

Previous Years' Paper
Common University Entrance Test for UG Programmes
CUET-UG - History
Entrance Exam, 2025

(After the list of questions, the solution will Start.)

Q1. Arrange the major developments in Harappan Archaeology in a chronological order:

- (A) Report of Alexander Cunningham on Harappan seal.**
- (B) S.R. Rao begins excavations at Lothal.**
- (C) Daya Ram Sahni begins excavations at Harappa.**
- (D) Vasant Shinde begins archaeogenetic research at Rakhigarhi.**

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- 1. (A), (B), (C), (D)**
- 2. (A), (C), (B), (D)**
- 3. (C), (B), (D), (A)**
- 4. (C), (D), (B), (A)**

Q2. Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan site of _____.

- 1. Shortughai in Afghanistan**
- 2. Banawali in Haryana**
- 3. Harappa**
- 4. Mohenjodaro**

Q3. Which of the following rulers adopted the title devaputra, or "son of god"?

- 1. Kushanas**
- 2. Sakas**
- 3. Mauryas**

4. Satavananas

Q4. The Gandatindu Jataka describes:

- (A) Cordial relationship between a king and his subjects.
- (B) The plight of the subjects of a wicked king.
- (C) The strained relationship, especially with the rural population.
- (D) That, kings frequently fill their coffers by demanding high and oppressive taxes.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- 1. (A), (B) and (D) only
- 2. (A), (B) and (C) only
- 3. (A), (B), (C) and (D)
- 4. (B), (C) and (D) only

Q5. Match List-I with List-II:

List-I	List-II
Meanings	Terms
(A) When descent is traced through the mother	(I) Adi-Parvan
(B) Barbarians or outsiders of the Brahmanical order	(II) Endogamy
(C) The first section of Mahabharata	(III) Matriliney
(D) Marriage within a kin group, caste, or a group living in the same locality	(IV) Mlechchhas

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- 1. (A) - (I), (B) - (II), (C) - (III), (D) - (IV)
- 2. (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)
- 3. (A) - (I), (B) - (III), (C) - (IV), (D) - (II)
- 4. (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (II), (D) - (I)

Q6. In play Mrichchhakatika, the hero Charudatta was described as both a Brahmana and a _____.

1. Nishada
2. Kshatriya
3. Sarthavaha
4. Mlechchha

Q7. Which ruler of the Satavahana dynasty claimed to be a unique Brahmana (eka bamhana)?

1. Gotami-puta Siri-Satakani
2. Gotami-puta Siri-Vijay-Satakani
3. Vashishti-puta Pulmayi
4. Madhari-puta Svami Sakasena

Q8. The Buddha regarded the 'social world' as the creation of:

1. Humans
2. Planets
3. Lord Brahma
4. Lord Vishnu

Q9. Who persuaded Buddha to allow women into the sangha?

1. Ajatasattu
2. Makkhali Gosala
3. Mahapajapati Gotami
4. Ananda

Q10. If you are reading the traveller's accounts, which of the following would be of Al-Biruni:

1. Explanation of the caste system by looking for parallels in ancient Persia.
2. Description of Delhi and Daulatabad (in Maharashtra) as vast cities.
3. Finding the lack of private property in India.
4. Description of the coconut and the paan, two kinds of plant produced in

Medieval India.

Q11. Which of the following is not true about the Lingayats?

1. On death, the devotee will be united with Vishnu.
2. They ceremonially bury their dead.
3. They worship Shiya in his manifestation as a 'linga'
4. Lingayats wear a small linga in a silver case on a loop strung over the left shoulder.

Q12. Match List-I with List-II:

List-I	List-II
Meaning/ Characteristics	Sufi-Terms
(A) Sufi lineages	(I) Ziyarat
(B) Established rules for spiritual conduct and interaction between inmates/laypersons and the master	(II) Langar
(C) The practice of pilgrimage to the grave of the Shaikh	(III) Silsila
(D) Open kitchen which runs on futeh (unasked-for charity)	(IV) Murshid

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A) – (I), (B) – (II), (C) – (III), (D) – (IV)
2. (A) – (I), (B) – (III), (C) – (II), (D) – (IV)
3. (A) – (III), (B) – (II), (C) – (IV), (D) – (I)
4. (A) – (III), (B) – (IV), (C) – (I), (D) – (II)

Q13. Why were agricultural tracts incorporated within the fortified area of the Vijayanagara Empire?

1. To protect the agricultural belt itself.
2. To beautify the capital with greenery.
3. To provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the royal family.

4. To use agricultural fields as line of defense.

Q14. In Vijayanagara, water from which one of the following structures was conducted through the channel to the "royal centre"?

1. Lotus tank
2. Hiriya canal
3. Vijaya canal
4. Kamalapuram tank

Q15. Which of the following is not true about the *Ain-i Akbari*?

1. It was completed in 1598.
2. This is a view of the regions from the centre.
3. It provides quantitative information of various provinces.
4. Undertaken at the order of Emperor Akbar and completed at the time of Shah Jahan.

