

Ancient History

1. With reference to the early colonial understanding of Indian history, consider the following statements:

1. The translation of *Manusmriti* into English as *A Code of Gentoo Laws* was primarily meant for academic study of Hindu philosophy.
2. The Asiatic Society of Bengal was founded by Sir William Jones to promote the study of Asian languages, literature, and culture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation

Ans : (B)

A Code of Gentoo Laws was translated by Nathaniel Halhed in 1776 not to advance philosophical study but to help British administrators apply Hindu civil laws in colonial courts. It served as a practical legal manual, reflecting early colonial attempts to govern through existing customs. The Asiatic Society, founded by Sir William Jones in 1784, genuinely aimed to study Asian languages, literature, and culture, marking an important scholarly effort to systematize Indian history and traditions.

2. Consider the following pairs of historians and their contributions:

	Historian	Contribution
(a)	Sir William Jones	Suggested common origin of Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin
(b)	Wilkins	Translated <i>Abhijnanashakuntalam</i>
(c)	A.L. Basham	Authored <i>The Wonder That Was India</i>

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- A) (a) and (b) only B) (a) and (c) only
C) (b) and (c) only D) (a), (b), and (c)

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Sir William Jones correctly proposed the linguistic relationship between Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin, laying the foundation for Indo-European philology. A.L. Basham's *The Wonder That Was India* is a well-known scholarly survey of ancient Indian civilization. However, the pair with Wilkins is mismatched. Charles Wilkins translated the *Bhagavad Gita* in 1785, the first major English rendering of an Indian scripture, while *Abhijnanashakuntalam* was translated by William Jones, not Wilkins.

3. Which of the following best reflects the main aim of the colonialist historians of India?

- A) To promote comparative study of Indo-European languages.
- B) To justify British rule by portraying Indians as incapable of self-governance
- C) To preserve India's cultural heritage
- D) To promote indigenous methods of historical writing.

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Colonialist historians largely wrote with the political intention of validating British domination. They depicted India as stagnant, backward, and governed by irrational customs, suggesting that Indians lacked the capacity for modern governance. By portraying pre-colonial rule as despotic and chaotic, they argued that British administration was necessary for order and progress. This narrative supported imperial ideology and attempted to legitimize the continued presence and authority of the colonial state.

4. Consider the following statements about the nationalist school of Indian historians:

1. They sought to counter colonial distortions by reconstructing India's past from indigenous sources.
2. They viewed ancient Indian history primarily through the lens of Hindu revivalism.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation

Ans : (C)

The nationalist school of historians arose to counter colonial misrepresentations that portrayed India as static or inferior. They relied heavily on indigenous texts, inscriptions, and regional traditions to reconstruct India's past from within its own cultural framework. While promoting historical accuracy, many also expressed elements of Hindu cultural revivalism, emphasizing ancient achievements to restore national pride. Thus, this school combined scholarly correction of colonial narratives with a renewed interest in India's ancient civilizational heritage.

5. Which of the following scholars is correctly paired with their notable work?

- A) R.G. Bhandarkar – *Hindu Polity*
- B) K.P. Jayaswal – *History of the Dharmasastra*
- C) P.V. Kane – *History of the Dharmasastra*
- D) D.D. Kosambi – *A History of South India*

Explanation

Ans : (C)

P.V. Kane's *History of the Dharmasastra* is a monumental five-volume work that systematically examines ancient Indian legal, social, and religious traditions. It remains one of the most authoritative reference works on Dharmashastra literature. R.G. Bhandarkar did not write *Hindu Polity*, and K.P. Jayaswal authored that work, not *History of the Dharmasastra*. D.D. Kosambi wrote *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*, not a history of South India. Hence, only Kane is correctly matched.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the contributions of D.D. Kosambi:

1. He introduced a materialist interpretation of Indian history based on Marxist methodology.
2. He emphasized the importance of class and production relations in understanding social change.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation

Ans : (C)

D.D. Kosambi transformed Indian historiography by introducing a materialist and scientific analysis grounded in Marxist methodology. His approach emphasized how modes of production, class relations, and economic structures shaped cultural and political developments. In *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*, he rejected purely textual or dynastic narratives, arguing instead that social change must be understood through material conditions and everyday life. Both statements reflect his core contributions to historical interpretation.

