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SSC

Topic-wise
Previous Years' Solved Papers
GENERAL APTITUDE

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Preface

Staff Selection Commission (SSC) conducts Graduate Level, (10+2) Level, and Combined Matric Level Exams. SSC Graduate Level includes exams, such as Combined Graduate Level Prelim, CPO Sub-Inspector, Section Officer (Audit), Tax Assistant (Income Tax & Central Excise), Section Officer (Commercial Audit), Statistical Investigators, Combined Graduate Level Tier-I, SAS, CISF ASI, CPO ASI & Intelligence Officer, FCI, Delhi Police SI Exams, etc. SSC (10+2) Level include exams, such as Data Entry Operator & LDC, DEO & PA/SA, Stenographer Grade 'C' and 'D', etc. SSC Combined Matric Level includes exams, such as Combined Matric Level Pre-Exam, Multi-tasking (Non-technical) Staff, CISF Constable (GD), Constable (GD) & Riflemen (GD) and other competitive exams.

Topic-wise Previous Years' Solved Papers SSC General Aptitude acts as a practice material for SSC aspirants to strengthen their conceptual understanding and application skills. The book includes 18 years' SSC previous year questions segregated topic-wise along with exam analysis. This book helps the SSC aspirants to get an idea about the pattern and weightage of questions asked in SSC examinations. Detailed solutions of all the problems are given in the book for better understanding.

Highlights

- Includes previous 18 years' SSC solved papers for Graduate Level, (10+2) Level, and Combined Matric Level Exams.
- Questions arranged topic-wise for better understanding.
- Detailed solutions are provided for every question.
- Includes more than 9000+ solved objective problems.

Despite of our best efforts, some errors may have inadvertently crept into the book. Constructive comments and suggestions to further improve the book are welcome and shall be acknowledged gratefully.

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SSC (10+2) DEO, Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' and Matric Level

S. No.	Topics	EXAMINATIONS														
		SSC Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D', 2010	SSC Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D', 2011	SSC Multi-tasking (Non-Tech. Staff), 2011	SSC CISF Constable (GD), 2011	SSC Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D', 2011	SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Ope. & LDC, 2011	SSC Constable (GD) & Reflemen (GD), 2012	SSC Constable (GD), 2013	SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Ope. & LDC, 2013	SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Ope. & LDC, 2014	SSC Constable (GD), 2015	SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA, 2015	SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA, 2015	SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA, 2015	* Average Number of Questions
1.	Indian History	8	8	8	3	8	7	3	3	4	7	6	5	8	5	6
2.	World History	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	3	—	1	1
3.	Indian Art and Culture	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	2	1	1	1
4.	Indian Polity and Constitution	4	4	4	2	4	4	2	2	2	5	1	4	3	3	3
5.	Physical Geography	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	—	3	3	1	1	3	3	3
6.	Geography of India	7	7	7	2	7	7	2	2	3	1	—	4	2	5	3
7.	World Geography	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	1	1	1
8.	Indian Economy	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	3	1	3	2	1	2
9.	Economics	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	6	3	2	1	2	1	2
10.	Physics	5	5	5	3	5	5	3	3	4	5	2	3	2	4	4
11.	Chemistry	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	5	4	4	3	3	5	3	4
12.	Biology (Zoology, Botany, Health), Environment and Agriculture	9	8	8	2	9	7	2	4	10	5	3	10	7	9	6
13.	Computer and IT	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	2
14.	Discoveries and Inventions (Branches of Science and Scientific Instruments)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	6	2	1
15.	Science and Technology	2	3	2	—	2	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1
16.	Honours and Awards	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	1
17.	Books and Authors	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1
18.	Important Decades, Years and Days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	1	1
19.	UNO, Other International and National Organization	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
20.	Sports	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1
21.	National Events	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
22.	International Events	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
23.	Miscellaneous	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
	Total Number of Questions	50	50	50	25	50	50	25	25	50	50	25	50	50	50	50

Section I—Ancient India

1. Name the kingdom which first used elephants in wars?

(SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & DP SI Exam. 2015)

- (a) Kosala (b) Magadha
(c) Champa (d) Avant

Explanation: Elephants were always a part of warfare in India. However, it were the rulers of Magadha who first employed elephants as a weapon of large-scale destruction. According to Plutarch, at the time of Alexander's invasion of India, the Nanda army comprised 6,000 war elephants which discouraged Alexander's men from further advancement. According to Megasthenes, Chandragupta Maurya's army consisted of 9,000 war elephants.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

2. The greatest king of the Pratihara dynasty was:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2015)

- (a) Vatsaraj
(b) Bhoj (Mihir Bhoj)
(c) Dantidurga
(d) Nagbhatta II

Explanation: Mihira Bhoja I (836-885 C.E.) or Bhoja I is considered the greatest and most powerful ruler of the Pratihara dynasty. At its height, Bhoja's empire extended to Narmada River in the South, Sutlej River in the north-west, and up to Bengal in the east. He was a scholar as well.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

3. Who is considered founder of the Gupta Empire?

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2015)

- (a) Sri Gupta
(b) Samudragupta
(c) Chandragupta I
(d) Chandragupta II

Explanation: The history of the Gupta dynasty begins with its founding by Sri Gupta around 240 C.E. He has been described as Maharaja in edicts. The most likely time for the reign of Sri Gupta is c. 240–280 C.E. Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang mentioned about Sri Gupta in his writings.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

4. Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' mainly deals with:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2015)

- (a) Political state craft
(b) Social aspects
(c) Economic doctrines
(d) Military aspects

Explanation: The Arthashastra is an ancient Indian treatise on statecraft, economic policy and military strategy, written by Kautilya. It is essentially a book of state and administrative system and deals with the art of government and politics. It is a comprehensive manual on how a state ought to be ruled and administered by a king and his administration.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

5. One of the following Indus Valley sites is in Pakistan:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam. 2015)

- (a) Lothal
(b) Kalibangan
(c) Alamgirpur
(d) Harappa

Explanation: Harappa is an archaeological site in Punjab, Paldstan. The site takes its name from a modern village located near the former course of the Ravi River. Harappa contains the ruins of a Bronze Age fortified city, which was part of the Cemetery H culture and the Indus Valley Civilization, centered in Siniih and the Punjab.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

6. Who was the author of Telugu Work Amuktamalyada?

[SSC Constable (GD) Exam. 2015]

- (a) Harihara
(b) Devaraya
(c) Krishnadevaraya
(d) Bukka

Explanation: Krishnadevaraya (1509–30), the greatest emperor of the Vijayanagara Empire, composed Amuktamalyada. Considered a masterpiece in Telugu literature, the epic poem is believed to have been written and dedicated to Lord Venkateswara. The administration of the empire was carried on along the lines indicated in his Amuktamalyada.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

7. Who composed the Allahabad Pillar inscription?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam. 2015]

- (a) Harisena (b) Mahasena
(c) Veerasena (d) Vishnusena

Explanation: The Allahabad Pillar inscription or Allahabad Prasasti is one of the most important epigraphic evidences of the imperial Guptas. It was



composed by Harisena, the court poet and minister of Samudragupta. It delineates a vivid description of the reign and conquests of Samudragupta.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

8. Who built the famous Shiva Temple at Ellora?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam. 2015]

- (a) Rashtrakuta Ruler Krishna I
- (b) Mauryan Emperor Ashoka
- (c) Gupta King Samudragupta
- (d) Chalukya King Pulikeshi II

Explanation: The Kailasa temple at Ellora, Maharashtra, was built in the 8th century by the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I as attested in Kannada inscriptions. This is one of the 34 temples and monasteries known collectively as the Ellora Caves. It is a megalith carved out of one single rock.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

9. Which of the Kushana ruler patronized Buddhism?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam. 2015]

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Vikramaditya
- (c) Kanishka
- (d) Kautilya

Explanation: Kushana, the most famous Kushana ruler, patronized Buddhism. The Fourth Buddhist Council, in which Buddhism got split into two different schools—Hinayana and Mahayana—was held during his reign in Kashmir. He also patronized the Buddhist scholars—Vasumitra, Asvagosha and Nagarjuna.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

10. 328. Which of the following was the early capital of the Rashtrakutas?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam. 2015]

- (a) Sopara
- (b) Ellora
- (c) Vatapi
- (d) Ajanta

Explanation: There is uncertainty about the location of the early capital of the Rashtrakutas. However, since most of the Rashtrakutas monuments are found at Ellora (Ilapura), with

nothing correspondence at Malkhed (Manyakhet), it has been suggested that the early Rashtrakuta capital was located in the vicinity of the Ellora caves in the time of Dantidurga who was the founder and first ruler of the dynasty. Later, Amoghavarsha I made Manyakhet his capital that remained the Rashtrakutas regal capital until the end of the empire.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

11. Whose army did Alexander, the Greek ruler confront on the banks of the river Jhelum?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam. 2015]

- (a) Chandragupta Maurya
- (b) Arnbi
- (c) Dhanananda
- (d) Porus

Explanation: The Battle of the Hydaspes was fought by Alexander the Great in 326 B.C. against King Porus of the Paurava kingdom on the banks of the river Hydaspes (Jhelum) in the Punjab near Bhera. The battle resulted in a complete Macedonian victory and the annexation of the Punjab. Chandragupta gave away his throne to his son, Bindusara, and spent his life as an ascetic. He accepted Jainism and spent his last days at Shravanabelagola in Karnataka along with Bhadrabahu. He gave up his life by the strict Jain ritual of salla-' khena.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

12. Find the odd one:

[SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam. 2015]

- (a) Samveda
- (b) Yajurveda
- (c) Vishnu Purana
- (d) Rigveda

Explanation: There are four Vedas: the Rigveda, the Yajurveda, the Samaveda and the Atharvaveda. On the other hand, Vishnu Purana is a religious Hindu text and one of the eighteen Mahapuranas. It has been given the name Puranaratna.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

13. Which Indian ruler fought the Kalinga War?

(SSC CHEM (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam. 2015)

- (a) Samudragupta
- (b) Chandragupta
- (c) Shivaji
- (d) Ashoka

Explanation: The Kalinga War was fought between the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka and Raja Anantha Padmanabhan of Kalinga in 262–261 B.C. It was the only major war Ashoka fought after his accession to throne. However, it is one of the major and bloodiest battles in world history. The bloodshed of this war is said to have prompted Ashoka to adopt Buddhism.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

14. Name the Republic which was a confederacy of tribes in the fifth century B.C.

[SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam. 2015]

- (a) Gandhara
- (b) Vajji
- (c) Kosala
- (d) Avant

Explanation: Vajji or Vrijji was a confederacy in the 6th century B.C. The rulers of Vajji were a confederacy of the eight clans (atthakula) of whom the Valls, the Licchavis, the Jnatrikas and the Videhas were the most important. It was one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

15. Which was the oldest University?

(SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999 and SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & DP SI Exam. 2014)

- (a) Gandhara
- (b) Kanauj
- (c) Nalanda
- (d) Vaishali

Explanation: Nalanda was an ancient center of higher learning in Bihar which was a religious center of learning from the fifth or sixth century C.E. to 1197 C.E. At its peak, the university attracted scholars and students from as far away as Tibet, China, Greece, and Persia. Nalanda was ransacked and destroyed by an army under Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1193.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

16. Name the famous King of Kushan dynasty.

(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2014)

- (a) Kanishka (b) Pulakeshin
(c) Harsha (d) Vikramaditya

Explanation: Kanishka was the most famous emperor of the Kushan dynasty (127–151) who ruled an empire extending from Turfan in the Tarim Basin to Pataliputra on the Gangetic plain and famous for his military, political, and spiritual achievements. He convened the 4th Buddhist Council in Kashmir and provided encouragement to both the Gandhara school of Greco-Buddhist Art and the Mathura school of Hindu art.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

17. Which of the following does not have a Stupa?

(SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam. 2013, 2014)

- (a) Ranchi (b) Sanchi
(c) Bharhut (d) Dhamek

Explanation: The Great Stupa at Sanchi was built by Mauryan emperor Ashoka. Dhamek Stupa in Sarnath is thought to be the oldest Stupa in existence. The stupa of Bharhut is between Allahabad and Jabalpur situated in the erstwhile Nagod state of Madhya Pradesh.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

18. The site of birth (nativity) of Gautam Buddha is marked by:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam. 2013, 2014)

- (a) a monastery
(b) a 'Rummindei Pillar' of Ashok Maurya
(c) a statue
(d) a Peepal Tree

Explanation: Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, is marked by a commemorative pillar erected by Mauryan Emperor Ashoka of India during his pilgrimage to the holy site in 249 B.C. The inscription on the Ashoka Pillar identifies the Sacred Garden—spread over 9 km as the spot where the Enlightened One was born. Lumbini was known as Rummindei in Ashoka's time.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

19. Which one of the following tribal assemblies was not involved in the election of the tribal chief?

(SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam. 2013, 2014)

- (a) Samiti (b) Sabha
(c) Gana (d) Vidatha

Explanation: Several tribal assemblies, such as sabha, samiti, vidatha, and gana mentioned in the Rigveda exercised deliberative, military and religious functions. But from the political point of view important were the sabha and samiti. We have also some traces of the election of tribal chiefs by the tribal assembly called the samiti.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

20. During which of the following periods of Indian History did the Kshatriyas have a distinct identity?

(SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam. 2013, 2014)

- (a) Age of the Buddha
(b) Maurya period
(c) Post Maurya age
(d) Gupta period

Explanation: The Kshatriyas as the 'Khattiyas' of Buddhist literature had a distinct identity at the time of the Buddha, but later their actual identity becomes vague. The same is also true of the Vaishyas. Of the three castes, the Brahmin is the most easily identifiable as a concrete social group.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

21. Chinese travellers visited India primarily because:

(SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & DP SI Exam. 2014)

- (a) they were interested in Buddhism
(b) they were invited by the Indian kings
(c) they were interested to study Indian culture
(d) they were interested to stay in India

Explanation: After the spread of the Buddhist religion, Chinese travellers came to India in big numbers to collect religious books and to visit holy places of Buddhism. Notable among those travellers included I-tsing, Ha-Hsien and Hiuen Tsang.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

22. The term 'Upanishad' literally implies:

(SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & DP SI Exam. 2014)

- (a) Knowledge (b) Wisdom
(c) Sitting near (d) Recitation

Explanation: Upanishad means 'sitting down near', referring to the student sitting down near the teacher while receiving esoteric knowledge. Monier-Williams' Sanskrit Dictionary adds that, "Upanishad means 'setting to rest ignorance by revealing the knowledge of the supreme spirit'".

Hence, the correct option is (c).

23. The Sage who is said to have aryanized South India, was:

(SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & DP SI Exam. 2014)

- (a) Yajnavalkya (b) Vashistha
(c) Agastya (d) Vishwamitra

Explanation: Sage Agastya, often considered the father of traditional Indian Medicine, is also associated with the Aryanization of South India. The Yadavas of South India were the first to be aryanized. Agastya compiled the first Tamil grammar called Agathiyam.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

24. The origin of Indian music can be traced to which of the following Vedic Samhitas?

(SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & DP SI Exam. 2014)

- (a) Rigveda (b) Samaveda
(c) Yajurveda (d) Atharvaveda

Explanation: Organized Indian music owes its origin to the Samaveda which was a collection (samhita) of hymns and detached verses from other Vedas, meant for recital. These hymns were sung by Udgatar priests at sacrifices in which the Soma ritual drink was offered in libration to various deities.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

25. Ashok spread Buddhism all over India and Ceylon by:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam. 2013, 2014)

- (a) Teaching the Triratnas
(b) Sending the Dharma Mahamatras



- (c) Waging wars
- (d) Becoming a Buddhist Monk

Explanation: For the spread of Buddhism, Ashoka sent missionaries (dharma mahamatras) all over India and beyond. The missionaries sent by Ashoka to the other countries were well received by them and the conversions took place easily because of the influence and the personal power Ashoka exercised.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

26. In which Rock Edict Ashoka mentions about the casualties of Kalinga War and declares the renunciation of war?

(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Mask' Edict
- (b) Rock Edict XIII
- (c) Rock Edict XI
- (d) Rock Edict X

Explanation: Rock Edict XIII and Minor Rock Edict I states that the human sufferings and mass killings due to the Kalinga War prompted Ashoka to take Buddhist religion and to adopt the path of 'Dhamma Vijaya' (win through religion) and 'Ahimsa' (non-violence).

Hence, the correct option is (b).

27. The Earliest Settlements of Aryan tribes were at:

(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Bengal
- (c) Sapta Sindhu
- (d) Delhi

Explanation: The region where the Aryans settled in India around 1500 B.C. was called Sapta Sindhu (Seven Rivers), also referred to as the Brah-mavarta. They spread to Indo-Gangetic plains in the later Vedic Period and this region came to be known as Ar-yavarta (1000 B.C. to 600 B.C.).

Hence, the correct option is (c).

28. Pancha Siddhantham of Varahamihira deals with:

(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Astrology
- (b) Astronomy
- (c) Medicine
- (d) Anatomy

Explanation: The most famous work by Varahamihira is the treatise on mathematical astronomy called the Pancha Siddhantika ('Five Astronomical Treatises'). It is dated 575 A.D. It is a summary of five earlier astronomical systems, namely the Surya, Romaka, Paulisa, Vasistha and Paitamaha.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

29. Which one of the following coins was issued in silver during the Gupta period?

(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Kaldni
- (b) Nishka
- (c) Rupyaka
- (d) Dinar

Explanation: The silver coins issued during the Gupta period were called 'Rupalta'. These coins were based on Sakas of Ujjaini weighing 32–36 grains. However, according to Fa-Hsien, cow-ries were the common means of exchange.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

30. Lothal, the dockyard site of the Indus Valley Civilization, is situated in:

(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Haryana

Explanation: Lothal is located in the Bhal region of Gujarat. It is situated near the village of Saragwala in the Dholka Taluka of Ahmedabad district. The nearest cities are Dholka and Bagodara.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

31. Buddha means:

(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Great Conqueror
- (b) Great Saint
- (c) Wise one
- (d) Enlightened one

Explanation: The word 'Buddha' in Pali and Sanskrit means 'Enlightened one'. The word has become synonymous with Buddha Shakyamuni (Siddhartha Gautam) who is also known as Gautam Buddha.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

32. Varahamihira was:

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) An Astronaut
- (b) A Space Shuttle
- (c) A Power Station
- (d) An Ancient Astronomer

Explanation: Varahamihira was an Indian astronomer, mathematician, and astrologer who lived in Ujjain in the 6th century A.D. He is considered to be one of the nine jewels (Navratnas) of the court of legendary ruler Yas-hodharrnan Vikramaditya of Malwa.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

33. During the reign of Bindusara there was unrest at:

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Ujjayani
- (b) Pushkalavati
- (c) Takshashila
- (d) Rajagriha

Explanation: During the reign of Bindusara, Chandragupta Maurya's son and successor, there was unrest at Taxila in the north-western province of Sindh. He sent Ashoka (his son) to quell the uprising. Taxila was a highly volatile place because of the Indo-Greek presence and mismanagement of Governor Susima.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

34. Name the Greek Ambassador at the Mauryan Court.

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Alexander
- (b) Megasthenese
- (c) Plato
- (d) Aristotle

Explanation: Megasthenese was a Greek ethnographer and explorer who served as an ambassador of Seleucus I of the Seleucid dynasty to Chandragupta Maurya. His 'Iridika', throws light on the contemporary society, religious beliefs and social stratification.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

35. Who was the contemporary South Indian ruler of Harshavardhana?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Krishnadevaraya
- (b) Pulakeshin II

- (c) Mayuravanna
(d) Chikka Dev Raja Wodeyar

Explanation: Harshavardhana (606 to 647 A.D.) and Pulakesin (610–642 A.D.) were contemporaries to each other. According to the Aihole inscription, Pulakesin of the Chalukyan dynasty defeated Harshavardhana of Kannauj on the banks of the Narmada.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

36. Which one of the following is the most lasting contribution of the Rastrakutas?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Kailasha Temple
(b) Pampa, Ponna, Ranna, the three writers of Kannada poetry and Kailasha Temple
(c) Patronage of Jainism
(d) Conquests

Explanation: The Kannada literature reached great heights under the Western Chalukyas and the Rashtrakutas who succeeded them. King Amoghavarsha I was himself one of the gems of Kannada. Adikavi Pampa, Sri Ponna and Ranna, called the 'three gems' of Kannada literature, found enthusiastic patronage from Rashtrakuta rulers. Similarly, the Kailasa Temple is a contribution of the Rashtrakutas.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

37. Ravikirti, a Jain, who composed the Aihole Prashasti, was patronized by:

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Pulakeshin I
(b) Harsha
(c) Pulakeshin II
(d) Kharavela

Explanation: Ravikirti was the court poet of Chalukya King, Pulakesin II who reigned from 610 to 642 A.D. He authored the Aihole inscription at Meguti Temple which describes the defeat of Harshavardhana by Pulakesin II and the shifting of the capital from Aihole to Badami.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

