

HISTORY (027)

Practice Questions (Term 1)

2021-22

CLASS-XII

1. Harappan cities planned their cities in a _____.
 - A. grid pattern
 - B. triangular pattern
 - C. nested-rings pattern
 - D. circular pattern with the citadel in the middle
2. Harappan seals were made of _____.
 - A. terracotta
 - B. concrete
 - C. copper
 - D. iron
3. There are two statements given below, marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

A: The city architects of the Harappan Civilisation had an extensive understanding of shapes and angles.

R: The streets of the Harappan Civilisation divided the entire city into square or rectangle blocks.

 - A. A is true but R is false.
 - B. A is false but R is true.
 - C. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
 - D. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
4. There are two statements given below, marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

A: Possession of precious jewellery symbolised wealth, power, and status of a person in the Harappan Civilisation.

R: People from the Harappan Civilisation would buy jewellery by using their seals to improve their social status.

 - A. A is true but R is false.
 - B. A is false but R is true.
 - C. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
 - D. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
5. All the information about the rules of diplomacy, administrative systems and other political topics of the Mauryan Empire can be found _____.

- A. in the *Indika*
 - B. on Ashoka's Edicts
 - C. in the *Arthashastra*
 - D. on the walls of Sanchi Stupa
6. In the *mahajanapadas*, the raja levied many different kinds of taxes. The taxes levied were used for which of the following?
- P. to keep an army
 - Q. to create road networks
 - R. to maintain law and order
- A. only P
 - B. only P and Q
 - C. only Q and R
 - D. all - P, Q and R
7. In ancient India, most of the *janapadas* and *mahajanapadas* were concentrated in which region of India?
- A. The Great Indian Desert
 - B. The Southern Plateau
 - C. The Northern Plains
 - D. The Coastal Plains
8. The Nashik *prashasti* translates as:

"... the king of kings who was equal in strength to mount Himavat, who crushed the pride of the Kshatriyas, who destroyed the Sakas, Yavanas and Pallavas, whose horses drank waters of the three oceans, and who restored the glory of his royal family..."

Identify the ruler described in this inscription.

- A. Rajaraja Chola I, Chola dynasty
 - B. Nedunjadayan, Pandya dynasty
 - C. Uthiyar Cheralathan, Chera dynasty
 - D. Gautamiputra Satakarni, Satavahana dynasty
9. Read the given passage and answer the question that follows:

'.....by the time Stupa 3 at Sanchi was constructed (around 2nd century BCE), relic worship had become very prevalent in Buddhism and relics other than those of the Buddha were also being worshipped.'

Source: The Wire, April 01, 2018 - *'The Lesser-Known Journey of Buddhist Relics - from India to UK and Back'*

In light of the rise in relic worship, why did the Sanchi Stupa acquire significance?

- A. It was where the relics were distributed.
- B. It is where the Buddha's relics were buried.
- C. It was where the Buddha first ordered his remains to be distributed.
- D. It is where the stone panels show the places where other relics are buried.

10. The organisation for teaching of Buddhism came to be known as _____.

- A. stupa
- B. sangha
- C. dharma
- D. nirvana

11. Which of the following is the CORRECT explanation for the rise of Jainism and Buddhism in India?

- A. Religious mantras and discourses in Jainism and Buddhism were given in Sanskrit.
- B. Jainism and Buddhism promoted caste system that allowed social mobility.
- C. Farmers wanted a religion that believed in sacrificing animals.
- D. Jainism and Buddhism had simple and inexpensive rituals.

12. From 500 B.C. to 500 A.D, Prakrit was the language of the common man.

How did it help in the spread of the new religions such as Buddhism and Jainism?

- A. Only Prakrit had a written script, unlike Sanskrit and other languages.
- B. People understood the sermons as they were given in Prakrit.
- C. People forced the saints and monks to speak in Prakrit.
- D. Sanskrit sermons were too lengthy unlike Prakrit's.

13. During ancient India, people were divided into four groups called *varnas*. Under this system, each *varna* had a different set of functions.

Identify the *varna* that has been matched CORRECTLY with its functions.

- A. *Kshatriyas* - served the other three groups
- B. *Shudras* - study and teach the scriptures
- C. *Vaishyas* - farmers and herders
- D. *Brahmins* - protect people

14. It is said that many of the inherent philosophies of both Buddha and Mahavira were more or less similar. A lot of Pali terms are also common to Buddhism and Jainism.

