

Gautam Buddha had attained Mahaparinibban in the State of

- (a) Anga
- (b) Magadha
- (c) Malla
- (d) Vatsa

Answer- c

Explanation-

After the Buddha passed away, prominent monks spent the rest of the night discussing the teachings. At dawn, the Venerable Ananda informed the Mallas of Kusinara of the Mahaparinibbana (death) of the Master. For seven days the Mallas and throngs of people paid respect to the body of the Blessed One with lights, incense, garlands of flowers, instrumental music and religious songs. For the cremation ceremonies, a pyre of perfumed wood and flowers was prepared. The body of the Buddha was cremated with honor due the Greatest King.

2. Buddha had delivered maximum sermons at

- (a) Vaishali
- (b) Sravasti
- (b) Kaushambi
- (d) Rajgriha

Answer-b

Explanation-

It was at Sarnath Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon to his disciples for whom he left Bodh Gaya. In this sermon he had preached the middle path of attaining the "Nirvana" that avoids the extremes of pleasure and austerity, the four noble truths and the eightfold path. Buddha had delivered maximum sermons at Sravasti.

3. The first Gupta ruler who issued coins was

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

Answer-b

Explanation-

Chandragupta- I introduced a new era, the Gupta era and the first Gupta king to adapt the title Maharajadhiraja and issued gold coins.

4. The Prince who was responsible for the death of his father was

- (a) Ajatsatru
- (b) Chandrapadyota
- (c) Prasenjit
- (d) Udayana

Answer-a

Explanation-

Aj tashatru 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 Lord Mahavira and Lord Buddha. He took over the kingdom of Magadha from his father forcefully by imprisoning him who is said to have starved him to death. He fought a terrible war against the Vajjis/Lichhvis and conquered the once considered invincible democratic Vaishali Republic.

5. Who among the following was the earliest Sufi Saint to have settled at Ajmer?

- (a) Sheikh Moinuddin Chisti
- (b) Sheikh Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Qaki
- (c) Sheikh Nizamuddin Auliya
- (d) Sheikh Salim Chisti

Answer-a

Explanation-

Mu' nudd n Chisht reached Ajmer along with Mohammad of Ghori, and settled down there. In Ajmer, he attracted a substantial following, acquiring a great deal of respect amongst the residents of the city. Mu' nudd n Chisht practiced the Sufi Sulh-e-Kul (peace to all) concept to promote understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims. Mu' nudd n Chisht, Bakhtiyar Kaki, Baba Farid and Nizamuddin Auliya (each successive person being the disciple of the previous one), constitutes the great Sufi saints of Indian history.

Shaikh Salim was Sufi saint during Mughal Empire in South Asia. Salim Chishti was one of the famous Sufi saints of the Chishti Order in India. Salim Chishti was the descendant of the famous Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti whose tomb is in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

6. With which Mughal General did Shivaji singh the famous Treaty of Purandhar' in 1665 A.D.?

- (a) Jaswant Singh
- (b) Jai Singh
- (c) Shaishta Khan
- (d) Diler Khan

Answer-b

Explanation-

The Treaty of Purandar was signed on June 11, 1665, between the Rajput ruler Jai Singh I, who was commander of the Mughal Empire, and Maratha Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Shivaji was forced to sign the agreement after Jai Singh besieged Purandar fort. When Shivaji realised that war with the Mughal Empire would only cause damage to the empire and that his men would suffer heavy losses, he chose to make a treaty instead of leaving his men under the Mughals.

7. During the 13th and 14th centuries A.D. the Indian peasants did not cultivate.

- (a) Wheat
- (b) Bareley
- (c) Rice
- (d) Maize

Answer-d

Explanation-

Maize in India is a post-Columbian introduction by the Portuguese in the 16th century or later.

8. The writer of Mahabhasya 'Patanjali' was a contemporary of

- (a) Chandragupta Maurya
- (b) Ashoka
- (c) Pushyamitra Sunga
- (d) Chandragupta I

Answer-c

Explanation-

The Sunga Empire played an imperative role in patronizing Indian culture at a time when some of the most important developments in Hindu thought were taking place. Patanjali's Yoga Sutras and Mahabhasya were

composed in this period. Panini composed the first Sanskrit grammarian Ashtadhyayi during the reign of the Sunga dynasty. Artistry also progressed with the rise of the Mathura school of art.