38. The original founder of the Manuscripts and Editor of Kautilya's Athashastra was:

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Srikanta Shashtri
(b) Srinivasa Iyengar
(c) R. Rama Shastri
(d) William Jones

Explanation: In 1905, R. Rama Shashtri discovered and published the Arthashastra, an ancient Indian treatise on statecraft. He transcribed, edited and published the Sanskrit edition in 1909. He proceeded to translate it into English, publishing it in 1915.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

39. From which among the following rulers has the Government of India borrowed and adopted its symbols?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Ashoka
(b) Krishnadevaraya
(c) Pulakesin
(d) Kanishka

Explanation: The National Emblem of India is derived from the time of the Emperor Ashoka. It is a replica of the Lion of Sarnath, near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The Lion Capital was erected in the Emperor Ashoka in 3rd century B.C. to mark the spot where Buddha first proclaimed his gospel of peace and emancipation.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

40. 6th century B.C. was an age of:

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Reasoning
(b) Intellectual awakening
(c) Political unrest
(d) Religious ferment

Explanation: The 6th century B.C. was an age of religious ferment in the world. In India, it witnessed the birth of Buddhism and Jainism. It was in the same period that Heraclitus preached his new doctrines in the Greek island of Ionia; Zoroaster launched his pro-

test against the prevailing religious superstitions in Iran and Confucius showed a new way of life in China.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

41. Which of the following countries has asked India to return the famous 'Dancing Girl' statue from Mohenjodaro?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Bangladesh (b) Bhutan
(c) China (d) Pakistan

Explanation: The Sindh government of Pakistan in February 2014, requested Islamabad for asking India to return the famous statue of the Dancing Girl, which is in possession of the Indian authorities since 1946. The 10.8 cm bronze statue, made in 2500 B.C., is on display at the National Museum in New Delhi.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

42. Who is the founder of Jainism in India?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Gautama (b) Mahavira
(c) Chandragupta (d) Ashoka

Explanation: According to Jain scriptures, Vardhaman Mahavira, the 24th and last Tirthankara founded Jainism as a faith in the 5th or 6th century B.C. The religion derives its name from the jinas ('conquerors'), a title given to twenty-four great teachers (Tirthankara) through whom their faith was revealed.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

43. Who compiled the tales of 'The Panchatantra'?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Vairniki
(b) Veda Vyasa
(c) Vishnu Sharma
(d) Tulsidas

Explanation: The Panchatantra is attributed to Vishnu Sharma. It is an ancient Indian collection of inter-related animal fables in verse and prose arranged within a frame story. The



original Sanskrit work, some scholars believe was composed around the 3rd century B.C.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

44. Ajanta Caves were built during period of:

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Gupta (b) Kushana
(c) Maurya (d) Chalukya

Explanation: The Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, are about 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments which date from the 2nd century B.C.E. to about 480 or 650 A.D. Most of them were constructed during Gupta Period.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

45. Which was the backbone of Indus Economy?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Agriculture
(b) Trade
(c) Wheel Made Pottery
(d) Carpentry

Explanation: As in most other contemporary civilizations, agriculture was the backbone of the Indus economy. The people made extensive use of the wooden plows. Barley and wheat were the main food crops. Agriculture sustained the rudimentary urban centers that emerged (Studies in World History Volume 1 by James P. Stobaugh).

Hence, the correct option is (a).

46. The author of Arthashastra was a contemporary of:

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Ashoka
(b) Chandragupta Maurya
(c) Samudragupta
(d) Chandragupta Vikramaditya

Explanation: The Arthashastra was authored by Kautilya, also known as Vishnugupta, who was a contemporary and Mentor of Chandragupta Maurya, founder of the Mauryan Empire. It is an ancient Indian treatise on statecraft,

economic policy and military strategy, written in Sanskrit.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

47. Which one of the following was the book written by Amoghvarsha the Rashtrakuta King?

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Adipurana
(b) Ganitasara Samgraha
(c) Saktayana
(d) Kavirajamarga

Explanation: 'Kavirajamarga' (meaning 'Royal Path for Poets') was written by the famous Rashtrakuta King 'Nrupatunga' Amoghavarsha I. It is the earliest available writing on rhetoric, poetics and grammar in the Kannada language. It was written around 850 A.D.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

48. Who built the Kailasanatha Temple at Ellora?

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Rajendra I
(b) Mahendra Varman I
(c) Krishna I
(d) Govinda I

Explanation: The Kailasa Temple was built by the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I in the 8th century A.D. It is a megalith carved out of one single rock, one of the 34 monasteries and temples known collectively as the Ellora Caves. It is a remarkable example of Dravidian architecture.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

49. The land measures of the Second Pandyan Empire were mentioned in:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Thalavaipuram Copper Plates
(b) Uttaramerur Inscription
(c) Kudtuniyammalai Inscription
(d) Kasakudi Copper Plates

Explanation: The Thalavaipuram copper plate brought out during 1018 and 1054 A.D. by the Pandyan kings, describes land system, giant waves, etc. For example, it mentions six qualifi-

cations for a Brahmin to get land as a gift from the king. Kasakudi plates and Uttaramerur inscription are related to the Pallava and Chola dynasties respectively.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

50. Who was the greatest ruler of the Satavahanas?

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2014)

- (a) Satkarni I
(b) Gautamiputra Satakarni
(c) Simuka
(d) Hala

Explanation: Gautamiputra Satakarni (78–102 A.D.) is often acknowledged by historians as the greatest of the Satavahana rulers. He defeated the Yavanas, Sakas, and Pallavas and re-established the ancient glory of the Satavahanas. He performed two Ashwamedha sacrifices.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

51. The word 'Buddha' means:

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) A Conqueror
(b) A Liberator
(c) An Enlightened one
(d) A Wanderer

Explanation: The word Buddha means 'awakened one' or 'the enlightened one'. 'Buddha' is also used as a title for the first awakened being in an era. Gautam Buddha was born as Siddhartha in a royal family; he began to be called the Buddha after attaining enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in Gaya.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

52. Who built the famous Vaikunta Perumal Temple at Kanchipuram?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Narasimha Varman II
(b) Parmeshwara Varman II
(c) Nandi Varman II
(d) Aparajita Varman

Explanation: Vaikunta Perumal Temple in Kanchipuram is believed to have

been built by the Pallava king Nandi Varman II, with later contributions from Medieval Cholas and Vijayanagara kings. It is constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

53. The first to invade India were the:
[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Aryans (b) Greeks
(c) Persians (d) Arabs

Explanation: A majority of historians believe that the Aryans were the first to invade India in the later stages of the Indus Valley Civilization around 1700 B.C. The Aryans came to India in bands and over several centuries in the 2nd millennium B.C. Historians are divided on the issue of their original homeland.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

54. Name the oldest Indian civilization.
[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Indus Valley Civilization
(b) Mesopotamian Civilization
(c) Egyptian Civilization
(d) None of these

Explanation: Indus Valley Civilization was the oldest civilization to have flourished in the Indian subcontinent. Generally dated between 3000 B.C. to 1800 B.C., it was one of three early civilizations of the Old World along with Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. It was a Bronze Age civilization.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

55. Who among the following Mughal rulers has been called the 'Prince of Builders'?

[SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 2014]

- (a) Akbar (b) Jahangir
(c) Shahjahan (d) Babur

Explanation: Shahjahan was a great builder and he built many splendid buildings. That is why many scholars called him the 'Engineer King' or 'Prince of Builders', etc. apart from building the Taj Mahal which is just

regarded as a jewel of the builder's art; he also built the Jama Masjid, the Red Fort, etc.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

56. The religion, which preached 'Desire is the cause for all sufferings', is:
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) Buddhism (b) Jainism
(c) Sikhism (d) Hinduism

Explanation: Siddhartha or Gautam Buddha was born in 563 B.C. at Lumbini near Kapilvastu (Nepal). According to Buddhism the cause of suffering leading to endless rebirth is desire.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

57. The Jaina literature is known as:
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) Tripitakas (b) Epics
(c) Aiyasutras (d) Angas

Explanation: The Jaina literature is known as Angas. The first attempts to systematise the preachings of Lord Mahavira, were made in the Pataliputra Council in the 4th century B.C., but they were finally rearranged, redacted and committed to writing in the Valabhi Council in 512 A.D. under the presidency of Devardhi Ksharnasramana.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

58. Mention the centre of the Roman trade during the Sangam Age.
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) Madurai (b) Arikamedu
(c) Poompuhar (d) Musiri

Explanation: The important towns of Chera dynasty were Musiri, Tondi, Bandar and Vanji. Roman built a temple of Augustus at Musiri.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

59. Which inscription mentions about the village administration under the Cholas?
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) Junagarh (b) Uttaramerur
(c) Aihole (d) Nasik

Explanation: A tenth century inscription on a temple wall of the brahman

village of Uttaramerur gives the details of village administration under Cholas.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

60. Who among the following propounded the theory of zero?
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) Charak (b) Chanakya
(c) Aryabhata (d) Varahamihira

Explanation: Aryabhata was an Indian astronomer and mathematician. He is credited with the invention of Algebra and the theory of zero. India's first satellite, 'Aryabhata' was named after him.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

61. The school of arts developed during the Kushan Period with the mixture of Indian and Greek style is known as:
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) Kushan art
(b) Persian art
(c) Gandhara art
(d) Mughal art

Explanation: Gandhara School of art shows Greek influence, therefore, it is known as Indo-Greek art. The important features of this school are:

- I. Buddha is shown as Roman and Greek gods
- II. Moustache and beard are added to Buddha's face
- III. The figures of this school follow a given ratio between the size of the face and rest of the body.
- IV. During first and second century blue grey schist stone was used to make idols.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

62. Where was the first Buddhist Council held?
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

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

Explanation: The first Buddhist Council was held at Rajgir in 483 B.C. during the reign of Ajatasatru. It was presided by Mahakassapa.

Hence, the correct option is (c).



63. Which of the following ruler was a contemporary of Buddha?
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) Udayin
- (b) Bimbisara
- (c) Ajatshatru
- (d) Mahapadma Nanda

Explanation: King of Magadha Bimbisara was contemporary of Lord Buddha. He was a great friend and protector of the Buddha. Bimbisara was born in 558 B.C. He was the emperor of the Magadha empire from 543 B.C. to his death in 491 B.C. Buddha was born in 563 B.C. and died in 483 B.C. 102.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

64. During the reign of which Pallava ruler began the long drawn struggle between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas?
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) Mahendravarman I
- (b) Simhavishnu
- (c) Narasimhavarman I
- (d) Mahendravarman II

Explanation: During the reign of Mahendravarman I (590–630) began the long drawn out struggle between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas. He was defeated by Pulakesin II and a part of his kingdom was occupied.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

65. How many spokes are there in the Dharma Chakra of the National flag?
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) 22
- (b) 18
- (c) 24
- (d) 14

Explanation: The National Flag of India has design of Ashoka Chakra in navy blue colour with 24 equally spaced spokes. The 24 spokes represent the twelve laws of dependent origination and the twelve laws of dependent termination.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

66. From which modern State did the Alwar saints originate?
(SSC Multi-tasking Staff Exam. 2013)

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Maharashtra

Explanation: In South India, the Bhakti movement originated in Tamil Nadu sometime after the 7th century A.D. with the Alwars (Vaishnava saints) and the Adiyars (Shaiva saints).

Hence, the correct option is (a).

67. What is Milinda Panha?
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)

- (a) A Buddhist place
- (b) One of the names of Buddha
- (c) A Buddhist Specimen of Art
- (d) A Buddhist text

Explanation: The Milinda Panha (Questions of Milinda) is a Buddhist text which dates from approximately 100 B.C. It purports to record a dialogue in which the Indo-Greek king Menander I of Bactria, who reigned in the 2nd century B.C., poses questions on Buddhism to the sage Nagasena.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

68. Well preferred tree fossil supposed to be from Jurassic Age in India is reported from:
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)

- (a) Pithauragarh
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Ramgarh
- (d) Bahadurgarh

Explanation: In a discovery that might excite geologists the world over, researchers of the State Forest Research and Training Institute (SFRTI) in Chhattisgarh, in November 2012, announced to have discovered tree fossils that date back about 250 million years—or the Jurassic age. The discovery could be a precursor to more such findings in the Sarguja region, known for its rich fossil reserves.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

69. Which one of the following is not a sect of Buddhism?
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)

- (a) Mahayana
- (b) Hinayana
- (c) Digambar
- (d) Theravad

Explanation: Digambara (sky-clad) is one of the two main sects of Jainism, the other being Svetambara. Generally, Digambara monks wear no clothes whereas Svetambara 'white-clad' monks usually wear white clothes.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

70. What is the first sermon of Buddha called?
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)

- (a) Brahmajala Sutta
- (b) Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta
- (c) Kachchayanagotta Sutta
- (d) Mahaparinirvan Sutta

Explanation: The first sermon Buddha gave to the five monks was called the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta. It is also called the Setting in Motion of the Wheel of Dharma.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

71. Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha together are known as:
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)

- (a) Triratna
- (b) Trivarga
- (c) Trisarga
- (d) Trimurti

Explanation: The Three Jewels (triratna) are the three things that Buddhists take refuge in, and look toward for guidance, in the process known as taking refuge. The three jewels are: Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

72. Who was called Lichchavi Dauhitra?
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)

- (a) Chandragupta I
- (b) Skandagupta
- (c) Ktunaragupta
- (d) Samudragupta

Explanation: Chandragupta I was known as 'Lichchavi Dauhitra'. His marriage with the Lichchavi Princess Kumaradevi was one of the significant events in the Gupta rule. The importance of this marriage can be known further from Samudragupta's Allahabad inscription in which he has described himself as 'Lichchavis Dauhitra' or daughter's son of the Lichchavis.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

73. Mahavira's first disciple was:
[SSC Constable (GD) Exam. 2013]
- (a) Bhadrabahu (b) Sthulabhadra
(c) Charvaka (d) Jamali

Explanation: Jamali, who was husband of Anonja Priyadarshini, was the first disciple of Mahavira. He was Mahavira's son-in-law.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

74. Vardhman Mahavir is also known as:
[SSC Constable (GD) Exam. 2013]
- (a) Jina
(b) Great teacher
(c) Great preacher
(d) Jain

Explanation: Vardhamana Mahavira was also known as 'Jina' which literally means the 'conqueror'. Jina refers to the one who has conquered love and hate, pleasure and pain, attachment and aversion, and has there by freed 'his' soul from the karmas obscuring knowledge, perception, truth, and ability. It was from this word that Jainism was derived.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

75. Which one of the following is not included in the Eight-fold Path' of Buddhism?
[SSC Constable (GD) Exam. 2013]
- (a) Right Speech
(b) Right Contemplation
(c) Right Desire
(d) Right Conduct

Explanation: The Noble Eight-fold Path is one of the principal teachings of the Buddha, who described it as the way leading to the cessation of suffering (dukkha) and the achievement of self-awakening. The path comprises right view, right aspiration, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

76. Which of the following dynasty succeeded the Maurya's?
[SSC Constable (GD) Exam. 2013]

- (a) Satavahanas (b) Sungas
(c) Yavanas (d) Pandya

Explanation: The Sunga Empire was an ancient Indian dynasty from Magadha that controlled vast areas of the Indian Subcontinent from around 187 to 78 B.C.E. The dynasty was established by Pusyamitra Sunga, after the fall of the Maurya Empire.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

77. The Buddhist monk who spread Buddhism in Tibet was:
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)
- (a) Nagarjuna
(b) Ananda
(c) Asanga
(d) Padmasambhava

Explanation: The most important event in the history of Tibetan Buddhism was the arrival of sage Padmasambhava in the 8th century. Padmasambhava translated numerous Buddhist texts into Tibetan language and combined tantric Buddhism with the local Bon religion to create what is today widely known as the Tibetan Buddhism.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

78. King Kharvelawas the greatest ruler of the Chedi Dynasty of:
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)
- (a) Cholamandalam
(b) Kalinga
(c) Kannauj
(d) Purushpur

Explanation: Kharvela was the third and greatest emperor of the Chedi dynasty of Kalinga (present-day Odisha). The main source of information about Kharavela is his famous Hanthigumpha inscription. During his reign, the Chedi dynasty ascended to eminence, which had been subdued since the devastating war with Ashoka.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

79. Pulakesin II was the greatest ruler of the:
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)
- (a) Cholas of Tamil Nadu
(b) Chalukyas of Badami

- (c) Chalukyas of Kalyani
(d) Pallavas of Kanchi

Explanation: Pulakesin II (610–642 A.D.) was the most famous ruler of the Chalukya dynasty. In his reign the Chalukyas of Badami saw their kingdom extend over most of the Deccan.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

80. The Uttaramerur inscription provides information on the administration of the:
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2013)
- (a) Chalukyas (b) Satavahanas
(c) Pallavas (d) Cholas

Explanation: An inscription of the 8th century A.D. at Uttaramerur temple describes the constitution of the local council, eligibility and disqualifications for the candidates, the method selection, their duties and delimits their power in Chola dynasty.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

81. Match the following:
(SSC CAPFs SI & CISF ASI Exam. 2013)

List-I	List-II
A. Chalukyas	I. Malkhed
B. Hoysalas	II. Vatapi
C. Rashtrakutas	III. Warangal
D. Kakatiyas	IV. Dwarasamudra

Code:

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

Explanation: Chalukyas : Vatapi (Badami); Hoysalas : Dwarasamudra; Rashtrakutas : Malkhed; and Kakatiyas: Warangal.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

82. Which one of the following is the principal source of information on Ashoka's campaign against Kalinga?
(SSC CAPFs SI & CISF ASI Exam. 2013)
- (a) Pillar Edict VII
(b) Mahavamsa
(c) Divyavaliana
(d) Rock Edict XIII



Explanation: The vivid description of Kalinga war is given in 13th Rock Edict of Ashoka. The edict gives description of the devastation caused to Kalinga due to war and how the Mauryan emperor felt remorse for it.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

83. The Gandhara art flourished under:

[SSC CAPPs SI & CISF ASI Exam. 2013]

- (a) The Kushanas
- (b) The Satavahanas
- (c) The Guptas
- (d) The Mauryas

Explanation: Gandhara style flourished and achieved its peak during the Kushan period, from the 1st to the 5th centuries. It declined and suffered destruction after invasion of the White Huns in the 5th century.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

84. Which one of the following inscriptions relate to the Chalukya king, Pulakesin II?

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2013]

- (a) Maski
- (b) Hathigumpha
- (c) Aihole
- (d) Nasik

Explanation: The Aihole inscription were written by the Ravikirti, poet of Chalukya King, Pulakesin II who reigned from 610 to 642 C.E. This inscription gives information about the conquests of Pulakesin, especially how he defeated Harshavardhana.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

85. Which dynasty immediately succeeded the Maurya dynasty and ruled Magadha Kingdom?

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2013]

- (a) Satavahana
- (b) Sunga
- (c) Nanda
- (d) Kanva

Explanation: The Sunga Dynasty, established by Pusyamitra Sunga, after the fall of the Maurya Empire. The last Mauryan emperor Brihadratha was assassinated by the then commander-in-chief of the Mauryan armed.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

86. The capital of the ancient Chola kingdom was:

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2013]

- (a) Uraiyur
- (b) Kaveripoompattinam
- (c) Thanjavur
- (d) Madurai

Explanation: The Early Cholas of the pre and post Sangam period (300 B.C.E.–200 C.E.) were one of the three main kingdoms of the ancient Tamil country. Uraiyur, now Tiruchchirappalli was the ancient capital of the Chola Dynasty.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

87. The script of the Indus Valley Civilization is:

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2013]

- (a) Kharosthi
- (b) un-deciphered
- (c) Brahmi
- (d) Tamil

Explanation: Although these seals and samples of Indus writing have been floating around the scholastic world for close to 70 years, little progress has been made on deciphering this elegant script. The Indus script is an un-deciphered script.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

88. Worship of Mother Goddess was associated with:

(FCI Assistant Grade-II Exam. 2012)

- (a) Aryan Civilization
- (b) Mediterranean Civilization
- (c) Indus Valley Civilization
- (d) Later Vedic Civilization

Explanation: In view of the large number of figurines found in the Indus valley, some scholars believe that the Harappan people worshipped a Mother goddess symbolizing fertility, a common practice among rural Hindus even today.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

89. Alexander and Porus fought a battle at:

(FCI Assistant Grade-II Exam. 2012)

- (a) Hydaspes
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Panipat
- (d) Tarain

