

UGC NET Paper 2 History 5 Jan 2026 Shift 2 Memory Based

Q1. Who launched 'the Self Respect Movement' in 1925?

- (A). Naicker E. V. Ramaswami
- (B). Sarojini Naidu
- (C). Annie Besant
- (D). Pandita Ramabai

Answer: a

Solution:

The 'Self Respect Movement' was launched in 1925 by Naicker E. V. Ramaswami, popularly known as Periyar.

Information Booster

E. V. Ramaswami Naicker (Periyar) launched the movement on a full scale in 1925 after resigning from the Indian National Congress party, feeling frustrated by the Congress's lack of commitment to anti-caste reforms and its perceived dominance by Brahmin interests.

• Key Principles:

- o Rationalism and Self-Respect: Periyar urged people to question all traditions, customs, and beliefs that were not based on reason and rationality. The core philosophy was that self-respect was unattainable until caste distinctions were eradicated.
- o Anti-Caste and Anti-Brahminism: The movement directly challenged the foundations of the caste system, particularly the superiority claimed by the Brahmin community, which held significant power in administration and social life.
- o Dravidian Ideology: It promoted the idea that Tamils and other South Indians constituted a distinct "Dravidian" race oppressed by "Aryan" (North Indian/Brahminical) culture and religion.
- o Temple Entry and Abolition of Untouchability: Periyar was a leading figure in various struggles for social equality, most famously the Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–1925) in Kerala, demanding that low castes be allowed to use roads near a Hindu temple.
- o Women's Rights: The movement strongly advocated for women's rights, including property rights, remarriage of widows, and birth control, promoting marriage without religious rituals (Suyamariyathai Kalyanam or "self-respect marriages").

Q2. Which of the following tribes was not part of the Dasharajna war?

- (A). Puru
- (B). Yadu
- (C). Matsya
- (D). Maurya

Answer: d

Solution:

Ans:- (d) Maurya

• The Dasharajna (Battle of Ten Kings) involved tribes like Puru, Yadu, Anu, Druhyu, Turvasha, and Matsya. Maurya was a later dynasty (4th century BCE), not a Vedic tribe.

- "The Battle of Ten Kings" — is a famous conflict mentioned in the Rigveda (7th Mandala), one of the earliest records of warfare in Indian history.
- Conflict between King Sudas (of the Bharata tribe) vs a confederation of 10 kings.
- Power struggle among Vedic tribes for dominance in the Saptasindhu region (Land of Seven Rivers).
- Marked the rise of the Bharatas, who later merged with the Purus to form the Kuru tribe — foundational in the Mahabharata era.
- Early example of tribal alliances, kinship-based politics, and priestly rivalry (Vashistha vs Vishvamitra).

Q3. Which among the following are true regarding the Deccan Riots of 1875?

- A. The riots were primarily directed against the excesses of the Gujarati and Marwari moneylenders.
- B. The peasants' main demand was to get a 'remission of revenue' due to the famine conditions.
- C. The rioters used social boycott as a weapon against the moneylenders before the outbreak of violence.
- D. The Government of Bombay set up the Deccan Riots Commission to investigate the causes of the uprising.
- E. The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, under G.V. Joshi, submitted a petition to the British Parliament on the plight of the Deccan ryots.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A). A, B and C only
- (B). B, C and D only
- (C). A, C and D only
- (D). C, D and E only

Answer: c

Solution:

The correct statements regarding the Deccan Riots of 1875 are A, C, and D only.

Information Booster

- A. The riots were primarily directed against the excesses of the Gujarati and Marwari moneylenders.** Correct The riots were specifically targeted at the Gujarati and Marwari sowcars (moneylenders) who, under the British revenue system, had gained power over the largely illiterate Maratha cultivators due to debt and land mortgages.
- B. The peasants' main demand was to get a 'remission of revenue' due to the famine conditions.** Incorrect While agrarian distress (including poor harvests and a rise in land revenue) provided the context, the initial and primary demand/action of the rioters was to destroy debt bonds and deeds held by the moneylenders, rather than seeking a remission of government revenue.
- C. The rioters used social boycott as a weapon against the moneylenders before the outbreak of violence.** Correct The first stage of the movement, starting around the village of Supa in Poona district, was a social boycott where villagers refused to buy goods from, work for, or serve the moneylenders. Violence erupted only when the boycott failed.
- D. The Government of Bombay set up the Deccan Riots Commission to investigate the causes of the uprising.** Correct Following the widespread violence, the Government of Bombay established the Deccan Riots Commission in 1875 to inquire into the entire disturbance and its causes. The Commission's report led to the passing of the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act (DARA) of 1879.

E. The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, under G.V. Joshi, submitted a petition to the British Parliament on the plight of the Deccan ryots. Incorrect While the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha was active and sympathetic to the ryots, the petition regarding the Deccan agrarian distress was submitted to the British Parliament by Dadabhai Naoroji (as part of a larger Indian representation) or often associated with the influence of Justice Ranade and the Sabha's overall work, but attributing the specific parliamentary petition solely under G.V. Joshi's name in this context is misleading or factually inaccurate regarding the primary parliamentary channel.

The correct combination is A, C and D only.

Q4. Which of the following is considered the 'Father of History'?