9. Who among the following was the founder of Agra

- (a) Balban
- (b) Bahlol Lodhi
- (c) Sikandar Lodhi
- (d) Firoz Tughlaq

Answer-c

Explanation-

Sikandar Lodi seized Agra and during his reign, the city flourished as an important cultural centre. However, the claims of Niamatullah, the chronicler of the Lodhi dynasty, that Sikandar founded the city are unacceptable, as it had been mentioned in earlier records. The only claim that could be justified was that Agra came to be known as the Shiraz of India during Sikandar Lodi's time.

10. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched\

- (a) Ajmer- Quwwat-al-Islam
- (b) Jaunpur- Atala Mosque
- (c) Malwa- Jahaz Mahal
- (d) Gulbarga- Jama Masjid

Answer-a

Explanation-

Jama Masjid Gulbarga, reputed to have been built by a Moorish architect during the late 14th or early 15th century who imitated the great mosque in Cordoba, Spain.

The Jaunpur Atala Masjid was built by Sultan Ibrahim (1401–1440), Sharqi Sultan of Jaunpur on foundations laid during the reign of Tughluq Sultan Firuz Shah III (1351–1388).

Jahaz Mahal is believed to have been constructed during the reign of Mahmud Shah Khalji. It was commissioned by Ghiyas al-Din. The Jahaz Mahal in Mandu, Malwa is located on a narrow strip of land between the two lakes.

11. Consider the following statements and select the correct answer from the code given below:

- 1) Vikram Samvat began in 58 BC
- 2) Saka Samvat began in 78 AD.
- 3) Gupta era began in 319 AD.
- 4) The era of Muslim rule in India began in 1192 AD.

Code:

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

Answer-c (Most correct answer)

Explanation-

Vikram Samvat was introduced in 57 B.C. and hence if 57 is deducted from Vikram Samvat year we get Christian year. e.g. V.S. 2054 – 57 = A.D. 1997.

The Saka Samvat or Era commenced in B.C. 78 during Saka Kshatrap Nahpan's time. By adding 78 to Saka year, we get Christian year. e.g. Saka 1752 + 78 = A.D. 1830.

In A.D. 320 Chandragupta I succeeded his father Ghatotkacha. It is said that he laid the foundation of great Gupta Empire.

In the 8th century, the province of Sindh (in present day Pakistan) was conquered by an Arab army led by Muhammad bin Qasim. Sindh became the easternmost province of the Umayyad Caliphate. In the first half of the 10th century, Mahmud of Ghazni added the Punjab to the Ghaznavid Empire and conducted several raids deeper into modern day India.

12. Which one of the following rulers established embassies in foreign countries on modern lines?

- (a) Haider Ali
- (b) Mir Qusim
- (c) ShahAlam II
- (d) Tipu Sultan

Answer-d

Explanation-

Tipu Sultan external relations aimed at seeking support of the foreign power for a concerted action against the English, whose commercial company had become the most dominating political authority in India. His embassies to distant places like Paris and Constantinople, his numerous letters to France and Turkey, his invitation to Zaman Shah of Afghanistan to rescue the Mughals from English hands, and his correspondence with Napoleon, were all focused on the single point of his confrontation with the English.

13. Who among the following was the one to have escaped being hanged in the 'Kakori Conspiracy Case'?

- (a) Ashfaquallah Khan
- (b) Rajendra Lahiri
- (c) Ram Prasad Bismil
- (d) Chandra Shekhar Azad

Answer-d

Explanation-

Swaran Singh (uncle of Bhagat Singh), Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaquallah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri and Roshan Singh were sentenced to death by the Court of Justice in the 'Kakori Conspiracy Case'.

14. Who among the following attended all the three Round Table Conferences?

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (b) B.R. Ambedkar
- (c) Vallabh Bhai Patel
- (d) Rajendra Prasad

Answer-b

Explanation-

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was elected as the chairman of the drafting committee that was constituted by the Constituent Assembly to draft a constitution for the independent India; he was the first Law Minister of India; conferred Bharat Ratna in 1990. Dr. Ambedkar attended all the three Round Table Conferences in London and forcefully argued for the welfare of the "untouchables".

15. Which Sultan of Delhi imposed Jaziya on the Brahmins also?

- (a) Balban
- (b) Firoz Tughlaq
- (c) Allauddin Khilji
- (d) Mohammad bin Tughlaq

Answer-b

Explanation-

He refused to exempt the Brahmins from the payment of Jaziya. He persecuted a number of heretical Muslim

sects. He banned inhuman punishments. He prohibited Muslim women from going to worship in the grave of Saints. A brahmin was burnt publicly for questioning the Quran.