7. With reference to K.P. Jayaswal, consider the following statements:

1. He argued that republican institutions existed in ancient India.
2. His work *Hindu Polity* (1924) challenged the colonial stereotype of Indian despotism.
3. His findings were unanimously accepted by all historians.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

K.P. Jayaswal made a pioneering contribution by arguing that ancient India had republican traditions, showing that governance was not uniformly monarchical. His work *Hindu Polity* challenged colonial claims that India lacked political sophistication or participatory institutions. While influential, his findings were not universally accepted; several scholars critiqued aspects of his interpretation, arguing that evidence of republics was limited or overstated. Thus, statements 1 and 2 are correct, but statement 3 is inaccurate.

8. Match the following historians with their fields of specialization:

	Historian	Area of Work
(a)	R.G. Bhandarkar	Satavahanas and Vaishnavism
(b)	V.K. Rajwade	Maratha manuscripts and social history
(c)	Hemachandra Raychaudhuri	Political history up to the Gupta period

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A) (a) and (b) only B) (b) and (c) only
C) (a), (b), and (c) D) (a) only

Explanation

Ans : (C)

R.G. Bhandarkar made pioneering contributions to early Deccan history, particularly the Satavahanas, and wrote influential studies on Vaishnavism and religious developments. V.K. Rajwade dedicated his career to collecting and editing thousands of Maratha manuscripts,

laying the foundation for social and regional history of Maharashtra. Hemachandra Raychaudhuri authored authoritative works on ancient India, especially political history up to the Gupta period. All three scholars are therefore correctly matched with their respective fields of specialization.

9. With reference to A.L. Basham's historiography, consider the following statements:

1. He emphasized non-political aspects of ancient Indian civilization.
2. His work represented a sympathetic and balanced view of Indian culture.
3. He adopted a Marxist interpretation of Indian history.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

A.L. Basham's historiography focused on cultural, social, and intellectual aspects of ancient India rather than dynastic politics. His well-known work highlighted art, religion, daily life, and philosophical traditions to present a comprehensive picture of ancient civilization. He expressed a sympathetic and balanced appreciation of India's cultural achievements, countering earlier biased narratives. However, he did not follow Marxist methodology; his approach was humanistic, descriptive, and culturally interpretive rather than materialist or class-based.

10. Which among the following marks a major historiographical shift in post-independence Indian history writing?

- A) From political to social and economic history.
- B) From rational to theological approaches.
- C) From nationalist to colonial interpretations.
- D) From archaeological to purely literary reconstruction.

Explanation

Ans : (A)

After independence, especially from the 1960s onward, Indian historiography shifted from traditional political narratives to exploring broader social, economic, and cultural processes. Scholars began studying agrarian structures, caste relations, labor systems, and everyday life, moving beyond kings and dynasties. This transformation aligned with global trends in historical writing that emphasized interdisciplinary methods and the experiences of ordinary people. The period also saw growth in regional, subaltern, and economic history, marking a major methodological shift.

11. Consider the following statements about the communal approach in Indian historiography:

1. It identifies ancient India exclusively with Hinduism.
2. It emerged mainly after 1980.
3. It accepts critical examination of myths and legends.

MEDIEVAL HISTORY

1. Consider the following statements about India's trade relations during the early medieval period:

1. India maintained active maritime links with Southeast Asia.
2. Trade with China declined sharply after the Tang period.
3. Arab traders acted as intermediaries between India and the Mediterranean world.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

India's maritime trade with Southeast Asia (Suvarnadvipa, Java, and Sumatra) remained vibrant. Arab merchants dominated the Indian Ocean routes and linked India to Europe via the Red Sea. However, Sino-Indian trade did not collapse after the Tang; it fluctuated but persisted through Buddhist and silk routes. Hence, statements 1 and 3 are correct.

2. India's trade with the Roman Empire declined mainly because:

- A) Depletion of Roman gold reserves
B) Collapse of Roman Empire in the West
C) Rise of Persian intermediaries
D) Shift to overland routes through Central Asia

Explanation

Ans : (B)

The fall of the Western Roman Empire disrupted Indo-Roman commerce, reducing demand for Indian luxury goods like pepper and textiles. Eastern trade continued through Byzantine and Arab intermediaries but with less intensity. Thus, the collapse of Rome's political economy, not route change, caused decline.

3. Which of the following best explains the importance of India in the Afro-Asian trade network?

- A) Export of raw materials and import of luxury goods
B) India as an industrial and re-export hub
C) India as an agricultural hinterland of Arabia
D) India's trade restricted by caste norms

Explanation

Ans : (B)

India served as a manufacturing and re-export centre for goods like textiles, spices, and metalware. Arab merchants carried these to Africa and West Asia. Indian ports like Calicut and Tamralipti became nodal points in the Afro-Asian trade nexus, reflecting India's industrial and commercial significance.