Explanation: The Battle of the Hydaspes River was fought by Alexander the Great in 326 B.C. against King Porus of the Hindu Paurava kingdom on the banks of the Hydaspes River (Jhelum River) in the Punjab near Bhera in what is now modern-day Pakistan. The battle resulted in a complete Macedonian victory and the annexation of the Punjab, which lay beyond the confines of the defeated Persian Empire, into the Alexandrian Empire. The battle is historically significant for opening up India for Greek political (Seleucid Empire, Indo-Greeks) and cultural influence (Greco-Buddhist art) which was to continue for many centuries.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

90. Identify the Buddhist Literature from the following:

(FCI Assistant Grade-II Exam. 2012)

- (a) Tripitakas
- (b) Upanishads
- (c) Angas
- (d) Aranyakas

Explanation: Tripitaka is a traditional term used by various Buddhist sects to describe their various canons of scriptures. As the name suggests, a Tripitaka traditionally contains three 'baskets' of teachings: a Sutra Pitaka, a Vinaya Pitaka and an Abhidharma Pitaka. Tripitaka is the three main categories of texts that make up the Buddhist canon.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

91. Seleucus Nicator was defeated by:

(FCI Assistant Grade-III Exam. 2012)

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

Explanation: Seleucus I Nicator was a leading officer of Alexander the Great's League of Corinth and one of the Diadochi. In the Wars of the Diadochi that took place after Alexander's death, Seleucus established the Seleucid dynasty and the Seleucid Empire. He was defeated by the emperor of India, Chandragupta Maurya and accepted a matrimony alliance for 500 elephants after ceding the territories considered as part of India.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

92. The striking feature of the Indus Valley Civilization was:

(FCI Assistant Grade-III Exam. 2012)

- (a) Urban Civilization
- (b) Agrarian Civilization
- (c) Mesolithic Civilization
- (d) Paleolithic Civilization

Explanation: The most characteristic feature of the Harappan Civilization was its urbanization. The cities show evidence of an advanced sense of planning and organization. The town was extremely well planned. The street ran straight and at right angles to each other following the grid system. The rectangular town planning was unique to the Harappans and was not known in Mesopotamia or Egypt. The streets were very wide and the houses built of burnt bricks lined both sides of the street. In Egypt and Mesopotamia dried or baked bricks were used.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

93. After Alexander's death the Eastern part of his empire came under:

(FCI Assistant Grade-III Exam. 2012)

- (a) Seleucus Nicator
- (b) Menunder
- (c) Rudradaman
- (d) Kanishica

Explanation: Seleucus I was a leading officer of Alexander the Greatest League of Corinth and one of the Diadochi. In the Wars of the Diadochi that took place after Alexander's death, Seleucus established the Seleucid dynasty and the Seleucid Empire. His kingdom would be one of the last hold-outs of Alexander's former empire to Roman rule. They were only outlived by the Ptolemaic Kingdom in Egypt by roughly 34 years.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

94. The early Buddhist scriptures were composed in:

(FCI Assistant Grade-III Exam. 2012)

- (a) Prakrit texts
- (b) Pali texts
- (c) Sanskrit texts
- (d) Pictographical texts

Explanation: Pali is the language in which the texts of the Theravada school of Buddhism are preserved. The Pali texts are the oldest collection of Buddhist scriptures preserved in the language in which they were written down.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

95. In Mohenjodaro, the largest building is:

(FCI Assistant Grade-III Exam. 2012)

- (a) The great bath
- (b) A granary
- (c) The Pillared Hall
- (d) A two storied house

Explanation: The Great Granary of Harappa was the largest building of the Indus Valley Civilization. It was about 45 meters long and 15 meters wide. It was meant to store food grains. It had lines of circular brick platforms for pounding grain. There were barrack like quarters for workmen. The granary also had smaller halls and corridors. It was used to store surplus food grains. There were two rows of granaries. Each row had six granaries. A similar granary has been found in Mohanjodaro. All the granaries were built close to the river bank so that grains could be easily transported with the help of boats.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

96. The caste system of India was created for:

(FCI Assistant Grade-III Exam. 2012)

- (a) Immobility of labour
- (b) Recognition of the dignity of labour
- (c) Economic uplift
- (d) Occupational division of labour

Explanation: The caste system is a system of division of labour and power in human society. It is a system of social stratification, and a basis for affirmative action. Historically, it defined communities into thousands of endogamous hereditary groups called Jatis. The Jatis were grouped by the Brahmanical texts under the four well-known caste categories (the varnas): viz Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

97. The first grammarian of the Sanskrit language was:

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2012]

- (a) Kalhana
- (b) Maitreyi
- (c) Kalidasa
- (d) Panini

Explanation: Panini was a Sanskrit grammarian from Pushkalavati, Gandhara. He is known for his Sanskrit grammar, particularly for his formulation of the 3,959 rules of Sanskrit morphology, syntax and semantics in the grammar known as Ashtadhyayi (meaning 'eight chapters').

Hence, the correct option is (d).

98. The famous poet Kalidasa lived in the court of:

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2012]

- (a) Chandragupta I
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Kumara Gupta
- (d) Chandragupta II

Explanation: Kalidas was one of the 'nine gems' at the court of a king named Vikramaditya, generally identified with the great Gupta ruler, Chandragupta II.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

99. Varahamihira is an/a:

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2012]

- (a) Astronomer
- (b) Astronaut
- (c) Space Shuttle
- (d) Power Station

Explanation: Varahamihira (400 A.D.) was Indian astronomer, mathematician and philosopher. He was one of the nine gems in the court of Gupta ruler Chandragupta Vikramaditya.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

100. Which one of the following Vedas contains sacrificial formulae?

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2012]

- (a) Samaveda
- (b) Rigveda
- (c) Yajurveda
- (d) Atharvaveda



Explanation: Yajurveda deals with sacrificial formulae. It is divided into Black Yajurveda and White Yajurveda.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

101. When did the best productions of Gandhara sculpture appear?
[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2012]

- (a) Mauryan period
- (b) Kushan period
- (c) Gupta period
- (d) Harsha period

Explanation: The best productions of Gandhara Sculpture appeared during Kushana period, Gandhara sculpture shows Greek influence, therefore, it is known as Indo-Greek art.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

102. The seashore temple at Mahabalipuram was built by:
[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LDC Exam. 2012]

- (a) Mahendra Varman I
- (b) Narasimha Varman I
- (c) Nandi Varman H
- (d) Dandi Varman

Explanation: The seashore temple at Mahabalipuram was built by Narasimha Varman I.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

103. The caves of Ajanta and Ellora belonged to:
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2012)

- (a) Jains
- (b) Buddhists
- (c) Hindus
- (d) Sikhs

Explanation: The famous caves of Ajanta and Ellora belonged to Buddhists.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

104. Subject matter which Manusmriti deals with is related to:
(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 2012)

- (a) Economics
- (b) Politics
- (c) Law
- (d) Artx

Explanation: Manusmriti deals with law.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

105. Name the temple in Indonesia where scenes from Ramayana and Mahabharata are depicted.

(SSC PM Assistant Grade-III Exam. 2012)

- (a) Borobudur
- (b) Kailash Nath
- (c) Angkor Wat
- (d) Brihadeshwara

Explanation: Borobudur Temple is located in Indonesia. Angkor Wat Temple is located in Cambodia.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

106. The Nalanda University was founded by:

(SSC DP SI Exam. 2012)

- (a) Harsha Vardhana
- (b) Kumara Gupta
- (c) Samudragupta
- (d) Chandra Gupta

Explanation: Kumara Gupta

Hence, the correct option is (b).

107. Fahien visited India during the reign of:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2011)

- (a) Chandragupta II
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Ramagupta
- (d) Kumaragupta

Explanation: Chandra Gupta II was the third, and most significant of the Gupta kings. During his reign the famous Chinese pilgrim Fa Hsien visited India and wrote a detailed account of his kingdom. The celebrated Chinese pilgrim was struck with admiration by the famous royal palace and the houses for dispensing charity and medicine at Pataliputra. He speaks highly of the system of government in the Madhyadesa and the benevolence of the people, especially the moneyed classes.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

108. Mention the place where Buddha attained enlightenment:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2011)

- (a) Sarnath
- (b) Bodh Gaya
- (c) Kapilavastu
- (d) Rajgriha

Explanation: Bodh Gaya is a religious site and place of pilgrimage associated

with the Mahabodhi Temple Complex in Gaya district in the Indian state of Bihar. It is famous for being the place where Gautama Buddha is said to have obtained Enlightenment (Bodhiman-dala). According to Buddhist traditions, circa 500 B.C. Prince Gautama Siddhartha, wandering as an ascetic, reached the sylvan banks of Falgu River, near the city of Gaya. There he sat in meditation under a bodhi tree (*Ficus religiosa*). After three days and three nights of meditation, Siddhartha claimed to have attained enlightenment and insight, and the answers that he had sought.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

109. The Greek ambassador sent to Chandragupta Maurya's Court was:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2011)

- (a) Kautilya
- (b) Seleucus Nicator
- (c) Megasthenes
- (d) Justin

Explanation: Megasthenes was a Greek ethnographer and explorer in the Hellenistic period, author of the work *Indica*. He was born in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) and became an ambassador of Seleucus I of the Seleucid dynasty possibly to Chandragupta Maurya in Pataliputra. Megasthenes *indica* is the first well known Western account of India and he is regarded as one of the founders of the study of Indian history in the West. He is also the first foreigner Ambassador to be mentioned in the Indian history.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

110. Hiuen Tsang visited India during the reign of:

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2011)

- (a) Chandragupta I
- (b) Chandragupta II
- (c) Harshavardhana
- (d) Rudradaman

Explanation: It was during Harsha's reign that Hiuen Tsang came to India. He has given a vivid description of the social, economic and religious condi-

tions, under the rule of Harsha spoke highly of the king.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

111. Which one of the following was the last Buddhist text produced in India?

[SSC CPO (SI, ASI & IO) Exam. 2011]

- (a) Divya Vandana
- (b) Dohakosa
- (c) Vajracchedika
- (d) Vamsathapakasini

Explanation: Vamsathapakasini is among the last Buddhist texts produced in India. It gives us information about the origin of the Mauryas.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

112. Arthashastra was written by:

[SSC CPO (SI, ASI & IO) Exam. 2011]

- (a) Dhanananda
- (b) Kautilya
- (c) Bimbisara
- (d) Pushyamitra

Explanation: The Arthashastra is an ancient Indian treatise on statecraft, economic policy and military strategy which identifies its author by the names 'Kautilya' and 'Vishnugupta', both names that are traditionally identified with Chanakya (c. 350–283 B.C.), who was a scholar at Takshashila and the teacher and guardian of Emperor Chandragupta Maurya, the founder of Mauryan Empire. Because of its harsh political pragmatism, the Arthashastra has often been compared to Machiavelli's The Prince.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

113. Which is the port town of Indus valley civilization?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999 and SSC Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Exam. 2011]

- (a) Kalibangan
- (b) Lothal
- (c) Ropar
- (d) Mohenjodaro

Explanation: Lothal is one of the most prominent cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization. It was the most important port of this civilization and was one of the most important centers of export of beads, unguent vessels, chunk shells, ladles and inlays. Lothal engineers accorded high priority to the creation of a dockyard and a

warehouse to serve the purposes of naval trade.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

114. Arrange the following Magadh dynasties in chronological order:

[SSC Multi-tasking (Non-tech) Staff Exam. 2011]

- I. Nandas
- II. Shishunaga
- III. Mauryas
- IV. Haryanka

Code:

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

Explanation: Some of the dynasties to have ruled Magadha were: Haryanka Kingdom (684–424 B.C.); Shishunaga Kingdom (413–345 B.C.); Nanda Empire (424–321 B.C.); and Maurya Empire (321–184 B.C.).

Hence, the correct option is (c).

115. Which of the following are beliefs of Buddhism?

[SSC Multi-tasking (Non-tech) Staff Exam. 2011]

- I. The world is full of sorrows.
- II. People suffer on account of desires.
- III. If desires are conquered, nirvana will be attained.
- IV. The existence of God and Soul must be recognized.

Code:

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

Explanation: The Four Noble Truths are one of the central teachings of the Buddhist tradition. The teachings on the four noble truths explain the nature of dukkha ('suffering', 'anxiety', 'stress', 'dissatisfaction'), its causes, the possibility of its cessation and how it can be overcome. The four truths are presented within the Buddha's first discourse, Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Dharma (Dharmacakra Pravartana Sutra).

Hence, the correct option is (c).

116. Which of the following is not the 'Tri Ratna' of Jainism?

[SSC CISF Constable (GD) Exam. 2011]

- (a) Right faith
- (b) Right knowledge
- (c) Right view
- (d) Right conduct

Explanation: In Jainism the three jewels (also referred to as ratnatraya) are understood as samyagdarshana ('right faith'), samyaginana ('right knowledge'), and samyakcharitra ('right conduct'). One of the three cannot exist exclusive of the others, and all are required for spiritual liberation.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

117. Who among the following was the pioneer of Yoga?

[SSC CISF Constable (GD) Exam. 2011]

- (a) Patanjali
- (b) Vagphata
- (c) Atreya
- (d) Vrudukanta

Explanation: The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali are 196 Indian sutras (aphorisms) that constitute the foundational text of Raja yoga. In the Yoga Sutras, Pataljali prescribes adherence to eight 'limbs' or steps (the sum of which constitute 'Ashtanga Yoga', the title of the second chapter) to quiet one's mind and achieve kaivalya.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

118. The Greeks were driven out of India by:

[SSC Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Exam. 2011]

- (a) Chandragupta Murya
- (b) Chandragupta Vikramditya
- (c) Ashoka
- (d) Bindusara

Explanation: In the year 305 B.C., Seleucus-I Nicator went to India and apparently occupied territory as far as the Indus, and eventually waged war with the Mauryan Emperor Chandragupta Maurya. His Indian campaign was, however, a failure. Seleucus ceded a considerable amount of territory to Chandragupta in exchange for 500 war elephants, which were to play a key role in the forthcoming battles.

Hence, the correct option is (a).



119. Who was the mother of Mahavira?

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LCD Exam. 2011]

- (a) Yashoda (b) Trishala
(c) Jameli (d) Mahamaya

Explanation: Trishala was the mother of Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, and wife of the Jain monarch, Siddhartha of Kundgraam, of present-day Bihar. She finds mention in the classical Jain Agamas, the Kalpa sutra, written by Acharya Bhadrabahu (433–357 B.C.), which is primarily a biography of the Tirthankaras.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

120. The Great Bath of Indus Valley Civilization is found at:

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LCD Exam. 2011]

- (a) Harappa (b) Mohenjodaro
(c) Ropar (d) Kalibangan

Explanation: The Great Bath is one of the best known structures among the ruins of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization at Mohenjodaro in Sindh, Pakistan. It is called 'earliest public water tank of the ancient world'. Archaeological evidence indicates that it was built in the 3rd Millennium B.C.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

121. Who was the court poet of Harsha Vardhana?

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LCD Exam. 2011]

- (a) Bhani (b) Ravi Kirti
(c) Bana (d) Vishnu Sharma

Explanation: Banabhatta was the Asthana Kavi in the court of King Harshavardhana, who reigned in the years c. 606–647 A.D. in north India. His principal works include a biography of Harsha, the Harshacharita and one of the world's earliest novels, Kadambari.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

122. 'Prince of Pilgrims' was the name attributed to:

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LCD Exam. 2011]

- (a) Fahien (b) I-tsing
(c) Hlluen Tsang (d) Megasthenes

Explanation: 'Prince of pilgrims' Hieun Tsang, the well-known Chinese traveller was a Buddhist scholar who visited India in the 7th century A.D., (630–644 A.D.). He came to India to visit all the places connected with the life of the Buddha, to further his knowledge of Buddhist philosophy and to collect Buddhist manuscripts. The writings of this 'prince of pilgrims' gives historians much authentic information about the political, social, economic and religious conditions of those days and in particular about the status of Buddhism in various kingdoms.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

123. Who among the following was not a physician?

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LCD Exam. 2011]

- (a) Sushruta (b) Charaka
(c) Charvaka (d) Dhanvantari

Explanation: Charvaka is a system of Indian philosophy that assumes various forms of philosophical skepticism and religious indifference. It is characterized as a materialistic and atheistic school of thought. While this branch of Indian philosophy is today not considered to be part of the six orthodox schools of Hindu philosophy, some describe it as an atheistic or materialistic philosophical movement within Hinduism. It emerged as an alternative to the orthodox Hindu schools, as well as a philosophical predecessor to subsequent or contemporaneous nastika philosophies such as Ajivika, Jainism and Buddhism.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

124. Kalinga war took place in the year:

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LCD Exam. 2011]

- (a) 261 B.C. (b) 263 B.C.
(c) 232 B.C. (d) 240 B.C.

Explanation: The Kalinga war was fought between the Maurya Empire under Ashoka the Great and the state of Kalinga, a feudal republic located on the coast of the present-day Indian state of Odisha and northern parts of Andhra Pradesh. On the basis of Asho-

kan inscriptions, it can be established that it was fought in 262–261 B.C. The Kalinga war, the only major war Ashoka fought after his accession to throne, is one of the major and bloodiest battles in the history of India.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

125. The coins of which of the following reveal their love for music?

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LCD Exam. 2011]

- (a) Mauryas (b) Nandas
(c) Guptas (d) Cholas

Explanation: Some coins throw significant light on the personal events of certain Gupta rulers like Samudra Gupta. Vehicle of Vishnu inscribed on some coin indicate that Samudra Gupta was a devotee of that deity. Veena bears out his love for music. His coins show him playing veena.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

126. The year of accession of Kanishka to throne was:

[SSC (10+2) Level DEO & LCD Exam. 2011]

- (a) 108 A.D. (b) 78 A.D.
(c) 58 A.D. (d) 128 A.D.

Explanation: Kanishka was an emperor of the Kushan dynasty (127–151) who ruled an empire extending from Turfan in the Tarim Basin to Pataliputra on the Gangetic plain and famous for his military, political, and spiritual achievements. Kanishka's era is believed by many to have begun in 127 A.D. on the basis of Harry Falk's ground-breaking research. Chinese records of Yuehchi show his coronation as 78 A.D. He was the founder of the Saka era which starts from 78 A.D.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

127. The monk who influenced Ashoka to embrace Buddhism was:

[SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2010]

- (a) Vishnugupta (b) Upagupta
(c) Brahmagupta (d) Brihadratha

Explanation: Upagupta was a Buddhist monk. According to some sto-

ries in the Sanskrit Avadana he was the spiritual teacher of Ashoka the great Mauryan emperor. Upagupta's teacher was Sanavasi who was a disciple of Ananda, the Buddha's attendant. Due to the absence of his name in Theravada literature it is assumed that Upagupta was a Sarvadin monk.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

128. Harshvardhana was defeated by:
(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 2010)

- (a) Prabhakaravardhana
- (b) Pulakesin II
- (c) Narasimhasvarma Pallava
- (d) Sasanka

Explanation: In 630 B.C., Harshvardhana faced defeat at the hands of Pulakesin II, the Chalukya King of Vatapi, in Northern Karnataka. The defeat resulted in a truce between the two kings, with Harsha accepting River Narmada as the southern boundary for his kingdom.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

129. Which of the following statements about the Guptas is NOT true?

(SSC SAS Exam. 2010)

- (a) They ruled mainly over parts of north and central India
- (b) Kingship was hereditary and the throne always went to the eldest son
- (c) The judicial system was far more developed than in earlier times
- (d) Land taxes increased and taxes on trade and commerce decreased

Explanation: Kingship was hereditary. Though succession to the throne was generally decided by law of primogeniture, that is, the eldest son succeeding his father, there were many exceptions to this rule. Sometimes kings were even elected by nobles and councillors. As head of the government, the King was overseer of all administrative activities of his realm. He was the supreme judge, and he usually led his army to the battlefields.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

130. Which of the following was NOT composed by Harshavadhana?

(SSC SAS Exam. 2010)

- (a) Harshacharita
- (b) Ratnavali
- (c) Priyadarshika
- (d) Nagananda

Explanation: The Harshacharita, is the biography of Indian Emperor Harsha by Banabhatta, also known as Bana, who was a Sanskrit writer of 7th century in India. He was the 'Asthana Kavi', meaning 'Court Poet', of King Harsha.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

131. Which of the following is not one of the animals carved on the Sarnath Pillar?

(SSC Investigator Exam. 2010)

- (a) Humped Bull
- (b) Deer
- (c) Elephant
- (d) Horse

Explanation: Ashoka built the Sarnath pillar to commemorate the site of the first preaching of Lord Buddha, where he taught the Dharma to five monks. The Lion Capital of Ashoka comprises four lions, standing back to back, mounted on a cylindrical abacus. The abacus features the sculptures of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull, and a lion, separated by intervening 24-spoked Dharma wheels over a bell-shaped lotus. The four animals in the Sarnath capital are believed to symbolize different phases in Lord Buddha's life. The Elephant is a representation of Queen Maya's conception of Buddha when she saw a white elephant entering her womb in dream. The Bull represents desire during the life of the Buddha as a prince. The Horse symbolizes Buddha's departure from palatial life while the Lion represents the attainment of Nirvana by Lord Buddha.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

