

2026 Edition

UPSC-CSE PRELIMS

PREVIOUS

YEAR

QUESTIONS

**Topic-wise Classification &
Analysis**

1995-2025 GS-1 Questions



Best PYQ Classification Ever!

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INTRODUCTION

Prelims is the most important stage of preparation in UPSC-CSE exam. As statistics suggest, from around 10 lakh students who apply for exam (with 5 lakhs of them actually appearing) only 10,000 are selected by UPSC for Mains exam. Giving us, the pass percentage of 1-2% only.

With UPSC not giving a detailed syllabus for Preliminary exam, much is left to the speculation. Thus, there are many theories like 50% questions are asked from current affairs, UPSC always try to trick the students, they always ask from new books every year etc. There are even some funny remarks like 'U' in UPSC stands for unpredictable and 'S' for surprise etc. All of this, knowingly-unknowingly affects our preparation.

This book is trying to address this fundamental issue. With the help of Previous Year Questions, we've analysed the UPSC Prelims syllabus, in detail, topic-by-topic. This will give you a clarity in preparation. It will also help in understanding the actual weightage of current affairs in Prelims and exactly how many 'out-of-syllabus' questions are asked in the exam. This book also analyses historical weightage of different subjects and topics. This is very important since it will help us prioritize the areas of preparation.

We're delivering you what nobody else is even promising. We've analysed all the major publications in the market about Prelims PYQs. Nobody has done the PYQ classification as sincerely as we've done here.

Please use this book at every stage of your Prelims preparation and within short time, you'll get the clarity in your CSE Prelims preparation.

We would love to hear from you.

Regards,
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MAKING BEST USE OF THE BOOK

Regarding Answers

1. Since UPSC has not yet published 2025 answer key, the answers to 2025 questions are based on study and research.
2. For 2010-2024 questions, the answers to the questions are based the official answer key published by UPSC.
3. For older questions i.e. 1995-2009, the answers are based on study and research.
4. For some questions, the answer has changed with time e.g. 'share of different sectors in India's GDP' will be different in 1995 and in 2025. Thus, we suggest you take into consideration the context in which the questions were asked. While we have tried to mention 'no more relevant', against answer of such questions, some might have been left.
5. While the older questions from static subjects like history, geography are still useful, same is not true for current-affairs based questions. We would advise not going in detail for such questions. You can use them only to understand changing exam pattern of CSE Prelims.

What to Expect from the Book?

1. Understanding the exact syllabus for UPSC Prelims

This is the main strength of our UPSC Prelims PYQ Book. It's common knowledge that the Prelims syllabus mentioned in official UPSC notification is not detailed. This creates confusion in our studies. By looking at the table of content given in the book, and further analysing the questions under each topic, you can get exact idea about UPSC Prelims syllabus. This is main prerequisite for your Prelims preparation.

2. Understanding the type of questions UPSC asks

Reading PYQs help us understand the way UPSC asks the questions in Prelims. You can also understand how the nature of questions has changed from factual to conceptual in some subjects over a period of time. This is important to give direction to our studies.

3. Prioritizing areas of preparation

Please make use of all the graphs given the book. This will help you understand the importance of various subjects, and also the importance of various topics in any given subject. Prioritize the areas where most of the questions are asked from.

4. Having plenty of practice questions

Apart from above benefits, this book contains more than 3600 practice questions. These can be used to test ourselves when we complete a particular topic. This will also give a realistic idea of our preparation and accordingly improvements can be made.

RECOMMENDED WAY OF STUDYING

We would recommend following below SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) while studying for any given topic.

For example, if you're studying topic 6B) Govt. Budget and Govt. Accounts from Indian Economy, you should:

1] Analyse PYQs particular topic

You should merely go through the PYQs on topic and try to mentally answer them. There is no pressure of getting it correct at this stage. Instead, your focus should be on understanding:

- a) Important areas in that particular topic,
- b) Areas which UPSC emphasises,
- c) Whether questions from that topic are current affairs related or static
- d) Some more observations /patterns you can come up with.

2] Study the topics from your notes/textbook -

After analysing PYQs in detail, you should study the topic from your book / class notes. While studying you should keep your analysis in mind. This will help you prioritize important areas and do value addition to your existing source, if necessary.

3] Read the PYQs again and try to answer them.

After 2nd stage i.e. studying the topic in detail, you should again try to answer the PYQs on that topic. This time, you should get the answers correct. Following scenarios can occur at this stage:

- a) You're NOT able to answer the question, and the question is from what you've read** – In this case you should re-visit that particular part in your book and read again.
- b) You're NOT able to answer the question, and the question is NOT from what you've read** – In this case, if the question is still relevant, you should do value addition to your notes by studying the topic from some other source. If the question is not relevant right now, you should skip it and move on.
- c) You're able to answer the question** – You can just move on to the next question.

What we've mentioned above is a proven way to study comprehensively and in exam-oriented manner. This has helped our students crack USPC Prelims even in their first attempt. So please follow it diligently. Best wishes for your preparation.