4. Statement I: Buddhism served as a bridge of cultural exchange between India and East Asia.

Statement II: The decline of Buddhism in India ended these exchanges.

Which one is correct?

- A) Both true, and II explains I
B) Both true, but II does not explain I
C) I true, II false
D) Both false

Explanation

Ans : (C)

Buddhism fostered Indo-East Asian contact through missions and pilgrimages. Even after Buddhism's decline in India, Chinese, Tibetan, and Southeast Asian links continued via Sanskrit learning and monastic networks. Hence, only Statement I is true.

5. The spread of Indian cultural influence to Southeast Asia was primarily due to:

- A) Military conquest by Indian rulers
B) Voluntary cultural diffusion through trade and religion
C) Forced migration of artisans
D) Political colonization

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Indian ideas spread peacefully through maritime trade, intermarriage, and the adoption of Sanskrit, Hinduism, and Buddhism by local elites. The "Indianization" of Southeast Asia was cultural, not colonial — seen in Angkor, Srivijaya, and Java's Hindu-Buddhist architecture.

6. Which statement correctly describes the role of Arabs in India's external trade after the 8th century?

- A) They displaced Indian traders from maritime routes.
B) They monopolized sea trade linking India to Europe.
C) They acted only as land-based intermediaries.
D) They were confined to the Red Sea region.

Explanation

Ans : (B)

After Islam's rise, Arab merchants dominated the Indian Ocean, connecting India with Europe and East Africa. Indian goods reached Alexandria and Venice via Arab networks, establishing Muslim control over sea trade till the Portuguese arrival.

7. Which region had the strongest cultural exchange with early medieval India?

- A) East Africa B) China
C) Southeast Asia D) Persia

Explanation

Ans : (C)

Southeast Asia absorbed Indian cultural, religious, and artistic elements deeply. Sanskrit inscriptions, Hindu deities, temple architecture, and political models were widespread in Java, Cambodia, and Thailand, marking India's greatest civilizational impact abroad.

8. Statement I: The Chola navy promoted Indian influence abroad.

Statement II: Their naval expeditions subdued Arab fleets in the Persian Gulf.

- A) Both true B) I true, II false
C) I false, II true D) Both false

Explanation

Ans : (B)

The Cholas extended trade and political contact to Sri Lanka, Sumatra, and Malaya through naval expeditions. However, they never reached or subdued Persian Gulf fleets. Their dominance was confined to the Bay of Bengal and eastern Indian Ocean.

9. The term Suvarnadvipa in early Indian literature refers to:

- A) Persia
- B) Sumatra/Indonesia region
- C) East Africa
- D) China

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Suvarnadvipa, meaning "Islands of Gold," denoted the Malay-Indonesian archipelago. It symbolized the prosperity of maritime Southeast Asia and its trading ties with Indian ports like Tamralipti and Kaveripattinam.

10. The diffusion of Indian astronomy and mathematics to the Islamic world occurred through:

- A) Greek intermediaries in Egypt
- B) Buddhist monks in Tibet
- C) Translation movement in Baghdad
- D) Chinese naval missions

Explanation

Ans : (C)

During the Abbasid Caliphate, Indian works like the *Siddhantas* were translated into Arabic. The decimal system and zero concept influenced Islamic and later European science. Scholars like Al-Khwarizmi acknowledged Indian sources.

11. Statement I: Indian textiles and spices were globally prized in medieval trade.

Statement II: This led to India's consistent trade surplus.

- A) Both true, and II explains I
- B) Both true, but II does not explain I
- C) I true, II false
- D) Both false

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Indian goods — cottons, muslins, pepper — were in high demand, causing a continuous inflow of gold and silver. While both statements are true, high demand explains the surplus, not vice versa.

12. Which of the following facilitated cultural continuity between India and Central Asia?

- A) Silk Route
- B) Red Sea trade
- C) Maritime monsoon routes
- D) Trans-Saharan trade

Explanation

Ans : (A)

The Silk Route linked northwestern India to Bactria, Sogdiana, and China. Buddhist monks, Sanskrit manuscripts, and artistic motifs moved along this corridor, blending Indian, Iranian, and Greco-Buddhist traditions.

13. The introduction of the Indian numerical system in the West was mediated by:

- A) Greek scholars
- B) Chinese astronomers
- C) Arab mathematicians
- D) Roman engineers

Explanation

Ans : (C)

Arabs transmitted the Indian decimal numeral system to Europe via translations of Sanskrit works. Hence,

Europeans called it the "Arabic numerals," though its origin was Indian.

