudragupta, the illustrious son of Chandragupta I, had conquered the whole fertile plains west of Prayag to Mathura and launched a spectacular raid through Kalinga into the south as far as Kanchipuram, the Pallava capital.
- The Puranas mention Magadha, Allahabad and Oudh as the Gupta dominions.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following rulers held the title of 'Kaviraja'?

- a) Chandragupta
- b) Samudragupta
- c) Kumargupta I
- d) Chandraputa II

ANS: B

Explanation: Samudragupta patronised scholars and poets like Harisena and thus promoted Sanskrit literature.

- Though an ardent follower of Vaishnavism, he also patronised the great Buddhist scholar Vasubandhu.
- As a lover of poetry and music, he was given the title "Kaviraja". His coins bear the insignia of him playing the vina (lute).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs of kings and titles:

King	Title
1. Chandragupta I	maharaja-adhiraja
2. Samudragupta	Napoleon of India
3. Chandragupta II	Maharaja Adhiraja

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The first ruler of the Gupta Empire was Sri Gupta (240–280 CE) who was succeeded by his son Ghatotkacha (280–319 CE). Both Sri Gupta and Ghatotkacha are mentioned as Maharajas in inscriptions.

- Chandragupta I, the son of Ghatotkacha, ruled from 319 to 335 CE and is considered to be the first great king of the Gupta Empire.
- Chandragupta held the title of maharaja-adhiraja (great king over other kings). Historians call Samudragupta as the Napoleon of India.
- This statement is undeniable that the southern kings paid tribute, while the northern kingdoms were annexed to the Gupta Empire under Samudragupta.
- His direct control was confined to the Ganges valley, since the Sakas remained unconquered in western India.
- The tribes of Rajasthan paid tribute, but the Punjab was outside the limits of his authority.
- Samudragupta's campaign broke the power of the tribal republics in those regions that led to repeated invasions from the Huns.
- Named after his grandfather, Chandragupta II was a capable ruler, who ruled for 40 years from c. 375 to 415 CE.
- He came to power after a succession struggle with his brother Rama Gupta. He is also known as Vikramaditya.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following statements about the land classification of Gupta period:

- 1. Vasti was the waste land while Khila was habitable land.
- 2. Aprahata was the forest land while Gapata Saraha was pastoral land.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: As stated in Paharpur plates, an officer called ustapala maintained records of all the land transactions in the district and the village accountant preserved records of land in the village. During the Gupta period, the land was classified as detailed below.

Kshetra	Cultivable land
Khila	Waste land
Aprahata	Jungle or waste land
Vasti	Habitable land
Gapata Saraha	Pastoral land

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Which of the following text provides the information of irrigation facilities at the time of Guptas?

- a) Nitisara
- b) Narada Smriti
- c) Paharpur copper plate inscription
- d) Brihaspati Smriti

ANS: B

Explanation: The importance of irrigation to agriculture was recognised in India from the earliest times.

- From the Narada Smriti, we understand that there were two kinds of dykes: the bardhya, which protected the field from floods, and the khara, which served the purpose of irrigation.
- To prevent inundation, jalanirgamah (drains) were constructed, which is mentioned by Amarasimha.
- Canals were constructed not only from rivers but also from tanks and lakes. The most famous lake was the Sudarsana Lake at the foot of Girnar Hills in Gujarat.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The Mehrauli Iron Pillar in the Qutb Minar Complex in Delhi belongs to Gupta period.
2. The sarthavaha was a caravan trader who carried his goods to different places for profitable sale while Sresti was usually settled at a particular place.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The most important and visible evidence of the high stage of development in metallurgy is the Mehrauli Iron Pillar of King Chandra in the Qutb Minar Complex in Delhi, identified with Chandragupta II.

- This monolith iron pillar has lasted through the centuries without rusting. It is a monument to the great craftsmanship of the iron workers during the Gupta period.
- Coin casting, metal engraving, pottery making, terracotta work and wood carving were other specialised crafts.
- The contribution of traders to the soundness of the Gupta economy is quite impressive. Two distinctive types of traders called sresti and sarthavaha existed.
- Sresti was usually settled at a particular place and enjoyed an eminent position by virtue of his wealth and influence in the commercial life and administration of the place.
- The sarthavaha was a caravan trader who carried his goods to different places for profitable sale.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Consider the following pair of Authors and Sanskrit grammar books:

Author	Book
1. Panini	Ashtadhyayi
2. Patanjali	Mahabhashya
3. Amarasimha	Chandravyakaranam

Which of the above given pair are correctly matched?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Gupta period also saw the development of Sanskrit grammar based on Panini who wrote Ashtadhyayi and Patanjali who wrote Mahabhashya on the topic.

- This period is particularly memorable for the compilation of the Amarakosa, a thesaurus in Sanskrit, by Amarasimha.
- A Buddhist scholar from Bengal, Chandrogomia, composed a book on grammar named Chandravyakaranam.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) In which of the following book, Aryabhatta examined the true cause of solar eclipse?

- a) Aryabhattiyam
- b) Surya Siddanta
- c) Brahmasphuta-siddhanta
- d) Khandakhadyaka

ANS: B

Explanation: In the Surya Siddanta, Aryabhatta (belonging to late fifth and early sixth century CE) examined the true cause of the solar eclipses. In calculation of the size of the earth, he is very close to the modern estimation.

- He was the first astronomer to discover that the earth rotates on its own axis. He is also the author of Aryabhattiyam, which deals with arithmetic, geometry and algebra.
- Varahamihira's Brihat Samhita (sixth century CE) is an encyclopaedia of astronomy, physical geography, botany and natural history.
- His other works are Panch Siddhantika and Brihat Jataka. Brahmagupta (late sixth and early seventh century CE) is author of important works on mathematics and astronomy, namely Brahmasphuta-siddhanta and Khandakhadyaka.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) Harsha lost to which of the following ruler south of Vindhyas?

- a) Dantidurga
- b) Pulikesin II
- c) Vasishta pulomavi
- d) Gautamiputra Satkarni

ANS: B

Explanation: Harsha sought to extend his authority southward into the Deccan. However the Chalukya king Pulikesin II, who controlled the region, humbled Harsha.

In commemoration of his victory over Harsha, Pulikesin assumed the title of "Parameswara". Inscriptions in Pulikesin's capital Badami attest to this victory.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Priyadarsika, Ratnavali and Nagananda were written by whom among the following?

- a) Amarakosa
- b) Hala
- c) Jayadeva
- d) Harsha

ANS: D

Explanation: Harsha patronised literary and cultural activities. It is said the state spent a quarter of its revenue for such activities.

- Bana, the author of Harshacharita and Kadambari, was a court poet of Harsha.
- The emperor himself was a renowned litterateur, which is evident from the plays he wrote such as Priyadarsika, Rathnavali and Nagananda.
- Harsha gifted liberally for the promotion of education. Temples and monasteries functioned as centres of learning.
- Renowned scholars imparted education in the monasteries at Kanauj, Gaya, Jalandhar, Manipur and other places. The Nalanda University reached its utmost fame during this period.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Kingdoms of Deccan and Pallava and Chola dynasty

Q.1) Who among the following composed Aihole inscription of Pulikesin II?

- a) Ravikirti
- b) Pampa
- c) Nannaya
- d) Appar

ANS: A

Explanation: The Aihole inscription of Pulikesin II composed by his court poet Ravikirti in Sanskrit is among the most important of Chalukyan inscriptions.

Kavirajamarga, a work on poetics in Kannada, Vikramarjuna-vijayam, also called Pampa-bharata, by Pampa in Kannada, which was all of a later period, and Nannaya's Mahabharatam in Telugu also provide useful historical data.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The wild boar is the royal insignia of the Pallavas.
- 2. The bull, Shiva's mount was the symbol of Chalukyas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The wild boar was the royal insignia of the Chalukyas.

- It was claimed that it represented the varaha avatar of Vishnu in which he is said to have rescued the Goddess of the Earth.
- The bull, Siva's mount, was the symbol of the Pallavas.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs of ministers of Chalukyas:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Pradhana | Head Minister |
| 2. Mahasandhi-vigrahika | Minister of Foreign Affairs |
| 3. Samharta | Revenue Minister |

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

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

ANS: D

Explanation: All powers were vested in the king. Inscriptions do not specifically speak of a council of ministers, but they do refer to an official called maha-sandhi-vigrahika.

- Four other categories of ministers are also referred to in the epigraphs: Pradhana (head minister), Mahasandhi-vigrahika (minister of foreign affairs), Amatya (revenue minister), and Samaharta (minister of exchequer).
- Chalukyas divided the state into political divisions for the sake of administration: Vishayam, Rastram, Nadu and Grama.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Saptavataram, a grammar work authored by chieftain of Pulikesin II was for which of the following language?

- a) Kannada
- b) Tamil
- c) Sanskrit
- d) Telugu

ANS: C

Explanation: Chalukyas used Sanskrit in pillar inscriptions such as in Aihole and Mahakudam.

- A seventh-century inscription of a Chalukya king at Badami mentions Kannada as the local prakrit, meaning the people's language, and Sanskrit as the language of culture.
- A chieftain of Pulikesin II authored a grammar work Saptavataram in Sanskrit.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) The term Sudesi, Nanadesi and Ainurruvar during Pallava Kingdom was related with which of the following?

- a) Craftsmen
- b) Traders
- c) Army divisions
- d) Taxes

ANS: B

Explanation: Kanchipuram was an important trading centre in the Pallava period. The merchants had to obtain license to market their goods.

- Traders founded guilds and called themselves as sudesi, nanadesi, ainurruvar and others. Their main guild functioned at Aihole.
- Foreign merchants were known as Nanadesi. It had a separate flag with the figure of bull at the centre, and they enjoyed the right of issuing vira-sasanas.
- The jurisdiction of this guild stretched over entire south-east Asia.
- The chief of this guild is registered in the inscriptions as pattanswamy, pattnakilar, and dandanayaka. Its members were known as ayyavole-parameswariyar.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following pairs:

Author	Book
1. Mahendravarman I	Mathavilasa Prahasanam
2. Bharavi	Kiratarjuniya
3. Dandin	Dashakumaracharita

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

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3 only

ANS: D

Explanation: Mahendravarman I composed Mathavilasa Prahasanam in Sanskrit.

- Two extraordinary works in Sanskrit set the standard for Sanskrit literature in the south: Bharavi's Kiratarjuniya and Dandin's Dashakumaracharita.
- Dandin of Kanchipuram, author of the great treatise on rhetoric Kavyadarsa, seems to have stayed in Pallava court for some time.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Ellora caves:

1. The rock-cut cave temples of Ellora are carved in Charanadri Hills.
 2. The Ellora caves are designated as UNESCO world heritage site.
 3. The temples are only linked to Buddhism and Brahmanism.
- Which of the above given statements is/are correctly matched?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The rock-cut cave temples in Ellora are in 34 caves, carved in Charanadri hills. Without knowledge of trigonometry, structural engineering, and metallurgy, the Indian architects could not have created such exquisite edifices.

- The patrons of these caves range from the dynasties of Chalukyas to Rashtrakutas. The heterodox sects first set the trend of creating this model of temples.
- Later, orthodox sects adopted it as a medium of disseminating religious ideologies. These temples were linked to Ajivikas, Jainism, Buddhism, and Brahmanism.
- The Ellora caves were designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Shore temples of Pallavas at Mamallapuram:

1. The temples are dedicated to Shiva only.
 2. The complex had the famous monolithic rathas known as Panchapandava Rathas.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The iconic Shore Temple of Pallavas at Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) was constructed during the reign of Rajasimha (700-728).

- The temple comprises three shrines, where the prominent ones are dedicated to Siva and Vishnu.
- The exterior wall of the shrine, dedicated to Vishnu, and the interior of the boundary wall are elaborately carved and sculpted.
- In southern India, this is one amongst the earliest and most important structural temples. Unlike other structures of the region, the Shore Temple is a five-storeyed rock-cut monolith.

- The monolithic vimanas are peculiar to Mamallapuram. The Rathas there are known as the Panchapandava Rathas.
- The Arjuna Ratha contains artistically carved sculptures of Siva, Vishnu, mithuna and dwarapala.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) Which of the following is the philosophy propounded by Adi Sankara?

- a) Advaita
- b) Dvaita
- c) Shudh dvaita
- d) Visistavaita

ANS: A

Explanation: Fundamentally, Sankara's Advaita or non-dualism had its roots in Vedanta or Upanishadic philosophy.

- His attempts to root out Buddhism and to establish smarta (traditionalist) mathas resulted in the establishment of monasteries in different places viz., Sringeri, Dvaraka, Badrinath, and Puri, which were headed by Brahmin pontiffs.
- Sankara looked upon Saiva and Vaishnava worship as two equally important aspects of the Vedic religion.
- Monastic organization and preservation of Sanskrit scriptures were the two major thrusts of Sankara School.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) The texts like Periyapuram and Mathavilasa Prahasanam are a good literary source for the knowledge of which of the following empire?

- a) Cheras
- b) Chalukyas
- c) Pallava
- d) Vijayanagar

ANS: C

Explanation: The poems of the Vaishnavite Azhwars were later compiled as the Nalayira Divya Prabhandam.

- The Saiva literature was canonized as the Panniru Tirumurai. The Thevaram, composed by Appar (Thirunavukkarasar), Sambandar (Thirugnanasambandar) and Sundarar.
- And Thiruvavasagam by Manickavasagar are prominent texts which are read as sacred literature to this day.
- Periyapuram written by Sekizhar, in a later period, also provides much historical information.
- The Mathavilasa Prahasanam written by Mahendravarman I in Sanskrit is an important source for the Pallava period.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Early Medieval developments in India and Indian culture in South East Asia

Q.1) Consider the following pair of authors and their books:

Author	Book
1. Amir Khusrau	Khazain Ul Futuh
2. Al-Beruni	Mifta Ul Futuh
3. Minhaj us Siraj	Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Al-Beruni: Tarikh-Al-Hind (Indian Philosophy and Religion written in Arabic)

- Minhaj us Siraj: Tabaqat-i-Nasiri (1260) (World Islamic History written in Arabic)
- Ziauddin Barani: Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi(1357) History of Delhi Sultanate up to Firuz Tughlaq
- Amir Khusrau: Mifta Ul Futuh (Victories of Jalal-ud-din Khalji); Khazain Ul Futuh (Victories of Allauddin Khalji - Texts in Persian)
- Tughlaq Nama (History of Tughlaq dynasty in Persian)
- Shams-i-Siraj Afif: Tarikh i Firuz Shahi (after Barani's account of Delhi Sultanate in Persian)

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following holds the title of Yamini-ud-Daulah?

- a) Mahmud Ghazni
- b) Muhammad Ghori
- c) Qutub-Ud-Din-Aibak
- d) Sabuktigin

ANS: A

Explanation: Sabuktigin initiated the process of southward expansion into the Indian subcontinent.

- He defeated the Shahi ruler of Afghanistan, Jayapala, and conferred the governorship of the province on Mahmud, his eldest son. When Sabuktigin died in 997, Mahmud was in Khurasan.
- Ismail, the younger son of Sabuktigin had been named his successor.
- But defeating Ismail in a battle, Mahmud, aged twenty-seven, ascended the throne and the Caliph acknowledged his accession by sending him a robe of investiture and by conferring on him the title Yamini-ud-Daulah ('Right-hand of the Empire').

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Battles of Tarain were fought between which of the following kings?

- a) Prithviraj Chauhan vs. Allauddin Khilji
- b) Prithviraj Chauhan vs. Muhammad Ghori
- c) Jai Chandra vs. Babur
- d) Jai Chandra vs. Mahmud Ghazni

ANS: B

Explanation: Ghori attacked the fortress of Tabarhinda (Bhatinda), a strategic point for the Chauhans of Ajmer.

- The ruler of Ajmer Prithviraj Chauhan marched to Tabarhinda and faced the invader in the First Battle of Tarain (1191).
- Prithviraj scored a brilliant victory in this battle but failed to consolidate his position believing this battle to be a frontier fight, and did not expect the Ghurids to make regular attacks.
- Ghori was wounded and carried away by a horseman to safety. Contrary to the expectations of Prithviraj Chauhan, Muhammad Ghori marched into India in the following year (1192).
- Prithviraj underestimated the potential danger of the enemy. In the Second Battle of Tarain, one of the turning points in Indian history, Prithviraj suffered a crushing defeat and was eventually captured. Ghori restored him to his throne in Ajmer.
- But on charges of treason he was later executed, and Ghori's trusted general Qutb-ud-din Aibak was appointed as his deputy in India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) The term 'Bandagan' during Delhi sultanate was used for which of the following?

- a) Land revenue
- b) Domestic labor
- c) Military Slaves
- d) Traders

ANS: C

Explanation: Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1210-36) of Turkish extraction was a slave of Qutbud-din Aibak. Many of his elite slaves were also of Turkish and Mongol ancestry.

- They were brought to Delhi by merchants from trade centres like Bukhara, Samarqand and Baghdad. (There were some slaves of other ethnicities as well).
- But Iltutmish gave them all Turkish titles. Iltutmish's reliance on his elite military slaves (Bandagan) and his practice of appointing them for the posts of governors and generals in far-off places did not change despite the migration into North India of experienced military commanders from distinguished lineages fleeing from the Mongols.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Consider the following pairs:

Dynasty	Founder
1. Tughlaq	Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
2. Khaljis	Jala-ud-din-Khalji
3. Lodi	Sikander Lodhi

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

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1 and 2 only

ANS: A

Explanation: Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq followed a policy of reconciliation with the nobles. But in the fifth year of his reign (1325) Ghiyas-uddin died.

- Three days later Jauna ascended the throne and took the title Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
- Khaljis Dynasty was founded by Jalal-ud-din Khalji (1290-1296). He was succeeded by Ala-ud-din Khalji (1296-1316).
- The Lodi Dynasty was established by Bahlol Lodi (1451-1489) whose reign witnessed the conquest of Sharqi Kingdom (Bengal).
- It was his son Sikander Lodi (1489-1517) who shifted the capital from Delhi to Agra in 1504.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Arab conquest of Sind:

1. Dahar was the ruler of Sind when the Arabs invaded it in the 8th century.
2. Muhammad Bin Qasim led the strong army in the conquest of Sind.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Arab governor of Iraq, Hajjaj Bin Yusuf, under the pretext of acting against the pirates, sent two military expeditions against Dahar, the ruler of Sind, one by land and the other by sea. Both were defeated and commanders killed.

Hajjaj then sent, with the Caliph's permission, a full-fledged army, with 6000 strong cavalry and a large camel corps carrying all war requirements under the command of his son-in-law, a 17-year-old Muhammad Bin Qasim.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Amir Khusrau called himself an Indian in which of the following book?

- a) Nu Siphra
- b) Baburnama
- c) Fathl – I – Hind
- d) Akbarnama

ANS: A

Explanation: Amir Khusrau emerged as a major figure of Persian prose and poetry. Amir Khusrau felt elated to call himself an Indian in his Nu Siphra ('Nine Skies').

In this work, he praises India's climate, its languages – notably Sanskrit – its arts, its music, its people, even its animals.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11, page 180.

Q.8) Consider the following pairs of the books and author who worked in collaborating Sanskrit literature with Persian literature:

Book	Author
1. Farhang-i-Qawas	Fakhr-ud-din Qawwas
2. Miftah-ul-Fuazala	Zia Nakshabi

3. Tuti Nama

Muhammad Shadiabadi

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Persian literature was enriched by the translation of Sanskrit works.

- Persian dictionaries with appropriate Hindawi words for Persian words were composed, the most important being Farhang-i-Qawas by Fakhr-ud-din Qawwas and Miftah-ul- Fuazala by Muhammad Shadiabadi.
- Tuti Namah, the Book of Parrots, is a collection of Sanskrit stories translated into Persian by Zia Nakshabi.
- Mahabharata and Rajatarangini were also translated into Persian.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Arch, dome, vaults and use of lime cement are the striking Saracenic features that were introduced by the Mughals.
2. A pleasure resort at Hauz Khas of Firuz Tughlaq is purely a building complex of Saracenic feature.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Arch, dome, vaults and use of lime cement, the striking Saracenic features, were introduced in India by Arabs.

- The use of marble, red, grey and yellow sandstones added grandeur to the buildings. In the beginning the Sultans converted the existing buildings to suit their needs.
- Qutb-ud-din Aibak's Quwwat-ul- Islam mosque situated adjacent to Qutb Minar in Delhi and the Adhai din ka Jhopra in Ajmer illustrate these examples.
- A Hindu temple built over a Jain temple was modified into Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque. Adhai din ka Jhopra was earlier a Jain monastery before being converted as a mosque.
- With the arrival of artisans from West Asia the arch and dome began to show up with precision and perfection.
- Gradually local artisans also acquired the skill. The tomb of Balban was adorned with the first true arch and the Alai Darwaza built by Alaud- din Khalji as a gateway to the Quwwatul- Islam Mosque is adorned with the first true dome.
- The palace fortress built by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq and Muhammad bin Tughlaq in Tughlaqabad, their capital city in Delhi, is remarkable for creating an artificial lake around the fortress by blocking the river Yamuna.
- The tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq introduced the system of sloping walls bearing the dome on a raised platform.
- The buildings of Firuz Tughlaq, especially his pleasure resort, Hauz Khas, combined Indian and Saracenic features in alternate storeys, displaying a sense of integration.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) The primary education in the Islamic World is provided at which of the following institution?

- a) Madrasa
- b) Maktab
- c) Mosque
- d) At residence

ANS: B

Explanation: Certain traditions of education were now implanted from the Islamic World. At the base was the maktab, where a schoolmaster taught children to read and write.

- At a higher level, important texts in various subjects were read by individual pupils with particular scholars who gave instruction (dars) in them.
- A more institutionalized form of higher education, the madrasa, became widely established in Central Asia and Iran in the eleventh century, and from there it spread to other Islamic countries.
- Usually the madrasa had a building, where instruction was given by individual teachers. Often there was a provision of some cells for resident students, a library and a mosque.
- Firoz Tugluq built a large madrasa at Delhi whose splendid building still stands. From Barani's description it would seem that teaching here was mainly confined to "Quran-commentary, the Prophet's sayings and the Muslim Law (fiqh)."
- It is said that Sikander Lodi (1489– 1517) appointed teachers in maktabas and madrasas in various cities throughout his dominions, presumably making provision for them through land or cash grants.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Revision

Q.1) Who among the following ruler spent his last years as an ascetic in Chandragiri in Karnataka?

- a) Ashoka
- b) Chandragupta Maurya
- c) Kala Asoka
- d) Kanishka

ANS: B

Explanation: Chandragupta's son Bindusara succeeded him as emperor in 297 BCE in a peaceful and natural transition.

- We do not know what happened to Chandragupta. He probably renounced the world.
- According to the Jain tradition, Chandragupta spent his last years as an ascetic in Chandragiri, near Sravanabelagola, in Karnataka.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following as popularly known for taking the branches of original Bodhi tree to Sri Lanka?

- a) Mahinda and Sanghamitta
- b) Ashoka
- c) Bindusara
- d) Mahananda

ANS: A

Explanation: One of the major events of Ashoka's reign was the convening of the Third Buddhist sangha (council) in 250 BCE in the capital Pataliputra.

- Ashoka's deepening commitment to Buddhism meant that royal patronage was extended to the Buddhist establishment.
- An important outcome of this sangha was the decision to expand the reach of Buddhism to other parts of the region and to send missions to convert people to the religion.
- Buddhism thus became a proselytizing religion and missionaries were sent to regions outlying the empire such as Kashmir and South India.
- According to popular belief, Ashoka sent his two children, Mahinda and Sanghamitta, to Sri Lanka to propagate Buddhism. It is believed that they took a branch of the original bodhi tree to Sri Lanka.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The kantakasodhana courts mostly dealt with civil law relating to marriage, inheritance and other aspects of civil life.
2. The main purpose of dharmasthiya courts was to clear the society of anti-social elements and various types of crimes.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Justice was administered through courts, which were established in all the major towns. Two types of courts are mentioned.