- (A). Thucydides
- (B). Herodotus
- (C). Tacitus
- (D). Livy

Answer: b

Solution:

Herodotus is traditionally regarded as the 'Father of History.' He was an ancient Greek historian who wrote Histories, which is one of the earliest works of historical writing. His approach to documenting history was based on gathering information from various sources, and he is known for his efforts to systematically record and analyze historical events, making him one of the founding figures of historical research.

Information Booster:

Herodotus' Histories is an account of the Greco-Persian Wars, but it also includes a wide range of information about the cultures, people, and places he encountered during his travels. His work was not purely factual or objective by modern standards, but it laid the foundation for the study of history and its narrative.

Additional Knowledge:

- **Thucydides:** Another Greek historian, Thucydides is known for his work on the History of the Peloponnesian War, where he emphasized accuracy, analysis, and a more critical approach to historical writing. While Thucydides is highly regarded, Herodotus is still considered the 'Father of History' due to his pioneering role.

- **Tacitus:** A Roman historian, Tacitus wrote about the history of the Roman Empire, including the Annals and Histories, but he is not credited with the title 'Father of History.'

- **Livy:** Livy was another Roman historian who wrote Ab urbe condita, a history of Rome, but he is also not known as the 'Father of History.'

Q5. Arrange the following Rashtrakuta kings in chronological order from earliest to latest:

- I. Govinda III
- II. Dhruva Dharavarsha
- III. Krishna I
- IV. Dantidurga

(A). I, II, III, IV
 (B). III, IV, I, II
 (C). II, I, IV, III
 (D). IV, III, II, I

Answer: d

Solution:

The correct chronological order of the Rashtrakuta kings is:

IV. Dantidurga → III. Krishna I → II. Dhruva Dharavarsha → I. Govinda III

- Dantidurga is the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty and ruled in the mid-8th century. He was the first to establish Rashtrakuta power and defeat the Chalukyas in battle, laying the foundation for the empire.
- Krishna I, Dantidurga's nephew, succeeded him and reigned from 756–773 CE. He expanded the empire and is credited with the construction of the Ellora Caves.
- Dhruva Dharavarsha, the son of Krishna I, ascended the throne after his father's death. His reign lasted from 780 CE to 793 CE. He continued his father's policies and expanded the empire further.
- Govinda III was the son of Dhruva Dharavarsha and succeeded him. His reign, which began around 793 CE, saw the peak of Rashtrakuta power as he fought against the Pratiharas and Palas in the Tripartite Struggle.

Information Booster:

- Dantidurga's reign marked the beginning of the Rashtrakuta dynasty, and his military success allowed him to establish a new power base in the Deccan.
- Krishna I built on Dantidurga's foundations and is known for his patronage of art and architecture, including his role in the construction of the Ellora Caves, which remain a cultural landmark.
- Dhruva Dharavarsha expanded the dynasty's territories and engaged in military campaigns, notably fighting the Gurjara-Pratihara and Pala forces, contributing to the Tripartite Struggle.
- Govinda III led the dynasty to its height, making Rashtrakuta influence felt far beyond the Deccan. He played a critical role in northern India, particularly in the Tripartite Struggle for control over Kannauj.

Q6. Which of the following statements are correct about the Mappila Uprising of 1921:

1. It occurred in the Malabar region of Kerala.
2. High rents and insecure tenures imposed by upper-caste Hindu landlords and British land laws were key causes.
3. The Khilafat movement and Congress support for tenants' grievances laid the groundwork.
4. The rebellion maintained its initial focus on anti-government and anti-landlord sentiments throughout.
5. The British imposed martial law and created the Malabar Special Police to suppress the rebellion.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A). 1, 2, and 3 only
 (B). 2, 3, and 4 only
 (C). 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
 (D). 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Answer: c

Solution:

The correct answer is C. 1, 2, 3, and 5 only.

It occurred in the Malabar region of Kerala. This statement is correct. The Mappila Uprising, also known as the Malabar Rebellion, took place in the Malabar district of the Madras Presidency, which is now part of northern Kerala.

High rents and insecure tenures imposed by upper-caste Hindu landlords and British land laws were key causes. This statement is correct. The Mappila peasants, who were predominantly Muslim, suffered from the oppressive tenancy practices of the jenmis (mostly upper-caste Hindu landlords). The British, by introducing new land laws, cemented the landlords' ownership and gave them the power to evict tenants, leading to widespread economic hardship and agrarian discontent.

The Khilafat movement and Congress support for tenants' grievances laid the groundwork. This statement is correct. The Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movements provided a political and religious framework for the Mappillas' long-standing grievances. Leaders from the Khilafat and Congress movements, including Mahatma Gandhi and Shaukat Ali, traveled to Malabar to mobilize the tenants, adding a layer of anti-British sentiment to the anti-landlord struggle.

The rebellion maintained its initial focus on anti-government and anti-landlord sentiments throughout. This statement is incorrect. While the rebellion started with a focus on anti-colonial and anti-landlord sentiments, it became increasingly communal as it progressed. As the British imposed martial law and the Mappillas perceived some Hindus to be assisting the authorities, the rebellion turned violent, resulting in forced conversions and attacks on Hindu temples. This communal turn alienated the Mappillas from the broader Khilafat and Non-Cooperation movements.

