



UPPSC/PRE/T01/2026



TEST-01 (Ancient History)

A Commitment to Your Success

**TEST 01
Ancient History**

Time – 2 Hours

Candidate's Roll Number

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Question Booklet

UPPSC 2026-27

Question Booklet Series

A

Total Marks – 200

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1. Consider the following statements regarding coins:

1. Punch-marked (aahat) coins carried no legend/inscription; instead they bore various figures (fish, elephant, tree, etc.).
2. Punch-marked coins were first obtained in 1800 AD at Coimbatore by Colonel Coldstream.

Which of the statements above is/are true?

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

2. On the famous seal from Mohenjodaro, the deity is surrounded by which animals?

- (a) Buffalo, rhinoceros, sheep and cheetah
- (b) Cheetah, [elephant], rhinoceros and bull
- (c) Lion, rhinoceros, bull and crocodile
- (d) Cheetah, rhinoceros, buffalo and elephant

3. According to the Manusmriti, what name is given to the region between the rivers Saraswati and Drishadvati?

- (a) Aryavarta
- (b) Brahnavarta
- (c) Brahmarshi-desha
- (d) Sapta-Sindhava

4. Arrange the following authors, whose works are of great value for ancient Indian history, in correct chronological order:

1. Nearchus
2. Pliny
3. Ptolemy
4. Strabo

Choose the correct answer using the code below:

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

5. Regarding the Harappan civilization, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Standard Harappan seals/coins were made of clay.
- (b) The Harappans knew neither bronze nor copper.
- (c) The Harappan civilization was purely village-based.
- (d) The Harappans grew and used cotton.

6. Which of the following statements about the Harappan culture is NOT correct?

- (a) It witnessed the earliest cities in the subcontinent.
- (b) It shows the first known use of a script written from right to left.
- (c) It provides evidence of the earliest known use of iron as a medium of sculpture.
- (d) It provides evidence of the earliest known use of stone as a medium of sculpture.

7. Identify the FALSE statement among the following:

- (a) Issued gold coins in the largest quantity – the Gupta rulers
- (b) Issued the most copper coins – the Kushana rulers
- (c) Issued lead and tin coins – the Satavahana rulers
- (d) Issued the most coins overall – the Maurya rulers

8. Match List I with List II and choose the correct answer using the code given below the lists.

List I (Author)	List II (Work)
A. Fa-Hien	1. Muruj al-Dhahab
B. Al-Baladhuri	2. Natural History
C. Al-Masudi	3. Futuh al-Buldan
D. Pliny	4. Fo-Kuo-Chi

Code: A B C D

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

9. Arrange the following cultures in chronological order and choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Kayatha culture | 2. Ahar culture |
| 3. Jorwe culture | 4. Malwa culture |
- (a) 4, 3, 2, 1
 - (b) 2, 1, 4, 3
 - (c) 3, 2, 1, 4
 - (d) 1, 2, 3, 4

10. Identify the FALSE statement among the following:

- (a) Yoga philosophy – union of the individual soul with the Supreme Soul
- (b) Vaisheshika philosophy – discussion of atomic theory
- (c) Nyaya philosophy – the philosophy of logic
- (d) Uttara Mimamsa philosophy – emphasis on the reality of both Brahman and the individual soul

11. Match List I with List II and choose the correct answer using the code given below the lists.

List I (Episode)

List II (Upanishad)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. The story of Yama and Nachiketa | 1. Kathopanishad |
| B. The doctrine of nishkama karma | 2. Ishopanishad |
| C. Navadha bhakti | 3. Shvetashvataropanishad |
| D. "Aham Brahmasmi" | 4. Brihadaranyaka |

Upanishad

Code: A B C D

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

12. Which of the following scholars were contemporaries of Kanishka?

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Ashvaghosha | 2. Nagarjuna |
| 3. Vasumitra | 4. Chanakya |

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

13. Match List I with List II and choose the correct answer using the code given below the lists.

List I (Site)

List II (River on whose bank located)

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| A. Harappa | 1. Ravi |
| B. Mohenjodaro | 2. Indus |
| C. Ropar | 3. Sutlej |
| D. Kalibangan | 4. Ghaggar |

Code: A B C D

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

14. In which of the following Jain texts is the story depicted of ten famous Jain merchants who attained liberation (moksha) by accepting Jainism and its principles?

- (a) Acharanga Sutra
(b) Uvasagadasao
(c) Antakriddasao
(d) Suttrakritanga

15. Which one of the following pairs is NOT correctly matched?

- (a) Megasthenes – Indica
(b) Ashvaghosha – Buddhacharita
(c) Panini – Mahabhashya
(d) Vishakhadatta – Mudrarakshasa

16. Which of the following Chinese travellers visited the kingdoms of Harshavardhana and Kumara Bhaskara Varman?

- (a) I-tsing
(b) Fa-Hien
(c) Hiuen Tsang
(d) Sung Yun

17. "Kutagarashala," whose literal meaning is "a hut with a pointed/peaked roof," referred to what?

- (a) A place for housing animals
(b) A place where Buddhist monks held intellectual debates
(c) A place for storing weapons
(d) A sleeping place

18. The Harshacharita records various gifts sent to Harshavardhana by a king named Bhaskara. Bhaskara belonged to which dynasty?

- (a) The Haryanka dynasty of Magadha
(b) The Varman dynasty of Assam
(c) The Nanda dynasty of North India
(d) None of these

19. What was an "Agrahara" in early India?

- (a) A village or piece of land granted to Brahmins
(b) A garland made of agar flowers
(c) Land grants given to officials and soldiers
(d) A village or land settled by Vaishya cultivators

20. During the Gupta period, Varahamihira composed the famous work "Brihat Samhita." What subject was this treatise mainly concerned with?

- (a) Astronomy
(b) Statecraft
(c) The Ayurvedic system of medicine
(d) Economics

21. Which of the following was/were NOT associated with the life of the Buddha?

1. Kathaka
2. Alara Kalama
3. Channa
4. Makkhali Gosala

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

22. At the time of Fa-Hien's visit to India, which of the following were in an almost deserted state?

1. Taxila
2. Mathura
3. Kapilavastu
4. Kushinagar

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) None of the above

23. Match List I with List II and choose the correct answer using the code given below the lists.

List I (Author) List II (Work)

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| A. Somadeva | 1. Malavikagnimitra |
| B. Kalidasa | 2. Kathasaritsagara |
| C. Bhasa | 3. Chaurapanchashika |
| D. Bilhana | 4. Swapnavasavadatta |

Code: A B C D

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

24. Which of the following inscriptions mentions both Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka by name?

- (a) Shahbazgarhi
- (b) Maski
- (c) Rudradaman's Junagadh inscription
- (d) Skandagupta's Junagadh inscription

25. Assertion (A): The Neolithic people had learnt to weave cloth.

Reason (R): Cotton began to be cultivated in the Neolithic period.

Choose the correct answer using the code 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.

26. Which ancient smriti-writer gave widows a place in the line of inheritance immediately after the son?

- (a) Yajnavalkya
- (b) Manu
- (c) Brihaspati
- (d) Katyayana

27. Consider the following statements regarding Hunsgi:

1. Many pieces of evidence of the Palaeolithic age have been found at Hunsgi.
2. Most of the tools found here were made of sandstone.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

28. Regarding the Neolithic age, which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- (a) In this period the manufacture and use of Palaeolithic-type tools stopped completely.
- (b) Tools of this period were polished to sharpen their edges further.
- (c) In this age, mortar and pestle came to be used for grinding plants and other materials.
- (d) In this age, decoration of pottery began.

29. Who were the "Astynomoi" mentioned in the account of Megasthenes?

- (a) Village officials
- (b) Provincial officials
- (c) Police officials
- (d) City/municipal officials

30. Which of the following mahajanapadas each had two capitals?

- (a) Kosala, Avanti, Panchala
- (b) Vaishali, Avanti, Surasena
- (c) Anga, Kashi, Kosala
- (d) Kuru, Panchala, Matsya

31. Arrange the following Tirthankaras in chronological order and choose the correct answer using the code:

- 1. Mallinath
- 2. Vimalnath
- 3. Sumatinath
- 4. Sambhavanath

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

32. Which of the following terms are NOT related to Buddhism?

- 1. Arhat 2. Vassa
- 3. Uposatha 4. Poshadha
- 5. Sallekhana 6. Samvara

Code:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (c) 3, 4, 5 and 6
- (d) 5 and 6

33. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Manastambhas (columns of honour) are located at the entrance of temples.
- 2. Teachings related to the Tirthankaras are depicted on the manastambha.

Which of the above is/are true?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Both one and two
- (d) Neither one nor two

34. Identify the FALSE statement:

- (a) Sarga – (creation of the universe)
- (b) Pratisarga – (re-creation/dissolution of the universe)
- (c) Manvantara – (the cyclical nature of time)
- (d) Vamsha – (character-based stories)

35. Which of the following statements regarding the Buddhist Sangha is NOT correct?

- (a) Separate arrangements existed for men and women to reside in the Sangha.
- (b) Anyone could join the Sangha.
- (c) Children needed their parents' permission to join the Sangha.
- (d) Married women needed their parents' permission to join the Sangha.