- The dharmasthiya courts mostly dealt with civil law relating to marriage, inheritance and other aspects of civil life.
- The courts were presided over by three judges wellversed in sacred laws and three amatyas (secretaries).
- Another type of court was called kantakasodhana (removal of thorns), also presided over by three judges and three amatyas.
- The main purpose of these courts was to clear the society of anti-social elements and various types of crimes, and it functioned more like the modern police, and relied on a network of spies for information about such antisocial activities.
- Punishments for crimes were usually quite severe. The overall objective of the judicial system as it evolved was to extend government control over most aspects of ordinary life.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following pairs:

Empire	Emblem/symbol
1. Cholas	Lion
2. Cheras	Bow and Arrow
3. Pandyas	Fish

Which of the above given pair is/are NOT correctly matched?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Cholas controlled the central and northern parts of Tamil Nadu. Their core area of rule was the Kaveri delta, later known as Chola mandalam.

- Their capital was Uraiyur (near Thiruchirapalli town) and Puhar or Kaveripattinam was an alternative royal residence and chief port town.
- Tiger was their emblem. Kaveripattinam attracted merchants from various regions of the Indian Ocean.
- The Cheras controlled the central and northern parts of Kerala and the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu.
- Vanji was their capital and the ports of the west coast, Musiri and Tondi, were under their control.
- Vanji is identified with Karur, while some scholars identify it with Tiruvanchikkalam in Kerala.
- There are many other Chera coins with their bow and arrow emblem but without any writing on them.
- The Pandyas ruled from Madurai. Korkai was their main port, located near the confluence of Thampraparani with the Bay of Bengal.
- It was famous for pearl fishery and chank diving. Korkai is referred to in the Periplus as Kolkoi. Fish was the emblem of the Pandyas.

- Their coins have elephant on one side and a stylised image of fish on the other. They invaded Southern Kerala and controlled the port of Nelkynda, near Kottayam.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Which of the following Indo-Greek King erected a pillar or garuda-dhvaja with its capital adorned by a figure of Garuda, in honour of God Krishna (Vaasudeva)?

- a) Heliodorus
- b) Menander
- c) Demetrius II
- d) Euthydemus

ANS: A

Explanation: Another Indo-Greek king whose name is remembered is Antialcidas (or Antialkidas), c. 110.

- He is known to us primarily because his emissary, Heliodorus, who was sent to the court of King Bhagabhadra erected a pillar or garudadhvaja with its capital adorned by a figure of Garuda, in honour of God Krishna (Vasudeva).
- Heliodorus had evidently become a follower of Vishnu. (The pillar stands in isolation in the middle of an open ground in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh.)

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The fourth Buddhist Council was hosted by Pushyamitra Shunga.
2. Kanishka was supported Hinayana Sect.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The best known of the Kushana kings was Kanishka, who is thought to have ruled from 78 CE till 101 or 102 CE.

- Ironically, 78 CE is held to be the beginning of the “Saka era” in the Indian calendar.
- Historians are, hence, divided about Kanishka’s period. His rule is said to have started anywhere between 78 and 144 CE.
- Kanishka was an ardent follower of Buddhism and hosted the fourth Buddhist mahasangha or council (the third council had been held in Pataliputra during Asoka’s reign).
- By now Mahayana Buddhism had become the dominant sect, and Kanishka supported the missions sent to China to preach Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Yavanas is term used for which of the following?

- a) Foreign Merchants
- b) Priest
- c) Sailors
- d) Taxes

ANS: A

Explanation: The expansion of overseas trade and shipping brought foreign merchants and sailors to the Tamil region.

- Because of the seasonal nature of the monsoon winds, and the prevailing levels of technology, long voyages necessitated long periods of stay in host countries.
- Yavana merchants lived in especially ear-marked residential quarters in the harbour area.
- Though they were allowed to trade freely, and were noted for their attractive goods, there was a good deal of reserve in the attitude of the local Tamils to foreign merchants who were considered an alien, barbaric people, who spoke a harsh-sounding language.
- Other yavanas also came with the merchants. The fortress of Madurai was guarded by yavanas carrying large swords.
- There are also references to yavana metal workers and carpenters, who were described as “hard-eyed” probably because they had grey or blue eyes.
- All these may not have been strictly of Greek origin, as implied by the term yavana, which had become a generic word to denote persons from the eastern Mediterranean regions.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Consider the following statements related to taxation during Gupta period:

1. Kara is a period tax levied on traders.
2. Periodic supply of fruits, firewood, flowers, etc., which the village had to provide to the king is called as Bhoga.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

List of Different Kinds of Taxes

Tax	Nature
Bhaga	King's customary share of the produce normally amounting to one-sixth of the produce paid by cultivators
Bhoga	Periodic supply of fruits, firewood, flowers, etc., which the village had to provide to the king
Kara	A periodic tax levied on the villagers (not a part of the annual land tax)
Bali	A voluntary offering by the people to the king, but later became compulsory. It was an oppressive tax.
Udianga	Either a sort of police tax for the maintenance of police stations or a water tax. Hence, it was also an extra tax.
Uparikara	Also an extra tax. Scholars give different explanations about what it was collected for.
Hiranya	Literally, it means tax payable on gold coins, but in practice, it was probably the king's share of certain crops paid in kind.
Vata-Bhuta	Different kinds of cess for maintenance of rites for the winds (<i>vata</i>) and the spirits (<i>bhuta</i>)
Halivakara	A plough tax paid by every cultivator owning a plough
Sulka	A royal share of merchandise brought into a town or harbour by merchants. Hence it can be equated with the customs and tolls.
Klipta and Upaklipta	related to sale and purchase of lands.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) Who among the following founded Vikramasila University?

- a) Dharmapala
- b) Mahapala
- c) Gopala I
- d) Vikramapala

ANS: A

Explanation: Dharmapala proved to be a great patron of Buddhism.

- He founded the Vikramasila monastery in Bhagalpur district in Bihar, which developed into a great centre of Buddhist learning and culture.
- He built a grand vihara at Somapura in modern Paharapura (presentday Bangladesh).
- Dharmapala also built a monastery at Odantapuri in Bihar.
- He patronised Harisbhadra, a Buddhist writer.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Consider the following pairs of post of Pallava Administration:

Term	Meaning
1. Adhikarna Mandapa	Council of Ministers
2. Rahasyadhikrita	Spy
3. Manikkappandaram Kappan	Officer-in-charge of the treasury

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

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Distinctions are made between amatyas and mantrins. While a mantri is generally understood to be a diplomat, amatya is a counsellor.

- Mantri Mandala was a council of ministers. Rahasyadhikrita was a private secretary of the king.
- Manikkappandaram-Kappan was an officer in charge of the treasury (Manikka - valuables; Pandaram - treasury; Kappan - keeper).
- Kodukkappillai was the officer of gifts. They were central officers under the Pallava king.
- Kosa-adhyaksa was the supervisor of the Manikkappandaram-kappan.
- Judicial courts were called Adhikarna Mandapa and judges called Dharmadhikarins.
- Fines are mentioned in the Kasakudi plates of Nandivarman Pallava as Karanadandam (fine in superior/ higher court) and Adhikaranadandam (fine in district level).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Delhi Sultanate (Political and Administrative policies)

Q.1) Consider the following statements about the military campaign of Ala-ud-din Khalji:

1. Ala-ud-din himself commanded the large army to plunder Deccan powers.
2. The first target in the peninsula was Devagiri.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The inability of the Sultanate to effectively harness the agrarian resources of its North Indian territories to sustain its political ambitions was evident in its relentless military campaigns in search of loot and plunder.

- Ala-ud-din's campaigns into Devagiri (1296, 1307, 1314), Gujarat (1299–1300), Ranthambhor (1301), Chittor (1303) and Malwa (1305) were meant to proclaim his political and military power as well as to collect loot from the defeated kingdoms.
- It was with the same plan that he unleashed his forces into the Deccan.
- The first target in the peninsula was Devagiri in the western Deccan. Ala-ud-din sent a large army commanded by Malik Kafur in 1307 to capture Devagiri fort.
- Following Devagiri, Prataparudradeva, the Kakatiya ruler of Warangal in the Telengana region, was defeated in 1309.
- In 1310 the Hoysala ruler Vira Ballala III surrendered all his treasures to the Delhi forces.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following assisted Qutb-ud-din Aibak in conquering Bihar and Bengal?

- a) Muhammad Ghori
- b) Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji
- c) Humayun
- d) Raziya Sultan

ANS: B

Explanation: Qutb-ud-din Aibak was enslaved as a boy and sold to Sultan Muhammad Ghori at Ghazni.

- Impressed with his ability and loyalty the Sultan elevated him to the rank of viceroy of the conquered provinces in India.
- Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji, a Turkish general from Afghanistan assisted him in conquering Bihar and Bengal.
- Qutb-ud-din Aibak reigned for four years (1206 to 1210 CE) and died in 1210 in Lahore in an accident while playing chaugan.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Chahalgani system:

1. The Chahalgani system was started by Iltutmish.
2. Balban abolished the Chahalgani System.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: In the Delhi Sultanate, nobles were drawn from different tribes and nationalities like the Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Egyptian and Indian Muslims.

- Iltutmish organized a Corps of Forty, all drawn from Turkish nobility and selected persons from this Forty for appointments in military and civil administration.
- The Corps of Forty became so powerful to the extent of disregarding the wishes of Iltutmish, and after his death, to place Rukn-ud-Din Firoz on the throne.
- Razziya sought to counter the influence of Turkish nobles and defend her interest by organizing a group of non-Turkish and Indian Muslim nobles under the leadership of Yakut, the Abyssinian slave. This was naturally resented by the Turkish nobles, who got both of them murdered.
- Thus in the absence of rule of primogeniture, the nobles sided with any claimants to the throne and either helped in the choice of the Sultan or contributed to the destabilization of the regime.
- The nobles were organized into several factions and were constantly engaged in conspiracies.
- Balban therefore abolished the Corps of Forty and thereby put an end to the domination of "Turkish nobles".
- Alauddin Khalji also took stern measures against the "Turkish nobles" by employing spies to report to him directly on their clandestine and perfidious activities.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Who among the following was the first ruler to pay his soldiers in cash?

- a) Ashoka
- b) Kanishka
- c) Mahammad Ghori
- d) Alauddin Khalji

ANS: D

Explanation: Ala-ud-din was the first Sultan to pay his soldiers in cash rather than give them a share of booty.

- As the soldiers were paid less, the prices had to be monitored and controlled. Moreover, Ala-ud-din had to maintain a huge standing army.
- In order to restrict prices of essential commodities, Ala-ud-din set up an elaborate intelligence network to collect information on black-marketing and hoarding.
- The transactions in the bazaars, the buying and selling and the bargains made were all reported to the Sultan by his spies.
- Market superintendents, reporters and spies had to send daily reports on the prices of essential commodities.
- Violators of the price regulations were severely punished. If any deficiency in weight was found, an equal weight of flesh was cut from the seller's body and thrown down before his eyes!

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Diwan-i-Amir Kohi is a department during Delhi Sultanate related to which of the following?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Slavery
- c) Spy
- d) Military

ANS: A

Explanation: Equally innovative was Muhammad Tughlaq's scheme to expand cultivation. But it also failed miserably.

- It coincided with a prolonged and severe famine in the Doab. The peasants who rebelled were harshly dealt with.
- The famine was linked to the oppressive and arbitrary collection of land revenue. The Sultan established a separate department (Diwan-i-Amir Kohi) to take care of agriculture.
- Loans were advanced to farmers for purchase of cattle, seeds and digging of wells but to no avail.
- Officers appointed to monitor the crops were not efficient; the nobility and important officials were of diverse background.
- Besides, the Sultan's temperament had also earned him a lot of enemies.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Sayyid Dynasty:

1. Khizr Khan was the founder of Sayyid Dynasty.
2. The last Ruler of Sayyid Dynasty Timur voluntarily abdicated his throne.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Timur appointed Khizr Khan as his deputy to oversee Timurid interests in the Punjab marches. Khizr Khan (1414-21) went on to seize Delhi and establish the Sayyid dynasty (1414-51).

- The Sayyid dynasty established by Khizr Khan had four sultans ruling up to 1451. The early Sayyid Sultans ruled paying tribute to Timur's son.
- Their rule is marked for the composing of Tarikh-i- Mubarak Shahi by Yahiya bin Ahmad Sirhindi. By the end of their rule the empire was largely confined to the city of Delhi.
- In the entire history of the Delhi Sultanate there was only one Sultan who voluntarily abdicated his throne and moved to a small town away from Delhi, where he lived for three full decades in contentment and peace. He was Alam Shah of the Sayyid dynasty.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7): Consider the following pairs:

Term	Meaning
1. Muqtis	Holder of Iqta's
2. Khalisa	Temple land grants
3. Hashm-i-qalb	Community lands

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Delhi Sultanate deserves to be considered an all-India empire.

- Virtually all of India, except Kashmir and Kerala at the far ends of the subcontinent, and a few small tracts in between them had come under the direct rule of Delhi towards the close of Muhammad bin Tughlaq's rule.
- There were no well-defined and accepted rules of royal succession and therefore contested succession became the norm during the Sultanate.
- The Sultans required the holders of iqta's (called muqtis or walis) to maintain troops for royal service out of the taxes collected by them.
- Certain areas were retained by the Sultans under their direct control (khalisa).
- It was out of the revenue collected from such areas that they paid the officers and soldiers of the sultan's own troops (hashm-i qalb).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Who among the following rulers shifted capital from Delhi to Agra during Delhi Sultanate?

- a) Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
- b) All-ud-din Khalji
- c) Sikander Lodhi
- d) Balban

ANS: C

Explanation: The Lodi Dynasty was established by Bahlol Lodi (1451–1489) whose reign witnessed the conquest of Sharqi Kingdom (Bengal).

- It was his son Sikander Lodi (1489–1517) who shifted the capital from Delhi to Agra in 1504.
- The last Lodi ruler Ibrahim Lodi was defeated by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat, which resulted in the establishment of Mughal Dynasty.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) During whose reign Timur from Central Asia invaded India?

- a) Muhammad Shah
- b) All-ud-din Khalji
- c) Sikandar Lodhi
- d) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

ANS: A

Explanation: The last Tughlaq ruler was Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Shah (1394–1412), whose reign witnessed the invasion of Timur from Central Asia.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2021

- Turkish Timur, who could claim a blood relationship with the 12th century great Mongol Chengiz Khan, ransacked Delhi virtually without any opposition.
- On hearing the news of arrival of Timur, Sultan Nasir-ud-din fled Delhi.
- Timur also took Indian artisans such as masons, stone cutters, carpenters whom he engaged for raising buildings in his capital Samarkhand.
- Nasir-ud-din managed to rule up to 1412. Then the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties ruled the declining empire from Delhi till 1526.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) In India who among the following was the first ruler to impose Jaziya on non-muslims?

- a) Balban
- b) Qutub-ud-Aibak
- c) Feroz-sha Tughlaq
- d) Muhammad Ghori

ANS: B

Explanation: Jizya is a tax levied and collected per head by Islamic states on non-Muslim subjects living in their land.

- In India, Qutb-ud-din Aibak imposed jizya on non-Muslims for the first time.
- Jizya was abolished by the Mughal ruler Akbar in 16th century but was re-introduced by Aurangzeb in the 17th century.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Delhi Sultanate (Contribution the field of Economy, Art, Science and Technology etc.)

Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

Text	Author
1. Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi	Yahiya bin Ahmad Sirhindi
2. Nu Siphra	Amir Khusrau
3. Futuh-us-Salatin	Abdul Malik Isami

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

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The early Sayyid Sultans ruled paying tribute to Timur's son. Their rule is marked for the composing of Tarikh-i- Mubarak Shahi by Yahiya bin Ahmad Sirhindi. By the end of their rule the empire was largely confined to the city of Delhi.

- Amir Khusrau emerged as a major figure of Persian prose and poetry. Amir Khusrau felt elated to call himself an Indian in his Nu Siphra ('Nine Skies').
- In this work, he praises India's climate, its languages – notably Sanskrit – its arts, its music, its people, even its animals. The Islamic Sufi saints made a deep literary impact.
- The Fawai'd-ul-Fawad, a work containing the conversations of Sufi Saint Nizam-ud-din Auliya was compiled by Amir Hassan.
- Abdul Malik Isami, in his poetic composition of Futuh-us-Salatin, records the history of Muslim rule from Ghaznavid period to Muhammad bin Tughlaq's reign.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following used Firdausi's Shah Namah as a model in composing Zainavilas?

- a) Shrivara
- b) Vasugupta
- c) Amir Hassan
- d) Bhattavatara

ANS: D

Explanation: Delhi Sultanate did not hamper the progress of Sanskrit Literature. Sanskrit continued to be the language of high intellectual thought.

- The Sanskrit schools and academies established in different parts of the empire continued to flourish.
- The classical Sanskrit inscription (Pala Baoli) of 1276 in Delhi claims that due to the benign rule of Sultan Balban god Vishnu sleeps in peace in the ocean of milk without any worries.

- The influence of Arabic and Persian on Sanskrit literature was felt in the form of translations.
- Shrivara in his Sanskrit work Kathakautuka included the story of Yusuf and Zulaika as a Sanskrit love lyric.
- Bhattavatara took Firdausi's Shah Namah as a model for composing Zainavilas, a history of the rulers of Kashmir.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Which ruler's interest led to the translation of Sanskrit musical work Rag Darpan into Persian?

- a) Raziya Sultan
- b) Balban
- c) Firuz Tughlaq
- d) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

ANS: C

Explanation: Music was an area where the syncretic tendencies were clearly visible. Muslims brought their musical instruments like Rabab and Sarangi.

- Amir Khusrau proclaimed that Indian music had a pre-eminence over all the other music of the world.
- The Sufi practice of Sama, recitation of love poetry to the accompaniment of music, was instrumental in promotion of music.
- Pir Bhodan, a Sufi saint, was considered a great musician of the age. Royal patronage for the growth of music was also forthcoming.
- Firuz Tughlaq evinced interest in music leading to synchronisation by translating an Indian Sanskrit musical work Rag Darpan into Persian.
- Dancing also received an impetus in the official court. Zia-ud-din Barani lists the names of Nusrat Khatun and Mihr Afroz as musician and dancer respectively in the court of Jalaluddin Khalji.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following statements about sculptures and paintings during Delhi Sultanate period:

1. The architects continued decorating buildings with animal figures only.
2. They introduced Arabesque, the art of decorating the building with Quranic verses inscribed with calligraphy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Orthodox Islamic theology considered decorating the buildings with animal and human figures as un-Islamic.

- Hence the plastic exuberance of well-carved images found in the pre-Islamic buildings was replaced by floral and geometrical designs.
- Arabesque, the art of decorating the building with Quranic verses inscribed with calligraphy, emerged to provide splendor to the building.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Consider the following statements about the status of women during sultanate period:

1. Muslim women had right to obtain divorce.
2. Islam was against women being taught to read and write.
3. Hindu women had the right to inherit property.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Sultans did not alter many of the social institutions inherited from 'Indian Feudalism'.

- Slavery, though it had already existed in India, grew substantially in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.
- Both in war and in the event of default in payment of taxes, people could be enslaved. They were put to work as domestic servants as well as in crafts.
- The village community and the caste system remained largely unaltered. Gender inequalities remained practically untouched.
- In upper class Muslim society, women had to observe purdah and were secluded in the zenana (the female quarters) without any contact with any men other than their immediate family. Affluent women travelled in closed litters.
- Muslim women, despite purdah, enjoyed, in certain respects, higher status and greater freedom in society than most Hindu women.
- They could inherit property from their parents and obtain divorce, privileges that Hindu women did not have.
- In several Hindu communities, such as among the Rajputs, the birth of a girl child was considered a misfortune.
- Islam was not against women being taught to read and write. But it tolerated polygamy.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Paper making technology, which evolved in China, was introduced in India by which rule among the following?

- a) Mauryas
- b) Satavahanas
- c) Delhi Sultans
- d) Rashtrakutas

ANS: C

Explanation: Paper-making technology evolved by the Chinese and learnt by the Arabs was introduced in India during the rule of the Delhi Sultans.

- The spinning wheel invented by the Chinese came to India through Iran in the fourteenth century and enabled the spinner to increase her output some sixfold and enlarged yarn production greatly.
- The subsequent introduction of treadles in the loom similarly helped speed-up weaving.
- Sericulture was established in Bengal by the fifteenth century.
- Building activity attained a new scale by the large use of brick and mortar, and by the adoption of the vaulting techniques.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Who among the following issued gold coins stamped with image of goddess Lakshmi?

- a) Muhammad Ghorī
- b) Balban
- c) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
- d) Iltutmish

ANS: A

Explanation: An important aspect of Islam in India was its early acceptance of a long-term coexistence with Hinduism, despite all the violence that occurred in military campaigns, conquests and depredations.

- The conqueror Mu'izzuddin of Ghor had, on some of his gold coins, stamped the image of the goddess Lakshmi.
- Muhammad Tughlaq in 1325 issued a farman enjoining that protection be extended by all officers to Jain priests; he himself played holi and consorted with yogis.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Who among the following is known to have translated Patanjali's work into Persian and the works of Euclid (Greek mathematician) into Sanskrit?

- a) Amir Khusrau
- b) Al-Biruni
- c) Ibn Battuta
- d) Abu'l Fazl

ANS: B

Explanation: Al-Biruni was born in 973, in Khwarizm in presentday Uzbekistan. Khwarizm was an important centre of learning, and Al-Biruni received the best education available at the time.

- He was well versed in several languages: Syriac, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and Sanskrit.
- Although he did not know Greek, he was familiar with the works of Plato and other Greek philosophers, having read them in Arabic translations.
- In 1017, when Sultan Mahmud invaded Khwarizm, he took several scholars and poets back to his capital, Ghazni; Al-Biruni was one of them.
- He arrived in Ghazni as a hostage, but gradually developed a liking for the city, where he spent the rest of his life until his death at the age of 70.
- Al-Biruni's expertise in several languages allowed him to compare languages and translate texts.
- He translated several Sanskrit works, including Patanjali's work on grammar, into Arabic. For his Brahmana friends, he translated the works of Euclid (a Greek mathematician) into Sanskrit.

Source: NCERT Themes in Indian History.

Q.9) Which of the following is the term used for the practice of pilgrimage to the graves of sheikh?

- a) Ziyarat
- b) Tasawwuf
- c) Dargah
- d) Barakat

ANS: A

Explanation: Institutionally, the sufis began to organise communities around the hospice or khanqah (Persian) controlled by a teaching master known as shaikh (in Arabic), pir or murshid (in Persian).

- He enrolled disciples (murids) and appointed a successor (khalifa). He established rules for spiritual conduct and interaction between inmates as well as between laypersons and the master.
- When the shaikh died, his tomb-shrine (dargah, a Persian term meaning court) became the centre of devotion for his followers.
- This encouraged the practice of pilgrimage or ziyarat to his grave, particularly on his death anniversary or urs (or marriage, signifying the union of his soul with God).
- This was because people believed that in death saints were united with God, and were thus closer to Him than when living.
- People sought their blessings to attain material and spiritual benefits. Thus evolved the cult of the sheikh revered as wali.

Source: NCERT Themes in Indian History.

Q.10) Who among the following is the composer of the love story 'Padmavat' which revolved around the romance of Padmini and Ratansen, the king of Chittor?

- a) Abul Fazal
- b) Malik Muhammad Jayasi
- c) Amir Khusrau
- d) Tansen

ANS: B

Explanation: It was not just in sama that the Chishtis adopted local languages. In Delhi, those associated with the Chishti silsila conversed in Hindavi, the language of the people.

- Other sufis such as Baba Farid composed verses in the local language, which were incorporated in the Guru Granth Sahib.
- Yet others composed long poems or masnavis to express ideas of divine love using human love as an allegory.
- For example, the prem-akhyan (love story) Padmavat composed by Malik Muhammad Jayasi revolved around the romance of Padmini and Ratansen, the king of Chittor.
- Their trials were symbolic of the soul's journey to the divine. Such poetic compositions were often recited in hospices, usually during sama.

Source: NCERT Themes in Indian History.

Kingdoms of Vijaya Nagar and Bhamini Sultanate and other regional kingdoms

Q.1) Vijayanagara kingdom was established on banks of which river?

- a) Musi River
- b) Kaveri River
- c) Tungabhadra
- d) Amaravathi River

ANS: C

Explanation: Zafar Khan who declared independence in 1345 at Devagiri shifted his capital to Gulbarga in northern Karnataka.

- He took the title, Bahman Shah and the dynasty he inaugurated became known as the Bahmani dynasty (1347– 1527).
- A few years earlier, in 1336, the Vijayanagar kingdom was inaugurated by the Sangama brothers Harihara and Bukka at Vijayanagara (presentday Hampi) on the south bank of Tungabhadra.
- During the next two centuries these two states fought continually and bitterly, to control the rich Raichur doab, and also the sea ports of Goa, Honavar, etc. on the west coast, which were the supply points of the horses needed for their army.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Which Bahmani king won the fortress of Golkonda from the state of Warangal?