Regards,
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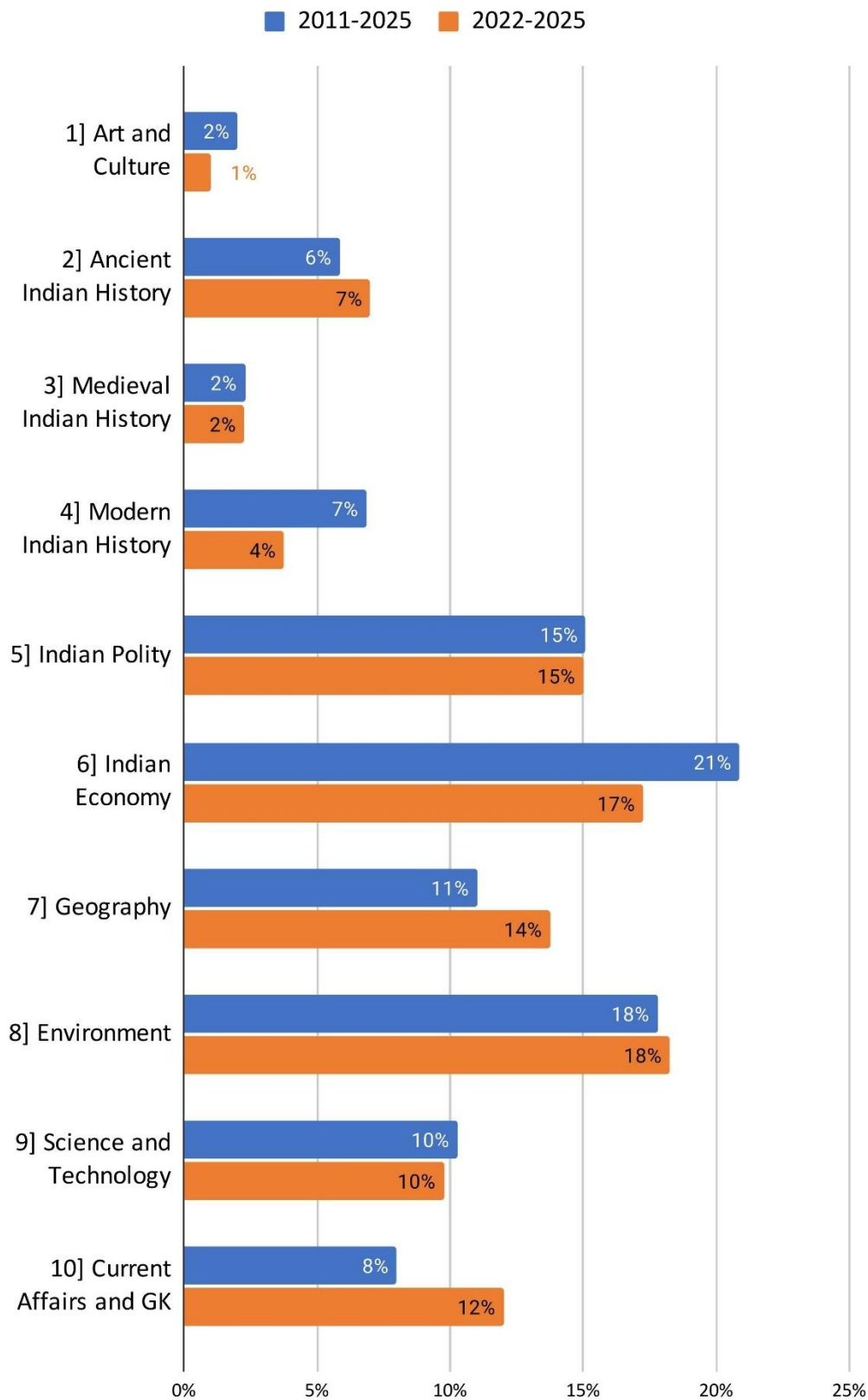
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OVERALL SUBJECT-WISE WEIGHTAGE

UPSC CSE Prelims - Subjectwise Weightage



UPSC Prelims Subjectwise Weightage (2011-2025)																
UPSC Prelims Subject	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average
1] Art and Culture	0	3	2	10	1	0	2	4	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	2
2] Ancient History	4	5	8	7	1	7	4	3	4	10	7	8	9	5	6	6
3] Medieval History	0	1	1	2	4	4	0	1	6	1	5	4	2	1	1	2
4] Modern History	8	12	6	5	8	6	7	13	6	8	8	3	2	3	7	7
5] Polity	7	18	15	11	13	12	23	16	15	18	17	11	15	16	18	15
6] Economy	29	17	23	11	20	28	27	25	27	20	15	20	16	16	17	21
7] Geography	13	12	13	11	11	3	8	7	10	10	12	10	15	17	13	11
8] Environment	19	20	17	24	19	17	14	12	18	18	15	17	18	19	19	18
9] Science and Tech.	15	10	15	10	7	7	8	13	12	11	11	14	9	7	9	11
10] Current Affairs & GK	5	2	0	9	16	16	7	6	2	4	7	13	14	14	8	8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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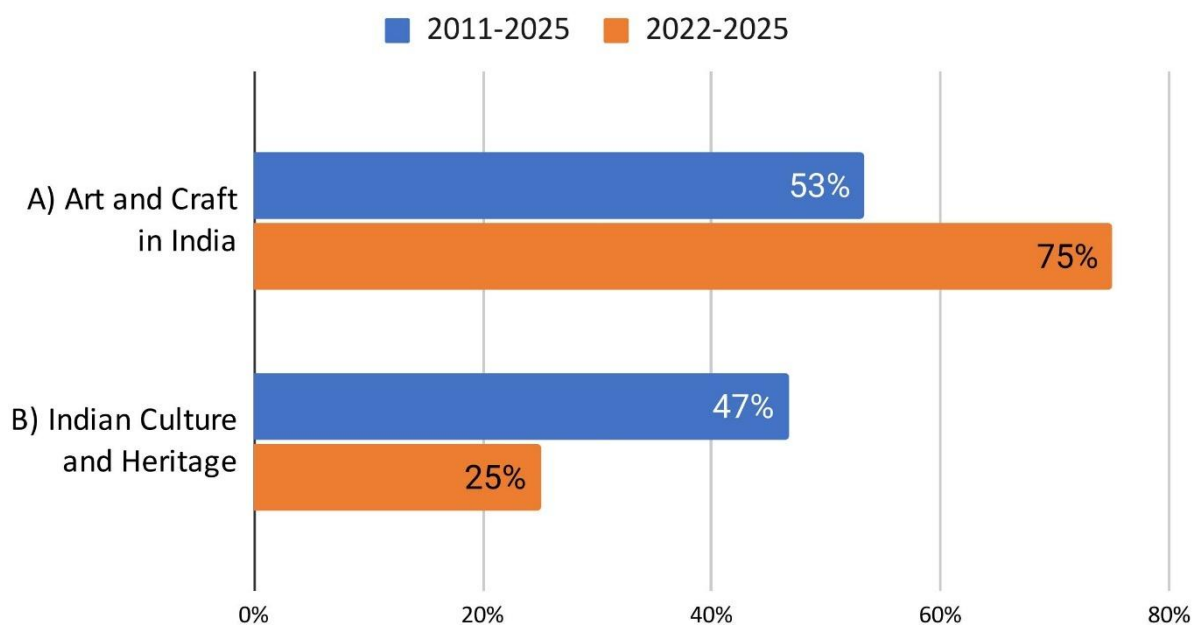
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1] Art and Culture