Q16. Match List-I with List-II:

List-I	List-II
Revenue-Collection	Terms
(A) The crops are reaped and stacked and divided by agreement in the presence of the parties	(I) bhaoli
(B) After the crops are cut and estimated in three lots; the good, the middling, and the inferior	(II) lang-batai
(C) After cutting the grain, heaps are divided among themselves	(III) kankut
(D) When the fields are divided after they are sown	(IV) khet-batai

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A) – (I), (B) – (II), (C) – (III), (D) – (IV)
2. (A) – (B), (B) – (III), (C) – (I), (D) – (IV)
3. (A) – (I), (B) – (C), (C) – (IV), (D) – (III)
4. (A) – (III), (B) – (IV), (C) – (I), (D) – (II)

Q17. In the seventeenth-century agrarian society, women of Rajasthan could send petitions to _____ seeking justice.

1. Village panchayat
2. Amin
3. Diwan
4. Subedar

Q18. Arrange the following events in a chronological order:

(A) Santhals begin to come and settle in the Rajmahal hills

(B) Permanent Settlement in Bengal

(C) Cotton boom begins

(D) Santhal rebellion

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A), (B), (C), (D)
2. (A), (C), (B), (D)
3. (B), (A), (D), (C)
4. (C), (B), (D), (A)

Q19. Arrange the following events of 1857 chronologically:

(A) Mutiny turned into a general revolt of the people

(B) Mutiny started in Meerut

(C) Delhi garrisons revolt

(D) British forces under Havelock and Outram entered the Residency in Lucknow

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A). (B). (C). (D)
2. (B), (C), (A), (D)
3. (B), (A), (D), (C)
4. (C), (B), (D), (A)

Q20. Who was approached for leadership by the sepoys of Meerut who broke out in mutiny against the British in 1857?

1. Rani Lakshmi Bai
2. Nana Sahib
3. Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah
4. Kunwar Singh

Q21. Which movement was withdrawn by Gandhiji after a group of peasants attacked and torched a police station in the hamlet of Chauri Chaura (United Provinces)?

1. Non-Cooperation Movement
2. Civil Disobedience Movement
3. Quit India Movement
4. Ahmedabad Labour Strike

Q22. Arrange the following events in a chronological order:

- (A) Ryots in Deccan villages rebel
- (B) Slow process of agrarian expansion in the Bombay Deccan
- (C) First revenue settlement in the Bombay Deccan
- (D) Regulating Act passed by the British Parliament

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (D), (C), (B), (A)
2. (A), (B), (C), (D)
3. (B), (A), (D), (C)
4. (C), (B), (D), (A)

Q23. Arrange the following events in a chronological order:

- (A) Babur defeats Ibrahim Lodi, the Delhi Sultan, at Panipat, and becomes the first Mughal emperor
- (B) Humayun is defeated by Sher Shah, in exile at the Safavid court
- (C) Nadir Shah invades India and sacks Delhi

(D) The 'diwani' of Bengal was transferred to the English East India Company

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A), (B), (C), (D)
2. (A), (C) (D), (B)
3. (B), (A), (D), (C)
4. (C), (B), (D), (A)

Q24. In the eighteenth-century, which of the following was not the reason for the defaults on payments by the zamindars?

1. The initial demands were very high.
2. The zamindars' were allowed to organise troops and "cutcheries", for increasing their authority in the rural areas.
3. High demand was imposed at a time when the prices of agricultural produce were depressed.
4. The revenue was invariable, regardless of the harvest, and had to be paid punctually.

Q25. What is the meaning of the term Benami?

1. Transactions made in the name of a fictitious or relatively insignificant person, whereas the real beneficiary remains unnamed.
2. In the name of a person called 'Benam'.
3. Transaction is done by and in the name of the real owner.
4. The special transactions where the real beneficiary remains traceable and accountable.

Q26. Match List-I with List-II:

List-I	List-II
Leaders	Regions
(A) Shah Mal	(I) Pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh
(B) Goono	(II) Singhbhum in Chotanagpur
(C) Birjis Qadr	(III) Awadh

(D) Kunwar Singh	(IV) Arrah in Bihar
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Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A) – (I), (B) – (III), (C) – (II), (D) – (IV)
2. (A) – (I), (B) – (II), (C) – (III), (D) – (IV)
3. (A) – (II), (B) – (I), (C) – (IV), (D) – (III)
4. (A) – (III), (B) – (IV), (C) – (I), (D) – (II)

Q27. The total time span of the Harappan Civilisation ranges:

1. From 2000 BCE to 1000 BCE
2. From 6000 BCE to 1300 BCE
3. From 1500 BCE to 900 BCE
4. From Post Vedic Civilisation

Q28. Who deciphered 'Brahmi' and 'Kharosthi' scripts in 1838?

1. James Prinsep
2. Alexander Cunningham
3. D.C. Sircar
4. R.E.M. Wheeler

Q29. Identify the correct statements about the 'Inscriptions':

(A) Routine agricultural practices and events of daily life are the subject-matter of inscriptions.

(B) Record the achievements, activities or ideas of those who commissioned them.

(C) Writings are engraved on hard surfaces such as stone, metal or pottery.