- a) Bahman Shah II
- b) Mohammed I
- c) Mohammed Gawan
- d) Mohammed I

ANS: B

Explanation: Rivalry with the Vijayanagar kingdom over the fertile Raichur doab, lying between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, not only marked the early history of the Bahmani kingdom, but continued to be an enduring feature over two centuries.

- Bahman Shah had also to contend in the east with the rulers of Warangal and Orissa.
- Mohammed I succeeded Bahman Shah. There was a decade-long war with Vijayanagar, most of which related to control over the Raichur doab.
- Neither side gained lasting control over the region, in spite of the huge fatalities in battles. Two bitter wars with Vijayanagar gained him nothing.
- But his attack on Warangal in 1363 brought him a large indemnity, including the important fortress of Golkonda and the treasured turquoise throne, which thereafter became the throne of the Bahmani kings.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs of terms related to Bahmani Kingdom:

Term	Meaning
1. Vakil-us-saltana	lieutenant of the kingdom
2. Kotwal	Minister of Finance
3. Wasir-i-ashraf	Chief of Police

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: In order to facilitate smooth administration, as followed in the Delhi Sultanate, Bahman Shah divided the kingdom into four territorial divisions called tarafs, each under a governor.

Each governor commanded the army of his province (Gulbarga, Daulatabad, Bidar, and Berar) and was solely responsible for both its administration and the collection of revenue.

Mohammed I appointed a council of eight ministers of state:

1. Vakil-us-saltana or lieutenant of the kingdom, the immediate subordinate of the sovereign.
2. Waziri-kull, who supervised the work of all other ministers;
3. Amir-i-jumla, minister of finance;
4. Wasir-i-ashraf, minister of foreign affairs and master of ceremonies;
5. Nazir, assistant minister for finance;
6. Peshwa who was associated with the lieutenant of the kingdom;
7. Kotwal or chief of police and city magistrate in the capital, and
8. Sadr-i-jahan or chief justice and minister of religious affairs and endowments.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Vijayanagara adopted the emblem of the 'boar or varahaas'. The symbol was earlier an emblem of which of the following kingdom?

- a) Pandayans
- b) Cholas
- c) Chalukyas
- d) Cheras

ANS: C

Explanation: It is now generally accepted, on the basis of contemporary inscriptions, that the two brothers Harihara and Bukka, the eldest sons of one Sangama, earlier serving the Hoysala rulers of Karnataka, asserted their independence and laid foundation for a new kingdom in about 1336.

- Initially the capital was in or near about Anegondi on the north bank of the Tungabhadra river.
- But soon it was shifted to the Hoysala town Hosapattana (near Hampi) on the south bank.
- The capital was expanded and renamed Vijayanagara, the city of Victory. Thereafter, they proclaimed themselves the rulers of Vijayanagara or of Karnata-Vijayanagara.
- Harihara celebrated his coronation in 1346 at this city. Historians call this dynasty started by Harihara as Sangama after the name of his father or forefather.
- Vijayanagara rulers adopted the emblem of the Chalukyas, the boar, or varahaas their royal insignia.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Arrange the following dynasties of Vijayanagara kingdom in chronological order:

1. Saluva
2. Aravidu
3. Sangama
4. Tuluva

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 3 – 2 – 1 – 4
- b) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- c) 2 – 1 – 3 – 4
- d) 3 – 1 – 4 – 2

ANS: D

Explanation: The Vijayanagar kingdom was successively ruled by four dynasties over a period of more than three hundred years:

- the Sangama dynasty (1336–1485),
- the Saluva dynasty (1485–1505),
- the Tuluva dynasty (1505–1570) and
- the Aravidu dynasty (1570–1650).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following pairs of books and authors:

Book	Author
1. Madura-vijayam	Nannayya
2. Shah nama	Firdausi
3. Amuktamalyada	Tikkana

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Madura-vijayam, a Sanskrit work written by Kampana's wife, Gangadevi mentions about Kumara Kampana slaying the Madurai Sultan and bringing to an end that Sultanate in about 1370.

- Firdausi wrote Shah Nama which described about Turquoise throne as one of the bejewelled royal seats of Persian kings.
- Krishnadevaraya is considered a great scholar and is author of the famous poem Amuktamalyada (the story of Andal).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) At which of the following given place, Krishnadevaraya planted the pillar of victory?

- a) Indrakiladri
- b) Simhachalam
- c) Srikalahasti
- d) Srisailem

ANS: B

Explanation: Krishnadevaraya had to fight almost continuously on two fronts, one against the traditional enemy, the Bahmani Sultans and the other against the Orissa king Gajapati. There are several inscriptions graphically describing his seizure of many forts like Udayagiri, under the control of Gajapati, during the course of this eastern expedition. Finally, he put a pillar of victory at Simhachalam.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Which foreign traveler visited the vijayanagara kingdom during the reign of Krishnadevaraya?

- a) Abul Fazal
- b) Fernao Nuniz
- c) Dominigo Paes
- d) Duarte Barbosa

ANS: C

Explanation: Contemporary foreign visitors like Dominigo Paes, Duarte Barbosa and Fernao Nuniz, who visited Vijayanagar left glowing tributes to Krishnadevaraya personality, and the grandeur and opulence of the city.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) Consider the following terms of Vijayanagara Kingdom:

Term	Meaning
1. Pettai	Commercial Centres
2. Adaippam	Accountant
3. Kariya-karta	Executive Agent

Which of the above given pair is/are NOT correctly matched?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The king was the ultimate authority in the kingdom. He was also the supreme commander of the army.

- He was assisted by several high-ranking officers. The chief minister was known as the mahapradhani.
- He led a number of lower-ranking officers, like Dalavay (commander), Vassal (guard of the palace), Rayasam (secretary/ accountant), Adaippam (personal attendant), and Kariya-karta (executive agents).
- As Harihara I and his immediate successors consolidated their territorial acquisitions, they tried to organize the territory by creating administrative divisions called rajyas or provinces each under a governor called pradhani.
- Chiefs controlled production within their Nayaktanam territories by creating commercial centres (pettai) and markets, by encouraging settlement of cultivators and artisans with tax concessions, by creating and maintaining irrigation facilities, etc.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Which of the following dynasty constructed the Golkonda fort?

- a) Kakatiya Dynasty
- b) Nizam Kingdom
- c) Vijayanagara
- d) Chalukyas

ANS: A

Explanation: The Raja Krishna Dev of the Kakatiya dynasty with Warangal as capital constructed the Golkonda Fort on a granite hill. During 1495–1496 the fort was handed over to Sultan Kali Kutub Khan as a Jagir (land grant).

- He reconstructed and rechristened the mud fort into a granite fort and called the place Muhammed Nagar.
- Later, the Golkonda fort came into the possession of the Bahmani dynasty. Still later, the Qutub Shahi dynasty took over and made Golkonda its capital. Golkonda fort owes much of its present grandeur to Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah, the fifth sultan of Qutb Shahi dynasty.
- The subsequent generations saw Golkonda being fortified further with several additions and the formation of a beautiful city within.
- By the 17th century, Golkonda was famous as a diamond market. It gave the world some of the best-known diamonds, including the 'Kohinoor'.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

The Mughal Empire (Political and Administrative policies)

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Gun powder was first invented by the Chinese.
 2. In India we have no instances of artillery being used in war before Balban.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Artillery is an army unit that uses large cannon-like weapons, transportable and usually operated by more than one person.

- Gun powder was first invented by the Chinese and found its way to Europe in the 13th century A.D. (CE).
- It was used in guns and cannons from the mid-fourteenth century onwards. In India we have no instances of artillery being used in war before Babur.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Arrange the following battles fought by Babur in chronological order:

1. Battle of Chanderi
2. Battle of Panipat
3. Battle of Khanwa

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: First Battle of Panipat, 21 April 1526: Babur then turned towards the Lodi governed Punjab. After several invasions, he defeated the formidable forces of Ibrahim Lodi with a numerically inferior army at Panipat. Babur won this battle with the help of strategic positioning of his forces and the effective use of artillery.

- Battle of Khanwa, 1527: Babur decided to take on Rana Sanga of Chittor, who as ruler of Mewar, had a strong influence over Rajasthan and Malwa. Babur selected Khanwa, near Agra, as a favourable site for this inevitable encounter.
- Battle of Chanderi, 1528: The next significant battle that ensured Babur's supremacy over the Malwa region was fought against Medini Rai at Chanderi. Following this victory Babur turned towards the growing rebellious activities of Afghans.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Who among the following the guardian and protector of Akbar, who helped Akbar to take control of Delhi and Agra?

- a) Abdur Rahim
- b) Bahmani Shah
- c) Bairam Khan
- d) Mansingh

ANS: C

Explanation: During Humayun's wanderings in the Rajputana desert, his wife gave birth to a son, Jalaluddin, known as Akbar, in 1542.

- Akbar was crowned at the age of fourteen.
- At the time of Akbar's ascension, the Afghans and Rajputs were still powerful and posed a great challenge.
- Yet he had a guardian and protector in Bairam Khan.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following statements about Mansabdari system:

1. In Mansabdari system, ranks were divided into zat and sawar.
2. Zat determined the number of soldiers each Mansabdar received ranging from 1000 to 10,000.
3. Sawar determined the number of horses under a Mansabdar.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Akbar provided a systematic and centralised system of administration which contributed to the success of the empire. He introduced the Mansabdari system.

- The nobles, civil and military officials combined into one single service with each officer receiving the title of Mansabdar. Mansabdar rank was divided into Zat and Sawar.
- The former determined the number of soldiers each Mansabdar received ranging from 10 to 10,000. The latter determined the number of horses under a Mansabdar.
- Each officer could rise from the lowest to the highest ranks. Promotions and demotions were made through additions or reductions of Mansabs.
- The Mansabdari system diversified the ethnic base of his nobility.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The salary of Mansabdar was fixed and paid in both cash and gold.
2. The rank of Mansabdar was not hereditary in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: During Akbar's early years the nobles were drawn exclusively from Central Asians or Persians.

- But after the introduction of the Mansabdari system, the nobility encompassed Rajputs and Shaikhzadas (Indian Muslims).
- The salary of a Mansabdar was fixed in cash but was paid by assigning him a jagir (an estate from which he could collect money in lieu of his salary), which was subjected to regular transfers.
- The rank of Mansabdar was not hereditary and immediately after the death of a Mansabdar, the jagir was resumed by the state.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Akbar's Religious policy:

1. Ibadat Khana, a hall of worship was established by Akbar and it was discontinued during Shah Jahan reign.
2. Akbar propagated a philosophy of Sulh-i-Kul (peace to all).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Akbar began his life as an orthodox Muslim but adopted an accommodative approach under the influence of Sufism.

- Akbar was interested to learn about the doctrines of all religions, and propagated a philosophy of Sulh-i-Kul (peace to all).
- Badauni, a contemporary author, who did not like Akbar's inter-religious interests, accused him of forsaking Islam.
- Akbar had established an Ibadat Khana, a hall of worship in which initially Muslim clerics gathered to discuss spiritual issues.
- Later he invited Christians, Zoroastrians, Hindus, Jains and even atheists to discussions.
- In 1582, he discontinued the debates in the Ibadat Khana as it led to bitterness among different religions. However, he did not give up his attempt to know the Truth.
- Akbar discussed personally with the leading lights of different religions like Purushotam and Devi (Hinduism), Meherji Rana (Zoroastrianism), the Portuguese Aquaviva and Monserrate (Christianity) and Hira Vijaya Suri (Jainism) to ascertain the Truth.
- Because of the discussions he felt that behind the multiplicity of names there was but one God.
- The exact word used by Akbar and Badauni to illustrate the philosophy of Akbar is Tauhid-i-Ilahi namely Din Ilahi. Tauhid-i-Ilahi literally meant divine monotheism.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) The fiscal administration of Akbar has been largely based on the methods of which of the following ruler?

- a) Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
- b) Humayun
- c) Sher Shah

d) Alaud-Dīn Khalji

ANS: C

Explanation: The fiscal administration for which Akbar and Todar Mal have been so highly praised was largely based on the methods of Sher Shah.

- During his short rule, Sher Shah did not have much time for building new cities and palaces.
- He started building a new walled city in Delhi, which later came to be known as Purana Qila (Old Fort). He built his own mausoleum in Sasaram.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Who among the following executed the Sikh Guru Arjun Dev for helping Prince Khusrau in ascension of the throne?

- a) Aurangzeb
- b) Akbar
- c) Jahangir
- d) Shah Alam

ANS: C

Explanation: Akbar was succeeded by his son Salim with the title Nur-ud-din Jahangir. He was Akbar's son by a Rajput wife.

- His ascension was challenged by his eldest son Prince Khusrau who staged a revolt with the blessings of Sikh Guru Arjun Dev.
- Prince Khusrau was defeated, captured and blinded, while Guru Arjun Dev was executed. Jahangir also tamed the rebel Afghan Usman Khan in Bengal.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) The foreign travelers like Bernier, Tavernier and Peter Mundy visited India during whose reign?

- a) Babar
- b) Shah Jahan
- c) Aurangzeb
- d) Shah Alam

ANS: B

Explanation: A contemporary of Louis XIV of France, Shah Jahan ruled for thirty years. In his reign the famous Peacock Throne was made for the King.

He built the Taj Mahal by the side of the Yamuna at Agra. Europeans like Bernier (French physician and traveller), Tavernier (French gem merchant and traveller), Mandelslo (German adventurer and traveller), Peter Mundy (English Trader) and Manucci (Italian writer and traveller) visited India during the reign of Shah Jahan and left behind detailed accounts of India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Who among the following translated the Upanishads from Sanskrit to Persian?

- a) Prince Khusrau
- b) Shah Jahan
- c) Dara Shukoh
- d) Murad

ANS: C

Explanation: During the last days of Shah Jahan, there was a contest for the throne amongst his four sons.

- Dara Shukoh, the eldest, was the favourite of his father. He had been nominated as heir apparent, a fact resented by his brothers.
- Dara Shukoh, who lost the battle for the throne of Delhi to his brother Aurangzeb, was known as the Philosopher Prince.
- He brought different cultures into dialogue and found a close connection between Hinduism and Islam. He translated the Upanishads from Sanskrit to Persian.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

ForumIAS

The Mughal Empire (Contribution the field of Economy, Art, Science and Technology etc..)

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Persian wheel was introduced in India by Akbar.
2. Akbar popularized the device of cooling water using saltpeter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The method of water-lift based on pin-drum gearing known as Persian wheel had been introduced during Babur's time.

- A complicated system of water lift by a series of gear-wheels had been installed in Fatehpur Sikri.
- Akbar was also credited with popularizing the device of cooling water using saltpetre.
- In metallurgy, the inability to produce cast iron remained an obvious drawback.
- As Irfan Habib observed, 'India's backwardness in technology was obvious when the matchlock remained the most common weapon in Indian armies. In Europe the flintlock had long come into use.
- Indians continued to use the expensive bronze cannon, long after these had become obsolete in Europe.
- This was because of India's inability to make cast iron even in the seventeenth century.'

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following was the first known person in the world to have devised the 'Ship's camel'?

- a) Akbar
- b) Alauddin Khilji
- c) Chandragupta
- d) Krishnadevaraya

ANS: A

Explanation: Akbar is also the first known person in the world to have devised the 'ship's camel', a barge on which the ship is built to make it easier for the ship to be carried to the sea.

Some mechanical devices like the screw for tightening, manually driven belt-drill for cutting diamonds were in use.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Agra Fort was built with red sandstone where Nizam architectural styles were also incorporated.
2. The magnificent gateway to Fatehpur Sikri, the Buland Darwaza was built with Marble only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: During Akbar's reign, Humayun's tomb was enclosed with gardens and placed on a raised platform.

- Built by Indian artisans and designed by Persian architects it set a pattern to be followed in the future.
- The Agra fort built with red sandstone is a specimen where Rajput architectural styles were also incorporated.
- The new capital city of Akbar Fatehpur Sikri enclosed within its walls several inspiring buildings.
- The magnificent gateway to Fatehpur Sikri, the Buland Darwaza, built by Akbar with red sandstone and marble is considered to be a perfect architectural achievement.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Which structure among the following was the first Mughal building built completely with white marble?

- a) Taj Mahal
- b) Fatehpuri Sikri
- c) Tomb of Itimad-ud-daula
- d) Golden Temple

ANS: C

Explanation: The tomb of Itimad-ud-daula, father of Nurjahan, built by Jahangir was the first Mughal building built completely with white marble.

- Mughal architecture reached its apex during the reign of Shah Jahan.
- The Taj Mahal is a marble structure on an elevated platform, the bulbous dome in the centre rising on a recessed gateway with four cupolas around the dome and with four free-standing minarets at each of its corners is a monument of universal fame.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Mughal Architecture had influence on temple architecture in India.
2. The Shalimar Gardens are showpiece of Indian horticulture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Shalimar Gardens of Jahangir and Shah Jahan are showpieces of Indian horticulture.

- Apart from the many massive structures, the Mughals contributed many civil works of public utility, the greatest of them being the bridge over the Gomati river at Jaunpur.
- The most impressive feat is the West Yamuna Canal which provided water to Delhi.
- Mughal architecture influenced even temple construction in different parts of the country.
- The temple of Govind Dev at Vrindavan near Mathura and Bir Singh's temple of Chaturbhuj at Orchha (Madhya Pradesh) display Mughal influence.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Which of the following Mughal structure has the Buddhist architectural elements?

- a) Tajmahal
- b) Mausoleum of Akbar
- c) Panch Mahal
- d) Red fort

ANS: B

Explanation: Architectural progress during the Mughals is a landmark in world art.

- Mughal buildings were noted for the massive structures decorated with bulbous domes, splendorous minarets, cupolas in the four corners, elaborate designs, and pietra dura (pictorial mosaic work).
- The mosques built during the time of Babur and Humayun are not of much architectural significance.
- The mausoleum of Akbar at Sikandra near Agra started by Akbar and completed by Jahangir includes some Buddhist architectural elements.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Consider the following pairs of Authors and their known work of translating scripts into Persian:

Author	Known for translating
1. Abul Faizi	Lilavati
2. Abul Fazal	Mahabharata
3. Abdur Rahim Khan-e-khanan	Babur's Autobiography

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

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Babur's autobiography written in Chaghatai Turkish was translated into Persian by Abdur Rahim Khan-e-Khanan.

- Dabistan is an impartial account of the beliefs and works of different religions. Persian literature was enriched by translations of Sanskrit works.
- The Mahabharata was translated under the supervision of Abul Faizi, brother of Abul Fazal and a court poet of Akbar.
- The translation of Upanishads by Dara Shukoh, entitled Surr-I-Akbar (the Great Secret), is a landmark.

- The Masnawis of Abul Faizi, Utbi and Naziri enriched Persian Poetry in India.
- Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Consider the following authors and their works:

Author	Work
1. Abul Fazal	Ain-i-Akbari
2. Abdul Hamid Lahori	Akbar Nama
3. Muhammad Kazim	Alamgir Nama

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Persian, Sanskrit and regional languages developed during the Mughal rule.

- Persian was the language of administration in Mughal Empire and the Deccan states.
- It influenced even the Rajput states where Persian words were used in administration.
- Abul Fazal patronised by Akbar compiled the history of Akbar in Akbar Nama and described Mughal administration in his work *Ain-i-Akbari*.
- The *Ain-i-Akbari* is commendable for its interest in science, statistics, geography and culture.
- Akbar Nama was emulated by Abdul Hamid Lahori and Muhammad Waris in their joint work *Padshah Nama*, a biography of Shah Jahan.
- Later Muhammad Kazim in his *Alamgir Nama*, a work on the reign of the first decade of Aurangzeb, followed the same pattern.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) Among the following, whose verses are used in Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of Sikhs?

- a) Moinuddin Chishti
- b) Shaikh Farid
- c) Muhammad Nizamuddin Auliya
- d) Mahbub-e-Ilahi

ANS: B

Explanation: The Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikhs compiled by Guru Arjun in which the verses of the Sikh Gurus as well as Shaikh Farid and other monotheists are a landmark in the evolution of Punjabi language.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Consider the following pair of person and their occupation during Mughal period:

Person	Occupation
1. Nilakantha	Physician
2. Basawan	Poet
3. Tansen	Musician

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

- a) 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only

- c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3 only

ANS: A

Explanation: The Mughals achieved international recognition in the field of painting. Mughal miniatures are an important part of the museums of the world.

- The Persian text of Mahabharata and Akbar Namah were illustrated with paintings by various painters. Daswant and Basawan were famous painters of Akbar's court.
- According to Ain-i-Akbari, Tansen of Gwalior, credited with composing of many ragas, was patronised by Akbar along with 35 other musicians.
- Jahangir and Shah Jahan were patrons of music. Though there is a popular misconception that Aurangzeb was against music, a large number of books on Indian classical music were written during his regime.
- The Sanskrit works produced during the Mughal rule are impressive. Sanskrit literature of this period is noted for the kavyas and historical poetry.
- Rajavalipataka, a kavya, written by Prajna bhatta which completed the history of Kashmir belonged to reign of Akbar.
- Graeco-Arabic learning was transmitted to India through Persian works in the form of Sanskrit translations.
- Akbar's astronomer Nilakantha wrote the Tajika Neelakanthi, an astrological treatise.
- Shah Jahan's court poet Jaganatha Panditha wrote the monumental Rasagangadhara.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

The Bhakti and Sufi Movement and Marathas

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Shahji, father of Shivaji was a descendant of the Yadava rulers of Devagiri.
2. Tukaram was regarded by Shivaji as his guru.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Shivaji was born in Shivner near Junnar. He was the son of Shahji Bhonsle by his first wife Jijabai.

- Shahji was a descendant of the Yadava rulers of Devagiri from his mother's side and the Sisodias of Mewar on his father's side.
- Shivaji earned the goodwill of the Mavali peasants and chiefs, who were a martial people with knowledge about the hilly areas around Poona.
- Shivaji made himself familiar with the hilly areas around Poona.
- Religious heads, Ramdas and Tukaram, also influenced Shivaji. Ramdas was regarded by Shivaji as his guru.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Shah Jahan despatched an army under the command of the Rajput general Raja Jai Singh to defeat Shivaji and annex Bijapur.
2. The treaty of Purandar was signed between Shivaji and Mughals.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: In 1664, Shivaji attacked Surat, the major Mughal port in Arabian Sea and his soldiers plundered the city.

- Aurangzeb despatched an army under the command of the Rajput general Raja Jai Singh to defeat Shivaji and annex Bijapur.
- At that time, Prince Muazzam, later Bahadur Shah I, was the Governor of the Deccan. Jai Singh made elaborate plans to encircle Shivaji on all sides.
- Even Raigarh was under threat. Purandar was besieged in June 1665. The heroic resistance of Shivaji became futile. Therefore he decided to come to negotiate with Jai Singh.
- According to the treaty of Purandar signed on 11 June 1665 Shivaji yielded the fortresses that he had captured and agreed to serve as a mansabdar and assist the Mughals in conquering Bijapur.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs related to Maratha Administration:

Term	used for
1. Amatya	Finance Minister
2. Sachiv	Foreign Minister
3. Summant	Home Minister

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Shivaji was a not only a great warrior but a good administrator too. He had an advisory council to assist him in his day-to-day administration. This council of eight ministers was known as Ashta Pradhan. Its functions were advisory. The eight ministers were:

- The Mukhya Pradhan or Peshwa or prime minister whose duty was to look after the general welfare and interests of the State. He officiated for the king in his absence.
- The Amatya or finance minister checked and countersigned all public accounts of the kingdom.
- The Walkia-Nawis or Mantri maintained the records of the king's activities and the proceedings in the court.
- Summant or Dabir or foreign secretary was to advise king on all matters of war and peace and to receive ambassadors and envoys from other countries.
- Sachiv or Shuru Nawis or home secretary was to look after the correspondence of the king with the power to revise the drafts. He also checked the accounts of the Parganas.
- Pandit Rao or Danadhyaksha or Sadar and Muhtasib or ecclesiastical head was in charge of religion, ceremonies and charities. He was the judge of canon law and censor of public morals.
- Nyayadhish or chief justice was responsible for civil and military justice.
- Sari Naubat or commander-in-chief was in charge of recruitment, organization and discipline of the Army.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Chauth was one - third of the revenue of the district conquered by the Marthas.
- 2. Sardeshmukhi was an additional 20% of the revenue which Shivaji collected by virtue of his position as Sardeshmukh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: As the revenue collected from the state was insufficient to meet its requirements, Shivaji collected two taxes, Chauth and Sardeshmukhi, from the adjoining territories of his empire, the Mughal provinces and the territories of the Sultan of Bijapur.

