

## UPSC Prelims 2020

### Ancient and Medieval History

1. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:

1. Aurang – In-charge of treasury of the State
2. Banian – Indian agent of the East India Company
3. Mirasidar – Designated revenue payer to the state

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

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

Answer: B

2. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sthaviravadins belong to Mahayana Buddhism
2. Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
3. The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered the Mahayana Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation: NCERT

3. Consider the following events in the history of India:

1. Rise of Pratihars under King Bhoja
2. Establishments of Pallava power under Mahendravarman – I
3. Establishments of Chola power by Parantaka – I
4. Pala dynasty founded by Gopala

What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest time?

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

Answer: C

Explanation: **Bhoja (910-913)**

**Mahendravarman I (600-630)**

**Parantaka (907-955)**

**Gopala (750-770)**

4. Which of the following phrases defines the nature of the 'Hundi' generally referred to in the sources of the post-Harsha period?

- (a) An advisory issued by the king to his subordinates
- (b) A diary to be maintained for daily accounts
- (c) A bill of exchange
- (d) An order form the feudal lord to his subordinates

Answer: C

5. With reference to the history of India, the terms "kulyavapa" and "dronavapa" denote

- (a) measurement of land
- (b) coins of different monetary value
- (c) classification of urban land
- (d) religious rituals

Answer: A

Explanation: **Kulyavāpa (कु ल्यवाप).**—A *kulyavāpa* is "an area of land requiring one *kulya* measure of seed grains to be sown"

<https://www.wisdomlib.org/definition/kulyavapa>

6. Who among the following rulers advised his subjects through this inscription?

“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

Answer: A

Explanation: Source: Major Rock edict 12 of Ashoka

7. With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following is the correct description of the term ‘paramitas’?

- (a) The earliest Dharmashastra texts written in aphoristic (sutra) style
- (b) Philosophical schools that did not accept the authority of Vedas
- (c) Perfections whose attainment led to the Bodhisattva path
- (d) Powerful merchant guilds of early medieval South India

Answer: C

Explanation: **Ashoka and the decline of Mauryas by Romila Thapar**

8. With reference to the scholars/litterateurs of ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra Shunga.
2. Amarasimha is associated with Harshavardhana.
3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandra Gupta – II.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

**Panini time 500 BCE: Pushyimitra Sunga time: 185 BCE**

**Both Amarasimha and Kalidasa were associated with Chandra Gupta II**

**Source:** NCERT, Ancient India by RS Sharma(Page 143)

9. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following pairs:

1. Parivrajaka - Renunciant and Wanderer
2. Shramana - Priest with a high status
3. upasaka - Lay follower of Buddhism

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: B

Explanation: **Parivrajaka** - The text discusses renunciation and the life of wandering ascetic  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramahansa\\_Parivrajaka\\_Upanishad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramahansa_Parivrajaka_Upanishad)

**Shramana** - Śramaṇa means "one who labours, toils, or exerts themselves (for some higher or religious purpose) or "seeker, one who performs acts of austerity, ascetic."  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%9Arama%E1%B9%87a>

**Upasaka** - Upāsaka or Upāsikā are from the Sanskrit and Pāli words for "attendant". It means lay follower. This is the title of followers of Buddhism who are not monks, nuns, or novice monastics in a Buddhist order, and who undertake certain vows.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Up%C4%81saka\\_and\\_Up%C4%81sik%C4%81#:~:text=Up%C4%81saka%20\(masculine\)%20or%20Up%C4%81sik%C4%81%20\(%20who%20undertake%20certain%20vows.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Up%C4%81saka_and_Up%C4%81sik%C4%81#:~:text=Up%C4%81saka%20(masculine)%20or%20Up%C4%81sik%C4%81%20(%20who%20undertake%20certain%20vows.)

10. With reference to the period of Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Ghantasala, Kadura and Chaul were well known as

- (a) Ports handling foreign trade
- (b) Capitals of powerful kingdoms
- (c) Place of exquisite store art and architecture
- (d) Important Buddhist Pilgrimage centres

Answer: A

**Source:** VD Mahajan

**Explanation:** ports handling foreign trade

11. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 1. Bhilsa-MP
- 3. Girinagar-Gujarat