14. Which of the following correctly matches cultural export and region?

- A) Buddhism – East Africa
- B) Hindu temple architecture – Cambodia
- C) Ayurveda – Japan
- D) Sanskrit epics – Persia

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Khmer temples like Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom in Cambodia were inspired by Indian Vaishnavite and Shaivite architecture. Sanskrit inscriptions testify to deep Hindu influence in Southeast Asia.

15. Consider the following statements regarding the foundation of the Pala Empire:

- 1. Gopala was elected by local chieftains to end political anarchy in Bengal.
- 2. His election indicates the survival of republican political traditions.
- 3. The Pala Empire extended from Bengal to Sind under Gopala's rule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Gopala (c. AD 750) was chosen by Bengal's local chiefs, not born into royalty. His election reflected a collective decision to restore order, revealing traces of older *ganatantra* traditions. However, his dominion remained limited to Bengal and Magadha, not extending to Sind. This elective kingship distinguished the Pala foundation from hereditary empires like the Guptas and Pratiharas.

16. With reference to the Tripartite Struggle, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was primarily a contest for control over Kanauj.
- 2. The Palas, Pratiharas, and Rashtrakutas were involved.
- 3. The struggle led to the rise of feudal fragmentation in North India.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (D)

Kanauj symbolized imperial sovereignty. The Palas (east), Pratiharas (west), and Rashtrakutas (south) each sought its control, leading to a century-long struggle. None achieved permanent victory. This constant warfare exhausted their resources, weakened central authority, and accelerated the feudal trend where regional chiefs gained autonomy—marking a shift from classical empires to fragmented polities.

17. Dharmapala's reign is notable for which of the following?

- 1. Revival of Nalanda University
- 2. Founding of Vikramashila University

MODERN HISTORY

1. Regarding the decline of the Mughal Empire:

1. Absence of primogeniture led to recurring wars of succession.
2. Aurangzeb's religious policy alienated key allies like Rajputs.
3. Jagirdari crisis weakened the administrative machinery.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Explanation

The Mughal decline stemmed from systemic weaknesses: no fixed succession law caused civil wars; Aurangzeb's intolerance antagonized natural allies like Marathas and Rajputs; and the jagirdari system's collapse eroded revenue and military strength. Combined with European interference, these factors fragmented the empire, paving the way for British expansion.

Ans : (C)

2. The Portuguese influence in India included:

1. Introduction of the Blue Pottery style.
2. Use of tobacco and chillies.
3. Introduction of European military techniques.

Correct code:

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

Explanation

The Portuguese introduced crops like tobacco, potatoes, and chillies and modernized coastal artillery tactics, significantly influencing Indian warfare. Blue pottery came later through Persian artisans. Their naval superiority allowed them to dominate early sea routes, but their harsh religious policies eventually led to decline under Mughal disfavor.

Ans : (B)

3. Which of the following correctly explains the decline of Portuguese power in India?

- A) The Dutch and British naval superiority
B) Loss of Goa to the Mughals
C) Spanish alliance strengthening Indian resistance
D) Industrial backwardness in Europe

Explanation

The Dutch and British displaced the Portuguese through better naval organization, economic discipline, and less religious aggression. Portuguese power peaked under Albuquerque but declined due to corruption, limited resources, and Spain's annexation of Portugal (1580), which diverted attention from the East.

Ans : (A)

4. Consider the following statements about the Dutch East India Company:

1. It was the first company to issue shares to the public.
2. It established its main Indian base at Surat.
3. It declined after defeat by the English in the Battle of Bedara (1759).

Correct code:

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

The Dutch East India Company (VOC) was the world's first joint-stock company. It dominated spice trade from Malabar and Coromandel coasts but lost its Indian trade foothold to the English after defeat at Bedara. Surat was a British, not Dutch, base.

5. The English East India Company received its charter from:

- A) Queen Elizabeth I B) King James I
C) Queen Anne D) King Charles II

Explanation

Ans : (A)

The English East India Company was granted a royal charter in 1600 by Queen Elizabeth I, authorizing exclusive trade rights with the East Indies. The company evolved from trading to territorial control through diplomacy and military might, laying the foundation for British rule.

6. The Battle of Plassey (1757) was decisive because:

- A) It marked the end of Mughal power.
B) It established English political control in India.
C) It united Indian states against the British.
D) It destroyed French influence in India.