- Chauth was one-fourth of the revenue of the district conquered by the Marthas.
- Sardeshmukhi was an additional 10% of the revenue which Shivaji collected by virtue of his position as Sardeshmukh.
- Sardeshmukh was the superior head of many Desais or Deshmukhs.
- Shivaji claimed that he was the hereditary Sardeshmukh of his country.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Balaji Baji Rao succeeded as the Peshwa after the death of his father Baji Rao.
2. Third battle of panipat was happened during Baji Rao.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Balaji Baji Rao (1740–1761): Balaji Baji Rao succeeded as the Peshwa after the death of his father Baji Rao.

- Known as Nana Sahib, he proved to be a good administrator and an expert in handling financial matters.
- The third battle of Panipat, 1761 is one of the decisive battles in the history of India.
- The defeat in the battle dealt a severe blow to the Marathas and the Mughal Empire and thereby paved the way for the rise of the British power in India.
- By the treaty of Salbai, in 1782, Ragunath Rao was pensioned off. Following this, peace prevailed between the Company and the Marathas for about two decades.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following pair of terms of the Bhakti movement:

Term	Used for
1. Alvar	Vishnu
2. Nayanars	Shiva
3. Nirguna	Avatars of God

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation: At a different level, historians of religion often classify bhakti traditions into two broad categories: saguna (with attributes) and nirguna (without attributes).

- The former included traditions that focused on the worship of specific deities such as Shiva, Vishnu and his avatars (incarnations) and forms of the goddess or Devi, all often conceptualized in anthropomorphic forms.
- Nirguna bhakti on the other hand was worship of an abstract form of god.
- Some of the earliest bhakti movements (c. sixth century) were led by the Alvars (literally, those who are “immersed” in devotion to Vishnu) and Nayanars (literally, leaders who were devotees of Shiva).
- They travelled from place to place singing hymns in Tamil in praise of their gods.

Source: NCERT- Themes in Indian History.

Q.7) Which among the following is considered as the Tamil Veda?

- a) Tirukkural
- b) Nalayira Divyaprabandham
- c) Tolkāppiyam
- d) Manimekalai

ANS: A

Explanation: The importance of the traditions of the Alvars and Nayanars was sometimes indicated by the claim that their compositions were as important as the Vedas.

For instance, one of the major anthologies of compositions by the Alvars, the Nalayira Divyaprabandham, was frequently described as the Tamil Veda, thus claiming that the text was as significant as the four Vedas in Sanskrit that were cherished by the Brahmanas.

Source: NCERT- Themes in Indian History.

Q.8) Consider the following pairs of practices of Islam:

Term	Meaning
1. Zakat	Giving alms
2. Shahada	One God
3. Hajj	Pilgrimage to Mecca

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The developments that followed the coming of Islam were not confined to ruling elites; in fact they permeated far and wide, through the subcontinent, amongst different social strata – peasants, artisans, warriors, merchants, to name a few. All those who adopted Islam accepted, in principle, the five “pillars” of the faith:

- that there is one God, Allah, and
- Prophet Muhammad is his messenger (shahada);
- offering prayers five times a day (namaz/salat);
- giving alms (zakat); fasting during the month of Ramzan (sawm); and
- Performing the pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj).

Source: NCERT- Themes in Indian History.

Q.9) Who among the following was leading proponent of Vaishnavism in Assam?

- a) Shankaradeva
- b) Muhammad Shah Alam
- c) Vallabhacharya
- d) Ramanujacharya

ANS: A

Explanation: In the late fifteenth century, Shankaradeva emerged as one of the leading proponents of Vaishnavism in Assam.

- His teachings, often known as the Bhagavati dharma because they were based on the Bhagavad Gita and the Bhagavata Purana, focused on absolute surrender to the supreme deity, in this case Vishnu.
- He emphasised the need for naam kirtan, recitation of the names of the lord in sat sanga or congregations of pious devotees.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2021

- He also encouraged the establishment of satra or monasteries for the transmission of spiritual knowledge, and naam ghar or prayer halls.
- Many of these institutions and practices continue to flourish in the region. His major compositions include the Kirtana-ghosha.

Source: NCERT- Themes in Indian History.

Q.10) Consider the following pairs of Religious teachers and their areas of influence:

Religious Teacher	Area
1. Basavanna	Karnataka
2. Lal Ded	Kashmir
3. Vallabhacharya	West Bengal

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

TIMELINE SOME MAJOR RELIGIOUS TEACHERS IN THE SUBCONTINENT	
c. 500-800 CE	Appar, Sambandar, Sundaramurti in Tamil Nadu
c. 800-900	Nammalvar, Manikkavachakar, Andal, Tondaradippodi in Tamil Nadu
c.1000-1100	Al Hujwiri, Data Ganj Bakhsh in the Punjab; Ramanujacharya in Tamil Nadu
c.1100-1200	Basavanna in Karnataka
c.1200-1300	Jnanadeva, Muktabai in Maharashtra; Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti in Rajasthan; Bahauddin Zakariyya and Fariduddin Ganj-i Shakar in the Punjab; Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki in Delhi
c.1300-1400	Lal Ded in Kashmir; Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sind; Nizamuddin Auliya in Delhi; Ramananda in Uttar Pradesh; Chokhamela in Maharashtra; Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri in Bihar
c.1400-1500	Kabir, Raidas, Surdas in Uttar Pradesh; Baba Guru Nanak in the Punjab; Vallabhacharya in Gujarat; Abdullah Shattari in Gwalior; Muhammad Shah Alam in Gujarat; Mir Sayyid Muhammad Gesu Daraz in Gulbarga, Shankaradeva in Assam; Tukaram in Maharashtra
c.1500-1600	Sri Chaitanya in Bengal; Mirabai in Rajasthan; Shaikh Abdul Quddus Gangohi, Malik Muhammad Jaisi, Tulsidas in Uttar Pradesh
c.1600-1700	Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi in Haryana; Miyan Mir in the Punjab

Note: These time frames indicate the approximate period during which these teachers lived.

Source: NCERT- Themes in Indian History Part 2, Page 167.

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Maratha Administration under Peshwas:

1. Deshmukhs and Deshpandes were in-charge of accounts.
2. The Accountant or the record keeper is called as patel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Provinces under the Peshwas were of various sizes. Larger provinces were under the provincial governors called Sar-subahdars. The divisions in the provinces were termed Subahs and Pranthas.

- Deshmukhs and Deshpandes were district officers who were in charge of accounts and were to observe the activities of Mamlatdars and Kamavistars. It was a system of checks and balances.
- The village was the basic unit of administration and was self-supportive.
- The Patel was the chief village officer and was responsible for remitting revenue collections to the centre.
- He was not paid by the government. His post was hereditary. The Patel was helped by the Kulkarni or accountant and record-keeper.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following was well known practitioner of western science and medicine; and also establishment of printing press for Marathi and Sanskrit?

- a) Baji Rao I
- b) Serfoji II
- c) Raghunath Rao
- d) Balaji Baji Rao

ANS: B

Explanation: Serfoji II was a remarkable ruler. He was educated by the German Christian missionary Friedrich Schwartz, Serfoji.

- Similarly Serfoji II turned out to be a well-known practitioner of Western science and medicine. Yet he was a devoted keeper of Indian traditions.
- He mastered several European languages and had an impressive library of books in every branch of learning.
- Serfoji's modernising projects included the establishment of a printing press (the first press for Marathi and Sanskrit) and enrichment of the Saraswati Mahal Library.
- His most innovative project, however, was the establishment of free modern public schools run by his court, for instruction in English and the vernacular languages.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following statements about the last ruler of the Bhonsle dynasty of the Maratha principality of Thanjavur:

1. Serfoji II established Dhanvantari Mahal, a research institute that produced western medicine for humans and animals.
2. Serfoji authored Devendra Kuravanji and mudrarakshaschaya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Serfoji II established Dhanvantari Mahal, a research institution that produced herbal medicine for humans and animals. Maintaining case-sheets of patients was introduced.

- Physicians of modern medicine, Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha schools undertook research on drugs and herbs for medical cure. They produced eighteen volumes of research material.
- Serfoji II was a patron of traditional Indian arts like dance and music. He authored Kumarasambhava Champu, Devendra Kuravanji, and Mudra rakshaschaya.
- He introduced western musical instruments like clarinet, and violin in Carnatic music. He is also credited with popularising the unique Thanjavur style of painting.
- Serfoji was interested in painting, gardening, coin-collecting, martial arts and patronized chariot-racing, hunting and bull-fighting.
- He created the first zoological garden in Tamilnadu in the Thanjavur palace premises.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Elizabeth who was contemporary to Akbar ruled England.
2. Abbas the Great was ruler of Persia is a contemporary of Shah Jahan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Akbar's period, 1556 to 1605, was the period of great rulers. His nearest contemporary was Elizabeth of England. Shakespeare was living around this time.

- Henry IV of France, first ruler of the Bourbon dynasty, and Abbas the Great of Persia, the strongest ruler of the Safavid dynasty, were ruling their kingdoms during his period.
- The revolt of the Netherlands against Spanish rule in Europe that commenced during this period lasted for about eighty years and ended in 1648.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) At which of the following place, the Dasakuta Movement popularised by Vyasarayya took ground?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Himachal Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: Some of the major religious figures like Vallabhacharya and his son Vitthalnath propagated a religion of grace; and Surdas, an adherent to this sect, wrote Sur-Saravali in the local language. Eknath and Tukaram were Bhakti poets from Maharashtra. The Dasakuta movement, a bhakti movement in Karnataka, popularised by Vyasarayya, turned out to be a lower class movement.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about the trade and commerce during Mughals:

- 1. Banjaras were specialized traders who carried goods in large bulks over long distances.
- 2. The movement of goods was facilitated by letters of credit called hundi system.
- 3. The network of sarais enabled the traders and merchants to travel to various places.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The political integration of the country with efficient maintenance of law and order ensured brisk trade and commerce.

- The surplus was carried to different parts of the country through rivers, and through the roads on ox and camel drawn carts.
- Banjaras were specialised traders who carried goods in a large bulk over long distances. Bengal was the chief exporting centre of rice, sugar, muslin, silk and food grains.
- The Coromandel Coast was reputed for its textile production. Kashmiri shawls and carpets were distributed from Lahore which was an important centre of handicraft production.
- The movement of goods was facilitated by letters of credit called hundi. The network of sarais enabled the traders and merchants to travel to various places.
- The traders came from all religious communities: Hindus, Muslims and Jains. The Bohra Muslims of Gujarat, Marwaris of Rajasthan, Chettiars on Coromandel coast, and Muslims of Malabar were prominent trading communities.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Which among the following battle was fought by Akbar?

- a) Battle of Panipat I
- b) Battle of Agra
- c) Battle of Haldighati
- d) Battle of Khanwa

ANS: C

Explanation: Mewar and Marwar were the two Rajput kingdoms that defied the Mughal Empire.

- After the death of Rana Udai Singh, his son Rana Pratap Singh refused to acknowledge Akbar's suzerainty and continued to fight the Mughals till his death in 1597.
- The Battle of Haldighati in 1576 was the last pitched battle between the Mughal forces and Rana Pratap Singh.
- In Marwar (Jodhpur), the ruler Chandra Sen, son of Maldeo Rathore, resisted the Mughals till his death in 1581, though his brothers fought on the side of the Mughals.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Who among the following lived at the court of Akbar?

- a) Sur Das
- b) Kalidas
- c) Vallabacharya
- d) Chaitanya

ANS: A

Explanation: Sur Das lived at the court of Akbar and was popularly known as the blind bard of Agra. Sur Das is believed to have been a disciple of Vallabacharya who was a Vaishnava preacher in the Sultanate period.

- Vallabhacharya was the founder of Pushtimarga (way of grace). Sur Das preached religion of love and devotion to a personal God.
- He wrote inspiring and moving poems, Hindi poems about Lord Krishna. Krishna's bal lila constitutes the first great theme of Sur Das poetry.
- According to him, love is a sublimated theme representing the irresistible attraction of the gopis of Brindavan towards Krishna.
- The intensity of passion displayed by the gopis is an expression of the natural attraction of the human spirit towards the divine soul.
- His popular works are Sur Sagar, Sur Saravali and Sahitya Lehari. His monumental work Sur Sagar or Sur's Ocean is a story of Lord Krishna from the birth to the departure for Mathura.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) What is the term used for gold coins in Tamil during Vijayanagara Kingdom?

- a) Pon
- b) Kolar
- c) Varaha
- d) Pasa

ANS: A

Explanation: The Vijayanagara kings issued a large number of gold coins called Varaha (also called Pon in Tamil and Honnu in Kannada).

- These gold coins have the images of various Hindu deities and animals like the bull, the elephant and the fabulous gandaberunda (a double eagle, sometimes holding an elephant in each beak and claw).
- The legend contains the king's name either in Nagari or in Kannada script.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Which kingdom among the following is known to have built the Khajuraho Temple?

- a) Solankis
- b) Chandelas
- c) Hoyasalas
- d) Cholas

ANS: B

Explanation: The world famous Khajuraho temple complex consisting of many temples including the Lakshmana temple, Vishwanatha temple and Kandariya Mahadeva temple was built by the Chandelas of Bundelkhand who ruled from Khajuraho.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

India in the Late Eighteenth Century

Q.1) Who among the following holds the title of 'Fateh Haider Bahadur'?

- a) Haider Ali
- b) Quli Qutub Shah
- c) Fateh Muhammad
- d) Tipu Sultan

ANS: A

Explanation: Haider's father Fateh Muhammad was the Faujdar (garrison commander) of Kolar. After his death Haider's soldierly qualities helped him to rise through the military ranks.

- By 1755 he had secured a powerful position, commanding 100 horsemen and 2000 infantry men.
- Haider suppressed an army mutiny in Mysore and restored the places of the Mysore kingdom occupied by Marathas. He received the title of "Fateh Haider Bahadur" or "the brave and victorious Lion".
- In 1760 Haider allied himself with the French at Pondicherry against the English, but his position at home was endangered by the plot engineered by the Marathas.
- In 1770 the Mysore king Nanjaraja was poisoned to death and Haider's hand was suspected.
- Thereafter Wodeyar kings functioned only as nominal rulers. The real royal authority vested in Haider.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. Treaty of Mangalore
2. Third Anglo-Mysore war
3. American war of Independence

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: After the American War of Independence, France had signed a treaty of friendship with America (1778) and so Britain declared war against France.

- In a similar context of Spain reaching an agreement with America, and thereby being dragged into the war against England (1779) England remained isolated.
- In India the coming together of the Nizam and the Marathas, supported by the French aggravated the situation further.
- Haider Ali wanted to turn England's difficulty to its advantage and marched on Karnataka.
- The Treaty of Mangalore was signed in March 1784, according to which both parties agreed to give up their conquests and release the prisoners.
- Third Mysore War took place in 1790-92.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Tipu Sultan had good diplomatic relation with Portuguese who helped him in his fight against English.
2. The Third Mysore war ended with the Treaty of Srirangapatnam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Tipu sent an embassy to Constantinople and another in 1787 to Paris. These diplomatic efforts of Tipu were intended to strengthen him against the English.

- The French Monarch Louis XVI was hospitable, but could give only vague promises of support to the Sultan.
- Tipu's attack on Travancore which was an ally of the British and his capture of Cranganore was treated as a declaration of war on the Company government. Hence the third Anglo-Mysore War broke out.
- According to the treaty of Srirangapatnam, the Tipu was to give up half of his dominions, pay three crores of rupees as indemnity, and pledge two of his sons as hostages.
- The allies were given equal shares of the indemnity and of the ceded territories. The English got Malabar, Dindigul and Barmahal.
- Tipu lost Coorg (Kudagu), whose raja became a feudatory to the Company. Tipu's power was greatly reduced.
- And after their stay at Madras as hostages the boys returned to Srirangapatnam on 29 May 1794 when their father had paid all the dues to the English.
- Tipu could hardly forget his humiliation and the heavy territorial and monetary losses suffered.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Which kingdom among the following practiced Palayakkarar system that gave an early resistance to the British conquest of Southern India?

- a) Bahamani Dynasty
- b) Chola Dynasty
- c) Vijayanagara Kingdom
- d) Kakatiya Dynasty

ANS: D

Explanation: The origin of the Palayakkarar (poligari) system dates back to the 1530s. It is believed that this system was practiced earlier in Kakatiya kingdom of Warangal.

- The literal meaning of Palayakkarar is the holder of a camp as well as the holder of an estate on military tenure.
- Prior to the enforcement of this system Servaikarars and Talayaris collected fees for police work.
- After the creation of palayams, the Servaikarars turned Palayakkarars and subordinated Talayaris to their authority.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) The 'Black Hole Tragedy' is related to which of the following events?

- a) Battle of Plassey
- b) Battle of Buxar
- c) Revolt of 1857
- d) Anglo – Carnatic War

ANS: A

Explanation: The Battle of Plassey: The officials of the Company made rampant misuse of its trade privileges that adversely affected the nawab's finances. The English fortified Calcutta without the nawab's permission.

- The Company further tried to mislead him, and compounded their sin by giving asylum to a political fugitive, Krishna Das, son of Raj Ballabh who had fled with immense treasures against the nawab's will.
- The Company, on its part, suspected that Siraj would drastically reduce its trade privileges in collusion with the French in Bengal.
- Thus, when Siraj attacked and seized the English fort at Calcutta, it brought their hostility into the open. Mention may be made here of the much propagated 'Black Hole Tragedy'.
- Siraj-ud-daula is believed to have imprisoned 146 English persons who were lodged in a very tiny room due to which 123 of them died of suffocation.
- However, historians either do not believe this story, or say that the number of victims must have been much smaller.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.6) Which of the following are not part of Treaty of Allahabad?

- 1. Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula
- 2. Shah Alam II
- 3. Mir Jafar
- 4. Nana Saheb
- 5. Mir kasim

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 3 and 4
- c) 1, 2 and 5
- d) 2, 4 and 5

ANS: B

Explanation: The Treaty of Allahabad: Robert Clive concluded two important treaties at Allahabad in August 1765—one with the Nawab of Awadh and the other with the Mughal Emperor, Shah Alam II.

Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula agreed to:

- surrender Allahabad and Kara to Emperor Shah Alam II;
- pay Rs 50 lakh to the Company as war indemnity; and
- give Balwant Singh, Zamindar of Banaras, full possession of his estate.

Shah Alam II agreed to:

- reside at Allahabad, to be ceded to him by the Nawab of Awadh, under the Company's protection;
- issue a farman granting the diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the East India Company in lieu of an annual payment of Rs 26 lakh; and
- a provision of Rs 53 lakh to the Company in return for nizamat functions (military defence, police, and administration of justice) of the said provinces.

Clive did not want to annex Awadh because it would have placed the Company under an obligation to protect an extensive land frontier from the Afghan and the Maratha invasions.

- The treaty made the Nawab a firm friend of the Company, and turned Awadh into a buffer state.
- Similarly, Clive's arrangement with Shah Alam II was inspired by practical considerations. It made the emperor a useful 'rubber stamp' of the Company.
- Besides, the emperor's farman legalised the political gains of the Company in Bengal. Mir Kasim, the dethroned Nawab of Bengal, spent the rest of his life in abject misery as a homeless wanderer and died in June 1777.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.7) In the suppression of Marathas, which among the following treaty was signed first?

- a) Treaty of Devgaon
- b) Treaty of Rajpurghat
- c) Treaty of Bassein
- d) Treaty of Surajianjangaon

ANS: C

Explanation: On April 1, 1801 the Peshwa brutally murdered the brother of Jaswantrao (also called Yashwantrao by some historians) Holkar, Vithuji. A furious Jaswant arrayed his forces against the combined armies of Sindhia and Bajirao II.

- The turmoil continued and on October 25, 1802, Jaswant defeated the armies of the Peshwa and Sindhia decisively at Hadapsar near Poona and placed Vinayakrao, son of Amritrao, on the Peshwa's seat.
- A terrified Bajirao II fled to Bassein where, on December 31, 1802, he signed a treaty with the English. The Marathas were defeated, reduced to British vassalage and isolated from one another.
 - (i) Defeat of Bhonsle (December 17, 1803, Treaty of Devgaon);
 - (ii) Defeat of Sindhia (December 30, 1803, Treaty of Surajianjangaon); and
 - (iii) Defeat of Holkar (1806, Treaty of Rajpurghat).

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.8) The Treaty of Aix-La Chapelle is related to which of the following?

- a) First Carnatic War
- b) First Anglo-Maratha war
- c) Second Carnatic War
- d) Second Maratha War

ANS: A

Explanation: The First Carnatic War ended in 1748 when the Treaty of Aix-La Chapelle was signed bringing the Austrian War of Succession to a conclusion.

Under the terms of this treaty, Madras was handed back to the English, and the French, in turn, got their territories in North America.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.9) Who among the following was given the title of Qibla-i-Alam, also called as Queen Mother?

- a) Radha Bai
- b) Begum Sultan
- c) Udham Bai
- d) Rani Laxmi Bai

ANS: C

Explanation: One of the weak ruler after Aurangzeb, Ahmad Shah (1748-1754): Ahmad Shah was an incompetent ruler who left the state affairs in the hands of Udham Bai, the 'Queen Mother'.

Udham Bai, given the title of Qibla-i-Alam, was a lady of poor intellect who ruled with the help of her paramour, Javid Khan (a notorious eunuch).

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.10) According to the Permanent Settlement, Zamindars were defined as the:

1. Owner of Land
2. Revenue Collector of the state

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The problem, however, lay in identifying individuals who could both improve agriculture and contract to pay the fixed revenue to the state.

- After a prolonged debate amongst Company officials, the Permanent Settlement was made with the rajas and taluqdars of Bengal.
- They were now classified as zamindars, and they had to pay the revenue demand that was fixed in perpetuity.
- In terms of this definition, the zamindar was not a landowner in the village, but a revenue Collector of the state.

Source: NCERT Themes in Indian History Part 3.

The advent of Europeans and the British Conquests

Q.1) Who among the following was the ruler of Calicut when Vasco Da Gama arrived in 1498?

- a) Zamorin
- b) Bahamani Shah
- c) Shah Jahan
- d) Krishnadevaraya

ANS: A

Explanation: The arrival of three ships under Vasco Da Gama, led by a Gujarati pilot named Abdul Majid, at Calicut in May 1498 profoundly affected the course of Indian history.

- The Hindu ruler of Calicut, the Zamorin (Samuthiri), however, had no apprehensions as to the European's intentions.
- As the prosperity of his kingdom was due to Calicut's position as an entrepot, he accorded a friendly reception to Vasco Da Gama.
- The Arab traders, who had a good business on the Malabar Coast were apprehensive and were not keen on the Portuguese getting a hold there.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.2) Who among the following is known for Blue Water Policy?

- a) Robert Clive
- b) Joseph-François Dupleix
- c) Francisco De Almeida
- d) Alfonso de Albuquerque

ANS: C

Explanation: In 1505, the King of Portugal appointed a governor in India for a three-year term and equipped the incumbent with sufficient force to protect the Portuguese interests.

- Francisco De Almeida, the newly appointed governor, was asked to consolidate the position of the Portuguese in India and to destroy Muslim trade by seizing Aden, Ormuz and Malacca.
- He was also advised to build fortresses at Anjadiva, Cochin, Cannanore and Kilwa. What Almeida, however, encountered along with the opposition of the Zamorin, was a threat from the Mameluke Sultan of Egypt.
- Encouraged by the merchants of Venice whose lucrative commerce was now at risk due to the Portuguese interference, the Egyptians raised a fleet in the Red Sea to stop the advance of the Portuguese.
- In 1507, the Portuguese squadron was defeated in a naval battle off Diu by the combined Egyptian and Gujarat navies, and Almeida's son was killed. Next year, Almeida avenged his defeat by totally crushing the two navies.
- Almeida's vision was to make the Portuguese the master of the Indian Ocean. His policy was known as the Blue Water Policy (cartaze system).

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.3) Who gave the permission to establish a factory at Surat to the Britishers?

