

Rajasthan RSB Assistant Professor (History Sample Paper)

Q1. How many poets and poetesses had contributed to the Sangam Literature ?

- (a) 371
- (b) 473
- (c) 573
- (d) 775

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is (b).

The Sangam literature, a foundational collection of ancient Tamil poetry, was created over several centuries. According to historical and literary analysis of the corpus, exactly 473 poets and poetesses are officially recognized for their invaluable contributions to this classical Tamil literature.

Information Booster

- The Sangam literature is the earliest known literature of South India, composed primarily in the ancient Tamil language.
- It is traditionally believed to have been compiled in three successive literary gatherings called Sangams, patronized by the Pandyan kings in Madurai.
- The entire surviving corpus consists of 2,381 poems composed by 473 known poets, alongside some anonymous compositions.
- Renowned female poetesses like Avvaiyar made highly significant contributions, showcasing the respected intellectual and social status of women during the Sangam age.
- The themes of Sangam poetry are broadly classified into 'Agam' (inner life, focusing on love) and 'Puram' (outer life, dealing with war, kings, and public life).
- The literature provides profound historical insights into the political dynasties of the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas.
- It also documents the bustling trade relations between early historic South India and the Roman Empire.

Additional Knowledge

- Option A (371): This is an incorrect figure. While the number of poems is vast, the identified number of distinct contributors is recorded as 473.
- Option C (573): This number overstates the accepted historical consensus of recognized Sangam authors.
- Option D (775): This is factually incorrect and not supported by traditional Tamil literary chronicles.
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Tolkappiyam, a foundational work on Tamil grammar and poetics, is closely associated with this era.

Q2. Who among the following Graeco-Roman geographers lamented about the drain of precious metals because of its unfavourable trade relations with India?

- (a) Cosmas Indicopleustus
- (b) Strabo
- (c) Pliny the elder
- (d) Ptolemy

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

The intensive maritime trade between the Roman Empire and India during the early centuries CE was highly lucrative but heavily skewed in India's favor. This trade imbalance famously provoked the ire of the Roman author Pliny the Elder.

Information Booster

- Pliny the Elder, in his monumental encyclopedic work 'Naturalis Historia' (Natural History), written in the 1st century CE, documented this trade.
- He famously lamented that a massive amount of Roman wealth—estimated at 50 million sesterces annually—was being drained to India to pay for luxury goods.
- The primary imports driving this drain were Indian pepper, spices, pearls, gems, and fine textiles (muslin).
- Since the Romans produced little that the Indians wanted in return, the deficit had to be settled in hard currency, specifically high-quality Roman gold (Aureus) and silver (Denarius) coins.
- Pliny's complaint is corroborated by the massive hoards of Roman coins found across southern India, particularly in regions ruled by the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas.
- His lament highlights the early globalized nature of luxury trade and its macroeconomic impacts.

Additional Knowledge

- Option A (Cosmas Indicopleustes) was a 6th-century Greek merchant and monk who wrote the 'Christian Topography', describing trade with India and Sri Lanka, but he is not famous for the specific 'drain of wealth' lament.
- Option B (Strabo) was a Greek geographer whose work 'Geographica' details the route to India via Egypt, noting the increase in trade under Augustus, but lacks Pliny's moralizing complaint about the bullion drain.
- Option D (Ptolemy) was a 2nd-century astronomer and geographer whose 'Geographia' provides a highly detailed, though sometimes flawed, map of Indian coastal ports and inland cities, not an economic critique.

Q3. Match List - I (Ancient Ports) with List - II (Location/Region).

List – I	List - II
A. Barygaza	I. Bengal Coast
B. Muziris	II. Gujarat Coast
C. Tamralipti	III. Malabar Coast
D. Arikamedu	IV. Coromandel Coast

- (A). A-II, B-IV, C-I, D-III
- (b) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV
- (c) A-II, B-III, C-I, D-IV
- (d) A-III, B-II, C-IV, D-I

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

The maritime trade of ancient India was facilitated by a network of thriving port cities located strategically along the subcontinent's coastline. These ports connected Indian merchants with global trade networks, spanning from the Roman Empire in the west to Southeast Asia in the east.

Information Booster

- Barygaza, modern-day Bharuch, was a premier ancient port located on the Gujarat Coast, serving as a massive emporium for Roman trade in western India.
- Muziris was a legendary ancient port situated on the Malabar Coast (Kerala), famous globally for exporting black pepper and spices to the Roman world.
- Tamralipti (Tamluk) was an essential port located on the Bengal Coast, acting as the primary eastern gateway for trade and cultural exchange with Southeast Asia and China.
- Arikamedu, located near Pondicherry on the Coromandel Coast, was a major Indo-Roman trading station known for its bead manufacturing and imported Roman amphorae.
- The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea is a crucial Greek text that provides vivid descriptions of these ports and their trade commodities.
- These coastal hubs led to significant urbanization, monetized economies, and the flourishing of wealthy merchant guilds in ancient India.

Additional Knowledge

- Option A is incorrect because it incorrectly pairs Muziris with the Coromandel Coast and Arikamedu with the Malabar Coast, fundamentally mixing up the eastern and western sea boards.
- Option B mismatches Barygaza to Bengal and Muziris to Gujarat, demonstrating a complete misunderstanding of the coastal geography of ancient trade.
- Option D is geographically inaccurate as it places Barygaza on the Malabar Coast and Muziris on the Gujarat Coast, contradicting both archaeological evidence and classical literary sources.

Q4. Famous Harappan site Kalibangan is situated in which river valley ?

- (a) Ghaggar
- (b) Ravi
- (c) Sutlej
- (d) Vyas

Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is (a).

Kalibangan, one of the most significant and revealing provincial capitals of the Indus Valley Civilization, is strategically located in the Hanumangarh district of modern-day Rajasthan. It lies on the dry bed of the ancient Ghaggar river, which historians and archaeologists widely identify with the sacred, now dried-up, Sarasvati river mentioned extensively in Vedic literature.

Information Booster

- The site of Kalibangan prominently displays continuous evidence of both Pre-Harappan (Early Harappan) and Mature Harappan cultural phases.
- It is uniquely celebrated for providing the world's earliest known archaeological evidence of a meticulously ploughed agricultural field.
- The discovery of distinctive fire altars at the site strongly suggests the practice of localized ritualistic sacrifices or advanced fire worship.
- Unlike most other major Harappan cities, Kalibangan uniquely featured both its citadel and lower town heavily fortified by massive mud-brick walls.