What could be the MAIN reason for these similarities?

- A. Buddha and Mahavira were both princes by birth.
- B. Buddhism was founded before Jainism and Mahavira was deeply influenced by Buddha.
- C. Buddhism and Jainism have the same religious texts, festivals and places of pilgrimage.
- D. Buddha and Mahavira were contemporaries and their teachings had roots in the same tradition.

15. There are two statements given below, marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

- A: Lingayats challenged the patriarchal norms and enabled women to have control over their bodies and choices.

R: Lingayats encouraged certain practices such as post-puberty marriage and widow remarriage.

- A. A is true but R is false.
- B. A is false but R is true.
- C. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
- D. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.

16. Consider the following statements regarding the Muslim rulers from the 13th-16th century in India.

- (i) They expressed respect and regard for all religions that existed under their rule.
- (ii) They gave land endowments and granted tax exemptions to non-Muslim religious institutions.
- (iii) They gave Brahmans high posts in the administration so that non-Muslims have powerful positions.
- (iv) They started to adopt principles given in the Vedas to gain popularity among the non-Muslim population.

Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

- A. (i) and (ii)
- B. (i) and (iii)
- C. (ii) and (iv)
- D. (iii) and (iv)

17. Read the lines given below from Katha Upanishad:

"Paramatma (God) remains the same - in past, present, and future. It is the same in the heart of an ant or an elephant, in every living being. It is the cause of everything."

The line written above is based on the ideas of _____.

- A. Alvars and Nayanars of Tamil Nadu
- B. nirguna bhakti traditions
- C. saguna bhakti traditions
- D. Lingayat movement

18. The heartland of this empire was the fertile valley of the Kaveri River, but they ruled a significantly larger area at the height of their power from the latter half of the 9th century till the beginning of the 13th century.

Identify the empire.

- A. Chola
- B. Gupta
- C. Pallava
- D. Mughal

19. Imagine that you are an archaeologist digging in the present-day Harappan empire region. You come across the remains of what you think are charred seeds. Who would you invite to study this better?

- A. A botanist

- B. An anthropologist
- C. An archaeo-botanist
- D. A fellow archaeologist

20. Which of these pieces of evidence indicate the end of the Harappan civilisation?

- A. The abundance of hoards.
- B. The presence of a single ruler for the civilisation.
- C. The disappearance of distinctive artefacts of the region.
- D. The shift from a local system of weights to a standardised system.

21. There are two statements given below, marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Writing and literacy were widespread in the Harappan civilisation.

Reason (R): Writing has been found in many everyday objects such as seals, copper tools, jewellery and terracotta tablets in the Harappan region.

- A. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation for A.
- B. Both A and A are true, and A is the correct explanation for A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

22. Why did the Sufis protest against the early Caliphate (661–750)?

- A. The early Caliphate attacked the *khanqah*
- B. The early Caliphate was not following the five pillars of Islam
- C. The early Caliphate was becoming materialistic and dogmatic
- D. The early Caliphate was encouraging people to question the Qur'an

23. Who among the following was least powerful during the Vijayanagara Empire?

- A. traders
- B. nayakas
- C. peasants
- D. brahmanas

24. The Vijayanagara rulers took on the title “Hindu Suratrana” which was a Sanskritisation of the Arabic term Sultan, meaning king, so it literally meant Hindu Sultan.

What does this information prove about the language spoken in Vijayanagara?

- A. its root language was Arabic
- B. it was influenced by travelling merchants
- C. it was spoken across the Southern peninsula
- D. it was used exclusively to exalt the status of the king

25. Which of the following features was a part of the Harappan civilisation?

- A. a flourishing horse breeding industry
- B. a well-organised, significantly large library

- C. well-planned settlements in definite territories
- D. sophisticated defence systems against invaders

26. Archaeologists have found toy ploughs during digs at Harappan sites.

This finding proves that _____.