- a) Jahangir
- b) Shah Jahan
- c) Shah Alam
- d) Aurangzeb

ANS: A

Explanation: Captain Hawkins arrived in the court of Jahangir in April 1609 itself. But the mission to establish a factory at Surat didn't succeed due to opposition from the Portuguese, and Hawkins left Agra in November 1611.

- In 1611, the English had started trading at Masulipatnam on the south-eastern coast of India and later established a factory there in 1616.
- It was in 1612 that Captain Thomas Best defeated the Portuguese in the sea off Surat; an impressed Jahangir granted permission to the English in early 1613 to establish a factory at Surat under Thomas Aldworth.
- In 1615, Sir Thomas Roe came as an accredited ambassador of James I to the court of Jahangir, staying on their till February 1619.
- Though he was unsuccessful in concluding a commercial treaty with the Mughal emperor, he was able to secure a number of privileges, including permission to set up factories at Agra, Ahmedabad and Broach.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.4) Arrange the following events in Chronological order:

1. Battle of Ambur
2. Battle of Plassey
3. Battle of Bidara

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: In the Second Carnatic War, The combined armies of Muzaffar Jang, Chanda Sahib and the French defeated and killed Anwarud- din at the Battle of Ambur (near Vellore) in 1749.

- Muzaffar Jang became the subahdar of Deccan, and Dupleix was appointed governor of all the Mughal territories to the south of the River Krishna.
- A French army under Bussy was stationed at Hyderabad to secure French interests there. Territories near Pondicherry and also some areas on the Orissa coast (including Masulipatnam) were ceded to the French.
- The Third Carnatic War proved decisive. Although the Treaty of Peace of Paris (1763) restored to the French their factories in India, the French political influence disappeared after the war.
- Thereafter, the French, like their Portuguese and Dutch counterparts in India, confined themselves to their small enclaves and to commerce.
- The English became the supreme European power in the Indian subcontinent, since the Dutch had already been defeated in the Battle of Bidara in 1759.
- The Battle of Plassey, in 1757, is usually regarded by historians as the decisive event that brought about ultimate British rule over India.

- However, one cannot quite ignore the view that the true turning point for control of the subcontinent was the victory of British forces over the French forces at Wandiwash in 1760.
- The victory at Wandiwash left the English East India Company with no European rival in India.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.5) Which among the following are the centers of elementary education in India?

1. Chatuspathis
2. Pathshalas
3. Maktabas
4. Madrasahs

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The education imparted in 18th-century India was still traditional which could not match with the rapid developments in the West.

- The knowledge was confined to literature, law, religion, philosophy, and logic and excluded the study of physical and natural sciences, technology and geography.
- In fact, due to over-reliance placed on ancient learning, any original thought got discouraged.
- Elementary education among the Hindus and the Muslims was quite widespread. The Hindu and Muslim elementary schools were called pathshalas and maktabas respectively.
- The education was confined to reading, writing, and arithmetic. Children from the lower caste sometimes attended the schools, but female presence was rare.
- Chatuspathis or Tols, as they were called in Bihar and Bengal, were the centres of higher education.
- Some of the famous centres for Sanskrit education were Kasi (Varanasi), Tirhut (Mithila), Nadia and Utkala.
- Madrasahs were the institutions of higher learning for Persian and Arabic, Persian being the court language and learnt by the Muslims as well as the Hindus.
- Azimabad (Patna) was a famous centre for Persian education. People interested in the study of the Quran and Muslim theology had to acquire proficiency in Arabic.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Dual government in Bengal:

1. After battle of Plassey East India Company became the real masters of Bengal.
 2. The Company exercised diwani rights and the nizamat rights directly under the governor.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: After the battle of Buxar, the East India Company became the real masters of Bengal.

- Robert Clive introduced the dual system of government, i.e., the rule of the two—the Company and the Nawab—in Bengal in which both the diwani, i.e., collecting revenues, and nizamat, i.e., police and judicial functions, came under the control of the Company.
- The Company exercised diwani rights as the diwan and the nizamat rights through its right to nominate the deputy subahdar.
- The Company acquired the diwani functions from the emperor and nizamat functions from the subahdar of Bengal.
- The system held a great advantage for the Company. It left the appearance of authority to the puppet Indian ruler, while keeping the sovereign power in the hands of the Company.
- The nawab was responsible for maintaining peace and order, but he depended both for funds and forces upon the Company because the latter controlled the army and revenues.
- For the exercise of diwani functions, the Company appointed two deputy diwans, Mohammad Reza Khan for Bengal and Raja Sitab Roy for Bihar.
- Mohammad Reza Khan also acted as deputy nazim or deputy subahdar.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.7) Who among the following followed the policy of Ring-fence during the conquest of India?

- a) Lord Hastings
- b) Wellesley
- c) Dalhousie
- d) Warren Hastings

ANS: D

Explanation: Warren Hastings took charge as the governor-general at a critical period of British rule when the British were to encounter the powerful combination of the Marathas, Mysore and Hyderabad.

- He followed a policy of ring-fence which aimed at creating buffer zones to defend the Company's frontiers.
- Broadly speaking, it was the policy of defence of their neighbours' frontiers for safeguarding their own territories.
- This policy of Warren Hastings was reflected in his war against the Marathas and Mysore.
- The chief danger to the Company's territories was from the Afghan invaders and the Marathas.
- To safeguard against these dangers, the Company undertook to organise the defence of the frontiers of Awadh on the condition that the Nawab would defray the expenses of the defending army.
- The defence of Awadh constituted the defence of Bengal during that time. Thus the states brought under the ring-fence system were assured of military assistance against external aggression—but at their own expense.
- Wellesley's policy of subsidiary alliance was, in fact, an extension of the ring-fence system which sought to reduce the Indian states into a position of dependence on the British government.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.8) Which among the following is not part of Subsidiary Alliance?

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Tanjore
- c) Bhagat
- d) Awadh

ANS: C

Explanation: Subsidiary Alliance of Wellesley: Subsidized States are:

- Hyderabad (1798; 1800)
- Mysore (1799)
- Tanjore (October 1799)
- Awadh (November 1801)
- Peshwa (December 1801)
- Bhonsle of Berar (December 1803)
- Sindhia (February 1804)
- Jodhpur (1818)
- Jaipur (1818)
- Macheri (1818)
- Bundi (1818)
- Bharatpur (1818)

Doctrine of Lapse: Lapsed States under Lord Dalhousie (1848-56)

- Satara (1848)
- Sambhalpur (1849)
- Bhagat (1850)
- Udaipur (1850)
- Nagpur (1854)
- Jhanshi (1855)
- Awadh (1856; on charge of mal-administration)

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.9) Which among the following treaty was signed the latest?

- a) Treaty of Sagauli
- b) Treaty of Lhasa
- c) Treaty of Gandamak
- d) Durand Agreement

ANS: B

Explanation: Relations of British India with Neighboring Countries:

- Anglo-Nepal Relations (Treaty of Sagauli, 1816)
- Anglo-Burma Relations
 - ✓ First Anglo-Burma War, 1824-26
 - ✓ Second Anglo-Burma War, 1852
 - ✓ Third Anglo-Burma War, 1885
- Anglo-Tibetan Relations
 - ✓ Treaty of Lhasa (1904)
- Anglo-Afghan Relations
 - ✓ Forward Policy of Auckland
 - ✓ First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-1842)
 - ✓ John Lawrence's Policy of Masterly Inactivity
 - ✓ Lytton and the Policy of Proud Reserve

- ✓ Second Anglo-Afghan War (1870-80)
- ✓ Treaty of Gandamak (May 1879)
- North-West Frontier
 - ✓ Durand Agreement (1893)

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.10) Heer Ranjha, the romantic epic in Punjabi literature was composed by whom among the following?

- a) Warris shah
- b) Kanchan Nambiar
- c) Mirza Galib
- d) Nazir

ANS: A

Explanation: A distinct feature of the literary life of the 18th century was the growth of Urdu language and poetry. It was the period of Urdu poets like Mir, Sauda, Nazir and Mirza Ghalib (19th century).

- In south India, Malayalam literature flourished under the patronage of the Travancore rulers. Kanchan Nambiar was a noted Malayalam poet.
- The Tamil language was enriched by sittar poetry. Tayumanavar (1706-44), one of the best exponents of sittar poetry, protested against the abuses of temple-rule and the caste system.
- Heer Ranjha, the romantic epic in Punjabi literature, was composed by Warris Shah.
- In Sindhi literature, Shah Abdul Latif composed Risalo, a collection of poems. These are just some examples of literary works in regional languages.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

India under the Company's rule (Administrative structure, Developments, reforms in various fields, etc.)

Q.1) In which of the following act the company's territories in India were termed as 'British possession'?

- a) Regulating Act of 1773
- b) Pitt's India Act of 1784
- c) The Charter Act of 1793
- d) The Charter Act of 1813

ANS: B

Explanation: The Pitt's India Act gave the British government a large measure of control over the Company's affairs. In fact, the Company became a subordinate department of the State. The Company's territories in India were termed 'British possessions'.

- The government's control over the Company's affairs was greatly extended. A Board of Control consisting of the chancellor of exchequer, a secretary of state and four members of the Privy Council (to be appointed by the Crown) were to exercise control over the Company's civil, military and revenue affairs. All dispatches were to be approved by the board. Thus a dual system of control was set up.
- In India, the governor-general was to have a council of three (including the commander-in-chief), and the presidencies of Bombay and Madras were made subordinate to the governor-general.
- A general prohibition was placed on aggressive wars and treaties (breached often).

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The charter act of 1813 ended the Company's monopoly over trade with China.
2. The charter act of 1833 was added a law member to the governor-general's council for professional advice on law-making.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Charter Act of 1813: In England, the business interests were pressing for an end to the Company's monopoly over trade in India because of a spirit of laissez-faire and the continental system by Napoleon by which the European ports were closed for Britain.

The 1813 Act sought to redress these grievances - The Company's monopoly over trade in India ended, but the Company retained the trade with China and the trade in tea.

The Charter Act of 1833: The lease of 20 years to the Company was further extended. Territories of India were to be governed in the name of the Crown.

- The Company's monopoly over trade with China and in tea also ended.
- All restrictions on European immigration and the acquisition of property in India were lifted. Thus, the way was paved for the wholesale European colonisation of India.
- A law member was added to the governor-general's council for professional advice on law-making.
- Indian laws were to be codified and consolidated.
- No Indian citizen was to be denied employment under the Company on the basis of religion, colour, birth, descent, etc. (Although the reality was different, this declaration formed the sheet-anchor of political agitation in India.)
- The administration was urged to take steps to ameliorate the conditions of slaves and to ultimately abolish slavery. (Slavery was abolished in 1843.)

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.3) Who was the Governor General of India when the revolt of 1857 broke out?

- a) Lord Canning
- b) Lord Dalhousie
- c) Lord Minto I
- d) Lord Emharst

ANS: A

Explanation: Lord Canning 1856-1857 (Governor General of India):

- Establishment of three universities at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay in 1857.
- Revolt of 1857.

Lord Canning 1858-1862 (Viceroy):

- Transfer of control from East India Company to the Crown, the Government of India Act, 1858.
- 'White Mutiny' by European troops in 1859.
- Indian Councils Act of 1861.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.4) Through which of the following Act Christian missionaries were permitted to come to India and preach their religion?

- a) Pitt's India act of 1784
- b) Regulating Act of 1793
- c) The Charter Act of 1813
- d) The Charter Act of 1853

ANS: C

Explanation: The Charter Act of 1813: In England, the business interests were pressing for an end to the Company's monopoly over trade in India because of a spirit of laissez-faire and the continental system by Napoleon by which the European ports were closed for Britain. The 1813 Act sought to redress these grievances:

- The Company's monopoly over trade in India ended, but the Company retained the trade with China and the trade in tea.
- The Company's shareholders were given a 10.5 per cent dividend on the revenue of India.
- The Company was to retain the possession of territories and the revenue for 20 years more, without prejudice to the sovereignty of the Crown. (Thus, the constitutional position of the British territories in India was defined explicitly for the first time.)

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- Powers of the Board of Control were further enlarged.
- A sum of one lakh rupees was to be set aside for the revival, promotion and encouragement of literature, learning and science among the natives of India, every year. (This was an important statement from the point of State's responsibility for education.)
- The regulations made by the Councils of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta were now required to be laid before the British Parliament. The constitutional position of the British territories in India was thus explicitly defined for the first time.
- Separate accounts were to be kept regarding commercial transactions and territorial revenues. The power of superintendence and direction of the Board of Control was not only defined but also enlarged considerably.
- Christian missionaries were also permitted to come to India and preach their religion.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.5) Consider the following statements Indian Council Act of 1892:

1. The term 'election' was firmly avoided in the Act.
2. The members of the legislatures were entitled to express their views upon financial statements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Indian Councils Act, 1892:

- In 1885, the Indian National Congress was founded. The Congress saw reform of the councils as the "root of all other reforms".
- It was in response to the Congress demand that the legislative councils be expanded that the number of non-official members was increased both in the central (Imperial) and provincial legislative councils by the Indian Councils Act, 1892.
- The Legislative Council of the Governor-General (or the Indian Legislative Council, as it came to be known) was enlarged.
- The universities, district boards, municipalities, zamindars, trade bodies and chambers of commerce were empowered to recommend members to the provincial councils. Thus was introduced the principle of representation.
- Though the term 'election' was firmly avoided in the Act, an element of indirect election was accepted in the selection of some of the non-official members.
- The members of the legislatures were now entitled to express their views upon financial statements which were henceforth to be made on the floor of the legislatures.
- They could also put questions within certain limits to the executive on matters of public interest after giving six days' notice.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Councils Act, 1909:

1. It is also called as Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.
2. The strength of Imperial Legislative Council was decreased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Indian Councils Act, 1909:

- Popularly known as the Morley-Minto Reforms, the Act made the first attempt to bring in a representative and popular element in the governance of the country.
- The strength of the Imperial Legislative Council was increased.
- With regard to the central government, an Indian member was taken for the first time in the Executive Council of the Governor-General (Satyendra Prasad Sinha was the first Indian to join the Governor-General's—or Viceroy's— Executive Council, as law member.)
- The members of the Provincial Executive Council were increased.
- The powers of the legislative councils, both central and provincial, were increased.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.7) Arrange the following reforms of Civil Services in India in chronological order:

1. Setting up of Fort William College
2. setting up of Hailey bury College
3. Indian civil services act

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The civil service system introduced in India by the East India Company for the benefit of its commercial affairs got transformed into a well structured machinery to look after the administrative affairs of the acquired territories in India.

- In fact, in the beginning, the term 'civil service' was used to distinguish the servants of the Company engaged in commercial affairs from those people employed in the military and naval services.
- Gradually, the civil servants were bestowed with other responsibilities and authority.
- In 1800, Wellesley (governor-general, 1798-1805) set up the Fort William College for training of new recruits.
- In 1806 Wellesley's college was disapproved by the Court of Directors and instead the East India College was set up at Hailey bury in England to impart two years' training to the recruits.

Indian Civil Service Act, 1861: This Act reserved certain offices for conventioned civil servants but the examination was held in England in English language, based on classical learning of Greek and Latin.

- The maximum permissible age was gradually reduced from 23 (in 1859) to 22 (in 1860) to 21 (in 1866) and to 19 (1878).
- In 1863, Satyendra Nath Tagore became the first Indian to qualify for the Indian Civil Service.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.8) Which of the following Governor – General of India was considered as the father of local self-government in India?

- a) Lord Mayo
- b) Lord Ripon
- c) Lord Dufferin
- d) Lord Curzon

ANS: B

Explanation: Ripon's Resolution of 1882: The Government of Ripon desired the provincial governments to apply in case of local bodies the same principle of financial decentralization which Lord Mayo's Government had begun towards them. For his contributions, Lord Ripon is called father of local self-government in India.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.9) Consider the following statements about the development of press in India:

1. Lord Mayo was known as the liberator of Indian Press.
2. The vernacular act of 1878 was also known as gagging act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Press Act of 1835 or Metcalfe Act: Metcalfe (governor-general—1835-36) repealed the obnoxious 1823 ordinance and earned the epithet, "liberator of the Indian press".

- The new Press Act (1835) required a printer/publisher to give a precise account of premises of a publication and cease functioning, if required by a similar declaration.
- The result of a liberal press policy was a rapid growth of newspapers.

The Vernacular Press Act (VPA), 1878 was designed to 'better control' the vernacular press and effectively punish and repress seditious writing.

- The Act came to be nicknamed "the gagging Act". The worst features of this Act were—(i) discrimination between English and vernacular press, (ii) no right of appeal.
- Under VPA, proceedings were instituted against Som Prakash, Bharat Mihir, Dacca Prakash and Samachar.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.10) What was the objective of Raleigh Commission of 1902?

- a) Agricultural reforms
- b) Curtailing powers of Crime Investigation Department (CID)
- c) University reforms
- d) Currency Reforms

ANS: C

Explanation: Indian Universities Act, 1904: The dawn of 20th century saw political unrest. The official view was that under private management the quality of education had deteriorated and educational institutions acted as factories producing political revolutionaries.

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- Nationalists accepted the decline in quality but accused the Government of not doing anything to eradicate illiteracy.
- In 1902, Raleigh Commission was set up to go into conditions and prospects of universities in India and to suggest measures for improvement in their constitution and working.
- The commission precluded from reporting on primary or secondary education. Based on its recommendations, the Indian Universities Act was passed in 1904.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

ForumIAS

The revolt of 1858 and its aftermath (Administrative Changes)

Q.1) Which of the following pair/pairs of leaders and places are correctly matched?

Leader	Place
1. Maulvi Ahmadullah	Faizabad
2. Kunwar Singh	Lucknow
3. Begum Hazrat Mahal	Jagdishpur

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Begum Hazrat Mahal took over the reigns at Lucknow where the rebellion broke out on June 4, 1857 and popular sympathy was overwhelmingly in favour of the deposed nawab.

- At Bareilly, Khan Bahadur, a descendant of the former ruler of Rohilkhand, was placed in command. Not enthusiastic about the pension being granted by the British, he organized an army of 40,000 soldiers and offered stiff resistance to the British.
- In Bihar, the revolt was led by Kunwar Singh, the zamindar of Jagdishpur. An old man in his seventies, he nursed a grudge against the British who had deprived him of his estates. He unhesitatingly joined the sepoys when they reached Arrah from Dinapore (Danapur).
- Maulvi Ahmadullah of Faizabad was another outstanding leader of the revolt. He was a native of Madras and had moved to Faizabad in the north where he fought a stiff battle against the British troops.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.2) "Here lay the woman who was the only man among the rebels". A tribute to the Rani Jhansi was given by whom among the following?

- a) Tantia Tope
- b) Lord Canning
- c) Lord Dalhousie
- d) Sir Hugh Rose

ANS: D

Explanation: The most outstanding leader of the revolt was Rani Laxmibai, who assumed the leadership of the sepoys at Jhansi.

- Lord Dalhousie, the governor-general, had refused to allow her adopted son to succeed to the throne after her husband Raja Gangadhar Rao died, and had annexed the state by the application of the infamous 'Doctrine of Lapse'.
- Driven out of Jhansi by British forces, she gave the battle cry—"main apni Jhansi nahin doongi" (I shall not give away my Jhansi).

- She was joined by Tantia Tope, a close associate of Nana Saheb, after the loss of Kanpur.
- The Rani of Jhansi had died on the battlefield earlier in June 1858. Jhansi was recaptured by Sir Hugh Rose.
- *“Here lay the woman who was the only man among the rebels”* — Hugh Rose.

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs:

Centre of revolt

Leader

1. Bareilly

Khan Bahadur

2. Delhi

Maulvi Ahmadullah

3. Baghpat

General Bakht Khan

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Centres of Revolt and Leaders

- Delhi - General Bakht Khan
- Kanpur - Nana Saheb
- Lucknow - Begum Hazrat Mahal
- Bareilly - Khan Bahadur
- Bihar - Kunwar Singh
- Faizabad - Maulvi Ahmadullah
- Jhansi - Rani Laxmibai
- Baghpat - Shah Mal

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.4) Consider the following pairs:

Centre

British Resistance

1. Delhi

Lieutenant Hudson

2. Lucknow

John Nicholson

3. Kanpur

Sir Colin Campbell

Which of the above given pair is/are NOT correctly matched?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The British Resistance

- Delhi - Lieutenant Willoughby, John Nicholson, Lieutenant Hudson
- Kanpur - Sir Hugh Wheeler, Sir Colin Campbell
- Lucknow - Henry Lawrence, Brigadier Inglis, Henry Havelock, James Outram, Sir Colin Campbell
- Jhansi - Sir Hugh Rose
- Benaras - Colonel James Neill

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.5) Who among the following called the Revolt of 1857 as the “Neither first, nor National War of Independence”?

- a) V.D. Savarkar
- b) R.C. Majumdar
- c) Surendranath Banarjee
- d) Subhash Chandra Bose

ANS: B

Explanation: Nature of the Revolt:

- R.C. Majumdar and S.N. Sen— “Not an organised ‘national’ revolt”
- R.C. Majumdar— “Neither first, nor National War of Independence”
- V.D. Savarkar—“War of independence”
- Eric Stokes—“Elitist in character”
- Lawrence and Seeley—“Mere sepoy mutiny”
- T.R. Holmes—“A conflict between civilisation and barbarism”
- James Outram—“A Mohammedan conspiracy making capital of Hindu grievances”
- Percival Spear—Three phases of the revolt

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.6) The book Satyarth Prakash (Light of Truth) was written by which of the following?

- a) Kesub Chandra sen
- b) Swami Dayanand
- c) Rabindranath Tagore
- d) Subhash Chandra Bose

ANS: B

Explanation: The Satyarth Prakash (The light of Truth) is the masterpiece of Swami Dayanand Saraswati.

- As the great writer of this masterpiece Swami Dayanand was a symbol of ultimate morality and spiritualism and was a sage of standing.
- This book (Satyarth Prakash) is, indeed, an encyclopedia of the various contemporary social religious and political currents cross-currents and movements going on at the time of the writer’s life.
- To go it further, the writer has not spared the past events and guiding philosophies, which has polluted the human mind and deteriorated the man’s quest for true knowledge and right way of life.

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.7) The dual system introduced by the Pitt’s India Act came to an end by which of the following act?

- a) The Charter Act of 1793
- b) The Charter Act of 1813
- c) The Charter Act of 1833
- d) The Act for Better Government of India, 1858

ANS: D

Explanation: The 1857 revolt had exposed the Company’s limitations in administering under a complex situation. Till then, there had not been much accountability. The 1858 Act sought to rectify this anomaly—

- India was to be governed by and in the name of the Crown through a secretary of state and a council of 15.

- The initiative and the final decision was to be with the secretary of state and the council was to be just advisory in nature. (Thus, the dual system introduced by the Pitt's India Act came to an end.)
- Governor-general became the viceroy (his prestige, if not authority, increased).

The assumption of power by the Crown was one of formality rather than substance. It gave a decent burial to an already dead horse—the Company's administration.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.8) Who among the following authored the book "Eighteen Fifty Seven"?

- a) R. C. Majumdar
- b) S.N Sen
- c) Sir Hugh Rose
- d) Sir John Shore

ANS: B

Explanation: It was at the beginning of the twentieth century that the 1857 revolt came to be interpreted as a "planned war of national independence", by V.D. Savarkar in his book, The Indian War of Independence, 1857.

- Savarkar called the revolt the first war of Indian independence. He said it was inspired by the lofty ideal of self rule by Indians through a nationalist upsurge.
- Dr S.N. Sen in his Eighteen Fifty- Seven considers the revolt as having begun as a fight for religion but ending as a war of independence.
- Dr R.C. Majumdar, however, considers it as neither the first, nor national, nor a war of independence as large parts of the country remained unaffected and many sections of the people took no part in the upsurge.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.9) "Lord Cornwallis had introduced many reforms to organize the civil services and to check corruption in East India Company." Which of the following is/are measures introduced by Lord Cornwallis?

1. Raising the civil servants' salary.
2. Strict enforcement of rules against private trade.
3. Enforcing promotions through seniority.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Cornwallis (governor-general, 1786-93) was the first to bring into existence and organize the civil services. He tried to check corruption through—

- raising the civil servants' salary,
- strict enforcement of rules against private trade,
- debarring civil servants from taking presents, bribes etc.,
- Enforcing promotions through seniority.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Before 1857, the white army was about one - third of the total forces.
2. After revolt of 1857, the proportion of Europeans to Indians was carefully fixed at one to two in the Bengal Army and two to five in the Madras Army.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: To begin with, domination of the European branch over the Indian branches was ensured. The commissions of 1859 and 1879 insisted on the principle of a one-third white army (as against 14% before 1857).