- Archaeologists have uncovered fascinating evidence of early earthquake activity here, which may have contributed to the site's eventual decline.
- The name 'Kalibangan' translates to 'black bangles', directly referring to the massive quantities of terracotta bangles discovered during extensive excavations.

Additional Knowledge

- **Ravi:** The river Ravi flows through Punjab and is famously associated with Harappa, the very first site discovered in the Indus Valley Civilization.
- **Sutlej:** The Sutlej river valley is historically significant for hosting the important Harappan site of Ropar (Rupnagar) in modern Punjab.
- **Vyas:** While a major river in the broader Punjab region, the Vyas (Beas) is not the primary geographical location associated with the major Harappan urban center of Kalibangan.

Q5. Consider the following statements about women's aspirations during the Renaissance:

- Women from aristocratic families were completely excluded from public life and were looked upon merely as keepers of the households.
- Cassandra Fedele, a Venetian writer, was celebrated for her proficiency in Greek and Latin and gave orations at the University of Padua.
- Isabella d'Este, the Marchesa of Mantua, ruled the state in the absence of her husband, demonstrating intellectual brilliance and conviction.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- I and II only
- II and III only
- I and III only
- I, II, and III

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (d).

During the Renaissance, women's roles were highly dichotomous. While the overarching societal norm heavily restricted aristocratic and mercantile women to domestic spheres, a few exceptional women broke these boundaries through classical education and political leadership, making all the provided statements historically accurate representations of the era's complex gender dynamics.

Information Booster

- Statement I reflects the dominant patriarchal reality: Most humanist scholars believed that education was for men preparing for civic duty. Elite women were generally confined to managing vast estates, overseeing servants, and raising children without formal public roles.
- Statement II highlights an exception: Cassandra Fedele (1465–1558) was an extraordinary Venetian humanist writer. Despite societal barriers, she mastered Greek and Latin and achieved international fame, famously delivering a public oration at the University of Padua.
- Statement III showcases political agency: Isabella d'Este (1474–1539) is often referred to as the 'First Lady of the Renaissance'. She served as regent of Mantua during her husband's absence and became a premier patron of the arts, commanding immense political and cultural respect.

• The juxtaposition of these statements illustrates the 'Renaissance paradox' for women: a period of intellectual rebirth that offered limited systemic liberation for females, yet permitted individual brilliance to occasionally flourish.

Additional Knowledge

- Option A is incorrect because it improperly excludes Isabella d'Este's well-documented political and cultural reign in Mantua.
- Option B is incorrect because, despite the achievements of Fedele and d'Este, it ignores the broader historical truth (Statement I) that the vast majority of aristocratic women were indeed relegated strictly to household management.
- Option C is incorrect because it ignores the significant humanist contributions of Cassandra Fedele, a prime example of female intellectual aspiration in the Renaissance.

Q6. Regarding the role of women in Mughal agrarian society, which of the following are true?

1. There was a strict segregation of "home" for women and "world" for men in peasant households.
2. Menstruating women were prohibited from entering betel-leaf groves in Bengal.
3. In many rural communities, marriages required the payment of bride-price.

Women of the landed gentry, including widows, could inherit and sell zamindaris.

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

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (C).

Statement 1 is false because in peasant households, the boundary between 'home' and 'work' was porous. Women were integral to the production process, performing tasks like sowing, weeding, and threshing alongside men. The strict 'Parda' or segregation was largely an urban or elite phenomenon.

Information Booster

- Peasant women were essential labor units; men tilled the land while women engaged in post-harvest activities.
- In artisanal families (like weavers), women were the primary spinners of thread, directly contributing to the economy.
- Taboos existed, such as in Bengal where women were kept away from betel-leaf (Pan) groves during menstruation.
- 'Bride-price' (Dower) was common among lower castes/classes, acknowledging the woman's value as a labor asset.
- The Mughal legal system and local customs often recognized the property rights of elite women.
- Historical records from Rajasthan and Maharashtra show women (widows) petitioning the state for land rights.
- Women could act as 'Zamindars' in their own right, managing estates and collecting revenue.
- Their high mortality during childbirth led to a demographic imbalance where women were highly valued as partners.

Additional Knowledge

- **Segregation Myth:** While elite women lived in Zenanas, rural women were visible in markets and fields.
- **Zamindari Rights:** Documents like 'Sale Deeds' often bear the names of female sellers, proving their agency in land markets.
- **Social Controls:** Despite their economic role, women faced strict patriarchal controls regarding infidelity and social behavior.

Q7. The Pratiharas were referred to by the Arabs somewhat differently, what was the term used?

- (a) Rhumi
- (b) Ballahara
- (c) Al-Jurz
- (d) Puruti

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

The Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty, which formed a formidable bulwark against early Islamic expansion into northern India, was prominently mentioned in the geographical and historical accounts of early Arab travelers. Writers like Al-Masudi specifically referred to their expansive kingdom and its powerful rulers by the term 'Al-Jurz', which is an Arabic linguistic corruption of the word 'Gurjara'.

Information Booster

- The Gurjara-Pratiharas dominated vast regions of northern and western India from the 8th to the 11th centuries, engaging in the intense Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj.
- Arab chroniclers, particularly Suleiman the Merchant, explicitly praised the military might of the Pratihara cavalry, considering them among the finest in the world.
- These accounts simultaneously identify the Pratiharas as the most aggressive and determined enemies of the Islamic faith in the Indian subcontinent.
- The powerful Pratihara king Mihir Bhoja was specifically noted by Arab historians for his unyielding hostility towards the Muslim emirs of Sindh.
- Despite the intense military conflict, Arab merchants were generally allowed to trade peacefully within the borders of the Pratihara empire.
- The term 'Al-Jurz' exclusively denoted both the specific geographic territory and the ruling elite of the Gurjara lineage.

Additional Knowledge

- **Rhumi:** This term was historically utilized by Arab and Islamic writers to specifically denote the Pala Empire of Bengal, often relating it to the concept of Dharma.
- **Ballahara:** This is an Arabic linguistic corruption of 'Vallabharaja', a prestigious title consistently used by Arab merchants to describe the powerful Rashtrakuta kings of the Deccan.
- **Puruti:** This is an incorrect distractor term with no recognized historical significance in the context of Arab geographical descriptions of Indian empires.

Q8. Out of the two statements given below, one is Assertion (A) and the other is Reason (R)-

Assertion (A): Because of his marriage to Nur Jahan, Jahangir became indifferent on the part of the administration.