132. The 'Kannauj assembly' organized by Harsha was held in honour of:

(SSC Investigator Exam. 2010)

- (a) Fahien
- (b) I-tsing
- (c) Hiuen Tsang
- (d) Megasthenes

Explanation: The convocation of an assembly at Kannauj was one of the most significant events of the reign of Harsha. The purpose of this assembly was to simplify the doctrines of Mahayanism. This assembly was convened in 643 A.D. It was attended by kings of 18 countries, 3,000 Brahmanas and Jains, 3,000 Buddhist monks of Mahayana and Hinayana sects and 1,000 Buddhist monks of Nalanda Vihara. The famous Chinese traveller, Hiuen Tsang was also present and presided the assembly.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

133. The first metal used by man was:
(SSC Investigator Exam. 2010)

- (a) Aluminium
- (b) Copper
- (c) Iron
- (d) Silver

Explanation: The first two metals to be used widely were gold and copper. The use of copper in antiquity is of more significance than gold as the first tools, implements and weapons were made from copper. From 4,000 to 6,000 B.C. was the Chalcolithic period which was when copper came into common use. By 3600 B.C. the first copper smelted artifacts were found in the Nile Valley and copper rings, bracelets, chisels were found. By 3000 B.C. weapons, tools etc. were widely found. Tools and weapons of utilitarian value were now within society, however, only kings and royalty had such tools; it would take another 500 years before they reached the peasants.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

134. Satavahanas minted their coins predominantly in:

(SSC Investigator Exam. 2010)

- (a) Lead
- (b) Silver
- (c) Gold
- (d) Copper

Explanation: The Satavahana kings mostly used lead as the material for their coins. Most of their coins are in that metal. Silver coins are very rare. Next to lead they used an alloy of silver and copper, called 'potin'. Many copper coins are also available. Although the Satavahana coins are devoid of any beauty or artistic merit,



they constitute a valuable source-material for the dynastic history of the Satavahanas.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

135. The headquarters of the Ghadar Party was at:

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2010)

- (a) Karachi (b) Moscow
(c) Berlin (d) San Francisco

Explanation: The Ghadar Party, initially the Pacific Coast Hindustan Association, was formed in 1913 in the United States under the leadership of Har Dayal, with Sohan Singh Bhakna as its president. The members of the party were Indian immigrants, largely from Punjab. Many of its members were students at University of California at Berkeley including Dayal, Tarak Nath Das, Maulavi Barkatullah, Kartar Singh Sarabha and V.G. Pingle. The party quickly gained support from Indian expatriates, especially in the United States, Canada and Asia. The party was built around the weekly paper The Ghadar, which carried the caption on the masthead: Angrezi Raj Ka Dushman (an enemy of the British rule). The first issue of The Ghadar was published from San Francisco on November 1, 1913.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

136. Where did Lord Buddha breathe his last?

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2010)

- (a) Bodh Gaya (b) Sarnath
(c) Kushinagar (d) Varanasi

Explanation: At the time of the Buddha, Kushinagar was the capital of the Mallas, and the scene of the Buddha's death. The Buddha died of old age, when he was eighty years old. The death was triggered by his body reaction to a dish of wild mushroom.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

137. Harappa is situated on the bank of the river:

[SSC Stenographer (Grade 'C' & 'D') Exam. 2010]

- (a) Ganga (b) Ravi
(c) Yamuna (d) Sindhu

Explanation: Harappa, is an archaeological site in Punjab, north-east Pakistan, which takes its name from a modern village located near the former course of the Ravi River. The two greatest cities, Mohenjodaro and Harappa, emerged circa 2600 B.C. along the Indus River valley in Punjab and Sindh.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

138. Who was the Chola king who brought Ganga from North to South?

(SSC HSL DEO & LDC Exam. 2010)

- (a) Raja Raja Chola
(b) Mahendra
(c) Rajendra Chola
(d) Parantaka

Explanation: Rajendra Chola I extended the influences of the already vast Chola empire up to the banks of the river Ganges in the north and across the ocean. Rajendra's territories extended coastal Burma, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Maldives, conquered the kings of Srivijaya (Sumatra, Java and Malay Peninsula in South East Asia) and Pegu islands with his fleet of ships. He defeated Mahipala, the Pala king of Bengal and Bihar, and to commemorate his victory he built a new capital called Gangaikonda Cholapuram.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

139. What was Chandragupta II also known as?

(SSC HSL DEO & LDC Exam. 2010)

- (a) Samudragupta
(b) Skanda Gupta
(c) Vikramaditya
(d) Ranaa Gupta

Explanation: Chandragupta II was the third ruler of the Gupta Empire of India who took the epithet of Vikramaditya. 4th century C.E. Sanskrit poet Kalidasa, credits Chandragupta Vikramaditya with having conquered about twenty one kingdoms, both in and outside India. The title 'Vikramaditya' was later used by 16th century, Hindu king Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya as well.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

140. That the Rigvedic Aryans were a pastoral people is borne out by the fact that:

(SSC HSL DEO & LDC Exam. 2010)

- (a) There are many references to the cow in the Rigveda
(b) Most of the wars were fought for the sake of cows
(c) Gifts made to priests were usually cows and not land
(d) All of the above

Explanation: Economy in the Rig Vedic period was sustained by a combination of pastoralism and agriculture. There are references, in the Rigveda, to leveling of field, seed, implements, yet the maximum references are made to 'cow'. Such terms as gotra, godhuli, goghana, gavya, gavyuti, etc. shows the overwhelming place cow had in the period. The Vedic socio-economic-political system revolved around cow.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

141. The Aryans succeeded in their conflicts with the pre Aryans because:

(SSC HSL DEO & LDC Exam. 2010)

- (a) They used elephants on a large scale
(b) They were taller and stronger
(c) They were from an advanced urban culture
(d) They used chariots driven by horses

Explanation: The Aryans success can partly be attributed to the superiority of their technology, particularly weapon technology, over the people they conquered, namely the Dravidian people in South Asia. The Aryans had advanced bronze weapons, later iron weapons and horse drawn chariots with light spoked wheels.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

142. The Chola kings were ruling over:

(SSC HSL DEO & LDC Exam. 2010)

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Andhra
(c) Kerala (d) Bengal

Explanation: Chola dynasty was a Tamil dynasty which was one of the longest-ruling dynasties in southern India.

The earliest datable references to this Tamil dynasty are in inscriptions from the 3rd century B.C. left by Aso-Ita, the dynasty continued to govern over varying territory until the 13th century A.D. The heartland of the Cholas was the fertile valley of the Kaveri River, but they ruled a significantly larger area at the height of their power from the later half of the 9th century till the beginning of the 13th century.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

143. Coins made of metal first appeared in:
[SSC HSL DEO & LDC Exam. 2010]

- (a) Harappan Civilization
- (b) Later Vedic Age
- (c) Age of the Buddha
- (d) Age of the Maurya's

Explanation: Metal currency was minted in India well before the Mauryan empire (322–185 B.C.). The first Indian coins were minted around the 6th century B.C. by the Mahajanapadas of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. The coins of this period were punch marked coins called Puranas, Karshapanas or Pana. Early coins of India (400 B.C.–100 A.D.) were made of silver and copper, and bore animal and plant symbols on them.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

144. In which state was the Nalanda University located in India?
[SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2009]

- (a) Bengal
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Orissa
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Explanation: Nalanda was an ancient center of higher learning in Bihar, India. It was a Buddhist center of learning from the fifth or sixth century C.E. to 1197 C.E. Nalanda flourished between the reign of the Chakraditya (whose identity is uncertain and who might have been either Kumara Gupta I or Kumara Gupta II) and 1197 C.E., supported by patronage from the Hindu Gupta rulers as well as Buddhist emperors like Harsha and later emperors from the Pala Empire.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

145. Which event brought about a profound change in Ashoka's administrative policy?
[SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2009]

- (a) The third Buddhist Council
- (b) The Kalinga War
- (c) His embracing of Buddhism
- (d) His sending of missionary to Ceylon

Explanation: Kalinga War was the only major war Ashoka fought after his accession to throne. It is one of the major and bloodiest battles in the history of India. Kalinga put up a stiff resistance, but they were no match for Ashoka's brutal strength. The bloodshed of this war is said to have prompted Ashoka to adopt Buddhism.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

146. 'Charaka' was the famous court physician of:
[SSC DEO Exam. 2009]

- (a) Harsha
- (b) Chandragupta Maurya
- (c) Ashoka
- (d) Kanishka

Explanation: Galaxies of great scholars like Asvaghosa (the Buddhist Writer), Nagmjuna (the philosopher), Samgharaksha (the chaplain), Mathara (the politician), Vasumitra (the Buddhist scholar), Charaka (the physician) and Agisala (the engineer) adorned the court of Kanishka. There were two important physicians in Kanishka's time namely, Charaka and Susruta. Charaka was one of the principal contributors to the ancient art and science of Ayurveda, who is referred to as the Father of Medicine.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

147. Great Stupa at Sanchi is in:
[SSC DEO Exam. 2009]

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation: The 'Great Stupa' at Sanchi is the oldest stone structure in India and was originally commissioned

by the emperor Ashoka the Great in the 3rd century B.C. It is located in Raisen District of the state of Madhya Pradesh. Sanchi is the location of several Buddhist monuments dating from the 3rd century B.C. to the 12th century A.D.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

148. Which one of the following stages of the life of man in Aryan Society, in ascending order of age, is correct?
[SSC DEO Exam. 2009]

- (a) Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, Sanyasa
- (b) Grihastha, Brahmacharya, Vanaprastha, Sanyasa
- (c) Brahmacharya, Vanaprastha, Sanyasa, Grihastha
- (d) Grihastha, Sanyasa, Vanaprastha, Brahmacharya

Explanation: An ashrama in Hinduism is one of four stages in an age-based social system as laid out in the Manu Smriti and later Classical Sanskrit texts. Those stages are: Brahmachari (student), Grihastha (Householder), Vanaprastha (forest dweller or Hermit in semi-retirement) and Sannyasi (the renounced one in full retirement). The Ashram system is believed by the Hindus to lead to a fulfillment of the four aims of life namely, Dharma (righteousness), Artha (wealth), Kama (pleasure), and Moksha (liberation).

Hence, the correct option is (a).

149. Arabs were defeated in 738 A.D. by:

[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2008]

- (a) Pratiharas
- (b) Rashtrakutas
- (c) Palas
- (d) Chalukyas

Explanation: The Battle of Rajasthan is a battle (or series of battles) where the Hindu alliance defeated the Arab invaders in 738 C.E. and removed the Arab invaders and pillagers from the area east of the Indus River and protected whole India. The main Indian kings who contributed to the victory over the Arabs were the north Indian ruler Nagabhata of the Pratihara Dynasty and the south Indian Emperor



Vikramaditya II of the Chalukya dynasty in the 8th century.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

150. The caves and rock-cut temples at Ellora are:

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2008)

- (a) Hindu and Buddhist
- (b) Buddhist and Jain
- (c) Hindu and Jain
- (d) Hindu, Buddhist and Jain

Explanation: Ellora represents the epitome of Indian rock-cut architecture. The 34 'caves' actually structures excavated out of the vertical face of the Charanandri hills. Buddhist, Hindu and Jain rock-cut temples and viharas and mathas were built between the 5th century and 10th century. The 12 Buddhist (caves 1–12), 17 Hindu (caves 13–29) and 5 Jain (caves 30–34) caves, built in proximity, demonstrate the religious harmony prevalent during this period of Indian history.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

151. The Seven Pagodas of Mahabalipuram are a witness to the art patronized by the:

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2008)

- (a) Pallavas
- (b) Pandyas
- (c) Cholas
- (d) Cheras

Explanation: 'Seven Pagodas' has served as a nickname for the south Indian city of Mahabalipuram, also called Mamaliapuram, since the first European explorers reached it. The phrase 'Seven Pagodas' refers to a myth that has circulated in India, Europe, and other parts of the world for over eleven centuries. Mahabalipuram's Shore Temple, built in the 8th century C.E. under the reign of Pallava king Narasimhavarman II, stands at the shore of the Bay of Bengal. Legend has it that six other temples once stood with it.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

152. Name the clan that belong to Buddha:

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2008)

- (a) Gnathrika
- (b) Monk
- (c) Shakya
- (d) Partha

Explanation: Shakya was an ancient tribe (fana-pada) of the Indian Subcontinent in the 1st millennium B.C.E. In Buddhist texts the Shakyas, the inhabitants of Shakya janapacia, are mentioned as a Kshatriya clan of Gotama gotra. The most famous Shakya was Gautama Buddha, a member of the ruling Gautama clan of Lumbini, who is also known as Shakyamuni Buddha, 'sage of the Shakyas', due to his association with this ancient kingdom. The Puranas mention Shakya as a king of Ikshvaku dynasty.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

153. Who was the author of the Kadambari, a great romantic play?

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2008)

- (a) Banabhatta
- (b) Harshavardhana
- (c) Baskaravardhana
- (d) Bindusara

Explanation: Kadambari is a romantic novel in Sanskrit. It was substantially composed by Banabhatta in the first half of the 7th century, who did not survive to see it through completion. The novel was completed by Banabhatta's son Bhushanabhatta, according to the plan laid out by his late father. It is conventionally divided into Purvabhaga (earlier part) written by Banabhatta, and Uttarabhaga (latter part) by Bhushanabhatta.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

154. During which Gupta King's reign did the Chinese traveller Fahien visit India?

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2008)

- (a) Chandragupta I
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Chandragupta II
- (d) Kurnara Gupta

Explanation: Chandragupta II The Great was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta empire in northern India. His rule spanned c. 380–413/415 C.E., during which the Gupta Empire achieved its zenith, art, architecture, and sculpture flourished, and the cultural development of an-

cient India reached its climax. Fahien was the first of three great Chinese pilgrims who visited India from the fifth to the seventh centuries C.E., in search of knowledge, manuscripts and relics. Fahien arrived during the reign of Chandragupta II and gave a general description of North India at that time. Among the other things, he reported about the absence of capital punishment, the lack of a toll-tax and land-tax. Most citizens did not consume onions, garlic, meat, and wine.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

155. St. Thomas is said to have come to India to propagate Christianity during the reign of the:

[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2008]

- (a) Cheras
- (b) Parthians
- (c) Pandyas
- (d) Cholas

Explanation: St. Thomas is traditionally believed to have sailed to India in 52 A.D. to spread the Christian faith among the Jews, the Jewish diaspora present in Kerala at the time. He is supposed to have landed at the ancient port of Muziris near Kodungalloor. He then went to Palayoor (near present day Guruvayoor), which was a Hindu priestly community at that time. He left Palayoor in A.D. 52 for the southern part of what is now Kerala State, where he established the Ezharappallikal, or 'Seven and Half Churches'. Thomas landed in Cranganor (Kodungallur, Muziris) and took part in the wedding of Cheraman Perurnal and proceeded to the courts of Gondophorus in North India. Gundaphorus was indeed a historical figure and he belonged to the Parthian Dynasty from Takshashia (Taxila).

Hence, the correct option is (b).

156. The people of the Indus Valley Civilization usually built their houses of

[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2008 and SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Pucca bricks
- (b) Stone
- (c) Wood
- (d) All of the above

Explanation: The Indus Valley Civilization, marked by its remarkable level of urbanization despite being a Bronze Age culture, is noted for its cities built of brick, road-side drainage system, and multistoried houses. Houses were one or two stories high, made of baked brick, with flat roofs, and were just about identical. Each was built around a courtyard, with windows overlooking the courtyard. The outside walls had no windows. Each home had its own private drinking well and its own private bathroom.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

157. Who started the Saka Era and when?

[SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2008]

- (a) Kadphises in 58 B.C.
- (b) Rudradaman I in A.D. 78
- (c) Vikramaditya in 58 B.C.
- (d) Kanishka in A.D. 78

Explanation: Most of what is known about Kanishka derives from Chinese sources, particularly Buddhist writings. When Kanishka came to the throne is uncertain. His accession has been estimated as occurring between his reign is believed to have lasted 23 years. The year 78 marks the beginning of the Saka era, a system of dating that Kanishka might have initiated.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

158. The staple food of the Vedic Aryans was:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2008]

- (a) Barley and rice
- (b) Milk and its products
- (c) Rice and pulses
- (d) Vegetables and fruits

Explanation: The Vedic economy revolved around cow and dairy products which is clear from the references found in the Rigveda. The economy was primarily pastoral. The staple diet of the people was milk, ghee (clarified butter), vegetables, fruit and barley. On special occasions like a religious feast or the arrival of a guest, a more elaborate meal was organized.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

159. With which of the following centers dimming, Chanakya the famous teacher of Chandragupta Maurya, was associated?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2008]

- (a) Talcshashila (b) Nalanda
- (c) Vikramashila (d) Vaishali

Explanation: Takshashila, (later corrupted as Taxila), was Chanakya's breeding ground of acquiring knowledge in the practical and theoretical aspect. He served there as a teacher also before becoming the chief advisor and mentor of Chandragupta Malaya. During the reign of Chandragupta's grandson Ashoka, Taxila became a great Buddhist centre of learning.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

160. Roth temples at Mahabalipuram were built in the reign of which Pallava ruler?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2008]

- (a) Mahendravarman I
- (b) Narasimhavarman I
- (c) Paramesvaravarman I
- (d) Nandivarman I

Explanation: Pancha Rathas is an example of monolith Indian rock-cut architecture dating from the late 7th century, located at Mahabalipuram. The Pancha Rathas shrines were carved during the reign of King Mahendravarman-I and his son Narasimhavarman-I. The purpose of their construction is not known, structures are not completed.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

161. Which one of the following Chola Kings conquered Ceylon (Sinhala) first?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2008]

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

Explanation: Rajaraja began his conquests by attacking the confederation between the rulers of the Pandya and Krala kingdoms and of Ceylon. Rajendra Chola I, the son of Rajaraja, invaded the island in 1018 A.D. As a result of the campaign, Rajendra captured the crown of the Sinhala king, his Queen

and daughter. The Sinhala king Mahinda-V was taken prisoner and transported to the Chola country. The naval supremacy of the Colas continued under the immediate successors of Rajendra. Rajadhiraja, not only defeated and destroyed the Chera fleet at Kandalur but sent out his squadrons on an expedition against Ceylon.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

162. Most of the Chola temples were dedicated to:

[SSC DEO Exam. 2008]

- (a) Vishnu (b) Shiva
- (c) Brahma (d) Durga

Explanation: The Great Living Chola Temples are important Hindu Kovils that were built during the 10th through 12th centuries C.E. in the south of India, and together have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The kovils are the Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur, Brihadeeswarar kovil at Gangaikonda Cholapuram and the Airavatesvarar Kovil at Darasuram. In all these temples, the chief deity who has been depicted and worshipped is Lord Shiva. The Cholas were followers of Saiva pantheon.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

163. In the Gupta period, the largest numbers of coins were issued in:

[SSC DEO Exam. 2008]

- (a) gold (b) silver
- (c) copper (d) iron

Explanation: Coins minted in the Gupta Age were mostly made in gold. These coins consisted of the depiction of Indian deities and legends in Brahmi. Events like the Asvamedha Yagya and the accomplishments of the kings were also depicted on the coins.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

164. The tax which the kings used to collect from the people in the Vedic period was called:

[SSC DEO Exam. 2008]

- (a) Ball (b) Vidatha
- (c) Varman (d) Kara

Explanation: The Vedic state derived its revenue from people's contribution,



technically known as 'Ball'. Of all the terms used in connection with the items of revenue to the state, it is 'ball' which is mentioned most in the Vedic texts. Its use is, however, not restricted exclusively to the fiscal sense but also to 'offerings to a god' and to tributes paid by hostile tribes to the king. A man is depicted in the Rigveda as presenting oblation (ball) to Agni.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

165. Buddha preached his first sermon at:

(SSC DEO Exam. 2008)

- (a) Gaya (b) Sarnath
(c) Pataliputra (d) Vaishali

Explanation: Sarnath is the deer park where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma, and where the Buddhist Sangha came into existence through the enlightenment of Kondanna. Sarnath is located 13 kilometres north-east of Varanasi, in Uttar Pradesh.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

166. Whose achievements are recorded in the Allahabad Pillar inscription?

(SSC CGL Prelim, 2007)

- (a) Chandragupta Maurya
(b) Samudragupta
(c) Vikramaditya
(d) Skand Gupta

Explanation: Allahabad Stone Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta is writings in stone pillar during the term of King Samudragupta located in Allahabad which mentioned events during his tenure in and around his empire. It is one of the most important epigraphic evidences of the Imperial Guptas. Composed by Harisena, it delineates the reign of the Guptas in ancient India. Achievements of different rulers of the Gupta lineage are also mentioned in the Allahabad Pillar Inscription. Harisena was the court poet and minister of Samudragupta.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

167. The essential feature of the Indus Valley Civilization was:

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2007)

- (a) Worship of forces of nature
(b) Organized city life
(c) Pastoral farming
(d) Caste society

Explanation: Among all the Bronze Age cultures, the Indus Valley Civilization was the most urbanized. A sophisticated and technologically advanced urban culture is evident in the Indus Valley Civilization making them the first urban centres in the region. The quality of municipal town planning suggests the knowledge of urban planning and efficient municipal governments. By 2600 B.C.E., the early Harappan communities had been turned into large urban centres. Such urban centres include Harappa, Ganeriwala, Mohenjodaro in modern-day Pakistan, and Dholavira, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Rupar, and Lothal in modern-day India.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

168. Name the capital of the Pallavas:
[SSC SO (Commercial Audit) Exam. 2007]

- (a) Kanchi
(b) Vatapi
(c) Tiruchirappalli
(d) Mahabalipuram

Explanation: Pallavas ruled regions of northern Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh between the second to the ninth century C.E. Kanchipuram served as the capital city of the Pallava Kingdom from the 4th to the 9th century. It is also known by its former names Kanchiampathi, Conjeevaram, and the nickname 'The City of Thousand Temples'. Kanchipuram was mentioned in the Mahabhasya, written by Patanjali in the 2nd century B.C.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

169. The word 'Veda' means:
[SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2007]

- (a) Knowledge (b) Wisdom
(c) Skill (d) Power

Explanation: The Vedas ('knowledge') are a large body of texts originating in ancient India. Composed in Vedic Sanskrit, the texts constitute

the oldest layer of Sanskrit literature and the oldest scriptures of Hinduism. The Vedas are *apauruveya* ('not of human agency'). They are supposed to have been directly revealed, and thus are called *sruti* ('what is heard'), distinguishing them from other religious texts, which are called *smriti* ('what is remembered').