36. The Maurya dynasty had three important kings. Which of the following gives their correct order of succession?

- (a) Chandragupta, Ashoka, Bindusara
- (b) Ashoka, Bindusara, Chandragupta
- (c) Bindusara, Chandragupta, Ashoka
- (d) Chandragupta, Bindusara, Ashoka

37. Consider the following statements regarding "Kar" (tax) and "Najrana" (tribute/gift):

- 1. Kar was collected irregularly.
- 2. Najrana was collected regularly by the state.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

38. Arrange the following medieval saints in chronological order:

- (a) Ramanuja – Shankaracharya – Vallabhacharya – Madhvacharya
- (b) Shankaracharya – Ramanuja – Madhvacharya – Vallabhacharya
- (c) Ramanuja – Madhvacharya – Shankaracharya – Vallabhacharya
- (d) Vallabhacharya – Madhvacharya – Shankaracharya – Ramanuja

39. Who held the title "Amir-ul-Umara"?

- (a) Generals who established independent territories
- (b) Slaves captured in war
- (c) Descendants of Afrasiyab
- (d) None of these

40. "Chaturdana" (the fourfold gift) is associated with which of the following doctrines?

- (a) Buddhist doctrine
- (b) Jain doctrine
- (c) Christian doctrine
- (d) Both Jain and Buddhist

41. Match List I with List II and choose the correct answer using the code given below the lists.

List I (Upaveda) List II (Associated Veda)

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| A. Ayurveda | 1. Rigveda |
| B. Dhanurveda | 2. Yajurveda |
| C. Shilpaveda | 3. Atharvaveda |
| D. Gandharvaveda | 4. Samaveda |

Code: A B C D

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

42. Arrange the following dynasties of Magadha in chronological order:

- 1. Nanda dynasty
- 2. Shunga dynasty
- 3. Maurya dynasty
- 4. Haryanka dynasty

Choose the answer from the codes below:

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

43. Regarding Sangam-era trade, which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- (a) South India was famous for gold, spices — especially black pepper — and precious stones.
- (b) Black pepper was in such demand in the Roman empire that it was called "black gold."
- (c) Traders used only sea routes to carry these goods.
- (d) Numerous Roman gold coins have been found, evidencing trade between South India and Rome.

44. Consider the following statements regarding the Chola, Chera and Pandya rulers:

- 1. Puhar and Madurai were among their important centres of power.
- 2. They demanded gifts from the people rather than regular taxes.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

45. Consider the following statements regarding early medieval feudal lords (samantas):

- 1. They maintained their own armies and assisted the king when required.
- 2. They were not paid any regular salary.
- 3. Wherever the ruler was weak, they attempted to become independent.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

46. Regarding the various local assemblies of South Indian states, which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Sabha : an organisation of Brahmin landowners
- 2. Ur : a village assembly
- 3. Nagaram : an organisation of artisans/merchants

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 1 and 2
- (d) Only 2 and 3

47. Regarding stupas, which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- (a) The literal meaning of "stupa" is "mound."
- (b) The round box kept inside a stupa for enshrining relics is called "dhatu-manjusha."
- (c) The circular path built around a stupa for circumambulation is called the "pradakshina patha."
- (d) The pradakshina patha was enclosed by a railing, called the "vedika."

48. Consider the following statements regarding early medieval Hindu temples:

1. The most important part of a temple was the "mandapa."
2. Temples had a place called the "garbhagriha," an assembly hall where people gathered.
3. Above the garbhagriha, a tall structure called the "shikhara" was built.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

49. Match the following Vedic deities with their functions:

List I List II

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| A. Dyaus | 1. God of the sky |
| B. Savitr | 2. God of fire |
| C. Agni | 3. Goddess of dawn |
| D. Ushas | 4. God of the sun's motive power |

Code: A B C D

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

50. Kautilya explains in the Arthashastra that:

- (a) How a good government should be organised.
- (b) How revenue, including land revenue, should be collected systematically.
- (c) One should earn wealth and learn the methods of earning it.
- (d) One should learn the art of leading a meaningful life.

51. The Gandhara style of art represents a synthesis of:

- (a) Indian and Persian art
- (b) Indian and Chinese art
- (c) Indian and Turko-Afghan art
- (d) Indian and Greek art

52. Consider the following statements regarding Gupta-period trade centres/ports:

1. The port of Tamralipti carried on the largest volume of trade with countries of Southeast Asia.
2. Bharuch, Sopara and Kalyan were the main ports on the western coast, and ships were also sent from there to Southeast Asia.

3. Various ports on the Malabar coast carried Indian goods to Africa, Arabia, Iran and Mediterranean countries.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 3
- (d) All of the above

53. What was the Roman name for Arikamedu, located in South India?

- (a) Poduke
- (b) Barygaza
- (c) Masulipatnam
- (d) Muziris

54. The Cholas were feudatories of whom?

- (a) The Pallavas
- (b) The Rashtrakutas
- (c) The Cheras
- (d) The Chalukyas

55. Which dynasty conferred titles such as "Muvendavelan" and "Araiyar" on wealthy landowners?

- (a) Chola
- (b) Chalukya
- (c) Rashtrakuta
- (d) Pandya

56. Which of the following best explains the concept of nirvana in Buddhism?

- (a) The extinguishing of the fire of craving (trishna)
- (b) Complete non-existence of the self
- (c) A state of supreme bliss and repose
- (d) A transcendent mental state

57. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Lothal : ancient dockyard
2. Sarnath : the Buddha's first sermon
3. Rajgir : Ashoka's lion-capital pillar
4. Nalanda : great seat of Buddhist learning

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

58. Two statements are given below, one an Assertion (A) and the other a Reason (R). Read them carefully:

Assertion (A): By the end of the twelfth century, the Nalanda Mahavihara had declined.

Reason (R): The mahavihara had ceased to receive royal patronage.

Which of the following is correct regarding these statements?

- (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.

59. Which of the following are associated with Jainism?

I. Anekantavada II. Sarvastivada III. Shunyavada IV. Syadvada

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) (i) and (iv)
- (b) (ii) and (iv)
- (c) (i), (ii) and (iii)
- (d) (ii) and (iii)

60. In the Chola period, the "lost-wax" technique was used to make what?

- (a) Household utensils
- (b) Bronze images/idols
- (c) Weapons
- (d) Cosmetic items

61. In the markets of Hampi under the Vijayanagara empire, the term "Moors" was used for whom?

- (a) Portuguese traders
- (b) English traders
- (c) Muslim merchants
- (d) Chinese traders

62. What is "Manipravalam"?

- (a) A dance style
- (b) A style of construction
- (c) A style of painting
- (d) A style of language

63. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Katyayana Smriti, women had rights over land.

- 2. The book "Romaka Siddhanta" deals with mathematics.
- 3. The Deogarh temple in Jhansi was built in the Gupta period.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

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

64. Consider the following statements regarding the Gupta rulers:

- 1. The Allahabad eulogy (prashasti) inscription describes the conquests of Skandagupta.
- 2. An inscription engraved on an iron pillar standing near the Qutub Minar in Delhi eulogises Chandragupta II.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

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

65. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The stupas of Nagarjunakonda are decorated with relief sculptures on their walls.
- 2. At Amaravati, Hindu temples were also built alongside the stupas.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

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

66. Consider the factors that helped the rise of the Satavahana kingdom:

- 1. Use of the iron ploughshare
- 2. The paddy-transplantation method
- 3. Urbanisation
- 4. The art of writing

Which of the above are true?

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

67. The oldest surviving paintings related to Buddhism are found at which of the following places?

1. Gaya 2. Sanchi
3. Bharhut 4. Vaishali

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

68. Regarding the Maurya period, which of the following statements is FALSE?

- (a) Officials of Ujjain and Taxila were periodically transferred.
- (b) Punch-marked silver coins were not in circulation in this period.
- (c) In north-eastern India, baked bricks were used for the first time.
- (d) The Satavahanas followed the Mauryan system of administration.

69. Who among the following were present at the court of the Chalukya ruler Vikramaditya VI?

1. Kamban 2. Bilhana
3. Vijnaneshwara 4. Somadeva
5. Govindachandra

Code:

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

70. To whom did the Cholas award the title "Kshatriya-shikhamani"?

- (a) Soldiers
- (b) Kings
- (c) City officials
- (d) Priests

71. Match List I with List II and choose the correct answer using the code given below the lists.

List I List II

- | | |
|------------|---|
| A. Kurinji | 1. Hunting and gathering |
| B. Mullai | 2. Animal husbandry and food production |
| C. Marudam | 3. Food production and storage |
| D. Neytal | 4. Fishing and salt production |

Code: A B C D

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

72. Inscriptions of which of the following ruling powers mention the worship of Skanda?

1. Satavahana 2. Yaudheya 3. Ikshvaku 4. Chedi

Choose the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

73. According to the Mahasanghikas, of what is a living being (jiva) composed?

- (a) Five psycho-physical elements
- (b) Seven elements
- (c) Nine elements
- (d) None of the above

74. Match List I with List II and choose the correct answer using the code given below the lists.

List I (Buddhist Council) List II (President)

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| A. First Council | 1. Mahakassapa |
| B. Second Council | 2. Sabbakami (Sarvakamin) |
| C. Third Council | 3. Moggaliputta Tissa |
| D. Fourth Council | 4. Vasumitra, Ashvaghosha (vice-president) |

Code: A B C D

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

75. Assertion (A): In the Rig Vedic period, the birth of a daughter was not desired.

Reason (R): In the Rig Vedic period, the condition of women was pitiable.