1] Art & Culture - Topicwise Weightage



1] Art & Culture - Topicwise Weightage	Weightage		No. of Questions	
	2011-2025	2022-2025	2011-2025	2022-2025
A) Art and Craft in India	53%	75%	16	3
B) Indian Culture and Heritage	47%	25%	14	1
Total	100%	100%	30	4

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A) Art and Craft in India

Art, Craft, Paintings, Music, Dance, Theatre, Puppetry, Circus, UNESCO - Cultural Heritages, Cinema, Martial Arts

1. **The first Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, a music training school, was set up in 1901 by Vishnu Digambar Paluskar in: [2025]**
 - a) Delhi
 - b) Gwalior
 - c) Ujjain
 - d) Lahore
2. **Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO? [2024]**
 - a) Chhau dance
 - b) Durga puja
 - c) Garba dance
 - d) Kumbh mela
3. **Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO: [2024]**
 1. Shantiniketan
 2. Rani-ki-Vav
 3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
 4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya

How many of the above properties were included in 2023?

 - a) Only one
 - b) Only two
 - c) Only three
 - d) All four
4. **Consider the following pairs: [2018]**

Tradition	State
1. Chapchar Kut Festival	Mizoram
2. Khongjom Parba ballad	Manipur
3. Thang-Ta dance	Sikkim

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

 - a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2
 - c) 1 and 2
 - d) 2 and 3
5. **The well-known painting “Bani Thani” belongs to the: [2018]**
 - a) Bundi School
 - b) Jaipur School
 - c) Kangra School
 - d) Kishangarh School
6. **With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following statements: [2018]**
 1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
 2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas
 3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
 4. Annamacharya kirtnas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venketshwara.

Which of the statement is given above are correct?

 - a) 1 and 3 only
 - b) 2 and 4 only
 - c) 1, 2, and 3
 - d) 2, 3 and 4
7. **Consider the following pairs: [2018]**

Craft	Heritage of
1. Puthukkuli Shawls	Tamil Nadu
2. Sujni Embroidery	Maharashtra
3. Uppada Jamdani Saris	Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

 - a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2
 - c) 3 only
 - d) 2 and 3
8. **With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements: [2017]**
 1. It is a song and dance performance.
 2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
 3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

 - a) 1, 2 and 3
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1 only
9. **Kalamkari painting refers to: [2015]**
 - a) A hand-painted cotton textile in South India

- b) A handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North-East India
- c) A block-painted woollen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India
- d) A hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India

10. With reference to the famous Sattriya dance, consider the following statements: [2014]

- 1. Sattriya is a combination of music, dance and drama.
- 2. It is a centuries-old living tradition of Vaishnavites of Assam.
- 3. It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. With reference to India's culture and tradition, what is 'Kalaripayattu'? [2014]

- a) It is an ancient Bhakti cult of Shaivism still prevalent in some parts of South India.
- b) It is an ancient style bronze and brasswork still found in southern part of Coromandel area.
- c) It is an ancient form of dance-drama and a living tradition in the northern part of Malabar.
- d) It is an ancient martial art and a living tradition in some parts of South India.

12. Consider the following pairs: [2014]

- 1. Garba: Gujarat
- 2. Mohiniattam: Odisha
- 3. Yakshagana: Karnataka

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

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

13. Consider the following towns of India: [2014]

- 1. Bhadrachalam
- 2. Chanderi
- 3. Kancheepuram
- 4. Karnal

Which of the above are famous for the production of traditional sarees/fabric?

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

14. In the context of cultural history of India, a pose in dance and dramatics called 'Tribhanga' has been a favourite of Indian artists from ancient times till today. Which one of the following statements best describes this pose? [2013]

- a) One leg is bent and the body is slightly but oppositely curved at waist and neck
- b) Facial expressions, hand gestures and make-up are combined to symbolize certain epic or historic characters
- c) Movements of body, face and hands are used to express oneself or to tell a story
- d) A little smile, slightly curved waist and certain hand gestures are emphasized to express the feelings of love or eroticism

15. With reference to Dhrupad, one of the major traditions of India that has been kept alive for centuries, which of the following statements are correct? [2012]

- 1. Dhrupad originated and developed in the Rajput Kingdom period.
- 2. Dhrupad is primarily a devotional and spiritual music.
- 3. Dhrupad Alap uses Sanskrit syllables from Mantras

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- a) 1 & 2 Only
- b) 2 & 3 Only
- c) 1, 2 & 3 Only
- d) None is correct

16. How do you distinguish between Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dances? [2012]

1. Dancers occasionally speaking dialogues is found in Kuchipudi dance but not in Bharatanatyam.

2. Dancing on the brass plate by keeping the feet on its edges is a feature of Bharatanatyam but Kuchipudi dance does not have such a form of movements.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

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

17. The brothers Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha are: [2009]

- a) Dhurpad vocalists b) Kathak dancers
c) Sarod Maestros d) Tabla players

18. Consider the following famous name: [2009]

1. Amrita Sher-Gil
2. Bikash Bhattaeharjee
3. N. S. Bendre
4. Subodh Gupta

Who of the above is/are-well known as artist (s)?