(D) The earliest inscriptions were in Prakrit.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A), (B) and (D) only
2. (A), (B) and (C) only
3. (A), (B), (C) and (D)

4. (B), (C) and (D) only

Q30. In which language were the Ashokan inscriptions written in Afghanistan?

1. Sanskrit
2. Prakrit
3. Aramaic and Greek
4. Latin and Greek

Q31. Match List-I with List-II:

List-I	List-II
Meanings	Terms
(A) Term used by the Sanskrit texts to designate families	(I) Kula
(B) Tracing descent from father to son	(II) Polygyny
(C) The practice of a man having several wives	(III) Patriliney
(D) The gift of a daughter in marriage	(IV) Kanyadana

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A) – (I), (B) – (II), (C) – (III), (D) – (IV)
2. (A) – (I), (B) – (III), (C) – (II), (D) – (IV)
3. (A) – (I), (B) – (C), (C) – (IV), (D) – (III)
4. (A) – (III), (B) – (IV), (C) – (I), (D) – (II)

Q32. In Sanskrit texts and inscriptions, the term 'Vanik' refers to:

1. Peasants
2. Merchants
3. Guilds
4. Kings

Q33. Match List-I with List-II:

List-I	List-II
Origin-Country	Thinker
(A) Iran	(I) Plato and Aristotle
(B) China	(II) Mahavira and Gautama Buddha
(C) Greece	(III) Zarathustra
(D) India	(IV) Kong Zi

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A) - (I), (B) - (II), (C) - (III), (D) - (IV)
2. (A) - (I), (B) - (III), (C) - (II), (D) - (IV)
3. (A) - (I), (B) - (II), (C) - (IV), (D) - (III)
4. (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)

Q34. According to which Buddhist text, Asoka distributed portions of the Buddha's relics to every important town and ordered the construction of stupas over them?

1. Ashokavadana
2. Sutta Pitaka
3. Vinaya Pitaka
4. Mahaparinibbana Sutta

Q35. Match List-I with List-II:

List-I	List-II
Incident / Characteristics	Traveller
(A) He arrived in Ghazni as a hostage, but gradually developed a liking for this city	(I) Al-Biruni
(B) He reached Sind in 1333 and was later appointed as the qazi of Delhi	(II) François Bernier
(C) Physician to Prince Dara Shukoh	(III) Ibn Battuta

(D) Wrote a detailed account of trade and society in South India	(IV) Duarte Barbosa
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Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. (A) – (I), (B) – (II), (C) – (III), (D) – (IV)
2. (A) – (I), (B) – (III), (C) – (II), (D) – (IV)
3. (A) – (II), (B) – (I), (C) – (IV), (D) – (III)
4. (A) – (III), (B) – (IV), (C) – (I), (D) – (II)

Q36. Which of the following is not true about Ibn Battuta?

1. Wrote Rihla, book of travels, in Arabic.
2. He was born in Tangier, into an educated family known for its expertise in Islamic religious law or shari'a.
3. He describes that certain varieties of fine muslin were too expensive to be worn by ordinary people.
4. He was ordered in 1342 to proceed to Persia as the envoy of Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

Q37. The terms "great and little traditions" were coined by:

1. John Marshall
2. R.E.M. Wheeler
3. Robert Redfield
4. M. N. Srinivas

Q38. Saguna bhakti traditions do not include:

1. Traditions that focused on the worship of specific deities such as Shiva, Vishnu and his avatars (incarnations)
2. Forms of the goddess or Devi, all often conceptualized in anthropomorphic forms
3. Worship of an abstract form of god
4. Worship of a form of god with attributes

Q39. The rulers of Vijayanagara empire called themselves _____ .

1. Rayas
2. Nayakas
3. Kudirais
4. Samrajyapatis

Q40. Who was appointed as the first Surveyor General of India in 1815?

1. George Michell
2. John Marshall
3. R.E.M. Wheeler
4. Colin Mackenzie

Read the passage and answer the questions:

"The British element is gone, but they have left the mischief behind"

It is no use saying that we ask for separate electorates, because it is good for us. We have heard it long enough. We have heard it for years, and as a result of this agitation we are now a separate nation ... Can you show me one free country where there are separate electorates? If so, I shall be prepared to accept it. But in this unfortunate country if this separate electorate is going to be persisted in, even after the division of the country, woe betide the country; it is not worth living in. Therefore, I say, it is not for my good alone, it is for your own good that I say it, forget the past. One day, we may be united ... The British element is gone, but they have left the mischief behind. We do not want to perpetuate that mischief. (Hear, hear). When the British introduced this element, they had not expected that they will have to go so soon. They wanted it for their easy administration. That is all right. But they have left the legacy behind. Are we to get out of it or not?

Q41. Who is the speaker of this passage?

1. Mahatma Gandhi
2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
3. B. Pocker Bahadur
4. R.V. Dhulekar

Q42. According to the speaker, what was the consequence of the policy of a separate electorates?

1. Free and fair election
2. Increase in nationalism in India
3. Freedom for India
4. The partition of India

Q43. What is opposed by the speaker in the above passage?