- (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, R is false.
- (d) A is false, R is true.

76. Regarding the development of a new material culture in the Ganga plains, which of the following is/are true?

1. Extensive use of iron
2. Availability of punch-marked coins
3. Use of the art of writing

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

77. Which of the following is/are Buddhist centres of learning?

1. Nalanda 2. Vikramashila 3. Valabhi 4. Taxila

Code:

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

78. What is the correct chronological order in which the following appeared in India?

- (a) Iron plough → urban culture → punch-marked coins → gold coins
- (b) Urban culture → punch-marked coins → gold coins → iron plough
- (c) Urban culture → iron plough → punch-marked coins → gold coins
- (d) Punch-marked coins → urban culture → gold coins → iron plough

79. According to Jain philosophy, the creation and sustenance of the universe occurred through:

- (a) Universal law
- (b) Universal truth
- (c) Universal faith
- (d) The universal soul

80. Read the following statements about Jain literature and choose the correct option:

Statement I: The Shvetambara canon comprises 12 Angas.

Statement II: According to Shvetambara tradition, these

Angas were compiled at a council held at Valabhi.

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
- (b) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
- (c) Both statements are incorrect.

(d) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

81. Regarding types of land in the Chola period, identify the FALSE statement:

- (a) Vellanvagai: land owned by non-Brahmin peasant proprietors.
- (b) Brahmadeya: land granted to Brahmins.
- (c) Shalabhoga: land for the upkeep of a school.
- (d) Pallichchandam: land granted to a temple.

82. Which provinces were called "Presidencies" in the British period?

1. Bengal 2. Central Provinces 3. Bombay 4. Punjab

Code:

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

83. Which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- (a) No fossils of Palaeolithic humans have been found in India.
- (b) No evidence of human activity has been found on Palaeolithic tools.
- (c) Human society had not yet formed in the Neolithic period.
- (d) Prehistoric rock shelters show no paintings depicting human activity.

84. Who first put forward the view that the Aryans entered India from the north-west and destroyed the Harappan culture?

- (a) Griffith
- (b) Vincent Smith
- (c) Wheeler
- (d) Max Müller

85. Which author first used the term "samanta" to mean a subordinate ruler?

- (a) Banabhatta (b) Ashvaghosha
- (c) Manu (d) Narada

86. In which work on architecture (Vastushastra) is the construction of various kinds of boats described?

- (a) Samarangana Sutradhara
- (b) Yuktikalpataru
- (c) Aparajitapriccha
- (d) Manasara

87. Which of the following rulers is credited with making Mihirakula bow at his feet?

- (a) Skandagupta
- (b) Yashodharman
- (c) Kumaragupta I
- (d) Ishanavarman

88. In Gupta and post-Gupta inscriptions, the term "Nala" refers to:

- (a) A means of irrigation
- (b) A unit of land measurement
- (c) A drainage system
- (d) A unit of grain measurement

89. Who supported the Vedic sacrificial tradition and opposed the doctrine of renunciation (sannyasa)?

- (a) Gaudapada
- (b) Kumarila
- (c) Ramanuja
- (d) Yamunacharya

90. The "Periplus of the Erythraean Sea" describes a sea voyage from where to where?

- (a) The Arabian Sea to the Bay of Bengal
- (b) The Arabian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea
- (c) The Red Sea to Bactria
- (d) The Red Sea to India

91. Arrange the following four places where Buddhist councils were held in their correct chronological order, using the code below:

1. Vaishali
2. Rajagriha
3. Kundalavana
4. Pataliputra

Code:

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

92. Consider the following and match them using the code given below:

List I List II

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| A. Ashmaka | 1. Potana |
| B. Mulaka | 2. Pratishthana |
| C. Kalinga | 3. Tosali |
| D. Avanti | 4. Ujjayini |

Code: A B C D

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

93. In Mauryan administration, the officer called "Rupadarshaka" was:

- (a) An examiner of silver and other metals
- (b) An officer in charge of courtesans
- (c) A manager of theatre/performances
- (d) An examiner of coins

94. "Kannagi," mentioned in Sangam literature, is:

- (a) A one-sided love
- (b) An improper/illicit love
- (c) The heroine of a Tamil epic
- (d) A group of merchants

95. Regarding the social and cultural conditions of the post-Gupta period, which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- (a) Land grants increased in number.
- (b) The number of castes increased.
- (c) Central control increased.
- (d) Tantric practices increased.

96. In the Gupta period, the officer appointed to keep land records safe was called:

- (a) Dhruvadhikarana
- (b) Karanika
- (c) Samaharta
- (d) Shaulkika

97. Which of the following is correct?

- (a) Jainism did not exist before Mahavira.
- (b) Mahavira was the founder of Jainism.
- (c) Mahavira added one more vow to the four laid down by Parshvanatha.
- (d) Mahavira was more a reformer than the founder of a new sect.

98. "Adevamatrika" land referred to land that was:

- (a) Irrigated by sufficient rainfall
- (b) Irrigated by artificial means
- (c) Not irrigated by any means
- (d) Full of graves

99. Two statements are given below, one an Assertion (A) and the other a Reason (R):

Assertion (A): In the Satavahana period, society was divided into four castes on the basis of occupation.

Reason (R): They desired a progressive society, free from various narrow tendencies.

Which one of the following is correct regarding these statements? Code:

- (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.

100. An Indian text on which subject exists in a Persian translation?

- (a) Medicine
- (b) Astrology
- (c) Music
- (d) Philosophy

101. The term "Muvendar," found in Sangam poems, is a Tamil word. What does it mean?

- (a) Village headman
- (b) Householder
- (c) Three chiefs
- (d) Chieftain

102. On the basis of archaeological evidence, which of the following sites is especially known as a Neolithic agriculture-based settlement?

- (a) Inamgaon
- (b) Ahar
- (c) Burzahom
- (d) Arikamedu

103. At which of the following sites has evidence of Neolithic pit-dwellings been especially found?

- (a) Chirand
- (b) Lothal

(c) Dholavira

(d) Burzahom

104. Which of the following sites is associated with evidence of early agriculture and animal husbandry?

- (a) Mehrgarh
- (b) Sanchi
- (c) Nalanda
- (d) Amaravati

105. Consider the following statements regarding Rig Vedic society:

1. Both the Sabha and the Samiti were political institutions.
2. The Vidatha is mentioned in the Rig Veda.
3. Kingship was wholly hereditary and absolute.

Choose the correct answer.

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

106. On the banks of which river is the "Battle of the Ten Kings" (Dasharajna) believed to have taken place?

- (a) Saraswati
- (b) Vipasha
- (c) Parushni
- (d) Yamuna

107. In the context of the later Vedic period, which of the following changes is most appropriate?

- (a) The complete end of animal husbandry
- (b) Complete disappearance of towns
- (c) End of maritime trade
- (d) Increased use of iron and expansion of agriculture

108. Which of the following shows the correct sequence of Vedic literature?

- (a) Samhita → Brahmana → Aranyaka → Upanishad
- (b) Brahmana → Samhita → Aranyaka → Upanishad
- (c) Upanishad → Samhita → Brahmana → Aranyaka
- (d) Aranyaka → Brahmana → Samhita → Upanishad

109. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Aitareya Brahmana --- Samaveda
- (b) Shatapatha Brahmana --- Shukla Yajurveda
- (c) Tandya Brahmana --- Rigveda
- (d) Gopatha Brahmana --- Yajurveda

110. In the context of the rise of the mahajanapadas, what was the chief feature of the "second urbanisation"?

- (a) Development of only coastal towns
- (b) The end of all rural settlements
- (c) The resurgence of towns and trade centres in the Ganga valley
- (d) Urbanisation confined only to South India

111. Which of the following mahajanapadas had Shravasti as its capital?

- (a) Vatsa
- (b) Anga
- (c) Avanti
- (d) Kosala

112. What is the central meaning of "Pratityasamutpada" in Buddhist philosophy?

- (a) Dependent origination within the relation of cause and effect
- (b) The eternality of the soul
- (c) The supreme sovereignty of God
- (d) The impersonal, non-authored nature of the Vedas

113. Which of the following is NOT a part of the Buddhist Triratna (Three Jewels)?

- (a) Buddha
- (b) Nirvana
- (c) Dhamma
- (d) Sangha

114. In Buddhism, what do the terms "Upasaka" and "Upasika" respectively refer to?

- (a) Monk and nun
- (b) King and queen
- (c) Lay male and lay female followers
- (d) Teacher and disciple

115. What is the most appropriate meaning of "Anekantavada" in Jain philosophy?

- (a) That only one viewpoint is true
- (b) Complete negation of karma
- (c) The establishment of theism
- (d) Acceptance of the many facets of a thing/reality

116. Which of the following is the correct set of the Jain Triratna (Three Jewels)?

- (a) Right faith, right knowledge, right conduct
- (b) Non-violence, non-possession, truth

- (c) Knowledge, action, devotion
- (d) Discipline, meditation, wisdom

117. In Mauryan administration, what was the "Dhamma Mahamatra" officer primarily concerned with?

- (a) Military recruitment only
- (b) Work related to Dhamma and public welfare
- (c) Land revenue collection only
- (d) Foreign trade

118. In the study of Ashoka's edicts, "Devanampiya Piyadasi" has been identified with which ruler?

- (a) Chandragupta Maurya
- (b) Bindusara
- (c) Ashoka
- (d) Dasharatha

119. In which of Ashoka's edicts is there a clear reference to his remorse after the Kalinga war?

- (a) Major Rock Edict I
- (b) Pillar Edict VII
- (c) Minor Rock Edict I
- (d) Major Rock Edict XIII

120. Regarding Mauryan administration, which of the following statements is more appropriate?

- (a) There was a provincial and local administrative apparatus alongside the central authority.
- (b) The entire administration was handed over to local tribal assemblies.
- (c) There was no system of revenue collection.
- (d) There was no permanent organisation of the army.