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

19. Consider the following statements: [2009]

1. The National School of Drama was set up by Sangeet Natak akademi in 1959.
2 The highest honour conferred by the Sahitya akademi on a writer is by electing him its Fellow.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists: [2009]

List-I(Famous Person)-ListII(Well-known for)

- A. Mandakini Amte 1. Theatre direction
B. Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry 2. Social Service and Community leadership
C. Romila Thaper 3. Dance
D. Vanashree Rao 4. History writing

A B C D

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

21. Consider the following pairs: [2009]

Tradition: **State**

1. Gatka, a traditional martial art: **Kerala**
2. Madhubani, a traditional painting: **Bihar**
3. Singhey Khababs Sindhu Darshan Festival: **Jammu Kashmir**

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

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

22. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists: [2009]

(Famous person)	(Well-know as)
a) Amrita Sher-Gil	1. Dancer
b) Bhimsen Joshi	2. Painter
c) Rukmini Devi Arundale	3. Poet
d) Suryakant Tripathi Nirala	4. Singer

A B C D

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

23. Bimbavati Devi is a well-known dancer of which type of dance? [2008]

- a) Manipuri b) Bharat Natyam
c) Kuchipudi d) Odissi

- 24. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists: [2007]**

List-I (Person)	List-II (known as)
A. Bhajan Sopori	1. Bharatnatyam dancer
B. Birju Maharaj	2. Exponent of Santoor
C. Priyadarsini Govind	3. Mridangam maestro
D. T.V.Gopalakrishnan	4. Kathak dancer

A B C D

- a) 2 1 4 3
b) 3 1 4 2
c) 2 4 1 3
d) 3 4 1 2
- 25. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists: [2006]**

Centre of Handicrafts (State)

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| A. Mon | 1. Arunachal Pradesh |
| B. Nalbari | 2. Assam |
| C. Pasighat | 3. Meghalaya |
| D. Tura | 4. Nagaland |

A B C D

- a) 4 2 1 3
b) 4 3 2 1
c) 1 3 4 2
d) 1 2 4 3
- 26. Who among the following is a Hindustani classical singer? [2006]**
- a) Geeta Chandran b) Leela Samson
c) Gangubai Hangal d) Swapnasundari

- 27. Who among the following was presented with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna Award, 2005 for her lifetime achievement in dance? [2006]**
- a) Chandralekha b) Tanjavur Balasaraswati
c) Uma Sharma d) Yamini Krishnamurthy

- 28. Who among the following is well known as an exponent of flute? [2004]**

- a) Debu Choudhuri b) Madhup Mudgal
c) Ronu Mazumdar d) Shafaat Ahmad

- 29. The Raga which is sung early in the morning is: [2000]**

- a) Todi b) Darbari
c) Bhopali d) Bhimpalasi

- 30. Consider the following statements regarding the Chakiarkoothu form of dance: [2000]**

- I. It is performed by Chakiar caste.
II. It cannot be traditionally witnessed by the higher caste Hindus.
III. Mizhavu is the accompanying instrument.
IV. Its theatre form is called koothambalam.
Which of these statements are correct?

- a) I, III and IV b) I, II and III
c) II, III and IV d) I, II and IV

- 31. The paintings of Abanindranath Tagore are classified as: [1999]**

- a) Realistic b) Socialistic
c) Revivalistic d) Impressionistic

- 32. Which one of the following pairs of folk-dance forms and states is not correctly matched? [1999]**

- a) Korku: Maharashtra
b) Jhummar: Haryana
c) Thali: Himachal Pradesh
d) Mukna: Manipur

- 33. Which one of the following dances involves solo performance? [1997]**

- a) Bharatanatyam b) Kuchipudi
c) Mohiniattam d) Odissi

- 34. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched? [1996]**

- a) Naqqal – Bihar b) Tamasha – Orissa
c) Ankia Nat – Assam d) Baha – Punjab

35. The Mughal School of Painting formed the spinal column of the various schools of Indian miniature art. Which one of the following painting styles was not affected by Mughal painting? [1995]

- a) Pahari b) Rajasthani
c) Kangra d) Kalighata

Answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
d	c	b	b	d	b	a	b	a	b	d	c	b	a	b	a	a	d	c	a

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
c	b	a	c	a	c	a	c	a	a	c	a	a	c	d

8. Chaitra 1 of the national calendar based on the Saka Era corresponds to which one of the following dates of the Gregorian calendar in a normal year of 365 days? [2014]

- a) 22nd March (or 21st March)
- b) 15th May (or 16th May)
- c) 21st March (or 30th March)
- d) 21st April (or 20th April)

9. A community of people called Manganiyars is well-known for their: [2014]

- a) Martial arts in North-East India
- b) Musical tradition in North-West India.
- c) Classical vocal music in South India.
- d) Pictra dura tradition in Central India.

10. With reference to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), consider the following statements: [2014]

- 1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- 2. It strives to conserve nature through action-based research, education and public awareness.
- 3. It organizes and conducts nature trails and camps for the general public.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. Consider the following languages: [2014]

- 1. Gujarati
- 2. Kannada
- 3. Telugu

Which of the above has/have been declared as 'Classical Language/Languages' by the Government?