1. The division of the country
2. The demand for separate electorate
3. The lapse of the British element
4. The demand for easy administration

Q44. The mischief of separate electorates was left behind by:

1. The Muslim League
2. The British Government
3. People leaving due to partition
4. The Nawabs and the Rajas

Q45. Why, according to the speaker, the British introduced the separate electorates?

1. For their easy administration
2. To strengthen the Indian polity
3. To protect the rights of the Indians
4. To provide a balanced political framework

Read the passage and answer the questions:

Charkha

What I object to, is the craze for machinery as such. The craze is for what they call labour-saving machinery. Men go on “saving labour”, till thousands are without work and thrown on the open streets to die of starvation. I want to save time and labour, not for a fraction of mankind, but for all; I want the concentration of wealth, not in the hands of few, but in the hands of all.

YOUNG INDIA, 13 NOVEMBER 1924

Khaddar does not seek to destroy all machinery but it does regulate its use and check its weedy growth. It uses machinery for the service of the poorest in their own cottages. The wheel is itself an exquisite piece of machinery.

YOUNG INDIA, 17 MARCH 1927

Q46. Who is the author of the passage?

1. Mahatma Gandhi
2. Jawaharlal Nehru
3. Subhash Chander Bose
4. Vallabhbhai Patel

Q47. What is the writer opposing in the passage?

1. Quest for modernisation
2. Setting up of factories
3. Changing trends in modern times
4. Mindless craze for machinery

Q48. What does the writer mean by 'saving labour'?

1. Saving the lives of humans
2. Saving humans from hard labour
3. Employing machines instead of human beings
4. Giving honor to human labour

Q49. What fear is expressed in this paragraph?

1. Men will start loving machinery
2. Machines will replace human labour and thousands will go unemployed
3. Machines will rule the world
4. Machine labour will get respect

Q50. What are the views of the writer about the role of machines and the concentration of wealth?

1. Industrialisation should not result in the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few elites

2. Humans should get employment and not machines
3. Machines should not be employed to replace humans
4. Time and labour should be saved

Solution

Q1.

Ans. 2. (A), (C), (B), (D)

The sequence of discoveries and research in Harappan Archaeology follows a historical timeline:

- (A) Alexander Cunningham first reported a Harappan seal in **1875**, giving the earliest reference to the civilization.
- (C) In **1921**, **Daya Ram Sahni** began the first excavations at **Harappa**, confirming it as part of an ancient urban civilization.
- (B) **S.R. Rao** conducted excavations at **Lothal** during the **1950s–60s**, revealing it as an important port city.
- (D) In the **21st century**, **Vasant Shinde** initiated **archaeogenetic research at Rakhigarhi**, using DNA studies to understand Harappan ancestry.

Hence, the correct chronological order is (A), (C), (B), (D).

Q2.

Ans. 1. Shortughai in Afghanistan

Traces of **canals** have been discovered at the **Harappan site of Shortughai** (located in present-day Afghanistan). This site shows evidence of an **irrigation system**, suggesting that the Harappans practiced **canal-based agriculture** to support farming in the arid region. This finding highlights the **advanced water management and agricultural planning** of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Q3.

Ans. 1. Kushanas

The **Kushana rulers**, especially **Kanishka**, adopted the title “**Devaputra**”, meaning “Son of God.” This title symbolized their divine right to rule and reflected the influence of **Central Asian traditions**, where kings were often regarded as divine or semi-divine beings. It was also meant to strengthen their political authority and connect their rule with divine legitimacy.

Q4.

Ans. 4. (B), (C) and (D) only

The **Gandatindu Jataka** highlights the **sufferings of the people under a cruel and greedy king**. It describes how rulers often **exploit their subjects**, especially peasants, by imposing **heavy and oppressive taxes**. The text reflects a **strained relationship between the king and his rural subjects**, rather than a cordial one. Hence, it shows the **plight of the subjects**, the **tension between rulers and people**, and the **burden of excessive taxation**.

Q5.

Ans. 2. (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)

- (A) **Matriliny (III)**: Refers to tracing descent through the **mother's line**.
- (B) **Mlechchhas (IV)**: Denotes **barbarians or outsiders** who did not follow Brahmanical traditions.
- (C) **Adi-Parvan (I)**: The **first section of the Mahabharata**.
- (D) **Endogamy (II)**: Means **marriage within the same kin group, caste, or community**.

Hence, the correct matching sequence is (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II).

Q6.

Ans. 3. Sarthavaha

In the Sanskrit play **Mrichchhakatika (The Little Clay Cart)** by **Shudraka**, the hero **Charudatta** is described as both a **Brahmana** (by birth) and a **Sarthavaha** (a wealthy merchant or caravan leader). This reflects his dual identity — born in a noble Brahmin family but engaged in trade due to his poverty. It shows the social flexibility and economic reality of the period.

Q7.

Ans. 1. Gotami-putra Siri-Satakarni

The **Satavahana ruler Gotami-putra Siri-Satakarni** described himself as “**eka brahmana**” (a unique Brahmana). He is remembered for reviving **Brahmanical traditions** and performing **Vedic sacrifices** like the **Ashvamedha** and **Rajasuya**. His reign marked the consolidation of Satavahana power and

the promotion of social order based on Vedic ideals, asserting his identity as both a **powerful ruler and a devout Brahmana**.