Reasoning (R): During 1611-22, Nur Jahan formed a separate party (junta) of her own and became very

powerful.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (c) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong.
- (d) (A) is wrong, but (R) is correct.

Ans.(d)

Solution

• **Assertion (A) is incorrect:** While it is a popular historical myth that Jahangir became a mere puppet or completely indifferent to the state after marrying Nur Jahan in 1611, contemporary records and modern historiography suggest otherwise. Jahangir remained the final arbiter of all important matters of the state. He continued to hold court, issue firmans, and lead military campaigns. Although his health declined in later years due to his lifestyle, he never fully abdicated his administrative responsibilities.

• **Reasoning (R) is correct:** Between **1611 and 1622**, a group often referred by historians (like Beni Prasad) as the "**Nur Jahan Junta**" was indeed very powerful. This faction consisted of Nur Jahan, her father **Itimad-ud-Daula**, her brother **Asaf Khan**, and **Prince Khurram** (the future Shah Jahan). This group dominated the Mughal court and influenced promotions and appointments until the faction broke apart due to the rising ambitions of Prince Khurram and Nur Jahan's promotion of Prince Shahryar.

Information Booster

The "Junta" theory suggests that for over a decade, no one could reach the Emperor or rise in rank without the approval of this inner circle. Nur Jahan was the only Mughal Empress to have **coins struck in her name** and to issue **royal decrees (Hukm)**, showcasing a level of political agency unprecedented for a queen in that era.

Additional Knowledge

• **Zanjir-i-Adl:** To prove he was not "indifferent" to his subjects, Jahangir installed the "Chain of Justice" at the Agra Fort, which anyone could pull to seek a direct audience with the Emperor for redressal of grievances.

• **Twelve Edicts (Dastur-ul-Amal):** Early in his reign, he issued twelve ordinances to ensure better governance, including the prohibition of illegal cesses (Zakat), the building of sarais and mosques along roads, and a ban on the sale of wine and tobacco.

• **Historiography Shift:** Modern historians often argue that Jahangir and Nur Jahan worked as a **political partnership**. Rather than Jahangir being "lazy," he found in Nur Jahan a highly competent administrator who could manage the factionalism of the nobility while he focused on his interests in botany, painting, and expansion.

Q9. Who among the following Mughal princes was an influential member of the Nur Jahan Junta?

- (a) Khusrau
- (b) Parvez
- (c) Khurram
- (d) Shahryar

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

Prince Khurram, who later ascended the throne as Emperor Shah Jahan, was a core, influential member of the powerful 'Nur Jahan Junta' during the early years of Jahangir's reign.

Information Booster

• The 'Nur Jahan Junta' refers to a powerful political faction that effectively controlled the Mughal administration between 1611 and 1622 CE.

- The core members were Empress Nur Jahan, her father Itimad-ud-Daulah, her brilliant brother Asaf Khan, and Prince Khurram.
- Khurram was intimately tied to the faction; he was married to Mumtaz Mahal, who was Asaf Khan's daughter and Nur Jahan's niece.
- During this period, Khurram was highly favored and received unprecedented military commands and promotions.
- The alliance fractured around 1622 when Nur Jahan married her daughter from a previous marriage to Prince Shahryar, seeking to groom him as the next emperor instead.
- This shift in loyalty provoked Prince Khurram into open rebellion against Jahangir and Nur Jahan.

Additional Knowledge

- **Khusrau:** Jahangir's eldest son who rebelled early in the reign (1606), was blinded, and was ultimately assassinated, allegedly on Khurram's orders.
- **Parvez:** Jahangir's second son; he was relatively incompetent and died of excessive alcohol consumption before he could secure the throne.
- **Shahryar:** Jahangir's youngest son. He became Nur Jahan's pawn and son-in-law *after* the junta fractured, but was not part of the original, dominant four-member junta.

Q10. The Gurumukhi script was started by:

- (a) Guru Arjan
- (b) Guru Angad
- (c) Guru Ramdas
- (d) Guru Tegh Bahadur

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is (b).

Guru Angad Dev, the second of the ten Sikh Gurus, is credited with formalizing and popularizing the Gurmukhi script in the 16th century.

Information Booster

- The term 'Gurmukhi' translates literally to 'from the mouth of the Guru'.
- Before its standardization, Punjabi was written in various fragmented, informal scripts like Landa.
- Guru Angad standardized the alphabet to accurately record and preserve the hymns (Bani) of the founder, Guru Nanak Dev.
- The creation of a distinct script gave the emerging Sikh community a unique linguistic and religious identity, separating their texts from traditional Sanskrit (Hindu) and Arabic/Persian (Islamic) scriptures.
- Furthermore, Guru Angad expanded the institution of *Langar* (community kitchen) to fiercely promote equality and dismantle caste barriers.

Additional Knowledge

- **Guru Arjan:** The fifth Guru. He utilized the Gurmukhi script to compile the monumental *Adi Granth* in 1604 and initiated the construction of the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple).
- **Guru Ramdas:** The fourth Guru, who famously founded the holy city of Ramdasapur, which later came to be known as Amritsar.

• **Guru Tegh Bahadur:** The ninth Guru, whose courageous martyrdom under the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi was a turning point in Sikh history.

Q11. Who of the following rulers had ruled between 1296-1316 CE in the Delhi Sultanate?

- (a) Alauddin Khalji
- (b) Balban
- (c) Iltutmish
- (d) Muhammad-bin Tughlaq

Ans.(a)

Sol. Alauddin Khalji ruled from 1296 to 1316 CE. He was one of the most prominent rulers of the Khalji dynasty and significantly expanded the Delhi Sultanate during his reign. Known for his military prowess and administrative reforms, Alauddin Khalji consolidated power over large parts of North India and even extended the empire's reach to the Deccan region. His reign is marked by both territorial expansion and internal reforms, particularly in the areas of revenue collection and market regulation.

Information Booster:

Alauddin Khalji, under whose rule the Delhi Sultanate reached its peak in terms of territorial expansion, came to power in 1296 after the assassination of his uncle and father-in-law, Sultan Jalaluddin Khalji. His reign witnessed major military campaigns, including the successful invasion of Gujarat, the Deccan, and the Rajput states. His administrative changes included market reforms, control over prices, and the introduction of a centralised taxation system. He was also known for his effective suppression of Mongol invasions.

