Medieval History

2019 · UPSC CSE · Medieval History

Q1.

With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar?

1. Jagirdars were holders of land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights without obligation to perform any duty other than revenue collection.
2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights of Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: Option A — 1 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — 1 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct in the context of the question:** Jagirdars held assignments of revenue, generally in return for administrative or military obligations. Zamindars had hereditary or customary claims and responsibilities associated with land and revenue collection, though their roles varied by region.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Jagir assignments were generally transferable and not hereditary. Zamindari rights were often hereditary.

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Q2.

With reference to Mian Tansen, which one of the following statements is not correct?

A. Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar

B. Tansen composed Dhrupads on Hindu gods and goddesses.

C. Tansen composed songs on his patrons.

D. Tansen invented many Ragas.

Correct answer: Option A — Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar

1. The statement is considered incorrect because historical traditions associate the title *Tansen* with his musical reputation before or around his association with Akbar; the precise origin of the title is not firmly established.
2. Tansen composed Dhrupad compositions associated with Hindu deities.
3. He composed music in praise of his patrons.
4. He is traditionally credited with creating or developing several ragas, although such attributions can be difficult to verify historically.

Q3.

Consider the following statements:

1. Saint Nimbarka was a contemporary of Akbar.
2. Saint Kabir was greatly influenced by Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: Option D — Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — Neither 1 nor 2

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Nimbarka is generally placed several centuries before Akbar and is associated with the Bhakti tradition.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kabir lived in the 15th century, whereas Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi lived in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Therefore, Sirhindi could not have greatly influenced Kabir.

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Q4.

Consider the following statements:

1. In the revenue administration of Delhi Sultanate, the in-charge of revenue collection was known as ‘Amil’.
2. The Iqta system of Sultans of Delhi was an ancient indigenous institution.
3. The office of ‘Mir Bakshi’ came into existence during the reign of Khalji Sultans of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — 1 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** An *Amil* was an official associated with revenue collection and administration.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Iqta system was influenced by administrative practices from the Islamic world rather than being an ancient indigenous Indian institution.

3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The office of Mir Bakshi is associated primarily with Mughal military and administrative organisation, not the Khalji Sultans.

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Q5.

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

A. An advisory issued by the king to his subordinates

B. A diary to be maintained for daily accounts

C. A bill of exchange

D. An order from the feudal lord to his subordinates

Correct answer: Option D — An order from the feudal lord to his subordinates

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — A bill of exchange

1. **Option (c) is correct:** A Hundi was a traditional financial instrument used in India for credit, remittance and commercial transactions. It functioned like a bill of exchange, allowing money to be transferred or payments to be made through merchants and financial intermediaries without physically transporting currency.

2. **Option (a) is incorrect:** A Hundi was not an administrative advisory issued by a king.

3. **Option (b) is incorrect:** It was not a diary or register for maintaining daily accounts.

4. **Option (d) is incorrect:** It was not an order issued by a feudal lord to subordinate officials.

Q6.

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

1. Aurang - In- Charge of treasury of the State

2. Banian- Indian agent of the East India Company

3. Mirasidar- Designated revenue payer to the State

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

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option B — 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — 2 and 3 only

1. **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** An Aurang was a warehouse or manufacturing and storage establishment, particularly associated with textiles and other goods. It did not mean the person in charge of the State treasury.

2. **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** A Banian was an Indian commercial agent, intermediary or business associate who worked with European trading companies, including the East India Company.

3. **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** A Mirasidar was a hereditary landholder or recognised holder of land rights, particularly associated with the revenue system in parts of South India, responsible for payment of land revenue to the State.

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Q7.

Consider the following statements:

1. St. Francis Xavier was one of the founding members of the Jesuit Order.
2. St. Francis Xavier died in Goa and a church is dedicated to him there.
3. The Feast of St. Francis Xavier is celebrated in Goa each year.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

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Correct answer: Option C — 1 and 3 only

Explanation

Explanation:

CORRECT ANSWER: (C)

1. Statement 1 is correct. St. Francis Xavier was one of the founding members of the Society of Jesus, commonly known as the Jesuit Order. He was among the companions of Ignatius of Loyola who established the order.

2. Statement 2 is incorrect. St. Francis Xavier died on Shangchuan Island off the coast of China in 1552. His body was later brought to Goa and is preserved at the Basilica of Bom Jesus. Therefore, he did not die in Goa.
3. Statement 3 is correct. The Feast of St. Francis Xavier is celebrated annually in Goa, particularly at the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa, where his mortal remains are preserved.

Therefore, statements 1 and 3 are correct.

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Q8.

Consider the following statements:

1. It was during the reign of Iltutmish that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Khwarezm prince.
2. It was during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughluq that Taimur occupied Multan and crossed the Indus.
3. It was during the reign of Deva Raya II of Vijayanagara Empire that Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2

C. 3 only

D. 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 only

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (A)

1. Statement 1 is correct. During the reign of Iltutmish, the Mongol ruler Chengiz Khan reached the Indus while pursuing Jalal-ud-din Mangburni, the Khwarezmian ruler who had fled from the Mongols. Iltutmish avoided directly supporting him, thereby keeping the Delhi Sultanate away from an immediate Mongol confrontation.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect. Timur invaded India in 1398 during the reign of Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Shah Tughlaq, not Muhammad bin Tughluq. Timur crossed the Indus and invaded the Delhi Sultanate during this later Tughlaq period.
3. Statement 3 is incorrect. Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala in 1498, during the reign of Krishnadevaraya's predecessor period, not during the reign of Deva Raya II. Deva Raya II ruled Vijayanagara much earlier in the fifteenth century.

Therefore, only statement 1 is correct.

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Q9.

According to Portuguese writer Nuniz, the women in Vijayanagara Empire were expert in which of the following areas?

1. Wrestling
2. Astrology
3. Accounting
4. Soothsaying

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

A. 1, 2 and 3 only

B. 1, 3 and 4 only

C. 2 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

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Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (D)

1. The Portuguese traveller Fernao Nuniz provided valuable observations about the social and cultural life of the Vijayanagara Empire.
2. Statement 1 is correct. According to Nuniz, women in the Vijayanagara Empire were associated with wrestling and other

physical activities.

3. Statement 2 is correct. Women were knowledgeable in astrology and were associated with the study and practice of astrological activities.
4. Statement 3 is correct. Women were employed in accounting and other administrative activities, indicating their participation in various functions of the state and society.
5. Statement 4 is correct. Women were also associated with soothsaying and related practices.

Therefore, all four statements are correct.

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Q10.

Which one of the following statements is correct?

A. Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of Waghora river.

B. Sanchi Stupa lies in the gorge of Chambal river.

C. Pandu-lena Cave Shrines lie in the gorge of Narmada river.

D. Amaravati Stupa lies in the gorge of Godavari river.

Correct answer: Option A — Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of Waghora river.

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (A)

1. The Ajanta Caves are located in Maharashtra and were excavated into a horseshoe-shaped rock face overlooking the Waghora River gorge.
2. The caves are famous for their Buddhist paintings, sculptures and rock-cut architecture and developed over different periods of ancient Indian history.
3. Sanchi Stupa is located in Madhya Pradesh and is not situated in the gorge of the Chambal River.
4. Pandu-lena Cave Shrines are located near Nashik in Maharashtra and are associated with the Trirashmi hills rather than the Narmada gorge.
5. Amaravati Stupa is associated with the Krishna River region rather than the Godavari gorge.

Therefore, the correct statement is that Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of Waghora River.

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