The British imposed martial law and created the Malabar Special Police to suppress the rebellion. This statement is correct. The British government's response to the rebellion was swift and brutal. They imposed martial law in the affected areas and created a new, specialized military unit called the Malabar Special Police (MSP) to effectively crush the uprising. The MSP's tactics were characterized by severe repression, leading to the imprisonment and death of thousands of rebels, including the tragic Wagon Tragedy where 67 prisoners suffocated to death in a closed railway wagon.

Q7. Arrange the following events related to the Depressed Class Movement in chronological order:

- (A) Poona Pact between Ambedkar and Gandhi
- (B) Ambedkar submits memorandum to the Simon Commission demanding separate electorates
- (C) Foundation of the All-India Depressed Classes Federation (AIDCF) by Ambedkar
- (D) Foundation of the Depressed Classes Institute in Bombay by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (E) Government of India Act, 1935, granting reserved seats for Depressed Classes

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A). (D), (B), (C), (A), (E)
- (B). (D), (B), (A), (C), (E)
- (C). (B), (D), (C), (A), (E)
- (D). (D), (C), (B), (A), (E)

Answer: b

Solution:

The correct chronological order of the events is (D), (B), (A), (C), (E).

Chronology of Depressed Class Movement Events

Here is the correct arrangement and the associated years for the events led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

Event	Year (Approximate)
Foundation of the Depressed Classes Institute in Bombay by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	1924
Ambedkar submits memorandum to the Simon Commission demanding separate electorates	1928
Poona Pact between Ambedkar and Gandhi (abolishing separate electorates for depressed classes but increasing reserved seats)	September 1932
Foundation of the All-India Depressed Classes Federation (AIDCF) by Ambedkar	1935
Government of India Act, 1935 , granting reserved seats for Depressed Classes	August 1935

Additional Knowledge

(D) Depressed Classes Institute (1924): This was Ambedkar's early effort to promote the education and upliftment of the depressed classes.

(B) Simon Commission Memorandum (1928): Ambedkar submitted his demands, including **separate electorates** for the depressed classes, to the Commission.

(A) Poona Pact (September 1932): This was a watershed moment following the **Communal Award** (August 1932). Gandhi opposed the separate electorates for Depressed Classes and went on a fast. Ambedkar and Gandhi reached an agreement, replacing separate electorates with a significantly higher number of **reserved seats** within the general electorate.

(C) All-India Depressed Classes Federation (AIDCF) (1935): Formed to consolidate the political voice of the community. It later evolved into the Scheduled Castes Federation (SCF).

(E) Government of India Act, 1935 (August 1935): This Act institutionalized the provision of **reserved seats** for the Depressed Classes (now formally referred to as **Scheduled Castes**) as agreed upon in the Poona Pact.

Therefore, the sequence is (D), (B), (A), (C), (E), which corresponds to option (b).

Q8. Which Samskara traditionally marks the formal commencement of Vedic studies and initiation into spiritual discipline for a male child in ancient Hindu society?

- (A). Antyeshti
- (B). Upanayana
- (C). Vivaha
- (D). Namakarana

Answer: b

Solution:

The Upanayana Samskara is the ancient Hindu rite of passage that formally initiates a young male child (primarily of the Brahmana, Kshatriya, and Vaishya varnas) into Vedic education and spiritual discipline. This ritual symbolizes the beginning of the Brahmacharya Ashrama (student stage of life).

- The term "Upanayana" literally means "leading or bringing near," indicating being brought near to the Guru (teacher) for instruction.
- During this samskara, the child is given the sacred thread (Yajnopavita), and he starts studying the

Vedas, grammar, and rituals under the guidance of a Guru.

- It marks the child's second birth – hence the initiate is called 'Dvija' (twice-born).

This ritual has been deeply symbolic in Hindu tradition, signifying discipline, learning, and commitment to dharma.

Information Booster:

- Upanayana Samskara is one of the most important among the 16 traditional Hindu Samskaras.
- It involves key rites like initiation mantras, Gayatri mantra instruction, and the sacred thread ceremony (Yajnopavita).
- It was traditionally conducted at different ages for different varnas:
 - Brahmanas – 8 years
 - Kshatriyas – 11 years
 - Vaishyas – 12 years
- The initiate must observe celibacy, humility, devotion to the teacher, and simplicity during the Brahmacharya period.

Additional Knowledge:

- Antyeshti (a): The last rite, i.e., funeral ritual performed after death, marking the final samskara.
- Vivaha (c): The marriage ceremony, considered one of the most significant samskaras for entering the Grihastha (householder) stage.
- Namakarana (d): The naming ceremony, performed on the 11th or 12th day after birth to formally name the child.

Q9. Who is known as the “Father of Local Self-Government” in India?

(A). Lord Curzon
 (B). Lord Lytton
 (C). Lord Ripon
 (D). Lord Minto

Answer: c

Solution:

Ans:- (c) Lord Ripon

- In 1882, Lord Ripon introduced the Local Self-Government Resolution.
- It empowered local bodies like municipalities and district boards to manage local affairs.
- The resolution emphasized elected Indian representatives and public participation in governance.
- It laid the foundation for democratic decentralization in British India.
- Marked the first step towards representative institutions in India.
- Inspired future Indian leaders to demand greater self-governance.
- Seen as a liberal and pro-Indian policy during British rule.

Q10. Who composed Zainavilas, a history of the rulers of Kashmir, in the time of Zainul Abidin?