Additional Information:

- (b) Balban: Balban was a ruler of the Delhi Sultanate who reigned from 1266 to 1287. He belonged to the Mamluk (Slave) dynasty and is known for his consolidation of the Delhi Sultanate and the establishment of a strong central administration.
- (c) Iltutmish: Iltutmish was an important ruler of the Delhi Sultanate who reigned from 1211 to 1236 CE. He played a significant role in consolidating the Delhi Sultanate, establishing its legitimacy, and gaining recognition from the Caliph of Baghdad.
- (d) Muhammad-bin Tughlaq: Muhammad-bin Tughlaq ruled from 1325 to 1351 CE. He is known for his ambitious but often disastrous policies, including the shifting of the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad. However, he ruled after the period of 1296-1316 CE, which makes him an incorrect option for this time frame.

Q12. Arrange the following historical events in chronological order (earliest to latest):

- A. Ajatasatru's war with Lichchhavis
- B. Coronation of Ashoka
- C. Alexander's death.
- D. Assassination of Brihadratha.

- (a) A, C, B, D
- (b) A, B, C, D
- (c) A, D, B, C
- (d) C, B, A, D

Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is (a).

These monumental events trace the political evolution of ancient India from the rise of Magadha as an early imperial power to the dramatic fall of the Mauryan Empire. Proper chronological arrangement is essential for understanding this grand narrative.

Information Booster

- Ajatasatru's war with the Lichchhavis (A) occurred during the Haryanka dynasty's rule over Magadha (early 5th century BCE), solidifying Magadhan supremacy in the Ganges Valley.
- Alexander the Great's death (C) occurred in Babylon in 323 BCE, shortly after his campaigns in northwestern India, paving the way for the rise of Chandragupta Maurya.
- The Coronation of Ashoka (B) took place around 268 BCE, initiating a reign that transformed the Mauryan state and profoundly influenced Indian religious history.
- The Assassination of Brihadratha (D) happened around 185 BCE when the last Mauryan emperor was killed by his commander Pushyamitra Shunga, marking the end of the Mauryan dynasty.
- This sequence covers approximately 300 years of ancient Indian geopolitical shifts.

Additional Knowledge

- Option B wrongly places Ashoka's coronation before Alexander's death. Alexander died in 323 BCE, before the Mauryan Empire was even established by Ashoka's grandfather, Chandragupta.
- Option C incorrectly suggests the Mauryan Empire collapsed (Assassination of Brihadratha) before Ashoka was coronated and Alexander died, totally reversing the Mauryan timeline.
- Option D mistakenly places Alexander's death as the earliest event, completely ignoring the preceding Haryanka dynasty and Ajatasatru's conquests which were contemporaries of the Buddha.

Q13. Match the historical milestones with their corresponding years in the history of the USA and Canada:

List-I	List-II
A. Trail of Tears (forced eviction of Cherokees)	1. 1781
B. Indian Reorganisation Act	2. 1838
C. British recognise USA as an independent country	3. 1876
D. Canadian 'Indian Act'	4. 1934

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

(b) A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1

(c) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3

(d) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2

Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is (a).

This question tests the chronological understanding of major milestones concerning Native American history and North American political development. The Trail of Tears occurred in 1838, the US Indian Reorganisation Act was passed in 1934, British recognition of the US effectively began around 1781 with Yorktown, and the Canadian Indian Act was enacted in 1876.

Information Booster

- The Trail of Tears (1838) refers to the brutal forced relocation of the Cherokee Nation from the Southeastern US to designated 'Indian Territory' west of the Mississippi River, resulting in thousands of deaths.
- The Indian Reorganisation Act (1934), also known as the Wheeler-Howard Act, was a US federal legislation that aimed to reverse the traditional goal of assimilation of Native Americans, encouraging tribal self-government.
- The British officially recognized the USA as an independent country following the decisive Siege of Yorktown in 1781, paving the way for the formal Treaty of Paris in 1783.
- The Canadian 'Indian Act' (1876) consolidated previous colonial regulations into a single federal law, giving the Canadian government sweeping powers over First Nations identity, political structures, and cultural practices.
- Understanding these dates is crucial for tracking the systematic displacement, administration, and eventual policy shifts regarding indigenous populations in North America.
- These legislative milestones highlight the stark contrast between the push for national independence and the simultaneous marginalization of native peoples.

Q14. In Rigveda the agriculture is described in how many verses (Shlokas) ?

- (a) 12
- (b) 20
- (c) 24
- (d) 105

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

In the vast corpus of the Rigveda, which primarily reflects a pastoral and semi-nomadic society, references to agriculture are relatively limited. Specifically, agriculture and related activities are described in only 24 verses (shlokas) throughout the entire text.

Information Booster

- The Rigveda is the oldest of the four Vedas, consisting of 1,028 hymns (Suktas) divided into 10 Mandalas (books).
- The early Vedic Aryans were predominantly a pastoral community whose wealth was measured in cattle (Gomat).
- Consequently, agriculture was a secondary economic activity during the Early Vedic Period (1500 BC - 1000 BC).
- Out of the 10,462 verses in the Rigveda, only 24 verses explicitly mention agriculture (Krishi).
- Most of these 24 verses are found in the IV (Fourth) Mandala, which is traditionally attributed to the sage Vamadeva.
- The Rigveda mentions the use of a wooden plough (Sira), which was pulled by oxen. The furrows created by the plough were called 'Sita'.
- The only grain specifically named in the Rigveda is 'Yava', which generally translates to barley.

Additional Knowledge

- Option A (12) & Option B (20): These are incorrect figures. The exact count established by Vedic scholars regarding direct agricultural references is 24.
- Option D (105): This number vastly overestimates the importance of agriculture in the early Vedic economy.
- It was only during the Later Vedic Period (1000 BC - 600 BC), with the discovery of iron (Shyama Ayas) and the eastward migration into the Gangetic plains, that agriculture became the primary occupation.
- The Later Vedic texts (Atharvaveda, Brahmanas) contain detailed descriptions of agrarian rituals, different types of crops (Vrihi/rice, Godhuma/wheat), and sophisticated farming techniques.

Q15. Which office was denied to Augustus as part of the Second Settlement of 23 BCE in Rome?

- (a) Imperator
- (b) Pontifex Maximus
- (c) Tribunus Plebis
- (d) Praefectus Praetorio

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (d).

The Second Settlement of 23 BCE was a brilliant political maneuver by Augustus to solidify his absolute power while maintaining the facade of the Roman Republic. He secured immense legal powers but deliberately avoided certain offices to prevent looking like a dictator.