121. Which of the following sources describes the committees of Mauryan urban administration?

- (a) Arthashastra
- (b) Megasthenes' account
- (c) Harshacharita
- (d) Rajatarangini

122. Who is known as the founder of the Shunga dynasty?

- (a) Agnimitra
- (b) Vasumitra
- (c) Pushyamitra Shunga
- (d) Bhagabhadra

123. In Satavahana administration, the term "Ahara" was generally used in what sense?

- (a) Military camp
- (b) Religious ritual
- (c) Trade guild
- (d) Administrative unit

124. During Kanishka's reign, which branch of Buddhism received special patronage in its development?

- (a) Mahayana
- (b) Theravada
- (c) Ajivika
- (d) Lokayata

125. Regarding the features of Kushana-period gold coins, which statement is correct?

- (a) They bore images only of Roman rulers.
- (b) They bear images of various Iranian, Greek and Indian deities.
- (c) No deity was depicted on them at all.
- (d) They were made only of copper.

126. In Gupta administration, "Bhukti" and "Vishaya" were respectively related to what?

- (a) Village and family
- (b) Army and taxation
- (c) Province and a district-like unit
- (d) Port and market

127. In the Gupta period, the officer "Uparika" was generally associated with what?

- (a) Village-level accounting
- (b) The cavalry unit of the army
- (c) Port administration
- (d) Administration of a Bhukti (province)

128. Who was the author of the Prayaga Prashasti?

- (a) Harishena
- (b) Banabhatta
- (c) Vishakhadatta
- (d) Kalidasa

129. The early development of the Nalanda Mahavihara is associated with the reign of which Gupta ruler?

- (a) Chandragupta I
- (b) Kumaragupta I
- (c) Skandagupta
- (d) Chandragupta II

130. Regarding the Ajanta caves, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) These are only Jain caves.
- (b) They were built only by the Guptas.
- (c) They contain paintings and sculpture related to Buddhist themes.
- (d) No paintings are found there at all.

131. In Sangam literature, "Pattupattu" and "Ettuthokai" are associated with what?

- (a) Buddhist Vinaya texts
- (b) Jain Agamas
- (c) Sanskrit drama
- (d) Collections of Tamil literature

132. In ancient South India, the term "Yavana" is generally used in what context?

- (a) For foreign/Greek peoples
- (b) Only for local farmers
- (c) For Buddhist monks
- (d) For tribal chieftains

133. Which of the following ancient Indian texts contains a systematic discussion of the administration of the city, state and economy?

- (a) Natyashastra
- (b) Arthashastra
- (c) Ashtadhyayi
- (d) Charaka Samhita

134. What is the main subject of Panini's "Ashtadhyayi"?

- (a) Medicine
- (b) Astronomy
- (c) Grammar
- (d) Politics

135. Patanjali's "Mahabhashya" is mainly a commentary on which text?

- (a) Arthashastra
- (b) Manusmriti
- (c) Natyashastra
- (d) Ashtadhyayi

136. The Charaka Samhita and the Sushruta Samhita are respectively mainly associated with which fields?

- (a) Medicine and surgery
- (b) Grammar and philosophy
- (c) Astrology and mathematics
- (d) Politics and economics

137. In ancient Indian architecture, what was the main difference between a "Chaitya" and a "Vihara"?

- (a) Both were merely royal palaces.
- (b) A Chaitya was a place of worship/prayer, while a Vihara was a monks' residence.
- (c) A Chaitya was a marketplace and a Vihara a port.
- (d) Neither had any religious connection.

138. The original construction of the Great Stupa at Sanchi is associated with which ruler?

- (a) Kanishka (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Ashoka (d) Harsha

139. In Indian rock-cut architecture, "Karle" is especially famous for what?

- (a) Gupta-period temples
- (b) Jain pillars
- (c) Satavahana palaces
- (d) Buddhist chaitya-halls

140. Which of the following sites shows notable evidence of an advanced ancient water-management system?

- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Kaushambi
- (c) Shravasti
- (d) Taxila

141. In the Harappan context, the term "Meluhha" is mainly mentioned in which type of external source?

- (a) Accounts of Chinese travellers
- (b) Mesopotamian inscriptions
- (c) Roman laws
- (d) Greek epics

142. Regarding the Harappan civilization, which of the following pairs is correct?

- (a) Kalibangan --- Ashoka's pillar
- (b) Dholavira --- a Gupta-period university
- (c) Lothal --- a dockyard/port-like structure
- (d) Rakhigarhi --- a Buddhist stupa

143. Evidence of fire-altars/fire-pits has been especially found associated with which of the following sites?

- (a) Sarnath
- (b) Nalanda
- (c) Ujjain
- (d) Kalibangan

144. What is considered a characteristic feature of the "Gana-Sangha" system in ancient Indian history?

- (a) Collective decision-making by an aristocratic/representative group
- (b) Autocratic rule by one individual
- (c) Purely religious rule (d) A lineage-less society

145. The Lichchhavis' principal political centre was associated with which place?

- (a) Rajagriha (b) Vaishali
- (c) Pataliputra (d) Ujjayini

146. Which geographical factor was most helpful to the rise of Magadha?

- (a) A sea coast alone (b) A desert setting
- (c) Access to iron resources and the fertile Ganga plain
- (d) Himalayan isolation

147. Which of the following pairs is INCORRECTLY matched?

- (a) Ashoka --- Dhamma
- (b) Samudragupta --- Prayaga Prashasti
- (c) Kanishka --- patronage of Mahayana
- (d) Bimbisara --- the Gupta dynasty

148. What was the general economic meaning of the term "Shreni" in ancient India?

- (a) An organised guild of merchants/artisans
- (b) The royal army (c) Agricultural land
- (d) A place of religious pilgrimage

149. Consider the following statements:

1. In ancient India, coins facilitated trade and tax-related transactions.

2. Punch-marked coins were made only of gold.

Choose the correct option.

- (a) Only 2 (b) Only 1
- (c) Both (d) Neither 1 nor 2

150. Which of the following is correct regarding ancient Indian maritime trade?

- (a) Maritime trade was confined only to the eastern coast.
- (b) There is no evidence of Roman trade.
- (c) Knowledge of the monsoon winds made sea voyages more regular and convenient.
- (d) South India's spice trade was negligible.

Answers & Solutions

1. Answer: (c)

Solution: The study of coins is called Numismatics. India's earliest coins were called punch-marked (aahat) coins. These coins bore no legend, only various figures (fish, elephant, tree, etc.). These punch-marked coins were first obtained in 1800 AD at Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) by Colonel Coldstream. India's earliest dated/inscribed coins were issued by the Indo-Greek rulers. Early coins did not carry symbols; later, the names of kings or issuers (guilds/merchants), deities, or dates began to appear on coins. In chronological sequence, these coins help reconstruct religious, cultural and economic history.

2. Answer: (d)

Solution: A seal from Mohenjodaro depicts a yogi figure seated in the lotus posture (padmasana), identified as "Pashupati." To his sides are shown a cheetah, an elephant, a rhinoceros and a buffalo. He wears a trident-like headdress and has three faces. Marshall associated this deity with "Rudra-Shiva."

3. Answer: (b)

Solution: Aryavarta: the region from the Himalayas to the Vindhyas. Brahmavarta: the Ganga-Yamuna doab and the area near Thaneshwar. Sapta-Sindhava: the region of the Sindhu, Saraswati, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers. Brahmarshi-desha: the region between the Saraswati and Drishadvati rivers.

4. Answer: (d)

Solution: Nearchus was a general of Alexander. Strabo lived c. 64 BC–19 AD; his work is the "Geography," which mentions the marriage alliance between Seleucus and Chandragupta Maurya and the female bodyguards of Chandragupta. Pliny composed his encyclopaedic work "Natural History" around 75 AD, describing India on the basis of Greek sources and reports of Western traders. Thus the chronological order of these four authors is: Nearchus – contemporary of Alexander (326–325 BC); Strabo – 64–19 BC; Pliny – c. 75 AD; Ptolemy – c. 150 AD.

5. Answer: (d)

Solution: The Harappan civilization was an urban civilization, one of the four major Bronze Age civilizations. Its people were familiar with metals such as bronze, copper, gold and silver. The Harappans knew nine crops in all – three varieties of wheat, two varieties of barley, cotton, dates, watermelon, peas, rye, mustard and sesame.