Q8.

Ans. 1. Humans

The **Buddha** believed that the **social world is created by human actions (karma)** and not by any divine being like Brahma or Vishnu. He taught that **social divisions and inequalities** arise because of **human behavior, greed, and desire**, not because of divine will. This idea emphasized **individual responsibility** and **moral conduct** as the foundation for a just society.

Q9.

Ans. 4. Ananda

Ananda, one of the closest disciples of the Buddha, **persuaded him to allow women to join the sangha** (the Buddhist monastic community). Although the Buddha was initially hesitant, Ananda's compassionate reasoning convinced him. Later, **Mahapajapati Gotami**, Buddha's foster mother, became the **first woman to be ordained**. This marked the beginning of the **Bhikkhuni Sangha**, or the community of Buddhist nuns.

Q10.

Ans. 1. Explanation of the caste system by looking for parallels in ancient Persia.

Al-Biruni, a Persian scholar who came to India with Mahmud of Ghazni, studied Indian society deeply. In his book "**Kitab-ul-Hind**," he analyzed the **caste system** and compared it with similar social divisions in **ancient Persia**. His goal was to understand Indian customs and beliefs scientifically. He used comparison as a method to explain complex social and religious systems to readers outside India.

Q11.

Ans. 1. On death, the devotee will be united with Vishnu.

The **Lingayats**, founded by **Basavanna** in the 12th century, are **devotees of Lord Shiva**, not Vishnu. They worship Shiva in the form of a **linga** and reject Brahmanical rituals and caste distinctions. They **bury their dead** instead of cremating them and believe that on death, the devotee will **merge with Shiva**, not Vishnu. Hence, statement 1 is **not true** about the Lingayats.

Q12.

Ans. 3. (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)

- (A) **Silsila (III)**: Refers to the **spiritual lineage** or chain of Sufi teachers and disciples.
- (B) **Murshid (IV)**: The **spiritual master** who guides disciples and sets rules for conduct.
- (C) **Ziyarat (I)**: The practice of **pilgrimage to the tomb** of a Sufi saint or Shaikh.
- (D) **Langar (II)**: The **community kitchen** that serves free food to all, often run through voluntary charity (futih).

Thus, the correct matching order is (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II).

Q13.

Ans. 4. To use agricultural fields as line of defense.

In the **Vijayanagara Empire**, agricultural tracts were included within the **fortified areas** not just for cultivation but for **strategic defense purposes**. These fields acted as a **protective barrier**, ensuring that in case of siege, the empire had access to food supplies. The fortification design cleverly combined **economic and military needs**, allowing both defense and sustenance during conflicts.

Q14.

Ans. 4. Kamalapuram tank

In the **Vijayanagara Empire**, water from the **Kamalapuram tank** was carried through a well-built **network of canals and channels** to supply the **royal centre** of the capital city, Hampi. This advanced irrigation and water management system ensured a steady supply for **palaces, temples, gardens, and reservoirs**, showcasing the empire's remarkable **engineering and urban planning skills**.

Q15.

Ans. 4. Undertaken at the order of Emperor Akbar and completed at the time of Shah Jahan.

The **Ain-i Akbari** was compiled by **Abul Fazl**, one of Emperor **Akbar's court historians**, and it was **completed in 1598** during Akbar's reign—not Shah

Jahan's. The book is part of the **Akbarnama** and presents a detailed description of Akbar's administration, economy, and society. It provides **quantitative and statistical information** about various provinces, showing the empire from a **central administrative perspective**. Hence, statement 4 is not true.

Q16.

Ans. 2. (A) – (B), (B) – (III), (C) – (I), (D) – (IV)

- (A) **Batai system (Lang-batai)**: When crops are reaped and stacked, they are divided in the presence of both parties — this is called **Lang-batai**.
- (B) **Kankut**: After harvesting, crops are estimated in three lots — good, middling, and inferior — this method is called **Kankut**.
- (C) **Bhaoli**: When the harvested grain is heaped and then divided among cultivators, it is called **Bhaoli**.
- (D) **Khet-batai**: When the fields are divided after sowing, the system is known as **Khet-batai**.

Thus, the correct chronological matching is: (A) – (II), (B) – (III), (C) – (I), (D) – (IV)

Q17.

Ans. 3. Diwan

In seventeenth-century Rajasthan, women in agrarian society had the right to seek justice by sending **petitions to the Diwan**, who was the **chief revenue officer or administrator**. This shows that even within a patriarchal system, women could access administrative authorities for redressal of grievances related to land, property, or social injustices.

Q18.

Ans. 3. (B), (A), (D), (C)

- (B) **Permanent Settlement in Bengal (1793)**: Introduced by Lord Cornwallis, this marked the beginning of a new land revenue system.
- (A) **Santhals begin to settle in the Rajmahal Hills (early 19th century)**: Encouraged by the British to clear forests and cultivate land.

- **(D) Santhal Rebellion (1855–56):** The Santhals revolted against oppressive landlords and colonial authorities.
- **(C) Cotton Boom (1860s):** Occurred during the American Civil War when demand for Indian cotton surged.