Information Booster

- In the Second Settlement, Augustus resigned from his continuous tenure of the Consulship, which had begun to alienate the senatorial elite.
- In exchange, the Senate granted him *maius imperium proconsulare* (greater proconsular power), giving him authority over all other provincial governors and the army.
- He was also granted *tribunicia potestas* (tribunician power) for life, allowing him to veto legislation, convene the Senate, and ensuring his physical sacrosanctity.
- The office of Praefectus Praetorio (Praetorian Prefect) was a later equestrian office created by Augustus to command his personal bodyguard, not a Republican magistracy he sought or was denied.
- By holding the powers of the offices without the titles, Augustus created the constitutional basis for the Principate.
- This allowed him to rule as the 'First Citizen' (Princeps) without triggering the republican anti-monarchical backlash that killed Julius Caesar.

Additional Knowledge

- Option A (Imperator) was a title Augustus actively used to emphasize his military supreme command, eventually becoming synonymous with 'Emperor'.
- Option B (Pontifex Maximus), the role of chief priest, was an office Augustus eagerly coveted but waited until the death of the incumbent, Lepidus, in 12 BCE to assume.
- Option C (Tribunus Plebis) was not technically held by Augustus because he was a patrician by adoption; instead, he was granted the 'power' of the tribune (*tribunicia potestas*) without the office itself.
- The question tests deep knowledge of Roman constitutional history, specifically the legal fictions Augustus used to transition Rome from a Republic to an Empire.

- The Second Settlement firmly established the enduring framework of the Roman imperial system.

Q16. Iltutmish established 'Madrasa-a-Muijji' school in Delhi in the memory of :

- (a) Qutubuddin Aibak
- (b) Bakhtiyar Kaki
- (c) Muhammad Gori
- (d) Nasiruddin Mahmud

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

Sultan Iltutmish established the 'Madrasa-i-Muizzi' in Delhi in honor of his overarching master and the founder of Islamic rule in India, Shihabuddin Muhammad Ghori, whose original name was Muizuddin Muhammad bin Sam.

Information Booster

- Iltutmish was the real consolidator of the Delhi Sultanate and sought to establish Delhi as an intellectual and cultural hub to rival cities like Baghdad.
- He established two major madrasas in Delhi: the Madrasa-i-Muizzi (named after Muizuddin Muhammad Ghori) and the Madrasa-i-Nasiri (named after his beloved son Nasiruddin Mahmud).
- These educational institutions were pivotal in training the administrative and judicial elite (the Ulema) required to run the nascent Sultanate.
- The curriculum focused heavily on Islamic theology, jurisprudence (Fiqh), logic, and literature.
- Minhaj-us-Siraj, the famous historian who wrote 'Tabaqat-i-Nasiri', was appointed as the principal of the Madrasa-i-Nasiri.

Additional Knowledge

- **Qutubuddin Aibak:** Iltutmish's immediate master and father-in-law. While Iltutmish completed Aibak's architectural projects like the Qutub Minar, the specific madrasa was named for Ghori.
- **Bakhtiyar Kaki:** A revered Sufi saint of the Chishti order. The Qutub Minar was named in his honor (Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki), not the Madrasa-i-Muizzi.
- **Nasiruddin Mahmud:** Iltutmish's eldest son who died prematurely. The Madrasa-i-Nasiri and the monumental tomb, Sultan Ghari, were built in his memory.

Q17. Durvinita is traditionally credited with writing a Sanskrit version of

- (a) Panchatantra
- (b) Kathasaritsagar
- (c) Meghaduta
- (d) Brihatkatha.

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (d).

Durvinita, the illustrious 6th-century ruler of the Western Ganga dynasty, is highly celebrated in epigraphy and literary tradition for translating Gunadhya's famous but obscure Paisachi work, the 'Brihatkatha', into classical Sanskrit.

Information Booster

- King Durvinita of the Western Ganga dynasty was not only recognized as a great warrior but also deeply revered as a profound scholar of classical literature and grammar.
- Gunadhya's original epic, the Brihatkatha (The Great Narrative), was originally written in the obscure, low-status Paisachi language and is now tragically lost to history.
- Durvinita's monumental Sanskrit translation helped preserve the core essence and narratives of this massive collection of secular Indian folklore and romances for elite audiences.
- Contemporary inscriptions also highly credit him with authoring a learned commentary on the complex 15th canto of Bharavi's great poem, the Kiratarjuniya.
- His generous royal patronage and immense personal contributions significantly boosted Sanskrit learning and cultural efflorescence in early medieval Karnataka.
- His long reign structurally marked the absolute zenith of Western Ganga political power and territorial expansion.

Additional Knowledge

- **A (Panchatantra):** A globally famous ancient Indian collection of interrelated animal fables, originally composed in Sanskrit by the scholar Vishnu Sharma, not translated by Durvinita.
- **B (Kathasaritsagar):** The 'Ocean of the Streams of Stories' is a famous 11th-century Sanskrit adaptation of the Brihatkatha, masterfully compiled by the Kashmiri Shaivite poet Somadeva, centuries after Durvinita.
- **C (Meghaduta):** A highly famous classical lyrical poem (Khandakavya) beautifully composed by the legendary Sanskrit poet Kalidasa.

Q18. The Roman empire's network of trade during the rule of Principate can best be described as :

- (a) Extensive, with the Mediterranean functioning as Mare Nostrum which facilitated the movement of goods like grain, olive oil, wine and pottery
- (b) Focused exclusively on the overland trade for luxury items like Chinese silk.
- (c) State controlled with little or no role for private merchants
- (d) 'Bottled up economy', with most goods produced and consumed locally

Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is (a).

During the Principate (the first phase of the Roman Empire, beginning with Augustus), the Roman economy experienced a period of unprecedented integration and expansion, heavily reliant on a vast maritime trade network.

Information Booster

- The Romans referred to the Mediterranean Sea as 'Mare Nostrum' (Our Sea), having eradicated piracy and established complete naval hegemony.
- This internal sea served as a massive, low-cost superhighway connecting the diverse provinces of the empire.
- Trade was not limited to luxuries; it was characterized by the massive bulk transport of essential commodities.
- Egypt and North Africa served as the breadbaskets, exporting millions of tons of grain to feed the bloated population of Rome.

- Spain (Hispania) exported vast quantities of olive oil, while Gaul and Italy exported wine and fine red-slip pottery (terra sigillata).
- This period saw a highly monetized economy with a relatively sophisticated system of credit, driven by the Pax Romana (Roman Peace).