(A). Kalhana
 (B). Jonaraja
 (C). Bhattavatara

(D). Srivara

Answer: c

Solution:

Bhattavatara composed Zainavilas, a historical account of the rulers of Kashmir during the reign of Sultan Zainul Abidin in the 15th century. Bhattavatara was a scholar and chronicler who documented the political and cultural history of Kashmir, highlighting the significant contributions of Zainul Abidin, who is known for his reforms, religious tolerance, and promotion of arts and crafts in Kashmir.

Information Booster:

Zainul Abidin, also known as Budshah (the Great King), ruled Kashmir from 1420 to 1470 CE and is remembered for his secular policies and encouragement of various religious communities. Bhattavatara's Zainavilas provides valuable insights into the socio-political conditions of Kashmir under Zainul Abidin's rule. The work is part of the rich tradition of Kashmiri historical literature that helps historians reconstruct the region's past.

Q11. Arrange the following Chola kings in chronological order:

- (A) Kulotunga I
- (B) Rajaraja I
- (C) Rajendra I
- (D) Virarajendra

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A). (A), (B), (C), (D)
- (B). (B), (C), (D), (A)
- (C). (C), (D), (A), (B)
- (D). (D), (A), (B), (C)

Answer: b

Solution:

The Chola Empire, particularly during the period of the Imperial Cholas (c. 850-1279 CE), was one of the most powerful and influential dynasties in South Indian history. Known for its extensive maritime trade, magnificent temple architecture, and highly centralized administration, the Chola period represents a high point of Tamil culture.

Information Booster

Rajaraja I (Rajaraja the Great): Reigned from **985 to 1014 CE**. He is considered one of the greatest Chola emperors. He expanded the Chola empire significantly through conquests in South India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. He also built the magnificent Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur.

Rajendra I (Rajendra Chola the Great): Reigned from **1014 to 1044 CE**. He was the illustrious son and successor of Rajaraja I. He continued his father's expansionist policies, famously leading a naval expedition to Southeast Asia (against Srivijaya) and a land expedition to the Ganges in North India, earning him the title "Gangaikondachola." He founded the new capital Gangaikondacholapuram and built a grand temple there.

Virarajendra: Reigned from **1063 to 1070 CE**. He was a later Chola king, following a period of internal strife and multiple short reigns after Rajendra I. He was a capable ruler who consolidated the Chola power

and achieved military successes against the Western Chalukyas and in Sri Lanka.

Kulotunga I: Reigned from **1070 to 1122 CE**. He marked the beginning of the Chalukya Chola dynasty, as he was a descendant of both the Chalukyas of Vengi (through his father) and the Cholas (through his mother, Rajendra I's daughter). His ascension led to the merging of the two royal lines. He focused on internal administration, maritime trade, and maintaining peace, though he also engaged in military campaigns.

Based on these regnal periods, the chronological order from earliest to latest is:

Rajaraja I (B) - (985-1014 CE)

Rajendra I (C) - (1014-1044 CE)

Virarajendra (D) - (1063-1070 CE)

Kulotunga I (A) - (1070-1122 CE)

Thus, the correct sequence is (B), (C), (D), (A).

Additional Knowledge

Imperial Expansion: The reigns of Rajaraja I and Rajendra I represent the peak of Chola power and territorial expansion, making them a dominant force in South Asia and Southeast Asian maritime trade.

Art and Architecture: The Cholas were prolific temple builders, with the Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur (Rajaraja I) and the Gangaikondacholapuram Temple (Rajendra I) being UNESCO World Heritage Sites and pinnacles of Dravidian architecture.

Naval Power: The Chola navy was exceptionally strong, enabling them to control parts of Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and conduct overseas expeditions, establishing them as a major maritime power.

Local Administration: The Cholas had a highly organized local administration system with village assemblies (*Ur* and *Sabha*) enjoying considerable autonomy, as evidenced by inscriptions like those from Uttaramerur.

Chalukya Chola: The accession of Kulotunga I marked a new phase, effectively uniting the Eastern Chalukya and Chola lineages, which influenced subsequent political dynamics.

Q12. Which of the following statements about the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 is/are correct?

1. It was introduced by Lord Ripon to encourage indigenous press.
2. It empowered the government to confiscate the printing press and paper of seditious publications.
3. It applied to both English and vernacular newspapers.
4. It was opposed by leaders like Surendranath Banerjee.

Options:

(A). 1 and 3 only
 (B). 2 and 4 only
 (C). 1, 2 and 4 only
 (D). 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: b

Solution:

Ans:- (b) 2 and 4 only

· Statement 1 is incorrect: The Vernacular Press Act (1878) was passed by Lord Lytton, not Lord Ripon. It was repressive in nature, aimed at curbing the vernacular press, especially Indian-language newspapers

critical of the British.

- Statement 2 is correct: The Act authorized the government to confiscate printing presses, papers, and other materials of newspapers that published "seditious" material.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: It did not apply to English newspapers—only to vernacular (Indian-language) publications, which made it highly discriminatory.
- Statement 4 is correct: Indian leaders like Surendranath Banerjee strongly criticized and opposed this act as a blow to freedom of expression.

Q13. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Arrange the following trends in writing of Indian history from the earliest to the latest as they emerged:

A. The Marxist Phase of Indian history writing

B. Indian Nationalist Historiography

C. The Subaltern Studies

D. The Orientalist Historiography

E. British Imperialist Historiography

(A). A, B, C, D, E

(B). A, C, E, B, D

(C). D, E, B, A, C

(D). D, C, A, E, B

Answer: c

Solution:

The correct chronological order is (The Orientalist Historiography) → E (British Imperialist Historiography) → B (Indian Nationalist Historiography) → A (Marxist Phase of Indian history writing) → C (Subaltern Studies).