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Plassey marked the transformation of a trading corporation into a political power. Robert Clive's victory against Siraj-ud-Daula, aided by Mir Jafar's betrayal, secured Bengal's resources for British expansion, setting a precedent for territorial conquest.

7. Which of the following contributed most to British victory at Plassey?

- A) Superior weaponry
B) Support from the Nawab of Oudh
C) Treachery of Mir Jafar
D) Naval blockade of French aid

Explanation

Ans : (C)

Mir Jafar's betrayal was decisive. British forces were outnumbered but exploited internal dissent and corruption. This use of diplomacy and manipulation became a hallmark of British expansionism, more crucial than direct military superiority.

8. The Treaty of Allahabad (1765) was significant because:

- A) It ended the First Anglo-Mysore War
B) It granted Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa to the British
C) It created dual government in Madras
D) It recognized Awadh as a British colony

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Signed between Clive and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, it legalized Company control over Bengal's revenue system. The Company collected revenue but left civil administration to the Nawab—introducing "dual government," ensuring economic dominance without full responsibility.

9. The Battle of Buxar (1764) consolidated British power because:

- A) It brought Awadh under direct British rule.
- B) It gave them control of Delhi.
- C) It confirmed British military superiority over Indian coalitions.
- D) It ended Maratha influence permanently.

Explanation

Ans : (C)

At Buxar, the British defeated the triple alliance of Mir Qasim (Bengal), Shuja-ud-Daula (Awadh), and Shah Alam II (Mughal Emperor). It demonstrated decisive British military organization and secured revenue-rich territories—key to their political ascendancy.

10. Regarding the Subsidiary Alliance System:

- 1. It was introduced by Lord Wellesley.
- 2. Indian rulers had to maintain British troops at their cost.
- 3. They could not employ non-British Europeans.

Which are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (C)

Wellesley (1798–1805) institutionalized the Subsidiary Alliance to assert control under the guise of protection. Rulers surrendered external independence, paid for British troops, and dismissed non-British Europeans—transforming states like Hyderabad and Awadh into virtual protectorates.

11. Which war marked the end of French power in India?

- A) First Carnatic War
- B) Second Carnatic War
- C) Third Carnatic War
- D) Anglo-Mysore War

Explanation

Ans : (C)

The Third Carnatic War (1758–63) ended French political ambitions in India. Dupleix's recall and the British naval dominance led to French defeat at Wandiwash (1760). The Treaty of Paris (1763) confined French presence to trading posts.

12. The major reason for French failure in India was:

- A) Inferior military resources compared to the British
- B) Lack of naval strength and political vision
- C) Support from local Indian rulers was absent
- D) Internal revolt in French settlements

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Despite Dupleix's early successes, French ambitions failed due to lack of sustained naval backing from France, internal discord between civil and military officers, and absence of a stable metropolitan policy. British unity, naval dominance, and better financing ensured their triumph. The French defeat at Wandiwash (1760) ended their imperial dream.

13. Which of the following correctly explains the significance of Carnatic Wars?

- A) They weakened Mughal authority in the South.
- B) They marked the beginning of European political involvement in India.
- C) They led to the formation of the Madras Presidency.
- D) They united Indian states under Nizam-ul-Mulk.

Explanation

Ans : (B)

The three Carnatic Wars (1746–63) were contests for supremacy between the English and French East India Companies in southern India. Their outcome established British political dominance, setting a pattern of exploiting Indian disputes for European gains. They also marked the shift from trade to territorial control.

14. Why did the English East India Company succeed against other European powers?

- 1. Industrial Revolution in Britain
- 2. Strong naval force
- 3. Less religious zeal compared to the Portuguese

Select the correct answer:

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

Explanation

Ans : (B)

The British success owed to industrialized production, superior navy, efficient military discipline, political stability at home, and secular pragmatism. Unlike the Portuguese, they prioritized profit over proselytization, ensuring better local alliances and sustainable rule.

15. "Dual Government" in Bengal implied:

- A) British controlled both civil and military powers.
- B) Nawab handled revenue while British managed administration.
- C) British had revenue rights, Nawab retained civil administration.
- D) It was a joint system of Mughal and Company rule.

Explanation

Ans : (C)

Introduced by Clive (1765–72), Dual Government meant the Company held Diwani (revenue collection) while the Nawab retained Nizamat (law and order). This allowed exploitation without responsibility. Famines and chaos ensued, leading to its abolition by Warren Hastings in 1772.