Additional Knowledge

- Option B is incorrect. While overland trade on the Silk Road and maritime trade with India for luxuries (silk, spices) was highly lucrative, it did not constitute the bulk of the empire's economic network, which was dominated by internal Mediterranean trade.
- Option C is inaccurate. While the state controlled critical supplies like the 'Annona' (the grain dole for Rome), a vast, vibrant, and largely unrestricted private merchant class (negotiatores and mercatores) drove the broader economy.
- Option D is completely false. The 'bottled up' localized economy is a characteristic of the later, post-collapse early medieval period (Feudalism), not the highly interconnected Roman Principate.
- The discovery of massive mounds of broken amphorae (like Monte Testaccio in Rome) provides archaeological proof of this extensive bulk trade.

Q19. Which of the following did criticise the University Act of 1904 commenting that the Indian Universities have become some of the world's most governmental institutions ?

- (a) Hunter Commission
- (b) Radhakrishnan Commission
- (c) Saddler Commission
- (d) Raleigh Commission

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

The Sadler Commission (officially the Calcutta University Commission of 1917) strongly criticized the Indian Universities Act of 1904. It astutely observed that the 1904 Act had over-centralized academic control, making Indian universities the most strictly governmental institutions globally.

Information Booster

- The Universities Act of 1904 was passed during Lord Curzon's highly controversial viceroyalty, severely tightening direct government control over university senates and college affiliations.
- The Sadler Commission was appointed in 1917 under the chairmanship of Dr. Michael Sadler primarily to review the affairs of Calcutta University.
- It highlighted that the stifling bureaucratic control imposed by the 1904 Act severely hindered academic autonomy and research growth.
- The Commission strongly recommended a drastic reduction in state control and the promotion of greater academic freedom.
- It also suggested separating secondary education from university administration by establishing independent Boards of Secondary and Intermediate Education.
- Its progressive recommendations profoundly shaped university reforms across India in the subsequent decades.

Additional Knowledge

- **Hunter Commission:** Appointed much earlier in 1882 to review the progress of education post-Wood's Despatch, it focused primarily on primary and secondary education, predating the 1904 Act.
- **Radhakrishnan Commission:** The University Education Commission appointed post-independence in 1948, focusing on aligning university education with the philosophical needs of a newly free India.
- **Raleigh Commission:** Appointed by Lord Curzon in 1902; its very recommendations formed the basis of the restrictive 1904 University Act, so it logically could not have criticized its own outcome.

Q20. Arrange the following major historical events regarding China's path to modernisation in chronological order:

1. The founding of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
2. The May Fourth Movement, an angry demonstration held in Beijing
3. The Long March to Shanxi
4. The establishment of the Republic under Sun Yat-sen

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

Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is (a).

Understanding China's modern history requires grasping the sequence of revolutionary shifts. The Qing dynasty fell leading to the Republic (1912), followed by the cultural awakening of the May Fourth Movement (1919), which inspired the founding of the Communist Party (1921), eventually leading to the Communists' strategic retreat known as the Long March (1934-35).

Information Booster

- **4. Establishment of the Republic (1912):** Following the Xinhai Revolution of 1911, the Qing Dynasty collapsed. Sun Yat-sen was inaugurated as the provisional president of the new Republic of China in January 1912.
- **2. The May Fourth Movement (1919):** Triggered by the unfair terms of the Treaty of Versailles (which gave German concessions in China to Japan), students marched in Beijing on May 4, 1919. It sparked a broader anti-imperialist, cultural, and political movement.
- **1. Founding of the CCP (1921):** Inspired by the May Fourth Movement and the Russian Bolshevik Revolution, intellectual leaders like Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao founded the Chinese Communist Party in Shanghai in July 1921.
- **3. The Long March (1934–1935):** Facing annihilation by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces, the Communist Red Army undertook a brutal, year-long, 6,000-mile retreat from Jiangxi to the rugged terrain of Shaanxi (Shanxi region), securing Mao Zedong's undisputed leadership.
- This chronological sequence accurately maps China's chaotic transition from an empire to a battleground between nationalist and communist ideologies.

Additional Knowledge

- Option B is incorrect because it places the May Fourth Movement (1919) before the establishment of the Republic (1912).

- Option C is incorrect because it inaccurately asserts that the CCP (1921) was founded before the May Fourth Movement (1919), whereas the latter heavily influenced the former.
- Option D is incorrect because it places the founding of the CCP as the earliest event, ignoring the chronological reality of the 1911 revolution and the 1919 protests.

Q21. Assertion (A): The Portuguese were the first Europeans to reach India by sea, but they were also the first to lose their dominance to other European powers by the mid-17th century.

Reasoning (R): The discovery of Brazil diverted Portuguese attention to the West, and their religious intolerance/forced conversions alienated the local Indian rulers.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is NOT the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is correct but (R) is incorrect.
- (d) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.

Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is (a).

Both the Assertion and the Reasoning are historically accurate, and the Reasoning successfully explains the Assertion. The Portuguese colonial monopoly in the Indian Ocean rapidly crumbled due to a combination of geopolitical shifts and deeply flawed internal policies.

Information Booster

- The Portuguese established their initial maritime dominance following Vasco da Gama's arrival in Calicut in 1498, controlling the profitable spice trade for over a century.
- Their precipitous decline by the mid-17th century was heavily influenced by the lucrative discovery of Brazil, which shifted Lisbon's strategic and economic focus away from the Indian Ocean toward the Americas.
- Their aggressive policies of religious intolerance, perfectly exemplified by the brutal Goa Inquisition (established in 1560), severely alienated powerful indigenous rulers and local populations.
- Unlike the later pragmatic British and Dutch companies, the Portuguese state actively intertwined aggressive Christian proselytization with their commercial enterprises.
- Widespread corruption within the Portuguese administration, rampant piracy, and their oppressive 'Cartaz' (naval pass) system provoked widespread indigenous hostility.
- They were decisively outmatched both economically and militarily by the emergence of the well-funded and highly organized Dutch (VOC) and English East India Companies in the 1600s.

Additional Knowledge

- Option B is incorrect because the structural shift towards Brazil and religious alienation are universally recognized by historians as the direct causative factors (the 'Reason') for their rapid imperial decline in India.
- Option C is an incorrect choice because the Reasoning is a fully accurate historical statement reflecting the multi-faceted causes of Portuguese vulnerability.
- Option D is incorrect because the Assertion correctly identifies the Portuguese as both the pioneers of European naval expansion to India and the earliest to suffer severe territorial and commercial contractions.

Q22. Which of the following wrote 'Chhatra Prakash', the success story of king Chhatrasal Bundela ?