6. Answer: (c)

Solution: The Harappan civilization is one of the world's major ancient river-valley civilizations, developed mainly along the Indus and the Hakra/Ghaggar (ancient Saraswati) rivers. Mohenjodaro, Kalibangan, Lothal, Dholavira, Harappa and Rakhigarhi were its principal centres. Because bronze was used for the first time in this civilization, it is also called the Bronze Age civilization. Writing was known to the Harappan civilization; its script is pictographic and was written from right to left, and it has not yet been deciphered. Although stone and metal sculpture were not very common in this civilization, the pieces that survive are of high artistic quality. Among stone sculptures, the most famous is the figure of the "priest-king"/yogi found at Mohenjodaro.

7. Answer: (d)

Solution: First issued purely gold coins – the Kushana rulers (Vima Kadphises). Issued gold coins in the largest quantity – the Gupta rulers. Issued the most copper coins – the Kushana rulers. Issued the most lead and tin coins – the Satavahana rulers. The claim that the Mauryas issued the largest number of coins overall is the false statement.

8. Answer: (a)

Solution: Fa-Hien – Fo-Kuo-Chi; Al-Baladhuri – Futuh al-Buldan; Al-Masudi – Muruj al-Dhahab; Pliny – Natural History.

9. Answer: (b)

Solution: Chalcolithic cultures: Ahar culture – 2800–1500 BC; Kayatha culture – 2450–1700 BC; Savalda culture – 2300–2000 BC; Prabhas culture – 2000–1400 BC; Malwa culture – 1900–1400 BC; Rangpur culture – 1700–1400 BC; Jorwe culture – 1500–900 BC.

10. Answer: (d)

Solution: A. Yoga philosophy – union of the soul with the Supreme Soul, propounded by Patanjali.

Solution: B. Vaisheshika philosophy – discussion of atomic theory, propounded by Kanada.

Solution: C. Nyaya philosophy – the philosophy of logic, propounded by sage Gautama.

Solution: D. Uttara Mimamsa (Vedanta) holds only Brahman, not the individual soul, to be ultimately real – propounded by Badarayana.

11. Answer: (a)

Solution: All the pairs given above are correctly matched.

12. Answer: (d)

Solution: Kanishka was a prominent ruler of the Kushana dynasty, known in history for his conquests, religious disposition, patronage of literature and compassion. Kanishka is especially known for his patronage of Buddhism. During his reign the Fourth Buddhist Council was held in Kashmir, presided over by Vasumitra. Ashvaghosha, Nagarjuna and Vasumitra were all his contemporaries, whereas Chanakya was a contemporary of Chandragupta Maurya, founder of the Maurya empire. Chanakya is also known in history as Kautilya and Vishnugupta; he composed the treatise "Arthashastra" on ancient Indian political science. Ashvaghosha, Nagarjuna, Vasumitra, etc. were all court scholars of Kanishka.

13. Answer: (b)

Solution: All the given matches are correct: Harappa–Ravi, Mohenjodaro–Indus, Ropar–Sutlej, Kalibangan–Ghaggar.

14. Answer: (c)

15. Answer: (c)

Solution: Panini composed the "Ashtadhyayi," the first work of Sanskrit grammar. Megasthenes, the envoy of Seleucus Nicator, wrote "Indica." "Buddhacharita" was composed by Ashvaghosha, court poet of the Kushana ruler Kanishka; "Saundarananda" and "Sutralankara" are two of his other major works. "Mudrarakshasa" was composed by Vishakhadatta. (The Mahabhashya was actually written by Patanjali, not Panini.)

16. Answer: (c)

Solution: Hiuen Tsang was a famous Chinese Buddhist monk who came to India during the reign of Harshavardhana and remained in India for seventeen years (629–645 AD). He also visited the kingdom of Kamarupa's prince, Bhaskara Varman. He is known as the "prince of travellers."

17. Answer: (b)

Solution: (As in the source, the explanation given repeats the note on Hiuen Tsang: he was a famous Chinese Buddhist monk who visited India during Harshavardhana's reign, stayed seventeen years [629–645 AD], and also visited the kingdom of Prince Bhaskara Varman of Kamarupa; he is called the "prince of travellers.")

18. Answer: (b)

Solution: In ancient India, the Varman dynasty ruled over Kamarupa (Assam). Pushyavarman was an important ruler of this dynasty. Bhaskaravarman, a contemporary of Harshavardhana of Kannauj, was the last great ruler of this dynasty.

19. Answer: (a)

Solution: "Agraharam" or "Agrahara" referred to a village whose residents were entirely Brahmin. In villages of mixed population, the part inhabited by Brahmins was also called an agraharam. Such settlements were also called "Chaturvedimangalam."

20. Answer: (a)

Solution: The famous mathematician and astronomer of the Gupta period (5th–6th century AD) was Varahamihira. He was born into a Brahmin family in the village of "Kapitha" near Ujjain. His important works are the "Brihat Samhita," the "Brihajjata," and the "Panchasiddhantika." The "Brihat Samhita" covers architecture, building construction, the nature of the atmosphere, and much else; it is also a work of predictive astrology.

21. Answer: (b)

Solution: Gautama Buddha was born in 563 BC at Lumbini; his childhood name was Siddhartha. At the age of 29 he renounced his home, an event called the "Mahabhinishkramana" in Buddhist texts. His early teachers were Alara Kalama and Uddaka Ramaputta. The Buddha's horse was named Kanthaka, and his charioteer was named Channa. Makkhali Gosala founded the Ajivika sect, which held that the soul must pass through a fixed, pre-determined cycle of many rebirths.

22. Answer: (c)

23. Answer: (b)

Solution: Somadeva composed the "Kathasaritsagara." Kalidasa composed "Malavikagnimitra." Bhasa composed "Swapnavasavadatta." Bilhana composed "Chaurapanchashika."

24. Answer: (c)

Solution: Rudradaman's Junagadh inscription tells us that during his reign the Sudarshana lake in Saurashtra – originally built in the time of Chandragupta (Maurya), with canals drawn from it in Ashoka's time – [was subsequently repaired by Rudradaman].

25. Answer: (a)

Solution: In the Neolithic period humans learnt to weave cloth, having become capable of growing the necessary plants such as cotton. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

26. Answer: (a)

Solution: Yajnavalkya was the first to advocate property rights for women. Yajnavalkya also recognised the wife as heir to her husband's property.

27. Answer: (a)

Solution: Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Hunsgi is a Palaeolithic site located in Karnataka. Tools used for various different purposes have been found at several sites there. Most tools found at Hunsgi were made of "limestone," not sandstone. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

28. Answer: (a)

Solution: Tools of the Neolithic age differ from those of the Palaeolithic age, which is why this age is called the Neolithic age. Some tools of this period were polished to sharpen their edges further; some tools were also made of bone. In this period the manufacture and use of Palaeolithic-type tools also continued to some extent, so statement (a) is false. Mortar and pestle were used in this period for grinding things – tools that are still used today, thousands of years later. Various kinds of pottery have been found at sites of this period, sometimes decorated, and used for storing things; gradually people also began using pottery for cooking.

29. Answer: (d)

Solution: Megasthenes called city officials "Astynomoi."

30. Answer: (a)

Solution: Kosala, Avanti and Panchala each had two capitals.

31. Answer: (b)

Solution: Correct order: Sambhavanath – 3rd Tirthankara; Sumatinath – 5th Tirthankara; Vimalnath – 13th Tirthankara; Mallinath – 22nd Tirthankara [as given in source].

32. Answer: (d)

Solution: "Sallekhana" and "Samvara" are terms related to Jainism.

33. Answer: (c)

Solution: Jain art – Manastambha: manastambhas are located at the entrance of a temple; seeing them, a person's pride/ego is said to dissolve automatically. Teachings related to the Tirthankaras are depicted on the manastambha. ("Vasadi" refers to residences of Jain followers, or temples located in Karnataka.)

34. Answer: (d)

Solution: Sarga (creation of the universe), Pratisarga (re-creation of the universe), Manvantara (the cyclical nature of time), Vamsha (genealogy of kings and sages), and Vamshanucharita (character-based stories) together form the five defining features (panchalakshana) of a Purana/historical text.

35. Answer: (d)

Solution: The Vinaya Pitaka shows that anyone could join the Sangha, and that separate arrangements existed for men and women to reside there. To join the Sangha, children needed permission from parents, slaves from masters, royal employees from the king, and debtors from creditors. A married woman needed her husband's permission to join the Sangha, not her parents'. Hence statement (d) is false.

36. Answer: (d)

Solution: The order of succession of the three important Maurya kings is: Chandragupta, Bindusara, Ashoka. Ashoka was the son of Bindusara, and Bindusara was the son of Chandragupta.

37. Answer: (d)

Solution: Kar was in fact collected regularly, while Najrana was collected irregularly, whenever feasible — so both statements as worded are wrong. Such Najrana was generally taken, in the form of various items, from people who gave it of their own free will.

38. Answer: (b)

Solution: Shankaracharya was born in Kerala in the ninth century. In the eleventh century, Ramanuja gave importance to divine grace (bhagavatkripa) as the path to salvation. Following Ramanuja, thinkers such as Madhvacharya in South India, and Vallabhacharya and Ramananda in North India, put forward their own views.