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

12. The national motto of India, 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below the Emblem of India is taken from: [2014]

- a) Katha Upanishad
- b) Chandogya Upanishad
- c) Aitareya Upanishad
- d) Mundaka Upanishad

13. Consider the following pairs: [2013]

- | Tribes: | State |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Limbo (Limbu): | Sikkim |
| 2. Karbi: | Himachal Pradesh |
| 3. Dongria Kondh: | Odisha |
| 4. Bonda: | Tamil Nadu |

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

14. With reference to the scientific progress of ancient India, which of the statements given below are correct? [2012]

- 1. Different kinds of specialised surgical instruments were in common use by the 1st century AD.
- 2. Transplant of internal organs in the human body had begun by the beginning of 3rd century AD.
- 3. The concept of sine of an angle was known in 5th century AD.
- 4. The concept of cyclic quadrilaterals was known in the 7th century AD.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

15. Among the following, who are the Agaria community? [2009]

- a) Traditional toddy tappers community of Andhra Pradesh
- b) Traditional fishing community of Maharashtra

- c) Traditional silk-weaving community of Karnataka
d) Traditional salt pan workers community of Gujarat

16. In which one of the following places is the Shompen tribe found? [2009]

- a) Nilgiri Hills b) Nicobar Islands
c) Spiti Valley d) Lakshadweep Islands

17. What does Baudhayan theorem (Baudhayan Sulva Sautra) related to? [2008]

- a) Lengths of sides of a right-angled triangle
b) Calculation of the value of pi
c) Logarithmic calculations
d) Normal distribution curve

18. Among the Indian languages, which one is spoken maximum in the world after Hindi? [2008]

- a) Telugu b) Tamil
c) Bengali d) Malayalam

19. What is the number of spokes in the Dharma chakra in the National Flag of India? [2008]

- a) 16 b) 18 c) 22 d) 24

20. Indian Airlines (new name: Indian) have redesigned their logo, which is a graphic wheel. This logo has been inspired by which one of the following? [2006]

- a) Hampi Temples
b) Mamallapuram Temples
c) Sun Temple, Konark
d) Khajuraho Temple

21. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists: [2006]

List. I (Finding / Invention/ Calculation)	List. II (Ancient Indian Scholar)
--	-----------------------------------

A. Time Taken by the Earth to orbit the Sun	1. Aryabhata
B. Calculation of the value of (.pi.)	2. Bhaskaracharya
C. Invention of the digit zero	3. Budhayana
D. The game of snakes and ladders	4. Gyandev

- A B C D
a) 2 4 1 3
b) 2 3 1 4
c) 1 3 2 4
d) 1 4 2 3

22. Which of the following is not correctly matched? [2006]

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Prominent Writer | Indian Language |
| a) Raja Rao: | Telugu |
| b) Gobind Trimbuk Deshpande: | Marathi |
| c) Subramaniam Bharati: | Tamil |
| d) Tara Shankar Joshi: | Gujarati |

23. In which one of the following union territories do the people of the Onge tribe live? [2004]

- a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
b) Dadra and Nagar Haveli
c) Daman and Diu
d) Lakshadweep

24. Which one of the following statements is correct? [2003]

- a) The National Song Vande Mataram was composed by Bankimchandra Chatterji originally in Bengali
b) The National Calendar of India based on Saka era has its 1st Chaitra on 22nd March normally and 21st March in a leap year
c) The design of the National Flag of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 22nd July 1947

d) The song 'Jana Gana Mana', composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly on 24th January 1950 as the National Anthem of India

25. Chapchar Kut is a festival celebrated in the state of: [2002]

- a) Arunachal Pradesh b) Assam
c) Mizoram d) Sikkim

26. Which one of the following pairs of primitive tribes and places of their inhabitation is not correctly matched. [2000]

- a) Buksa: Pauri-Garhwal
b) Kol: Jabalpur
c) Munda: Chhotanagpur
d) Korba: Kodagu

27. Which one of the following languages belongs to the Austric group? [1998]

- a) Marathi b) Ladakhi
c) Khasi d) Tamil

28. The Badami rock inscription of Pulakesin I is dated in the Saka year 465. If the same were to be dated in Vikrama Samvat, the year would be: [1997]

- a) 601 b) 300 c) 330 d) 407

29. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists: [1996]

List I	List II
I. Visakhadatta	A) Medicine
II. Varahamihira	B) Drama
III. Charaka	C) Astronomy
IV. Brahmagupta	D) Mathematics

Codes:

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

30. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists. [1995]

List I (Eras)	List II (Reckoned from)
I. Vikrama era	A) 3102 B.C.
II. Saka era	B) 320 A.D.
III. Gupta era	C) 78 A.D.
IV. Kali era	D) 58 B.C.
	E) 248 A.D.

Codes:

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

31. Zero was invented by: [1995]

- a) Aryabhata b) Varahamihira
c) Bhaskara I d) An unknown Indian

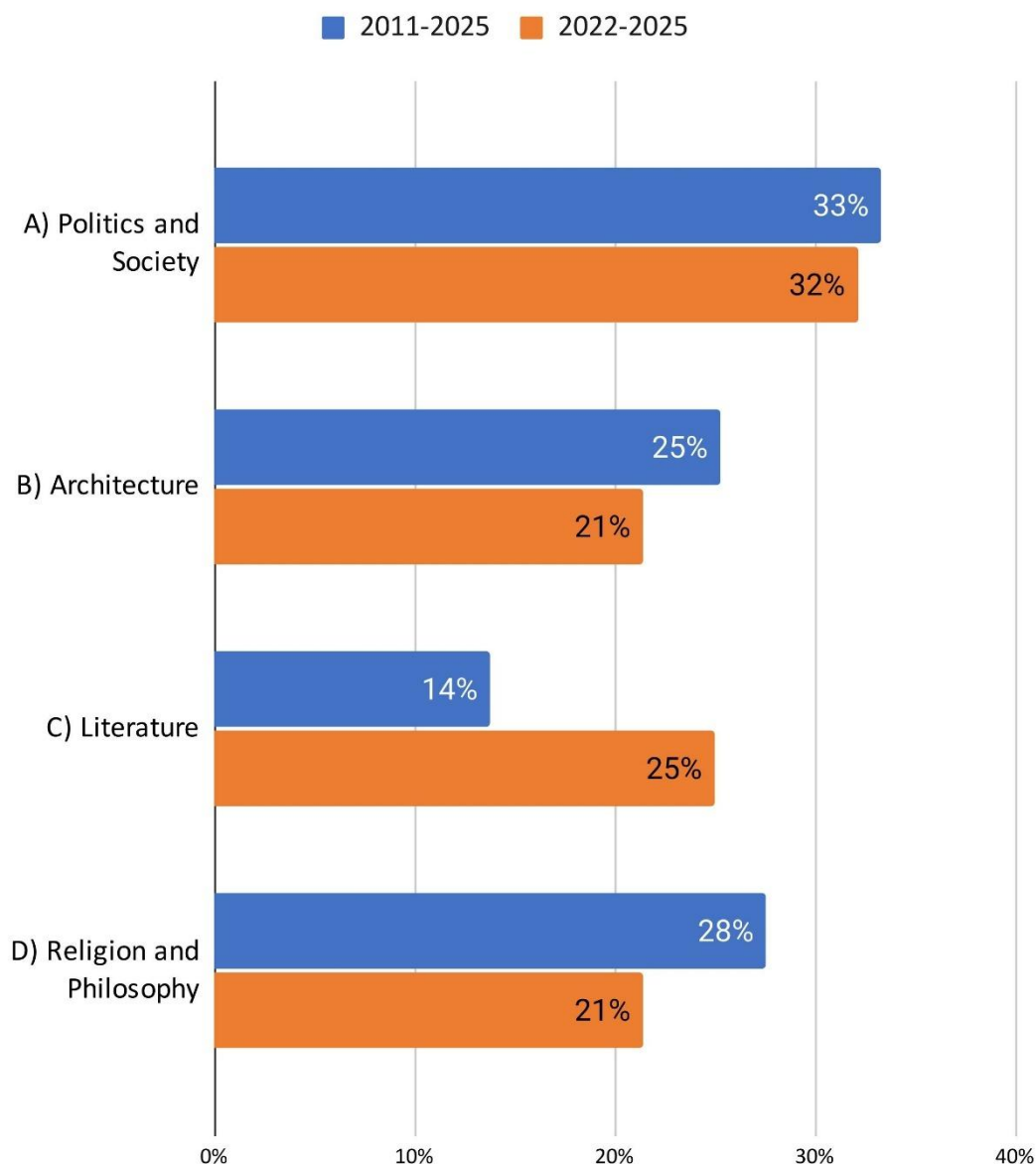
Answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
c	d	d	b	a	b	b	a	b	c	c	d	a	c	d	b	a	c	d	c

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
b	a	a	a	c	d	c	a	c	d	a

2] Ancient Indian History

2] Ancient Indian History - Topicwise Weightage



2] Ancient Indian History - Topicwise Weightage	Weightage		No. of Questions	
	2011-2025	2022-2025	2011-2025	2022-2025
A) Politics and Society	33%	32%	29	9
B) Architecture	25%	21%	22	6
C) Literature	14%	25%	12	7
D) Religion and Philosophy	28%	21%	24	6
Total	100%	100%	87	28

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A) Politics and Society

Political and Social Life in Ancient India, Important Rulers, Places etc.

1) Prehistoric Age

1. **With reference to ancient South India, Korkai, Poompuhar, and Muchiri were well known as: [2023]**

a) Capital cities
b) Ports
c) Centres of iron- and- steel making
d) Shrines of Jain Tirthankaras

2. **Consider the following dynasties: [2023]**

1. Hoysala 2. Gahadavala
3. Kakatiya 4. Yadava

How many of the above dynasties established their kingdoms in early eighth century AD?

a) Only one b) Only two
c) Only three d) None

3. **Consider the following pairs: [2021]**

(Historical place) (Well-known for)

1) Burzahom: Rock-cut shrines
2) Chandraketugarh: Terracotta art
3) Ganeshwar: Copper artefacts

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

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

2) Indus Valley Civilization

4. **The famous female figurine known as 'Dancing Girl', found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of: [2025]**

a) Carnelian b) Clay
c) Bronze d) Gold

5. **Which one of the following is not a Harappan site? [2019]**

a) Chanhudaro b) Kot Diji
c) Sohgauna d) Desalpur

6. **Which of the following characterizes/ characterizes the people of Indus civilization? [2013]**

1. They possessed great palaces and temples.
2. They worshipped both male and female deities.
3. They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

Select the correct statement/ statements using the codes given below.

a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 only
c) 1, 2, and 3 d) None is correct

7. **Regarding the Indus Valley civilization , consider the following statements? [2011]**

1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. **Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [2002]**

(Ancient Site)	(Archeological Finding)
A. Lothal	1. Ploughed field
B. Kalibangan	2. Dockyard
C. Dholavira	3. Terracotta replica of plough
D. Banawali	4. An inscription comprising ten large-sized signs of the Harappan script

Codes:

A B C D

a) 1 2 3 4

b) 2 1 4 3

c) 1 2 4 3

d) 2 1 3 4

9. Which one of the following animals was NOT represented on the seals and terracotta art of the Harappan culture? [2001]

- a) Cow b) Elephant
c) Rhinoceros d) Tiger

3) Vedic Age

10. With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct? [2017]

1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.

2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.