- (a) Kavi Sunder
(b) Biharilal Chaubey
(c) Gora Lal Purohit
(d) Jagjicharan

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

The epic biographical poem 'Chhatra Prakash', which glorifies the life and military successes of the great Bundela warrior King Chhatrasal, was authored by the court poet Gora Lal Purohit, widely known by his pen name 'Lal Kavi'.

Information Booster

- King Chhatrasal was a formidable leader who successfully rebelled against the Mughal Empire under Aurangzeb to establish an independent kingdom in Bundelkhand.
- 'Chhatra Prakash' is an invaluable contemporary literary source for the political and military history of the late 17th and early 18th century Bundelkhand.
- The work details Chhatrasal's initial inspiration from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his subsequent guerrilla warfare against Mughal generals.
- Lal Kavi composed the work in the Braj Bhasha dialect, reflecting the rich martial poetic tradition of the era.
- The text also chronicles Chhatrasal's later alliance with the Maratha Peshwa Baji Rao I, who helped him defeat the Mughal commander Bangash Khan.

Additional Knowledge

- **Biharilal Chaubey:** Famous for his 'Bihari Satsai', a collection of 700 couplets in Braj Bhasha known for their deep romantic (shringara) and aesthetic themes, associated with the court of Jai Singh of Amber.
- **Kavi Bhushan:** Another extremely prominent poet of the era who composed 'Shiva Bavani' (praising Shivaji) and 'Chhatrasal Dashak' (praising Chhatrasal), but the specific work 'Chhatra Prakash' belongs to Lal Kavi.
- **Jagjicharan:** Not historically linked to the biography of Maharaja Chhatrasal.

Q23. Match List - I with List - II:

List - I (Educational Institutions)	List - II (Founded by)
(A) Sanskrit College, Banaras	(I) Raja Ram Mohan Roy, David Hare
(B) Calcutta Madarasa (or Muhammadan College)	(II) Richard Wellesley
(C) Hindu College, Calcutta	(III) Jonathan Danken
(D) Fort William College, Calcutta	(IV) Warren Hastings

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (a) (A)-(III), (B)-(IV), (C)-(I), (D)-(II)
(b) (A)-(II), (B)-(I), (C)-(III), (D)-(IV)
(c) (A)-(I), (B)-(II), (C)-(III), (D)-(IV)
(d) (A)-(I), (B)-(II), (C)-(IV), (D)-(III)

Ans.(a)

Sol. The Sanskrit College in Banaras, established in 1791, was founded by Jonathan Duncan, the British Resident of Banaras, to promote the study of Sanskrit and classical Indian literature. It later became a

university and was renamed Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya in 1974.

Calcutta Madarasa was established by Warren Hasting in October 1780.

The Hindu College, later known as Presidency University, Kolkata, was established in Calcutta in 1817. It was the first modern institution of higher learning in Asia, playing a key role in the Bengal Renaissance. The people associated with the establishment of the college are Raja Rammohan Roy, Radhakanta Deb, Rasamay Dutt, Baidyanath Mukhopadhyaya, David Hare, Sir Edward Hyde East.

Fort William College, established in 1800 in Calcutta (now Kolkata) by Lord Wellesley, the Governor-General of British India, was a significant institution for oriental studies and a centre of learning. Its primary purpose was to train British officials in Indian languages, literature, and culture, aiming to improve their administrative skills and governance.

Q24. In 1992, the Australian High Court made a landmark decision recognizing native claims to land before 1770. What legal doctrine did this court case declare invalid?

- (a) Manifest Destiny
- (b) The Indian Reorganisation Act
- (c) Terra nullius
- (d) Multiculturalism

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

In the landmark 1992 case *Mabo v Queensland (No 2)*, the High Court of Australia fundamentally changed land law by recognizing that Indigenous Australians had native title rights to their traditional lands. In doing so, the court legally overturned the 18th-century colonial doctrine of 'terra nullius', acknowledging that the continent was not empty before British arrival.

Information Booster

- The concept of 'Terra nullius' is a Latin term meaning 'land belonging to no one'.
- When the British began colonization in 1788 (following James Cook's 1770 voyage), they invoked 'terra nullius' to justify claiming sovereignty over the entire Australian landmass without treating with its indigenous inhabitants.
- Eddie Mabo, a Torres Strait Islander from Mer (Murray Island), led a ten-year legal battle to prove continuous land ownership by his people.
- The High Court's 1992 ruling recognized 'native title' in Australian common law for the first time.
- The decision established that indigenous land ownership survived British settlement, provided the indigenous people had maintained a continuous connection to the land.
- This ruling prompted the Australian government to pass the Native Title Act 1993 to provide a legal framework for native title claims.

Additional Knowledge

- **Option A:** 'Manifest Destiny' was a 19th-century American cultural belief that settlers were destined by God to expand across North America; it has no legal standing in Australian history.
- **Option B:** The 'Indian Reorganisation Act' (1934) is a piece of US federal legislation aimed at decreasing federal control of Native American affairs; it is entirely unrelated to Australian law.
- **Option D:** 'Multiculturalism' is a modern sociological and political policy embracing cultural diversity; it is not a legal doctrine regarding land ownership or colonization.

Q25. Who among the following are not the leaders of the Indian National Army?

- (a) Rash Behari Bose and Captain Mohan Singh
- (b) Captain Mohan Singh and Subhash Chandra Bose
- (c) Pritam Singh and Captain Mohan Singh
- (d) Prithvi Singh Azad and Phanindranath Ghosh

Ans.(d)

Sol. Rash Behari Bose and Captain Mohan Singh: Both were significant early figures in the formation of the INA. Rash Behari Bose helped to start the INA in its early stages and Captain Mohan Singh was instrumental in organizing it before Subhas Chandra Bose took over leadership.

Captain Mohan Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose: Both were important leaders. Subhas Chandra Bose took over as the leader of the INA after Captain Mohan Singh.

Pritam Singh and Captain Mohan Singh: Pritam Singh was part of the INA.

Q26. Which of the following Congress sessions passed the resolution on 'Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy' for the first time?

- (a) Lahore Session (1929)
- (b) Karachi Session (1931)
- (c) Faizpur Session (1937)
- (d) Haripura Session (1938)

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is (b).

The historic Karachi Session of the Indian National Congress in 1931 is profoundly significant because it was the very first time the party explicitly defined what Swaraj would mean for the masses. It passed a landmark, highly progressive resolution articulating a comprehensive list of Fundamental Rights and a National Economic Program.