16. The Mysore Wars were significant because they:

- A) United Marathas and Nizam against the Company
- B) Marked the first Indian use of iron-cased rockets
- C) Restored Mughal control over Deccan
- D) Ended French presence in India

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Tipu Sultan's Mysorean rockets were the world's first iron-cased artillery weapons, later studied by the British. The four Anglo-Mysore Wars (1767–99) showcased Indian military innovation and nationalism but ended in Tipu's death (1799), integrating Mysore into the Company's sphere.

Art & Culture of India

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Harappan urban system:

1. The Harappans were the first in India to build cities with planned drainage.
2. Their houses were generally built of sun-dried bricks.
3. Lothal was an important dockyard of the Harappans.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

The document states that the Harappans built the earliest planned cities with sanitation, drainage and well-laid roads, confirming Statement 1. Statement 3 is also correct as Lothal in Gujarat is explicitly described as a dockyard and a centre of maritime trade. Statement 2 is incorrect because Harappan residential structures were made of **burnt bricks**, not sun-dried bricks, which marks a major technological advancement over earlier cultures. Thus, only Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

2. With reference to Harappan economy, consider the following statements:

1. There was extensive internal and external trade.
2. Harappans were the first in India to cultivate cotton.
3. Cows were the chief measure of wealth.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Harappans engaged in internal and external trade, including with Mesopotamia, supported by evidence of Indus seals found there. Cotton cultivation is also mentioned as a Harappan innovation, making Statements 1 and 2 correct. Statement 3 is wrong—**cows as a measure of wealth** belongs to **Vedic society**, not the Harappans. Thus, 1 and 2 only are correct.

3. Consider the following statements about Vedic society:

1. The Rajan could be removed if found inefficient.
2. Women had access to education and enjoyed freedom.
3. Varna division in early Vedic society was hereditary and rigid from the beginning.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

The text mentions that the Vedic Rajan, though hereditary, could be removed if ineffective, validating Statement 1. Statement 2 is correct since women were respected, educated and had freedoms including **swayamvara**

Statement 3 is incorrect because early Vedic varnas were **functional**, becoming hereditary and rigid only in the **later Vedic** period. Thus, Statements 1 and 2 only are correct.

4. Regarding later Vedic religious changes, consider the following statements:

1. Rituals became more elaborate and expensive.
2. Indra and Agni became more important than Brahma and Vishnu.
3. Sanskrit mantras became the monopoly of Brahmins.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Statement 1 is correct: rituals grew complex and costly. Statement 3 is correct as Sanskrit mantras were controlled by Brahmins, increasing their power. Statement 2 is incorrect: **Indra and Agni declined**, replaced by the trinity of **Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva**. Thus, Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

5. With reference to the rise of Jainism and Buddhism, consider the following statements:

1. They arose partly due to resentment against expensive Vedic sacrifices.
2. The Kshatriyas supported these movements as a reaction against Brahmin supremacy.
3. Both emphasised morality and an ethical life over rituals.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (D)

All three statements are supported by the document. Expensive and elaborate sacrifices caused popular dissatisfaction. Kshatriyas reacted against Brahmin domination and supported new religious ideas. Both religions emphasised **morality, ethics, and simple paths to liberation**, rejecting ritualism or priestly monopoly. Therefore, all statements are correct.

6. Consider the following statements on Persian influence in India:

1. The Kharoshthi script was introduced due to Persian contact.
2. Mauryan pillars and capitals show influence of Achaemenid art.
3. The term "satrapa" was used for Mauryan provincial governors.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (D)

Persians introduced **Kharoshthi**, derived from Aramaic, written right-to-left. Mauryan pillars resemble Achaemenid prototypes in design and execution, and

the term "satrapa", adapted as **kshatrapa**, continued in Indian usage. All three statements align with the text.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the impact of Alexander's invasion:

1. It opened land and sea routes between India and the West.
2. It directly unified the entire north Indian political landscape.
3. It facilitated Chandragupta Maurya's expansion in north-west India

Which of the above are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

The invasion opened new routes and enhanced cultural contact. Alexander's campaigns weakened local principalities, easing Chandragupta's later expansion. However, Statement 2 is incorrect because Alexander **did not** unify north India; he barely controlled Punjab before returning. Thus, 1 and 3 only are correct.

8. With reference to Ashoka's Dhamma, consider the following statements:

1. It emphasised respect for elders and social harmony.
2. It was imposed as a compulsory state religion.
3. Ashoka discouraged expensive rituals and royal hunts.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Ashoka promoted social ethics, respect for elders, compassion, and religious harmony. Statement 3 is correct as he rejected wasteful rituals and discontinued royal hunts. Statement 2 is incorrect—Ashoka **never imposed Buddhism** or Dhamma as a compulsory religion but respected all sects. Hence, Statements 1 and 3 only are correct.