3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

11. The religion of early Vedic Aryans was primarily of: [2012]

- a) Bhakti
b) Image Worship and Yajnas
c) Worship of Nature and Yajnas
d) Worship of Nature and Bhakti

12. The “dharma” and “Rita” depict a central idea of ancient Vedic civilization of India. In

this context, consider the following statements: [2011]

1. Dharma was a conception of obligations and of the discharge of one's duties to oneself and to others.

2. Rita was the fundamental moral law governing the functioning of the universe and all it contained.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. The term ‘Aryan’ denotes: [1999]

- a) An ethnic group
b) A nomadic people
c) A speech group
d) A superior race

14. In the context of ancient Indian society, which one of the following terms does not belong to the category of the other three? [1996]

- a) Kula b) Vamsa
c) Kosa d) Gotra

15. The original home of the gypsies was: [1995]

- a) Egypt b) Russia
c) India d) Persia

4) Age of Mahajanpadas

16. With reference to ancient India (600–322 BC), consider the following pairs: [2025]

Territorial region – River flowing in the region

- I. Asmaka : Godavari
II. Kamboja : Vipras
III. Avanti : Mahanadi
IV. Kosala : Sarayu

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a) Only one b) Only two
c) Only three d) All the four

17. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs: [2020]

Famous Place Present State

1. Bhilsa — Madhya Pradesh
2. Dwarasamudra — Maharashtra
3. Girinagar — Gujarat
4. Sthanesvara — Uttar Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

18. Consider the following pairs: [2016]

Famous place - Region

1. Bodhgaya - Baghelkhand
2. Khajuraho - Bundelkhand
3. Shirdi - Vidarbha
4. Nasik (Nashik) - Malwa
5. Tirupati - Rayalaseema

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

19. Which of the following Kingdoms were associated with the life of the Buddha? [2014]

1. Avanti
2. Gandhara
3. Kosala
4. Magadha

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

20. Between which of the following was the ancient town of Takshasila located? [2006]

- a) Indus and Jehelum
- b) Jhelum and Chenab
- c) Chenab and Ravi
- d) Ravi and Beas

21. Who among the following was not a contemporary of the other three? [2005]

- a) Bimbisara b) Gautama Buddha
- c) Milinda d) Prasenjit

22. Which one of the following was initially the most powerful city-state of India in the 6th century B.C.? [1999]

- a) Gandhar b) Kamboj
- c) Kashi d) Magadh

23. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched? [1998]

- I. Lothal: Ancient dockyard
 - II. Sarnath: First Sermon of Buddha
 - III. Rajgir: Lion capital of Asoka
 - IV. Nalanda: Great seat of Buddhist learning
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

Codes:

- a) I, II, III and IV b) III and IV
- c) I, II and IV d) I and II

24. The following maps shows four of the sixteen Mahajanapadas that existed in ancient India: [1997]



The places marked A, B, C and D respectively are

- a) Matsya, Cedi, Kosala, Anga
- b) Surasena, Avanti, Vatsa, Magadha
- c) Matsya, Avanti, Vatsa, Anga
- d) Surasena, Cedi, Kosala, Magadha

5) Mauryan Period

25. Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the 'Pradeshika', 'Rajuka' and 'Yukta' were important officers at the: [2025]

- a) village-level administration
- b) district-level administration
- c) provincial administration
- d) level of the central administration

26. According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which of the following are correct? [2022]

1. A person could be a slave as a result of a judicial punishment.
2. If a female slave bore her master a son, she was legally free.
3. If a son born to a female slave was fathered by her master, the son was entitled to the legal status of the master's son.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

27. Who among the following rulers advised his subjects through this inscription? [2020]

"Whosoever praises his religious sect or blames other sects out of excessive devotion to his own sect, with the view of glorifying his own sect, he rather injures his own sect very severely."

- a) Ashoka
- b) Samudragupta
- c) Harshavardhana
- d) Krishnadeva Raya

28. Consider the following statements: [2003]

1. The last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha was assassinated by his commander in chief, Pushyamitra Sunga.
2. The last Sunga king, Devabhuti was assassinated by his Brahmana minister Vasudeva Kanva who usurped the throne
3. The last ruler of the Kanva dynasty was deposed by the Andhras.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

29. Which one of the following dynasties was ruling over North India at the time of Alexander's invasion? [2000]

- a) Nanda
- b) Maurya
- c) Sunga
- d) Kanva

30. Assertion (A): Ashoka annexed Kalinga to the Mauryan Empire.

Reason (R): Kalinga controlled the land and sea routes to South India. [2000]

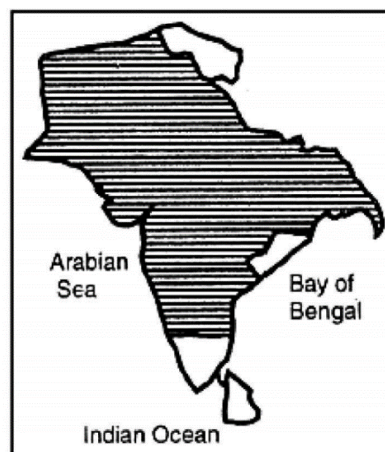
- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not a correct explanation of A
- c) A is true, but R is false
- d) A is false, but R is true

31. Assertion (A): According to Asoka's edicts social harmony among the people was more important than religious devotion.