- A. only men practised farming
 - B. there were always surplus grains
 - C. children helped their fathers in farming
 - D. people looked for ways to make farming easier
27. Which of the following statements about trading during the Harappan Civilisation is TRUE?
- A. Silk was the main item of export.
 - B. Gold beads were imported from South India.
 - C. Trade was carried out only through land routes.
 - D. Money was used as a means of exchanging goods.
28. Why did the Vijayanagara rulers establish an association with the deities?
- A. as evidence to their pious upbringing
 - B. to gain the support of the brahmana priests
 - C. to strengthen their authority over the citizenry
 - D. to seek the blessings and bounties from the gods
29. There are two statements given below, marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
- Assertion (A): During the 6th century BCE, there was consistent agricultural produce even in areas that have irregular precipitation.
- Reason (R): Construction of well, tanks, and in some places, canals were prioritised by kings and powerful men.
- A. A is true but R is false.
 - B. A is false but R is true.
 - C. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
 - D. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
30. Just like present-day India, the Mauryan Empire was divided into political units - central, provincial, district and village.

What was the purpose of dividing the territory?

- A. Smaller units help in boosting trade relations with other empires.
 - B. Smaller units are easier to manage than an undivided territory.
 - C. Smaller units require less spending on irrigational expenditure.
 - D. Smaller units increase the amount of land revenue collected.
31. Which of the following is TRUE about the Brahmi script and the Kharosthi script?
- A. both the scripts were used in Asokan inscriptions
 - B. both the scripts were deciphered by James Prinsep
 - C. both the scripts were used in northern and central parts of India
 - D. both the scripts were used to write names of kings Indo-Greek coins

32. During the early period of the Common Era, why did the kings try to project themselves as all-powerful?
- A. to intimidate their enemies
 - B. to adhere to the norms of kingship
 - C. to maintain control over the people
 - D. to instil fear in the powerful Brahmanic priests
33. There are two statements given below, marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

A: The establishment of a Bhikkhuni Sangha acknowledged that women too could be noble, virtuous and wise just like men.

R: Many *Bhikkhunis* from the Sangha became teachers of *dhamma* and went on to become *theris* who had attained liberation.

- A. A is true but R is false.
 - B. A is false but R is true.
 - C. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
 - D. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
34. There are two statements given below, marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

A: Ideas of Jainism at times have shaped movements like environmentalism which are based on protecting plant and animal diversity.

R: As per Jaina teachings humans should respect plants and animals to earn good *Karma*.

- A. A is true but R is false.
 - B. A is false but R is true.
 - C. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
 - D. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
35. The Jataka Tales are native to India and concern the previous births of a certain religious figure. Paintings of them are found in the Ajanta Caves. The Jataka Tales are connected with which religious figure?
- A. Mahavira
 - B. Krishna
 - C. Buddha
 - D. Shiva

36. A group of Buddhist monks wants to visit the place where Lord Buddha received enlightenment.

Which of these locations should they travel to?

- A. Uttar Pradesh, India
 - B. Lumbini, Nepal
 - C. Beijing, China
 - D. Bihar, India
37. Which of the following is the meaning of the word 'qual'?
- A. saying
 - B. song
 - C. lullaby

D. poem

38. Identify the Sikh guru who first compiled the Adi Granth, which later expanded into the Guru Granth Sahib.
- A. Guru Arjan Dev
 - B. Guru Nanak Dev
 - C. Guru Gobind Singh
 - D. Guru Tegh Bahadur
39. Why is saint Kabir considered an important figure in the Bhakti movement?
- A. He propagated the idea that God had no gender or form.
 - B. He started *langar* and *run futuh* for people from all walks of life.
 - C. He was the first to question the division of society on the basis of caste
 - D. He considered all religions are merely different means to reach the same God.
40. Which of the following is the reason why people embraced the Bhakti movement?
- A. made it compulsory for people to sing and dance as a way of worship
 - B. allowed people of different castes to worship the same deity
 - C. asked people to assemble according to economic status
 - D. encouraged people to worship only in temples
41. Which of the following could be considered TRUE about saint Mirabai?
- A. She devoted her life worshipping Shiva.
 - B. She stood for her beliefs that challenged the patriarchal norms.
 - C. She wrote poems in a form in which everyday meanings were inverted.
 - D. She organised her followers into a community that performed collective recitation.

42. In this tradition, male ascetics shun all property and wear no clothes. The monks use a peacock feather duster to clear their path of insects to avoid trampling them. They drink water from a gourd and eat only once a day.

Which tradition is being described above?