9. Consider the following statements regarding Mauryan art and architecture:

1. Ashokan pillars were monolithic and highly polished
2. Rock-cut caves such as the Lomash Rishi cave represent early Mauryan architecture.
3. The Sarnath lion capital is the earliest example of Mauryan art.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: the pillars were carved from a single stone with the unique Mauryan polish; Lomash Rishi and Sudama caves represent early rock-cut architecture. Statement 3 is incorrect because the Sarnath lion capital is not the earliest Mauryan artwork, though it is the most famous. Thus, 1 and 2 only.

10. With reference to post-Mauryan cultural developments, consider the following statements:

1. Gandhara art incorporated Greek and Roman artistic elements.
2. The Mathura school pioneered the first anthropomorphic images of the Buddha.
3. Foreign rulers adopted Vaishnavism but avoided Buddhism.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Gandhara art indeed blended Greek-Roman artistic styles, and Mathura school was the first to create Buddha's human images. Statement 3 is incorrect: many foreign rulers adopted **both** Vaishnavism and Buddhism—e.g., Menander embraced Buddhism. Therefore, Statements 1 and 2 only are correct.

11. With reference to Mahajanapadas, consider the following statements:

1. They emerged mainly due to the growth of agriculture and surplus production.
2. Sixteen Mahajanapadas are mentioned in the period around the 6th century BCE.
3. All Mahajanapadas were monarchies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

The document notes that expansion of agriculture, use of iron tools and urbanisation generated economic surplus, giving rise to territorial states known as Mahajanapadas. Sixteen such states existed in the 6th century BCE. However, they were not all monarchies; some, such as the Vajji confederacy, were oligarchic or republican. Hence, 1 and 2 are correct.

12. Consider the following statements about Jainism:

1. Mahavira asked his followers to adhere to the five vows including non-possession.
2. Jainism split into two sects mainly due to differences over monastic discipline.
3. Jainism rejected the concept of karma.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Mahavira prescribed five vows including non-stealing, non-violence, chastity, non-possession, and truthfulness. Jainism later split into Svetambaras and Digambaras due to disagreements over ascetic discipline. The third statement is incorrect because Jainism strongly upholds karma as the determinant of rebirth. Therefore, only Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

13. With reference to Buddhism, consider the following statements:

1. The Four Noble Truths explain the cause and cessation of suffering.

World History

1. Consider the following statements about the Classical Greek world:

1. Greek city-states were politically unified under a single mon **archy**.
2. Geography played a major role in shaping independent city-states.
3. Athens and Sparta represented contrasting political systems.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (B)

The Greek mainland, broken by mountains and seas, limited large territorial unity and encouraged independent *polis* (city-states). Thus geography shaped political fragmentation and regional identities. Athens evolved democracy, while Sparta nurtured a militaristic oligarchy, making them contrasting systems. The Greeks were never united under one monarchy during the classical period; unity occurred only later under Macedon. Hence statements 2 and 3 are correct.

2. Consider the following statements about Athenian democracy:

1. It was a direct democracy.
2. All inhabitants of Athens were eligible to vote.
3. Citizens participated actively in law-making.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (B)

Athens practiced *direct* democracy, where citizens debated and voted on laws themselves. Participation was limited to free adult male citizens; women, slaves, and foreigners were excluded, so statement 2 is incorrect. Citizens exercised legislative power through the Assembly and Council of 500, showing their strong role in governance. Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

3. Consider the following statements about Sparta:

1. Sparta promoted rigorous military training from childhood
2. Spartan society emphasised luxury and trade.
3. It was governed by a dual-kingship with elders.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Sparta cultivated a strict military culture where boys underwent harsh training. Governance involved two hereditary kings who shared power with the Gerousia (council of elders). Spartan society discouraged trade, wealth accumulation, and luxurious living, emphasising discipline and austerity. Hence statement 2 is incorrect; statements 1 and 3 are correct.

4. Consider the following statements about the Persian Wars:

1. Persia aimed to expand its empire into mainland Greece.
2. Greek city-states united temporarily to resist Persian invasions.
3. These wars marked the beginning of the decline of Greek power.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Persia sought to incorporate Greece into its empire, prompting invasions resisted by Athens, Sparta, and allied city-states. Their cooperative military campaigns ensured Greek victory and encouraged cultural and political flourishing. Rather than decline, the post-war period ushered in the Golden Age of Athens. Thus statement 3 is incorrect.