- Finally, the proportion of Europeans to Indians was carefully fixed at one to two in the Bengal Army and two to five in the Madras and Bombay Armies.
- Strict European monopoly over key geographical locations and departments, such as artillery, tanks and armed corps, was maintained.
- Even the rifles given to Indians were of an inferior quality till 1900, and Indians were not allowed in these high-tech departments till the Second World War.
- No Indians were allowed in the officer rank, and the highest rank an Indian could reach till 1914 was that of a subedar (only from 1918 onwards were Indians allowed in the commissioned ranks).
- As late as 1926, the Indian Sandhurst Committee was visualising a 50% Indianised officer cadre for 1952.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Socio - Religious movement in the first half of 19th Century

Q.1) Which among the following is/are not a revivalist movement?

1. Arya Samaj
2. Deoband Movement
3. Aligarh Movement

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Arya Samaj Movement, revivalist in form though not in content, was the result of a reaction to Western influences. Its founder, Dayananda Saraswati or Mulshankar (1824-1883) was born in the old Morvi state in Gujarat in a brahmin family.

- A section of Muslims led by Syed Ahmed Khan (1817-1898) was ready to allow the official patronage to stimulate a process of growth among Indian Muslims through better education and employment opportunities.
- He wanted to reconcile Western scientific education with the teachings of the Quran which were to be interpreted in the light of contemporary rationalism and science even though he also held the Quran to be the ultimate authority.
- The Deoband Movement was organised by the orthodox section among the Muslim ulema as a revivalist movement with the twin objectives of propagating pure teachings of the Quran and Hadis among Muslims and keeping alive the spirit of jihad against the foreign rulers.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.2) Which among the following organization opposed the abolition of sati?

- a) Arya Samaj
- b) Christian Missionaries
- c) Dharma Sabha
- d) Adi-brahmo Samaj

ANS: C

Explanation: Dharma Sabha: Radhakant Deb founded this sabha in 1830. An orthodox society, it stood for the preservation of the status quo in socio-religious matters, opposing even the abolition of sati. However, it favoured the promotion of Western education, even for girls.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs:

Author	Book
1. Dayanand Saraswati	Precepts of Jesus
2. Henry Vivian Derozio	Orientalists
3. Raja Ram Mohan Roy	Gift to Monotheists

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Rammohan Roy believed in the modern scientific approach and principles of human dignity and social equality.

- He put his faith in monotheism. He wrote Gift to Monotheists (1809) and translated into Bengali the Vedas and the five Upanishads to prove his conviction that ancient Hindu texts support monotheism.
- In his Precepts of Jesus (1820), he tried to separate the moral and philosophical message of the New Testament, which he praised, from its miracle stories.
- He earned the wrath of missionaries over his advocacy to incorporate the message of Christ into Hinduism.
- Dayananda's views were published in his famous work, Satyarth Prakash (The True Exposition).
- His vision of India included a classless and casteless society, a united India (religiously, socially and nationally), and an India free from foreign rule, with Aryan religion being the common religion of all.
- He took inspiration from the Vedas and considered them to be 'India's Rock of Ages', the infallible and the true original seed of Hinduism. He gave the slogan "Back to the Vedas".

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.4) Which among the following is the real name of Dayanand Saraswati?

- A. Mulshankar
- B. Narendranath Datta
- C. Gopala acharya
- D. Gadadhar mukharjee

ANS: A

Explanation: The Arya Samaj Movement, revivalist in form though not in content, was the result of a reaction to Western influences.

- Its founder, Dayananda Saraswati or Mulshankar (1824-1883) was born in the old Morvi state in Gujarat in a brahmin family.
- He wandered as an ascetic for fifteen years (1845-60) in search of truth.
- The first Arya Samaj unit was formally set up by him at Bombay in 1875 and later the headquarters of the Samaj were established at Lahore.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.5) Consider the following statements about splits in Brahmo Samaj:

1. Debendranath Tagore founded the Adi Brahmo Samaj in 1866, while Keshab's Samaj came to be known as the Brahmo Samaj of India.
2. After 1878, the followers of Keshab set up the Sadharan Brahmo Samaj.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Brahmo Samaj experienced another phase of energy, when Keshab Chandra Sen (1838-1884) was made the acharya by Debendranath Tagore soon after the former joined the Samaj in 1858.

- Keshab (also spelt Keshub) was instrumental in popularising the movement, and branches of the Samaj were opened outside Bengal—in the United Provinces, Punjab, Bombay, Madras and other towns.
- Unfortunately, Debendranath did not like some of Sen's ideas which he found too radical, such as cosmopolitanisation of the Samaj's meetings by inclusion of teachings from all religions and his strong views against the caste system, even open support to inter-caste marriages.
- Keshab Chandra Sen was dismissed from the office of acharya in 1865. Keshab and his followers founded the Brahmo Samaj of India in 1866, while Debendranath Tagore's Samaj came to be known as the Adi Brahmo Samaj.
- In 1878, Keshab's inexplicable act of getting his thirteen-year-old daughter married to the minor Hindu Maharaja of Cooch-Bihar with all the orthodox Hindu rituals caused another split in Keshab's Brahmo Samaj of India.
- Earlier, Keshab had begun to be considered as an incarnation by some of his followers, much to the dislike of his progressive followers. Further, Keshab had begun to be accused of authoritarianism.
- After 1878, the disgusted followers of Keshab set up a new organisation, the Sadharan Brahmo Samaj.
- The Sadharan Brahmo Samaj was started by Ananda Mohan Bose, Shibchandra Deb and Umesh Chandra Datta.
- It reiterated the Brahmo doctrines of faith in a Supreme Being, one God, and the belief that no scripture or man is infallible, belief in the dictates of reason, truth and morality.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.6) Consider the following pairs:

Socio-Religious Movement	Place
1. Prarthana Samaj	Lahore
2. Vokkaliga Sangha	Mysore
3. Satyashodhak Samaj	Bengal

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Jyotiba Phule (1827-1890), born in Satara, Maharashtra, belonged to the mali (gardener) community and organized a powerful movement against upper caste domination and brahminical supremacy.

- Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj (Truth Seekers' Society) in 1873, with the leadership of the samaj coming from the backward classes, malis, telis, kunbis, saris and dhangars.
- The main aims of the movement were (i) social service, and (ii) spread of education among women and lower caste people.
- The Vokkaliga Sangha in Mysore launched an anti-brahmin movement in 1905.

- In 1867, Keshab Chandra Sen helped Atmaram Pandurang found the Prarthana Samaj in Bombay. Earlier, the Brahmo ideas spread in Maharashtra.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.7) Consider the following pairs:

Person	Newspaper/Journal
1. Balashastry Jambhekar	Darpan
2. Gopalhari Deshmukh	Gyan Prakash
3. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar	Sudharak

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

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Balshastry Jambhekar (1812-1846) was a pioneer of social reform through journalism in Bombay;

- He attacked brahminical orthodoxy and tried to reform popular Hinduism. He started the newspaper Darpan in 1832.
- Known as the father of Marathi journalism, Jambhekar used the Darpan to awaken the people to awareness of social reforms, such as widow remarriage, and to instil in the masses a scientific approach to life.
- In 1840, he started Digdarshan which published articles on scientific subjects as well as history.

Gopalhari Deshmukh (1823-1892) was a social reformer and rationalist from Maharashtra.

- He held the post of a judge under British raj, but wrote for a weekly Prabhakar under the pen name of Lokahitawadi on social reform issues.
- He started a weekly, Hitechhu, and also played a leading role in founding the periodicals, Gyan Prakash, Indu Prakash and Lokahitawadi.

Gopal Ganesh Agarkar (1856-1895) was an educationist and social reformer from Maharashtra.

- A strong advocate of the power of human reason, he criticised the blind dependence on tradition and false glorification of the past.
- He was a cofounder of the New English School, the Deccan Education Society and Fergusson College.
- He was a principal of Fergusson College. He was also the first editor of Kesari, the journal started by Lokmanya Tilak.
- Later, he started his own periodical, Sudharak, which spoke against untouchability and the caste system.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.8) Which of the following Samaj/Sabha is divided into college party and Mahatma Party?

- a) Arya Samaj
- b) Prarthana Samaj
- c) Brahmo Sabha
- d) Dharma Sabha

ANS: A

Explanation: After the death of Dayananda in 1883, the work of the samaj was carried on by illustrious members. Education was an all-important field for the samaj.

- The Dayananda Anglo- Vedic (D.A.V.) College was established in 1886 at Lahore. But a difference of opinion between two groups in the samaj arose over the curriculum of the D.A.V. College.
- One group was known as the College Party (some sources say 'Culture' Party), among whose leaders were Lala Hansraj, Lala Lal Chand and Lala Lajpat Rai, and the other was the Mahatma (later Gurukul) Party led by Guru Datta Vidyarthi and Lala Munshi Ram (who later came to be known as Swami Shraddhanand).
- While the College Party favoured the government curriculum and English education to meet economic and professional needs, the Mahatma Party was interested in introducing the study of Sanskrit and Vedic philosophy in the tradition of ancient gurukuls.
- Later, the issue of vegetarianism also became a point of contention: the College Party had nothing against non-vegetarianism, claiming that diet was a personal choice and it was not mentioned in the principles of the samaj;
- The Mahatma Party was in favour of all the Aryas being strict vegetarians. In the end the Arya Samaj split in 1893 over these issues.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.9) Who among the following is the founder of Dev Samaj?

- a) S. N. Sen
- b) Dadabhai Naoroji
- c) Shiv Narayan Agnihotri
- d) Keshub Chandra Sen

ANS: C

Explanation: Dev Samaj was founded in 1887 at Lahore by Shiv Narayan Agnihotri (1850-1927), earlier a Brahmo follower, Dev Sadan is a religious and social reform society.

- The society emphasised on the eternity of the soul, the supremacy of the guru, and the need for good action.
- It called for an ideal social behaviour such as not accepting bribes, avoiding intoxicants and non-vegetarian food, and keeping away from violent actions.
- Its teachings were compiled in a book, Deva Shashtra. Agnihotri spoke against child marriage.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.10) "He held the post of a judge under British raj and wrote for a weekly Prabhakar under the pen name of Lokahitawadi on social reform issues" – describes who among the following?

- a) Gopal Hari Deshmukh
- b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- d) N M Joshi

ANS: A

Explanation: Gopalhari Deshmukh (1823-1892) was a social reformer and rationalist from Maharashtra.

- He held the post of a judge under British raj, but wrote for a weekly Prabhakar under the pen name of Lokahitawadi on social reform issues.
- He advocated a reorganisation of Indian society on rational principles and modern, humanistic, secular values.

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- He attacked Hindu orthodoxy and supported social and religious equality. He wrote against the evils of the caste system.
- He said, "If religion does not sanction social reform, then change religion."
- He started a weekly, Hitechhu, and also played a leading role in founding the periodicals, Gyan Prakash, Indu Prakash and Lokahitawadi.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

ForumIAS

Political organizations prior to 1885 and Freedom Struggle under Moderate Phase

Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

Political Association	Leader
1. Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha	Raja Rammohan Roy
2. East India Association	B. M. Malabari
3. India League	M. N. Joshi

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha was formed in 1836 by associates of Raja Rammohan Roy.

- The East India Association was organised by Dadabhai Naoroji in 1866 in London to discuss the Indian question and influence public men in England to promote Indian welfare. Later, branches of the association were started in prominent Indian cities.
- The Indian League was started in 1875 by Sisir Kumar Ghosh with the object of “stimulating the sense of nationalism amongst the people” and of encouraging political education.

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Indian National Association:

- 1. It was founded & led Dadabhai Naoroji & Sisir Kumar Ghosh.
- 2. It led a campaign against the repressive arms act and the vernacular press act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Indian Association of Calcutta (also known as the Indian National Association) superseded the Indian League and was founded in 1876 by younger nationalists of Bengal led by Surendranath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose, who were getting discontented with the conservative and pro-landlord policies of the British Indian Association.

The Indian Association was the most important of pre-Congress associations and aimed to “promote by every legitimate means the political, intellectual and material advancement of the people.” It set out to—

- create a strong public opinion on political questions, and
- unify Indian people in a common political programme.

It protested against the reduction of age limit in 1877 for candidates of the Indian Civil Service examination.

- The association demanded simultaneous holding of civil service examination in England and India and Indianisation of higher administrative posts.
- It led a campaign against the repressive arms act and the vernacular press act.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.3) Arrange the above political organizations in chronological order of their formation.

1. British Indian Association
2. Madras Mahajan Sabha
3. Poona Sarvajanik Sabha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Political Associations before Indian National Congress:

- 1836—Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha and Zamindari Association or Landholders' Society
- 1843—Bengal British India Society
- 1851—British Indian Association
- 1866—East India Association
- 1870—Poona Sarvajanik Sabha
- 1875—Indian League
- 1876—Indian Association of Calcutta or Indian National Association
- 1885—Bombay Presidency Association
- 1884—Madras Mahajan Sabha

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.4) Who among the following is the founder of the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha?

- a) Vasudev Balwant Phadke
- b) Mahadeo Govind Ranade
- c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- d) Gopalakrishna Goakhle

ANS: B

Explanation: The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha was founded in 1867 by Mahadeo Govind Ranade and others, with the object of serving as a bridge between the government and the people.

The Bombay Presidency Association was started by Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozshah Mehta and K.T. Telang in 1885.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.5) "Political freedom is the life breath of a nation; to attempt social reform , educational reform, industrial expansion, the moral improvement of the race without aiming the first and foremost at political freedom, is the very height of ignorance and futility" – is said by which of the following?

- a) Gopalakrishna Goakhle
- b) Subhash Chandra Bose

- c) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- d) Aurobindo Ghose

ANS: D

Explanation: Sri Aurobindo was renowned and important personality in the history of the Indian resurgence and Indian nationalism.

- Aurobindo had a versatile brilliance. He was a great poet, a thoughtful thinker, a distinguished metaphysician, a great prophet and a passionate patriot.
- He wrote effective texts that represented the crystallization of the new and rising soul of India and given a spiritual message for humankind.
- He wrote that "Political freedom is the life-breath of a nation. To attempt social reform, educational reform, industrial expansion, the moral improvement of the race without aiming first and foremost at political freedom, is the very height of ignorance and futility.
- The primary requisite for national progress, national reform, is the habit of free and healthy national thought and action which is impossible in a state of servitude."

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. A British Committee of the Indian National Congress (INC) was established in 1885.
2. INC was successfully conducted its 1892 session in London.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A British committee of the Indian National Congress was established in London in 1889 which had India as its organ.

- Dadabhai Naoroji spent a substantial portion of his life and income campaigning for India's case abroad.
- In 1890, it was decided to hold a session of the Indian National Congress in London in 1892, but owing to the British elections of 1891 the proposal was postponed and never revived later.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India, Page 255.

Q.7) Who among the following called Indian National Congress as 'a factory of sedition'?

- a) Lord Dufferin
- b) Lord Curzon
- c) Lord Canning
- d) Lord Lytton

ANS: A

Explanation: The British Indian Government was hostile to the Congress from the beginning despite the latter's moderate methods and emphasis on loyalty to the British Crown.

- a) The official attitude stiffened further after 1887 when the government failed to persuade the Congress to confine itself to social issues when the Congress was becoming increasingly critical of the colonial rule.

- b) Now, the government resorted to open condemnation of the Congress, calling the nationalists “seditious brahmins”, “disloyal babus”, etc.
- c) Dufferin called the Congress “a factory of sedition”. Later, the government adopted a ‘divide and rule’ policy towards the Congress.
- d) The officials encouraged reactionary elements like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Raja Shiv Prasad Singh of Benaras to organise the United Indian Patriotic Association to counter Congress propaganda.
- e) The government also tried to divide the nationalists on the basis of religion, and, through a policy of ‘carrot and stick’, pitted the Moderates against the Extremists. But the government failed to check the rising tide of nationalism.

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.8) Consider the following pairs of foundational theories of INC and their prominent believers:

Foundational theories of INC	Prominent Believers
1. Safety Valve Theory	Sardar Vallabhai Patel
2. Lighting Conductor	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
3. Conspiracy Theory	R. P. Dutt

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Foundation of Indian National Congress

- First session held in 1885 (Bombay). Indian National Union, formed by A.O. Hume, became Indian National Congress.
- Foundational theories of INC and prominent believers:
 - Safety Valve Theory —Lala Lajpat Rai
 - Conspiracy Theory—R.P. Dutt
 - Lightning conductor Theory—G.K. Gokhale
- Important leaders of Moderate Phase: Dadabhai Naoroji, Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozeshah Mehta, P. Ananda Charlu, Surendranath Banerjea, Romesh Chandra Dutt, Ananda Mohan Bose, G.K. Gokhale, etc.

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.9) Which among the following was not the main aim of Indian National Congress in its initial phase?

- a) Attainment of complete independence
- b) establish the headquarters for a movement
- c) develop and propagate an anti-colonial nationalist ideology
- d) Promote and nurture Indian Nationhood

ANS: A

Explanation: Aims and Objectives of the Congress: The main aims of the Indian National Congress in the initial stage were to—

- (i) found a democratic, nationalist movement;
- (ii) politicise and politically educate people;
- (iii) establish the headquarters for a movement;

- (iv) promote friendly relations among nationalist political workers from different parts of the country;
- (v) develop and propagate an anti-colonial nationalist ideology;
- (vi) formulate and present popular demands before the government with a view to unifying the people over a common economic and political programme;
- (vii) develop and consolidate a feeling of national unity among people irrespective of religion, caste or province.
- (viii) carefully promote and nurture Indian nationhood.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.10) Which of the above merged into a new organization named 'British Indian Association'?

1. Bengal British India Society
2. Oriental society
3. Zamindari Association

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Zamindari Association, more popularly known as the 'Landholders' Society', was founded to safeguard the interests of the landlords.

- Although limited in its objectives, the Landholders' Society marked the beginning of an organized political activity and use of methods of constitutional agitation for the redressal of grievances.
- The Bengal British India Society was founded in 1843 with the object of "the collection and dissemination of information relating to the actual condition of the people of British India.
- And to employ such other means of peaceful and lawful character as may appear calculated to secure the welfare, extend the just rights and advance the interests of all classes of our fellow subjects".
- In 1851, both the Landholders' Society and the Bengal British India Society merged into the British Indian Association.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Revision

Q.1) Who among the following became the first president of the Fort Williams?

- a) Robert Clive
- b) Sir Charles Eyre
- c) Thomas cook
- d) Captain Hawkins

ANS: B

Explanation: After the Mughal raid on Hooghly, Job Charnock, a company agent, started negotiations with the Mughals so as to return to a place called Sutanuti.

- Charnock signed a treaty with the Mughals in February 1690, and returned to Sutanuti in August 1690.
- Thus, an English factory was established on February 10, 1691, the day an imperial farman was issued permitting the English to “continue contentedly their trade in Bengal” on payment of Rs 3,000 a year in lieu of all dues.
- A zamindar in Bardhaman district, Sobha Singh, rebelled; subsequently giving the English the pretext they were looking for, to fortify their settlement at Sutanuti in 1696.
- In 1698, the English succeeded in getting the permission to buy the zamindari of the three villages of Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kalikata (Kalighat) from their owners on payment of Rs 1,200.
- The fortified settlement was named Fort William in the year 1700 when it also became the seat of the eastern presidency (Calcutta) with Sir Charles Eyre as its first president.

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Treaty of Tordesillas:

1. The rulers of Portugal and Spain divided the world between them by an imaginary line in the Pacific Ocean.
2. This led to the advent of Portuguese to India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: In 1497, under the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), the rulers of Portugal and Spain divided the non-Christian world between them by an imaginary line in the Atlantic, some 1,300 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands.

- Under the treaty, Portugal could claim and occupy everything to the east of the line while Spain could claim everything to the west. The situation was thus prepared for the Portuguese incursions into the waters around India.
- It was in 1487 that the Portuguese navigator, Bartholomew Dias, rounded the Cape of Good Hope in Africa and sailed up the eastern coast; he was well convinced that the long sought after sea route to India had been found.

- But it was only ten years later that an expedition of Portuguese ships set out for India (in 1497) and arrived in India in slightly less than eleven months' time, in May 1498.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs of cities and their founder:

City/Regional Kingdom	Founder
1. Hyderabad	Nizam-ul-Mulk
2. Awadh	Saadat Khan
3. Bengal	Mir Jafar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Hyderabad: The founder of the Asaf-Jah house of Hyderabad was Kilich Khan, popularly known as Nizam-ul-Mulk.

- It was Zulfikar Khan who had first conceived the idea of an independent state in the Deccan.
- But with his death in 1713 the dream remained unfulfilled.
- Kilich Khan, disgusted with the Mughal emperor who had appointed Mubariz Khan as a full-fledged viceroy of the Deccan, decided to fight Mubariz Khan.

Awadh: The founder of the independent principality of Awadh was Saadat Khan, popularly known as Burhan-ul-Mulk. Saadat Khan was a Shia.

- He had joined in a conspiracy against the Sayyid brothers, which resulted in his being given an increased mansab.
- Later, driven out of the court, he was prompted to found a new independent state.

Bengal: Murshid Kuli Khan was the founder of the independent state of Bengal. He was capable ruler and made Bengal a prosperous state.

- He was succeeded in 1727 by his son Shujaud-din.
- His successor, Sarfaraz Khan, was killed in 1740 by Alivardi Khan, the deputy governor of Bihar at Gheria, who assumed power and made himself independent of the Mughal emperor by giving yearly tribute.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.4) Who was the governor-General of India when 'Treaty of perpetual friendship' was signed with Ranjeet Singh?

- a) Lord Minto
- b) William Bentinck
- c) Lord Dufferin
- d) Lord Hardinge I

ANS: B

Explanation: Lord William Bentinck 1828-1835:

- Abolition of sati and other cruel rites (1829).
- Suppression of thugi (1830).
- Charter Act of 1833.
- Resolution of 1835, and educational reforms and introduction of English as the official language.

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- Annexation of Mysore (1831), Coorg (1834) and Central Cachar (1834).
- Treaty of 'perpetual friendship' with Ranjeet Singh.
- Abolition of the provincial courts of appeal and circuit set up by Cornwallis, appointment of commissioners of revenue and circuit.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.5) Treaty of Yandabo was signed with which of the following country?

- a) Burma
- b) Nepal
- c) Bhutan
- d) China

ANS: A

Explanation: The first war with Burma was fought when the Burmese expansion westwards and occupation of Arakan and Manipur, and the threat to Assam and the Brahmaputra Valley led to continuous friction along the ill-defined border between Bengal and Burma, in the opening decades of the nineteenth century.

The British expeditionary forces occupied Rangoon in May 1824 and reached within 72 km of the capital at Ava.

Peace was established in 1826 with the Treaty of Yandabo which provided that the Government of Burma

- pay rupees one crore as war compensation;
- cede its coastal provinces of Arakan and Tenasserim;
- abandon claims on Assam, Cachar and Jaintia;
- recognise Manipur as an independent state;
- negotiate a commercial treaty with Britain; and
- accept a British resident at Ava, while posting a Burmese envoy at Calcutta.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

Q.6) Which of the following Governor General of India was introduced the 'Non-Regulation System'?

- a) Lord William Bentinck
- b) Lord Mayo
- c) Lord Dalhousie
- d) Lord Ellenborough

ANS: C

Explanation: Dalhousie's chief aim was the consolidation of British rule in India. So he adopted the principle of centralization.

- For the newly acquired territories he devised the 'Non-Regulation System' under which commissioners were appointed to deal with the administrative problems.
- They were made responsible to the Governor-General in the Council. He handed over all other powers relating to justice, police, and land revenue to the District Magistrates.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.7) The "Policy of Paramountcy" was initiated under which of the following Governor-General?

- a) Warren Hastings
- b) Lord Hardinge I
- c) Lord Hastings

d) Lord William Bentinck

ANS: C

Explanation: Under Lord Hastings (Governor General from 1813 to 1823) a new policy of “paramountcy” was initiated.

- Now the Company claimed that its authority was paramount or supreme, hence its power was greater than that of Indian states.
- In order to protect its interests it was justified in annexing or threatening to annex any Indian kingdom.
- This view continued to guide later British policies as well.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.8) After their arrival in India, the Dutch founded their first factory in which of the following place?