Hence, the correct option is (a).

170. Which metal was first used by the Vedic people?
[SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2007]

- (a) Silver (b) Gold
(c) Iron (d) Copper

Explanation: The Rigveda mentions such artisans as the carpenter, the chariot-maker, the weaver, the leather worker, the potter, etc. This indicates that they practiced all these crafts. The term, *ayas* used for copper or bronze shows that metal working was known. Gold was known as 'hiranya'.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

171. Buddhism made an important impact by allowing two sections of society into its fold. They were:
(SSC CPO SI Exam., 2006)

- (a) Merchants and Priests
(b) Moneylenders and Slaves
(c) Warriors and Traders
(d) Women and Sudras

Explanation: Buddha was against caste. His religion was open to all, to sudras, women and even repentant criminals. The Buddhist scriptures were available to all men and women. Buddhism encouraged abolition of distinctions in society and strengthened the principle of social equality.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

172. The language used to write source materials in ancient time was:
(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2006)

- (a) Sanskrit (b) Pali
(c) Brahmi (d) Itharosthi

Explanation: Pali is a Middle Indo-Aryan language (of Prakrit group) of the Indian subcontinent. It is best known as the language of many of the

earliest extant Buddhist scriptures, as collected in the Pali Canon or Tipitaka, and as the liturgical language of Theravada Buddhism. T.W. Rhys Davids in his book *Buddhist India*, and Wilhelm Geiger in his book *Pali Literature and Language*, suggested that Pali may have originated as a form of lingua franca or common language of culture among people who used differing dialects in North India, used at the time of the Buddha and employed by him.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

173. India's trade with the Roman Empire came to an end with the invasion of Rome by the:
(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2006)

- (a) Arabs
- (b) Hungarians
- (c) Hunas
- (d) Turks

Explanation: Roman trade with India started around the beginning of the Common Era following the reign of Augustus and his conquest of Egypt. Following the Roman-Persian Wars Khosrow I of the Persian Sassanian Dynasty captured the areas under the Roman Byzantine Empire. The Arabs, led by 'Amr ibn al-'As, crossed into Egypt in late 639 or early 640 C.E. That advance marked the beginning of the Islamic conquest of Egypt and the fall of ports such as Alexandria, used to secure trade with India by the Greco Roman world since the Ptolemaic dynasty. The decline in trade saw Southern India turn to Southeast Asia for international trade, where it influenced the native culture to a greater degree than the impressions made on Rome. The Hunan invaded the Roman Empire under Attila the Hun in 454 C.E.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

174. Most of the chola temples were dedicated to:
(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2006)

- (a) Ganes
- (b) Shiva
- (c) Durga
- (d) Vishnu

Explanation: Most of the Chola temples were dedicated to Shiva. The great

living Chola temples are important Hindu kovils that were built during the 10th–12th centuries in the South India. In all these temples, the chief deity who has been depicted and worshipped is Lord Shiva.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

175. 'Bull' in Buddhism is associated with which event of Buddha's life?
(SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2006)

- (a) Birth
- (b) Great departure
- (c) Enlightenment
- (d) Mahaparinirvan

Explanation: The five great events in Buddha's life are represented by symbols as under: (a) Birth by Lotus and Bull, (b) Great Renunciation by Horse, (c) Nirvana by Bodhi Tree, (d) First Sermon by Dharmachakra or Wheel and (e) Parinirvana or death by the stupa.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

176. Which of the following would be the most accurate description of the Mauryan Monarchy under Ashoka?
(SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2006)

- (a) Enlightened despotism
- (b) Centralised autocracy
- (c) Oriental despotism
- (d) Guided democracy

Explanation: Despotism is a form of government in which a single entity rules with absolute power. However, in enlightened absolutism (also known as benevolent despotism), absolute monarchs used their authority to institute a number of reforms in the political systems and societies of their countries. During Ashoka's reign, the Mauryan Empire was indeed the first attempt in India to secure administrative centralization on an extended scale. Within its framework it united a number of people and tribes. The nature of the Mauryan government was enlightened despotism. The centralized monarchy became a paternal despotism under the able guidance of Ashoka.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

177. The illustrious names of Aryabhata and Varahamihira are associated with the age of the:

[SSC SO (Commercial Audit) Exam. 2006]

- (a) Guptas
- (b) Kushanas
- (c) Mauryas
- (d) Palas

Explanation: The Gupta Empire was an ancient Indian empire which existed from approximately 320 to 550 C.E. and covered much of the Indian Subcontinent. Scholars of this period include Varahamihira and Aryabhata, who is believed to be the first to come up with the concept of zero, postulated the theory that the Earth moves round the Sun, and studied solar and lunar eclipses. The most famous works of Aryabhata are the *Aryabhatya* and the *Aryasiddhanta*. Varahamihira was an Indian astronomer, mathematician, and astrologer who lived in Ujjain. He is considered to be one of the nine jewels (Navaratnas) of the court of legendary ruler Vikramaditya (thought to be the Gupta emperor Chandragupta II Vikramaditya).

Hence, the correct option is (a).

178. Lothal is a site where dockyards of which of the following civilization were found?

[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2006]

- (a) Indus Valley
- (b) Mesopotamian
- (c) Egyptian
- (d) Persian

Explanation: Lothal is one of the most prominent cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization. Lothal's dock—the world's earliest known, connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river on the trade route between Harappan cities in Sindh and the peninsula of Saurashtra when the surrounding Kutch desert of today was a part of the Arabian Sea. It was a vital and thriving trade centre in ancient times, with its trade of beads, gems and valuable ornaments reaching the far corners of West Asia and Africa.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

179. 'Buddha' means:
(SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2006)

- (a) The Enlightened one
- (b) The Religious Preacher



- (c) The Genius
(d) The Powerful

Explanation: The word Buddha is a title for the first awakened being in an era. 'Buddha' is also sometimes translated as 'The Enlightened One'. As Gautam fully comprehended the Four Noble Truths and as he arose from the slumbers of ignorance he is called a Buddha. Before his Enlightenment he was a bodhisattva which means one who is aspiring to attain Buddhahood. He was not born a Buddha, but became a Buddha by his own efforts. Every aspirant to Buddhahood passes through the bodhisattva period—a period comprising many lives over a vast period of time.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

180. Where do you find the temple of Angkor Wat?

[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2006]

- (a) In Thailand (b) In Malaysia
(c) In Cambodia (d) In Myanmar

Explanation: The temple of Angkor Wat is located in Angkor, Siem Reap Province, in Cambodia. It is the largest Hindu temple complex in the world. The temple was built by King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century in Yasodharapura, the capital of the Khmer Empire, as his state temple and eventual mausoleum. Breaking from the Shaivism tradition of previous kings, Angkor Wat was instead dedicated to Vishnu. As the best preserved temple at the site, it is the only one to have remained a significant religious centre since its foundation first Hindu, dedicated to the God Vishnu, then Buddhist. It has become a symbol of Cambodia, appearing on its national flag, and it is the country's prime attraction for visitors.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

181. The capital of Pallavas was:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2006]

- (a) Arcot (b) Kanchi
(c) Malkhed (d) Banavasi

Explanation: Located on the banks of river yegavathy, Kanchipuram served

as the capital city of the Pallava Kingdom during the 4th to 9th century A.D.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

182. Who defeated Harshavardhan on the banks of Narmada?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2006]

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

Explanation: Harsha's ambition of extending his power to the Deccan and Southern India were stopped by the great Chalukya Emperor of South India Pulakesin II, the Chalukya king of Vatapi in Northern Karnataka along the banks of river Narmada. Pulakeshi defeated Harsha's army on the banks of the river Narmada in 620. A truce was agreed upon and the river Narmada was marked as the southern boundary of Harsha's kingdom.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

183. During whose reign did the Gandhara School of Art blossom?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2006]

- (a) Harsha
(b) Ashok
(c) Kanishka
(d) Chandragupta II

Explanation: The Kushan period is considered the—Golden Period of Gandhara. Peshawar Valley and Taxila are littered with ruins of stupas and monasteries of this period. Gandharan art flourished and produced some of the best pieces of Indian sculpture. Many monuments were created to commemorate the Jataka tales. The Gandhara civilization peaked during the reign of the great Kushan king Kanishka (128–151). The cities of Taxila (Takshasila) at Sirsukh and Peshawar were built.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

184. Both Jainism and Buddhism had no faith in:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2006]

- (a) Yairlas (b) Salvation
(c) Caste system (d) Rituals

Explanation: Jainism and Buddhism arose as a protest against the ritualism of the Hindu religion. Gautam Bud-

dha and Vardhaman Mahavir both belonged to ruling families of Kshatriyas. Buddhism, as well as, Jainism had no faith in Vedic religion. Besides, both these heterodox sects had no faith in caste distinctions and opposed the caste-system vehemently.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

185. The Gupta Saka was founded by:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2006]

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

Explanation: Chandra Gupta was a major king in the Gupta Empire around 320 C.E. and is generally considered the founder of the Gupta dynasty. As the ruler of the Gupta Empire, he is known for forging alliances with many powerful families in the Ganges region. The well known Gupta era which commenced on February 26, 320 A.D. is generally attributed to Chandragupta I. Hence, it is surmised that the Gupta era began on the occasion of the coronation of Chandragupta I.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

186. The language from which the term 'India' is derived is:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2006]

- (a) English (b) Greek
(c) Persian (d) Arabic

Explanation: The name India is derived from Indus, which originates from the Old Persian word Hindu. The latter term stems from the Sanskrit word Sindhu, which was the historical local appellations for the Indus River. The ancient Greeks referred to the Indians as Indoi which translates as 'the people of the Indus'.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

187. Vaishakha Purnima has a great significance because it was on this day:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2006]

- (a) Buddha was born
(b) Buddha got enlightened
(c) Buddha died
(d) All of the above

Explanation: The day of Vaishakha Purnima, which usually falls in the month of May, is considered most sacred by Buddhists all over the world. Buddha attained Supreme Enlightenment or Buddha hood, beneath the Bodhi-tree at Boddha Gaya. Fortyfive years later at the age of eighty, he finally passed away in Parinivana on the same day of the year at Kushinagar. Vaishakha Purnima is celebrated especially in Boddha Gaya, Lumbini and in Kushinara as they are the holy places that were connected with the blessed ones birth, enlighten and the Parinirvana.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

188. How was Burma (now Myanmar) known to ancient Indians?
[SSC CPO SI Exam. 2005]

- (a) Malayamandalam
- (b) Yavadwipa
- (c) Suvarnabhumi
- (d) Suvamadwipa

Explanation: Suvarnabhumi is a Sanskrit term meaning the 'Golden Land' or 'Land of Gold', coined by the ancient Indians which refers broadly to Southeast Asian region across Gulf of Bengal and Eastern Indian Ocean; Lower Burma, Lower Thailand, Lower Malay Peninsula, and Sumatra. Although it seems to cover vast region in Southeast Asia, it is generally accepted that the name Suvarnabhumi was first used to refer more specifically to Lower Burma.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

189. With whom is 'Junagadh Rock Inscription' associated?
[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2005]

- (a) Rudradaman
- (b) Bimbisara
- (c) Chandragupta II
- (d) Gautamiputra Satakarni

Explanation: The Junagadh rock inscription, found in Junagadh, was carved under the orders of King Rudradaman, who had obtained the title of Mahakshatrapa. He was the grandson of the famous Mahakshatrapa Chastana and was a Saka ruler

from the Western Kshatrapa dynasty. The inscription is a chronicle about the rebuilding of a dam named Ujjayat around the lake Sudarshana. The dam lay in the region of Saurashtra and the closest town appears to have been a place called Girinagar. It was fed by the rivers Stivarnasikata and Palasini, along with other smaller streams. The dam was originally built by Vaishya Pushyagupta who was the governor of the region under Chandragupta Maurya. Conduits from the dam were later built under orders of his grandson; Emperor Ashoka.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

190. Nalanda University was a great centre of learning, especially in:
[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2005]

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Vaishnavism
- (d) Tantra

Explanation: Nalanda was an ancient centre of higher learning in Bihar, India. It was a Buddhist centre of learning from the fifth or sixth century C.E. to 1197 C.E. Nalanda flourished between the reign of the Sakraditya (whose identity is uncertain and who might have been either Kumara Gupta-I or Kumara Gupta-II) and 1197 C.E., supported by patronage from the Hindu Gupta rulers as well as Buddhist emperors like Harsha and later emperors from the Pala Empire.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

191. The Rathas of Mahabalipuram was built during the reign of the:
[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2005]

- (a) Palas
- (b) Cholas
- (c) Rashtrakutas
- (d) Pallavas

Explanation: The city of Mahabalipuram was largely developed by the Pallava king Narasimhavarman I in the 7th century A.D. The mandapa or pavilions and the rathas or shrines shaped as temple chariots are hewn from the granite rock face, while the famed Shore Temple, erected half a century later, is built from dressed stone. The Pancha Rathas shrines were carved during the reign of King Mahendrarvarman I and his son Narasimhavar-

man I. The purpose of their construction is not known, structures are not completed.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

192. Who is hailed as the 'God of Medicine' by the practitioners of Ayurveda?

[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2005]

- (a) Susruta
- (b) Chyavana
- (c) Dhanwantari
- (d) Charaka

Explanation: Dhanvantri is an Avatar of Vishnu from the Hindu tradition. He appears in the Vedas and Puranas as the physician of the gods (devas), and the god of Ayurvedic medicine. It is common practice in Hinduism for worshipers to pray to Dhanvantri seeking his blessings for sound health for themselves and/or others. Dhanvantri is depicted as Vishnu with four hands, holding medical herbs in one hand and a pot containing rejuvenating nectar called amrita in another. The Puranas state that Dhanvantri emerged from the 'Ocean of Milk' and appeared with the pot of nectar during the story of the Samudra or Sagar manthan whilst the ocean was being churned by the devas and asuras, using the Mandara mountain and the serpent Vasuki.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

193. Which was the only Indus site with an artificial brick dockyard?
[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2005]

- (a) Lothal
- (b) Kalibangan
- (c) Harappa
- (d) Mohenjodaro

Explanation: Lothal was one of the most prominent cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization. Located in Bhal region of the modern state of Gujarat and dating from 2400 B.C.E., it was discovered in 1954. Lothal was excavated from February 13, 1955 to May 19, 1960 by the Archaeological Survey of India (461). Lothal's dock—the world's earliest known, connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river on the trade route between Harappan cities in Sindh and the peninsula of Saurashtra when the surrounding Kutch desert of today was a part of the Arabian Sea. It was a vital and thriving



trade centre in ancient times, with its trade of beads, gems and valuable ornaments reaching the far corners of West Asia and Africa.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

194. Which dynasty succeeded the Chalukyas in the Western India?
(SSC Statistical Investigators Grade-IV Exam. 2005)

- (a) Cholas (b) Kakatiyas
(c) Pallavas (d) Rashtrakutas

Explanation: The Chalukya dynasty was an Indian royal dynasty that ruled large parts of southern and central India between the 6th and the 12th centuries. The earliest dynasty, known as the 'Badami Chalukyas', ruled from Vatapi (modern Badami) from the middle of the 6th century. The Badami Chalukyas began to assert their independence at the decline of the Kadamba kingdom of Banavasi and rapidly rose to prominence during the reign of Pulakesin II. After the death of Pulakesin II, the Eastern Chalukyas became an independent kingdom in the eastern Deccan. They ruled from Vengi until about the 11th century. In the western Deccan, the rise of the Rashtrakutas in the middle of the 8th century eclipsed the Chalukyas of Badami before being revived by their descendants, the Western Chalukyas, in the late 10th century.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

195. Upto where did Chandragupta Maurya's empire extend in the northwest?
(SSC Statistical Investigators Grade-IV Exam. 2005)

- (a) Ravi river
(b) Indus river
(c) Satluj river
(d) Hindukush range

Explanation: Prior to Chandragupta's consolidation of power, small regional kingdoms dominated the north-western subcontinent, while the Nanda Dynasty dominated the middle and lower basin of the Ganges. After Chandragupta's conquests, the Maurya Empire extended from Bengal and Assam

in the east, to Afghanistan and Balochistan, some part of the eastern and southeast Iran in the west, to Kashmir and Nepal in the north, and to the Deccan Plateau in the south. The vast empire extended from the Bay of Bengal in the east, to the Indus River in the west.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

196. Prince Ellara conquered Sri Lanka in the second century B.C. With which of the following dynasties of Dravida ruler was he associated?

[SSC SO (Commercial Audit) Exam. 2005]

- (a) Chera (b) Chola
(c) Pandya (d) Pallava

Explanation: Elara (235 B.C.–161 B.C.), also known as Manu Needhi Cholan was a Chola king from the Chola Kingdom, in present day South India, who ruled Sri Lanka from 205 B.C. to 161 B.C. from the ancient capital of Anuradhapura. Often referred to as 'the Just King'. The Tamil name Ellalan means, the one who rules the Ellai (boundary). Elara is a peculiar figure in the history of Sri Lanka and one with particular resonance given the ongoing ethnic strife in the country. Although he was an invader, he is often regarded as one of Sri Lanka's wisest and most just monarchs, as highlighted in the ancient Sinhalese chronicle Mahavamsa.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

197. Harshavardhana organized his religious assembly at:

[SSC SO (Commercial Audit) Exam. 2005]

- (a) Mathura (b) Prayag
(c) Varanasi (d) Tarnralipt

Explanation: After the Kannauj Assembly was concluded, Hiuen Tsang was making preparations to go to his home, but Harsha invited him to attend another Assembly at Prayag which he used to hold after every five years on the confluence of Ganga and Yamuna. Five such assemblies had already taken place and this was the sixth assembly in which Hiuen Tsang was invited. This ceremony was attended by the kings

of 18 kingdoms and about 5,00,000 people including Sramanas. Heretics, Nigranthas, the poor, the orphans etc. The Prayag Assembly is a glorious example of the generosity of Harshavardhana as he gave all his personal wealth and belongings in charity during the assembly.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

198. Which of the following domesticated animals was absent in the terracottas of the Indus civilisation?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2005)

- (a) Buffalo (b) Sheep
(c) Cow (d) Pig

Explanation: The Indus Valley Civilization made sculptures mainly in stone, metal and terracotta. Ranging in size from slightly larger than a human thumb to almost 30 cm. (one foot) in height, the anthropomorphic and animal terracotta figurines from Harappa and other Indus Civilization sites offer a rich reflection of some of the Harappan ideas about representing life in the Bronze Age. From the terracotta figurines, we come to know that the people of Harappa domesticated animals like oxen, buffaloes, pigs, goats and sheep. Camels and asses were used as means of transport. Dogs and cats were kept as pets. The humped bull was considered a great asset in the farming community.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

199. Which among the following is the sacred book of the Buddhists?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2005)

- (a) Upanishad (b) Vedas
(c) Tripitaka (d) Jatakas

Explanation: Tripitaka is a traditional term used by various Buddhist sects to describe their various canons of scriptures. As the name suggests, a Tripitaka traditionally contains three 'baskets' of teachings: a Sutra Pitaka (Sanskrit; Pali: Sutta Pitaka), a Vinaya Pitaka (Sanskrit & Pali) and an Abhidharma Pitaka (Sanskrit; Pali: Abhidhamma Pitaka).