Information Booster:

The Orientalist Historiography (D): Emerged with scholars like Sir William Jones and James Mill who believed India's past had glory but was stagnant without British intervention.

British Imperialist Historiography (E): Figures like James Mill and Vincent Smith highlighted India as backward and justified British colonialism.

Indian Nationalist Historiography (B): Leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji and historians like R.C. Majumdar emphasized India's rich ancient traditions and contested British narratives.

The Marxist Phase (A): Influenced by Marxist ideology, scholars such as D.D. Kosambi and R.S. Sharma analyzed historical events through materialist and class perspectives.

Subaltern Studies (C): A movement started in the 1980s emphasizing history from the perspective of the oppressed, led by Ranajit Guha, Partha Chatterjee, and others.

Q14. Choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:

Arrange the following kings in chronological sequence:

A. Senguttavan

B. Udiyanjeral

C. Nedunjeliyan

D. Karikāla
E. Šenganon
(A). A, B, C, D, E
(B). B, A, D, C, E
(C). D, C, A, B, E
(D). C, A, B, D, E

Answer: b

Solution:

The correct chronological sequence is B (Udiyanjeral), A (Senguttavan), D (Karikāla), C (Nedunjeliyan), E (Šenganon).

Udiyanjeral was among the earlier Chera kings, often symbolically associated with the Mahabharata legends. After him, Senguttavan, another Chera king, flourished, known for establishing the worship of the goddess Kannagi, as celebrated in the Tamil epic Silappatikaram.

Karikāla Chola came next, a powerful Chola ruler renowned for constructing the Grand Anicut (Kallanai) across the Kaveri River, contributing to the prosperity of Tamilakam.

Subsequently, Nedunjeliyan, a Pandya king, achieved military success at the Battle of Talaiyalanganam. Finally, Šenganon, another Chera king, ruled during the later Sangam period.

Information Booster:

Udiyanjeral: Early Chera king, considered symbolic of the heroic traditions of the Sangam Age. Some traditions even suggest association with the epic age.

Senguttavan: Chera king famous for the worship of Kannagi (deified woman) and military expeditions to northern India.

Karikāla Chola: Early Chola king, famous for military victories and infrastructure .

Nedunjeliyan: Pandya ruler, strengthened Pandya supremacy in the Tamil region through major battles.

Šenganon: Later Chera king, maintaining trade links with the Romans and Arabs.

Q15. Who among the following Vakataka kings performed four Ashwamedha sacrifices and assumed the title 'Samrat'?

(A). Vindhyašakti
(B). Pravarsena-I
(C). Rudrasena-I
(D). Prithvisena-II

Answer: b

Solution:

The correct answer is Pravarsena-I. He was a prominent Vakataka king who performed four Ashwamedha sacrifices—a rare and significant royal ritual symbolizing imperial sovereignty. By doing so, he assumed the imperial title 'Samrat', signifying his status as a supreme ruler or emperor.

Information Booster:

The Ashwamedha sacrifice was an ancient Vedic horse sacrifice ritual performed by kings to assert their sovereignty and dominance over neighboring kingdoms. It was a prestigious and complex ceremony requiring immense resources and political power. Pravarsena-I, a notable king of the Vakataka dynasty in

the 4th century CE, is known historically for his military conquests and extensive administrative capabilities. His performance of the Ashwamedha sacrifice four times indicates his significant imperial power and political ambition. The title 'Samrat' denotes a monarch who rules over multiple kingdoms and is considered an emperor.

Q16. Match List-I with List-II (Women's Organizations and Year of Establishment):

List-I (Organizations)	List-II (Year/Founders)
(A) All India Women's Conference	(I) 1910 by Sarala Devi Chaudhurani
(B) Women's Indian Association	(II) 1917 by Annie Besant, Margaret Cousins, Dorothy Jinarajadasa
(C) National Council of Women in India	(III) 1925 by Mehribai Tata and others
(D) Bharat Stree Mahamandal	(IV) 1927 by Margaret Cousins
(E) Rashtra Sevika Samiti	(V) 1936 by Lakshmibai Kelkar

Choose the correct answer:

- (A). A-IV, B-II, C-III, D-I, E-V
- (B). A-III, B-IV, C-I, D-II, E-V
- (C). A-II, B-III, C-IV, D-V, E-I
- (D). A-IV, B-I, C-II, D-III, E-V

Answer: a

Solution:

The correct matching is A-IV, B-II, C-III, D-I, E-V.

Here is the explanation for each match:

- (A) All India Women's Conference (AIWC): Founded in 1927 by Margaret Cousins to advocate for women's education and social welfare. This matches with (IV).
- (B) Women's Indian Association (WIA): Founded in 1917 by Annie Besant, Margaret Cousins, and Dorothy Jinarajadasa in Madras. It was one of the earliest purely feminist organizations in India. This matches with (II).
- (C) National Council of Women in India (NCWI): Founded in 1925 by Mehribai Tata and others. This matches with (III).
- (D) Bharat Stree Mahamandal: Founded in 1910 by Sarala Devi Chaudhurani in Allahabad. It is considered one of the first major women's organizations in India. This matches with (I).
- (E) Rashtra Sevika Samiti: Founded in 1936 by Lakshmibai Kelkar at Wardha. This matches with (V).

