Medieval History

2016 · UPSC CSE · Medieval History

Q1.

With reference to the economic history of medieval India, the term 'Araghatta' refers to:

A. Bonded labour

B. Land grants made to military officers

C. Waterwheel used in the irrigation of land

D. Wasteland converted to cultivated land

Correct answer: Option C — Waterwheel used in the irrigation of land

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Waterwheel used in the irrigation of land

- Araghatta referred to a water-lifting device or waterwheel used for irrigation.
- Such devices helped raise water from wells and other sources to agricultural fields.
- They contributed to the expansion of irrigation and agricultural production.

Q2.

Banjaras during the medieval period of Indian history were generally:

A. Agriculturists.

B. Warriors.

C. Weavers.

D. Traders.

Correct answer: Option D — Traders.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — Traders

- Banjaras were traditionally itinerant traders and transporters.
- They transported grain, salt and other commodities over long distances using caravans of pack animals.
- They played an important role in supplying goods to towns and military camps.

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Q3.

With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements:

1. Siddhas (Sittars) of the Tamil region were monotheistic and condemned idolatry.
2. Lingayats of the Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: Option C — Both 1 and 2

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Both 1 and 2

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Tamil Siddhas emphasised spiritual realisation, criticised ritualism and idol worship, and expressed monotheistic ideas.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Lingayats rejected caste discrimination and questioned conventional beliefs, including the theory of rebirth.

Q4.

Regarding the taxation system of Krishnadeva Raya, the ruler of Vijayanagara, consider the following statements:

1. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.
2. Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: Option C — Both 1 and 2

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Both 1 and 2

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Land revenue assessment considered factors such as the fertility and productivity of the land.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Taxes were imposed on various professions and industries, including workshops and manufacturing activities.

Q5.

Consider the following events in the history of medieval India:

1. Humayun's restoration to the Mughal throne after his exile.
2. Sher Shah Suri's victory over Humayun at the Battle of Kannauj.
3. Humayun's foundation of the city of Dinpanah at Delhi.
4. Sher Shah Suri's establishment of the Sur Empire.

Which one of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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A. 3 – 2 – 4 – 1

B. 2 – 3 – 4 – 1

C. 3 – 4 – 2 – 1

D. 4 – 3 – 2 – 1

Correct answer: Option A — 3 – 2 – 4 – 1

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — 3 – 2 – 4 – 1

- **Event 3 (1533):** Humayun founded Dinpanah at Delhi.

- **Event 2 (1540):** Sher Shah defeated Humayun at the Battle of Kannauj (Bilgram).
- **Event 4 (1540):** Sher Shah established the Sur Empire after defeating Humayun.
- **Event 1 (1555):** Humayun regained the Mughal throne.

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Q6.

Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom?

A. Kakinada

B. Motupalli

C. Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)

D. Nelluru

Correct answer: Option B — Motupalli

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Motupalli

1. **Option (b) is correct:** Motupalli, located on the Andhra coast, was an important seaport under the Kakatiya rulers. It facilitated overseas trade, particularly with Southeast Asian regions.

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Q7.

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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Q8.

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.

Q9.

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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Q10.

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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