5. Consider the following statements about the Peloponnesian War:

1. It was fought mainly between Athens and Sparta
2. The war weakened the Greek world significantly.
3. The conflict ultimately led to Macedonian conquest.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (D)

Rivalry between Athens and Sparta resulted in the prolonged Peloponnesian War. Exhaustion, loss of manpower, and economic ruin severely weakened major Greek city-states. This fragmentation paved the way for Macedonian rise under Philip II and later Alexander. All three statements are correct.

6. Consider the following statements regarding Classical Greek contributions:

1. Greek philosophers emphasised rational inquiry.
2. Greek drama explored human ethics and social issues.
3. Greek achievements remained largely unknown beyond Greece.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Greek philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle emphasised reason, evidence, and ethical inquiry. Greek dramatists used theatre to reflect on politics, morality, and society. Far from being unknown, Greek cultural ideas profoundly influenced Rome and later Western and Islamic intellectual traditions. Statement 3 is incorrect.

7. Consider the following statements regarding Alexander's conquests:

1. Alexander defeated the Persian Empire.
2. His empire extended into parts of India
3. His death led to the immediate emergence of a powerful unified empire.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Alexander's campaigns toppled the Achaemenid Persian Empire and extended as far as north-western India. However, after his death, the empire fragmented quickly among his generals (the Diadochi), making unified rule impossible. Therefore, statement 3 is incorrect.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Roman Republic:

1. It consisted of elected institutions such as the Senate and Assemblies.
2. Power was concentrated solely in hereditary kings.
3. The Republic laid foundations for later Roman law.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

The Roman Republic rejected monarchy and established elected bodies like the Senate, Consuls, and popular Assemblies. Roman law, developed during this period, became a major legacy influencing many modern legal systems. Hereditary kings did not rule the Republic; statement 2 is false.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Roman Empire:

1. Augustus ended the civil wars and stabilised Roman administration.
2. The Pax Romana was a phase of peace and prosperity.
3. Roman citizenship was strictly restricted and never expanded.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Augustus established strong central authority, created a stable bureaucracy, and ushered in Pax Romana—a period of relative peace, economic prosperity, and imperial unity. Roman citizenship expanded steadily, especially after the Constitutio Antoniniana, which granted citizenship to many across the empire. Thus statement 3 is incorrect.

10. Consider the following statements regarding Roman engineering and architecture:

1. Romans excelled in road and aqueduct construction.
2. They widely used arches and concrete.
3. Their architectural influence remained confined to Italy.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Roman engineering achievements—roads, aqueducts, bridges, domes, and amphitheatres—showcase their

mastery of arches and concrete. Their architectural forms influenced Europe, parts of West Asia, and later colonial architecture. Statement 3 is incorrect.

11. Consider the following statements about the rise of Macedonia:

1. Philip II used diplomacy and military reforms to dominate Greek city-states.
2. Macedonian phalanx introduced longer spears than the Greek hoplites.
3. Greek city-states willingly accepted Macedonian rule without resistance.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Philip II's reign saw major military reforms—professional armies, improved cavalry, and the sarissa-bearing phalanx with long spears. These reforms, along with diplomacy and strategic marriages, helped Macedonia subdue most Greek city-states. However, Athens, Thebes, and others resisted Macedonian expansion, leading to battles such as Chaeronea. Thus, statements 1 and 2 are correct; 3 is incorrect.

12. Consider the following statements about Hellenistic culture:

1. It emerged after Alexander's conquests.
2. It blended Greek culture with Egyptian, Persian, and West Asian traditions.
3. It declined immediately after Alexander's death.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

Hellenistic civilization arose in the territories conquered by Alexander, blending Greek language, philosophy, and arts with local traditions of Egypt, Persia, and West Asia. It flourished for centuries under the successor kingdoms like the Ptolemies and Seleucids. It did not disappear immediately after Alexander's death; rather, it thrived until Roman expansion. Thus, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

13. Consider the following statements regarding the Roman Senate:

1. It was one of the most powerful institutions of the Roman Republic.
2. Senators were elected by the people for fixed terms.
3. The Senate continued to exist even during the Empire.

Which statements are correct?

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

Explanation

Ans : (A)

The Senate dominated Roman politics during the Republic, guiding foreign policy, legislation, and finances. Senators were **not elected**, but were drawn from elite families and former magistrates. Even under emperors, the Senate continued symbolically, though with reduced power. Thus statements 1 and 3 are correct.