Hence, the correct option is (c).

200. The greatest development in the Kushana period was in the field of:

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2005)

- (a) Religion (b) Art
(c) Literature (d) Architecture

Explanation: The Kushanas were great patrons of art. It was under the rule of the Kushans that principles were formed for making sculptural images, which continued to influence making of sculptures ever after. During this time, Buddha was first shown in human form (earlier he was represented by symbols like lotus and foot steps). Other Hindu and Jain deities also began to be shown in human form. Mathura and Gandhara were the two main centers of art during the time of the Kushanas. The Gandhara School of Art and the Mathura School of Art developed their own distinct styles. The Gandhara School was highly influenced by Greco-Roman philosophy and mainly concentrated on depicting the image of the Buddha and the legends associated with his life, while the Mathura School drew inspiration from local folk deities and themes from day to day life.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

201. Who was the first known Gupta ruler?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2005)

- (a) Sri Gupta
(b) Chandragupta I
(c) Ghatotkacha
(d) Kumaragupta I

Explanation: Sri Gupta (240–280) was a preimperial Gupta king in northern India and start of the Gupta dynasty. The first evidence of Sri Gupta comes from the writings of I-tsing around 690 C.E. who describes that the Poona copper inscription of Prabhavati Gupta, a daughter of Chandragupta, describes 'Maharaja Sri Gupta' as the founder of the Gupta dynasty.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

202. Which was the only Indus city without a citadel?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2005)

- (a) Kalibangan
(b) Harappa
(c) Mohenjodaro
(d) Chanhudaro

Explanation: Excavations at Chanhudaro have revealed three different cultural layers from lowest to the top being Indus culture, the Jhukar culture and the Jhangar culture. The site is especially important for providing evidences about different Harappan factories. These factories produced seals, toys and bone implements. It was the only Harappan city without a citadel.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

203. Ashoka called the Third Buddhist Council at:

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2005)

- (a) Pataliputra (b) Magadha
(c) Kalinga (d) Sarnath

Explanation: The Third Buddhist council was convened in about 250 B.C.E. at Ashokaramaya in Pataliputra, supposedly under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka. The traditional reason for convening the Third Buddhist Council is reported to have been to rid the Sangha of corruption and bogus monks who held heretical views. It was presided over by the Elder Moggaliputta Tissa and one thousand monks participated in the Council.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

204. The tutor of Alexander, the Great was:

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2005)

- (a) Darius (b) Cyrus
(c) Socrates (d) Aristotle

Explanation: Aristotle was a Greek philosopher and polymath, a student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great. Together with Plato and Socrates (Plato's teacher), Aristotle is one of the most important founding figures in Western philosophy. Aristotle's writings were the first to create a comprehensive system of Western philosophy, encompassing morality, aesthetics, logic, science, politics, and metaphysics. Aristotle was invited by Philip II of Macedon to become the tutor to his

son Alexander in 343 B.C. Aristotle was appointed as the head of the royal academy of Macedon. During that time he gave lessons not only to Alexander, but also to two other future kings: Ptolemy and Cassander. Aristotle encouraged Alexander toward eastern conquest.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

205. Which of the following literary works belongs to classical Sanskrit literature?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2005)

- (a) Dharmapada
(b) Vedas
(c) Meghadutam
(d) Dighanikaya

Explanation: Meghadutam (cloud messenger) is a lyric poem written by Kalidasa, considered to be one of the greatest Sanskrit poets. In Sanskrit literature, the poetic conceit used in the Meghadutam spawned the genre of sandesha kavya or messenger poems, most of which are modeled on the Meghaduta (and are often written in the Meghaduta's mandakranta metre).

Hence, the correct option is (c).

206. Who propounded the 'Eightfold Path' for the end of misery of mankind?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2005)

- (a) Mahavir
(b) Gautam Buddha
(c) Adi Shankaracharya
(d) Kabir

Explanation: The Noble Eightfold Path is one of the principal teachings of the Buddha, who described it as the way leading to the cessation of suffering (dukkha) and the achievement of self-awakening. It is used to develop insight into the true nature of phenomena (or reality) and to eradicate greed, hatred, and delusion. The Noble Eightfold Path is the fourth of the Buddha's Four Noble Truths; the first element of the Noble Eightfold Path is, in turn, an understanding of the Four Noble Truths. It is also known as the Middle Path or Middle Way.

Hence, the correct option is (b).



207. The number system 'Zero' was invented by:

[SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2005]

- (a) Ramanujam
- (b) Aryabhata
- (c) Patanjali
- (d) An unknown person

Explanation: The concept of zero as a number and not merely a symbol for separation is attributed to India, where by the 9th century A.D., practical calculations were carried out using zero, which was treated like any other number, even in case of division. The credit for inventing 'zero (0)' goes to Indian mathematicians and the number zero first appears in a book about 'arithmetic' written by an Indian mathematician 'Brahmagupta'. Zero signifies 'nothing and the current definition calls it an 'additive identity'. The Indian mathematicians Bhaskara, Mahavira and Brahmagupta worked on this new number and they tried to explain its properties. It wasn't that somebody suddenly came up with the idea of the zero and the mathematicians throughout the world accepted it. Around 500 A.D., Aryabhata, an Indian mathematician, devised a numbers system and the symbol he used for the number zero was also the number used to represent an unknown element (x).

Hence, the correct option is (b).

208. 'Charak' was the famous court physician of:

[SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2005]

- (a) Harsha
- (b) Chandragupta Maurya
- (c) Ashoka
- (d) Kanishka

Explanation: Charaka was one of the principal contributors to the ancient art and science of Ayurveda, a system of medicine and lifestyle developed in Ancient India. He is referred to as the Father of Medicine. The life and times of Charaka are not known with certainty. Some Indian scholars have stated that Charaka of Charaka Sainhita existed before Parkin, the grammarian, who is said to have lived before

the sixth century B.C. Another school argues that Patanjali wrote a commentary on the medical work of Charaka. They say that if Patanjali lived around 175 B.C., Charaka must have lived some time before him. Another source about the identity of Charaka and his times is provided by the French orientalist Sylvan Levi. He discovered in the Chinese translation of the Buddhist Tripitaka, a person named Charaka who was a court physician to the Indo-Scythian king Kanishka, who in all probability reigned in the second century A.D. From the above discussion, it would seem that Charaka may have lived between the second century B.C. to the second century A.D.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

209. Where has the world's is monolithic statue of Buddhism been installed?

(SSC Combined Graduate Prelim Exam. 2004)

- (a) Bamiyan
- (b) Hyderat
- (c) Kandy
- (d) Lhasa

Explanation: The Buddhas of Bamiyan were two 6th century monumental statues of standing Buddha carved into the side of a cliff in the Bamiyan Valley in the Hazarajat region of central Afghanistan. They were dynamited and destroyed in March 2001 by the Taliban, on orders from leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, after the Taliban government declared that they were idols. On 8th September 2008 archeologists searching for a legendary 300-metre statue at the site of the already dynamited Buddhas announced the discovery of an unknown 19-metre (62-foot) reclining Buddha, a pose representing Buddha's passage into nirvana.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

210. The Harappan Civilization discovered in the year:

(SSC Combined Graduate Prelim Exam. 2004)

- (a) 1935
- (b) 1942
- (c) 1901
- (d) 1922

Explanation: In 1872-75 Alexander Cunningham published the first Harappan seal (with an erroneous identification as Brahmi letters). It was half a century later, in 1912, that more Harappan seals were discovered by J. Fleet, prompting an excavation campaign under Sir John Hubert Marshall in 1921-22 and resulting in the discovery of the civilization at Harappa by Sir John Marshall, Rai Bahadur Daya Rain Sahni and Madho Sarup Vats, and at Mohenjodaro by Rakhil Das Banerjee, E.J.H. MacKay, and Sir John Marshall.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

211. The title 'Indian Napoleon' has been attached to:

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2004 and SSC Level DEO)

- (a) Chandragupta Maurya
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Chandragupta I
- (d) Harshavardhana

Explanation: Samudragupta (335-375 A.D.) of the Gupta dynasty is known as the Napoleon of India. Historian A.V. Smith called him so because of his great military conquests known from the 'Prayag Prashati' written by his courtier and poet Harisena, who also describes him as the hero of a hundred battles. But some leading Indian historians criticise Smith and feel that Samudragupta was a far greater warrior than Napoleon, as the former never lost any battle.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

212. The 'Ajivikas' were a:

[SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2004]

- (a) Sect contemporary to the Buddha
- (b) Breakaway branch of the Buddhists
- (c) Sect founded by Charvaka
- (d) Sect founded by Shankaracharya

Explanation: Ajivika ('living' in Sanskrit) was a system of ancient Indian philosophy and an ascetic movement of the Mahajanapada period in the Indian subcontinent. Ajivika was primarily a heterodox Hindu (Nastika) or atheistic system. The Ajivikas may simply have been a more loosely-organized group of wandering ascetics (shramanas or sannyasins). One of their prominent

leaders was Makkhali Gosala. Ajivikas are thought to be contemporaneous to other early Hindu philosophical schools of thought, such as Charvaka, Jainism and Buddhism, and may have preceded the latter two systems.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

213. The organic relationship between the ancient cultures of the Indus Valley and Hinduism of today is proved by the worship of:

[SSC TA (IT & CE) Exam. 2004]

- (a) Pashupati, Indra and the Mother Goddess
- (b) Stones, trees and animals
- (c) Vishnu and Lakshmi
- (d) Siva and Sakti

Explanation: There has been evidence that the people of the Indus Valley Civilization believed in some form of animal and nature worship. The figure of deities on the seals indicates that they worshipped gods and goddesses in the human form. No major sculpture survives but for a bust thought to be of a major priest and the stunning bronze dancing girl. The Divine Mother appears to have been an important goddess, due to the countless terracotta statues of her that were found. What is most interesting is the existence of a male god which has been identified as a proto-type of an important God of the religion of Hinduism, Lord Shiva. The fact that the same God is still worshipped today, and has been for the last five thousand years is one of the remarkable features of Indian culture.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

214. The Saka era commencing from A.D. 78, was founded by:

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) Kanishka
- (b) Ashoka
- (c) Chandragupta
- (d) Vikramaditya

Explanation: The Saka era commencing from 78 A.D. was founded by Kanishka.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

215. Gandhadrva School of Art came into existence in:

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) Hinayana sect
- (b) Mahayana sect
- (c) Vaishnava sect
- (d) Shaiva sect

Explanation: The Gandhara school of art is mainly related to Mahayana Buddhism which encouraged image worship. The Kushan kings, particularly Kanishka, encouraged the Gandhara artists. The Gandhara sculptures have been found in the ruins of Taxila and in various ancient sites in Afghanistan and in West Pakistan. They consist mostly of the images of the Buddha and relief sculptures presenting scenes from Buddhist texts. A number of Bodhisattva figures were carved out.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

216. Out of the following remains excavated in Indus Valley, which one indicates the commercial and economic development?

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) The Pottery
- (b) Seals
- (c) The boats
- (d) The houses

Explanation: The seals of the Indus Valley Civilization have been one of the major sources for information about the period. Apart from giving plethora of informations about the social and religious life of the period, they give insight into the economic activities. Trade amongst the civilizations is suggested by the finding of hundreds of small seals, supposedly produced by the Indus peoples, at the excavation sites of ancient Mesopotamian cities that were existent around the same time.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

217. Who, according to the Buddhists, is believed to be the next incarnation of Gautam Buddha?

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) Atreya
- (b) Maitreya
- (c) Nagarjuna
- (d) Kaki

Explanation: Maitreya is foretold as a future Buddha of this world in Bud-

dhist eschatology. In some Buddhist literature, such as the Amitabha Sutra and the Lotus Sutra, he or she is referred to as Ajita Bodhisattva. Maitreya is a bodhisattva who in the Buddhist tradition is to appear on Earth, achieve complete enlightenment, and teach the pure dharma.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

218. Who among the following were contemporaries of Kanishka?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2003)

- (a) Kamban, Banabhatta, Asvagosha
- (b) Nagarjuna, Asvagosha, Vasumitra
- (c) Asvagosha, Kalidasa, Banabhatta
- (d) Kalidasa, Kamban, Vasumitra

Explanation: The eminent Buddhist writers Nagarjuna, Asvaghosha, Parsva and Vasumitra flourished at the court of Kanishka. Nagarjuna was the great exponent of Mahayana doctrine and Asvaghosha, a multifaceted personality, was known as a poet, musician, scholar and zealous Buddhist monk. Vasumitra presided over the fourth Buddhist Council.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

219. Which rulers built the Ellora Temples?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2003)

- (a) Chalukya
- (b) Sunga
- (c) Rashtrakuta
- (d) Pallava

Explanation: The only definite inscriptional evidence is that of Rashtrakuta Dantidurga (c. 753–57 A.D.). The majority of the Brahmanical establishments and the remaining Buddhist ones can be attributed to the Rashtrakuta times which indicate the religious tolerance of the contemporary period.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

220. Who amongst the following also had the name 'Devanama Piyadassi'?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2003)

- (a) Maurya King Ashoka
- (b) Maurya King Chandragupta Maurya
- (c) Gautam Buddha
- (d) Bhagavaan Mahavira



Explanation: The Edicts of Ashoka are a collection of 33 inscriptions on the Pillars of Ashoka, as well as boulders and cave walls, made by the Emperor Ashoka of the Mauryan dynasty during his reign from 269 B.C.E. to 231 B.C.E. In these inscriptions, Ashoka refers to himself as 'Beloved of the Gods' and 'King Priyadarshi'. The identification of King Priyadarshi with Ashoka was confirmed by an inscription discovered in 1915 by C. Beadon at Maski, the village in Raichur district of Karnataka. Another minor rock edict is found at the village Gujarrā in Datia district of Madhya Pradesh. This also shows the Name 'Ashoka' in addition to usual 'Devanam Piyadassi'.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

221. The subject matter of Ajanta Paintings pertains to:
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2003)

- (a) Jainism (b) Buddhism
(c) Vaishnavism (d) Shaivism

Explanation: The Ajanta Caves are the treasure house of delicate paintings that portray scenes from Jataka tales and from the life of Lord Buddha. Celebrated for its archaic wonder and laced with the series of carved artistry, Ajanta Cave paintings echo the quality of Indian creativity in perhaps the subtlest ways. In the Ajanta wall-paintings, there is a profound modification from the art of early Buddhism.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

222. Which of the following Craftsmanship was not practiced by the Aryans?
(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) Pottery (b) Jewellery
(c) Carpentry (d) Blacksmith

Explanation: Iron was a metal unknown to the Aryans during the early Vedic age. The advent of iron is generally associated with the late or post-Vedic ages. So blacksmith did not exist during this period.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

223. Mohammed Bin Qasim conquered Sindh in the year:
(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) 712 A.D. (b) 812 A.D.
(c) 912 A.D. (d) 1012 A.D.

Explanation: The Arab conquest of Sindh by Muhammad Bin Qasim in 712 A.D. gave the Muslims a firm foothold on the sub-continent. Qasim's conquest of Sindh and Punjab laid the foundations of Islamic rule in the Indian subcontinent.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

224. The words 'Satyameva Jayate' in the State Emblem of India were taken from:

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) Upanishad (b) Samaveda
(c) Rigveda (d) Ramayana

Explanation: 'Satyameva Jayate' (Truth Alone Triumphs) is a mantra from the ancient Indian scripture Mundaka Upanishad. Upon independence of India, it was adopted as the national motto of India. It is inscribed in Devanagari script at the base of the national emblem.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

225. The earliest city discovered in India was:

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) Harappa
(b) Punjab
(c) Mohenjodaro
(d) Sindh

Explanation: The ruins of Harappa were first described in 1842 by Charles Masson in his Narrative of Various Journeys in Balochistan, Afghanistan, and the Punjab, where locals talked of an ancient city extending 'thirteen cosses' (about 25 miles), but no archaeological interest would attach to this for nearly a century. In 1856, General Alexander Cunningham later director general of the archeological survey of northern India, visited Harappa where the British engineers John and William Brunton were laying the East Indian Railway Company line connecting the cities of Karachi and Lahore in 1872-75.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

226. The famous rock-cut temple Kailasa is at:

(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) Ajanta
(b) Badarni
(c) Mahabalipuram
(d) Ellora

Explanation: Kailashnath Temple is a famous temple, one of the 34 monasteries and temples, extending over more than 2 km, that were dug side by side in the wall of a high basalt cliff in the complex located at Ellora, Maharashtra, India. Of these 34 monasteries and temples, the Kailasa (cave 16) is a remarkable example of Dravidian architecture on account of its striking proportion; elaborate workmanship architectural content and sculptural ornamentation of rock-cut architecture.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

227. Epigraphy means:
(SSC CPO SI Exam. 2003)

- (a) The study of coins
(b) The study of inscriptions
(c) The study of epics
(d) The study of geography

Explanation: Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions on rocks, pillars, temple walls, copper plates and other writing material. It is the study of inscriptions or epigraphs as writing; it is the science of identifying graphemes, clarifying their meanings, classifying their uses according to dates and cultural contexts, and drawing conclusions about the writing and the writers. It serves as primary documentary evidence to establish legal, socio-cultural, literary, archaeological, and historical antiquity on the basis of engravings.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

228. Which among the following has been found in the excavated Harappan sites?

(SSC SO Exam. 2003)

- (a) Drains and well
(b) Fort
(c) Reservoirs
(d) Temple with Shikhara

Explanation: Sikhara, a Sanskrit word translating literally to 'mountain peak' refers to the rising tower in the Hindu temple architecture of North India. Sikhara over the sanctum sanctorum where the presiding deity is enshrined is the most prominent and visible part of a Hindu temple of North India. Sikhara was a major feature of the medieval times.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

229. Which among the following 'MATH' is related with Buddhism?

(SSC SO Exam. 2003)

- (a) Dakluna (b) Chaitya
(c) Khangah (d) Angeri

Explanation: A chaitya is a Buddhist or Jain shrine including a stupa. In modern texts on Indian architecture, the term chaitya-griha is often used to denote assembly or prayer hall that houses a stupa. Chaityas were probably constructed to hold large numbers of devotees and to provide shelter for them.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

230. Which among the following is the oldest dynasty?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2002)

- (a) Maurya (b) Gupta
(c) Kushan (d) Kanva

Explanation: Mauryan dynasty is the oldest dynasty which ruled from 321 to 185 B.C. The Empire was founded in 322 B.C. by Chandragupta Maurya. The Gupta Empire was an ancient Indian empire which existed from approximately 320 to 550 C.E. and covered much of the Indian subcontinent.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

231. With which of the following is the classic 'Jivaka Chintamani' in Tamil associated?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2002)

- (a) Jainism (b) Buddhism
(c) Hinduism (d) Christianity

Explanation: Jivaka Chintamani (fabulous gem) is a classical epic poem, considered one of the five great Tamil

epics according to later Tamil literary tradition, the others being Manimegalai, Silappadikaram, Valayapathi and Kundalakesi.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

232. Where did Lord Buddha breathe his last?

[SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2002 and SSC SO (Commercial Audit) Exam. 2005 and SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002 (Re-Exam.)]