Information Booster

(A) All India Women's Conference (AIWC) 1927 by Margaret Cousins , this is one of India's oldest and most influential women's organizations, initially focusing on education and social reform for women and children.

(B) Women's Indian Association (WIA) 1917 by Annie Besant, Margaret Cousins, Dorothy Jinarajadasa. Founded in Madras (Chennai) in 1917, WIA was a pioneering body that actively campaigned for women's suffrage (right to vote) and representation in legislative bodies.

(C) National Council of Women in India (NCWI) 1925 by Mehribai Tata and others. Established in 1925 under the leadership of Mehribai Tata (wife of Sir Dorabji Tata), NCWI was affiliated with the International Council of Women and focused on social welfare.

(D) Bharat Stree Mahamandal 1910 by Sarala Devi Chaudhurani. Founded in Allahabad in 1910 by Sarala Devi Chaudhurani (niece of Rabindranath Tagore), it was one of the earliest national-level women's organizations, aiming to promote education for women across different castes and classes.

(E) Rashtra Sevika Samiti 1936 by Lakshmibai Kelkar. Founded in Wardha in 1936 by Lakshmibai Kelkar, this women's parallel organization to the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) focuses on the physical, mental, and spiritual training of Hindu women.

Q17. Regarding the Censorship of the Press Act, 1799, consider the following statements:

1. It was imposed by Lord Wellesley.
2. It was enacted due to apprehension of a French invasion of India.
3. It imposed almost wartime restrictions on the press.
4. It required the newspaper to clearly print the name of the printer, editor, and proprietor.
5. It mandated submission of all material for pre-censorship to the Secretary to the Government.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (A). 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
- (B). 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
- (C). 1, 3, 4, and 5 only
- (D). All of the above

Answer: d

Solution:

The correct option is (d) All of the above.

Information Booster

The Censorship of the Press Act, 1799

The act was a direct response to the political climate of the time, specifically the threat of a French invasion under Napoleon Bonaparte. Lord Wellesley, the Governor-General, was deeply concerned that the press in India could be used by the French to spread seditious and pro-French propaganda. He felt a need to impose tight control over all publications to ensure security and prevent the dissemination of information that could undermine British authority.

The main provisions of the Act were:

1. Imposed by Lord Wellesley: The act was indeed a creation of Governor-General Lord Wellesley. He was known for his expansionist policies and his firm resolve to secure the British position in India against all foreign rivals.
2. Enacted due to apprehension of a French invasion: The primary motivation behind the act was the perceived threat from Napoleon's forces, which had invaded Egypt and were seen as a potential danger to British interests in India.
3. Imposed almost wartime restrictions: The act was extremely restrictive, reflecting the sense of a state of emergency. It treated the press as a potential security risk and placed it under strict governmental supervision.

4. Required names of printer, editor, and proprietor: The act mandated that the name of the printer, editor, and proprietor be clearly printed on every newspaper. This measure was a form of accountability, making it easier for the government to hold individuals responsible for any content they deemed objectionable.

5. Mandated submission of all material for pre-censorship: This was the most significant provision. It required publishers to submit all content—including advertisements, news, and editorials—to the Secretary to the Government for approval before publication. The government had the power to delete or alter any content it found problematic, a practice known as pre-censorship.

Q18. Arrange the following events associated with the Pallavas in chronological order :

- A. The Chalukyan capital, Vatapi, was captured and sacked.
- B. A naval expedition was sent to Sri Lanka to aid prince Manavarma.
- C. Narasimhavarman I ascended the throne.
- D. The Chalukya king Pulakesin II was defeated in the Battle of Manimangalam.
- E. The title 'Vatapikonda' (Conqueror of Vatapi) was assumed.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A). C, D, A, E, B
- (B). B, C, A, D, E
- (C). C, A, B, D, E
- (D). B, A, D, C, E

Answer: a

Solution:

The sequence of these events is based on the historical progression of Narasimhavarman I's reign, particularly his major conflict with the Chalukyas and his foreign policy ventures.

C. Narasimhavarman I ascended the throne: This is the starting point. Narasimhavarman I came to power around 630 CE, inheriting the long-standing rivalry with the Chalukya dynasty from his father, Mahendravarman I.

D. The Chalukya king Pulakesin II was defeated in the Battle of Manimangalam: This was a pivotal moment in the Pallava-Chalukya war. In a series of military campaigns, Narasimhavarman I's forces met and defeated the Chalukya army, led by the formidable Pulakesin II, at the Battle of Manimangalam near Kanchipuram around 642 CE.

A. The Chalukyan capital, Vatapi, was captured and sacked: Following his decisive victory, Narasimhavarman I launched a full-scale invasion of the Chalukyan heartland. His general, Paranjoti, led the Pallava army in the capture and destruction of the Chalukyan capital, Vatapi, also around 642 CE. This was a major act of revenge for the earlier Chalukya invasion of Pallava territory.

E. The title 'Vatapikonda' (Conqueror of Vatapi) was assumed: After the conquest of the Chalukya capital, Narasimhavarman I took on the title 'Vatapikonda' to commemorate his greatest military victory. The adoption of this title naturally follows the event it celebrates.