39. Answer: (a)

Solution: By the end of the ninth century the Abbasid caliphate had declined. To maintain unity, the caliphs adopted a policy under which generals who succeeded in establishing independent territories of their own were granted the title "Amir-ul-Umara," or "commander of commanders." Hence the Amir-ul-Umara were generals who had established independent territories.

40. Answer: (b)

Solution: Chaturdana is a Jain principle comprising the gifts of learning, food, medicine, and shelter.

41. Answer: (a)

Solution: A. Ayurveda – Rigveda; B. Dhanurveda – Yajurveda; C. Shilpaveda – Atharvaveda; D. Gandharvaveda – Samaveda.

42. Answer: (b)

Solution: The correct chronological order is: 1. Haryanka dynasty, 2. Nanda dynasty, 3. Maurya dynasty, 4. Shunga dynasty.

43. Answer: (c)

Solution: Statements (a), (b) and (d) are correct, but (c) is wrong because traders used both sea and land routes to carry goods to Rome. Traders discovered many sea routes, and made use of monsoon winds to complete their voyages quickly, preferring to use the south-west monsoon to sail from the eastern coast of Africa or Arabia to the western coast of the subcontinent. Evidence of this trade is also found in Sangam poetry.

44. Answer: (c)

Solution: Both statements above are correct. The Chola, Chera and Pandya each had two centres of power — one on the coast and one inland. Of these six centres, two were especially important: the Chola port of Puhar or Kaveripattinam, and the Pandya capital Madurai. These three chieftains demanded gifts rather than regular taxes from the people. During military campaigns they sometimes also collected dues from neighbouring areas; part of this wealth they kept for themselves, and the rest they distributed among supporters, relatives, soldiers and poets.

45. Answer: (d)

Solution: All the above statements are correct. In the early medieval period, feudal lords received no regular salary; instead, some of them were given grants of land. From this land they collected taxes, which they used to maintain their army and horses and to procure weapons.

46. Answer: (c)

Solution: Pallava inscriptions mention several local assemblies. One was an organisation of Brahmin landowners called the "Sabha." Through sub-committees, these assemblies handled work related to irrigation, agriculture, road construction, and the

upkeep of local temples. In areas where the landowners were not Brahmin, a village assembly called "Ur" is mentioned. "Nagaram" was the name of an organisation of merchants. These assemblies were probably controlled by wealthy and powerful landowners and merchants; many local assemblies functioned for centuries.

47. Answer: (b)

Solution: The literal meaning of "stupa" is "mound." Stupas vary in shape — round or elongated, large or small. Every stupa enshrines, in a box, a relic of the body of the Buddha or his followers, or an object used by them; this box is called the "dhatu-manjusha" (relic casket) — it is not merely a decorative fixture, so statement (b), which describes it that way, is the incorrect one. The stupa itself is usually the earthen mound raised over this relic casket; later such mounds were covered with brick, and in still later periods the dome-shaped structure was faced with dressed stone. The remaining statements are correct. The vedika had gateways for entry; the railings and gateways (toranas) were often decorated with fine sculpture — for example, the stupa at Amaravati (roughly 2000 years old) has carved reliefs. Kings, but also merchants, farmers and workers, contributed to building stupas; for instance, the guild of ivory-carvers funded one of the ornamented gateways (toranas) at Sanchi.

48. Answer: (c)

Solution: The most important part of a temple was actually the "garbhagriha" (sanctum), where the principal deities (Vishnu, Shiva, Durga, etc.) were installed; priests performed rites here and devotees worshipped. To mark the garbhagriha as sacred, a "shikhara" was often built above it — for example, at the Bhitargaon temple. Most temples also had a place called the "mandapa," an assembly hall where people gathered. Hence, as worded, only statement 3 is correct. Notable early Hindu temples include the Bhitargaon temple (c. 1500 years old), the monolithic temple at Mahabalipuram, and the Durga temple at Aihole (c. 1400 years old). Monolithic temples are distinguished by being carved from a single massive block of stone from top to bottom.

49. Answer: (a)

Solution: The Aryans had many gods. The sun, stars, wind, moon, earth, sky, trees, rivers, mountains and other natural forces became deities. Indra was the god of rain, storm and war. The gods were conceived in human form but were supernatural and extremely powerful, so people feared them; it was believed the gods bestowed favour on men and women, but their wrath, when roused, was terrible and had to be appeased. Indra was the most beloved of the gods because of his might and his ability to destroy the enemies and demons of the Aryas.

50. Answer: (a)

Solution: Much of what we know about the Maurya period comes from two literary sources. One is the "Arthashastra," most of whose surviving text was composed by Kautilya, prime minister of Chandragupta Maurya. The other is "Indica," an account written in Greek by Megasthenes, ambassador of Seleucus Nicator, who spent time in India during Chandragupta's reign. Megasthenes' account, of which unfortunately only fragments survive, is an eyewitness description. He tells us Pataliputra was a large and beautiful city surrounded by a strong wall; houses were built of wood, but the royal palace was of stone. Megasthenes writes that most Indians were engaged in agriculture, either on their own land or on the king's, and lived contentedly in villages.

51. Answer: (d)

Solution: With increasing contact with West Asia, Greek sculptural forms entered the cities of North India. Artists of the Gandhara region took an interest in and were influenced by this style; their images of the Buddha and scenes from his life resemble the Greek manner. This style became known as Gandhara art, popular not only in regions such as modern Punjab and Kashmir but also in modern Afghanistan, where many remains of Gandhara-style art have been found.

52. Answer: (d)

Solution: All three statements above are correct. Tamralipti (Tamluk), located in the delta of the Ganga, carried the largest volume of trade with countries of Southeast Asia such as Suvarnabhumi (Burma), Yavadvipa (Java) and Kamboja (Cambodia). Along with trade, Indian religion and culture — Buddhism, Hinduism, Sanskrit, art and other aspects of Indian culture — spread into Southeast Asia. Merchant caravans (sartha) and bands of missionaries also travelled overland to Central Asia and China. However, in the latter part of the Gupta era trade declined in North India, partly because of the instability the Huns' movements caused in Central Asia, and possibly also because floods and changes in river courses altered the environment of the Ganga basin.

53. Answer: (a)

Solution: The Roman name for Arikamedu was Poduke. Arikamedu, Barygaza, Masulipatnam and Muziris were all important ports in antiquity; South India's ports were significant for the export of black pepper and other spices.

54. Answer: (a)

Solution: The Cholas were feudatories of the Pallavas. The Chola ruler Rajendra I built a vast navy to extend and protect his empire as far as the Ganga valley, Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia, and turned the Bay of Bengal into a "Chola lake."

55. Answer: (a)

Solution: The Chola kings gave wealthy landowning farmers of the Vellala caste titles of honour such as "Muvendavelan" and "Araiyar" and entrusted them with important state positions at the centre.

56. Answer: (a)

Solution: The Buddha described nirvana as the supreme peace of mind that lies beyond craving, anger and other afflictive states. This peace is attained only when the causes of all present desires are eliminated and the roots of future desires destroyed. In nirvana, craving and hatred are uprooted, freeing a person from suffering (dukkha) and from the cycle of rebirth. Hence option (a) is correct.

57. Answer: (c)

Solution: Remains of a dockyard have been found at the Harappan site of Lothal (Gujarat). At Sarnath (near Varanasi), the Buddha gave his first sermon (Dharmachakrapravartana). Nalanda was a great seat of Buddhist learning, its university founded during the reign of Kumaragupta I. Ashoka's lion-capital pillar is actually located at Sarnath, not at Rajgir.

58. Answer: (a)

Solution: Nalanda had a renowned Buddhist seat and university located near Rajagriha (present-day Rajgir) in southern Bihar. In the mid-fifth century AD, during the Gupta period, the Nalanda Mahavihara (university) came into existence. From the sixth century, tantrism began developing in India. The Pala ruler Dharmapala established Vikramashila University, and subsequent Pala rulers gave greater importance to Vikramashila — which focused on tantric education — while Nalanda came to be neglected and declined gradually until the end of the twelfth century, when it was finally destroyed by fire at the hands of Bakhtiyar Khilji. Thus a lack of royal patronage was indeed a cause of Nalanda's decline.

59. Answer: (a)

Solution: "Anekantavada" or "Syadvada" is associated with Jainism. Mahavira, rejecting the one-sided positions of both eternalists and nihilists, adopted a middle path called "Anekantavada" or "Syadvada," also known as "Saptabhanginaya" — a theory of the relativity of knowledge. "Shunyavada" is a school of Buddhism founded by Nagarjuna, while "Sarvastivada" (also

called "Vaibhashika") is a school of Buddhist philosophy holding that things exist across all three times. Hence option (a) is correct.

60. Answer: (b)

Solution: Chola-period bronze images were made using the "lost-wax" technique. First a wax figure was modelled, then coated completely in clay and left to dry. Once fully dry, it was heated, and a small hole made in the clay shell through which the melted wax was drained out. Molten metal was then poured into the hollow clay mould through the same hole. Once the metal had cooled and solidified, the clay shell was carefully broken away and the resulting image cleaned and polished.