- (a) Rajgir (b) Bodh Gaya
(c) Sarnath (d) Kushinagar

Explanation: Kushinagar is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Gautama Buddha is thought to have attained Parinirvana after his death.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

233. Who were the first kings to issue gold coins in India?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2002)

- (a) Mauryas (b) Indo Greeks
(c) Guptas (d) Kushans

Explanation: The Indo-Greek kings were the first to issue gold coins in India and their coins were special in the sense that each king had his own distinctive coins by which he could be definitely identified.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

234. Where is Brihadeshwar Temple situated?

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2002)

- (a) Kanchi (b) Madura
(c) Shri Shailan (d) Tanjore

Explanation: The Brihadeshwar Temple at Thanjavur (Tanjore) in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva and a brilliant example of the major heights achieved by Cholas in Tamil architecture. The temple is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site 'Great Living Chola Temples'.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

235. In Tamil literature the glorious books Shilppadikaram and Manimethalar are related to:

(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2002)

- (a) Jainism (b) Buddhism
(c) Hindusim (d) Christianity

Explanation: Silappadhikaram and Manimekalai are Buddhist epics. Manimekalai, a purely Buddhist work of the 3rd Sangam period in Tamil literature is the most supreme and famous among the Buddhist work done in Tamil.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

236. Who established Mahabalipuram? (SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2002)

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

Explanation: Mahabalipuram was a 7th century port city of the South Indian dynasty of the Pallavas near the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu. The name Mamallapuram is believed to have been given after the Pallava king Narasimhavarman I, who took on the epithet Maha-malla (great wrestler), as the favourite sport of the Pallavas was wrestling.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

237. The last Buddhist king who was a great Sanskrit scholar and a writer was:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Kanishka
(b) Ashoka
(c) Bimbisara
(d) Harshavardhana

Explanation: Harshavardhana was a good scholar and a noted author. He wrote three plays in Sanskrit namely, Ratnavali, Priyadarsika and Nagananda. We can find well-documented record of his reign in the work of his court poet Banabhatta.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

238. Who built Brihadeshwara Temple at Tanjore?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Aditya Chola
(b) Raja Raja Chola
(c) Rajendra Chola
(d) Karikala Chola

Explanation: The famous Chola temple built at Thanjavur (Tanjore) is known as the Brihadeshwara Temple. It is also called the Rajarajeshwara Temple after the name of king Rajaraja who built it



in honour of Lord Shiva in about 1009 A.D. It is a tribute and a reflection of the power of its patron Raja Raja Chola I. It remains India's largest temple.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

239. Who among the following foreigners was the first to visit India?
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002; 2006]

- (a) Hiuen Tsang (b) Magasthenese
(c) I-tsing (d) Fahien

Explanation: Megasthenes was a Greek ethnographer and explorer in the Hellenistic period, author of the work *Indica*. He became an ambassador of Seleucus I of the Seleucid dynasty possibly to Chandragupta Maurya in Pataliputra, India. Scholars place it before 298 B.C., the date of Chandragupta's death. Hiuen Tsang came during the reign of Harshavardhana; while I-tsing and Fahien came during the Gupta times.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

240. The Third Buddhist Council was patronized by:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Kanishka
(b) Ashoka
(c) Mahakashyap Upali
(d) Sabakarni

Explanation: The Third Buddhist council was convened in about 250 B.C.E. at Ashokarama in Pataliputra, supposedly under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka. It was presided over by the Elder Moggaliputta Tissa and one thousand monks participated in the council. The council is recognized and known to both the Theravada and Mahayana schools, though its importance is central only to the Theravada school.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

241. Carving in the famous Ajanta caves was first started during the reign of the:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Kadambas (b) Satavahanas
(c) Rashtrakutas (d) Marathas

Explanation: The earlier phase of Ajanta falls between 3rd century B.C.E. to second century B.C. In this phase,

just five caves were excavated: Caves 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15A. The region during this time was ruled by the Satavahana dynasty (230 B.C.–c. 220 A.D.). Therefore, they may be called the Satavahana period caves. This phase is also widely known as the Hinayana phase.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

242. The official court language of the Gupta's was:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Pali (b) Prakrit
(c) Hindi (d) Sanskrit

Explanation: The Sanskrit language once ignored under the Buddhist and Jain influence, was patronized during the Gupta period. It was recognized as the court language and was used in their inscriptions. Gradually it became the lingua franca of India. Some of the well-known scholars who flourished during this period were: Kalidasa, Vishakhadutta, Shudraka, Bharavi, Dandin, Subandhu, etc.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

243. Which of the following option is match?
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Alora Shakas
(b) Mahabalipuram Rashtrakuta
(c) Meenakshi Temple Pallavi
(d) Khajuraho Chandelas

Explanation: Khajuraho was the cultural capital of Chandela Rajputs, a Hindu dynasty that ruled this part of India from the 10–12th centuries. The political capital of the Chandelas was Kalinjar. The Khajuraho temples were built over a span of 200 years, from 950 to 1150. The Chandela capital was moved to Mahoba after this time, but Khajuraho continued to flourish for some time. Khajuraho has no forts because the Chandela Kings never lived in their cultural capital.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

244. The most distinguished ruler of the Chalukyan dynasty was:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Jayasimha II
(b) Vikramaditya VI

- (c) Somesvara II
(d) Pulakesin II

Explanation: Pulakeshi II was the most famous ruler of the Chalukya dynasty. In his reign the Chalukyas of Badami saw their kingdom extend over most of the Deccan. Pulakeshi II routed the Pallava king Mahendravarman I in the battle of Pullalur. In a decisive battle fought on the banks of the river Narmada, Pulakeshi defeated Harshavardhana.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

245. 'Marsha Charita' was written by:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Kalidasa (b) Banabhatta
(c) Valmiki (d) Vyasa

Explanation: The Harshacharita, is the biography of Indian Emperor Harsha by Banabhatta, also known as Bana, who was a Sanskrit writer of 7th century in India. He was the 'Asthana Kavi', meaning 'Court Poet', of King Harshavardhan.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

246. The capital of Kanishka was:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Purushapura (b) Benares
(c) Allahabad (d) Sarnath

Explanation: The Kushan king Kanishka, who reigned from at least 127 A.D., moved the capital from Pushkalavati (now called Charsadda in the Peshawar valley) to Purushapura (Peshawar) in the 2nd century A.D. Following this move by the Kushans, Peshawar became a great center of Buddhist learning even though Zoroastrianism, Hinduism and animism seem to have survived in the majority population.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

247. In which language were the Buddhist-texts Pitakas composed?
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Sanskrit (b) Ardhamagadhi
(c) Pali (d) Prakrit

Explanation: Tripitaka is the collection of the teachings of the Buddha over 45 years in the Pali language,

and it consists of Sutta—conventional teaching, Vinaya—disciplinary code, and Abhidhamma—moral psychology. Tripitaka is the main categories of texts that make up the Buddhist canon.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

248. Who was called India's Napoleon because of his victories?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002 and SSC Multi-tasking (Non-tech) Staff Exam. 2014 and SSC Stenographer (Grade 'C' & 'D') Exam. 2010]

- (a) Skandagupta (b) Chandragupta
(c) Brahmagupta (d) Samudragupta

Explanation: Samudragupta, ruler of the Gupta Empire, and successor to Chandragupta I, is considered to be one of the greatest military geniuses in Indian history according to Historian V.A. Smith. He was called the Napoleon of India because he wanted to conquer more and more.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

249. Buddhism in Nepal was introduced during the reign of:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Samudragupta
(b) Ashoka
(c) Chandragupta
(d) Harshavardhana

Explanation: As a Buddhist emperor, Ashoka sent many prominent Buddhist monks (bhikshus) Sthaviras like Madhyamik Sthavira to modern Kashmir and Afghanistan; Maharaskshit Sthavira to Syria, Persia, Iran, Egypt, Greece, Italy and Turkey; and Massim Sthavira to Nepal. He built a number of stupas, sangharama, viharas, chaitya, and residences for Buddhist monks all over South Asia and Central Asia. The Ashoka pillar at Lumbini, Nepal speaks about Ashoka and his works.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

250. The Pallavas ruled from:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Kanchipuram (b) Madurai
(c) Tanjore (d) Tiruchendur

Explanation: The Pallavas ruled regions of northern Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh between the

second to the 9th century A.D. Their capital was Kanchipuram. Located on the banks of river Vegavathy, it served as the capital city of the Pallava Kingdom during the 4th to 9th century A.D.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

251. The Gandhara style of sculpture, during the Kushan period is a combination of:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Indo-Islamic style
(b) Indo-Persian style
(c) Indo-China style
(d) Indo-Greek style

Explanation: Gandhara sculpture was an amalgamation of Indo-Greek styles. The distinguishing Gandhara sculpture is the standing or seated Buddha. The western classical factor rests in the style, in the handling of the robe, and in the physiognomy of Buddha. The cloak, which covers all but the appendages is dealt like in Greek and Roman sculptures.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

252. The greatest Kushan leader who got converted to Buddhism was:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Kujala (b) Vima
(c) Kanishka (d) Kadphises

Explanation: Kanishka's reputation in Buddhist tradition is based mainly that he convened the 4th Buddhist Council in Kashmir. Images of the Buddha based on 32 physical signs were made during his time. He provided encouragement to both the Gandhara school of Greco-Buddhist Art and the Mathura school of Hindu art. Kanishka personally seems to have embraced both Buddhism and the Persian cult of Mithra.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

253. The Gupta king who assumed the title of Vikramaditya was:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

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

Explanation: Chandragupta II was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta empire in northern India. His rule spanned c. 380–413/415 A.D., during which the Gupta Empire achieved its zenith, art, architecture, and sculpture flourished, and the cultural development of ancient India reached its climax. He adopted the title of Vikramaditya which holds a semi-mythical status in India.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

254. Which ruler murdered his father Bimbisara to ascend the throne?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Ashoka (b) Ajatashatru
(c) Kanishka (d) Simukha

Explanation: Ajatashatru was a king of the Magadha empire in north India. He was the son of King Bimbisara, the great monarch of Magadha. He was contemporary to Mahavira and Buddha. According to the Jain tradition Bimbisara committed suicide while according to Buddhist tradition he was brutally murdered by his own son.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

255. Which ruler founded the famous Vikramashila University for the Buddhists?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Mahipala (b) Devapala
(c) Gopala (d) Dharmapala

Explanation: The Vikramashila University was one of the two most important centers of Buddhist learning in India during the Pala dynasty, along with Nalanda University. It was established by King Dharmapala (783 to 820) in response to a supposed decline in the quality of scholarship at Nalanda. Atisha, the renowned pandita, is sometimes listed as a notable abbot.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

256. A great astronomer and mathematician during the Gupta period were:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Bhanugupta (b) Vagabhatta
(c) Aryabhata (d) Varahamihira

Explanation: Aryabhata was the first in the line of great mathematician-astronomers from the classical age of Indian mathematics and Indian astronomy who belonged to the Gupta era. His period was 476–550 A.D. His most famous works are the Aryabhatiya (499 A.D.) and the Arya-Siddhanta.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

257. Which of the following Gupta kings stopped the Huns from invading India?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Kumaragupta
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Skandagupta
- (d) Chandragupta

Explanation: Skandagupta was a Gupta Emperor of northern India. He is generally considered the last of the great Gupta Emperors who faced some of the greatest challenges in the annals of the empire having to contend with the Pushyarnitras and the Hunas (a name by which the 'White Huns' were known in India). He crushed the Hun invasion in 455, and managed to keep them at bay; however, the expense of the wars drained the empire's resources and contributed to its decline.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

258. Alexander and the army of Porus camped on the opposite banks of the river:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Ravi
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Sutlej
- (d) Chenab

Explanation: The Battle of the Hydaspes River was fought by Alexander the Great in 326 B.C. against King Porus of the Hindu Paurava kingdom on the banks of the Hydaspes River (Jhelum River) in the Punjab. The battle resulted in a complete Macedonian victory and the annexation of the Punjab. The battle is historically significant for opening up India for Greek political (Seleucid Empire, Indo-Greeks) and cultural influence (Greco-Buddhist art) which was to continue for many centuries.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

259. Who were the first to issue gold coins in India?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Kushans
- (b) Tatars
- (c) Mughals
- (d) Aryans

Explanation: The Indo-Greek kings were the first to issue gold coins in India and their coins were special in the sense that each king had his own distinctive coins by which he could be definitely identified. However, some scholars contend that this credit should go to the Kushan kings. Vilna Kadphises is said to be the first to introduce gold coinage in India. In addition to the existing copper and silver coinage.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

260. Who among the following were the first to invade India?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Afghans
- (b) Mongols
- (c) Arabs
- (d) Turks

Explanation: The advent of Muslims in India was marked by the Arab conquest of Sind, though long before that the Arabs already had settlements on the western coast of India. Muhammad Bin Qasim, under the order of Hajjaj, advanced in 710 A.D., at the head of a considerable army, subdued Mukran, pushed on through Baluchistan and in 711–12 reduced Sindh, the lower valley and delta of the Indus.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

261. Who amidst the following was a wife of emperor Ashoka who influenced him?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Chandalika
- (b) Chamlata
- (c) Gautami
- (d) Karuvaki

Explanation: Maharani Karuvaki was Empress consort of the Maurya Empire as the first wife of Emperor Ashoka. Legends says that Karuvaki was the daughter of a fisher man. It is said that she led an army of females against Ashoka in Kalinga after Kalinga had no males left to defend it.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

262. The famous Kailasa Temple cut out of the solid rock at Ellora cave was built under the patronage of the:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Cholas
- (b) Kadambas
- (c) Pallavas
- (d) Rashtrakutas

Explanation: Kailashnath Temple is a famous temple, one of the 34 monasteries and temples, known collectively as the Ellora Caves which was built in the 8th century by the Rashtrakuta king Krishna-I.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

263. 'Purushapura' is the other name for:

(SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Patna
- (b) Pataliputra
- (c) Peshawar
- (d) Punjab

Explanation: The Kushan king Kanishka moved the capital from Pushicalavati to Purushapura. (Peshawar) in the 2nd century A.D. Following this move by the Kushans, Peshawar became a great center of Buddhist learning.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

264. Which of the following was the capital of the Chola Kings?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2002]

- (a) Kanchi
- (b) Tanjore
- (c) Madura
- (d) Trichirapally

Explanation: Thanjavur, formerly Tanjore, first rose to prominence during the reign of the Medieval Cholas when it served as the capital of the Chola empire. After the fall of the Cholas, the city was ruled by various dynasties like Pandyas, Vijayanagar Empire, Madurai Nayaks, Thanjavur Nayaks, Thanjavur Marathas and the British.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

265. Tripitaka' is the religious book of:

[SSC CML (PRE) Re-Exam. 2002]

- (a) Jains
- (b) Buddhists
- (c) Sikhs
- (d) Hindus

Explanation: Tripitaka is the three main categories of texts that make up

the Buddhist canon. As the name suggests, a Tripitaka traditionally contains three 'baskets' of teachings: a Sutra Pitaka, a Vinaya Pitaka and an Abhidharma Pitaka.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

266. Which of the following materials was mainly used in the manufacture of Harappan seals?

[SSC CML (PRE) Re-Exam. 2002]

- (a) Terracota (b) Bronze
(c) Copper (d) Iron

Explanation: Seals are an impressive part of surviving art of Harappan culture. Of these the great majority have animals engraved on them and a short inscription. They are mainly made of terracotta which is a type of earthenware, or clay-based unglazed or glazed ceramic, where the fired body is porous.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

267. What inspired the paintings of Ajanta?

[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Compassionate Buddha
(b) Radha Krishan Leela
(c) Jain Thirthankar
(d) Mahabharata encounters

Explanation: Ajanta cave paintings depict the life of Gautam Buddha. The caves include paintings and sculptures considered to be masterpieces of Buddhist religious art (which depict the Jataka tales).

Hence, the correct option is (a).

268. Who among the following was the first to invade India?

[SSC SO (Audit) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Xerxes (b) Alexander
(c) Darius I (d) Seleucus

Explanation: King Darius I who was a Persian king invaded India in 518 B.C.E. He conquered the Indus Valley and the area that is now the state of Punjab. Darius I also began to collect a tribute tax, and spread news of India's many natural resources to Europe.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

269. Taxila was a famous site of:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Early Vedic art
(b) Mauryan art
(c) Gandhara art
(d) Gupta art

Explanation: Taxila dates back to the Gandhava period when it was an important Hindu and Buddhist centre, and is still considered a place of religious and historical sanctity in those traditions. Gandhara art was a style of Buddhist visual art that developed in what is now northwestern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan between the 1st century B.C. and the 7th century A.D. The style, of Greco-Roman origin, seems to have flourished largely during the Kushana dynasty.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

270. The gold coins were introduced first in India by:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) The Kushanas
(b) The Greeks
(c) The Sakas
(d) The Parthians

Explanation: The Indo-Greek kings were the first to issue gold coins in India and their coins were special in the sense that each king had his own distinctive coins by which he could be definitely identified. The names of at least thirty Bactrian kings are known with the help of numerous coins, and they help in the reconstruction of the history of the kings. The coins carry legends in Greek and also in Kharosthi and Brahmi.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

271. Which of the following dynasties conquered Sri Lanka and South-east Asian countries?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) The Pandyas
(b) The Chalukyas
(c) The Cholas
(d) The Rashtrakutas

Explanation: The Chola navy played a vital role in the expansion of the

Chola Empire, including the conquest of the Ceylon islands and Sri Vijaya (present day Indonesia) the spread of Hinduism, Dravidian architecture and Dravidian culture to Southeast Asia and in curbing the piracy in Southeast Asia in the 900 C.E. Inscriptions and historical sources assert that the Medieval Chola king Rajendra Chola I sent a naval expedition to Indo-China, the Malay peninsula and the Indonesian archipelago in 1025 in order to subdue the Srivijaya Empire.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

272. The art style which combines Indian and Greek features is called:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Sikhara
(b) Verna
(c) Nagara
(d) Gandhara

Explanation: Gandhara art is the style of Buddhist visual art that developed in what is now northwestern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan between the 1st century B.C. and the 7th century A.D. The style, of Greco-Roman origin, seems to have flourished largely during the Kushan dynasty and was contemporaneous with an important but dissimilar school of Kushan art at Mathura.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

273. The Harappans were the earliest people to produce:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Seals
(b) Bronze implements
(c) Cotton
(d) Barely

Explanation: The Harappans were the earliest known people to grow cotton. They produced cotton cloth hundreds of years before anyone else. In fact, the Greek word for cotton is *sindon*, a word derived from *Sind* which is a part of the Indus Valley Civilization region.

Hence, the correct option is (c).



274. The Megalithic culture (500 B.C. –A.D. 100) brings us to the historical period in South India. The Megaliths used:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Weapons made of stone
- (b) Tools & implements made of stone
- (c) Graves encircled by big pieces of stones
- (d) Articles of daily use made of stone

Explanation: A megalith is a large stone that has been used to construct a structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones. Many of these, though by no means all, contain human remains, but it is debatable whether use as burial sites was their primary function. Though generally known as dolmens, the correct term accepted by archaeologists is portal tomb.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

275. Chinese pilgrim who visited India during Harsha Vardhan's period was:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Fahien
- (b) I-tsing
- (c) Wang-sung
- (d) Hiuen Tsang

Explanation: Hiuen Tsang was a Chinese pilgrim who came to India in the first half of the seventh century A.D. during the time of Harshavardhan in order to visit the places of pilgrimage associated with Buddha. His object was to secure authentic Buddhist scriptures and visit places of Buddhist interest. On returning to China, he put down all his impressions in a book called Saiyuki or 'The Records of the Western World' which proved to be an invaluable source of information to historians about Harshavardhan and the political, social, economic and religious conditions in India during his reign.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

276. Chalukya king Pulakesin II was defeated by:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Mahendra Varrnan I
- (b) Narasimha Varman I

- (c) Parameshwara Varman I
- (d) Jatila Parantaka

Explanation: Narasimhavarman I, son of Mahendravarman I, was a Tamil king of the Pallava dynasty who ruled South India from 630–668 A.D. He avenged his father's defeat at the hands of the Chalukya king, Pulakesin II in the year 642 C.E. Narasimhavarman was also known as Mamallan (great wrestler) and Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) was named after him. It was during his reign that the Chinese traveller Hieun Tsang visited Kanchipuram.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

277. Greek Roman Art has found a place in:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Ellora
- (b) Gandhara
- (c) Kalinga
- (d) Buddhist Art

Explanation: Greco-Buddhist art is the artistic manifestation of Greco-Buddhism, a cultural syncretism between the Classical Greek culture and Buddhism, which developed over a period of close to 1,000 years in Central Asia, between the conquests of Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C.E. and the Islamic conquests of the 7th century C.E. Under the Indo-Greeks and then the Kushans, the interaction of Greek and Buddhist culture flourished in the area of Gandhara, in today's northern Pakistan, before spreading further into India, influencing the art of Mathura, and then the Hindu art of the Gupta empire, which was to extend to the rest of Southeast Asia.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

278. The Ajanta paintings belong to the:

[SSC Combined Maxim Level (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Harappan period
- (b) Mauryan period
- (c) Buddhist period
- (d) Gupta period

Explanation: The Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra are about 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave mon-

uments which date from the 2nd century B.C.E. to about 480 or 650 A.D. The caves include paintings and sculptures are masterpieces of Buddhist religious art, with figures of the Buddha and depictions of the Jataka tales. Most of the paintings belong to the Nakataka Gupta period.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

279. The Harappans were:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Rural
- (b) Urban
- (c) Nomadic
- (d) Tribal

Explanation: The Harappan cities were planned to serve these functional, social and economic requirements of their inhabitants. The urbanism of the Harappan Civilization is associated with its mature phase. Many scholars have called the Harappan urbanization as 'The Urban Revolution', which could not have been possible without the strong central authority, specialized economic organization and socio-cultural unity.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

280. The crop which was not known to Vedic people is:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Barley
- (b) Wheat
- (c) Rice
- (d) Tobacco

Explanation: Dantidurga (735–756 C.E.), also known as Dantivarman was the founder of the Rashtrakuta Empire of Manyakheta. His capital was based in Gulbarga region of Karnataka. He was succeeded by his uncle Krishna I who extended his kingdom to all of Karnataka.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