B. A naval expedition was sent to Sri Lanka to aid prince Manavarma: This event represents Narasimhavarman I's foreign policy outside the mainland. He launched two naval expeditions to help his friend and ally, the Sinhalese prince Manavarma, reclaim his throne. This happened during his reign, most

likely after he had secured his position by defeating the Chalukyas.

Information Booster

Pulakesin II: Narasimhavarman I's victory was especially significant because he defeated Pulakesin II, who was at the height of his power and had previously defeated Narasimhavarman's father, Mahendravarman I, and even the North Indian emperor Harsha.

Mahabalipuram: The reign of Narasimhavarman I is considered a golden age for Pallava art and architecture. He is credited with the construction of the famous monolithic rock-cut temples (rathas) and shore temples at Mahabalipuram, which are a testament to his cultural patronage.

The Sinhala Alliance: The support given to Manavarma shows the Pallavas' naval strength and their diplomatic reach beyond the Indian subcontinent. The successful expedition helped restore Manavarma to the throne of Sri Lanka, establishing a strong alliance between the two kingdoms.

Q19. Match the following forms of marriage from ancient Hindu texts with their concise descriptions:

List I (Forms of Marriage)

- 1. Arsa
- 2. Rakshasa
- 3. Gandharva
- 4. Paisacha
- 5. Prajapatya

(A). 1-C, 2-A, 3-B, 4-E, 5-D
 (B). 1-D, 2-A, 3-B, 4-E, 5-C
 (C). 1-D, 2-E, 3-A, 4-B, 5-C
 (D). 1-E, 2-A, 3-B, 4-C, 5-D

List II (Descriptions)

- A. Marriage by abduction.
- B. Marriage by mutual consent.
- C. Marriage focused on religious duties.
- D. Marriage with a token of a cow and bull.
- E. Marriage involving force against a vulnerable woman.

Answer: b

Solution:

The correct match is 1-D, 2-A, 3-B, 4-E, 5-C.

Forms of Marriage and Their Descriptions

1. Arsa matches with D. Marriage with a token of a cow and bull. In this form, the father of the bride receives a cow and a bull from the groom as a token of goodwill, not as a price for the bride. It was considered a righteous marriage.

2. Rakshasa matches with A. Marriage by abduction. This is a form of marriage where a woman is forcibly abducted from her home, often after her family members have been defeated or killed. The name derives from the Rakshasa (demons) who were known for such actions.

3. Gandharva matches with B. Marriage by mutual consent. This marriage is a union based solely on the mutual love and consent of the man and woman, without the consent of their parents or family. It is often likened to the union of celestial beings (Gandharvas) and is celebrated in literature like the love story of Shakuntala and Dushyanta.

4. Paisacha matches with E. Marriage involving force against a vulnerable woman. This is considered the most unrighteous and condemned form of marriage. It involves a man seducing or forcing a woman when she is in a vulnerable state, such as when she is asleep, intoxicated, or unconscious.

5. Prajapatya matches with C. Marriage focused on religious duties. In this form, the father of the bride gives her to the groom with a blessing, emphasizing that they should fulfill their joint religious duties and responsibilities together for a long life. The groom promises to not break the dharma in this marriage. It is a highly respected form of marriage.

Q20. Concerning the proposals brought by the British Viceroy/Governor-General, consider the following pairs:

Proposal	Subject matter
1. Bentinck proposal of 1835	Indian Education
2. Mayo proposal of 1870	Financial decentralization for local bodies
3. Ripon Resolution of 1882	Financial decentralization to the provinces

Which of the above pairs is/are not correctly matched?

- (A). 1 and 2 only
- (B). 3 only
- (C). 1 and 3 only
- (D). 2 and 3 only

Answer: d

Solution:

Bentinck's Proposal, 1835: Lord William Bentinck, the then Governor-General of India, approved Macaulay's Minute, 1835, which called for the spread of Western education, literature, and science as subjects of study for Indians and the use of the language medium of instruction was in favor of English. Hence pair 1 is matched.

Mayo's proposal, 1870: Through the Indian Councils Act of 1861, provincial governments were authorized to seek the help of local taxation to balance their budgets. Therefore pair 2 is not matched.

Ripon's proposal, 1882: Ripon wanted the provincial governments to apply the same principle of financial decentralization to local bodies that Lord Mayo's government had started for them. Hence pair 3 is not matched.

Q21. Assertion (A): Megasthenes' Indica provides a detailed and accurate description of the Mauryan administrative system.

Reason (R): Megasthenes was a Greek ambassador to Chandragupta Maurya's court and spent several years in Pataliputra observing the Mauryan polity.

Choose the correct option from the given below:

- (A). Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B). Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (C). A is true, but R is false.
- (D). A is false, but R is true.

Answer: d

Solution:

•Reason (R) is true: Megasthenes was indeed a Greek ambassador sent by Seleucus I Nicator to the Mauryan court and spent time in Pataliputra.

• Assertion (A) is false: While Indica contains valuable information about the Mauryan administration, it is not entirely accurate or detailed. Many of Megasthenes' accounts are based on hearsay or exaggerations and have been criticized by both ancient and modern historians for inaccuracies.