61. Answer: (c)

Solution: In its prosperous fifteenth–sixteenth century heyday, Hampi bustled with commercial and cultural activity. Its markets teemed with "Moors" (a collective term for Muslim merchants), Chettis, and agents of European traders such as the Portuguese.

62. Answer: (d)

Solution: "Manipravalam" is a language style. A fourteenth-century text on grammar and poetics, the "Lilatilakam," is written in the Manipravalam style. "Manipravalam" literally means "gem and coral," alluding to the combined use of two languages — Sanskrit and a regional language.

63. Answer: (c)

Solution: The sixth-century smṛiti-writer Katyayana states that a woman could sell or mortgage her immovable property along with her "stridhan" (personal wealth), which shows that women had rights over land — so statement (1) is true. The book "Romaka Siddhanta" actually deals with astronomy, not mathematics, and is influenced by Greek scholarship, so statement (2) is false. Architecture in this period was relatively underdeveloped in terms of monumental temples, though a few brick temples survive from Uttar Pradesh — notably at Bhitargaon (Kanpur), Bhitari (Ghazipur) and Deogarh (Jhansi) — so statement (3) is true. It is worth noting that the art of temple-building originated in the Gupta period.

64. Answer: (b)

Solution: The Allahabad prashasti actually describes the conquests of Samudragupta, stating he never faced defeat — so statement (1) is false. The inscription on the iron pillar near the Qutub Minar in Delhi eulogises a king named "Chandra," believed to be identified with Chandragupta II — so statement (2) is true.

65. Answer: (d)

Solution: Both statements above are false. The stupas of Nagarjunakonda do not, in fact, bear wall relief sculptures; that site instead has, alongside its Buddhist monuments, old brick-built Hindu temples — it flourished under the Ikshvakus, successors of the Satavahanas. It is at Amaravati, rather, that the stupas bear wall relief sculptures depicting scenes from the Buddha's life.

66. Answer: (d)

Solution: All the above are true. The Satavahana kingdom rose in the upper Godavari valley, where use of the iron ploughshare and the paddy-transplantation technique produced abundant rice harvests. Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda were prominent urban centres, and the art of writing was another feature that helped the kingdom's rise.

67. Answer: (c)

Solution: The oldest Buddhist paintings, dating to the second century BC, have been found at Gaya, Sanchi and Bharhut.

68. Answer: (b)

Solution: In fact, punch-marked silver coins bearing symbols of the peacock, mountain and crescent moon were valid currency in Mauryan administration — useful for tax collection and paying officials' salaries, and, because of their standard purity, convenient for market transactions over a wide area. Hence statement (b) is false, while the others are true. To curb oppression in the provinces, Ashoka instituted periodic transfers of officials at Tosali, Ujjain and Taxila. It was in the Maurya period that baked bricks were first used in north-eastern India, with houses built of both brick and timber. The inspiration to establish kingdoms in peninsular India came from the Mauryas not only to the Chedis and Satavahanas, but also to the Cheras (Keralaputras), Cholas and Pandyas.

69. Answer: (b)

Solution: Vikramaditya VI was the most prominent ruler of the Chalukya dynasty. His court included Bilhana, author of the "Vikramankadevacharita," and Vijaneshwara, commentator on the Yajñavalkya Smṛiti and author of the "Mitakshara."

70. Answer: (a)

Solution: The Cholas maintained a vast army of about sixty thousand war elephants and a hundred and fifty thousand infantry; soldiers received proper training. Soldiers who displayed exceptional valour in battle, or who sacrificed themselves, were awarded the title "Kshatriya-shikhamani" by the Chola emperor.

71. Answer: (a)

Solution: Kurinji – hunting and gathering; Mullai – animal husbandry and food production; Marudam – food production and storage; Neytal – fishing and salt production.

72. Answer: (c)

Solution: Satavahana inscriptions include names such as Shivapalita, Shivadatta, Kumara, etc., pointing to the worship of Shiva and Skanda; the Yaudheyas too were worshippers of Kartikeya (Skanda).

73. Answer: (a)

Solution: In fact, a human being is regarded as a combination of five psycho-physical elements — body, feeling, cognition, mental disposition, and consciousness.

74. Answer: (b)

Solution: First Council – Mahakassapa; Second Council – Sabbakami (Sarvakamin); Third Council – Moggaliputta Tissa; Fourth Council – Vasumitra, with Ashvaghosha as vice-president.

75. Answer: (c)

Solution: In the Rig Vedic period, the desire for the birth of a son is expressed in many hymns, whereas nowhere in the Rig Veda is a wish for a daughter expressed; nonetheless, the condition of women in this period was actually good, since women at that time participated in institutions such as the sabha and samiti.

76. Answer: (d)

Solution: All the above are true. This new material culture of the Ganga plains was based on extensive use of iron, an abundance of punch-marked coins, use of writing, the widespread pottery known as Northern Black Polished Ware, the use of baked bricks and ring wells, and, above all, the rise of towns in north-eastern India.

77. Answer: (d)

Solution: Buddhist monasteries developed into great centres of learning that can be called residential universities — notably Nalanda and Vikramashila in Bihar, and Valabhi in Gujarat. During the reign of Emperor Ashoka, Taxila was a great centre of Buddhist learning.

78. Answer: (c)

Solution: India's most ancient civilization, the Harappan civilization, is famous for its urban planning — hence urban culture came first. Knowledge of iron came after bronze, in the Vedic period, around 1000 BC. India's earliest coins, the punch-marked coins, came into existence in the sixth century BC. Gold coins were first issued in India by the Indo-Greek rulers (second century BC).

79. Answer: (a)

Solution: According to Jain philosophy, the universe is composed of two eternal and independent categories — jiva (soul/sentient) and ajiva (non-sentient, inert). Here "jiva" refers not to the universal soul of the Upanishads but to the individual soul; souls are many, and every particle of creation contains souls. Hence option (a) is correct — creation and sustenance occur through universal law, with no single director or controller.

80. Answer: (d)

Solution: Followers of the Shvetambara tradition compiled the 12 Angas at the first Jain council, held in 310 BC at Pataliputra. The Digambaras believed that Mahavira's teachings — the knowledge of the 12 Angas — had already been lost, and did not participate in this council. Hence Statement I is true and Statement II, as worded, is incorrect.

81. Answer: (d)

Solution: Types of land in the Chola period: Vellanvagai — land owned by non-Brahmin peasant proprietors; Brahmadeya — land granted to Brahmins; Shalabhoga — land for the upkeep of a school; Devadana/Tirunamattukkani — land granted to a temple; Pallichchandam — land donated to a Jain institution.

82. Answer: (c)

Solution: For administrative convenience, the British divided India into several provinces; of these, Bengal, Madras and Bombay were called "Presidencies." Each Presidency was governed by a Governor assisted by a council of three members, appointed by the crown.

83. Answer: (d)

Solution: The early Palaeolithic site of Bhimbetka, in the Narmada region (Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh), has cave paintings that depict human activities.

84. Answer: (c)

Solution: Explanation: Gordon Childe and Mortimer Wheeler attributed the decline of Harappa to external invasion, and it was Wheeler who first put forward the view that the Aryans entered India from the north-west.

85. Answer: (b)

Solution: The term "samanta" occurs in Kautilya's Arthashastra in the sense of an independent neighbour. It was Ashvaghosha (first century) who first used it, in the Buddhacharita, in the sense of a subordinate/feudatory. In the Gupta period the term generally came to be used in the sense of a feudal vassal.

86. Answer: (b)

Solution: Explanation: The Aparajitapriccha is a treatise on architecture written by King Bhoja of the Paramara dynasty of Malwa. In the "Yuktikalpataru," also composed by King Bhoja, there is a discussion of the construction of various kinds of boats.

87. Answer: (b)

Solution: Mihirakula (518–530 AD) was a famous Hun ruler after Toramana. The Mandsaur inscription describes Yashodharman as a chakravartin (universal) ruler and records that Yashodharman defeated Mihirakula. It is said that Mihirakula, who had bowed to no one save Shiva, bowed at the feet of Yashodharman.

88. Answer: (b)

Solution: In the Gupta period, different classes of land bore different rates of revenue. Nala, Kulyavapa, Drona and Pataka were units of land measurement in the Gupta and post-Gupta periods. "Nala" referred to a metal rod, or a rope of equivalent length, used to measure land; its length varied according to local custom.

89. Answer: (b)

Solution: Kumarila, a philosopher of the Mimamsa school, supported Vedic sacrifice. He refuted the Buddhists and sought to restore the authority of the Vedas, holding that one could attain moksha by performing sacrificial rites even while living as a householder.

90. Answer: (d)

91. Answer: (d)

Solution: After the Buddha's Mahaparinirvana, the First Buddhist Council was held at Rajagriha in 483 BC under the patronage of Ajatashatru. The Second Buddhist Council was held at Vaishali during the reign of Kalashoka in 383 BC. The Third Buddhist Council was held at Pataliputra during Ashoka's reign, and the Fourth Buddhist Council was held at Kundalavana in Kashmir during Kanishka's reign.