Information Booster

- The Karachi session was held in March 1931, in a highly tense atmosphere immediately following the controversial Gandhi-Irwin Pact and the tragic execution of Bhगत Singh.
- The session was presided over by the stalwart leader Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The crucial resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy was drafted primarily by Jawaharlal Nehru.
- It famously guaranteed basic civil liberties like freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion, deeply embedding democratic ideals into the nationalist platform.
- It promised universal adult franchise and explicitly declared state neutrality in religious matters, advocating a secular state.
- The economic component was radical, advocating for a living wage for workers, substantial reduction of land revenue, and the state control of key industries and transport.
- This resolution laid the essential ideological foundation that would later heavily influence the framing of the Constitution of independent India.

Additional Knowledge

- The Lahore Session (1929) is famous for passing the momentous resolution demanding 'Purna Swaraj' (Complete Independence), not the specific rights resolution.
- The Faizpur Session (1937) was notable for being the first Congress session held in a rural village, emphasizing agrarian programs, but it was not the originator of the Fundamental Rights document.
- The Haripura Session (1938), presided over by Subhas Chandra Bose, saw the establishment of the National Planning Committee under Nehru, focusing on industrialization.

Q27. Who among the following was the last ruler of Maurya dynasty?

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Chandragupta
- (c) Brihadratha
- (d) Kalashoka

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c).

The mighty Mauryan Empire, which once unified almost the entire Indian subcontinent under a highly centralized administration, faced a steady and irreversible decline after the death of Ashoka. This steady disintegration culminated in 185 BCE during the reign of Brihadratha, who holds the historical distinction of being the absolute last ruler of the illustrious Mauryan dynasty.

Information Booster

- Following Ashoka's death, the empire was plagued by a succession of weak rulers, provincial rebellions, and devastating foreign invasions by the Bactrian Greeks.
- Brihadratha proved to be a highly ineffective and weak monarch, entirely incapable of halting the rapid fragmentation of the vast imperial territories.
- According to the detailed account in Bana's Harshacharita, Brihadratha was assassinated during a public military parade.
- The assassin was his own trusted commander-in-chief (Senapati), the ambitious Brahman general Pushyamitra Shunga.
- This violent coup completely extinguished the Mauryan dynasty and immediately established the aggressively orthodox Shunga dynasty in Magadha.
- The fall of the Mauryas marked the definitive end of the first great imperial unification of India, initiating a long period of regional kingdoms.

Additional Knowledge

- **Ashoka:** The third and most famous Mauryan emperor, renowned for his policy of Dhamma and monumental edicts, under whom the empire reached its absolute zenith.
- **Chandragupta:** The brilliant and strategically astute founder of the Mauryan dynasty who, with the help of Chanakya, overthrew the Nandas to establish the empire.
- **Kalashoka:** A significant ruler of the earlier Shishunaga dynasty, famous for convening the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali, entirely predating the Mauryan era.

Q28. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion and other labelled as Reason (r) :

Assertion (A): The Charter Act of 1813 ended the East India Company's trade monopoly.

Reason (R): The British Parliament wanted to open Indian trade to all British merchants.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

Ans.(a)

Sol. Ans:- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation.

- The Charter Act of 1813 was a turning point in the history of the East India Company and British trade in India.

1. End of Trade Monopoly:

The East India Company had enjoyed a trade monopoly with India since the 17th century.

However, by the early 19th century, private British merchants and industrialists were pressuring Parliament to open Indian trade.

As a result, the Charter Act of 1813 ended the Company's trade monopoly in India, except for trade in tea and trade with China, which continued under Company control.

2. Parliament's Intentions:

The British Parliament wanted to promote free trade and integrate India into the growing capitalist economy of Britain. The industrial revolution in Britain had created a demand for raw materials from India and markets to sell British goods. Parliament responded to this pressure by opening Indian trade to all British citizens, ending the Company's exclusive commercial privileges.

Q29. Consider the following statements:

1. One of the most spectacular temples of Vijayanagara was the Hazara Rama temple
2. Hazara Rama temple was probably meant to be used only by the king and his family
3. Sculptured panels on the inner walls of the shrine include scenes from the Ramayana
4. The chief characteristic feature of the temple complex is the chariot streets

Choose the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is (a).

The Hazara Rama Temple is a masterpiece of the Vijayanagara 'Royal Centre'. While statements 1, 2, and 3 accurately describe its location, exclusivity, and thematic bas-reliefs, statement 4 is incorrect because 'chariot streets' (Ratha Veedhis) were characteristic of public temples like the Vitthala and Virupaksha, not this private royal shrine.

Information Booster

- The temple was built during the reign of Deva Raya I in the early 15th century.
- The term 'Hazara Rama' literally means 'A Thousand Ramas'.
- The exterior walls depict processions of horses, elephants, dancers, and soldiers.
- The interior black stone pillars are richly carved and polished.
- The Ramayana panels are organized in narrative registers across the walls.

Additional Knowledge

- **Chariot Streets:** These wide streets led to the entrance of major temples and hosted the annual Rathotsava (chariot festival).
- **Vitthala Temple:** Famous for its stone chariot and musical pillars, representing the peak of the style.
- **Exclusivity:** Its location in the Royal Center confirms it was a palace temple for the Rayas.

Q30. Who of the following was as representative of labourers by indian government in the Washington summit of ILO in the year 1919?

- (a) V P Wadia
- (b) N M Joshi
- (c) c f andrews
- (d) Joseph Baptista

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is b) N. M. Joshi.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) was founded in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles. India, despite being a British colony, was one of its founding members. The first International Labour Conference was held in Washington D.C. in 1919.

- **N. M. Joshi (Narayan Malhar Joshi)** was nominated as the first workers' representative from India to the Washington Summit of the ILO in 1919. He was a prominent figure in the early Indian trade union movement and later played a key role in the establishment of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in 1920. He had a lifelong association with the ILO.
- **V. P. Wadia:** B.P. Wadia (not V.P. Wadia) was also a significant labour leader, co-founding the Madras Labour Union in 1918. He accompanied N.M. Joshi as his technical adviser to the 1919 ILO Conference, but Joshi was the primary representative.
- **C. F. Andrews:** C.F. Andrews was a British Christian missionary and social reformer, closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi. While he was a supporter of Indian independence and social justice.
- **Joseph Baptista:** Joseph Baptista was an Indian politician and freedom fighter, known for his association with the Home Rule Movement. He was also involved in the early trade union movement and was present at the founding of AITUC in 1920.