- a) Mysore
- b) Masulipatnam
- c) Surat
- d) Calicut

ANS: B

Explanation: After their arrival in India, the Dutch founded their first factory in Masulipatnam (in Andhra) in 1605.

- They went on to establish trading centres at different parts of India and thus became a threat to the Portuguese.
- They captured Nagapatnam near Madras (Chennai) from the Portuguese and made it their main stronghold in South India.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) Captain Hawkins of British was arrived at the court palace of?

- a) Sher Shah Suri
- b) Jahangir
- c) Akbar
- d) Humayun

ANS: B

Explanation: Captain Hawkins arrived in the court of Jahangir in April 1609 itself.

- But the mission to establish a factory at Surat didn't succeed due to opposition from the Portuguese, and Hawkins left Agra in November 1611.
- In 1611, the English had started trading at Masulipatnam on the south-eastern coast of India and later established a factory there in 1616.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.10) The Fort William Settlement of British was constructed at which of the following place?

- a) Madras
- b) Calicut
- c) Bombay
- d) West Bengal

ANS: D

Explanation: In 1698, the English succeeded in getting the permission to buy the zamindari of the three villages of Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kalikata (Kalighat) from their owners on payment of Rs 1,200.

The fortified settlement was named Fort William in the year 1700 when it also became the seat of the eastern presidency (Calcutta) with Sir Charles Eyre as its first president.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

ForumIAS

Freedom Struggle under Extremist Phase

Q.1) Which of the following factors led to rise in militant nationalism in British India?

1. International influences like Japan – Russia War.
2. Growth of Self-confidence and Self-respect.
3. Help from American Nationalists.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: A radical trend of a militant nationalist approach to political activity started emerging in the 1890s and it took a concrete shape by 1905. As an adjunct to this trend, a revolutionary wing also took shape.

Many factors contributed to the rise of militant nationalism:

- Recognition of the true nature of British Rule.
- Growth of Self-confidence and Self-respect.
- Growth of Education.
- International influences like Japan – Russia War.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.2) Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. The Battle of Adwa.
2. The Boer wars.
3. The Japan – Russia War.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The defeat of the Italian army by Ethiopians (Battle of Adwa) (1896), the Boer wars (1899 - 1902) where the British faced reverses and Japan's victory over Russia (1905) demolished myths of European invincibility.

- Also, the nationalists were inspired by the nationalist movements worldwide—in Ireland, Russia, Egypt, Turkey, Persia and China.
- The Indians realized that a united people willing to make sacrifices could take on the mightiest of empires.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.3) Which among the following was used the three P's (Petitions, Prayers and Protests) method for freedom struggle?

- a) Moderates
- b) Extremists
- c) Revolutionarists
- d) Both A & B

ANS: A

Explanation: The objective of the Early Nationalists (Moderates) was to influence the British government and the British public.

- To achieve this objective, they followed some methods; three P's was one of them.
- They made use of three P's i.e. Petitions, Prayers and Protests.
- They sent petitions, requests and letters of protest to the British government to look into the problems of the Indians.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.4) Which of the following freedom fighter (s) is/are related to militant school of thought?

- 1. Surendranath Banarjee
- 2. Raj Narain Bose
- 3. Vishnu Shastri Chiplunkar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: By the dawn of the twentieth century, a band of nationalist thinkers had emerged who advocated a more militant approach to political work.

- These included Raj Narain Bose, Ashwini Kumar Datta, Aurobindo Ghosh and Bipin Chandra Pal in Bengal;
- Vishnu Shastri Chiplunkar and Bal Gangadhar Tilak in Maharashtra; and Lala Lajpat Rai in Punjab.
- Tilak emerged as the most outstanding representative of this school of thought.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.5) The news paper "Bengalee" was started by which of the following?

- a) Surendranath Banerjee
- b) Dwijendranath Tagore
- c) Rabindranath Tagore
- d) Prithwishchandra Ray

ANS: A

Explanation: In the period 1903-1905, the leadership was provided by men like Surendranath Banerjee, K.K. Mitra and Prithwishchandra Ray.

The methods adopted were petitions to the government, public meetings, memoranda, and propaganda through pamphlets and newspapers such as Hitabadi (Dwijendranath Tagore), Sanjibani and Bengalee (Surendranath Banerjee).

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.6) Which of the following provision (s) is/are made by Congress towards Bengal Partition?

1. To condemn the partition of Bengal.
2. To support the anti-partition and Swadeshi Movement of Bengal.
3. To inquire excesses done crime investigation department (CID).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Indian National Congress, meeting in 1905 under the presidentship of Gokhale, resolved to

- condemn the partition of Bengal and the reactionary policies of Curzon, and
- support the anti-partition and Swadeshi Movement of Bengal.

The militant nationalists led by Tilak, Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal and Aurobindo Ghosh wanted the movement to be taken outside Bengal to other parts of the country and go beyond a boycott of foreign goods to become a full fledged political mass struggle with the goal of attaining swaraj.

But the Moderates, dominating the Congress at that time, were not willing to go that far.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.7) In which Indian National Congress Session Proclaimed the “self-government or swaraj like the United Kingdom or the colonies” of Australia or Canada?

- a) Calcutta Session – 1906
- b) Benares Session – 1910
- c) Calcutta Session – 1917
- d) Surat Session – 1921

ANS: A

Explanation: A big step forward was taken at the Congress session held at Calcutta (1906) under the presidentship of Dadabhai Naoroji, where it was declared that the goal of the Indian National Congress was “self-government or swaraj like the United Kingdom or the colonies” of Australia or Canada.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding National Council of Education was set up in 1906?

1. Bengal Institute of Technology was set up for technical education and funds were raised to send students to Britain for advanced learning.
2. Education was to be imparted through the English medium.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Bengal National College, inspired by Tagore’s Shantiniketan, was set up with Aurobindo Ghosh as its principal.

- Soon national schools and colleges sprang up in various parts of the country.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2021

- On August 15, 1906, the National Council of Education was set up to organise a system of education— literary, scientific and technical—on national lines and under national control.
- Education was to be imparted through the vernacular medium.
- A Bengal Institute of Technology was set up for technical education and funds were raised to send students to Japan for advanced learning.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) Arrange the following acts in chronological order:

1. The Seditious Meetings Act.
2. The Indian Press Act.
3. Criminal Law Amendment Act

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The government launched a massive attack on the Extremists. Between 1907 and 1911, five new laws were brought into force to check anti-government activity.

- These legislations included the Seditious Meetings Act, 1907;
- Indian Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act, 1908;
- Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908;
- The Indian Press Act, 1910.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.10) “We shall die to awaken the nation”, was the call of which of the following freedom fighter?

- a) Bhagat Singh
- b) Chandrasekhar Azad
- c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- d) Bagha Jatin

ANS: D

Explanation: “We shall die to awaken the nation”, was the call of Bagha Jatin.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Socio-Religious Movements latter half of 19th Century & early 20th Century

Q.1) Which of the following is/are reformist schools of thought in British India?

1. Arya Samaj
2. Deoband Movement
3. Aligarh Movement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The reform movements could broadly be classified into two categories—the reformist movements like the Brahmo Samaj, the Prarthana Samaj, the Aligarh Movement, and the revivalist movements like Arya Samaj and the Deoband movement.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- | Person | : | Associated role |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 1. D. K. Karve | : | Established First technical university |
| 2. J. E. D. Bethune | : | President of the Council of Education |
| 3. Sarojini Naidu | : | President of Indian National Congress |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Christian missionaries were the first to set up the Calcutta Female Juvenile Society in 1819.

- The Bethune School, founded by J.E.D. Bethune, president of the Council of Education in Calcutta in 1849 was the first fruit of the powerful movement for women's education that arose in the 1840s and 1850s.
- The Indian Women's University set up by Professor D.K. Karve in 1916 was one of the outstanding institutions imparting education to women.
- Sarojini Naidu went on to become the president of the Indian National Congress (1925) and later the governor of the United Provinces (1947-49).

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.3) Who among the following was convened the first meeting of the Bharat Stree Mahamandal in Allahabad?

- a) Sarala Devi Chaudhurani
- b) Sarojini Naidu
- c) Pandita Ramabai Saraswati
- d) Ramabai Ranade

ANS: A

Explanation: In 1910, Sarla Devi Chaudhurani convened the first meeting of the Bharat Stree Mahamandal in Allahabad.

- Considered as the first major Indian women's organisation set up by a woman, its objectives included promotion of education for women, abolition of the purdah system and improvement in the socio-economic and political status of woman all over India.
- Sarla Devi believed that the man working for women's upliftment lived 'under the shade of Manu'.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.4) Who among the following was founded the first women's organization with an egalitarian approach?

- a) Ramabai Ranade
- b) Sarla Devi Chaudhurani
- c) Margaret Cousins
- d) Sarojini Naidu

ANS: C

Explanation: Ramabai Ranade founded the Ladies Social Conference (Bharat Mahila Parishad), under the parent organization National Social Conference, in 1904 in Bombay.

- In 1910, Sarla Devi Chaudhurani convened the first meeting of the Bharat Stree Mahamandal in Allahabad.
- The All India Women's Conference (AIWC), founded by Margaret Cousins in 1927, was perhaps the first women's organisation with an egalitarian approach.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.5) "All India Harijan Sangh" was established by which of the following?

- a) B. R. Ambedkar
- b) D. K. Karve
- c) Mahatma Gandhi
- d) Boya Bhiamana

ANS: C

Explanation: Gandhi always had in mind the objective of eradicating untouchability by root and branch. His ideas were based on the grounds of humanism and reason.

- He argued that the Shastras did not sanction untouchability and, even if they did, they should be ignored since truth cannot be confined within the covers of a book.
- In 1932, he founded the All India Harijan Sangh.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.6) "No religion, no caste, no God for mankind" was coined by?

- a) E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker
- b) Sri Narayana Guru
- c) Sahadaran Ayyapan
- d) Swami Vivekananda

ANS: C

Explanation: During the 1920s in South India, the non-brahmins organised the Self-Respect Movement led by E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker.

- There were numerous other movements demanding that the ban on the entry of lower castes into temples be lifted.
- Sri Narayana Guru in Kerala led a lifelong struggle against upper caste domination.
- He coined the slogan “one religion, one caste, one God for mankind”, which his disciple Sahadaran Ayyapan changed into “no religion, no caste, no God for mankind”.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Prarthana Samaj”:

1. It was established by Atmaram Pandurang.
2. It was very attached to the bhakti cult of Maharashtra.
3. Paramahansa Sabha was the precursor of Prarthana Samaj.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: In 1867, Keshab Chandra Sen helped Atmaram Pandurang found the Prarthana Samaj in Bombay.

- Earlier, the Brahmo ideas spread in Maharashtra. A precursor of the Prarthana Samaj was the Paramahansa Sabha, something like a secret society to spread liberal ideas and encourage the breakdown of caste and communal barriers.
- The Prarthana Sabha was very attached to the bhakti cult of Maharashtra.
- The samaj relied on education and persuasion and not on confrontation with Hindu orthodoxy.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.8) The work “Gulamgiri” was written by?

- a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- b) Jyotirao Phule
- c) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- d) B. R. Ambedkar

ANS: B

Explanation: Phule’s works, Sarvajanic Satyadharma and Gulamgiri, became sources of inspiration for the common masses.

- Phule used the symbol of Rajah Bali as opposed to the brahmins’ symbol of Rama.
- Phule aimed at the complete abolition of the caste system and socio-economic inequalities; he was against Sanskrit Hinduism.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) The periodical “Indu Prakash” was founded by?

- a) Gopalhari Deshmukh
- b) Atmaram Pandurang
- c) Keshab Chandra Sen
- d) Mehtaji Durgaram

ANS: A

Explanation: Gopalhari Deshmukh (1823-1892) was a social reformer and rationalist from Maharashtra.

- He held the post of a judge under British raj, but wrote for a weekly Prabhakar under the pen name of Lokahitawadi on social reform issues.
- He started a weekly, Hitechhu, and also played a leading role in founding the periodicals, Gyan Prakash, Indu Prakash and Lokahitawadi.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the “Servants of India Society”:

1. It was founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
2. The aim of the society was to prepare a cadre of selfless workers who were to devote their lives to the cause of the country in a religious spirit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866-1915), a liberal leader of the Indian National Congress, founded the Servants of India Society in 1905 with the help of M.G. Ranade.

- The aim of the society was to train national missionaries for the service of India;
- to promote, by all constitutional means, the true interests of the Indian people;
- and to prepare a cadre of selfless workers who were to devote their lives to the cause of the country in a religious spirit.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

The Gandhian Era – I (Till Simon Commission)

Q.1) Which of the following is/are the features of the Montford Reforms (the Government of India Act, 1919)?

1. Introduction of diarchy at central level.
2. Subjects like finance and land revenue was kept under reserved subjects.
3. In case of failure of constitutional machinery in the province the governor-general of India could take over the administration of transferred subjects.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: In line with the government policy contained in Montagu's statement of August 1917, the government announced further constitutional reforms in July 1918, known as Montagu-Chelmsford or Montford Reforms. Based on these, the Government of India Act, 1919 was enacted.

The main features of the Montford Reforms were as follows:

- The Act introduced dyarchy for the executive at the level of the provincial government.
- Subjects were divided into two lists: 'reserved' which included subjects such as law and order, finance, land revenue, irrigation, etc., and 'transferred' subjects such as education, health, local government, industry, agriculture, excise, etc.
- In case of failure of constitutional machinery in the province the governor could take over the administration of transferred subjects also.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.2) Which of the following statement is NOT correct about the Government of India Act, 1919?

- a) A bicameral arrangement was introduced at central level.
- b) Council of State had tenure of 3 years and had only male members.
- c) The legislators could ask questions and pass adjournment motions and vote a part of the budget.
- d) The lower house or Central Legislative Assembly would consist of 145 members.

ANS: B

Explanation: A bicameral arrangement was introduced. The lower house or Central Legislative Assembly would consist of 145 members (41 nominated and 104 elected— 52 General, 30 Muslims, 2 Sikhs, 20 Special) and the upper house or Council of State would have 60 members, of which 26 were to be nominated and 34 elected—20 General, 10 Muslims, 3 Europeans and 1 Sikh.

- The Council of State had tenure of 5 years and had only male members, while the Central Legislative Assembly had tenure of 3 years.
- The legislators could ask questions and supplementary, pass adjournment motions and vote a part of the budget, but 75 per cent of the budget was still not votable.

- Some Indians found their way into important committees including finance.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.3) “Indian Opinion” news paper was started by which of the following?

- a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- b) Gopala Krishna Goakhle
- c) Annie Besant
- d) M K Gandhi

ANS: D

Explanation: Gandhi relied on sending petitions and memorials to the authorities in South Africa and in Britain hoping that once the authorities were informed of the plight of Indians, they would take sincere steps to redress their grievances as the Indians were, after all, British subjects.

To unite different sections of Indians, he set up the Natal Indian Congress and started a paper Indian Opinion.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Champaran Satyagraha”:

- 1. Gandhi was requested by Rajendra Prasad, to look into the problems of the farmers in context of indigo planters of Champaran in Bihar.
- 2. The European planters were practicing the tinkathia system in champaran.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Gandhi was requested by Rajkumar Shukla, a local man, to look into the problems of the farmers in context of indigo planters of Champaran in Bihar.

The European planters had been forcing the peasants to grow indigo on 3/20 part of the total land (called tinkathia system).

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.5) Who among the following approached Gandhi to intervene and help resolve the impasse between the workers and the employers (Ahmedabad Mill Strike)?

- a) Ambalal Sarabhai
- b) Anusuya Sarabhai
- c) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- d) Sarojini Naidu

ANS: B

Explanation: In March 1918, Gandhi intervened in a dispute between cotton mill owners of Ahmedabad and the workers over the issue of discontinuation of the plague bonus.

- The relations between the workers and the mill owners worsened with the striking workers being arbitrarily dismissed and the mill owners deciding to bring in weavers from Bombay.
- The workers of the mill turned to Anusuya Sarabhai for help in fighting for justice.
- Anusuya Sarabhai was a social worker who was also the sister of Ambalal Sarabhai, one of the mill owners and the president of the Ahmedabad Mill Owners Association

(founded in 1891 to develop the textile industry in Ahmedabad), for help in fighting for justice.

- Anusuya Behn went to Gandhi, who was respected by the mill owners and workers, and asked him to intervene and help resolve the impasse between the workers and the employers.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.6) “Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal” are associated with which of the following?

- a) Midnapore Conspiracy case
- b) Kanpur Conspiracy case
- c) Chauri Chaura Movement
- d) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

ANS: D

Explanation: On April 9, two nationalist leaders, Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal, were arrested by the British officials without any provocation except that they had addressed protest meetings, and taken to some unknown destination.

- This caused resentment among the Indian protestors who came out in thousands on April 10 to show their solidarity with their leaders.
- On Baisakhi day, a large crowd of people mostly from neighbouring villages, unaware of the prohibitory orders in the city, gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh, a popular place for public events, to celebrate the Baisakhi festival.
- Local leaders had also called for a protest meeting at the venue. It is not clear how many in the 20,000 odd people collected there were political protestors, but the majority were those who had collected for the festival.
- The troops surrounded the gathering under orders from General Dyer and blocked the only exit point and opened fire on the unarmed crowd.
- No warning was issued; no instruction to disperse was given. An unarmed gathering of men, women and children was fired upon as they tried to flee.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.7) Which of the following are the members of Disorders Inquiry Committee (Hunter Committee/Commission)?

- 1. Madan Mohan Malviya
- 2. Pandit Jagat Narayan
- 3. Sardar Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Khan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu, ordered that a committee of inquiry be formed to investigate the matter.

- So, on October 14, 1919, the Government of India announced the formation of the Disorders Inquiry Committee, which came to be more widely and variously known as the Hunter Committee/Commission after the name of chairman, Lord William Hunter, former Solicitor-General for Scotland and Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland.

- The purpose of the commission was to “investigate the recent disturbances in Bombay, Delhi and Punjab, about their causes, and the measures taken to cope with them”.
- There were three Indians among the members, namely, Sir Chimanlal Harilal Setalvad, Vice-Chancellor of Bombay University and advocate of the Bombay High Court;
- Pandit Jagat Narayan, lawyer and Member of the Legislative Council of the United Provinces; and Sardar Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Khan, lawyer from Gwalior State.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.8) In September 1920 at a special session in Calcutta, the Congress approved a non-cooperation programme till the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were removed and swaraj was established. Which of the following is/are part of programme?

1. Boycott of government schools and colleges.
2. Boycott of law courts and dispensation of justice through private bar councils instead.
3. Boycott foreign cloth and use of khadi.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: September 1920, at a special session in Calcutta, the Congress approved a non-cooperation programme till the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs were removed and swaraj was established. The programme was to include—

- boycott of government schools and colleges;
- boycott of law courts and dispensation of justice through panchayats instead;
- boycott of legislative councils;
- boycott of foreign cloth and use of khadi instead; also practice of hand-spinning to be done;
- Renunciation of government honours and titles; the second phase could include mass civil disobedience including resignation from government service, and non-payment of taxes.
- During the movement, the participants were supposed to work for Hindu-Muslim unity and for removal of untouchability, all the time remaining non-violent.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) “Congress working committee (CWC)” of 15 members was established in which of the following session?

- a) Calcutta Session – 1919
- b) Nagpur Session – 1920
- c) Calicut Session – 1921
- d) Bombay Session – 1929

ANS: B

Explanation: December 1920, at the Nagpur session of the Indian National Congress—

- Some important organisational changes were made: a congress working committee (CWC) of 15 members was set up to lead the Congress from now onwards;
- Provincial congress committees on linguistic basis were organised;
- ward committees was organised; and entry fee was reduced to four annas.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.10) “The Indian National Liberal Federation” was founded by which of the following?

- a) M N Joshi
- b) G.S. Kharpade
- c) Surendranath Banerjea
- d) Sardar Vallabhai Patel

ANS: C

Explanation: Montagu report of 1918 was made public; there was a divide in the Congress over it. The moderates welcomed it while the extremists opposed it.

- This led to a schism in the Congress with moderate leaders forming the "Indian National Liberal Federation" in 1919.
- The party (INLF) was founded by Surendra Nath Banarjea and some of its prominent leaders were Tej Bahadur Sapru, S. Srinivasa Sastri and M. R. Jayakar.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

The Gandhian Era – till Independence

Q.1) Which of the following Indian National Congress (INC) Session was preside by Gandhi?

- a) Lahore Session – 1916
- b) Kakinada Session – 1922
- c) Belgaum Session – 1924
- d) Kanpur Session – 1929

ANS: C

Explanation: The 1924 Belgaum session of the Indian National Congress – the only Congress session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are communists in British India?

- 1. Aurbindo Ghosh
- 2. Muzaffer Ahmed
- 3. Shaukat Usmani

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Communist Party of India (CPI) was formed in 1920 in Tashkent (now, the capital of Uzbekistan) by M.N. Roy, Abani Mukherji and others after the second Congress of Comintern. M.N. Roy was also the first to be elected to the leadership of Comintern.

In 1924, many communists—S.A. Dange, Muzaffar Ahmed, Shaukat Usmani, Nalini Gupta—were jailed in the Kanpur Bolshevik Conspiracy Case.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.3) Which of the following activists/associations is/are related with caste movements?

- 1. Justice party.
- 2. Satyashodhak activists.
- 3. Dharma Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: As in earlier periods, the varied contradictions of the Indian society found expression in caste associations and movements. These movements could be divisive, conservative and at times potentially radical, and included:

- Justice Party (Madras)
- Self-respect movement (1925) under “Periyar”—E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker (Madras)
- Satyashodhak activists in Satara (Maharashtra)

- Bhaskar Rao Jadhav (Maharashtra)
- Mahars under Ambedkar (Maharashtra)
- Radical Ezhavas under K. Aiyappan and C. Kesavan in Kerala
- Yadavs in Bihar for improvement in social status
- Unionist Party under Fazl-i-Hussain (Punjab).

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.4) “Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt” were thrown a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly to protest against the passage of which of the following bills?

1. Public Safety Bill.
2. General enlistments Bill.
3. The Passport (Entry into India) Bill.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The HSRA leadership now decided to let the people know about its changed objectives and the need for a revolution by the masses.

- Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt were asked to throw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly on April 8, 1929 to protest against the passage of the Public Safety Bill and Trade Disputes Bill aimed at curtailing civil liberties of citizens in general and workers in particular.
- The bombs had been deliberately made harmless and were aimed at making ‘the deaf hear’.
- The objective was to get arrested and to use the trial court as a forum for propaganda so that people would become familiar with their movement and ideology.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.5) Which of the following are the recommendations of Nehru Report?

1. Complete Independence.
2. Demand for joint electorates.
3. Granting fundamental rights to citizens.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Nehru Report confined itself to British India, as it envisaged the future link-up of British India with the princely states on a federal basis. For the dominion it recommended:

- Dominion status on lines of self-governing dominions as the form of government desired by Indians (much to the chagrin of younger, militant section—Nehru being prominent among them).
- Rejection of separate electorates which had been the basis of constitutional reforms so far;

- Instead, a demand for joint electorates with reservation of seats for Muslims at the Centre and in provinces where they were in minority (and not in those where Muslims were in majority, such as Punjab and Bengal) in proportion to the Muslim population there with right to contest additional seats.
- Linguistic provinces.
- Nineteen fundamental rights including equal rights for women, right to form unions, and universal adult suffrage.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.6) "Independence for India League" was set up by which of the following?

- a) Subhash Chandra Bose
- b) B R Ambedkar
- c) C R Rajagopalachari
- d) Sachin Sanyal

ANS: A

Explanation: Not only were the Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha and the Sikh communalists unhappy about the Nehru Report, but the younger section of the Congress led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhash Bose was also angered.

- The younger section regarded the idea of dominion status in the report as a step backward, and the developments at the All Parties Conference strengthened their criticism of the dominion status idea.
- Nehru and Subhash Bose rejected the Congress' modified goal and jointly set up the Independence for India League.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.7) 1929 – Lahore session of Indian National Congress (INC) was presided by?

- a) Rajendra Prasad
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Subhash Chandra Bose
- d) Sardar Vallabhai Patel

ANS: B

Explanation: Jawaharlal Nehru, who had done more than anyone else to popularize the concept of purna swaraj, was nominated the president for the Lahore session of the Congress (December 1929) mainly due to Gandhi's backing (15 out of 18 Provincial Congress Committees had opposed Nehru).