Reason (R): He spread ideas of equity instead of promotion of religion. [1998]

- 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 a correct explanation of A
- c) A is true, but R is false
- d) A is false, but R is true

32. The given map relates to: [1998]



- a) Kaniska at the time of his death
- b) Samudragupta after the close of his South Indian campaign
- c) Asoka towards close of his reign
- d) Empire of Thaneswar on the eve of Harsha's accession

6) Post Mauryan Period: Greek, Saka, Parthian and Kushan Invasions, Satavahanas in Deccan

33. With reference to the invaders in ancient India, which one of the following is the correct chronological order? [2006]

- a) Greeks . Sakas . Kushans
- b) Greeks . Kushans . Sakas
- c) Sakas . Greeks . Kushans
- d) Sakas . Kushans . Greeks

34. From the third century AD, when the Hun invasion ended the Roman Empire, the Indian merchants relied more and more on the: [1999]

- a) African trade
- b) West -European trade
- c) South- East Asian trade
- d) Middle- Eastern trade

35. The Indo-Greek kingdom set up in north Afghanistan in the beginning of the second century BC was: [1999]

- a) Bactria
- b) Scythia
- c) Zedrasia
- d) Aria

36. Many of the Greeks, Kushanas and Shakas embraced Buddhism rather than Hinduism because: [1998]

- a) Buddhism was in the ascendant at that time
- b) They had renounced the policy of war and violence
- c) Caste-ridden Hinduism did not attract them
- d) Buddhism provided easier access to Indian society

37. What is the correct chronological order in which the following appeared in India? [1998]

- I. Gold coins
- II. Punch-marked silver coins
- III. Iron plough
- IV. Urban culture

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

Codes:

- a) III, IV, I, II
- b) III, IV, II, I
- c) IV, III, I, II
- d) IV, III, II, I

7) Guptas and Vakatakas

38. With reference to the history of India, the terms 'kulyavapa' and 'dronavapa' denote: [2020]

- a) Measurement of land
- b) Coins of different monetary value
- c) Classification of urban land
- d) Religious rituals

39. With reference to the period of Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Ghantasala, Kadura and Chaul were known as: [2020]

- a) Ports handling foreign trade
- b) Capitals of powerful kingdoms
- c) Places of exquisite stone art and architecture
- d) Important of Buddhist pilgrimage centres

40. With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct? [2019]

- a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
- b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.
- c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
- d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

41. With reference to the guilds (Shreni) of ancient India that played a very important role in the country's economy, which of the following statements is/are correct? [2012]

1. Every guild was registered with the central authority of the State and the king was the chief administrative authority on them.
2. The wages, rules of work, standards and prices were fixed by the guild.
3. The guild had judicial powers over its own members.

Choose the correct option:

- a) 1 & 2 Only b) 3 Only
c) 2 & 3 Only d) 1, 2, & 3

42. Consider the following statements: [2004]

1. The Chinese pilgrim Fa -Hien attended the fourth Great Buddhist Council held by Kanishka.
2. The Chinese pilgrim Huan -Tsang met Harsha and found him to be antagonistic to Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. Assertion (A): The origin of the feudal system in ancient India can be traced to military campaigns.

Reason (R): There was considerable expansion of the feudal system during the Gupta period. [2000]

- 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 a correct explanation of A
c) A is true, but R is false
d) A is false, but R is true

44. Which one of the following ports handled the north Indian trade during the Gupta period? [1999]

- a) Tamralipti b) Broach
c) Kalyan d) Cambray

45. The silver coins issued by the Guptas were called: [1997]

- a) Rupaka b) Karshapana
c) Dinara d) Pana

46. Who among the following is known for his work on medicine during the Gupta period? [1996]

- a) Saumilla b) Sudraka
c) Shaunaka d) Susrutha

47. In Sanskrit plays written during the Gupta Period women and sudras speak: [1995]

- a) Sanskrit b) Prakrit
c) Pali d) Sauraseni

8) Era of King Harsha

48. From the decline of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India? [2021]

- 1) The Guptas of Magadha
- 2) The Paramaras of Malwa
- 3) The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
- 4) The Maukharis of Kanauj
- 5) The Yadavas of Devagiri
- 6) The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

49. Emperor Harsha's southward march was stopped on the Narmada river by: [2003]

- a) Pulakesin I b) Pulakesin II
c) Vikramaditya I d) Vikramaditya II

50. Assertion (A): Harshavardhana convened the Prayag Assembly.

Reason (R): He wanted to popularise only the Mahayana form of Buddhism. [2001]

- a) Both A and R are individually true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are individually true, but R is NOT a correct explanation of A
- c) A is true, but R is false
- d) A is false, but R is true

9) History of South India

51. Who among the following led a successful military campaign against the kingdom of Srivijaya, the powerful maritime State, which ruled the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands? [2025]

- a) Amoghavarsha (Rashtrakuta)
- b) Prataparudra (Kakatiya)
- c) Rajendra I (Chola)
- d) Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala)

52. Who among the following rulers in ancient India had assumed the titles 'Mattavilasa', 'Vichitrachitta' and 'Gunabhara'? [2025]

- a) Mahendravarman I b) Simhavishnu
- c) Narasimhavarman I d) Simhavarman

53. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs: [2016]

Term: Description

- 1) Eripatti: Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
- 2) Taniyurs: Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
- 3) Ghatikas: Colleges generally attached to the temples

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

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

54. India maintained its early cultural contacts and trade links with southeast Asia across the bay of Bengal. For this pre-eminence of the early maritime history of the Bay of Bengal, which of the following could be the most convincing explanation/explanations? [2011]

- a) As compared to other countries, India had better ship-building technology in ancient and medieval times.
- b) The rulers of southern India always patronised traders, Brahmin priests and Buddhist monks in this context.
- c) Monsoon winds across the bay of Bengal facilitated sea voyages.
- d) Both (a) and (b) are convincing explanations in this context.

55. Consider the following statements: [2003]

- 1. The Cholas defeated Pandya and Chera rulers and established their domination over peninsular India in early medieval times.
- 2. The Cholas sent an expedition against the Sailendra empire of SouthEast Asia and conquered some of the areas.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

56. Which one of the Chola kings conquered Ceylon? [2001]

- a) Aditya I b) Rajaraja I
- c) Rajendra d) Vijayalaya

57. One consistent feature found in the history of southern India was the growth of small regional kingdoms rather than large empires because of: [1999]

- a) The absence of minerals like iron
- b) Too many divisions in the social structure
- c) The absence of vast areas of fertile land
- d) The scarcity of manpower