Thus, the correct chronological order is **Permanent Settlement → Santhal settlement → Santhal Rebellion → Cotton Boom.**

Q19.

Ans. 2. (B), (C), (A), (D)

- **(B) Mutiny started in Meerut (10 May 1857):** The revolt began when Indian soldiers (sepoys) at Meerut rose against their British officers.
- **(C) Delhi garrisons revolt:** The rebels marched to Delhi, seized the city, and proclaimed Bahadur Shah II as emperor.
- **(A) Mutiny turned into a general revolt of the people:** The uprising spread to several regions, including Awadh, Kanpur, and Jhansi.
- **(D) British forces under Havelock and Outram entered the Residency in Lucknow (September 1857):** They fought to relieve the British garrison besieged there.

Thus, the correct chronological order is: **Meerut → Delhi → General Revolt → Lucknow.**

Q20.

Ans. 3. Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah

When the sepoys at **Meerut** revolted in **May 1857**, they marched to **Delhi** and proclaimed **Bahadur Shah II**, the last Mughal emperor, as their **leader and symbolic head**. His leadership gave the rebellion a unifying cause and legitimacy, turning a localized mutiny into a **widespread national revolt** against British rule.

Q21.

Ans. 1. Non-Cooperation Movement

The **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–1922)**, launched by **Mahatma Gandhi**, aimed at peaceful resistance against British rule. However, after the **Chauri Chaura incident** in **February 1922**, where an angry mob of peasants set fire to a police station, killing 22 policemen, Gandhi was deeply

disturbed by the violence. He believed that the movement had deviated from its **non-violent principles (ahimsa)** and therefore **withdrew the movement** immediately, emphasizing that freedom must be achieved through **peaceful means only**.

Q22.

Ans. 1. (D), (C), (B), (A)

Here's the chronological order of the events:

- **(D) Regulating Act passed by the British Parliament (1773):** It was the first step by the British government to regulate the East India Company's affairs in India.
- **(C) First revenue settlement in the Bombay Deccan (early 19th century):** This began after British control expanded in western India.
- **(B) Slow process of agrarian expansion in the Bombay Deccan (19th century):** British policies encouraged commercial agriculture, leading to expansion but also rising debt among peasants.
- **(A) Ryots in Deccan villages rebel (1875):** The **Deccan Riots** were a direct result of rural distress and oppressive revenue collection practices.

Thus, the correct order is: **Regulating Act → Revenue Settlement → Agrarian Expansion → Deccan Riots**

Q23.

Ans. 1. (A), (B), (C), (D)

Here's the correct chronological order of events:

- **(A) 1526 – Babur defeats Ibrahim Lodi at the First Battle of Panipat** and establishes the **Mughal Empire** in India.
- **(B) 1540 – Humayun is defeated by Sher Shah Suri** and takes refuge at the **Safavid court** in Persia.
- **(C) 1739 – Nadir Shah invades India and sacks Delhi**, causing immense devastation.
- **(D) 1765 – The 'Diwani' of Bengal** (the right to collect revenue) is **granted to the East India Company** by Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II after the Battle of Buxar.

Thus, the timeline runs from the **establishment of the Mughal Empire (1526)** to the **rise of British control (1765)** — ☒ (A) → (B) → (C) → (D).

Q24.

Ans. 2. The zamindars were allowed to organise troops and "cutcheries", for increasing their authority in the rural areas.

This statement is **not a reason** for the zamindars' default on payments. The actual causes of default included —

- Very **high initial revenue demands** (1),
- **High demand during low agricultural prices** (3), and
- The **invariable revenue demand**, which had to be paid regardless of harvest failure (4).

However, being allowed to organize troops and cutcheries actually **strengthened** the zamindars' local authority, not weakened it or caused payment defaults. Hence, **Option 2 is not a valid reason.** ☒

Q25.

Ans. 1. Transactions made in the name of a fictitious or relatively insignificant person, whereas the real beneficiary remains unnamed.

The term "**Benami**" literally means "**without name**".

A **Benami transaction** refers to one where property or assets are purchased in **someone else's name**, but the **real owner or beneficiary remains hidden**.

Such transactions were often used to conceal wealth or evade taxes.

Hence, **Option 1** correctly defines the meaning of Benami. ☒

Q26.

Ans. 1. (A) – (I), (B) – (II), (C) – (III), (D) – (IV)

Here's how each leader matches with their respective region:

- (A) **Shah Mal – (I) Pargana Barout in Uttar Pradesh**
→ Shah Mal led a peasant rebellion in the Barout region during the 1857 revolt.
- (B) **Goono – (II) Singhbhum in Chotanagpur**

→ Goono was a tribal leader who resisted British authority in the Singhbhum area.

- **(C) Birjis Qadr – (III) Awadh**

→ Birjis Qadr, son of Begum Hazrat Mahal, was declared Nawab of Awadh during the 1857 revolt.

- **(D) Kunwar Singh – (IV) Arrah in Bihar**

→ Kunwar Singh was a prominent leader from Bihar who fought bravely against the British during the revolt of 1857.

Thus, the Correct chronological and regional matching is: **(A)–(I), (B)–(II), (C)–(III), (D)–(IV)** ✓

Q27.