Q22. Consider the following statements regarding the administrative structure and practices of the Gupta Empire:

1. Empire divided into Bhuktis, governed by Uparikas or Goptras appointed by emperor.
2. Village by Gramika & elders; cities by Nagarika with citizen/guild council.
3. First clear distinction between criminal and civil law in judicial system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A). 1 and 2 only
- (B). 2 and 3 only
- (C). 1 and 3 only
- (D). 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d

Solution:

• The Gupta Empire was indeed divided into administrative units known as Bhuktis (provinces). These provinces were typically administered by governors who held titles such as Uparika or Gopta, and they were generally appointed by the central authority (the emperor).

• Village administration during the Gupta period was largely autonomous, with the Gramika (village headman) playing a crucial role, often assisted by a council of village elders (Gramamahattaras). In urban areas, administration was often in the hands of a Nagarika (city chief) who was supported by a council that included prominent members of the local community, such as the chief merchant (sarthavaha), the president of guilds (nagarashreshthi), and the chief artisan (prathama kulika). This indicates significant local involvement in urban governance.

• Historical records and legal texts from the Gupta period (like the Narada Smriti and Brihaspati Smriti) show a clear demarcation between civil and criminal law for the first time in ancient India. While earlier periods had legal concepts, the Guptas brought a more systematized and defined distinction. For instance, theft and adultery fell under criminal law, while property disputes and inheritance matters were classified under civil law.

All three statements accurately describe the administrative structure and practices during the Gupta Empire.

Q23. Which of the following famines of the 19th century in India has been described as 'Sea of Calamity'?

- (A). Bihar Famine of 1873
- (B). Rajputana Famine of 1868–69
- (C). Madras Presidency Famine of 1866–67
- (D). Orissa Famine of 1866–67

Answer: d

Solution:

The famine that broke out in Orissa in 1866–67 is remembered as one of the most devastating famines of

colonial India and is often referred to as a “Sea of Calamity.” Around one-third of Orissa’s population perished, primarily due to lack of timely relief, inadequate transport facilities, and administrative apathy under British rule. The famine exposed the shortcomings of the colonial famine relief policies, which relied excessively on market mechanisms instead of direct state intervention. While crops failed due to inadequate monsoon rains, the British government’s failure to ensure proper food distribution and dependence on laissez-faire policies worsened the disaster.

Information Booster:

The Orissa Famine of 1866–67 killed nearly a million people.

The British administration failed to transport food grains from surplus to deficit areas due to lack of infrastructure (poor roads, limited rail connectivity).

The famine gave rise to strong criticism of the laissez-faire policy, leading to reforms in famine relief codes later.

Historians like B.M. Bhatia and Romesh Chunder Dutt highlight this famine as an example of the exploitative nature of colonial economic policies.

Additional Information:

(a) Bihar Famine of 1873: This famine was less destructive due to improved relief measures such as the import of rice from Burma, which saved lives. The government intervention here was seen as more effective than in Orissa.

(b) Rajputana Famine of 1868–69: It affected nearly 1.5 million people. Though severe, it is not referred to as a “Sea of Calamity.” Relief measures were inadequate, but mortality was less than in Orissa.

(c) Madras Presidency Famine of 1866–67: This famine coincided with the Orissa famine but was less devastating in comparison. Relief works were comparatively better organized.

Q24. Who is the author of the book ‘The Idea of History’?

- (A). Marc Bloch
- (B). E. H. Carr
- (C). R. G. Collingwood
- (D). D. D. Kosambi

Answer: c

Solution:

The author of the book The Idea of History is R. G. Collingwood.

Introduction

The Idea of History is a seminal work in the philosophy of history. The book explores fundamental questions about the nature of history as a field of study, how historians acquire knowledge, and the relationship between history, philosophy, and human experience. It has had a profound impact on historical methodology and the self-understanding of historians.

Information Booster

Robin George Collingwood (1889–1943) was a renowned English philosopher, historian, and archaeologist. His major work, The Idea of History, was published posthumously in 1946 by his student, T. M. Knox, who compiled Collingwood's lectures and unfinished manuscripts.

- In the book, Collingwood argues that history is not merely the passive collection of facts but an active process of "re-enactment" of past thoughts and experiences in the historian's mind. He famously stated, "All history is the history of thought."
- He challenged positivist views of history which sought to model it on natural science, emphasizing that history is a unique form of inquiry that seeks to understand the "inside" of events—the intentions, motives, and reasoning of historical actors.
- The book remains a standard text in university courses on historiography and the philosophy of history, shaping how subsequent generations of historians have approached their discipline.

Additional Knowledge

- Marc Bloch: Marc Bloch (1886–1944) was a prominent French medieval historian and a founder of the Annales School of history. He is famous for works like Feudal Society and The Historian's Craft (published posthumously), which emphasized long-term social history and interdisciplinary approaches. He was not the author of The Idea of History.
- E. H. Carr: Edward Hallett Carr (1892–1982) was a British historian, diplomat, and international relations theorist. He is widely known for his influential book What Is History? (1961), which became another standard work on historiography. Carr's work offered a different perspective from Collingwood, focusing on the historian's selection of facts and the influence of the present on the interpretation of the past.
- D. D. Kosambi: Damodar Dharmananda Kosambi (1907–1966) was an Indian polymath, mathematician, and Marxist historian noted for his pioneering work in statistical mechanics and historical scholarship. His major works, such as The Culture and Civilisation of Ancient India in Historical Outline, focused on materialist analysis of ancient Indian history. He was not the author of The Idea of History.