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.8) To carry forward the mandate given by the Lahore Congress, Gandhi presented eleven demands to the government and gave an ultimatum of January 31, 1930 to accept or reject these demands. Which of the following demand is NOT part of eleven demands?

- a) Reduce expenditure on Army and civil services by 50%.
- b) Introduce total prohibition.
- c) Release political prisoners.
- d) Reject Postal Reservation Bill.

ANS: D

Explanation: To carry forward the mandate given by the Lahore Congress, Gandhi presented eleven demands to the government and gave an ultimatum of January 31, 1930 to accept or reject these demands. The demands were as follows.

- Reduce expenditure on Army and civil services by 50 per cent.
- Introduce total prohibition.
- Carry out reforms in Criminal Investigation Department (CID).
- Change Arms Act allowing popular control of issue of firearms licences.
- Release political prisoners.
- Accept Postal Reservation Bill.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) “Vaikom Satyagraha” has prominence in Indian National Movement related to which of the following?

- a) Malabar area
- b) Nizam area
- c) Chotta Nagpur area
- d) North West Frontier Province

ANS: A

Explanation: In Malabar area, K. Kelappan, a Nair Congress leader famed for the Vaikom Satyagraha, organised salt marches.

P. Krishna Pillai, the future founder of the Kerala Communist movement, heroically defended the national flag in the face of police lathi-charge on Calicut beach in November 1930.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.10) The Communal Award was announced by the British prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, was based on which of the following committee/commission recommendations?

- a) Lothian Committee
- b) Sadler Commission
- c) Raleigh Commission
- d) Welby commission

ANS: A

Explanation: The Communal Award was announced by the British Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, on August 16, 1932.

- The Communal Award, based on the findings of the Indian Franchise Committee (also called the Lothian Committee), established separate electorates and reserved seats for minorities, including the depressed classes which were granted seventy-eight reserved seats.
- Thus, this award accorded separate electorates for Muslims, Europeans, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, depressed classes, and even to the Marathas for some seats in Bombay.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 434.

Growth of Revolutionary Organizations in India and Abroad

Q.1) “Anushilan Samiti” was founded by which of the following?

- a) Bhagat Singh
- b) Jnanendranath Basu
- c) Khudiram Bose
- d) Promotha Mitter

ANS: D

Explanation: The first revolutionary groups were organized in 1902 in Midnapore (under Jnanendranath Basu) and in Calcutta (the Anushilan Samiti founded by Promotha Mitter, and including Jatindranath Banerjee, Barindra Kumar Ghosh and others.)

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.2) “The remedy lies with the people. The 30crore people inhabiting India must raise their 60crore hands to stop this curse of oppression. Force must be stopped by force.” Written in which of the following news paper/weekly?

- a) Yugantar
- b) Maharatta
- c) The Hitavad
- d) Indian Opinion

ANS: A

Explanation: In April 1906, an inner circle within Anushilan (Barindra Kumar Ghosh, Bhupendranath Dutta) started the weekly Yugantar and conducted a few abortive ‘actions’.

- By 1905 - 06, several newspapers had started advocating revolutionary violence.
- For instance, after severe police brutalities on participants of the Barisal Conference (April 1906), the Yugantar wrote: “The remedy lies with the people. The 30crore people inhabiting India must raise their 60crore hands to stop this curse of oppression. Force must be stopped by force.”

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.3) The Manicktolla bomb conspiracy or Muraripukur conspiracy is related to which of the following?

- a) Indian Home Rule Society
- b) Bharat Naujawan Sabha
- c) Anushilan Samiti
- d) Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)

ANS: C

Explanation: The whole Anushilan group was arrested including the Ghosh brothers, Aurobindo and Barindra, who were tried in the Alipore conspiracy case, variously called Manicktolla bomb conspiracy or Muraripukur conspiracy.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.4) “Zimmerman Plan” is related to which of the following?

- a) Partition plan for British India.
- b) British Congress Committee to frame rules regarding urban expenditure.
- c) All-India insurrection plan to overthrow British Government.
- d) To reform police & crime investigation department in British government.

ANS: C

Explanation: During the First World War, the Jugantar party arranged to import German arms and ammunition through sympathizers and revolutionaries abroad.

Jatin asked Rashbehari Bose to take charge of Upper India, aiming to bring about an all-India insurrection in what has come to be called the ‘German Plot’ or the ‘Zimmerman Plan’.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.5) “Ramosi Peasant Force” – was organized a revolutionary activity against the British in which of the following area?

- a) Central Province
- b) Punjab Province
- c) Bombay Province
- d) Assam Province

ANS: C

Explanation: The first of the revolutionary activities in Maharashtra was the organization of the Ramosi Peasant Force by Vasudev Balwant Phadke in 1879, which aimed to rid the country of the British by instigating an armed revolt by disrupting communication lines.

It hoped to raise funds for its activities through dacoities. It was suppressed prematurely.

Source: Spectrum Modern India Page no, 320.

Q.6) “Punjabee” newspaper was founded by which of the following?

- a) Abdul Ghaffar Khan
- b) Ram Prasad Bismil
- c) Hemu Kalani
- d) Lala Lajpat Rai

ANS: D

Explanation: The Punjab extremism was fuelled by issues such as frequent famines coupled with rise in land revenue and irrigation tax, practice of ‘begar’ by zamindars and by the events in Bengal.

Among those active here were Lala Lajpat Rai who brought out Punjabee (with its motto of self-help at any cost).

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the “Indian Home Rule Society”:

1. It was founded by Shyamji Krishnavarma outside India.
2. Savarkar and Hardayal are members of the Indian Home Rule Society.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Shyamji Krishnavarma had started in London in 1905 an Indian Home Rule Society—'India House'—as a centre for Indian students, a scholarship scheme to bring radical youth from India, and a journal The Indian Sociologist.

Revolutionaries such as Savarkar and Hardayal became the members of India House.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.8) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Organization	:	Location
1. Ghadar Party	:	Florida
2. Swadesh Sevak Home	:	Vancouver
3. United India House	:	Seattle

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Ghadr Party was a revolutionary group organised around a weekly newspaper The Ghadr with its headquarters at San Francisco and branches along the US coast and in the Far East.

To carry out revolutionary activities, the earlier activists had set up a 'Swadesh Sevak Home' at Vancouver and 'United India House' at Seattle.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) The "Berlin Committee for Indian Independence" was established by?

- a) Lala Hardayal
- b) Bir Tikendrajit Singh
- c) Tirot Sing Syiem
- d) Rashbehari Bose

ANS: A

Explanation: The Berlin Committee for Indian Independence was established in 1915 by Virendranath Chattopadhyay, Bhupendranath Dutta, Lala Hardayal and others with the help of the German foreign office under 'Zimmerman Plan'.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.10) "Mitra Mela"—a secret society organised by which of the following?

- a) Savarkar brothers
- b) Lala Hardayal
- c) Subhash Chandra Bose
- d) Bala Gangadhar Tilak

ANS: A

Explanation: 1899—Mitra Mela—a secret society organised by Savarkar and his brother.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Peasant, Tribal and Women Movements in Colonial India

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Chuar Uprising”:

1. Chuar aboriginal tribesmen belong to the Baluchistan province of North Western India.
2. They held their lands under a kind of feudal tenure.
3. They are not strongly attached to the soil and always ready to change from farming to hunting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Famine, enhanced land revenue demands and economic distress goaded the Chuar aboriginal tribesmen of the Jungle Mahal of Midnapore district and also of the Bankura district (in Bengal) to take up arms.

They held their lands under a kind of feudal tenure, but were not strongly attached to the soil, being always ready to change from farming to hunting, at the bidding of their jungle chiefs or zamindars.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.2) The Buddho Bhagat resented against the British policies and outsiders in 1831, was belongs to which of the following tribes?

- a) Ho tribes
- b) Munda tribes
- c) Kol tribes
- d) Chenchu tribes

ANS: C

Explanation: The Kols, alongwith other tribes, are inhabitants of Chhotanagpur. This covered Ranchi, Singhbhum, Hazaribagh, Palamau and the western parts of Manbhum.

- The trouble in 1831 started with large-scale transfers of land from Kol headmen to outsiders like Hindu, Sikh and Muslim farmers and money-lenders who were oppressive and demanded heavy taxes.
- Besides, the British judicial and revenue policies badly affected the traditional social conditions of the Kols.
- The Kols resented this and in 1831, under the leadership of Buddho Bhagat, the Kol rebels killed or burnt about a thousand outsiders.
- Only after large-scale military operations could order is restored.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.3) The origin of “Ho tribal uprising” of British period is belong to which of the following area?

- a) Singhbhum
- b) Pune
- c) Valsad
- d) Rampa chodavaram

ANS: A

Explanation: The Raja of Parahat organised his Ho tribals to revolt against the occupation of Singhbhum (now in Jharkhand).

The revolt continued till 1827 when the Ho tribals were forced to submit.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.4) The tribal leaders “Sidhu and Kanhu” are belong to which of the following uprising?

- a) Munda uprisings
- b) Mopla uprisings
- c) Gond uprisings
- d) Santhal uprisings

ANS: D

Explanation: Continued oppression of the Santhals, an agricultural people, who had fled to settle in the plains of the Rajmahal hills (Bihar) led to the Santhal rebellion against the zamindars.

- The money-lenders who had the support of the police among others had joined the zamindars to subject the peasants to oppressive exactions and dispossession of lands.
- The rebellion turned into an anti-British movement.
- Under Sidhu and Kanhu, two brothers, the Santhals proclaimed an end to Company rule, and declared the area between Bhagalpur and Rajmahal as autonomous.
- The rebellion was suppressed by 1856.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.5) Which of the following are the factors of impoverishment of Indian peasantry?

1. Colonial economic policies.
2. New land revenue system.
3. Farmer supportive financial & judicial system.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The impoverishment of the Indian peasantry was a direct result of the transformation of the agrarian structure due to—

- colonial economic policies,
- ruin of the handicrafts leading to overcrowding of land,
- the new land revenue system,
- Colonial administrative and judicial system.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Indigo Revolt”:

1. Europeans forced the Bengal peasants to grow indigo crop on their land.
2. It was led by Debendranath & Satyendranath Tagore.
3. The revolt didn't get any support from Bengali intelligentsia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: In Bengal, the indigo planters, nearly all Europeans, exploited the local peasants by forcing them to grow indigo on their lands instead of the more paying crops like rice.

- The planters forced the peasants to take advance sums and enter into fraudulent contracts which were then used against the peasants.
- The anger of the peasants exploded in 1859 when, led by Digambar Biswas and Bishnu Biswas of Nadia district.
- They decided not to grow indigo under duress and resisted the physical pressure of the planters and their lathiyals (retainers) backed by police and the courts.
- The Bengali intelligentsia played a significant role by supporting the peasants' cause through newspaper campaigns, organisation of mass meetings, preparing memoranda on peasants' grievances and supporting them in legal battles.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.7) “Pabna Agrarian Movement” was related to which of the following province?

- a) United Province
- b) Central Province
- c) Bengal Province
- d) Mysore province

ANS: C

Explanation: During the 1870s and 1880s, large parts of Eastern Bengal witnessed agrarian unrest caused by oppressive practices of the zamindars.

- The zamindars resorted to enhanced rents beyond legal limits and prevented the tenants from acquiring occupancy rights under Act X of 1859.
- To achieve their ends, the zamindars resorted to forcible evictions, seizure of cattle and crops and prolonged, costly litigation in courts where the poor peasant found himself at a disadvantage.
- Having had enough of the oppressive regime, the peasants of Yusufshahi Pargana in Patna district formed an agrarian league or combination to resist the demands of the zamindars.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.8) “American Civil War” is associated or related to which of the following movements in British India?

- a) Deccan riots
- b) Indigo revolt
- c) Rampa movement
- d) Santhal movement

ANS: A

Explanation: The ryots of Deccan region of western India suffered heavy taxation under the Ryotwari system.

- Here again the peasants found themselves trapped in a vicious network with the moneylender as the exploiter and the main beneficiary.
- These moneylenders were mostly outsiders—Marwaris or Gujaratis.
- The conditions had worsened due to a crash in cotton prices after the end of the American Civil War in 1864, the Government's decision to raise the land revenue by 50% in 1867, and a succession of bad harvests.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) The All India Kisan Congress/Sabha was founded by?

- a) N. G. Ranga
- b) Swami Sahjanand Saraswati
- c) Sarojini Naidu
- d) C R Rajagopalachari

ANS: B

Explanation: All India Kisan Congress/sabha was founded in Lucknow in April 1936 with Swami Sahjanand Saraswati as the president and N.G. Ranga as the general secretary. A kisan manifesto was issued and a periodical under Indulal Yagnik started.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.10) Karshak Sanghams was come into existence in 1930's in which of the following area?

- a) United Province
- b) North West Frontier Province
- c) Malabar area
- d) Coromondal Area

ANS: C

Explanation: In the Malabar region, the peasants were mobilised mainly by the Congress Socialist Party activists.

- Many "Karshak Sanghams" (peasants' organisations) came into existence.
- The most popular method was the marching of jaths or peasants groups to the landlords to get their demands accepted.
- One significant campaign by the peasants was in 1938 for the amendment of the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Revision

Q.1) The Parliament of Religions held in 1893, is attended by Swami Vivekananda was held at?

- a) San Francisco
- b) Chicago
- c) Florida
- d) Georgia

ANS: B

Explanation: At the Parliament of Religions held at Chicago in 1893, Swami Vivekananda made a great impression on people by his learned interpretations.

- The keynote of his opening address was the need for a healthy balance between spiritualism and materialism.
- Envisaging a new culture for the whole world, he called for a blend of the materialism of the West and the spiritualism of the East into a new harmony to produce happiness for mankind.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are the objectives of Arya Samaj?

1. It fixed the minimum marriageable age at twenty-one years for boys and fifteen years for girls.
2. To promote equal status for women.
3. To promote social services like helping the people in crises like floods, famines and earthquakes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Dayananda subscribed to the Vedic notion of chaturvarna system in which a person was not born in any caste but was identified as a brahmin, kshatriya, vaishya or shudra according to the occupation the person followed.

- The Arya Samaj fixed the minimum marriageable age at twenty-five years for boys and sixteen years for girls.
- Swami Dayananda once lamented the Hindu race as “the children of children”.
- Inter-caste marriages and widow remarriages were also encouraged.
- Equal status for women was the demand of the Samaj, both in letter and in spirit.
- The Samaj also helped the people in crises like floods, famines and earthquakes.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.3) “Seva Sadan” was founded by which of the following?

- a) Diwan Dayaram Gidumal
- b) Swami Dayanand Saraswati
- c) Swami Shraddhanand
- d) Swami Vivekananda

ANS: A

Explanation: A Parsi social reformer, Behramji M. Malabari (1853 - 1912), founded the Seva Sadan in 1908 along with a friend, Diwan Dayaram Gidumal.

- Malabari spoke vigorously against child marriage and for widow remarriage among Hindus.
- It was his efforts that led to the Age of Consent Act regulating the age of consent for females, Seva Sadan specialised in taking care of those women who were exploited and then discarded by society.
- It catered to all castes and provided the destitute women with education, and medical and welfare services.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.4) The trade union movement was led by All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in British India founded in which of the following year?

- a) 1916
- b) 1920
- c) 1923
- d) 1925

ANS: B

Explanation: The trade union movement was led by All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) founded in 1920.

- Lala Lajpat Rai was its first president and Dewan Chaman Lal its general secretary.
- Tilak was also one of the moving spirits.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.5) "Bandi Jeevan" book was written by which of the following?

- a) Bhagat Singh
- b) Batukeshwar Dutt
- c) Chandrashekhar Azad
- d) Sachin Sanyal

ANS: D

Explanation: Sachin Sanyal was sentenced to life for his involvement in the conspiracy and was imprisoned at Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where he wrote his book titled Bandi Jeevan (A Life of Captivity, 1922).

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.6) Pritilata Waddedar, Kalpana Dutt, Santi Ghosh and Suniti Chandheri are associated with which of the following?

- a) Women members of Communist party.
- b) Members of Women league of Indian National Congress.
- c) Revolutionary terrorists.
- d) Members of Women wing of Executive Council of Governor of Calcutta.

ANS: C

Explanation: There was a large-scale participation of young women especially under Surya Sen. These women provided shelter, carried messages and fought with guns in hand.

- Prominent women revolutionaries in Bengal during this phase included Pritilata Waddedar, who died conducting a raid;

- Kalpana Dutt who was arrested and tried along with Surya Sen and given a life sentence;
- Santi Ghosh and Suniti Chandheri, school girls of Comilla, who shot dead the district magistrate. (December 1931);
- and Bina Das who fired point blank at the governor while receiving her degree at the convocation (February 1932).

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.7) Which of the following is/are the Delhi proposals of Muslim League?

1. Joint electorates in place of separate electorates with reserved seats for Muslims.
2. One – third representation of Muslims in Central Legislative Assembly.
3. Representation to Muslims in Punjab, Bengal and Bombay in proportion to their population.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Earlier, in December 1927, a large number of Muslim leaders had met at Delhi at the Muslim League session and evolved four proposals for their demands to be incorporated into the draft constitution. These proposals, which were accepted by the Madras session of the Congress (December 1927), came to be known as the 'Delhi Proposals'.

These were:

- joint electorates in place of separate electorates with reserved seats for Muslims;
- one-third representation to Muslims in Central Legislative Assembly;
- representation to Muslims in Punjab and Bengal in proportion to their population;
- formation of three new Muslim majority provinces— Sindh, Baluchistan and North-West Frontier Province.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.8) Which of the following personality organized a march from Thiruchirapalli to Vedaranniyam on the Tanjore coast to break the salt law?

- a) Chidambaram Pillai
- b) C. Rajagopalachari
- c) Kandukuri Veeresalingam
- d) Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu

ANS: B

Explanation: In April 1930, C. Rajagopalachari organised a march from Thiruchirapalli (Trichinapoly as it was called by the British) to Vedaranniyam on the Tanjore (or Thanjavur) coast to break the salt law.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) "Pukhtoon" – a monthly political magazine was famous in British India is belongs to which of the following area?

- a) Malabar Area
- b) Bombay province
- c) North West Frontier Province

d) Bengal Province

ANS: C

Explanation: Peshawar, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan's educational and social reform work among the Pathans had politicized them.

Gaffar Khan, also called Badshah Khan and Frontier Gandhi, had started the first Pushto political monthly Pukhtoon and had organised a volunteer brigade 'Khudai Khidmatgars', popularly known as the 'Red-Shirts', who were pledged to the freedom struggle and non-violence.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.10) Who among the following was the president of "Haripura" Congress session?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Subhash Chandra Bose
- c) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- d) Pattabhi Sitaramaiah

ANS: B

Explanation: At the Congress meeting in Haripura, Gujarat, in February 1938, Bose was unanimously elected president of the session.

- He was firm in his belief that the Congress ministries in the provinces had immense revolutionary potential, as he said in his presidential address.
- Bose also talked of economic development of the country through planning and was instrumental in setting up a National Planning Committee later.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Consolidation of India after Independence

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Official Language Resolution:

1. Resolution advocates the implementation of the three-language formula in the country.
2. According to the resolution, the knowledge of either Hindi or English shall be compulsory for the selection of candidates to the various posts in the central government.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: On 18 January 1968, the Official Language Resolution was passed by both Houses of Parliament.

- This Resolution was passed to build a comprehensive program to increase the use of Hindu language for official purposes by the Union of India.
- The resolution also says that an annual measure of progress achieved in this regard will be tabled on both Houses of Parliament, and the same shall be sent to all the State governments as well.
- As per the resolution, measures should be taken to advance the 14 major languages mentioned in the eighth schedule of the constitution (at present there are 22 languages in this schedule).
- The resolution advocates the implementation of the three-language formula in the country.
- As per this arrangement, full measures should be taken for the study of Hindi, English and any other modern Indian language (preferably from the southern states) in the Hindi-speaking regions, and for the study of Hindi, English and the regional language in the non-Hindi speaking states.
- As per the resolution, the knowledge of either Hindi or English shall be compulsory for the selection of candidates to the various posts in the central government; except in cases where a high standard of either of the languages or both were required in certain services.
- The resolution also states that all languages in the eighth schedule shall be allowed as an alternate media for all India central services examinations.

Source: Spectrum Modern India & The Hindu

Q.2) In which of the following Congress Session had made efforts to recognize regional linguistic identities and divided India into 21 linguistic units for its organizational set up?

- a) 1916 – Lahore
- b) 1920 – Nagpur
- c) 1923 – Belgaum
- d) 1929 – Calcutta

ANS: B

Explanation: The Congress in its 1920's session in Nagpur had made efforts to recognize regional linguistic identities and divided India into 21 linguistic units for its organizational set up.

Many provincial Congress committees were set up on the basis of linguistic zones, which often did not coincide with the administrative divisions of British India.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.3) Due to continuous demands, the Constituent Assembly, in June 1948, appointed the Linguistic Provinces Commission, which is headed by?

- a) Hridaynath Kunzru
- b) B. R. Ambedkar
- c) S.K. Dhar
- d) Vallabhbhai Patel

ANS: C

Explanation: Due to continuous demands, the Constituent Assembly, in June 1948, appointed the Linguistic Provinces Commission, and headed by Justice S.K. Dhar, to enquire into the need of linguistic provinces.

- The Dhar Commission, however, opposed such a move in the interest of national integration.
- Consequently, the Constituent Assembly decided not to include the linguistic principle in the constitution.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.4) In December 1952, "Potti Sriramulu", a Congressman and Gandhian leader, started a fast unto death for a linguistic province – was belongs to which region?

- a) Assam
- b) Gujarat
- c) Karnataka
- d) Andhra

ANS: D

Explanation: The first demand for a linguistic province was seen in the Telugu-speaking region of Andhra.

- In August 1951, Swami Sitaram, a Congressman and Gandhian leader started a fast unto death.
- While he broke his fast after thirty-five days, the movement was renewed in December 1952, by another Gandhian follower, Potti Sriramulu who died after fasting for fifty-six days.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.5) Who among the following is NOT a member of States Reorganization Commission (SRC) in 1953?

- a) Fazl Ali
- b) K.M. Panikkar
- c) Hridaynath Kunzru
- d) R. Rajagopalachari

ANS: D

Explanation: The creation of Andhra encouraged other linguistic groups to intensify their movements for their own state or for rectification of their boundaries on a linguistic ground.

- Under popular pressure, Nehru government appointed the States Reorganization Commission (SRC) in August 1953.
- The commission, comprising Justice Fazl Ali, K.M. Panikkar and Hridaynath Kunzru as members, submitted its report in October 1955;
- Its recommendations were accepted with some modifications and implemented quickly.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.6) In November 1956, the States Reorganization Act was passed which provided for fourteen States and how many Union Territories?

- a) 5 Union Territories
- b) 6 Union Territories
- c) 7 Union Territories
- d) 9 Union Territories

ANS: B

Explanation: In November 1956, the States Reorganization Act was passed which provided for fourteen states and six centrally administered territories, but many of these states still contained sizeable linguistic minorities and regional economic disparities.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.7) The PEPSU States were merged with which of the following State?

- a) Punjab
- b) Jammu & Kashmir
- c) Assam
- d) Uttar Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: In an exception to the linguistic principle, in 1956, the states of PEPSU were merged with Punjab.

Punjab remained a trilingual state having three language speakers—Punjabi, Hindi and Pahari.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.8) After Independence, which State first won the election other than the Congress party?

- a) Kerala
- b) West Bengal
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: A

Explanation: Perhaps the first-time people exercised their right of choice for a party other than the Congress was when they voted the Communists into power in Kerala in 1957.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) In September 1952, the Congress Socialist Party (CSP) merged with the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (KMPP) to form which of the following?

- a) Bharatiya Jan Sangh
- b) Praja Socialist Party (PSP)
- c) Communist Party (CPI)
- d) Unionist Party

ANS: B

Explanation: In September 1952, the CSP merged with the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (KMPP) to form a new party—Praja Socialist Party (PSP).

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.10) Who among the following founded the Swatantra Party?

- a) Rammanohar Lohia
- b) Hridaynath Kunzru
- c) Fazl Ali
- d) C. Rajagopalachari

ANS: D

Explanation: Founded in August 1959, the Swatantra Party was a non-socialist, constitutionalist and secular conservative party having distinguished leaders like C. Rajagopalachari (who resigned from the Congress), Minoo Masani, N.G. Ranga and K.M. Munshi, most of them being veteran Congress leaders.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.