Ans. 2. From 6000 BCE to 1300 BCE

The **Harappan Civilization**, also known as the **Indus Valley Civilization**, developed over several phases:

- **Early Harappan Phase:** Around **6000–2600 BCE** (pre-urban stage).
- **Mature Harappan Phase:** Around **2600–1900 BCE** (urban stage with planned cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro).
- **Late Harappan Phase:** Around **1900–1300 BCE** (decline and ruralization).

Thus, the total time span of the Harappan Civilization is approximately **from 6000 BCE to 1300 BCE.** ✓

Q28.

Ans. 1. James Prinsep

In **1838**, **James Prinsep**, a British scholar and antiquary, successfully deciphered the **Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts.**

His work made it possible to read the inscriptions of Emperor **Ashoka**, which revealed valuable historical information about the **Mauryan Empire** and early Indian administration.

Hence, the correct answer is **James Prinsep.** ✓

Q29.

Ans. 4. (B), (C) and (D) only

- (A) is incorrect because inscriptions usually record **royal achievements, donations, and public works**, not daily agricultural events.
- (B) is correct — inscriptions were used to **record achievements, activities, and ideas** of rulers or patrons.
- (C) is correct — inscriptions were **engraved on durable materials** such as **stone, metal, and pottery**.
- (D) is correct — the **earliest inscriptions** (like Ashokan edicts) were written in **Prakrit language** using **Brahmi script**.

Therefore, the correct answer is (B), (C), and (D) only. 

Q30.

Ans. 3. Aramaic and Greek

The **Ashokan inscriptions found in Afghanistan** (particularly at **Kandahar**) were written in **Aramaic and Greek**.

These languages were used because the region was part of the **Hellenistic cultural sphere** after Alexander's conquests, and they were widely understood by local populations there.

Hence, Ashoka used **Aramaic and Greek** to spread his messages to non-Indian subjects in the northwestern territories.

Q31.

Ans. 2. (A) – (I), (B) – (III), (C) – (II), (D) – (IV)

- (A) **Kula** → Term used in Sanskrit texts to designate **families**.
- (B) **Patriliney** → Refers to **tracing descent from father to son**.
- (C) **Polygyny** → Means **a man having several wives**.
- (D) **Kanyadana** → Refers to **the gift of a daughter in marriage**.

Hence, the correct matching is: (A)–(I), (B)–(III), (C)–(II), (D)–(IV). 

Q32.

Ans. 2. Merchants

In **Sanskrit texts and inscriptions**, the term '**Vanik**' (also spelled Vanikka or Vanija) refers to **merchants or traders**.

The word originates from the Sanskrit root vanij, meaning **trade or commerce**.

Therefore, '**Vanik**' = **Merchant** (a person engaged in trade or business). ✓

Q33.

Ans. 4. (A) – (III), (B) – (IV), (C) – (I), (D) – (II)

- (A) **Iran → Zarathustra (III)** — Founder of Zoroastrianism.
- (B) **China → Kong Zi (Confucius) (IV)** — Ancient Chinese philosopher and teacher.
- (C) **Greece → Plato and Aristotle (I)** — Classical Greek philosophers.
- (D) **India → Mahavira and Gautama Buddha (II)** — Founders of Jainism and Buddhism respectively.

Hence, the correct match is: (A)–(III), (B)–(IV), (C)–(I), (D)–(II). ✓

Q34.

Ans. 1. Ashokavadana

According to the **Buddhist text Ashokavadana** (a part of the Divyavadana), Emperor **Ashoka** collected and **redistributed the relics of the Buddha** to various important towns across his empire and **ordered the construction of 84,000 stupas** over them.

Therefore, the correct answer is **Ashokavadana**. ✓

Q35.

Ans. 1. (A) – (I), (B) – (III), (C) – (II), (D) – (IV)

Let's match correctly:

- (A) He arrived in **Ghazni as a hostage**, but gradually developed a liking for this city → (I) **Al-Biruni**
→ Al-Biruni was taken to Ghazni by Mahmud of Ghazni and became a great scholar there.
- (B) He reached **Sind in 1333** and was later appointed **Qazi of Delhi** → (III) **Ibn Battuta**

- Moroccan traveler who served under Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
- (C) Physician to **Prince Dara Shukoh** → (II) **François Bernier**
→ French physician and traveler during Mughal times.
- (D) Wrote detailed account of **trade and society in South India** → (IV) **Duarte Barbosa**
→ Portuguese traveler who described the Indian Ocean trade and South Indian ports.

Correct match: (A)–(I), (B)–(III), (C)–(II), (D)–(IV). ✓

Q36.

Ans. 4. He was ordered in 1342 to proceed to Persia as the envoy of Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

- Statements **1, 2, and 3** are **true** about Ibn Battuta:
 - He **wrote Rihla** (The Travels) in Arabic.
 - He was **born in Tangier** (Morocco) into a family of Islamic legal scholars.
 - He noted that **fine varieties of muslin** were too expensive for common people.
- Statement **4** is **false**:
Ibn Battuta was **sent to China, not Persia**, in 1342 as the envoy of Sultan **Muhammad bin Tughlaq**.