281. The Rashtrakuta kingdom was founded by:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Dandi Durga (Danti Durga)
- (b) Amoghavarsha
- (c) Govinda M
- (d) Indra III

Explanation: The Indus Valley Civilization was noted for its cities built of brick, roadside drainage system, and

multistoried houses. The buildings were made of burnt bricks, which have been preserved even to this day. Sun-dried bricks were used for the foundation of the buildings and the roofs were flat and made of wood.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

282. The paintings in the Ajanta and Ellora caves are indicative of development of art under the:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Rashtrakutas (b) Pallavas
(c) Pandyas (d) Chalukyas

Explanation: The Ellora caves were patronized mainly by the Chalukya and the Rashtrakuta Dynasty rulers between the middle of sixth century and the eleventh century A.D. Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra are 28–30 rock-cut cave monuments created during the first century B.C. and 5th century A.D., containing paintings and sculptures considered to be masterpieces of both Buddhist religious art and universal pictorial art.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

283. Gupta Dynasty was famous for:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2001]

- (a) Art and architecture
(b) Imperialism
(c) Revenue and land reform
(d) None of these

Explanation: The peace and prosperity created under the leadership of the Guptas enabled the pursuit of scientific and artistic endeavors. This period is called the Golden Age of India and was marked by extensive inventions and discoveries in science, technology, engineering, art, dialectic, literature, logic, mathematics, astronomy, religion and philosophy that crystallized the elements of what is generally known as Hindu culture.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

284. The rulers of which dynasty started the practice of granting tax-free villages to Brahmanas and Buddhist Monks?
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2000)

- (a) Satavahanas
(b) Mauryas

- (c) Guptas
(d) Cholas

Explanation: Satavahanas started the practice of granting fiscal and administrative immunities to Brahmins and Buddhist monks. Earlier, the grants to individuals were temporary but later grants to religious beneficiaries were permanent.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

285. The most important text of Vedic mathematics is:
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2000)

- (a) Satapatha Brahman
(b) Atharvaveda
(c) Sulvasutras
(d) Chhandogya Upanishad

Explanation: The most important text of vedic mathematics is Shulba Sutras which are sutra texts belonging to the Shrauta ritual and containing geometry related to fire-altar construction. They are part of the larger corpus of texts called the Shrauta Sutras, considered to be appendices to the Vedas. The four major Shulba Sutras, which are mathematically the most significant, are those composed by Baudhayana, Manava, Apastamba and Katyayana.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

286. Yavanika or curtain was introduced in Indian theatre by which of the following?
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2000)

- (a) Shakas (b) Parthians
(c) Greeks (d) Kushans

Explanation: Yavanika or stage curtain was introduced in Indian theatre by Greeks. For the first time in Panini's grammar, there is a reference to Yavana and Yavanani writing.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

287. Who started the Saka Era which is still used by the Government of India?
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 2000)

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

Explanation: Kanishka started Saka era in 78 A.D. and was the mightiest of the Kushan rulers in India. He was in power from 78 A.D. to 120 A.D.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

288. Who, among the following, was not a part of the Mauryan dynasty?
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Ajatsatru
(b) Bindusara
(c) Chandragupta Maurya
(d) None of these

Explanation: Ajatasatru (491 B.C.–c. 461 B.C.) was a king of the Magadha empire in north India. He was the son of King Bimbisara, the great monarch of Magadha. He was contemporary to Mahavira and Buddha.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

289. Sangam Age is associated with the history of:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Banaras (b) Allahabad
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Khajuraho

Explanation: Sangam period is the period in the history of ancient southern India (known as the Tamilakam) spanning from c. 30th century B.C. to e. 4th century C.E. It is named after the famous Sangam academies of poets and scholars centered in the city of Madurai. In old Tamil language, the term Tamilakam referred to the whole of the ancient Tamil-speaking area, corresponding roughly to the present-day Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, parts of Andhra Pradesh, parts of Karnataka and northern Sri Lanka.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

290. Who was the court poet of Harsha?
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Bhani (b) Ravi Kirti
(c) Banabhatta (d) Vishnu Sharma

Explanation: Banabhatta was a Sanskrit prose writer and poet of India. He was the Asthana Kavi in the court of King Harshavardhana, who reigned in the years century. 606–647 C.E. in north India.

Hence, the correct option is (c).



291. Where is the Lingaraj Temple located?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Madurai (b) Tiruchendur
(c) Bhubaneswar (d) Uljain

Explanation: Lingaraj Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Liarihara, another name for Shiva and is one of the oldest temples of Bhubaneswar, a revered pilgrimage center and the capital of Odisha. Shiva is here worshipped as Tribhuvaneshwara (Master of three worlds, i.e., Heaven, Earth and Netherworld). His consort is called Bhuvaneshvari. The temple is traditionally believed to be built by the Somavanshi king Jajati Keshari, in 11th century c.e.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

292. Who wrote the grammatical work Ashtadhyayi?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Charvaka (b) Kautilya
(c) Panini (d) Kapila

Explanation: Panini is known for his Sanskrit grammar, particularly for his formulation of the 3,959 rules of Sanskrit morphology, syntax and semantics in the grammar known as Ashtadhyayi ('eight chapters'), the foundational text of the grammatical branch of the Vedanga, the auxiliary scholarly disciplines of Vedic religion.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

293. Beetapala and Dhiman, the two great artists that India had produced, belonged to the:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Pala Age (b) Gupta Age
(c) Maurya Age (d) Pathan Age

Explanation: Both Beetapala and Dhiman were the artists during the Pala rule in Bengal who flourished in the 9th century A.D. The artistic centre of gravity was displaced after the decline of the Buddhist kings of Bengal when decadence in the style of Dhiman became apparent.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

294. Buddha gave his first religious message at:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Rajagriha (b) Pataliputra
(c) Gaya (d) Samath

Explanation: Sarnath is the deer park where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma, and where the Buddhist Sangha came into existence through the enlightenment of Kondanna. It is located to the north-east of Varanasi, in Uttar Pradesh.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

295. The origins of Indian music could be traced to:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Rigvedic Samhita
(b) Yajurvedic Samhita
(c) Samavedic Samhita
(d) Atharvavedic Samhita

Explanation: The Samaveda is the third of the four Vedas, the ancient core Hindu scriptures, along with the Rigveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda which consists of a collection (samhita) of hymns, portions of hymns, and detached verses, all but 75 taken from the Sakala Sakha of the Rigveda, to be sung, using specifically indicated melodies called Samagana by Udgatar priests at sacrifices. The origins of Indian music is traced from this veda. Samaveda's Upaveda (technical manual) is Gandharvaveda that deals not only with the topics of music but also of dance and theatre.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

296. Who amongst the following is associated with the study of the Harappan Civilization?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Charles Mason
(b) Cunningham
(c) M. Wheeler
(d) M.S. Vats

Explanation: M.S. Vats Excavations at Harappa, gives an account of archaeological excavations at Harappa carried out between the years 1920–21 and 1933–34. M.S. Vats first excavated the 'Granary,' and published the results of his and Sahni's excavations in 1940.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

297. The Gupta era was started by whom?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Ghatotkacha
(b) Srlgupta
(c) Chandragupta I
(d) Samudragupta

Explanation: The Gupta Empire was an ancient Indian empire which existed from approximately 320 to 550 c.e. and covered much of the Indian Subcontinent. It was founded by Maharaja Sri Gupta. The first evidence of Sri Gupta comes from the writings of I-tsing around 690 c.e. who describes that the Poona copper inscription of Prabhavati Gupta, a daughter of Chandragupta, describes 'Maharaja Sri Gupta' as the founder of the Gupta dynasty.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

298. Which Chola king founded the city of Puhar?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Rajendra Chola
(b) Ellara
(c) Senguttavan.
(d) Karikala

Explanation: Karikala was a very popular Chola ruler who founded the city of 'Puhar' (Kaveripatnam) in 1st century B.C. Today is a town in the Nagapattinam district in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu which for a while served as the capital of the early Chola kings in Tamilakkam.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

299. Which Rashtrakuta ruler built the famous Kailash Temple of Shiva at Ellora?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Dantidurga
(b) Amoghvarsha I
(c) Krishan I
(d) Vatsraja

Explanation: Kailashnath Temple is a famous temple, one of the 34 monasteries and temples, known collectively as the Ellora Caves located at Ellora, Maharashtra. It is designed to recall Mount Kailash, the abode of Lord Shi-

va. It is a megalith carved out of one single rock. It was built in the 8th century by the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I. Hence, the correct option is (c).

300. Which museum houses the largest collection of Kushan sculptures?
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Mathura Museum
- (b) Bombay Museum
- (c) Madras Museum
- (d) Delhi Museum

Explanation: The Mathura Museum is famous for ancient sculptures of the Mathura school dating from 3rd century B.C. to 12th century A.D. which attained the pinnacle of glory during the reign of Great Kushan and Gupta Emperors. Mathura school represents cultural syncretism between the Classical Greek culture and Buddhism, which developed over a period of close to 1,000 years in Central Asia, between the conquests of Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C.E. and the Islamic conquests of the 7th century C.E.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

301. Mahavira was born in a Kshatriya clan by the name of:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Shakya
- (b) Janatrika
- (c) Mallas
- (d) Lichhavis

Explanation: Born into the Kshatriya (warrior) caste Mahavira's father was chief of the Jnatraka clan, an indigenously oligarchical tribe. Mahavira's tribal affiliation is reflected in one of his later epithets, Nigantha Nataputta, which means literally the naked ascetic of the Jnatraka clan.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

302. The Virupaksha Temple was built by the:
[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 2000]

- (a) Chalukyas
- (b) Pallavas
- (c) Valcatalcas
- (d) Satavahanas

Explanation: The Virupaksha Temple is located in Hampi near Bangalore, in the state of Karnataka in southern India. Virupaksha is a form of Shiva and has other temples dedicated to him. The

temple's history is uninterrupted from about the 7th century when it was built by the Chalukyas. Evidence indicates there were additions made to the temple in the late Chalukyan and Hoysala periods, though most of the temple buildings are attributed to the Vijayanagar period.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

303. The Social System of the Harappans was:
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 1999)

- (a) Fairly egalitarian
- (b) Slave Labour based
- (c) Colour (Varna) based
- (d) Caste based

Explanation: The Social System of the Harappans was fairly egalitarian because as per record of the Indus Valley Civilization no evidence of armies, kings, slaves, social conflict, prisons, etc. were found. If there were neither slaves nor kings, a more egalitarian system of governance may have been practiced. Also the houses were of nearly equal size in Harrapa indicating a more egalitarian social structure.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

304. Which of the following Vedas provides information about the civilization of the Early Vedic Age?
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 1999)

- (a) Rigveda
- (b) Yajurveda
- (c) Atharvaveda
- (d) Samaveda

Explanation: Rigveda provides information about early vedic age because Philological and linguistic evidence indicates that the Rigveda, the oldest of the Vedas, was composed roughly between 1700 and 1100 B.C.E., also referred to as the early Vedic period. It is an important source of information on the Vedic religion and their Gods. It also presents a detailed account of the life of the people at that time.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

305. The university which became famous in the post Gupta era was:
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 1999)

- (a) Ranchi
- (b) Takshashila
- (c) Nalanda
- (d) Vallabhi

Explanation: Nalanda was the university which became famous in post Gupta period and flourished between the reign of the Salcraditya (whose identity is uncertain and who might have been either Kumara Gupta I or Kumara Gupta II) and 1197 A.D.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

306. Banabhatta was the court poet of which emperor?
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 1999)

- (a) Vikramaditya
- (b) Kumaragupta
- (c) Harshavardhana
- (d) Kanishka

Explanation: Banabhatta was a Sanskrit scholar and court poet of Harshavardhana who reigned in the years 606–647 C.E. in north India. Banabhatta's principal works include a biography of Harsha, the Harshacharita and one of the world's earliest novels, Kadambari.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

307. The first Indian ruler, who established the supremacy of Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea was:
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 1999)

- (a) Rajaraja I
- (b) Rajendra I
- (c) Rajadhiraja I
- (d) Kulottunga I

Explanation: Rajaraja Chola I established the superamacy of Indian Navy in Arabian sea, which achieved even greater success under his son Rajendra Chola I. Chola Navy also had played a major role in the invasion of Lanka.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

308. Which statement on the Harappan Civilization is correct?
(SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 1999)

- (a) Horse Sacrifices was known to them.
- (b) Cow was sacred to them.
- (c) Pashupati was venerated by them.
- (d) The culture was not generally static.

Explanation: The Harappan culture was not generally static because potteries of the Harappan Civilization bring out the gradual evolutionary trend in

the culture. It is on the basis of different types of potteries and ceramic art form found over the different stages of the civilization.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

309. The First Tirthankara of the Jain's was:

[SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 1999]

- (a) Arishtanemi (b) Parshvanath
(c) Ajitanath (d) Rishabha

Explanation: A Tirthankara is a human being who helps in achieving liberation and enlightenment as an 'Arhant' by destroying all of their soul constraining (ghats) karmas, became a role-model and leader for those seeking spiritual guidance. Rishabh was the first of the 24 Tirthankaras who founded the Ikshavaku dynasty and was the first Tirthankara of the present age. Because of this, he was called Adinath.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

310. The great silk route to the Indians was opened by:

[SSC CGL Prelim Exam. 1999]

- (a) Kanishka (b) Ashoka
(c) Harsha (d) Fa Hien

Explanation: The great silk-route to the Indians was opened by Kanishka. Silk route is a modern term referring to a historical network of interlinking trade routes across the Afro-Eurasian landmass that connected East, South, and Western Asia with the Mediterranean and European world, as well as parts of North and East Africa.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

311. Gautama Buddha was born at:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Kushinagar (b) Sarnath
(c) Bodh Gaya (d) Lumbini

Explanation: Lumbini is a Buddhist pilgrimage site in the Rupandehi district of Nepal. It is the place where Queen Mayadevi gave birth to Siddhartha Gautama, who as the Buddha Gautama founded the Buddhist tradition. The Buddha lived between roughly 563 and 483 B.C.

Hence, the correct option is (d).

312. Who was the mother of Mahavira?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Yashoda (b) Anojja
(c) Chetaka (d) Devanandi

Explanation: Trishala was the Mother of Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, and wife of the Jain monarch, Siddhartha of Kundgraam. She finds mention in the classical Jain Agamas, the Kalpasutra, written by Acharya Bhadrabahu (433–357 B.C.), which is primarily a biography of the Tirthankaras.

Hence, none of the option is correct.

313. Off the following scholars, who was the first to discover the traces of the Harappan Civilization?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Sir John Marshall
(b) R.D. Banerji
(c) A. Cunningham
(d) Daya Ram Sahani

Explanation: The ruins of Harappa were first described in 1842 by Charles Masson in his Narrative of Various Journeys in Balochistan, Afghanistan. In 1856, General Alexander Cunningham, later director general of the archeological survey of northern India, visited Harappa. In 1872–75 Alexander Cunningham published the first Harappan seal. The excavation campaign under Sir John Hubert Marshall in 1921–22 resulted in the discovery of the civilization at Harappa by Sir John Marshall, Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Salmi and Madho Sarup Vats, and at Mohenjodaro by Rakhaldas Banerjee, E.J.H. MacKay, and Sir John Marshall.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

314. 'Monolithic Rathas' of the Pallavas are found at:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Kanchipuram
(b) Puri
(c) Mahabalipuram
(d) Agra

Explanation: Mahabalipuram, derived from 'Mamallapuram' is the prior

and colloquial name of a town in Kancheepuram district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, now officially called Marriallapuram. The monuments here are constituted by cave temples, monolithic rathas (chariots), sculpted reliefs and structural temples which are excellent examples of Pallava art.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

315. The paintings of Ajanta depict the stories of:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Ramayana (b) Mahabharata
(c) Jataka (d) Panchatantra

Explanation: The scenes depicted in the Ajanta paintings are mostly didactic, devotional, and ornamental, with scenes from the Jataka stories of the Buddha's former existences as a bodhisattva, the life of the Gautama Buddha, and those of his veneration. The two most famous individual painted images at Ajanta are the two over-life size figures of the protective bodhisattvas Padmapani and Vajrapani on either side of the entrance to the Buddha shrine on the wall of the rear aisle.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

316. Poet Kalidasa lived in the court of:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Chandragupta Maurya
(b) Samudragupta
(c) Chandragupta Vikramaditya
(d) Harsha

Explanation: Kalidasa is generally associated with Chandragupta II who was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta empire in northern India. It was during his reign that the Gupta empire achieved its zenith, art, architecture, and sculpture flourished, and the cultural development of ancient India reached its climax. Culturally, the reign of Chandragupta II marked a Golden Age. This is evidenced by later reports of the presence of a circle of poets known as the Nine Gems in his court. The greatest among them was Kalidasa.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

317. Who is called as the 'Second Ashoka'?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Samudragupta
- (b) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- (c) Kanishka
- (d) Harshavardhana

Explanation: Kanishka worked for preaching of Buddhism. He spread Buddhism to China, Japan, Central Asia and Tibet; and convened the 4th Buddhist Council at Kundalvana in Kashmir. Due to his works he is often called 'Second Ashoka'.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

318. The famous Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchi was built by:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Mahendrarman I
- (b) Narasimhavarman II
- (c) Nandivarman II
- (d) Dantivarman

Explanation: The Kailasanath Temple is the oldest temple of Kanchipuram. It was built by the Pallavas in the early 8th century C.E. This temple was built by Pallava King Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimhan), and is also called Rajasimha Pallaveswaram.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

319. Kalibangan is situated in:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999 and SSC CML (PRE) Re-Exam. 2002]

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Sindh
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Gujarat

Explanation: Kalibangan is a town located on the left or southern banks of the Ghaggar (Ghaggar-Hakra River), identified by some scholars with Sarasvati River in Tehsil Pilibangan, between Suratgarh and Hanumangarh in Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan, near Bikaner. It was a major provincial capital of the Indus Valley Civilization. Kalibangan is distinguished by its unique fire altars and 'world's earliest attested ploughed field'.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

320. Bindusara sent Ashoka to quell the rebellion in:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Swarnagiri
- (b) Taxila
- (c) Ujjain
- (d) Tosali

Explanation: Because of his reputation as a frightening warrior and a heartless general, Ashoka was sent by Bindusara to curb the riots in the Avanti province (Ujjain) of the Mauryan empire. The Buddhist text Divyavadana talks of Ashoka putting down a revolt due to activities of wicked ministers. He was twice to pacify the Taxilans.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

321. Mahabalipuram is an important city that reveals the interest in arts of:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Pallavas
- (b) Cheras
- (c) Pandiyas
- (d) Chalukyas

Explanation: Mahabalipuram was a 7th century port city of the South Indian dynasty of the Pallavas around 60 km south of the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu. The name Mamallapuram is believed to have been given after the Pallava king Narasimhavarman I, who took on the epithet Mahamalla (great wrestler), as the favorite sport of the Pallavas was wrestling. It has various historic monuments built largely between the 7th and the 9th centuries, and has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

322. Lord Mahavira died at:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Saravana Belagola
- (b) Lumbini Garden
- (c) Kalugumalai
- (d) Pawapuri

Explanation: Pawapuri is a holy site for Jains located in the Nalanda district in Bihar. Around 500 B.C., Lord Mahavira, the last of the 24 Tirthankaras achieved Moksha or Nirvana. He was cremated at Pawapuri, also known as Apapuri (the sinless town).

Hence, the correct option is (d).

323. The Indus people knew the use of Weights and Measures, which is proved by the discovery of the seal at:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Kalibangan
- (b) Harappa
- (c) Chanhudaro
- (d) Lothal

Explanation: The people of the Indus Valley Civilization achieved great accuracy in measuring length, mass, and time. They were among the first to develop a system of uniform weights and measures. Their smallest division, which is marked on an ivory scale found in Lothal, was approximately 1.704 mm, the smallest division ever recorded on a scale of the Bronze Age.

Hence, the correct option is (b).

324. Which language was mostly used for the propagation of Buddhism?

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

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

Explanation: Pali is a Middle Indo-Aryan language (of Prakrit group) of the Indian subcontinent. It is best known as the language of many of the earliest extant Buddhist scriptures, as collected in the Pali Canon or Tipitaka, and as the liturgical language of Theravada Buddhism. Pali is a literary language of the Prakrit language family and was first written down in Sri Lanka in the 1st century B.C.E.

Hence, the correct option is (c).

325. The Hoysala's capital was:

[SSC CML (PRE) Exam. 1999]

- (a) Warangal
- (b) Devagiri
- (c) Dwarasamudra
- (d) Krishnagiri

Explanation: Halebidu (literally 'ruined city'), also known as Dwarasamudra, was the regal capital of the Hoysala Empire in the 12th century. It is home to one of the best examples of Hoysala architecture in the ornate Hoysaleswara and Kedareshwara temples. This name is given because this