- A. Sufi Islam
- B. Digambara Jainism
- C. Hinayana Buddhism
- D. Mahayana Buddhism

43. A stone inscription found in a temple from medieval India would PRIMARILY tell the names of _____.

- A. all the kings who followed the religion
- B. foreign travellers who came to that temple
- C. all the people involved in the construction of the temple

D. kings and other wealthy people who gifted land for the temple

44. Which of these statements is true in the context of the chandalas, according to the Manusmriti?

A. They could walk around freely in the city, as long as they had permission from the Brahmanas.

B. They were provided opportunities to integrate with the rest of the community.

C. Certain chandalas had permission from Brahmanas to study religious texts.

D. They had to live outside the limits of the city and wear discarded clothes.

45. The principal deity in the Vitthala temple was Vitthala, a form of Vishnu generally worshipped in Maharashtra.

What can be deduced from the existence of this temple in the Vijayanagara empire?

A. the intermingling of regional cultures

B. strict adherence to traditional practices

C. using religion to influence other kingdoms

D. preference for the Vishnu avatar of the Hindu trinity

46. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the sixteen mahajanapadas?

A. Vajji

B. Ayodhya

C. Koshala

D. Avanti

Read the following source carefully and answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.

Krishnadeva Raya (ruled 1509-29), the most famous ruler of Vijayanagara, composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the *Amuktamalyada*. About traders he wrote:

A king should improve the harbours of his country and so encourage its commerce that horses, elephants, precious gems, sandalwood, pearls and other articles are freely imported ... He should arrange that the foreign sailors who land in his country on account of storms, illness and exhaustion are looked after in a suitable manner ... Make the merchants of distant foreign countries who import elephants and good horses be attached to yourself by providing them with daily audience, presents and allowing decent profits. Then those articles will never go to your enemies.

Source: NCERT

47. A historian is writing a book on Krishnadeva Raya.
- Which of the following factual observations can he make based on the book?
- A. Krishnadeva Raya was a proficient composer.
 - B. The rich merchants enjoyed wearing precious stones.
 - C. The king directly interacted with the foreign merchants.
 - D. The kingdom traded with merchants from several countries.
48. Why were horses and elephants included in the trade during the period?
- A. to use during wars
 - B. to make travel easy
 - C. as a decorative around the palace
 - D. to showcase the kingdom's prosperity
49. Which of the following does the word 'harbours' used in the passage prove?
- A. flourishing sea trade
 - B. absence of land-based trade
 - C. presence of docks on the eastern coast
 - D. foreign traders entered only via the sea
50. According to the passage, which of the following industries was definitely prevalent in the Vijayanagara empire?
- A. jewellery-making
 - B. metal craft
 - C. tourism
 - D. fishing
51. According to the passage, for which of the following activities did, the foreign travellers travel to India?
- A. trade
 - B. recreation
 - C. medical help
 - D. king's invitation
52. What does the passage definitely prove about the Vijayanagara kingdom?
- A. infirmaries near the sea
 - B. people knew different languages
 - C. wealthy merchants and consumers
 - D. coming across shipwrecks regularly

Read the following source carefully and answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.