Hence, the **incorrect statement** is **Option 4**. ✓

Q37.

Ans. 3. Robert Redfield

The terms "**Great Tradition**" and "**Little Tradition**" were coined by **Robert Redfield**, an American anthropologist.

- He used these terms in his study of **Mexican communities** to explain the relationship between **elite, classical traditions (Great Tradition)** and **local, folk traditions (Little Tradition)**.
- Later, Indian sociologist **M. N. Srinivas** applied this framework to **Indian society**, especially in the context of **Sanskritization** and **village studies**.

Therefore, the correct answer is **Robert Redfield**. ✓

Q38.

Ans. 3. Worship of an abstract form of god

- **Saguna Bhakti** means devotion to God with form and attributes (guna) — such as **Rama, Krishna, Shiva, or Devi**.
- It includes **personalized worship, anthropomorphic images, and incarnations (avatars)**.
- In contrast, **Nirguna Bhakti** refers to devotion to a **formless, abstract God** without attributes.

Therefore, **Saguna bhakti traditions do not include the worship of an abstract form of god** → Option 3. ✓

Q39.

Ans. 1. Rayas

- The rulers of the **Vijayanagara Empire** referred to themselves as “**Raya**”, a royal title meaning **king or monarch**.
- For example:
 - **Krishnadeva Raya**, the most famous ruler, used this title.
- The term “**Nayakas**” referred to **military chiefs or local governors**, not kings.

Hence, the correct answer is **Rayas**. ✓

Q40.

Ans. 4. Colin Mackenzie

- **Colin Mackenzie** was appointed as the **first Surveyor General of India in 1815**.
- He was a **Scottish army officer, engineer, and Orientalist**.
- Mackenzie conducted extensive **surveys and documentation** of India’s geography, monuments, inscriptions, and manuscripts.
- His work laid the foundation for **systematic archaeological and cartographic studies** in British India.

Therefore, the correct answer is **Colin Mackenzie**. ✓

Q41.

Ans. 2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The passage is from a speech by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In it, he criticizes the continuation of separate electorates, which were introduced by the British to divide Indian society. Patel says that though the British have left, their divisive policy — the “mischief” — still remains, and India must get rid of it to ensure unity and harmony in the newly independent nation.

Q42.

Ans. 4. The partition of India

According to the speaker, the policy of separate electorates introduced by the British led to deep divisions among Indians on religious lines. This division eventually resulted in the partition of the country into India and Pakistan. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel refers to this as the “mischief” left behind by the British, which continued to harm national unity even after independence.

Q43.

Ans. 2. The demand for separate electorate

The speaker strongly opposes the continuation of separate electorates, which were introduced by the British to divide Indians based on religion. He argues that this system should end after independence because it weakens national unity and keeps alive the divisions created under British rule.

Q44.

Ans. 2. The British Government

The speaker clearly states that “the British element is gone, but they have left the mischief behind,” referring to the policy of separate electorates. This system was created by the British Government to divide Indians along religious lines and make their rule easier. Even after independence, its divisive effects continued, which the speaker condemns.

Q45.

Ans. 1. For their easy administration

The speaker mentions that the British introduced separate electorates not for the good of Indians but for their own convenience. By dividing Indians on religious lines, the British found it easier to govern and control the country. This policy weakened national unity and served as a tool for maintaining their rule.

Q46.

Ans. 1. Mahatma Gandhi

The passage is taken from *Young India*, a weekly journal edited by Mahatma Gandhi. In the passage, Gandhi expresses his views on machinery and its impact on society. He opposed the blind craze for labour-saving machines that caused unemployment and inequality. Instead, he promoted the use of simple tools like the charkha (spinning wheel) to provide work and self-reliance for all, especially the poor.

Q47.

Ans. 4. Mindless craze for machinery

In the passage, the writer (Mahatma Gandhi) criticizes the blind obsession with machinery that saves labour but causes unemployment and poverty. He is not against all machines but opposes the uncontrolled use of labour-saving devices that concentrate wealth in the hands of a few. Gandhi believed that machines should serve humanity, not harm it, and should help provide work and dignity to everyone.

Q48.

Ans. 3. Employing machines instead of human beings

In the passage, "saving labour" refers to replacing human work with machines. Gandhi says this kind of labour-saving leads to many people losing jobs and being pushed into poverty. He accepts useful machines, but criticizes using them in ways that cut human employment instead of serving everyone's welfare.

Q49.

Ans. 2. Machines will replace human labour and thousands will go unemployed

The writer warns that the craze for labour-saving machines makes people “save labour” until “thousands are without work.” This shows his fear that excessive use of machines will take away human jobs and create widespread unemployment and poverty.

Q50.

Ans. 1. Industrialisation should not result in the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few elites

The passage clearly says the writer wants “the concentration of wealth, not in the hands of few, but in the hands of all.” He is not against machines; he supports their regulated use to serve the poorest. His main concern is that blind, labour-saving industrialisation leads to unemployment and concentrates wealth with a few. Hence, preventing concentration of wealth is his core view, while allowing machines only in ways that benefit everyone.