92. Answer: (a)

Solution: The mahajanapada of Ashmaka, near the Godavari, had its capital at Potana (Paudanya). Mulaka's capital was Pratishthana. The kingdom of Avanti covered modern Malwa and part of Madhya Pradesh, with two divisions — northern Avanti, capital Ujjayini, and southern Avanti, capital Mahishmati. Kalinga's capital was Tosali.

93. Answer: (d)

Solution: According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, in Mauryan administration the officer who examined coins was called the "Rupadarshaka."

94. Answer: (c)

Solution: Kannagi was the heroine of the Sangam-era epic "Shilappadikaram," composed by Ilango Adigal. The hero of this Tamil epic was Kovalan and the heroine was Kannagi. The Chera ruler Senguttuvan initiated the worship of Kannagi.

95. Answer: (c)

Solution: The system of feudalism was in a developed state during this period; feudal lords had grown extremely powerful and had begun occasionally to disregard central authority. Feudal control was increasing while central control was, in fact, weakening.

96. Answer: (b)

Solution: In the Gupta period, the officer called "Karanika" was appointed to keep land records safe; "Dhruvadhikarana" was the officer responsible for collecting land revenue.

97. Answer: (c)

Solution: Mahavira was not the founder of Jainism but rather its most celebrated Tirthankara; the founder of Jainism was Rishabhadeva. Mahavira was the twenty-fourth Tirthankara. The five great vows of Jainism are non-violence, truth, non-stealing, non-possession, and celibacy; the first four were laid down by Parshvanatha, and celibacy was added by Mahavira.

98. Answer: (b)

Solution: In the Maurya period, "adevamatrika" land was land on which good crops could be raised without depending on rain — that is, land that could be cultivated even without rainfall because it was irrigated by artificial means, since cultivation would otherwise be impossible without some form of irrigation.

99. Answer: (d)

Solution: Satavahana-era society was organised on the varnashrama system: traditionally society was divided into four varnas (Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra), whereas the number of castes (jatis) was in fact countless. Hence statement (A) is false, while the reason — that Satavahana society aspired to be a progressive one, free of narrow prejudices — is true.

100. Answer: (b)

Solution: "Tajuma-e-Barahi" is the Persian rendering of an Indian text on astrology.

101. Answer: (c)

Solution: "Muvendar" means "three chiefs" and was used for three ruling families — the Chola, Chera and Pandya — who were quite powerful in South India roughly 2300 years ago.

102. Answer: (c)

Solution: Burzahom (Kashmir) is an important Neolithic-culture site, where pit-dwellings, stone tools, and evidence of agriculture and animal husbandry have been found.

103. Answer: (d)

Solution: Pit-dwellings dug into the ground are a distinctive feature of Neolithic life at Burzahom.

104. Answer: (a)

Solution: Early evidence of Neolithic agriculture and animal husbandry has been found at Mehrgarh (Balochistan).

105. Answer: (b)

Solution: In the Rig Vedic period, institutions such as the Sabha, Samiti and Vidatha are mentioned. Kingship was not absolute — public opinion and aristocratic institutions played a role.

106. Answer: (c)

Solution: The Battle of the Ten Kings is believed to have taken place on the banks of the river Parushni (Ravi), between King Sudas of the Bharatas and a coalition of opposing tribes.

107. Answer: (d)

Solution: In the later Vedic period, the growing use of iron, expansion of agriculture, and the spread of settlements in the Ganga-Yamuna region transformed the economy.

108. Answer: (a)

Solution: The generally accepted order of development of Vedic literature is Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka, and Upanishad.

109. Answer: (b)

Solution: The Shatapatha Brahmana is associated with the Shukla Yajurveda. The Aitareya Brahmana is associated with the Rigveda, and the Tandya Brahmana with the Samaveda.

110. Answer: (c)

Solution: Around the sixth century BC, cities, crafts and trade expanded in the Ganga valley, an event referred to as the "second urbanisation."

111. Answer: (d)

Solution: Shravasti was the principal capital of Kosala; Saketa was also an important city of this kingdom.

112. Answer: (a)

Solution: According to Pratityasamutpada, all events, including suffering, arise dependent on causes and conditions.

113. Answer: (b)

Solution: The Triratna (Three Jewels) are the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha; Nirvana is the goal of Buddhist practice, not one of the Three Jewels.

114. Answer: (c)

Solution: In the Buddhist tradition, "Upasaka" refers to a lay male follower and "Upasika" to a lay female follower.

115. Answer: (d)

Solution: Anekantavada accepts the possibility of multiple facets and viewpoints regarding an object or a truth.

116. Answer: (a)

Solution: In Jainism, the three jewels of the path to liberation are right faith (samyak darshana), right knowledge (samyak jnana), and right conduct (samyak charitra).

117. Answer: (b)

Solution: Ashoka appointed Dhamma Mahamatras for the propagation of Dhamma, moral conduct, and works of public welfare.

118. Answer: (c)

Solution: In most major inscriptions, "Devanampiya Piyadasi" has been identified with the emperor Ashoka.

119. Answer: (d)

Solution: Major Rock Edict XIII records Ashoka's remorse after conquering Kalinga and his policy of conquest through Dhamma.

120. Answer: (a)

Solution: In the Maurya empire, alongside the central authority, various administrative officials functioned at the provincial, city and village levels.

121. Answer: (b)

Solution: Megasthenes' account describes the city administration of Pataliputra and its various committees.

122. Answer: (c)

Solution: After Brihadratha, the last Maurya ruler, was assassinated, Pushyamitra Shunga established the Shunga dynasty.

123. Answer: (d)

Solution: In Satavahana administrative usage, "Ahara" refers to an administrative region/unit.

124. Answer: (a)

Solution: During Kanishka's reign, the Mahayana Buddhist tradition and its literary-philosophical development received special patronage.

125. Answer: (b)

Solution: Kushana coins display multicultural religious imagery, including forms of Iranian, Greek and Indian deities.

126. Answer: (c)

Solution: In Gupta administration, "Bhukti" was a provincial-level unit and "Vishaya" a smaller administrative unit within it.

127. Answer: (d)

Solution: "Uparika" is regarded as an officer associated with the administration of a Bhukti, i.e., provincial administration.

128. Answer: (a)

Solution: The Prayaga Prashasti (Allahabad eulogy) of Samudragupta was composed by Harishena, a poet and official attached to his court.

129. Answer: (b)

Solution: On the basis of tradition and epigraphic evidence, the development of the Nalanda Mahavihara is associated with the reign of Kumaragupta I.

130. Answer: (c)

Solution: At Ajanta one finds excellent paintings and sculpture depicting Buddhist themes, Jataka stories, and scenes from the life of the Buddha.

131. Answer: (d)

Solution: "Pattupattu" (Ten Idylls) and "Ettuthokai" (Eight Anthologies) are major collections of ancient Tamil Sangam literature.

132. Answer: (a)

Solution: In ancient Indian sources, the term "Yavana" was used broadly for Greeks, and later for Greco-Roman foreigners.

133. Answer: (b)

Solution: Kautilya's Arthashastra offers a systematic discussion of the state, administration, revenue, economy, criminal justice and diplomacy.

134. Answer: (c)

Solution: The Ashtadhyayi is an extremely systematic and influential work of Sanskrit grammar.

135. Answer: (d)

Solution: Patanjali's Mahabhashya is an important commentary on Panini's Ashtadhyayi and Katyayana's Varttikas.

136. Answer: (a)

Solution: The Charaka Samhita is associated with Ayurvedic medicine, and the Sushruta Samhita especially with the surgical tradition.

137. Answer: (b)

Solution: A Chaitya was generally used for worship/prayer, and a Vihara for the residence of monks.

138. Answer: (c)

Solution: The original stupa at Sanchi is associated with the reign of Ashoka; it was later enlarged and embellished.

139. Answer: (d)

Solution: Karle, in Maharashtra, is famous for its magnificent rock-cut Buddhist chaitya-hall.

140. Answer: (a)

Solution: At Dholavira, a well-organised system of reservoirs, channels and water storage demonstrates the sophistication of Harappan water management.

141. Answer: (b)

Solution: The region referred to as "Meluhha" in Mesopotamian inscriptions is generally identified with the Indus civilization region.

142. Answer: (c)

Solution: Evidence of a dockyard/port-like structure and maritime trade has been found at Lothal.

143. Answer: (d)

Solution: Evidence of structures such as fire-altars/fire-pits has been found at Kalibangan.

144. Answer: (a)

Solution: In Gana-Sanghas, power lay not with a single individual but with an oligarchic group or an assembly-like body.

145. Answer: (b)

Solution: The Lichchhavi gana-sangha was centred on Vaishali and was a major component of the Vajji confederacy.

146. Answer: (c)

Solution: Magadha benefited from several advantages, including fertile plains, iron resources, the availability of elephants, and river routes.

147. Answer: (d)

Solution: Bimbisara was a Magadhan ruler of the Haryanka dynasty and had no connection with the Gupta dynasty.

148. Answer: (a)

Solution: Shrenis were organised guilds of artisans or merchants, of considerable importance in economic life.

149. Answer: (b)

Solution: Punch-marked coins were mainly made of silver and some other metals; they were not made only of gold. Coins facilitated exchange and economic activity.

150. Answer: (c)

Solution: Knowledge of the monsoon winds accelerated and regularised maritime trade between India and regions to its west and south-east.