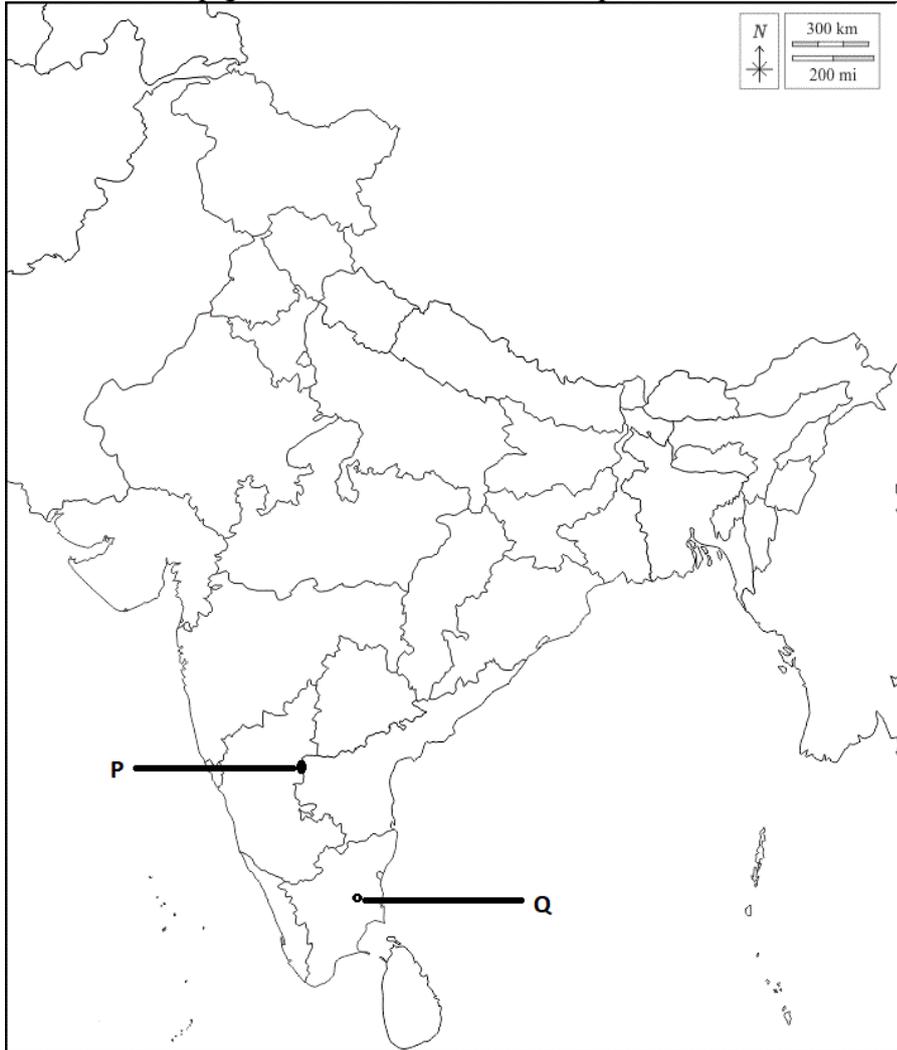
What the silk weavers did

Here is an excerpt from the inscription, which is in Sanskrit:

Some are intensely attached to music (so) pleasing to the ear; others, being proud of (the authorship of) a hundred excellent biographies, are conversant with wonderful tales; (others), filled with humility, are absorbed in excellent religious discourses; ... some excel in their own religious rites; likewise, by others, who were self-possessed, the science of (Vedic) astronomy was mastered; and others, valorous in battle, even today forcibly cause harm to the enemies.

53. Which of the following is TRUE about the silk weavers according to the passage?
- A. adhered to *varnas* of the *shastras*
 - B. practised a variety of occupations
 - C. they also served in the king's army
 - D. were only interested in the performing arts
54. What did the silk weavers DEFINITELY practice?
- A. calligraphy
 - B. mastering warfare
 - C. had knowledge of the cosmic bodies
 - D. frequent debates on religious scriptures
55. Which category did the silk weavers fall in according to the Brahmanical theory?
- A. *jati*
 - B. *shreni*
 - C. *nishada*
 - D. *suvarnakara*
56. On which of the following media is the given historical source found?
- A. stone
 - B. pottery
 - C. silk banner
 - D. manuscript
57. What did the term *vanik* mean?
- A. merchants
 - B. weavers
 - C. farmers
 - D. singers
58. The silk weaving guilds were a closely-knit social network.
- Which of the following can be counted as evidence to the statement?
- A. multiple interests
 - B. collectively invested wealth
 - C. earned a livelihood through craft
 - D. interest in developing specific skills

Look at the map given below and answer the questions that follow.



59. On the political map of India 'P' is marked as the capital of an empire founded in 1336 CE.

Identify it among the following options

- A. Bijapur
- B. Golconda
- C. Chandragiri
- D. Vijayanagara

60. On the same map, 'B' is also marked as an important centre of *nayaka* power of the 14th-15th century BCE.

Identify it from the following options.

- A. Kanchipuram
- B. Thanjavur
- C. Mysore
- D. Quilon

NOTE-The following questions are for the Visually Impaired Candidates in lieu of 59 and 60

59. Krishnadevaraya inflicted severe defeats on the Sultan of which kingdom in 1520?

- A. Bijapur
- B. Raichur
- C. Orissa
- D. Thanjavur

60. In 1565 Rama Raya, the chief minister of Vijayanagara, was defeated at Rakshasi-Tangadi by the combined armies of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar and _____.

(Fill in the blank)

- A. Chitradurga
- B. Golconda
- C. Madurai
- D. Quilon